

National Dialogue on Science, Technology, and Innovation Capabilities and Skilling Approaches for Sustainability of India's Food and Land-Use Systems

Platform: Virtual (Webex)

30th April 2021 (Friday), Time: 2:00pm to 4:00pm (IST)

Bio-notes (alphabetically)



Dr. A.K. Singh is Deputy Director General (Agricultural Extension). He is involved in policy planning, project formulation and monitoring for effective diffusion and adoption of technology through 724 KVKs spread across the country. Dr. Singh, in his career spanning 34 years has outstandingly contributed to teaching; research and extension work in both agricultural university and Indian Council of Agricultural Research. Major initiatives pursued by him are Farmer FIRST Programme, Attracting and Retaining Youth in Agriculture (ARYA), Mera Gaon Mera Gaurav (MGMG), Coordinated and network research in extension, cluster demonstration of pulses and oilseeds, launched four new initiatives like Value Addition and Technology Incubation Centre Agriculture (VATICA), Knowledge System and Homestead Agriculture Management in Tribal Areas (KSHAMTA), Nutri-sensitive Agricultural Resources and Innovations (NARI) and Farm Innovation and Resource Management, ICT initiatives including vKVK, KVKNet and mobile based agro-advisory through mKisan portal covering more than five crore farmers.



Mr. Ajay Vir Jakhar is a citrus farmer based in Village Maujgarh in Punjab, India. He is Chairman of Bharat Krishak Samaj (Farmers' Forum India) (<http://bks.org.in/>) formed in 1955. A non-political association of farmers' advocating the crucial need to focus on farmer prosperity. Working with a diverse set of stakeholders and policymakers to develop an understanding of the complexity of the problems, attempting to shift the narrative & build a consensus to provide solutions. Regularly convene seminars and conferences on issues of relevance to rural communities. He is also the Chairman of Punjab State Farmers' and Farm Workers' Commission in Punjab. The Commission is the statutory body to advise the State Government of Punjab, India on improving rural livelihoods and on all matters related to those dependent on agriculture. He graduated with a degree in Geography and his hobbies are walking and reading. Present associations with following organizations: Vice-Chair, Shift to Sustainable Consumption Patterns, UN Food Systems Summit 2021; Advisory Board, EAT Foundation; Ambassador, Food and Land Use Coalition (FOLU); Member, The Abohar Cooperative Marketing Society Ltd.



Dr. Andrew Goodland is the World Bank's Lead Agriculture Specialist covering India and Sri Lanka, a role in which he started in August 2020. In this role he coordinates and oversees the World Bank's investment and analytical portfolio in the Agriculture and Food Sector for these countries, which includes nineteen investment projects for a total commitment of US\$3.5 billion. Previously, he was Program Leader for Sustainable Development and Infrastructure covering Nepal, Sri Lanka and Maldives including support to the following sectors: agriculture; environment and natural resource management; energy and extractives; transport and ICT; urban development, social development and disaster risk management; and water. Before joining the Colombo-based team in July 2017, he was based in Ethiopia as the Sustainable Development Program Leader for Ethiopia, Sudan and South Sudan. Previously he was Senior Agricultural Economist in the World Bank office in Beijing, China. He holds an MBA from the University of Cambridge and Master's degree in Agriculture Economics from Wye College.



Dr. G R Chintala is the Chairman of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), the Apex Development Financial Institution of the country. Shri Chintala conceptualized, designed and rolled out the digitization of the world's largest microfinance program under project 'e-Shakti' and also played a vital role in driving the world's largest poverty alleviation cum women empowerment program, the SHG movement comprising 10 million groups, covering 100 million members. Shri Chintala has handled several prestigious consultancy assignments including a significant one on "Roadmap for Amalgamation of Regional Rural Banks" in 2006 that led the way for the consolidation of 196 RRBs. He also undertook a consultancy assignment on "Efficacy of SGSY in meeting the aspirations of SCs/STs" commissioned by the Ministry of Rural Development, GOI, whose recommendations helped in launching National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) throughout the country and phasing out the SGSY. Shri Chintala had also successfully introduced the Producers Organisations model in Andaman & Nicobar Islands. As part of his official engagements, Shri Chintala has travelled extensively and visited more than 20 countries including USA, China, European nations, Bolivia, Brazil, Peru, Kenya, Senegal, South Africa, Indonesia, Bangladesh etc. for presenting papers on various topics and other assignments covering agriculture and rural development.



Dr. Jayahari KM is the India Country Coordinator of Food and Land Use Coalition (FOLU). Jayahari has worked in different capacities in institutions like Kerala Forest Research Institute, WWF India, Winrock International India till 2015, focusing on Natural Resource Management and Biodiversity Conservation. He has initiated and implemented many conservation programs primarily in Western Ghats and Eastern Himalayas. From 2015-17 he was leading an NGO working in pastoral and dry-land agriculture sectors — Sahjeevan as its Executive Director. Prior to his current role, he played an instrumental role in building some spatial databases in India, like India Observatory (www.indiaobservatory.org.in) at the Foundation of Ecological Security, and Restoration Opportunity Atlas of India (india.restorationatlas.org) at WRI India. He also provided consultancy services to national and international organizations like Tetra Tech, ICLEI South Asia, etc.

Jayahari is a PhD in Forestry (Wildlife Biology) from Forest Research Institute, Dehradun.



Dr. Manish Anand, Fellow at TERI, is an agricultural post graduate and holds an MPhil/PhD in Science Policy. In his professional career of over a decade, he has worked on several interdisciplinary projects encompassing diverse areas of agriculture, food and land use, resource use and efficiency and emerging technology policy.



Dr. Manish Kumar is the Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer of National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC). During his four years tenure at NSDC, Manish has particularly focused on improving the quality of private sector delivery of skills across priority sectors and making skills aspirational. Prior to joining the NSDC, he worked for the World Bank as Country Coordinator and Senior Institution Development Economist, Water and Sanitation Program, New Delhi. He also worked for the World Bank in Middle East and North African countries covering Lebanon, Iraq, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Morocco, Egypt, etc. Manish served in the Indian Administrative Service, occupying various positions in Government of Tripura up to 2011. He was selected as a Mason Fellow by Harvard University in 2003 for his leadership in empowering tribal women of Tripura. Manish holds degree in Bachelor of Technology in Mining Machinery from IIT (ISM), Dhanbad; a Master in Public Administration from Harvard University, USA, and PhD in Public Policy from The George Washington University, Washington DC, USA.



Mr. S Vijay Kumar is Distinguished Fellow TERI since November 2013. Prior to that, he was a member of the Indian Administrative Service (IAS). He has served as Secretary of the Ministry of Rural Development (2012-13) and as Additional Secretary and Secretary Ministry of Mines (2008-2011). In TERI he works on policy issues related to natural resources, including land, water and minerals. He is also the Lead of the Food and Land Use (FOLU) Coalition India programme. He is a Member since 2015 of the United Nations' International Resource Panel (IRP) which considers issues relating to governance of resources and poverty and prepares science-based policy related reports on natural resource management, resource use efficiency and environmental impacts of resource use. He is a contributing author to the 2019 IRP Report "Mineral Resource Governance" and a member of the IRP Working Group on "Socio-economic implications of Resource efficiency".



Ms. Shailly Kedia (Fellow at The Energy and Resources Institute - TERI) is a multidisciplinary professional with more than sixteen years of experience in policy research, advocacy and capacity building on sustainable development. She is academically trained in international studies, finance, business administration and engineering. Prior to TERI, she was briefly with World Bank in Washington, DC; and Columbia University and NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies in New York.



Mr. T. Nanda Kumar is Independent Public Policy Specialist. He was with the Indian Administrative Service and has been Former Secretary Food; Former Secretary Agriculture; Former Member National Disaster Management Authority and Former Chairman National Dairy Development Board. He has been the reviewer of the TERI-FOLU Study on Science, Technology and Innovation capabilities and skilling approaches for sustainable food and land use systems.



Dr. Ulaç Demirag has over 20 years of experience in rural and agricultural development. Before his appointment as India country director, he led IFAD's portfolio in Ethiopia. His professional expertise includes community-driven development, rural finance, agricultural value chain, private sector development, and natural resources management. He joined IFAD in 2002 and managed the country programmes in Equatorial Guinea and Chad (2006-2007), Guinea (2008-2009) and Ghana (2010 – 2015), Ethiopia, Eritrea and South Sudan (2016-2020) before moving to his current role. He holds a PhD in Geography from the University of Heidelberg, Germany (2002). His academic background is coupled with extensive experience in leading interdisciplinary research in West Africa, with several publications in the fields of climate change, development economics, centred on agro-pastoral and small-holder farmers' livelihoods.



Dr. Vibha Dhawan is the Director General of The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) and has been associated with TERI since 1985. She also served as the Vice-Chancellor of TERI School of Advanced Studies from 2005-2007. She is a Fellow of the National Academy of Sciences, India. An agricultural scientist and biotechnologist, Dr Dhawan is actively involved in research as well as policy development, both at the national and international level. She is a task force member of a number of committees of the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), the Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) and Biotech Consortium India Limited (BCIL). She is currently serving as Adjunct Professor, Consul General South Asia Partnership, Michigan State University. She has successfully completed a number of international assignments such as co-ordinator for the Asia Pacific Consortium on Agriculture Biotechnology (APCoAB); Advisor to Director General, The International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre (CIMMYT); and Deputy Director, Research Partnerships & Co-ordination with the Borlaug Institute for South Asia. She has served on the boards of prestigious organizations in India and overseas including Jawaharlal Nehru University, Ambedkar University, Ayurvet Foundation and Centre for Bioscience and Agriculture International. She is the winner of Women Leadership Agriculture Award 2016 by the Indian Council of Food & Agriculture.