

SDG Blueprint for Sustainable Agriculture: Expert Consultation

Focus on SDG 9, SDG 11, SDG 12

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

Bio-notes



Aditya Petwal brings a wealth of expertise and experience, with more than 17 years of dedicated work in the field of environment and sustainability. His extensive background includes over 12 years of hands-on involvement in sustainable agriculture and natural resource management (NRM) initiatives. Aditya has not only collaborated with grassroots organizations but has also engaged with national and international think tanks, elevating the discourse on sustainable agriculture and NRM. In the past Aditya has led sustainability programs in national and international organizations such as BAIF, Sir Ratan Tata Trust, MIT-JPAL South Asia, the International Union for Conservation of Nature, and Columbia University. He is currently associated with the Centre for Responsible Business as Associate Director. Aditya holds M.B.A. in Rural Development and an M. Phil in Natural Resource Management from the Indian Institute of Forest Management.



Dennis Baby is a Junior Program Associate with the Climate Program at WRI India. His work with WRI primarily focusses on Just Transition for the MSME sector, Climate Budgeting, and Communications for the program. He holds a bachelor's degree in Environmental Sciences from the University of Delhi. During his undergraduate studies, he was associated with The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) as an intern.



Gagnesh Sharma serving as Director in National Centre of Organic and Natural Farming Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh. MSc Agriculture, PhD Horticulture and MBA-HRD. Total 23 years experience under various capacities as Technical Asstt. Grade-I / Farm Manager and did Research and Development on Organic Tea (Department of Tea Husbandry and Tech. CSKHPKV Palampur) for 9 and half years. Served as Deputy Director of Tea Development in Apex statutory Body (Tea Board India Ministry of Commerce and Industry Govt. Of India) for 7 years. Additional Charge as Controller of Licensing in Tea Board. Served as Regional Director in RCOF Jabalpur and Bhubaneswar (NCONG - Ministry of Agriculture Govt. Of India) for the last 7 years. Serving as as Director Incharge and Director from 2021 in NCONF Ghaziabad.



Himanshu Chaudhary is having a decade of experience in Monitoring, Learning, and Evaluation (MEL) combined with expertise in agriculture strategy and project management, She is a results-driven professional dedicated to improving program effectiveness and impact. Her career has been marked by designing and implementing comprehensive MEL frameworks that align with organizational goals, identify key performance indicators, and drive evidence-based decision-making. Her agricultural

strategy background has allowed her to develop sustainable initiatives that integrate MEL practices, enhancing the productivity and resilience of farming communities. She has successfully managed projects from inception to completion, overseeing data collection, rigorous analysis, and the implementation of insights to optimize outcomes. Her commitment to continuous learning, knowledge sharing, and fostering a culture of innovation has been pivotal in promoting program improvement.



Karnika Palwa's interests are in research of subjects of climate change, ecology and coexistence. These interests have driven her journey in study and work. She studied climate change and development for her post-graduate degree and contributed to building the 'climate resilient green growth strategy for Punjab' during her work with TERI. She has studied green roof technology as a tool for increasing urban biodiversity hotspots and for bringing people in urban areas closer to their food. Her work in the

past has dealt with carbon emission calculations, policy advocacy, and human-canine interactions in urban spaces. She has also studied ornithology, canine behaviour and training, bee behaviour, in several short courses. She lives in New Delhi and is currently engaged in connecting children with urban wilderness.



K K Chaturvedi, PhD (Computer Science) started his career as Scientist in 1999 from ICAR-Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute, New Delhi and currently working as Principal Scientist in the same institute. He worked in 30+ research projects and published 75+ research articles in reputed National and International journals. He visited Iowa State University and Cornell University USA. His contribution in development of Advanced Super

Computing Hub for Omics Knowledge in Agriculture (ASHOKA), Data warehouse for Agricultural Research, Genomic Data warehouse, Decision Support Systems, Expert Systems, Biological Databases including algorithms and methodologies in the area of Agricultural bioinformatics, Computational Biology and ICT Applications in Agriculture.



Kritika A. Gadpayle is a climate change professional, with a Ph.D. in Environment and Sustainable Development. Her expertise lies in the field of efficient nutrient management in the face of changing climate conditions. Previously, as a Senior Research Analyst at CSTEP, she contributed to developing the State Action Plans on Climate Change (SAPCC) for Kerala and Karnataka. Currently, Kritika serves as a Senior Consultant at Ernst and Young, where she is instrumental in assisting the Directorate of

Environment, GoUP, in implementing Uttar Pradesh State Climate Action Plan 2.0, showcasing her commitment to driving sustainability and environmental resilience through her work. Her passion and dedication continue to make a profound impact on the field.



Malancha Chakrabarty is Senior Fellow and Deputy Director (Research) at the Observer Research Foundation where she coordinates the research centre, Centre for New Economic Diplomacy. Her research interests encompass issues related to India's development cooperation, economic and social development in Africa and India, and the links between climate change, agriculture, and food security. She is currently working on a project on India's development partnerships. Chakrabarty is published widely in international journals like the Review of African Political Economy, World Review of Political Economy, and World Affairs. She is also a regular contributor to newspapers such as the Telegraph, Asian Age, and DNA.



Mandira Kochar received her PhD Degree in Microbial Genetics from Delhi University in 2007. Her research experience of over 20 years has focused on Microbial Genetics and Genomics to support thematic areas of Agriculture and Environment Sustainability. She is independently running research teams on plant-microbe interactions, mycorrhiza biofertilizer formulations, and sustainable implementation of these products for agriculture benefits. Her research has concentrated on molecular and functional analysis of plant growth regulators crosstalk in the plant-associated bacteria and plant-microbe interactions. Her Group is actively identifying regulatory molecules such as non-coding RNAs from mycorrhizal microbiome and bacteria that may play a specific role in microbial stress response or be implicated in plant-microbe interactions using genomics, transcriptomics and functional assays. She actively dissects and functionally deciphers soil microbiomes, novel strains capable of enhancing nutrient use efficiency and sequestering carbon to develop sustainable agriculture solutions. Her current research and interests lie in recreating soil microbiome combinations, microbial bioproducts and mycorrhiza-based interventions for sustainable agriculture and environment.



Marcella D'Souza is the Director of the WOTR Centre for Resilience Studies (W-CReS) and former Executive Director of Watershed Organization Trust (WOTR) India. As Executive Director, Marcella initiated the "Climate Change Adaptation in Semi-arid Regions" which today is refined to Ecosystem-based Adaptation. This includes sustainable land management and biodiversity promotion, community driven Water Stewardship, climate resilient agriculture with locale specific crop weather advisories. For upscaling, methodologies, for assessing vulnerability, enhancing resilience, building adaptive capacities for Ecosystem based Adaptation are developed. The WOTR Centre for Resilience Studies (W-CReS), provides trans-disciplinary evidence-based lessons, that links science to practice and policy.



Nidhi Bali is a development sector professional and has spent more than 15 years working with philanthropic organizations, Multilateral/ bilateral agencies and Governments in creating and scaling impact for programs and interventions across various sectors including Energy and environment, Water and Sanitation among others. Nidhi, currently leads research and policy advisory at Sattva, a mission driven organization focused on social impact. Nidhi, a computer science engineer by training, is an alumnus of IRMA, Anand.



Prajakta Sawant is a Research Scholar at the Centre for International Politics, Organization and Disarmament at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. With a background in International Organizations, she has been engaged in research on food security, technological advancements in agriculture impacting sustainability and the discourses on sustainable agriculture at the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations.



Raghavan Sampathkumar is a seasoned agribusiness professional with 20+ years of experience working across the Asia Pacific region in diverse sectors including agri-inputs, protein (animal & plant), value chain financing, international trade, and agri biotechnology. He earned his Master's in Agribusiness degree from University of Adelaide, Australia after his Bachelor of Agriculture and MBA from Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU), Coimbatore. Prior to joining FSII, Raghavan was the Head - Policy Advocacy & External Affairs, at Samunnati. Earlier he worked with reputed industry associations viz., CropLife Asia, Singapore, as Director - Stewardship, and with CLFMA of India, Mumbai as Executive Director. With his 360-degree holistic understanding of the Agri-Food value chain, Raghavan regularly writes articles on global agri-food trends, FPO ecosystem, financial inclusion, food & nutritional security, Agtech, and sustainability.



Ranjeet Singh Rajpoot currently is deputed at the position of Deputy Director Project Development at the Small Farmers' Agribusiness Consortium, Government of India, New Delhi. Earlier, working with as Senior Scientist and Head at Krishi Vigyan Kendras of Chhattisgarh he has an extensive work experience of 22 years. He has dedicated a crucial part of his life for social upliftment and livelihood promotion of tribal farming communities. He has contributed to a number of research papers and publications on Agriculture Extension and also is the proud recipient of the National/ Zonal ICAR Award. Currently at SFAC, he is involved in several flagship schemes of Government of India namely FFPOs formation and promotion under Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojna (PMMSY), promotion of honey bee keeping activities in FPOs with assistance under National Beekeeping and Honey Mission. He has successfully handheld FPOs in getting credit linked under Credit Guarantee Schemes, assistance for infrastructure development, promotion of processing and value addition and creating market linkage with corporate market players and through online marketing platforms like ONDC. Earlier, working with as Senior Scientist and Head at Krishi Vigyan Kendras of Chhattisgarh he has an extensive work experience of 22 years.



Reuben Gergan is a Biodiversity and Plastic Pollution Consultant, UN Environment Programme, India. He is a dedicated professional with a passion for environmental conservation and sustainability. As a Biodiversity and Plastic Pollution Consultant with the UN Environment Programme in India, Reuben plays a pivotal role in addressing pressing environmental issues. He brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to the field, having actively contributed to the protection of biodiversity and the reduction of plastic pollution. Reuben's work is characterized by a strong commitment to promoting clean energy and a sustainable environment. With a background in environmental science and extensive experience in the industry, he has emerged as a leader in India's efforts to combat the multifaceted challenges of biodiversity loss and plastic pollution.



Riddhi is a development communication practitioner, post graduate from Lady Irwin College in the subject of Development Communication and Extension. She has worked with many NGOs and CSOs namely, MAMTA HIMC, Greenpeace India, Rahat Charitable and Medical Research Trust and so on. Having a keen interest towards content strategy and digital media, she has been part of designing and implementing many campaigns and programs, mainly in the areas of climate change, gender and sexuality along with mental health and well being. Her specialisation lies in the areas of Social and Behavior Change Communication, Participatory Development and Community Engagement. Furthermore, her research work moves around notions of feminism, masculinities, gender identities and communication. Apart from work she loves watching films, creating artworks and reading books.



Rohit Saini is working as Fellow at Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), New Delhi. He has experience of research as well as teaching. He has worked in the Department of Economics and Sociology of Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana prior to joining RIS. He has also taught under-graduate students in the Department of Agriculture, Khalsa College, Amritsar. He has completed his Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics from Punjab Agricultural University with award of Senior Research Fellowship, ICAR. He has published research articles in various national and international journals. His research experience includes, in-situ and ex-situ paddy stubble management practices, income of agricultural households, inequalities in rural areas, farm investments.



Sachin Kumar Vaid, PhD, earned his doctoral degree in 2012 from G.B Pant University of Agriculture & Technology, Pantnagar, specializing in Microbiology. His research during his PhD focused on the isolation of indigenous Zinc Solubilizing bacteria and their remarkable potential in enhancing micronutrient uptake in both Zn-sensitive and Zn-resistant varieties of rice and wheat, as demonstrated through meticulous net house experiments sponsored by ICAR-NAIP. Following PhD, his academic journey led him to work as a Research Associate, where he delved into the fascinating realm of rumen microbiology as part of the NAI-project at Guru Angad Dev Veterinary and Animal Sciences University, Ludhiana, where he dedicated one and a half years of his expertise.



Shraddha Srikant has been working with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) for over 7 years, implementing technical cooperation projects focused on building the global competitiveness of diverse Indian manufacturing industries, including the Indian pulp and paper sector. Ms Srikant has worked on facilitating technology benchmarking assessments, formulating industrial and institutional diagnostic assessments and action plans, structured expert consultations, technology demonstration and transfer mechanisms and a variety of technical and practical training programmes aimed at strengthening industrial ecosystems at the micro, meso and macro levels.



Sukrit Joshi is engaged with the South Asia Group on Energy at Research and Information System for Developing Countries as a Research Assistant. His primary area of work revolves around furthering research to increase contribution of Renewable Energy Sources for Cross Border Power Trade in South Asia. With a background in Physics, Climate Science, and Policy Studies, Mr Joshi, also carries out research work related to Climate Financing at RIS. He is also part of the team looking at the implementation of Mission LiFE in urban and semi-urban areas.



Trinayana Kaushik works as a Research Associate at the Resource Efficiency and Governance division at The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI). She has a background in Chemistry and Climate Science and Policy studies. Her work is primarily around circular economy and she is involved in projects for improvement of resource efficiency use in several sectors including packaging material, automobile technologies, fuels, chemicals, poultry through tools like life cycle assessment (LCA) and techno economic analysis (TEA). She is also part of the India Australia Collaboration project for reducing plastic waste. She is also an aspiring author and has written articles on circular economic practices in different sectors among several other relevant issues.



Vachspati Pandey is an Assistant Director at National Centre for Organic and Natural Farming, Ghaziabad. A Plant Pathologist with multi faceted exposure and experience of 20 years across different disciplines including Organic Farming, seed quality regulation, bio-fertilizers, bio-pesticides, Organic inputs and other Agricultural Sectors. He obtained Ph.D in Plant Pathology (in Year 1998) under the supervision of Prof. V. K. Agarwal, at G. B. Pant University of Agri & Tech. Pantnagar and Worked on some major aspects of Hybrid rice seed health. Worked as Post Doctoral Fellow at I.A.R.I. PUSA, New Delhi on “Pathogenic variability and molecular markers on Spot Blotch Pathogen of wheat”, during 1998-2000. Served as Seed Technologist at NSRTC, Varanasi and Officer in-charge of Central Seed Testing Laboratory, Govt. of India, NSRTC, Varanasi during 2011-2015. Currently associated with National Centre for Organic & Natural Farming, Ghaziabad, Govt. of India Ministry of Agriculture, as Assistant Director with responsibility of various activities related to promotion of Biofertilisers, Organic & Natural Farming in the Country.



Vaishali Kanojia is a Deputy Manager at Development Alternatives, specializing in policy research and planning- water resource management, sustainable agriculture, and community empowerment, with three years of experience. Her contributions extend to T20, Task Force 6, where she co-authored a policy brief titled "Assessing Return on Investment in Nature Through an SDG-Aligned Global Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning Framework," showcasing her commitment to global sustainability. She excels in independently managing monitoring and evaluation projects focused on climate resilience and sustainable agriculture within her organization. She is actively involved in developing a Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for Water Bodies and Wetlands Rejuvenation with the Uttar Pradesh Climate Change Authority (UPCCA).



Vineet Kumar leads Regenerative Agriculture work of CSE's Sustainable Food Systems program. He has a rich and diverse experience in different aspects of organic/natural farming, climate change adaptation and mitigation, pesticides and sustainable development related areas. He has been engaged in research and evidence-based advocacy for changes in policies, programs and practices- through publications, assessment reports and engagements with stakeholders. He has authored/co-authored several publications and articles. Previously, he has worked with organizations like TÜV Nord CERT GmbH – a UN authorised Designated Operational Entity for validation and verification of Climate Change projects under UNFCCC – in the capacity of Validator, Verifier and Technical Expert and also at Council of Scientific and Industrial Research – National Physical Laboratory (CSIR-NPL), New Delhi.