# SDG Blueprint for Sustainable Agriculture: Expert Consultation

*Focus on SDG 8, SDG 17*

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## Bio-notes

**Akhilesh Sharma** is Assistant Program Lead at S M Sehgal Foundation, working in Agriculture Development Program. He has earned Bachelor of Technology in Agriculture Engineering from Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya, West Bengal; Diploma in Agriculture Engineering from Murshidabad Institute of Technology WBSCTE, West Bengal and Master in Rural Development from State Institute of Rural Development, OSOU, Sambalpur. For the past 9 years he has been engaged in promotion of agriculture and allied activities and rural development programmes across the different geographic regions of nation, in association with development sector.

**Syed Arslan Ali** is a researcher with a background in economics, holding a Masters in Economics from Jamia Millia Islamia and a bachelors from GS College of Commerce and Economics. Currently serving as a Research Assistant at the Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), he has played a pivotal role in various national and international projects. Notable contributions include co-authoring the report "STI for SDGs Roadmaps for India," which was part of the UN Global pilot programme on STI for SDGs. He was also the co-ordinator in the G20's Think 20 (T20) Task Force 3. Arslan's work extends to publications, with a forthcoming book chapter and contributions to reports published by RIS. His commitment to research and development issues is evident in his multifaceted contributions to the cause of SDGs.

**Ashutosh Senger** is a policy researcher turned lawyer. He practises law before courts & tribunals in Delhi. He has been active in representing corporate clients in a variety of sectors, as well as governmental units and other public sector entities before various courts and tribunals. Previously, Ashutosh has worked with the Environmental Law Practice at Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas & Co, a leading law firm in India. He was also empanelled by the Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights (DCPCR) as their counsel. Prior to law, Ashutosh worked with The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI). At TERI his work focused on sustainable development policy, climate policy, energy policy, environmental policy and green growth.

**Chetana Chaudhuri** is a Fellow at NCAER. Her primary research interests are in the areas of Energy, Environment, Macroeconomics, Employment and Health Economics. She has previously been associated with the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP), Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI) and Institute of Economic Growth (IEG). She has worked on a wide variety of studies pertaining to macro-economic analysis, input-output modelling, social accounting matrix, health financing, labour market analysis, energy analysis of industries and the household sector, analyses of large sample surveys, qualitative and quantitative assessment of government schemes like ESI, PMJAY, PMMVY, and RKVY, etc; benefit cost analysis, and benefit incidence analysis, among others. She has published in reputed journals and authored chapters in books and reports. She has a doctorate degree from Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi.

**Chris Garroway** is the United Nations development system's first country economist for India, based in the office of the UN Resident Coordinator in New Delhi. He leads the UN Country Team's policy support and analytical work on the Sustainable Development Goals in India. He also supports the United Nations Secretary-General's Global Crisis Response Group task team on Food, Energy and Finance and is working closely with the Government of India to support India's 2023 G20 Presidency. He has wide experience analyzing poverty, growth and inequality in emerging and developing economies. He previously served as special assistant to the Secretary-General of the UN Conference for Trade and Development in Geneva, leading the organization's work on financing for development, the Sustainable Development Goals and the UN development system reforms. No stranger to India, Chris first joined the United Nations in 2011, helping launch UN-ESCAP's subregional office in New Delhi where he was responsible for empirical analysis of poverty and inequality in 10 UN Member States. Chris has also worked as a statistician and policy analyst at the OECD Development Centre and began his career at the World Bank European headquarters in Paris. He holds degrees from the Paris School of Economics and from McGill University. A dual French-American national, he is married with two daughters.

**Dr Girija K Bharat** is the Managing Director of Mu Gamma Consultants, Gurgaon. She is an international expert with over 30 years of experience in research in Water Resource Management, Water Supply and Sanitation, Chemical Pollution Control and works across several of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).She started her career as a Scientist in CSIR-CIMFR, and was a Presidential Scholar at George Mason University, USA. She is a Ph.D. in Chemistry from LIT, Nagpur, and an alumnus of IIT (ISM) Dhanbad, Utkal University, Bhubaneswar, BITS (Pilani). She is a member of American Chemical Society (ACS); Iota-Sigma-Pi - an Honor Society for Women in Chemistry in the US. She was also the recipient of IIM Bangalore (NSRCEL)-Goldman Sachs 10 K Women Entrepreneurs Programme, 2021. She has over 100 scientific and policy research publications to her credit.  She is the recipient of several awards including the Glory of India 2021, Women Transforming India Award by NITI Aayog 2021.

**Jayahari KM (Hari)** is India Country Coordinator, Food and Land Use Coalition (FOLU), a program co-led by World Resources Insitute India. His primary responsibility is to coordinate FOLU India activities and work closely with FOLU India core partners and collaborations. He is one among the WRI India Directors who is leading FOLU programme.

**Kangkanika Neog** is an experienced water policy professional with a background in sustainable water management. She is currently a Programme Associate at the Council, focusing on climate-smart agriculture, policy coherence in the water-energy-food nexus and climate adaptation. With over eight years of diverse experience at CEEW and as an independent consultant, she has worked on issues related to agriculture water management, urban water management, particularly the circular economy of wastewater, policy coherence and irrigation management. Kangkanika holds a Master's in Environmental Studies and Resource Management from TERI School of Advanced Studies. She is committed to driving climate adaptation in agriculture and finding innovative solutions for water challenges.

**Kriti Bhagat** has completed M.A in Development and Labour Studies from Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU). I have previous research experiences from V.V. Giri National Labour Institute (VVGNLI) and Society for Social and Economic Research (SSER), New Delhi. I also have teaching experience in educating children of migrant workers in Sahyadri Convent School, Bengaluru. I had the opportunity to do internship under Dr. Jean Dreze and Reetika khera for a project on public health facilities and an internship program with the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), New Delhi.

**Dr Laxmi Joshi** is a Fellow at NCAER with research interests in agriculture and rural development. She has worked on issues related to the Agricultural Outlook Situation Analysis, National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, economic benefits of weather and marine services, air pollution issues in agriculture, India's cotton revolution, dairy development, Fisheries Sector, farm mechanization and Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT). Presently she is doing a project with UIDAI on the Impact of Aadhaar on GDP. Before NCAER, she worked at the National Commission on Farmers and the National Institute for Agricultural Economics and Policy Research (NAIP). She has several publications in national and international journals on important subjects of relevance. She has Ph. D in Agricultural Economics.

**Madhav Gholkar,** a Senior Researcher at W-CReS (WOTR Centre for Resilience Studies), possesses 15 years of professional expertise in Climate-Resilient Agricultural practices, GHG emission assessment, energy and carbon exchanges, valuation of ecosystem services, knowledge transfer, and capacity building of stakeholders for ecosystem-based adaptation. Madhav Gholkar holds a Master's Degree in Agriculture Systems and Engineering from the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), Bangkok, and a Bachelor's Degree in Agricultural Engineering from MPKV Rahuri, Maharashtra, India. He has been associated with WOTR for the last 7.5 years, primarily focusing on applied research in sustainable agriculture and allied sectors. Before joining WOTR, he worked at the Space Application Centre (SAC, ISRO), focusing on RS GIS applications in agriculture, and at GVK Bio-Sciences Pvt Ltd., where he specialized in environmental fate modelling of agro-chemicals. He has published 15+ research papers in journals and conference proceedings, authored a book chapter, and contributed to various research reports/articles and presented the work at national and international forums like UNCCD COP14, ADB conference, and many others.

**Monisha Mukherjee** has 21 years of experience working with women collectives, CSO Forums, and government departments at both state and national levels. Her area of interest includes financial inclusion, gender, livelihoods, and nutrition. She has led many multi-stakeholder projects funded by multilateral and bilateral agencies such as IFAD, DFID, UN Women, and private philanthropies. She is a Ford Foundation International Fellow and graduate in Sustainable International Development from Brandeis University, USA, and has Bachelors in Engineering from NIT, Durgapur. She is part of the operations unit of PRADAN which spearheads and gives strategic direction to the different developmental approaches of PRADAN. Currently, she leads PRADAN's partnership initiative with NRLM at the national level. In this role, she works closely with the National Mission Management Unit to devise strategies for the effective implementation of their livelihood initiatives with women collectives across the country.

**Dr. Nitya Nanda** is an economist and a public policy analyst with more than two decades of experience in research, consulting and teaching. Currently, he is Director of the Council for Social Development, a social science think tank based in New Delhi. Earlier he was with The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), CUTS International and National Council of Applied Economic Research. His areas of interest include international trade, industrialization, energy and environment issues. He has been a consultant for several UN organizations, including UNCTAD, UNESCAP, and UNDP; and the European Commission. He has also been a consultant for different government ministries and agencies in India and contributed to formulating policies. He has published many articles in journals and edited books, as well as pieces in magazines and newspapers. He has also authored and edited several volumes, including Expanding Frontiers of Global Trade Rules (2009), Hydro-Politics in GBM Basin (2015), India's Resource Security (2018), and India's Industrial Policy and Performance (2021).

**Nityananda Dhal** has nearly 30 years of experience in development sector. He has worked extensively in different parts of Odisha with different tribal communities (mostly with women) in strengthening their livelihoods. His has expertise in different livelihoods domains SHG collectivisation, Microfinance, Integrated Natural Resource Management (INRM), Agriculture, Leaf-plate making, Tasar sericulture, Small livestock rearing etc. He has worked with Ministry of Rural Development, GoI (NRLM and MGNRGS) during 2013-2019 to strengthen their livelihoods program. Currently he is leading the Centre of Excellence (CoE)- Regenerative Agriculture in PRADAN and pursuing to help different agencies including PRADAN in making a large-scale shift from conventional to regenerative agriculture practices across the country. He is a ford foundation fellow and done his masters in International Development from Cornell university during 206-08.

**Dr. Pradeep Kumar** is working as D.S. Kothari Post-Doctoral Fellow in SES, JNU, New Delhi. He received his PhD degree from Indian Institute of Technology (BHU), Varanasi, India. He has been awarded SERB-National Post-Doctoral Fellowship at BHU, Varanasi, India. Before his PhD he received MTech in Geomatics from IIT-ISM Dhanbad. He has also been awarded GATE and UGC-JRF scholarships. He has made significant contributions in the field of geospatial technology, aerosols, agricultural crops and soil moisture. He has published around 40 peer-reviewed research articles in international/national journals and also has published more than 30 oral/poster presentations in various national/international conferences/workshops.

**Pradnya Paithankar** Working in the development sector for over 20 years, Pradnya has expertise in the field of policy advocacy, programme design and management, vulnerability assessments, emergency needs assessments, large scale evaluations and research with passion to work with communities. She has worked across multiple sectors ranging from health, nutrition, Agriculture and food security, climate change bringing-in technological innovations. Working in one of the world's largest humanitarian organization in the world, WFP, Pradnya is currently providing leadership to WFP India's efforts in bringing the sustainable food and nutrition security to the forefront of development agenda. Contributing to enhance resilience and adaptative capacity among small holder farmers and their collectives - especially in changing climate. As Head of Resilient Food Systems, Climate change and DRR, she is contributing to leverage WFP's expertise globally to strategically support government systems to design, monitor and implement approaches towards achievement of 2030 agenda. Her work involves climate adaptation, support to transforming food systems to make them climate resilient and encourage local action through empowered communities and facilitate scale-up.

**N Sai Balaji** is a doctoral student at Centre for International Politics, Organisation and Disarmament (CIPOD), School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University. My area of research concerns climate negotiations, agriculture sector, trade negotiations and human security. Presently my doctoral thesis titled "The Interface between Agricultural Trade and Climate Change Negotiations: A Study of India" is due to submission. Similarly, Mphil dissertation titled Negotiating the Linkages Between Climate Change and Agriculture: The Role of State and Non-State Actors" investigated the space agriculture sector got in climate negotiations. I regularly contribute to The Wire and other news portals on the issues related to climate change, agriculture sector and climate negotiations.

**Samriddhi** is an Associate Lead - Public Finance at CivicDataLab, a research lab harnessing data, tech, design and social science to strengthen access to information and enhance civic engagements in India & other countries. She is an economist by training with an interdisciplinary approach focusing on implementation practice. She works on leveraging data and technology to address climate-related challenges and enhance public finance management practices through data-driven decision-making.

**Saswata Chaudhury** is researcher (senior fellow) in The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), New Delhi and area convenor of Centre for Energy Assessment and Modelling team of TERI. He has PhD degree in Economics from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. His area of interest includes Economic Development, Trade, Energy, Environment and Resources. He is well versed in data analysis and economic modelling. He has more than 14 years of experience in Forecast analysis, large data handling (like NSS, NFHS data), econometric modelling and Computable General Equilibrium (CGE) Modelling. He has also wide experience in primary survey and multi-stakeholder approaches to research. He has a number of publications in reputed national and international journals. At TERI, currently, he is working on projects focusing on low carbon/net zero growth, energy demand assessment, carbon tax/pricing, just transition, renewable energy trade.

**Dr. Sunil Kumar Gupta** is currently working as a Research Lead (Air Pollution & Climate Change) at the Centre for Studies on Environment and Climate (CSEC), ADRI, Patna. He has 5 years' experiences in Air Pollution Exposure Modelling, Emission Inventory, Source Apportionment, Receptor and Dispersion Modelling, Climate Change and policy. He obtained his Ph.D. in Environmental Sciences from IIT (ISM) Dhanbad, India in 2018. After his PhD, he worked for 2 years as a post-doctoral researcher at Chaoyang University of Technology, Taiwan. Most recently, he was working as Project Coordinator (Post-doctoral) in the Department of Civil Engineering at IIT Madras, India and served there for about 1 year before joining ADRI. Currently he is working on air pollution and climate change policies. He has published several research works in Peer Reviewed (SCI listed) International journals. Research Interests: Urban Emission, Stationary Emission, Personal Exposure & Health Risk Modelling, Emission Inventory and Climate Policies.

**Dr. Susanta Mahato's** research interests encompass Climate Change Impacts and Applied Geospatial and Informatics. His proficiency in the field of thermal remote sensing and climate change equips him adeptly to analyze temperature trends and their profound effects on the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Dr. Mahato has an extensive publication record, encompassing 34 research articles and 6 book chapters, firmly establishing his prominence and contributions to the field. His impressive academic impact is reflected in his h-index of 17, an i10-index of 21, and a remarkable total citation count exceeding 2900. Furthermore, Dr. Mahato's international research collaborations extend to diverse countries, including Italy, Taiwan, Japan, Bangladesh, Germany, and Saudi Arabia, underscoring his global outlook and his commitment to advancing knowledge and addressing pressing global challenges.