



**International Conference**

**On**

**Agriculture through the Lens of Small and Marginal farmers: Challenges and Pathways**

**15 July -16 July 2024**

**At Conference Room (II),**

**India International Centre Main, New Delhi**

**Day One-15.07.2024**

**Inaugural Session (9:30 am-10:30 am)**

**Welcome Address**

Nitya Nanda

Director, Council for Social Development (CSD)

Address by the Chief Guest

Dhananjay Singh

Member Secretary, Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR)

Remarks by the Chair: Biswajit Dhar

Vice-President, CSD

Vote of Thanks: Nivedita Sharma, Assistant Professor, CSD

**Tea/Coffee Break**

**10:30 pm-11:00 pm**

**Session I (11:00 am-12:30 pm)**

**The “agrarian question” in the Global South: Challenges and way forward**

**Chair: D N Reddy, Former Professor, University of Hyderabad**

**Speakers**

Praveen Jha, Professor, Centre for Economic Studies and Planning, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi

Ashwani Mahajan, Professor, PGDAV College, New Delhi

Biswajit Dhar, Vice-President, CSD

Walter Chambati, Director, Sam Moyo African Institute of Agrarian Studies, Zimbabwe  
(Online)

*Structure of the Discussion:*

*What are the challenges for agriculture in the Global South? What is the status quo of agriculture in the economic growth trajectories of the Global South?*

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**Session II**  
**(12:30 pm-2:00 pm)**  
**Agricultural Inputs for small and marginal farmers**

**Chair: Brajesh Jha, Professor, Institute of Economic Growth, New Delhi**

**Speakers**

R. Ramakumar, Professor, School of Development Studies, TISS, Mumbai

Prachi Bansal, Assistant Professor, O P Jindal Global University

Giuliano Martiniello, Associate Professor, Université Internationale de Rabat, Morocco

George T Mudimu, Senior Lecturer, MUSAT, Zimbabwe (Online)

*Structure of the Discussion:*

*How do you assess the effectiveness of agriculture input subsidies in reducing the agrarian crisis? How agriculture input subsidies can be repurposed in order to move towards ecologically sustainable agriculture?*

*What are the implications of corporate control over inputs like seeds and fertilizers? Can a policy framework be developed to reduce corporate control?*

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**Lunch Break**

**2:00 pm-2:30 pm**

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**Session III**

**(2:30 pm-4:00 pm)**

**The Issue of Agricultural Pricing and Marketing**

**Chair: Sukhpal Singh, Professor, Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad, Gujarat**

**Speakers**

Avanindra Nath Thakur, Professor, OP Jindal Global University

Toendepi Shonhe, Senior Lecturer, MUSAT, Zimbabwe (Online)

Manish Kumar, Assistant Professor, Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi

Nalini Arumugam, Associate Professor, Universiti Sultan Zainal Abidin, Malaysia (Online)

*Structure of the Discussion:*

*Should the price determination of agricultural commodities be left completely to the mechanism of markets? What should be the appropriate government interventions in this regard?*

*What role has corporates been playing in procuring the produce? Are such interventions beneficial for the farmers? With the increasing engagement of private sector engagement in the agriculture markets, what is the possible future of the MSP?*

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**Tea/Coffee Break**

**4:30 pm- 5:00 pm**

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**Durgabai Deshmukh Memorial Lecture**

**6:00 pm onwards**

Madhura Swaminathan,  
Professor and Head of the Economic Analysis Unit,  
Indian Statistical Institute, Bengaluru

Launch of the Social Development Report 2023

Venue: C. D. Deshmukh Auditorium, IIC Main

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**Day Two-16.07.2024**

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**Session I**

**(9:30 am-11:00 am)**

**Rethinking Agrarian Policy Framework**

**Chair: Praveen Jha, Professor, CESP, JNU**

**Speakers**

Siraj Hussain, former Union Agriculture Secretary and adviser of FICCI

Xu Jin, Professor, China Agriculture University, China (Online)

Gurpreet Singh, Associate Professor, O P Jindal Global University

A Amarender Reddy, Joint Director, School of Crop Health Policy Support Research, ICAR,  
New Delhi

*Structure of the Discussion:*

*It has been 77 years of independent India and yet no agriculture policy has been formulated.*

*What will be the benefits of devising such policies for small and marginal farmers?*

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**Tea Break**

**(11:00 am-11:30 am)**

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**Session II**

**(11:30 am-1:00 pm)**

**The Glaring Gap in Agriculture: Status of women/marginalised farmers and labour**

**Chair: Indira Hirway, Professor, Centre for Development Alternatives, Ahmedabad**

**Speakers**

Dzifa Torvikey, Research Fellow, Institute of Statistical, Social and Economic Research, University of  
Ghana. (Online)

Giuliano Martiniello, Associate Professor, Université Internationale de Rabat.

Satendra Kumar, Senior Fellow, Institute of Asian and Oriental Studies, University of Zurich (Online)

Sudha Narayanan, Research Fellow, The International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) (Online)  
K B Saxena, Distinguished Professor, CSD

*Structure of the Discussion: "Gender" doesn't matter in agriculture. What are your views? What are  
the issues and challenges for the Dalit or tribal farmers?*

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**Lunch**

**1:00 pm-1:30 pm**

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**Session III**

**(1:30 pm-3:00 pm)**

**Going Back to Roots: A Discussion on Sustainable Agriculture Practices**

**Chair: R Rashmi, Distinguished Fellow and Programme Director, Resource Efficiency & Governance, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), New Delhi**

**Speakers**

Manish Anand, Senior Fellow, TERI

Farida Akhter, Executive Director, UBINIG, Bangladesh (Online)

Sandeep Chachra, Executive Director, ActionAid Association

Nitya Nanda, Director, CSD

*Structure of the Discussion:*

*What is the status of sustainable agricultural practices? Is it feasible to switch to organic or natural farming? What are the pre-requisites for bringing such major change? How will it impact food security and nutrition?*

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**Session IV**

**(3:00 pm-4:30 pm)**

**Voices from the Ground: Open session with farmers and NGOs**

**Chair: Harvir Singh, Rural Voice**

**Speakers**

Sanghmitra Dubey, Centre for Integrated Rural & Tribal Development, Odisha

Suman Goutam, Basant Farmer Producer Organisation (FPO), Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh

Vikas Chaudhry, Progressive Farmer, Director, FPO of Progrowers Producers Company Limited (recipient of many awards from the Government of India), Karnal, Haryana

Gurpreet Singh, Abohar, Punjab (farmer who received agriculture excellence award from Govt. of India for his efforts on diversification)

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**Vote of Thanks**

**Nivedita Sharma**

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**Tea/Cofee**

**5:00pm-5:30pm**

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**For any query contact:**

**Nivedita Sharma**

**Conference Convener**

[nivedita@csdindia.org](mailto:nivedita@csdindia.org)