

SDG Blueprint for Sustainable Agriculture: Expert Consultation

Focus on SDG 2, SDG 6, SDG 15 & SDG 16

Date: 5th October 2023

Venue: TERI Headquarters, India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road, New Delhi

Bio-notes



Dr Swati Nayak is a scientist with CGIAR International Rice Research Institute. She is also the 2023 Borlaug Field Award Winner from World Food Prize Foundation. Dr Nayak currently working as South Asia Lead for Seed systems, with International Rice Research Institute. She is also global lead for cereal seed systems under CGIAR initiative Seed Equal. She is part of IRRI's Rice Breeding Innovation Platform and works in the domain of scaling, mainstreaming multiple promising, climate resilient, high yielding, nutrition rich varieties/ germplasm across multiple market segments keeping in mind farmer preference, value chain stakeholder and consumer demand. She works towards ensuring that genetic gain is delivered in farmer field and seed markets are developed and quality seeds are available for farmers and their preferred varieties. She is an experienced professional who has expertise around leading and driving Programmes around Scaling Innovations, Delivery systems, Technology Transfer and extensive Public Private Partnership strategies that focus on accelerating impact and scale of agriculture technology. She has extensive experience around engagement of women and community, in technology scaling and targeting programmes. She has academic background Agriculture extension (technology transfer), rural management and Agriculture science and have experience on evaluating diverse extension methodology including the usage of disruptive technology for accelerated impact.



Mr Pranay Sinha is associated with the Gates Foundation, India. Gates Foundation is a global non - profit fighting poverty, disease, and inequity around the world.



Mr Saahil Parekh is a multi-disciplinary professional building the Sustainable Food Systems programme at the Council. He leads the Council's initiatives on scaling up Climate-Smart Agriculture and Agroforestry and specialises in systems thinking and design. Before joining the Council, Saahil worked for six years in various aspects of the urban food system as a policy researcher and entrepreneur. He has also worked in several capacities for growing modern agricultural methods and agricultural Research and Development like hydroponics, especially in turnkey project development, frugal innovation and technology. His work with food systems spans across India, Germany, Switzerland and the Netherlands. Saahil was a German Chancellor Fellow from India in 2018-19. He holds a master's in economics from IIT Kharagpur.



Ajith Radhakrishnan is a Senior Specialist at the World Bank and the Country Coordinator for 2030 Water Resources Group [2030 WRG] in India. The 2030 Water Resources Group (2030 WRG) is a public, private, civil society partnership platform hosted by the World Bank Group. Working with state governments and the national government in India, 2030 WRG has helped design and roll out impactful initiatives targeting irrigation efficiency, wastewater reuse in agriculture, private sector financing, and innovations for agricultural transformation and resilience. Currently Ajith leads an impactful initiative with government, private sector and financing partners, to achieve multiple climate-and water security outcomes by scaling up water use efficiency in Uttar Pradesh and accelerating water reuse in Maharashtra. Ajith has worked for leading global agricultural policy research and development organizations including the CGIAR, ADB and the GGGI. Ajith holds advanced graduate degrees in Public Administration (MPA) from the School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA), Columbia University, New York as a Fulbright Fellow, and Masters in Agricultural Management from NDRI, Karnal.



Niyati Seth is currently working as 'Associate Fellow' in Water Resources Division of TERI (The Energy and Resources Institute) and I have been working in the field of water resource management since last 8 years. My expertise in the water sector lies in the areas related to water use efficiency and water quantity assessments (audits). I have carried out several comprehensive research studies in the area of water use efficiency, mainly in industrial & agricultural sector. Under different projects in the agricultural sector, our team has established demonstration farms for promoting water efficient practices.



Subrata Singh is the Executive Director of the Foundation for Ecological Security. He has more than 27 years of experience working on issues related to land and water commons, natural resource management, community governance, polycentric governance, and public policy. Subrat's core interests lie in evolving instruments for community tenure, institutional designs for managing natural resources, multi-stakeholder processes, and use of technology to strengthen agency at community level. Throughout his career, Subrat has been deeply involved in a wide range of areas, reflecting his multifaceted approach to addressing complex.



Priyanka Anand is a Programme Associate for regenerative agriculture at The Nature Conservancy (TNC). She has an experience of 12 years in the development sector. In the past, she was associated with the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), Centre Agriculture Bioscience International (CABI), and Abt Associates. She worked for regional agriculture projects spread across three countries viz. Bangladesh, India, and Nepal. These projects were focused on food security and livelihood. She has also worked on projects on crop residue management, knowledge management, ICT in Agriculture, and health. Furthermore, she is working as a steering committee member of the global Multicultural Employee Resource Group of TNC.



Debadityo Sinha is a Senior Resident Fellow and Lead, Climate & Ecosystems team at Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy, New Delhi. With over 12 years of professional experience, he has dedicatedly worked on legal and policy matters concerning the protection of the environment, forests, and wildlife. He has actively litigated in the National Green Tribunal and the Supreme Court, focusing on issues related to the implementation of environmental laws and compensation for environmental damages. In recognition of his conservation efforts, he was honoured with the Sanctuary Wildlife Service Award in 2019. He is also a member of IUCN-Species Survival Commission's Bear Specialist Group and Founder of Vindhyan Ecology & Natural History Foundation.

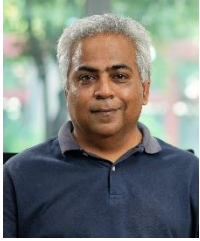


Guru Koppa is a Sustainable Agriculture Development Professional who is working as Director for a multimillion-dollar project on Promoting Regenerative and No-burn Agriculture at The Nature Conservancy (TNC). He has 25+ years of experience in teaching, research, advocacy, and program management with expertise in devising and implementing projects in coordination with national and international organizations, Governments and NGOs in India and Africa. He has worked in association with national and international organizations (State Agriculture University, NDDDB, IWMI, AKDN Kenya, ICRISAT, FAO, GIZ India, IFAD BCI, Geneva, and Grameen Foundation) in all aspects of project management, from a detailed plan of work and budgeting, performance reviews and technical assistance, and M&E including impact evaluation, coordinating directly with various stakeholders including senior policymakers, donors.

He has worked extensively both in India and Africa (Kenya, Madagascar, Mozambique, Ethiopia, Rwanda and Zambia) which will be an incredible asset to our PRANA and BEF team. Academically, he has Fellowship (PhD) in Rural Management (NRM) from Institute of Rural Management Anand (IRMA), Anand and Master's in Agronomy from UAS Dharwad, Karnataka along with certified PRINCE2 Foundation on Project Management.



Prof. Shashi Bhushan Tripathi has been working for past 25 years in the field of conservation genetics and molecular breeding. He has been using DNA based technologies to generate information related to genetic variations in different plant and livestock species. His research interests include using DNA sequence information for analysis of genetic diversity and population structure, identification of important genes controlling important traits such as yield, quality, and adaption to environment. He has worked on field crops, vegetables, biofuels, forestry and plantation crops, cattle and poultry. His project on Development of double-low varieties in Brassica juncea has been awarded for the Best Innovation Award in Agricultural Biotechnology for 2016 by BIRAC, Government of India.



Mr Murli Dhar is having 25 years of experience working for corporations, national organizations, and international organizations, Murli is the director of the WWF's sustainable agriculture program in India. From a junior researcher to a management position during his career, he developed experience in sustainable agricultural and natural resource management. He had the chance to work hard in the field of innovation, change the agriculture supply chain, and represent WWF in numerous UNFCCC and BCI international working groups. Murli is a graduate of a prestigious national and international university where he majored in agriculture and minored in strategic management of natural resources.



Dr D R Sena brings to the field of Hydrology and Water Resources Management an extensive and illustrious career spanning over a quarter-century. His expertise encompasses a diverse range of subjects, including agricultural science, engineering, land and water management, and agroecological and hydrology modelling. Dr Sena holds an M. Tech and Ph.D. from the Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur, and was honoured as an Australian Endeavour fellow in 2018, having conducted research at the University of Southern Queensland, QLD as a post-doctoral fellow. Throughout his professional journey, Dr. Sena has actively participated in numerous multidisciplinary projects, where he assumed leadership roles in various modelling groups. Notably, he played a pivotal role in the National Mission on Sustaining Himalayan Ecosystem Task Force 6 and made significant contributions to the National Innovations in Climate Resilient Agriculture initiative of ICAR. During his ICAR journey he has been associated with CSIRO-SAC APSIM CROP modelling initiatives in South Asia and DST-BMWF project with BOKU, Vienna, Austria. His contributions have earned him recognition in the form of awards, fellowships, and his role as a contributing author to the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES).



Shreya Chakraborty has over 10 years of research experience and has provided program leadership to multiple projects on climate change impacts and adaptation, food-water-energy nexus and disaster management policies, hydel power policies, peri urban socioecological transformations, and women's climate leadership. At IWMI she is a co-lead for the research on environmental drivers and outcomes of agrifood systems in South Asia under the initiative – Transforming Agrifood Systems in South Asia (TAFSSA). Prior to her role at IWMI she was with the South Asia Consortium for Interdisciplinary Water Resources Studies (SaciWATERs) as Executive Director. She holds an M. Phil in Regional Development, and a masters in Geography from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi India. She is currently reading for PhD in Geography from the Graduate School of Geosciences, University of Cologne.

Mr Abhishek Sinha is the Director at the Central Water Commission (CWC), RK Puram, Delhi. Central Water Commission is a premier Technical Organization of India in the field of Water Resources and is presently functioning as an attached office of the Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India.

Prof. Vikas Rawal is Professor of Economics at Jawaharlal Nehru University. His research has mainly focused on agrarian issues, food security and employment. He has conducted field-based research in many states of India and has also worked on global issues related to agriculture and food. He was the lead author of The Global Economy of Pulses published in 2019 by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). He advises the FAO India office on issues related to SDGs.



Narender Kumar founded Hindrise.org with a passionate belief in the significance of indigenous cow breeds for India's agricultural and ecological well-being. Under his guidance, the organization has embarked on a mission to protect and enhance the lives of these sacred animals. Hindrise.org focuses on breeding, healthcare, and creating awareness about the vital role cows play in sustainable agriculture and rural livelihoods. Narender Kumar's dedication to the environment goes together with his passion for organic farming. He champions the use of cow dung and burning compost as natural fertilizers to promote chemical-free agriculture. His efforts have not only revitalized soil health but have also empowered local farmers to adopt eco-friendly farming practices.



Ms Puja Singh is currently working as Project Manager and Coordinator at INRM Consultants Pvt. Ltd. She is having more than 23 years of experience with vast exposure in Hydrology and Water Resources Engineering, Hydrological and Hydraulic modelling, implementing early warning system (EWS) for natural hazards, capacity building and institutional strengthening, implementing early warning system (EWS) for natural hazards, Ground water modelling and risk assessment. Also, she has comprehensive knowledge on water budgeting for the entire River Basin of India. She has high end skills &

expertise in Urban flood modelling, Database design and connectivity with GIS interface. She is an experienced trainer and can design training modules and impart effective training and capacity building to the client.



Marit M. Strand is Counselor at Royal Norwegian Embassy, New Delhi.

Gyan Rai is Policy and Partnership Manager at TNC India. The Nature Conservancy has been advancing projects in India since 2017 to support India's efforts to "develop without destruction". They work closely with the Indian government, research institutions, other NGOs, private sector organisations and local communities to develop science-based, on-the-ground, scalable solutions for some of the country's most pressing environmental challenges.



Arkajyoti Patra is Programme Policy Officer for climate resilient livelihoods at UN-WFP. I have more than four years of experience working on sustainable livelihoods promotion in various parts of India. Until recently, I was working on the promotion of low carbon pathways in agriculture in the Saurashtra region of Gujarat. I have also worked with tribal communities in Odisha, Chhattisgarh and Gujarat. Over the years I have worked with multiple grassroots organisations, government agencies and NGOs including PRADAN and Aga Khan Rural Support Programme (India). I hold a master's in agribusiness management and a bachelor's in business administration from Utkal University in Bhubaneswar.



Seema Yadav, Senior Program Associate at WRI India, is part of the Sustainable Landscapes and Restoration team. With an academic background in environmental sciences, Seema has worked on exploring the ecology of NTFPs in the natural forests of Central India. Currently she is working on developing interventions to make rainfed agriculture more sustainable and improve livelihood opportunities for tribal communities in a forested district of Gadchiroli, Maharashtra. Her research interest revolves around forest ecology, dynamics of forest produce, the role of communities in natural resource conservation, nature-based solutions and the impact of environmental legislation.



Dr Shweta Tyagi is Chief Functionary India Water Foundation and Associate Editor Focus Global Reporter a UN accredited e magazine. She is a development sector professional with 20 years of demonstrated history and a proven ability to manage project teams to deliver multiple projects

and programmes across diverse sectors of sustainable Development, Water and Sanitation, Social Development, Livelihood Generation, climate change etc. She has excellent knowledge of project management and strategic planning for partnership creation and coordination, as well as advising decision-makers and strengthening capacities. Experience of Natural Resource management among rural communities for implementing community-based projects with an objective towards strengthening sustainable livelihoods.



Dr Pradeep Dubey is a Program Manager within WRI India's Sustainable Landscape and Restoration program. His primary area of expertise lies in agriculture, and his work predominantly focuses on landscape restoration initiatives in India, characterized by a bottom-up approach.

Ms Meenal Pahuja works as a Project Associate at IUCN India. She is an expert on NBS and is contributing towards mainstreaming land health and biodiversity in agriculture.