

Organiser



Co-Host



# Livelihoods India *Summit 2021*

December 16-17, 2021



## Resource Book

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Director, Global Agri System

**Prof. C Shambu Prasad**

Professor, IRMA

**Prof. Madhukar Shukla**

Professor, XLRI

**Mr. Hemendra Mathur**

Co-founder, ThinkAg

# Programme Schedule



December 16-17, 2021

<b>DAY 1 : DECEMBER 16</b>	
<b>HALL 1</b>	
<b>9:30 - 10:30 am</b>	<p><b>Inaugural Session</b></p> <p><b>Welcome Address and Introduction</b> Dr. Arvind Mayaram, Former Finance Secretary of India &amp; Vice Chairman, Chief Minister's Rajasthan Economic Transformation Council (CMRETAC)</p> <p><b>Special Address</b> Nadia Rasheed, Deputy Resident Representative in India, UNDP</p> <p><b>Release of State of India's Livelihoods (SOIL) Report 2021</b></p> <p><b>Presentation on State of India's Livelihoods (SOIL) Report 2021</b> Biswajit Sen, Chairperson, PRADAN &amp; Editor, SOIL Report 2021</p> <p><b>Inaugural Address</b> Dr. G R Chintala, Chairman, NABARD</p>
<b>HALL 2</b>	
<b>10:40 am - 12:00 pm</b>	<p><b>Plenary Session 1: Building Back Better - Pathways to Investing In and Enhancing Vulnerable Livelihoods</b></p> <p><b>Moderator</b> Arun Maira, Former Member, Planning Commission of India</p> <p><b>Panelists</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manish Sabharwal, Executive Vice Chairman, TeamLease</li> <li>• Mahesh Vyas, Managing Director and CEO, Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy Pvt. Ltd.</li> <li>• Dr. Arvind Mayaram, Former Finance Secretary of India &amp; Vice Chairman, Chief Minister's Rajasthan Economic Transformation Council (CMRETAC)</li> </ul>
<b>HALL 1</b>	
<b>12:10 -1:20 pm</b>	<p><b>Plenary Session 2: Plotting the Contours for 12 crore Livelihoods in the Coming Decade</b></p> <p><b>Moderator</b> Vijay Mahajan, Founder, BASIX Social Enterprise Group &amp; CEO, Rajiv Gandhi Foundation</p> <p><b>Panelists</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Shubhashis Gangopadhyay, Dean, Indian School of Public Policy &amp; Founder and Research Director, India Development Foundation</li> <li>• Dr. Ashok Khosla, Chairman, Development Alternatives Group</li> <li>• Dr. Smita Premchander, Secretary, Sampark</li> </ul>

TRACKS		
HALL 1	HALL 2	HALL 3
<p><b>Track 1: Pathways to Inclusive Entrepreneurship 2030</b></p>	<p><b>Track 2: Agroecological Transition in India</b></p> <p>Healthy food for all: people - environment - climate</p>	<p><b>Track 2: Jobs in the Post-Pandemic Era</b></p>
<b>1:30- 1:45 pm</b>	<b>1:30- 2:20 pm</b>	<b>1:30 -1:45 pm</b>
<p><b>Track Introduction</b> Kanika Verma, Associate Vice President, Development Alternatives</p>	<p><b>Track Introduction</b> Rajeev Ahal, Director, NRM and Agroecology, GIZ</p> <p><b>Welcome Address</b> Mohamed El-Khawad, Programme Director &amp; Cluster Coordinator, Environment, Climate Change &amp; Natural Resource Management, GIZ</p> <p><b>Special Address</b> Prashanta Kumar Swain, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture &amp; Farmers' Welfare</p>	<p><b>Track Introduction</b> Prabhat Labh, CEO, Grameen Foundation India</p>
<b>1:55 - 3:25 pm</b>	<b>02:20 - 3:30 pm</b>	<b>1:55 - 3:25 pm</b>
<p><b>Future of Micro Entrepreneurship: A Post-Pandemic Outlook</b></p> <p><b>From the Ground</b> Roshni Begum (aggregator)/ Kajal Parihar, Information Kiosk, Entrepreneur</p> <p><b>Moderator</b> Shrashtant Patara, CEO, Development Alternatives</p> <p><b>Panelists</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Anish Kumar, Managing Director, Transforming Rural India Foundation</li> <li>Bhairavi Jani, Founder, IEF Entrepreneurship Foundation</li> </ul>	<p><b>Policy Dialogue on Agroecology: The Need to Adopt Agroecology as a Means towards Sustainable and Knowledge Intensive Agriculture in India</b></p> <p><b>Moderator</b> N Srinivasan, Expert, Development Finance and Rural Livelihoods</p> <p><b>Panelists</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dr Neelam Patel, Senior Advisor, Agriculture, NITI Aayog</li> <li>Ajit Kesari, Additional Chief Secretary, Govt of Madhya Pradesh</li> </ul>	<p><b>Skills Gap and Youth Employment</b></p> <p><b>Moderator</b> Prabhat Labh, CEO, Grameen Foundation India</p> <p><b>Panelists</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Arunesh Kumar Singh, CEO, Generation India</li> <li>B.S Nagesh, Founder, TRRAIN (Trust for Retailers and Retail Associates of India)</li> <li>Nikita Bengani, Director-Youth Program, Quest Alliance</li> <li>Viiveck Verma, Co-founder and designated partner of IIIT Seed Fund</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Chintan Vaishnav, Mission Director, Atal Innovation Mission, Niti Aayog</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ashish Bhutani, Principal Secretary, Agriculture Department, Govt. of Assam</li> <li>• C S R Murthy, Chief General Manager, NABARD</li> <li>• Dr Alur Ashok, Director, Centre of Excellence for Farmer Producer Organizations</li> </ul>	
<p><b>3:35 - 5:00 pm</b></p>	<p><b>3:30- 5:00 pm</b></p>	<p><b>3:30- 5:00 pm</b></p>
<p><b>Cluster Development: An Emergent Ecosystem for Resilient Local Economies</b></p> <p><b>From the Ground</b> Jayanti, Artisan and President Lac Cluster, Jharkhand</p> <p><b>Moderator</b> Prema Gera, Advisor Development Alternatives</p> <p><b>Panelists</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ram Pratap Singh, Chambal Agritech Incubator Producer Co. Ltd</li> <li>• Gauri Malik, Founder, Skilled Samaritan Foundation</li> <li>• Sachin Joshi, Head of Facility for International Cooperation on Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development (FIC-ISID), UNIDO</li> <li>• Ayush Kasliwal, Director, AKFD Studio</li> </ul>	<p><b>Strengthening Agroecology Ecosystem in India</b></p> <p><b>Moderator</b> Dr. Ralf Paveling, GIZ</p> <p><b>Panelists</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. J P Mishra, Assistant Director General, ICAR</li> <li>• Prabhakar L, Executive Vice President - Social Investments, ITC</li> <li>• Krishna Prasad, Director, Sahaja Group</li> <li>• Ravindra A, Board Member of Revitalising Rainfed Agriculture Network (RRAN) &amp; Director WASSAN</li> </ul>	<p><b>The Gender Gap in Employment</b></p> <p><b>Moderator</b> Purna Roy Chowdhury, Senior Program Manager and Gender Lead, Grameen Foundation India</p> <p><b>Panelists</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pranav Kr Choudhary, Director (Ops), Dr. Reddy's Foundation</li> <li>• Sudipta Bhadra Technical Advisor International Labour Organisation</li> <li>• Kanta Singh, Country Programme Manager UN Women</li> <li>• Sarika Gupta Bhattacharyya Director and Development Plaksha Founder &amp; Board member - BeyonDiversity</li> </ul>
<p><b>05:00 -05:10 pm</b></p>	<p><b>05:00 -05:10 pm</b></p>	
<p><b>Track Closure</b> Kanika Verma, AVP and Lead - Green and Inclusive Entrepreneurship Development Alternatives Group</p>	<p><b>Vote of Thanks</b> Namerta Sharma, Senior Team Leader, GIZ</p>	

## DAY 2: DECEMBER 17, 2021

DAY 2: DECEMBER 17	
<b>HALL 1</b>	
<b>9:30 - 10:45 am</b>	<p><b>Plenary 3 : Gender and Women Inclusive Entrepreneurship in the Global South</b></p> <p><b>Moderator</b> Dr. Neelam Maheshwari, Director- Livelihoods for All South Asia, Ashoka</p> <p><b>Panelists</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Iman Bibars, Vice-President, Ashoka Global &amp; Regional Director, Ashoka Arab World</li> <li>• Nani Zulminarni, South East Asia Leader, Ashoka &amp; Founder of PEKKA</li> <li>• Prema Gopalan, Founder &amp; Executive Director, Swayam Shikshan Prayog</li> </ul>
<b>HALL 2</b>	<b>HALL 3</b>
<b>10:55 - 12:10 pm</b>	<b>10:55 - 12:10 pm</b>
<p><b>Technical Session 1: Poorest of the Poor - Innovations from Practice</b></p> <p><b>Moderator</b> Dr. Madhu Sharan, President, Hand in Hand India</p> <p><b>Panelists</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sushant Verma, Asia Regional Director, Trickle Up</li> <li>• Binju Abraham, Integrator, PRADAN</li> <li>• Balamurugan D, CEO, Bihar Rural Livelihoods Promotion Society (BRLPS)</li> <li>• Dr. Maninder Kaur Dwivedi, Principal Secretary, Department of Rural Industries, Govt of Chhattisgarh</li> </ul>	<p><b>Technical Session 2: Scaling up Resilient Value Chains</b></p> <p><b>Moderator</b> Satyan Mishra, Co-founder and Managing Director, Drishtee</p> <p><b>Panelists</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ajit Singh, Founder, Anant Learning and Development Pvt. Ltd.</li> <li>• Sanjeev Kumar, Managing Trustee, The Goat Trust</li> <li>• Sanjay Kumar, Founder Executive Director, Manjari Foundation</li> </ul>
<b>HALL 1</b>	
<b>12:20 - 1:35 pm</b>	<p><b>Fireside Chat 1: On the Spot with Shiv Scaling up Farmer Producer Companies - Lessons from Cooperatives</b></p> <p>Dr. R S Sodhi, Managing Director, Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF), Amul</p> <p>in conversation with</p> <p>S Sivakumar, Group Head - Agri and IT Businesses, ITC Limited</p>

HALL 2	HALL 3	HALL 4
<b>Track 4: Building a Sustainable Ecosystem for Farmer Producer Organizations</b>	<b>Track 5: Looking Beyond Immediate Recovery- Pathways to Sustainable and Resilient Livelihoods</b>	<b>Track 6: Women led Collective Enterprises</b>
1:45 - 2:15 pm	1:30 - 3:00 pm	1:45 - 2:00 pm
<b>Keynote Address</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PVS Suryakumar, Deputy Managing Director, NABARD</li> <li>• Purvi Mehta, Head of Agriculture for South Asia, Bill &amp; Melinda Gates Foundation</li> </ul>	<b>Aspirational Local Jobs for Rural Youth: Emerging Trends</b>  <b>Moderator</b> Prof Shambhu Prasad, Faculty, IRMA  <b>Panelists</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Atul Kumar Tiwari, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship</li> <li>• Shabnam Sinha, Lead Education Specialist, The World Bank Group</li> <li>• Mizuho Okimoto-Kaewtathip, Inclusive Growth and Prosperity Advisor and Team Leader, UNDP Bangkok Regional Hub</li> <li>• Sujeet Kumar, Co-Founder, Udaan</li> </ul>	<b>Track Introduction</b>  Yamini Atmavilas, Senior Program Officer, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
2:25 - 3:55 pm	3:25 - 4:55 pm	2:10 - 3:40 pm
<b>Are Farmer Producer Organizations Beginning to Sustain? Evidences from the Ground</b>  <b>Moderator</b> N. Srinivasan, Expert, Development Finance & Rural Livelihoods  <b>Panelists</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shubhendu Dash, ACCESS Development Services</li> <li>• Richa Govil, Azim Premji University</li> <li>• Yogesh Thorat, MD, MahaFPC</li> <li>• S. S. Bhatt, CEO, FWWB India</li> </ul>	<b>Development Path-ways for Social Protection of Vulnerable Population in India</b>  <b>Moderator</b> Ameer Misra, Senior Economist and Head, Policy Unit, UNDP India  <b>Panelists</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Divya Ravindrana-than, Consultant- Academics and Re-search, Indian Institute of Human Settlements</li> <li>• Ashif Sheikh, Co-founder, Jan Sahas</li> <li>• Mirai Chatterjee, Director, SEWA Social Security, Self-Employed Women's Association</li> </ul>	<b>Building a Solutions Toolbox for Women's Collective Enterprises</b>  <b>Moderator</b> Mridulya Narasimhan, Project Head for the STREE, LEAD at Krea University  <b>Panelists</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vijaya Switha Grandhi, CEO, Chitrika</li> <li>• Suwendu Rout, Vice President, ACCESS Development Services</li> <li>• Charanjit Singh, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India</li> <li>• Bidisha Barooah, Senior Evaluation Specialist, Jie</li> </ul>



HALL 2	HALL 3	HALL 4	HALL 1
4:05 -5:35 pm	5:05 -5:50 pm	3:50-5:20 pm	4:45 - 5:30 pm
<p><b>Invisible Farmers: Women in Agriculture</b></p> <p><b>Moderator</b> Dr. Sanjeev Phansalkar, Sector Expert</p> <p><b>Panelists</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nancy Sahay, CEO, Jharkhand State Livelihoods Promotion Society</li> <li>• Prof Govind Kelkar, Director, GenDev Centre for Research and Innovation</li> <li>• Sejal Dand, Executive Director, ANANDI</li> </ul>	<p><b>Fireside Chat 2: Green Recovery</b></p> <p>Ashish Kothari, Founder, Kalpavriksh</p> <p>in conversation with</p> <p>Saba Kalam, Program Manager, Climate Change and Energy, UNDP</p>	<p><b>The Importance of Partnerships for Empowerment of Women's Collectives</b></p> <p><b>Moderator</b> Marie Gaarder, Executive Director, 3ie</p> <p><b>Panelists</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gayatri Rao, India Program Lead, IMAGO Global Grassroots</li> <li>• Alkesh Wadhvani, Country Director, Poverty Alleviation, Bill &amp; Melinda Gates Foundation, India</li> <li>• Anshul Ojha, Founder &amp; Chief Executive, Desert Resource Centre</li> <li>• Anjaneyulu (Anjan) Ballem, Vice President – FI &amp; ME, BASIX Consulting and Technology Services Ltd</li> <li>• Sridhar Easwaran Institution &amp; Capacity Building Samunnati Financial Intermediation and Services Private Limited</li> </ul>	<p><b>Fireside Chat 3: Reshaping of Corporate Social Responsibility - Thinking and Practice during COVID 19 and beyond</b></p> <p>Ananya Birla, Founder, Chairperson and Director, Svatantra Microfin</p> <p>in conversation with</p> <p>Dr Amit Kapoor, Chair, Institute for Competitiveness, India</p>

# Guest Speakers



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## Ananya Birla

Founder, Chairperson and Director, Svatantra Microfin

Ananya Birla founded her first start-up Svatantra Microfin Pvt. Ltd. at the age of 17 and in just over three years as the Chairperson and Managing Director, she established herself as a successful entrepreneur. One of the fastest growing MFIs, Svatantra is differentiated with 100% cashless disbursements and technology. In her leadership, the company has played a significant role in bringing change in the Microfinance industry. Ananya Birla is the Chairperson of Micro Housing Finance Corporation (MHFC) & Co-Chairperson of ASSOCHAM's Microfinance Council of India. Amongst various other noteworthy titles, Ananya was conferred by the Former Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Shri Devendra Fadnavis for her role in empowering more than 500,000 rural Indian women and pioneering 100% cashless disbursement since the beginning of Svatantra's operation. She also won accolades like 'Leading Woman in Microfinance' (iiGlobal Business Information Pvt Ltd) and '28 Geniuses under 28' (Miss Vogue) to name a few. An alumna of the University of Oxford, Ananya leads a constantly expanding team, relentlessly working towards providing solutions, with innovation at the core of the business. She also co-founded the Mpower movement, an awareness initiative to alleviate the stigma associated with mental health. She's very passionate about music and enjoys writing, composing and performing.



## Dr. Arvind Mayaram

Former Finance Secretary of India & Vice Chairman, Chief Minister's Rajasthan Economic Transformation Council (CMRETAC)

Dr. Arvind Mayaram currently is the Vice Chairman of CMTRETAC. He is also the Chairman of not for profits ACCESS Development Services & CUTS Institute for Regulation & Competition. He has earlier held the positions of Finance Secretary and Special Secretary in Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India. He spearheaded the establishment of the framework for mainstreaming Public Private Partnership in India and designed the first PPP module for delivering infrastructure in the rural areas. He was Vice President of the World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (WAIPA), formed under the aegis of UNCTAD, UNIDO, FIAS and MIGA for two terms in early 2000. He has been an investment promotion expert with the UNCTAD for several years and his expertise in the area of PPPs is internationally acknowledged.



## Dr. G R Chintala

Chairman, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)

Dr. G R Chintala is the Chairman of NABARD. He is also the Chairman of Asia Pacific Rural and Agricultural Credit Association (APRACA). He has been awarded honorary doctorate in Science by PJTSAU, Hyderabad and received Asia's Most Promising

Business Leader Award 2020-21 from The Economic Times. After graduating from agriculture college, Bapatla, did his Post Graduation in Seed Science and Technology from the IARI, New Delhi. He joined NABARD as an officer and over more than 35 years, has worked in various capacities at its Head Office and Regional Offices. Prior to taking over as Chairman, he was the MD of NABFINS Ltd. (Microfinance lending subsidiary of NABARD. He also held Director level positions in Subsidiaries of NABARD, several RRBs, StCBs and NBFCs. He has travelled extensively and visited more than 20 countries for presenting papers on various topics and other assignments covering agriculture and rural development.



## Nadia Rasheed

UNDP Deputy Resident Representative in India

Nadia Rasheed assumed her current duties in November 2018. Prior to this she was Team Leader for the UNDP Regional Health and Development Team for Asia and the Pacific from 2014 to 2018, and was UNDP Deputy Country Director ad interim in Sri Lanka from June to August 2018. From 2009 to 2014 she was

the global Practice Manager for the HIV, Health and Development Practice in UNDP Headquarters in New York. She has worked with UNDP on a range of health, gender and development issues, representing the organization in partnerships with UN organizations, managing UNDP and interagency programmes and providing advisory support to UNDP Country Offices and national partners. From 2005 to 2009 she was Policy Specialist on HIV in the Bureau for Policy development, and the UNDP focal point for the Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS). She also previously worked with the UNDP Human Development Report Office, and with UNDP and other organizations on capacity development and gender equality. Rasheed received her undergraduate degree in Economics from the London School of Economics, and her master's degree in International Affairs from Columbia University.



## Dr. Purvi Mehta

Head of Agriculture - Asia  
Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

Dr. Purvi Mehta leads the program's agricultural development work in Asia. She joined the foundation in 2014 after working for six years at CGIAR, where she was head of Asia initiatives for the International Livestock Research Institute and head of the South Asia Biosafety Program for the International Food Policy Research Institute. Purvi serves on the board of several organizations, including the International Alliance for Ecology, Health Canada, the International Center for Rural Agriculture, and India's National Commodity & Derivatives Exchange Ltd. She is also a member of the World Food Prize Foundation's Council of Advisors. Purvi is an honorary professor at Amity University in India and is a visiting scientist at Cornell University. She has also been closely involved with several agriculture and nutrition policy platforms in India, Southeast Asia, and Africa. She was the 2014 recipient of the India magazine Agriculture Today award for her contributions to agriculture policies in South Asia. She has authored two books and more than 50 publications. Purvi holds a Ph.D. from North Carolina State University and degrees from the Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda and Tokyo University.



## P.V. S. Suryakumar

Deputy Managing Director, NABARD

P.V. S. Suryakumar joined NABARD in 1986 and has handled a variety of functions; appraisal, funding & monitoring of projects, headed & implemented various types of programs, training, policy, advocacy & communications. He worked across the geographies; Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, West Bengal, New Delhi and Karnataka. Academically, he obtained a Masters in Plant Genetics from the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi in 1986. He is a Commonwealth Scholar and obtained Masters in Sustainable Development from the Staffordshire University, Stoke-on-Trent, UK in 2010. He undertook the 25<sup>th</sup> Management Education Program at the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad in 2001. He is an Associate of the Indian Institute of Banking & Finance. He is an author of cases, contributed to newspapers on policy issues and published two books on Cases and Sustainable Agriculture.



## Dr. R S Sodhi

Managing Director

Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (Amul)

Dr. Rupinder Singh Sodhi is Managing Director of Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation, Ltd., (AMUL), which is India's largest Food Products organization with annual turnover of more than Rs. 39,247 crores during 2020-21. Dr. Sodhi has 39 years of rich experience in leading & developing cooperative sector within Indian dairy industry, having served dairy farmers in several capacities. He has been responsible for creating the current structure of the AMUL, enabling the organization to maintain and enhance its leadership status within Indian dairy industry. Member unions of GCMMF are procuring 250 lakhs liters of milk per day from more than 18,600 Village Dairy Co-operative societies. During his tenure as Managing Director of Amul for the last 10 years, milk procurement price paid to farmers increased by 140% (Rs. 337 per Kg fat to Rs. 810 per Kg fat), milk procurement by 171% (90 Lakhs liters per day to 250 lakhs liters per day) and turnover by 390%. For more than three decades, Dr. Sodhi has worked under direct guidance & mentorship of father of white revolution, Dr. Verghese Kurien and has ensured that values cherished by Dr. Kurien remained deeply ingrained in the culture of AMUL.

# Resource Persons



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## Ajit Singh

Founder, Anant Learning and Development Pvt. Ltd.

Ajit Singh is building an effective and ethical skill development value chain in India to empower India's large youth demographic dividend to gain full economic citizenship. He is presently focusing on creating rural livelihoods including agri-entrepreneurs through training, and collectivization of farmers including upscaling production and market linkages in Meghalaya and Odisha. He is also working on need based interventions in the rural communities to create non-agri based livelihoods in the rural areas



## Alkesh Wadhvani

Country Director, Poverty Alleviation  
Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, India

Alkesh's portfolio comprises programmatic work in Agriculture Development, Water, Sanitation & Hygiene, Financial Services for the Poor (FSP), and Gender Equality. Previously, Alkesh led the health, nutrition, and family planning portfolio for the foundation in India. Alkesh joined the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation in India in 2003 and was one of the key members who helped conceptualize and implement the \$338 million funded Avahan program, the AIDS initiative of the world's largest HIV/AIDS prevention programs. Before joining the foundation, he worked for McKinsey & Co., where he served clients in India, Asia, Europe, and U.S. in the financial services and pharmaceutical sectors. He has also worked in the Financial Institutions Group of Citibank in Mumbai. His educational background includes a B.Tech in Electrical Engineering, IIT Mumbai and MBA from IIM Calcutta, in finance and systems.





## Ameer Mishra

Senior Economist and Head, Policy Unit  
UNDP India

Ameer is an economist with experience spanning a wide range of international development issues including trade and investment, public financial management, development finance, education, climate change, and gender. She has worked with national and subnational governments, public policy think-tanks, and bilateral and multilateral development agencies across India and Africa. Before joining the UN, Ameer was the economic advisor at the Foreign and Commonwealth Development Office (FCDO) (erstwhile DFID) at the British High Commission in New Delhi. Here she provided evidence-based advice to the UK government on development policy and managed large global and bilateral aid programmes. Ameer's previous work experience includes roles at the Delhi-based Centre for Policy Research, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, UN Women, and the Government of Zanzibar (East Africa). An alumna of the Overseas Development Institute's (ODI) Fellowship Scheme, Ameer holds a first-class MSc. in development economics from the School of Oriental and African studies (SOAS), an MA in Economics from JNU and a BA (Hon.) in economics from St. Stephen's College, Delhi University.



## Dr. Amit Kapoor

Honorary Chairman at Institute for Competitiveness

He is also a Professor of Strategy at Management Development Institute, India. He is an affiliate faculty for the Microeconomics of Competitiveness & Value Based Health Care Delivery courses of Institute of Strategy and Competitiveness, Harvard Business School. He has received the Ruth Greene Memorial Award winner for writing the best case of the year, by North American Case Research Association (NACRA). He has been invited by Kennedy School of Government & Harvard Law School, Harvard University; World Economic Forum at its India Economic Summit and Asia Summit to present his views on various issues and themes like strategy, outsourcing and economic development. His research interest lies in the fields of Enhancing Competitiveness, Competitive Advantage and Leveraging Technology for Success. Dr. Kapoor is the author of India City Competitiveness Report, India State Competitiveness Report, and India State Sustainability Report amongst others. He is also a columnist with Mint, Financial Express and Outlook Business. Based on his work, two awards have been constituted titled 'State Competitiveness Awards' by Mint & Hindustan Times wherein the Chief Ministers are awarded and 'Institute for Competitiveness – Mint Strategy Awards' wherein the corporates are awarded for their strategic acumen. Dr. Amit Kapoor is a popular teacher at the Management Development Institute, Gurgaon.



## Anish Kumar

Managing Director

Transforming Rural India Foundation

Anish is Co-lead at Transform Rural India. Previously, he was part of the senior management team at PRADAN, a rural development nonprofit. His areas of expertise include creating business organisations run by poor communities and facilitating participation of smallholder farmers in modern value chains. Anish was involved in developing a smallholder poultry model, which has emerged as the largest family poultry network in India with a turnover of USD 56 million. He chairs the National Smallholder Poultry Development Trust.



## Anjaneyulu (Anjan) Ballem

Vice President – FI & ME

BASIX Consulting and Technology Services Ltd

Anjaneyulu Ballem (Anjan) is Vice President for Financial Inclusion and Microenterprises at Hyderabad. Previously, Anjan worked as a Microfinance Advisor in USAID's FAIDA Project in Afghanistan and prior to that he was a Specialist and Group Leader in MicroSave for Community Microfinance Practice Group for over 5 years. He has 26 years' of experience in providing Technical Assistance to MFIs and CBOs in India, Philippines and Afghanistan. He possesses significant experience in assisting Financial Institutions, especially community based microfinance institutions like SHG, SHG-Federations and Financial Cooperatives. He has been providing technical assistances to several SRLMs in promotion of financial inclusion through DFS, promotion of micro-enterprises through network of SHG member owned retail business associations. He has provided technical support to Women Collective Enterprises in development of institution building, business skills, market linkages, digitization of merchant payments etc. He has conducted extensive qualitative & quantitative market research to identify client needs and has developed various savings and loan products to suit their requirements. He has also provided support to Financial Institutions in the areas of Governance, Strategic Business Planning, Market Survey & Research, Training & Capacity building, Process Mapping, Risk Analysis, Internal Audit, Product Design, Digital Financial Services, Pilot Testing & Implementation of products & services.



## Anshul Ojha

Founder & Chief Executive  
Desert Resource Centre

Anshul is a system designer working for environment action and social justice with core focus on deserts. Anchoring efforts for partnerships, knowledge, technologies, & resources towards thriving desert ecosystems, he is working with pastoralists, artisans, farmers, and youth deepening innovations, programmes and enterprises in agri-dairy and textile value chain. In the waste management space, he has worked with informal sector setting up pan-india ecosystem for extended producer responsibility (EPR). Previously, as regional coordinator for South Asia, for television for environment (tve) he worked on telling stories of people and planet from the remote corners of South Asia.



## Arun Maira

Former Member  
Planning Commission of India

Arun Maira has an unusual combination of experience as a hands-on leader, a consultant to leaders, and a thought-leader on subjects of leadership and institution transformation, in the private, public, and social sectors. He has written several books on institutional transformation. They include: *A Billion Fireflies: Critical Conversations to Shape a New Post-pandemic World*; *Transforming Systems: Why the World needs a New Ethical Toolkit* and *Listening for Well-Being: Conversations with People Not Like Us*. Arun was a Member of India's Planning Commission from 2009-14, prior to which he was Chairman of the Boston Consulting Group India, and previously had worked with the Tata Group in India and abroad for 25 years.



## Binju Abraham

Integrator  
PRADAN

Mr Abraham is a development practitioner, working with rural communities in Jharkhand for the last two decades. He has worked extensively with SHG institutions, natural resource management, and value chain development in tribal regions of the state. He holds a Bachelors in Mechanical Engineering from University College of Engineering, Sambalpur, and a Masters in Development Studies from Cornell University. Binju is also a Ford Fellow, and is currently anchoring governance pilots and leads PRADAN's operations in the South Chotanagpur region.



## Ashif Shaikh

Co-Founder  
Jan Sahas

Ashif has a 20-year experience on working to towards safe migration, ending forced labour practices and violence against women through eradication of inhuman practice of manual scavenging, caste based commercial sexual exploitation of children and trafficking and also supporting to survivors of rape, trafficking and sexual abuse to access to justice in India. Jan Sahas is liberated and rehabilitated 66,000 people from manual scavenging and other forms of forced labour and also supporting 24,000 survivors of rape and sexual violence. Ashif is leading Migrant Resilience Collaborative (MRC) and working with 1.5 million migrant households. Ashif is member of the various committees of NITI Aayog, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and other ministries of Government of India, and received various national and international awards and fellowships including Schwab Foundation Social Innovator Award 2020, Ashoka Fellowship, Times of India Social Impact Award and Star Impact Award by Bill Clinton, 42<sup>nd</sup> President of the United States. He is on the boards of multiple national and international CSOs and networks.



## Ashish Kothari

Founder-Member  
Kalpavriksh

Ashish is a member of many people's movements. He taught at Indian Institute of Public Administration; coordinated India's National Biodiversity Strategy & Action Plan, served on boards of Greenpeace International & India and ICCA Consortium. He helps coordinate Vikalp Sangam ([www.vikalpsangam.org](http://www.vikalpsangam.org)), Global Tapestry of Alternatives ([www.globaltapestryofalternatives.org](http://www.globaltapestryofalternatives.org)) & Radical Ecological Democracy ([www.radicalecologicaldemocracy.org](http://www.radicalecologicaldemocracy.org)). Co-author/co-editor, Churning the Earth, Alternative Futures, and Pluriverse: A Post-Development Dictionary.



## Dr. Ashok Khosla

Chairman  
Development Alternatives Group

Dr. Ashok Khosla is a pioneering environmentalist based in New Delhi. He received his MA in Natural Sciences from Cambridge University and his PhD in Experimental Physics from Harvard University. He set up and headed India's (and the global South's) first Office of Environment and, then UNEP's global information system, INFOTerra. Subsequently, he founded Development Alternatives, the world's first social enterprise for innovation and large scale application of appropriate (or "frugal") technology with direct relevance to sustainability by eradicating poverty and regenerating the environmental resource base. He is internationally known for pioneering and contributing to the concepts and praxis of sustainable development. He served for a decade as the founding co-chair of the United Nations International Resource Panel (UNEP-IRP) and he was President of IUCN (2008 to 2012) and the Club of Rome (2005 to 2012). Over five decades, he has actively contributed to the environmental policies and programmes of global institutions such as UNDP, UNU, UNESCO, the World Bank, the U.S. Academy of Sciences, WWF, IISD and ICSU/SCOPE.

Ashok Khosla was awarded the UN Sasakawa Environment Prize, the Sheikh Zayed International Environment Prize, WWF's Duke of Edinburgh Medal for Conservation and UNEP's Award for Lifetime Contributions to the Science-Policy Interface. He was awarded the OBE by the UK Government and an honorary LLD by Simon Fraser University, Canada.



## Atul Kumar Tiwari

Additional Secretary

Ministry of Skills Development Entrepreneurship

Atul Kumar Tiwari is an IAS officer with Karnataka cadre where he served for 16 years in various capacities before joining the Government of India. He has served in various ministries of Government of India including Ministry of Urban Development, Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs, Ministry of Rural Development, Ministry of Textiles and Ministry of Information & Broadcasting prior to joining Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship as Additional Secretary since November 2020.



## Balamurugan D.

Secretary, Rural Development Department

Government of Bihar, Chief Executive Officer, BRLPS

Balamurugan D. is an Indian Administrative Officer with over a decade of experience in the civil services of Indian National Government. A graduate in Agriculture Science and Agri-Management from Tamil Nadu Agriculture University, Coimbatore, he is currently the Secretary, Rural Development Department, Govt. of Bihar with an additional charge of Chief Executive Officer of Bihar Rural Livelihoods Promotion Society (BRLPS) popularly known as JEEVIKA, the flagship program for poverty alleviation in the State. He brings rich experience in governance and administration with his stints as District Magistrate in districts of Jehanabad, Gopalganj, Darbhanga, Gaya and Siwan. In his previous roles, he has contributed immensely in the areas of digitizing the Social Pension Programs and community led sanitation systems. Balamurugan is also the Secretary, Rural Development Department, Govt. of Bihar and leads the agenda of rural development in the state of Bihar.



## B.S. Nagesh

Founder

TRRAIN (Trust for Retailers and Retail Associates of India)

B.S.Nagesh is the Founder of a Not for Profit organization called TRRAIN (Trust for Retailers and Retail Associates of India). TRRAIN has a vision of “Empowering people in Retail” with a mission of upgrading the lives of people in retail both at work and home. He has been involved with Shoppers Stop since its inception in 1991 as the first employee. Nagesh has contributed significantly in ushering modern retailing in the country. He stepped out of the role of MD in Shoppers Stop Limited in 2009 at the age of 50 to start TRRAIN to fulfill his personal belief of 25 years of learning, 25 years of earning and 25 years of returning. He is the Non-Executive Chairman of Shoppers Stop Limited. He also founded Retailers Association of India in 2004. Nagesh has been recognized as an iconic retailer and was inducted into the World Retail Hall of Fame 2008 at the World Retail Congress 2008 conducted in Barcelona. He is the recipient of Hellen Keller award for being a role model in creating livelihood for Persons with Disability. He is also nominated as an Ashoka Fellow.



## Bhairavi Jani

Founder

IEF Entrepreneurship Foundation

Bhairavi is a fourth-generation entrepreneur, developmental enthusiast and an avid philanthropist. She is the Chairperson and Founder of IEF Entrepreneurship Foundation and Executive Director of SCA Group of Companies founded in 1896. Bhairavi has been listed as one of the 30 most Powerful Women in India by the India Today publication. She has been profiled as Stree Shakti (Woman Power) person by CNBC Awaaz and featured as a Young Turk by CNBC TV 18. She has been listed as one of the 10 women exemplars by the Hindustan Times and Business Today Magazine has featured her as the Supply Chain Maven. Bhairavi is World Economic Forum’s Young Global Leader. She is a KBF Fellow of the Aspen Global Leadership Network of the Aspen Institute and a Responsible Leader of the BMW World Responsible Leaders Forum. She is a Member of Beta Gamma Sigma, the Business Honor Society, USA and is Past National Chairman, CII’s Young Indians. She is a trustee of India@75 Foundation, Leap Foundation and Ananta Centre and serves on the Global Advisory Committee of Earth Day Network. In the past decade Bhairavi has started, acquired, scaled up many ventures, most of them focused on supply chain and logistics. She is a firm believer in entrepreneurial ecosystems that create livelihood opportunities and dedicates a significant amount of her time, expertise and philanthropy for the cause. Bhairavi is a trained classical dancer and is passionate about the Arts. Co-creating sustainable livelihoods for communities in higher Himalayas is a mission close to her heart.





## Bidisha Barooah

Senior Evaluation Specialist & Leader, Gender & Livelihoods  
3ie

She has over 10 years of experience conducting and managing impact evaluations assessing the effects of development programs at scale. Bidisha provides technical guidance and day-to-day management of 3ie programs, including the Swashakt evidence program and the Rural India Livelihoods project, which includes a multi-state evaluation of National Rural Livelihoods Project. Bidisha also leads and contributes to in-house research activities including evidence gap maps, scoping studies, systematic reviews and capacity building. Bidisha holds a PhD in Economics from the Delhi School of Economics.



## Biswajit Sen

Chairperson, PRADAN

Biswajit Sen retired as Senior Rural Development Specialist from the World Bank. He has over 35 years' experience in rural livelihoods, community led development, institutional development. Currently he is also the Chairperson of PRADAN Board. Sen during his long career in rural development worked for varied assignments with World Bank, UNICEF, MacArthur Foundation USA and Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC) of Government of Switzerland. He was one of the initial members of PRADAN and has founded many other development organisations such as GDS, Nalanda and Impact in the field of rural development. He is a Graduate of Economics from Delhi University and then did his MBA from the IIM Ahmedabad.





## Dr. C. Shambu Prasad

Professor  
IRMA

Dr. Prasad is a Professor in the Strategic Management area at the Institute of Rural Management Anand (IRMA). He founded ISEED (Incubator for Social Enterprises and Entrepreneurs for Development) at IRMA that works on rural, social and collective enterprises. He has been a member of a Sub Group on Upscaling Innovative Technologies in agriculture for the 12th Five Year Plan and recently a member of the expert group of Small Farmers Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC) to recommend guidelines for Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs). His expertise is in science and innovation policy (social innovation in particular) and his education has been multidisciplinary with a basic training in mechanical engineering, a Masters in Industrial Management with specialisation in science policy (both at IIT Madras) and a doctorate in science, technology and society studies from IIT Delhi. His stint with the industry and later as a community worker and researcher in a civil society organisation has helped shape his research interests and insights. Dr Shambu Prasad was awarded the Villgro-CSIE award for 'Academic Contribution to the Field of Social Entrepreneurship' in April 2013 and was the Fulbright Nehru Senior Research Fellow attached to Cornell University on the System of Rice Intensification.



## Charanjit Singh

Joint Secretary,  
Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India

Charanjit Singh is an Indian Forest Service officer of 1990 Batch – MP Cadre. He has an extensive experience as a civil servant. With a Masters of Philosophy in Strategic Studies from Madras University and Master of Science (Zoology) from Kurukshetra University, he is an environmentalist with vast administrative experience in Central Government and State Government functioning. Apart from serving Forest Department in the State of Madhya Pradesh, he has also served as Director in the Department of Land Resources, Govt. of India from 2008-2015. He has published articles on Land Acquisition Land Titling and Land Records. He is presently heading the Rural Livelihood Division in the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India with the responsibility to execute the vision of the Government to strengthen community institutions under National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM), so that they are efficiently managed and attain self-reliance.



## Divya Ravindranathan

Faculty and Researcher

Indian Institute for Human Settlements (IIHS), Bangalore

Divya's research examines how the nature and conditions of work affect health experiences and outcomes among those employed in the informal economy, in sectors such as construction and domestic work. In a recent project, she examined the impact of paid and unpaid work on breastfeeding practices at construction sites. This project also explored different methods used to study time-use. Her ongoing research work on social protection and health has a strong policy and practice-focus. In the past Divya has worked with several not-for-profit organisations on issues of livelihoods, infrastructure and urban commons. She holds a Master's degree and a PhD in Social Work from Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai and the Brown School at Washington University in St Louis.



## Namerta Sharma

Senior Team Leader

GIZ

Sharma has been working in GIZ for the last 24 years. So far, she has managed 7 bilateral projects aiming at poverty alleviation with focus varying from micro finance to micro insurance to social security for informal sector workers, and from sustainable supply chains of fresh fruits and vegetables to innovations in the agriculture sector for small and marginal farmers. At present she is the Senior Team Leader for SuATI project and is responsible for implementation of the project in three states. The coordination with multiple departments of the governments through steering structure at different levels to monitor the progress of the projects has sharpened her skills to strategise the results of projects with policies and programmes of the government.



## G Krishna Prasad

Sahaj Samrudha

Rural Karnataka's 'native seed man' is G. Krishna Prasad. Since 25 years, he's been leading a movement to conserve indigenous varieties of seeds. The establishment of Sahaja Samrudha was a step in this direction and the organisation networks with organic farmers, promotes knowledge and information and also enables exchange of seeds. Sahaja Samrudha has developed a connectivity network of consumers and producers for procurement and marketing under the brand name "Sahaja Organics". Sahaja Samrudha Organic producers company Ltd has formed to market organic produce. The produce is procured directly from the farmer and supplies it to the network outlets. This chain has been created for the produce to reach the consumer directly. Sahaja Samrudha has started Desi Seed producer company to market organic seeds under the brand name 'Sahaja Seeds'.



## Gauri Malik

Founder

Skilled Samaritan Foundation

Gauri is a Finance & Economics graduate from UK's Warwick Business School. She began her career as an investment banker at Deutsche Bank, but two years into her job, 'cabin fever' took over and Illich's words, "blind acceptance can do more harm than good" resonated within her. She then founded the Skilled Samaritan Foundation (SSF) in early 2012. Sirohi is the trademarked brand of SSF; a sustainable luxury brand that fuses modern design with traditional craft to handcraft home and lifestyle products. The brand provides employment to village housewives and uses sustainable materials to develop their products. Her vision is to build a micro-entrepreneurship platform to provide tech-based design support and market access to women skilled in crafts and build Sirohi as a global home and lifestyle brand. The end objective of this is gainful employment and financial independence for women who have limited or no income opportunities so they too can lead a life of dignity and respect.



## Gayatri Rao

Program Lead  
IMAGO Global Grassroots

Gayatri Rao heads the programs of Imago in India which focus on economic empowerment of women through strengthening collectives, local value chains and evidence generation on what works. Prior to imago, she worked with the National Rural

Livelihoods Mission on farm value chain development and organic farming across all States in India. Her work included the development and financing of farmer producer companies and women-led enterprises, the development of partnerships among technical support organizations, multilateral agencies, civil society and Government departments. Gayatri previously also worked on citizen engagement campaigns in Bihar and Punjab, and in corporate strategy in the power and banking infrastructure sectors. Gayatri holds a postgraduate degree in management from the Indian Institute of Management, Kozhikode, and a Masters in Public Administration from the Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, where she was an Edward Mason Fellow.



## Dr. Govind Kelkar

Visiting Professor Council for Social Development  
Professor, Executive Director  
GenDev Centre for Research and Innovation

In her concurrent assignments, Prof. Kelkar is a Regional Council Member of Asia-Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development, Chiang Mai, Thailand, Adjunct Distinguished Professor of Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), Bangkok, Thailand. a Honorary Professor in Institute of Ethnology, Yunnan Academy of Social Sciences, Yunnan, China; a Member of the Steering Committee of BRICS Feminist Watch, and Visiting Fellow at the Institute of Chinese Studies, Delhi. Earlier, from May 2012 to January 2020, she was a Senior Adviser to Landesa, Seattle USA; International Research Coordinator of ENERGIA International, the Netherlands, and from April 2004 to March 2012, she worked as “Senior Advisor: Programme and Research, Economic Empowerment Unit, UN Women, South Asia Office. She has previously taught at Delhi University, the Indian Institute of Technology, Mumbai, and the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), Bangkok, Thailand. She has extensively worked on gender relations in rural Asia. She has contributed numerous articles to scholarly journals and written 16 books with a focus on political economy of land rights, gender and energy in Asia and has been in close touch with women’s movements in the region. Dr. Kelkar holds a PhD in Political Economy of China.



## Dr. Iman Bibars

Vice President of Ashoka Global  
Regional Director of Ashoka Arab World

A visionary for social entrepreneurship and a pioneer of women-led and gender-focused development initiatives for over 30 years, Iman Bibars is the Vice President of Ashoka: Innovators for the Public and the Regional Director of Ashoka Arab World.

Dr. Bibars is also the co-founder and current chairperson of Egypt's very first microfinance organization, the Association for the Development and Enhancement of Women (ADEW): a citizen sector organization that provides credit and legal aid for impoverished female heads of household. She is currently leading Ashoka in launching its revolutionary Women's Initiative for Social Entrepreneurship (WISE) - a movement aiming to elevate the power and place of women social innovators around the world.

Dr. Bibars holds a PhD in Development Studies from Sussex University and a BA and MA in Political Science from the American University in Cairo.



## Dr. Maninder Kaur Dwivedi

Principal Secretary, Dept. of Rural Industries  
Government of Chhattisgarh

Dr. Maninder Kaur Dwivedi is currently the Principal Secretary, Dept. of Rural Industries, Government of Chhattisgarh. She joined the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) in 1995 in the

Chhattisgarh cadre after completing her medical degree from Government Medical College, Patiala. She has served as an officer in various capacities including Director, Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Human Resource Development; Deputy Director (Senior), Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration, Mussourie; Special Secretary, Rural Development and Project Director 'Nava Anjor'; and State Project Director, Rajiv Gandhi Sikhsha Mission.



## Kanika Verma

AVP and Lead - Green and Inclusive Entrepreneurship  
Development Alternatives Group

Kanika Verma leads the Sustainable Enterprise Domain of the Development Alternatives Group. A major segment of her work is on enhancing livelihood security for women in underserved areas of India. She is, currently, part of the leadership team incubating Indian Micro Enterprises Development Foundation, a section 8 company delivering enterprise support services at scale. Kanika is passionate about social innovation and system change. She is the co founder of systems play, a platform for fostering collaboration, experimentation and learning with system innovators. Her current areas of focus also include spearheading a social innovation platform to boost job growth for women and youth in India with support from “la Caixa” Banking foundation; scaling up micro-enterprise development in villages being provided electricity through solar micro-grids supported by Rockefeller Foundation; and developing clusters for traditional industries Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise, Government of India’s flagship program - SFURTI. She is currently pursuing an M.Phil. with a specialisation in inclusive innovation at University of Cape Town. She led a financial investment firm in U.S.A. for seven years prior to joining Development Alternatives Group in 2011 to pursue her ambition of being a social entrepreneur.



## Kanta Singh

Country Programme Manager  
UN Women India

Kanta has over 25 years of experience in the management of pro-women development programmes. Kanta has worked with national and international organisations to promote women in formal economy, sports and politics. Kanta’s last assignment was with UNDP where she spent 9 years. Currently, Kanta is the Country Programme Manager in UNWomen India where she works on education, employment and entrepreneurship opportunities for women. She is a former national level Volleyball Player. She is a Chevening Gurukul Fellow from University of Oxford.



## Dr. Madhu Sharan

President  
Hand in Hand India

Dr. Madhu Sharan is a Livelihoods and Gender Specialist with over fifteen years of extensive field research and global work experience in facilitating economic empowerment of rural women. As President of a leading NGO, Hand in Hand India, she oversees projects related to social mobilization, SHG management, skilling, financial inclusion, facilitating access to credit for livelihoods promotion and integrated community development across the States of Odisha, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Punjab. Prior to this, she has worked as a Consultant with several bi-lateral and multilateral organizations including ADB, GIZ, and DFID for monitoring and evaluating projects related to financial inclusion, gender and development. Dr Sharan is a Sociologist, having completed her graduation from Delhi University and her post-graduation, M Phil and PhD from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India.



## Mahesh Vyas

Managing Director & CEO  
Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy Pvt Ltd.

Mahesh is the chief architect of CMIE's proprietary databases. He created the Consumer Pyramids database by setting up the largest, fastest and technologically the most advanced household survey in India. Mahesh writes On the job, a weekly (every Tuesday) column for Business Standard. An innovative method for estimating poverty developed by him was included in the Rangarajan Committee report on poverty in 2014. Building large and integrated databases and harnessing such databases into industry applications have been Mahesh's constant passion in his professional career. As MD and CEO of CMIE for over 20 years, he strategised and engineered the company's transition from a private think tank to a database company and then into a database-oriented business solutions company. Mahesh serves as an independent director on Geojit BNP Paribas Financial Services Ltd. Earlier, he was an independent director on Centurion Bank and on Quantum Asset Management Company Ltd. He was a member of the High Level Committee to Examine Auditor-Company Relationship set up by the Department of Company Affairs in 2002; a member of the Advisory Panel on Transparency Standards and of the Technical Sub-group on Data Dissemination Standards set up by Reserve Bank of India in 2007; a member of Working Group for Development of Methodology for Compilation of Index of Industrial Production in 2012, and a member of Expert Group to Review the Methodology for Measurement of Poverty in 2014.





## Manish Sabharwal

Executive Vice-Chairman  
Teamlease Services

Manish is Executive Vice-Chairman of Teamlease Services, one of India's leading staffing and human capital firm. Teamlease is also implementing India's first vocational university and national PPP apprenticeship program. The company has hired 1.8 million employees over the last 15 years. In 1996 he co-founded India Life, an HR outsourcing company that was acquired in 2002 by a listed US company called Hewitt Associates. Consequently, he was CEO of Hewitt Outsourcing (Asia) based in Singapore for two years. Manish is a member of the National Skill Mission, Central Advisory Board of Education and has served on various policy committees for education, employment and employability. He served as an Independent Director on the Board of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). He is a Member of Advisory Board of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) and a governing board member of National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER). He is also Managing Trustee of the New India Foundation that offers fellowships for writing books about post-1947 India and is a columnist for Indian Express. He got his MBA from The Wharton School and is an alumnus of Shriram College, Delhi and Mayo College, Ajmer.



## Marie Gaarder

Executive Director  
3ie

Marie Gaarder is the executive director of 3ie, leading the organisation's efforts to improve lives in low- and middle-income countries by supporting the generation and effective use of high-quality and relevant evidence to inform decision-making.

Marie has over 19 years of experience managing operational and research projects with a development focus. In her previous role in 3ie, as director for evaluation and global director for innovation and country engagement, Marie provided strategic direction and guidance to 3ie's work in evaluation and synthesis. Prior to joining 3ie, she was a manager in the World Bank's Independent Evaluation Group, overseeing thematic, sector, corporate and project evaluations. She has also worked as the director of the evaluation department at the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation, where she was in charge of independent evaluation of programmes and activities financed over the Norwegian aid budget. Prior positions include being the deputy executive director of 3ie during the institution's start-up years, and a senior social development economist at the Inter-American Development Bank, specialising in social protection and health programs in Central America. Marie has published extensively, including on evaluation of cash transfer programs, evaluation in fragile and conflict-affected states, and how to increase the accountability for evidence use and for outcomes among development agencies and governments.





## Mirai Chatterjee

Director of the Social Security Team  
Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA)

Chatterjee is Chairperson of the SEWA Cooperative Federation of 110 women's primary cooperatives. In addition, she is responsible for SEWA's health care, child care and insurance programmes. She was Chairperson of the National Insurance VimoSEWA

Cooperative Ltd and the Lok Swasthya SEWA Health Cooperative, and is actively involved in both as a board member and founder. She joined SEWA in 1984 and was its General Secretary after its Founder, Ela Bhatt. She serves as Chairperson of the global informal workers and policy-makers network, WIEGO, and on the Boards of several organizations, including the Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI), Save the Children, PRADAN and the Schwab Foundation for social entrepreneurship. She was advisor to the National Commission for Enterprises in the Unorganized Sector and is in the Advisory Group on Community Action of the National Rural Health Mission. She was a member of the National Advisory Council (NAC), appointed by the Prime Minister of India in 2010. She was conferred the Global Achievement award by the School of Public Health, Johns Hopkins University. She has a B.A. from Harvard University in History and Science and a Masters from Johns Hopkins University's School of Public Health, USA.



## Mizuho Okimoto-Kaewtathip (Mizuho)

Inclusive Growth and Prosperity Advisor and Team Leader  
UNDP Bangkok Regional Hub

Mizuho has more than 17 years of experience with the UN, namely UNICEF. Before joining UNDP BRH, she was the Chief of Social Policy and Governance Programme at UNICEF Viet Nam overseeing socio-economic policy analysis, public finance, national and local planning, social protection, child poverty, urbanization and coordinating joint UN work in many of these areas, most recently on the social impact of COVID-19. Prior to that, she was with UNICEF Oman as the Programme Coordinator leading the strategic repositioning of UNICEF's partnership in the high-income context. She also worked as the Chief of Social Policy at UNICEF Lao PDR, Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer at UNICEF Indonesia and Timor-Leste, and a researcher at UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre. Mizuho holds MPhil in Development Studies from the Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex and BA in International Relations and Political Science from International Christian University.



## Mridulya Narasimhan

Project Head for the STREE, LEAD at Krea University

Mridulya assists in the program implementation and provides inputs on research design elements to the non-farm team at the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM). She also co-leads implementation and grant management for 3ie's Swashakt program, for which

LEAD is a grant management partner. In her 6+ years at LEAD, Mridulya has managed multiple large-scale grants and has worked with government bodies, academicians and policy experts. She is an Ananta Aspen ASEAN-India Leaders' Fellow, and an Apolitical Action Coalition Learning Exchange Fellow. She holds an MSc in Public Management and Governance from London School of Economics and Political Sciences and has an MBA in International Business and Finance. Her research interests revolve around gender, labour markets, entrepreneurship and their intersectionality.



## N Srinivasan

Expert

Development Finance and Rural Livelihoods

N Srinivasan had been a central banker and development banker for 30 years (in Reserve Bank of India and NABARD). He is a student of economics, with development economics as a special interest. After three decades of career as a development banker, over the last ten years as an independent consultant, he has been involved in design, supervision and evaluation of policy, strategy and implementation of several development finance and rural livelihood initiatives and building institutions in India and abroad. His areas of interest are vulnerable and rural livelihoods, development banking, financial inclusion and social entrepreneurship. As an international development finance and livelihoods expert, he serves as a consultant and advisor to World Bank, IFAD, GIZ, KFW, NABARD, SIDBI, Microsave and other institutions. He has authored the Microfinance-India State of the Sector Reports for four years which are regarded as reference material in the sector. He has jointly authored, with Girija Srinivasan, the State of India's Livelihoods report for the years 2015, 2016 and 2017 besides contributing to many other books as joint author. He currently serves as an independent director on the board of a Small Finance Bank, three other companies, two development trusts. He also advises industry associations and apex institutions.



## Nancy Sahay

CEO

Jharkhand State Livelihood Promotion Society  
Jharkhand cadre, 2014 batch

Nancy Sahay is currently posted as Chief Executive Officer, Jharkhand State Livelihood Promotion Society and MD Jharkhand Medical Health Infrastructure Development and

Procurement Corporation Ltd. Nancy has been around 6 years into IAS wherein she has learnt, performed, made mistakes and earned the richest experiences of her life. She has served the state in different capacities. She was a probationer (trainee) in Chaibasa, Assistant Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forest, GOI, Subdivisional Magistrate at Palamu, Deputy Development Commissioner at Sahibganj, District Magistrate cum Deputy Commissioner at Deoghar. She has also served as Director Animal Husbandry and Mission Director Swacch Bharat Mission. Some high points in her service have been the conduct Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabha Elections in her district, Hosting the Honourable President of India in Deoghar as DM cum DC, presentation to the Honourable Prime minister of India as Assistant Secretary in Ministry of Environment and Forest in GOI. She has completed her Btech Electronics and Communication from BIT Mesra in 2011. She qualified UPSC in the first attempt in 2014 with an AIR of 36.



## Nani Zulminarni

South East Asia Regional Leader ASHOKA & Founder and Chair PEKKA (Women-Headed Family Empowerment)

Nani is also the President of ASPBAE (Asia South Pacific Association for Basic and Adult Education) and Co-founder of JASS (Just Associates). Nani has more than 33 years experiences in women empowerment for poverty eradication and overcome

discrimination using different form of entry point including social economic and political empowerment. Nani graduated from Bogor Agriculture Institute in 1985 and got Masters Degree in Sociology from North Carolina State University USA in 1993. A gender and development specialist, popular educator, feminist and activist, Nani's passion is for community organizing and the economic and political empowerment of grass root women. After finishing her term as the director of PPSW (The Center for Women's Resources Development) in 2001, Nani founded PEKKA, that supports over 3,000 community based organizations of poor rural widows, abandoned, divorced and single women. In 2016, Nani started an initiative called Academy Paradigta, a structured leaderships training for grass root women in Indonesia. Early 2021, Nani joined ASHOKA as a member of Leaderships Global Management team. Nani's focus in ASHOKA is building Everyone Changemaker Movement (EACH) in South East Asia.



## Dr. Neelam Maheshwari

Director - Livelihoods for All  
South Asia at Ashoka

In her role Neelam works closely with Ashoka Fellows in enabling innovations, strategies and system driven initiatives to enhance livelihoods for all. Neelam had begun her career with PRADAN in North India and then spent a few years in USA before she came back to work with Deshpande Foundation in India. At Deshpande Foundation Neelam has helped social enterprise scale, chaired an annual Dialogue called Development Dialogue. Neelam has also founded an ecosystem-based program called Navodyami to enable microentrepreneurs with a focus on specially women led small enterprises. Neelam has a keen interest in ecosystems, scaling innovations focused on emerging communities, and gender equality. Neelam has a Ph.D. in Gender Studies from SUNY Buffalo (USA) and a Masters in International Development from Brandeis University (USA). Neelam is a recipient of the prestigious British Chevening Gurukul Fellowship (2020-21) at Oxford University.



## Prabhakar L

Executive Vice President  
Social Investments  
ITC

L Prabhakar oversees all social interventions of ITC focused on enhancing social and environmental capital that includes areas like Natural Resource Management, Sustainable Agriculture, Social Forestry, Solid Waste Management, Livelihoods, Health & Sanitation and Women Empowerment. An alumnus of KREC Suratkal and XLRI, Jamshedpur with 33 years of experience, he has been associated with ITC in the HR Function for 26 years in different capacities across businesses including Agribusiness, Information Technology and in their Corporate Office before moving to his current role. He has also worked with TVS Motors for 4 years and Murugappa Group (EID Parry and CUMI) for 3 years. He is currently a member of CII's National Committee on CSR. He has been actively associated and held positions of responsibility with National HRD Network, CII, EFSI, Hyderabad Management Association and Global Compact Network India.



## Prabhat Labh

Chief Executive Officer  
Grameen Foundation India

Prabhat is an international development leader with more than 25 years of experience in leading social impact organizations and programs across Asia, Africa, and North America. As CEO of Grameen Foundation India, Prabhat led the diversification of Grameen's program portfolio in the domains of agriculture, women's economic empowerment, and health and nutrition besides financial inclusion. Prabhat is also the co-founder and Managing Director of Grameen Impact Ventures, a social business that creates self-employment opportunities for women and brings valuable financial, agricultural, and livelihoods services to low-income people. Prabhat holds a post Graduate Degree in Forest Management and has undergone specialized training programs at Harvard Business School, Southern New Hampshire University, and at the International Training Centre of ILO. He also serves on the boards of several leading social impact organizations.



## Pranav Choudhury

Director-Operations  
Dr. Reddy's Foundation

Pranav leads the Foundation's flagship skilling and health initiatives. Pranav has been very active in the area of skilling and has successfully directed a number of successful skilling initiatives and campaigns. As a development professional, with 18 years of experience Pranav has worked on Social Research, Disaster Response, Child Rights, Livelihoods & WLFP, Health and Skill Development themes and managed large scale Programs. He regularly writes about his program learnings on various platforms. His first children poetry book in Hindi "Ira Ki Kahaniyan" is an innovative way of introducing right principles to children and is available on amazon.in, proceeds of the sale goes to an NGO.



## Prema Gera

Advisor

Development Alternatives Group

Prema Gera has over 30 years of experience in social mobilisation, rural economic development, entrepreneurship and livelihood promotion and women's empowerment. She is a former United Nations Official where she served as the Assistant Country Director and Head of the Poverty Programme at UNDP India. She is also on the Governing Body of: (a) Association for Promotion of Competitive and Responsible Enterprises, Action for Social Advancement and Reach India. Prema is currently an independent development consultant involved in assignments with international development agencies such as the International Labour Organisation and the Green Economy Coalition as well as with civil society organisations. Her current long-term engagement involves working as an external coordinator for la Caixa Foundation for their Work for Progress program in India that partners with two premier NGOs – Development Alternatives and Action Aid - on social innovation led entrepreneurship for job creation, with a focus on women and youth from socially and economically disadvantaged groups. Prema is a student of history. She graduated from Lady Shri Ram College in 1985 and did her Masters from the Jawaharlal Nehru University in 1987.



## Prema Gopalan

Founder and Executive Director

Swayam Shikshan Prayog (SSP)

Prema Gopalan is the Founder and Executive Director of Swayam Shikshan Prayog (SSP), a learning and development organization that stands for self-education for empowerment through experimentation. SSP targets most vulnerable households (elderly, disabled, single women/widows) and women's collectives from marginal farmer families. The organisation has empowered over 300,000 women as entrepreneurs, farmers and community leaders in the last 20 years. Prema has made a long-standing contribution to the global networks and discussions in the areas of building pro-poor community resilience to disasters and climate change, and empowerment of women's networks to address poverty and inequality. One of her most recent key contribution was to leverage rural women's perspectives and decision-making as key to renewable energy, water and health value chains with the corporate sector, financial institutions, UNDP, and the World Bank. She is a long-time advisor on community resilience in global networks like the Huairou Commission and was the recipient of the Schwab Foundation's Outstanding Social Entrepreneur Award 2019, UNDP's Equator Prize 2017 and UNFCCC's Momentum for Change Lighthouse award 2016.





## Purna Roy Chowdhury

Senior Program Manager  
Gender Lead Grameen Foundation India

Chowdhury is a development sector professional with over 13 years of experience of working on issues related to women's empowerment, gender justice, financial inclusion of women, child protection and participation, and development volunteerism. In her current role she is responsible for developing gender strategy, conducting gender gap analysis, undertaking gender sensitization workshops, and ensuring gender integration within the organization's functioning and program implementation. Purna also manages a project that is being implemented in Sri Lanka on the theme of women's economic empowerment and financial inclusion. Purna's expertise as a development professional, her academic understanding of social issues (especially that of gender) and her empathy for the most marginalized and vulnerable make her a driven and effective practitioner in the sector.



## Rajiv Ahal

Director  
Natural Resource Management and Agroecology,  
GIZ India

Rajiv Ahal leads bilateral projects on Water Security and Climate Adaptation and Global Projects on Sustainable Soil Management. He coordinates other projects in agroecology, rural development, social protection, sustainable farming systems, market led development approaches (including PPPs), Artificial Intelligence, value chain development, Farmer Producer Organisations etc with various government ministries and state governments. He graduated in engineering and holds a Diploma in Gestalt from International Programme for Organisational and Systems Development. He has over 33 years of experience of working with international agencies, governments, civil society and the private sector in India and African countries. He loves to write when he can and has published fiction and non-fiction works.



## Ram Pratap Singh

Founder Farmer  
Chambal Agritech

Ram Pratap Singh, an alumnus of IIT Roorkee, is a social entrepreneur and conservationist from Uttar Pradesh. As a serial entrepreneur he has many caps to his name. Beginning in 1999, he along with his environmental wife, Anu began restoring their ancestral property in Mela Kothi, an hour's drive from Agra into a safari lodge. This venture Chambal Safari soon transformed into a successful eco-lodge attracting tourists from across the globe. As a Founder Farmer of the Chambal Agritech Incubator Producer Company he aggregates agricultural products such as olives, variety of teas, and mustard from the local community and markets them across India. The enterprise is also a leading organisation in the area introducing new agricultural products and processes and promoting its adoption in the local community. He is also the regional convener of INTACH, Agra chapter since 1999 and member of the River Watch Group since 2006. He was also a member of the Uttar Pradesh Tourism Promotion Board (2014-2017) and of the UP State Wildlife Board (2015-2017).



## Ravindra A

Director  
WASSAN

Ravindra has a background in Agriculture Sciences and Development Economics. Over the last 25 years he has been working on the issues of natural resources management, water resources and rainfed agriculture. He is presently one of the Directors of WASSAN. Scaling up of innovations, policy development and design of large scale programs are his core areas of interest.





## Richa Govil

Director

School of Development, Azim Premji University

Richa Govil is Director of School of Development at Azim Premji University, Bangalore. She teaches topics related to critical thinking, agricultural and rural livelihoods. Richa's areas of interest include agricultural livelihoods, household nutrition, farmer producer organisations, women's livelihoods, micro-enterprises and social entrepreneurship. Early in her career, as Asha for Education's National Coordinator, and later Board Member and President, Richa led its growth from a small student group focusing on basic education of underprivileged children into a multimillion dollar organization with over 50 chapters across the world. During her time in the business sector, Richa developed and implemented business strategy for large and small corporates in the US and India. Richa is a co-founder of TREE Society, an which offers training programs for micro-enterprises and producer organisations. Richa has a Ph.D. in Physics from University of California, Berkeley, U.S.A.



## S. Sivakumar

Group Head – Agri and IT Businesses

ITC Limited, India

S. Sivakumar is the Group Head of Agri and IT Businesses of ITC Limited, India and a Member of its Corporate Management Committee. He also oversees the Company's Social Investments. Sivakumar is well known as the architect of ITC e-Choupal, the pioneering farmer empowerment initiative that benefits over 4 million small farmers through customized agri-extension and market linkage services, while providing a unique source of competitive advantage to ITC's packaged foods business. ITC e-Choupal evolved continuously and the current Digital-Economy-Ready Tier 4 expands the outreach further, as well offers a plug & play flexibility to the IT-enabled startups working on innovative solutions for rural Indians. Sivakumar served on the Board of NABARD, the Private Sector Committee of CGIAR, and UN Global Compacts's Core Advisory Group to develop Sustainable Agriculture Business Principles, among other organisations. He is the topper of the class of 1983 from IRMA.



## S. S Bhatt

CEO  
FWWB-India

S.S. Bhat assumed charge of Chief Executive Officer of Friends of Women's World Banking India wef 24.2.2020. He is a veteran banker with over 37 years of experience in diverse areas of banking operations, management and administration. Prior to joining FWWB, Bhat was Managing Director of Ananya Finance for Inclusive Growth Pvt Ltd. He was the Chief General Manager of Canara Bank, the Country Head of Priority Sector and Financial Inclusion Wing, responsible for rebuilding the agriculture, affordable housing, educational loans and MSME portfolios of the Bank achieving all the mandatory norms consistently for 5 years. Financial Inclusion, Corporate Social Responsibility and skill development initiatives were also steered by him. He has been on various committees of Govt of India, RBI, NABARD and Indian Banks Association. Presently he is on the Board of MYRADA and Sanghamithra Rural Financial Services and on Management Committee of Guarantee Scheme of Educational Loans of Govt of India. Bhat is a Postgraduate in Agri science, a CAIIB, PGCA, Certificate Course in Project Planning and Management from University of Bradford U K. He is the winner of prestigious Aryabhata International Award for excellence in banking.



## Saba Kalam

National Programme Manager  
Climate Change and Energy  
UNDP, India

Saba Kalam has over 17 years of experience on issues related to climate change adaptation and mitigation, climate finance, carbon markets and implementation of the Paris Agreement. He has successfully managed key partnerships with government partners and development organizations on range of environment, sustainable energy, and development issues in Physics from University of California, Berkeley, U.S.A.



## Sachin Joshi

Head of Facility for International Cooperation on Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development (FIC-ISID)  
UNIDO

Sachin is a sustainability professional providing research and consulting to public and private sectors. He's published reports and articles, trained managers, designed strategies and roadmaps, and contributed to designing breakthrough policies. Sachin has been Policy Director of Business 20 or B20 during Saudi Arabia's Presidency of the G20 in 2020. He is now helping relevant agencies prepare for India's Presidency of the G20 in 2023. He was also leading CII's Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development. He is now heading UNIDO's Facility for International Cooperation on Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development or FIC-ISID.



## Sanjay Kumar

Founder & Executive Director  
Manjari Foundation

Besides Manjari Foundation, Sanjay Kumar has intense engagement and rural development experience with several other institutions based out of Dholpur Rajasthan for the last two decades. He was awarded a prestigious International Ford Foundation Fellowship for the period of 2006-08 given his commitment to the cause of social justice, poverty eradication, and women empowerment. Over the years he has been instrumental in shaping favourable and socially inclusive policies at the state and centre level with a mission of poverty eradication and women empowerment. He has been working as a committee member in various groups with rural development department, livestock and dairy departments, cooperative departments of the government of Rajasthan. He has founded and mentored several women institutions and women enterprises ([www.katori.co.in](http://www.katori.co.in), [www.upaya.co.in](http://www.upaya.co.in)) in order to improve the economic freedom to the women farmers across the hinterlands of Rajasthan and Bundelkhand. He is very enthusiastic about enterprises, rural start ups, women and youth entrepreneurship and market led value chain interventions in rural areas. He also has vast experience of working with international development organizations and overseas which included Cambodia, Kenya, Mali and Senegal.



## Sanjeev Kumar

Managing Trustee  
The Goat Trust

Sanjeev Kumar founded The Goat Trust in 2008, which is techno-managerial resource organisation on goats working in 18 Indian States. He has promoted over 11,000 grass root cadre reaching 4.28 lakh goat farmers. Further Sanjeev has promoted a startup company N.N breeds which manages PashuBazaar for livestock & livestock product training with a portfolio of INR 500 lakh in last 2 years. He is presently working for establishing the International Institute of Goat Management (IIGMA) as a dedicated institute conducting academic courses in partnerships with various institutes. Previously, Sanjeev worked with PRADAN, Rajasthan team and later Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDII) as faculty for 9 years. Sanjeev was elected as Ashoka Fellow in 2013 and Finalist as Social Entrepreneur of The Year 2013. He has also received the Krushi Bhushan Award by Asian Consortium and also the Gandhi Award. Sanjeev Kumar has graduated from the Banaras Hindu University (BHU) and holds a Post graduate from National Dairy Research Institute (NDRI, Karnal). He is currently pursuing Doctorate in Business Administration from Swiss Business and Management, Geneva.



## Dr. Sanjeev Phansalkar

Sector Expert

Dr. Sanjiv Phansalkar is a fellow of IIM Ahmedabad. He taught at IRMA for a number of years. He led program team of Sir Dorabji Tata trusts from 2007 till 2014. He also led VikasAnvesh foundation, a development research centre. He has published seven books and authored numerous research publications and several articles.



## Satyan Mishra

Founder  
Drishtee

Satyan Mishra believes in the sustainability of communities, wherever they still exist, as a pre-requisite to world peace and growth of human civilisation. He defines a community as a group of families, staying together and interdependent on each other economically, socially and culturally. Satyan is an MBA, an Ashoka fellow and the Co-founder of Drishtee. He believes that the way to sustainability of villages is through knowledge and skill for harnessing local resources and igniting the entrepreneurial spirit. Self-reliance in provisioning of basic services, livelihood generation and developing local infrastructure are the three pillars of sustainability. All of this can be achieved through development of micro enterprises. Drishtee helps rural entrepreneurs in conducting their business through capacity development, capital linkages and a robust distribution network, connecting the last as well as the first mile in and out of village. Drishtee is also a Business Correspondent of various Nationalised Banks for providing last mile financial services in the villages. Drishtee has recently setup its US operations with an office in Fremont, California.



## Sejal Dand

Executive Director  
ANANDI

Sejal is a feminist activist engaged with organising rural women from marginalised communities in Gujarat over the past 30 years as part of the feminist collective ANANDI. She has served as a trainer and technical advisor for gender transformative livelihoods to several civil society and government programs, and currently serves as a member of the CSAG to the UNWomen Office for India, Bhutan, Srilanka and Maldives. She has been active in the state and national campaigns on Right to Food & Work and also served as one of the National Advisor to the Commissioners appointed by the Supreme Court of India (2008-2017). She is a national facilitation team member & one of the founder member of MAKAAAM (Mahila Kisan Adhikar Manch) which advocates for recognition and rights of landless, small and marginal women farmers in India.



## Shabnam Sinha

Lead Education Specialist  
World Bank Group

Shabnam leads the World Bank's India program on school education and skills. Her research focuses on basic education and its return on investment; performance-based financing, teacher performance and incentives; skills development and labor markets. In Labor Markets, her work covers the role of private sector and governments in skills development and the contribution of MSMEs in the labor market and female labor force participation. Her work focuses on results-based financing and analytical tasks in Vietnam, Indonesia, Korea and Africa. She leads the World Bank's support to the Ministry of Skills (Govt. of India) and the World Bank support to new program of the Government of India on school education, the Samagra Shiksha, through a Bank project named STARS. She also works in the areas of Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) in Education and CSR in human development. Prior to joining the World Bank Shabnam was **CEO PPP Education** in a large private sector company. She was Senior Program Advisor (Education) with **USAID**, New Delhi. She has worked at the NCERT on curriculum development; instructional materials development including textbook writing and educational undertaking planning and appraisal.



## Shrashtant Patara

Chief Executive Officer  
Development Alternatives Group

Shrashtant Patara has been with the Development Alternatives Group since 1988, providing strategic direction, programme development expertise as well as operational and financial management capability to teams working in the areas of Habitat, Renewable Energy, Water, Waste Management and Micro Enterprise Development. Through engagement across scales, his work has been focused on the co-creation of multi-stakeholder eco-systems that promote entrepreneurship through social innovation, capacity building and access to technological, financial and marketing support services. Foremost among initiatives Patara is currently involved in is supporting projects aimed at innovation in entrepreneurship driven job creation and green enterprise initiatives.

He has been a member of the Indo-German Expert Group on Green and Inclusive Economy, and serves as a jury member for the international SEED Awards for Entrepreneurship in Sustainable Development. He has been instrumental in the establishment of several social businesses within the Development Alternatives Group and currently leads the team that is incubating the Indian Micro Enterprises Development Foundation, a platform to deliver enterprise support services at scale.



## Dr. Shubhashis Gangopadhyay

Dean of the Indian School of Public Policy  
Founder & Research Director  
India Development Foundation

Dr. Shubhashis Gangopadhyay graduated in Economics from Presidency College, Kolkata, and received his Ph.D. in Economics from Cornell University, USA in 1983. In 2006, he was awarded a doctorate (honoris causa) by the University of Gothenburg, Sweden. Besides being an Advisor to the Finance Minister, Government of India, Dr. Gangopadhyay has been a Consultant on policies to various ministries including Finance, Planning, Industry and Rural Development. He has led important government research projects like the leading indicator of economic activity, the impact of steel de-control on SAIL, the optimum use of Hajira-Bijapur-Jagdishpur gas pipeline and on the exit policy. He is currently on the board of IDE-I (International Development Enterprises – India), besides handling a number of high-profile, policy advisory roles.



## Shubhendu Dash

Programme Director  
ACCESS Development Services

Shubhendu is a seasoned development sector professional having wide experience in agri-value chain interventions through FPOs. He has been associated with the hand holding of 105 plus FPOs across Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Odisha since 2011. He has led various assignments for prestigious agencies viz. SFAC, NABARD, NAFED & RKVY Rajasthan, World Bank supported Rajasthan Agricultural Competitiveness Project and; Philanthropic Development Support agencies like HSBC CSR, Kellogg CSR, VISA & GAP CSR. He has ensured advanced tools-based Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Learning platforms for various programs implemented. He has experience of linking produce of small and marginal farmers through FPOs to private sector companies/startups/Agribusiness platforms. He has handled export of organic commodities to Malaysia, Japan, Sri Lanka, Singapore, Dubai and Saudi Arabia and import of few value-added commodities from the UK. In his current capacity as Programme Director, ACCESS Development Services, he is leading a lighthouse FPO program in Nabarangpur, Odisha, termed as MANDI (Mainstreaming Agri-producers through Networking and Development Initiative).





## Dr. Smita Premchander

Founder-Director  
Sampark

Dr. Smita Premchander is the Founder-Director of Sampark, an NGO engaged with empowering models of microfinance, education and migration in Bangalore, India, and serves on the boards of many NGOs. She is a graduate of and a Visiting Professor for the Microfinance Management course at the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad. She is on the Advisory Board of the United Nations University's Institute UNU-EHS in Bonn. She consults with several international agencies on microfinance, women's empowerment, child and bonded labour. She has a Phd from Durham University, UK, in association with the University of Berne. She is certified associate of the Indian Institute of Bankers.



## Sridhar Easwaran

Institution & Capacity Building  
Samunnati Financial Intermediation and Services Private Limited

Sridhar has more than 35 years of experience in the banking industry specialise in operations, systems, project and risk management. Prior to joining Samunnati, Sridhar has worked at PricewaterhouseCoopers and HDFC Bank. At Samunnati, he manages key partnership's and leads Institution & capacity building for FPOs aligned to Samunnati's AMLA approach. The capacity development team focuses on market linkages, access to finance, technology and advisory aspects.





## Sushant Verma

Asia Regional Director  
Trickle Up INC

Mr Verma has got over twenty five years of intensive experience in managing social development programs, especially in rural development sector, within areas such as education, public health, livelihood promotion, community development, disaster management, relief and rehabilitation, corporate social responsibility and women's empowerment. He is currently, Asia Regional Director of Trickle Up INC, an international poverty alleviation non-profit that creates breakthrough opportunities for the world's poorest and most vulnerable people. He has also served at senior management levels in reputed Multilateral/bilateral, international and national humanitarian and funding agencies like British Council, The Open University UK, USAID, World Bank, Nobel Peace Laureate KS Children's Foundation, Christian Children's Fund Inc (CCF), Heifer International, Action Aid/Commonwealth Education Fund UK, PHRN, etc., along with exposure to rigorous grassroots level interventions.



## Sujeet Kumar

Co-founder  
Udaan

Sujeet Kumar is a co-founder of Udaan. He founded Udaan in 2016 with Vaibhav Gupta and Amod Malviya, who were both former senior executives at Flipkart. Prior to founding Udaan, Sujeet was President of Operations at Flipkart where he built operations, supply chain and logistics which accounted for more than half of Flipkart's sales. He was instrumental in setting up the backbone of the distribution network of ecommerce in India. Sujeet has done his B.Tech in Civil Engineering from IIT, Delhi.



## Suvendu Rout

Vice President & Head

Non-farm Programs ACCESS Development Services

Suvendu specializes in the functional areas of Business Modelling, Women Entrepreneurship, Value Chain Development, Market Mapping, Rural Marketing, and Monitoring & Evaluation. In a career spanning over 20 years at different levels- policy, research and management with NGOs, CSR, private consultancy, and Government, he has networked extensively with multi-lateral agencies, academic institutions and civil society. With a Master's Degree in Economics and PG Diploma in Management and several courses in the management domain, he strives to excel as a development professional. He has been in the past, associated with a number of organizations like Ambuja Cement Foundation, MART, Gujarat State Watershed Management Agency, and Development Support Centre. In his current role at ACCESS Development Services, he leads the non-farm vertical, especially focusing on handloom value chain development, women entrepreneurship and promoting livelihoods of artisans.



## Dr. J P Mishra

Assistant Director General

ICAR

Dr. Mishra specialises in agronomy and joined Agricultural Research Service (ARS) in 1993. He has developed and designed new cropping systems in pulses for rainfed and irrigated areas of the country. He has worked in the Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare during 2003-2012, as Deputy Commissioner, and OSD & Agriculture Commissioner. He formulated India's flagship programme of National Food Security Mission and implemented during 2007-2012. Dr. Mishra was appointed Adviser, (Agriculture) in November, 2012 in Planning Commission/NITI Aayog, Government of India and served for policy formulations and programme restructuring during 2012-2018. Currently, he is working at Indian Council of Agricultural Research and looking after the Policy Planning & Partnership activities as Officer on Special Duty. Besides, he is also looking after the International Relations issues in the Council as Assistant Director General. His academic and professional excellence earned him Chancellor and Vice Chancellor Gold Medals, Best Paper and Life Time Achievement Awards and Fellowships of Professional Societies. He has worked as Nodal Officer for the Inter Departmental Group of India for UN Food System Summit, 2021.



## Viiveck Verma

Coach and Mentor  
Investor & Philanthropist

Viiveck has 30+ years of work experience in well-known corporate houses. He has successfully executed key positions of diverse nature and capacities during his career before turning into a thriving entrepreneur. His portfolio includes: Co-Founder – IIIT Seed Fund, Ex-Director - Hyderabad Angels, Curator and Licensee– TEDxHyderabad and Past President - Rotary Club of Miyapur. He currently runs a consultancy and advisory company called Upsurge Enterprise Solutions Pvt. Ltd focused on helping enterprises grow their business and achieve efficiencies. He is also a venture partner with Venture Catalysts which is India's first Integrated Incubator and Senior Advisor with Telangana State Innovation Cell (TSIC). He is also an advisor to JNTU on entrepreneurship development, Global Leadership team of TiE Young Entrepreneurs (TYE) program meant for high school children and Global Co-Chair of TiE University program meant for Graduate students. Academically astute, Viiveck is armed with a PGDBA (Marketing) from the Institute of Management Development and Research in Pune and is an LLB in Labor Laws and Taxation from Pune University. He is a university topper in his graduation studies in Geology. Viiveck is an International Coaching Federation (ICF) certified Professional Certified Coach – PCC (one amongst about 150 in India). He has also been a Zenger Miller Frontline Leadership Certified Trainer.



## Vijay Mahajan

Founder-BASIX Social Enterprise Group  
CEO Rajiv Gandhi Foundation

Vijay Mahajan founded PRADAN in 1983. Vijay moved from PRADAN in 1991 and later founded the Basix Social Enterprise Group which has supported over five million poor households through microfinance and livelihood promotion services since 1996. The Local Area Bank model that Vijay had pioneered since 2000, became the basis for a policy recommendation for Small Finance Banks by the Raghuram Rajan Committee on Financial Sector Reforms 2008-09, of which Vijay was a member. The BASIX Group has seven entities working in financial inclusion, agricultural services, vocational training, waste management, action research, training and consulting for livelihood promotion. Vijay moved on from BASIX in 2017. Vijay is a Distinguished Alumnus of IIT, Delhi (1975), IIM Ahmedabad (1981), and a Fellow of the Woodrow Wilson, Princeton University (1989). He has served on numerous policy committees and social enterprise Boards and was selected among 60 Outstanding Social Entrepreneurs at the World Economic Forum, Davos, in 2003; Ashoka Fellow in 2008 and Rockefeller Bellagio Centre Resident Fellow in 2016. Since 2018, he is the CEO of the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation and the Director of the Rajiv Gandhi Institute for contemporary Studies.



## Vijaya Switha

Founder and CEO  
Chitrika

An alumna of the Institute of Rural Management Anand, Switha founded Chitrika in 2005 to pursue her interest in the craft sector and promoting artisan collectives. Her primary focus is on creating new economic opportunities for artisans by ramping up their business, administration and technology skills in managing producer enterprises. She leads the Chitrika team in honing their capacities to provide impactful service to craft communities.



## Yamini Atmavilas

Senior Programme Officer  
India Country Office  
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Yamini is the India Lead for Gender Equality, India Country Office, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. In this role she leads the foundation's new work to implement their Women's Economic Empowerment strategy, and build gender data and evidence to foster gender transformative policies. She served for nearly 4 years as Senior Programme Officer, Measurement, Learning, and Evaluation at the India Country Office. Yamini's career has spanned more than 18 years, with a focus on evaluation, research, and capacity building in human development including gender, health and education, and economic development. Yamini has a PhD in Women's Studies from Emory University where she worked on women's labour migration.



## Yogesh Thorat

CEO  
MAHAFFPC

Yogesh Thorat is a passionate agribusiness professional working in the area of community led organisations based on principle of co-operation and mutual assistance. Presently, he is leading the MAHAFFPC which is state level consortium of 650 Farmer producer Companies (FPCs) in the state of Maharashtra and State Level Agency of Government of Maharashtra for procurement of Pulses, oilseeds etc under PSS. MAHAFFPC is facilitating the market linkages and consultancy services to the FPCs. He has core expertise in policy advocacy in the area of Value Chain Development, Agriculture marketing and developmental economics. He is Member of Committee for Deregulation of Cereals, Pulses, oilseeds from APMC Act of Maharashtra as well as Water Resource Group 2030. He is column writer on the agriculture & Rural Development issues. He is member of Board of Studies of MIT ADT University, Pune. He is graduated from MANAGE, Hyderabad which is premier Agribusiness Management School. He was associated with RBI as Young Scholar and Planning commission and Tata Trusts as Intern. He has visited Israel, Italy, Vietnam, Thailand as a part of Agriculture Study Tours.



## Ajit Kesari

Additional Chief Secretary  
Government of Madhya Pradesh

He is an IAS Officer of 1990 batch. Presently posted as Additional Chief Secretary to Government of Madhya Pradesh in charge of Department of Farmer Welfare and Agriculture Development and Department of Cooperative.

He was educated as a Mechanical Engineer from IIT Kanpur (Bachelors) and IIT Delhi (Masters). He obtained a Degree of Masters of Public Policy from the School of Public Policy, George Mason University, USA in 2008. His interest there was Comparative Public Policy, especially comparison of various services related to citizens across different countries, major focus on USA and India. He has handled various assignments of District Assignments for 13 years across many parts of Madhya Pradesh. His other assignments include Mela Officer for Kumbh Mela at Ujjain, CMD of Discom, and Registrar of Aadhaar in 2010. He has worked very closely in farmers related work starting from growing of crops by farmers, supply of inputs and credit to farmers and procurement of his produce and support for marketing, in the departments of Food and Public Distribution, Cooperative, Land management, Agriculture and Animal Husbandry. The main emphasis here has been to introduce new concepts, technology, design thinking and breaking away from the indifferent way of working in Government.

Outside the Government he runs a group involved in teaching people on avoiding Kidney Related Diseases.



## Mohamed El-Khawad

GIZ Cluster Coordinator  
Environment, Climate Change and Natural Resource  
Management

Since 01/2019 GIZ Cluster Coordinator for Environment, Climate Change and Natural Resource Management. 20 years of professional experience in environmental and climate policy issues, capacity development at GIZ. Posted at GIZ Technical Department in Eschborn (1999-2005), in Morocco in the Environmental, Water and Renewable Energy Programme (2005-2010), in Berlin GIZ Liaison Office to German Ministries of Environment Education, Agriculture, Transport and Infrastructure (2013-2018).

Master Degree in Political Science, University of Marburg, Free University Berlin (1992), Post-graduate degrees in Development policy and project management of the German Development Institute GDI/DIE (Bonn).



## Sarika Gupta Bhattacharyya

Director and Development Plaksha  
Founder & Board member - BeyonDiversity

Sarika Bhattacharyya, CEO BeyonDiversity, is an Inclusion Strategist & Leadership Coach with more than two decades of corporate experience. A highly respected speaker on Social Innovation & how it impacts related business issues, Sarika is a strong advocate for creating equal opportunity for all. She is also passionate about helping people to realise their infinite potential and promotes inclusive leadership. Sarika is #VV100 Fellow (Vital Voices Top 100 Women Leadership network) & was also nominated by US Embassy for the prestigious Fortune Most Powerful Women Mentoring Program. Sarika has been featured as the Top 50 Indian Women to follow on Twitter by WOW Asia in 2014. She was felicitated prestigious “Leadership in Mentoring” award by Hillary Clinton & Bank of America in USA in 2014. Her work as Inclusion strategist has been featured as “Top 10 Global Diversity Consultants” in the Global Diversity List 2015,16&17 published by The Economist, The Guardian and The Telegraph. She was also felicitated “Exceptional Women of Excellence 2017” Award by Women Economic Forum. Sarika was nominated as “Global Goodwill Ambassador” for her exceptional work to promote women leadership and create a more inclusive world without bias. She mentors and sits on various Boards for Not for Profit including Cyber Peace Foundation and Ahaan Tribal Foundation to help build inclusive communities.





## Nikita Bengani

Director

Youth Program, QUEST Alliance

Nikita has been working in the domain of youth development with focus on creating meaningful learning experiences for young people especially women, become future ready and make a successful transition from school to work. She has been with Quest Alliance since its inception and currently leads the youth vertical. She is passionate about supporting young people build their career journeys and self-learning mindsets and have access to meaningful opportunities to work and grow. She is passionate about tech for learning and has led the conceptualisation of Quest App, a tech platform to build 21st Century skills for youth, anytime anywhere and host of interactive digital content on key 21st Century skills. She has been a fellow with Human and Institutional Development Institute (HID) to be an Internal Change Facilitator.



## Dr. Ashok S. Alur

Director

Centre of Excellence for Farmer Producer Organisations

Prof. Alur has a PhD in Agriculture with 20+ years of experience in Agriculture, Higher Education, International Cooperation, Natural Resources Management etc. He has held different positions in Swiss Agency for Development-Cooperation, International Crops Research Institute for the semi Arid Tropics & Horticultural University & also served as Vice Chancellor of BESTIU (Andhra Pradesh). Presently he is the Director-Centre of Excellence for Former Producer Organizations. He is recipient of many prestigious award including, Honor from ICRISAT for his contributions to reduce poverty, malnutrition, environmental-degradation; Honorary Recognition (FCRI-Thailand); Honorary-Credential (China); Honor from Government of Mozambique & Swaziland; SavottamSeva-Award, Science Communicators-Award and Independence Day Honour from Government of Karnataka. He has served as Honorary Expert for the Food Security Programs of Mozambique & Swaziland, Regional-Committee of UNDP-GEF; Israel Technology Committee etc.

# SPONSORS AND PARTNERS





## PRINCIPAL PARTNER

# National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development



***Our Mission: Promotion of sustainable and equitable agriculture and rural prosperity through effective credit support, related services, institution development and other innovative initiatives.***

- **Research and Development on matter of importance pertaining to agriculture, agricultural operations and rural development including the provision of training and research facilities.**
- **Consultancy services related to Agriculture & Rural Development through subsidiary (NABCONS).**

### **Our Functions:**

- Provide Credit/Refinance for production credit and investment credit to eligible banks and financing institutions.
- Development functions undertaken through Farm Sector Promotion Fund (FSPF), Financial Inclusion Fund (FIF), Watershed Development Fund (WDF), Tribal Development Fund (TDF) Rural Infrastructure Development Fund, (RIDF) etc.
- Supervisory functions in respect of Cooperative Banks and Regional Rural Banks.

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Taking Rural India >> Forward



## Sitaram Rao Case Study Competition

### Vaya Finserv Private Limited

Vaya Finserv Private Limited is a new-generation Microfinance Institution led by experienced management with strong capital backing that offers financial services to aspiring women entrepreneurs in rural areas to support their businesses and power their aspirations. Vaya was established in the year 2014 by a team of seasoned microfinance professionals.



As of 31st December 2020, the Company is spread across 257 branches from 94 districts and catering to around 6,00,000 borrowers. The gross loan portfolio as of the same period was ₹ 1,040 crore including ₹ 393 crore of own portfolio.

### Knowledge Partner

#### Rabobank Foundation

Established in 1974, Rabo Foundation is the social fund of Rabobank focused on helping people become self-reliant. Aligned with the 'Growing a better world together' agenda, Rabo Foundation's interventions are along two primary themes: Access to Finance and Supporting Small Producers. Rabo Foundation seeks to support small-holder farmers' aggregate in to cooperative producer organizations and strengthens them to make them operationally and financially sustainable. This helps generate sustainable livelihoods for farmers so as to increase their income levels. Rabo Foundation is focused on strengthening the upstream value chains (closer to the farmer) and reduces the length of the chain, connecting different stakeholders. Rabo Foundation works across 23 countries across Asia, Africa and Latin America, other than the Netherlands. Interventions in these areas are done through instruments such as grant support for capacity building and technical assistance, credit guarantees and soft loans. Rabo Foundation's interventions have positively impacted the livelihoods of millions of small-holder farmers worldwide through 401 projects in 2020 with a project allocation of EUR 36.2 million



### Technical Partners

#### Ashoka

Ashoka is the world's largest network of leading social entrepreneurs with nearly 4000 Fellows across 93 countries. Ashoka functions as a collaborative network that supports and amplifies change by bringing changemakers from across the world together. Ashoka enables the changemaker community to capture and act upon emerging insights, knowledge, and talents of innovators from a wide range of cultural and regional contexts. Ashoka's vision is to create a world where "Everyone is a Changemaker".



## Development Alternatives

Development Alternatives (DA) is a premier social enterprise with a global presence in the fields of green and inclusive economic development, social empowerment and environmental sustainability. It is credited with numerous innovations in clean technology and delivery systems that help create sustainable livelihoods in the developing world.



DA focuses on empowering communities through strengthening people's institutions and facilitating their access to basic needs; enabling economic opportunities through social innovation and green and inclusive enterprise creation and skill development for green jobs; and promoting low carbon pathways for development through natural resource management models and clean technology solutions.

## Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, on behalf of the German Federal Government, is a global service provider in the field of international cooperation for sustainable development. GIZ has over 50 years of experience in a wide variety of areas, including economic development and employment promotion, energy and the environment, and peace and security. The diverse expertise of our federal enterprise is in demand around the globe – from the German Government, European Union institutions, the United Nations, the private sector and governments of other countries. GIZ works with businesses, civil society actors and research institutions, fostering successful interaction between development policy and other policy fields and areas of activity.



In India, GIZ has been working for over 60 years, jointly with partners for sustainable economic, ecological and social development. The focal areas of the Indo-German cooperation are Energy, Environment, Climate Change and Biodiversity, Sustainable Urban and Industrial Development, and Sustainable Economic Development. The Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the Federal Ministry of the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) as well as the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWi) are the main commissioning parties of GIZ in India. Other clients include Indian public sector clients, the European Union and international foundations.

## Grameen Foundation India

Grameen Foundation India is a leading social impact organization, working on financial inclusion, agriculture based livelihoods and health and nutrition initiatives with the mission to enable the poor, especially women to overcome poverty and hunger. Inspired by the work of Nobel Laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus, Grameen provides works in partnership with leading development organizations in India to ideate, innovate and scale breakthrough solutions that reach underserved populations, particularly women.



## Hand in Hand

Hand in Hand (HiH), India, is a public charitable trust working to alleviate rural poverty through job creation, livelihoods promotion and integrated community development. Having started its operations in Kancheepuram district of Tamil Nadu in 2002, HiH India has now expanded its work across 17 States of India and its model of 'job creation' replicated in over 10 countries across the globe through its partners. Until October 2021, HiH India had mobilized over 2.6 million women living at the bottom of the pyramid into 233,148 SHGs and created over 4.6 million jobs in the rural and semi urban areas of India. Committed to creating sustainable businesses for poverty alleviation, HiH India inaugurated its Academy for Social Entrepreneurship in February 2016. The mission of the Academy is to provide integrated practical and theoretical knowledge to create social entrepreneurs and build sustainable businesses that address social priorities. With a dedicated team and a shared vision, the organization is steadily moving towards achieving its mission of creating 10 million jobs by 2025!



## The International Initiative for Impact Evaluation

The International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie) is a leader in supporting the production, synthesis and uptake of high-quality evidence on what works in social and economic development. Established in 2008, 3ie provides services and expertise to address the evidence needs of our partners in governments, NGOs, foundations, international development institutions and others working in low- and middle-income countries. 3ie works across a wide range of sectors including agriculture, education, health, nutrition, sanitation, livelihoods, climate change and peacebuilding, among others.



## UNDP

UNDP works across 170 countries and territories to eradicate poverty while protecting the planet. We help countries develop strong policies, skills, partnerships, and institutions so they can sustain their progress. UNDP has worked in India since 1951 in almost all areas of human development, from systems strengthening to inclusive growth and sustainable livelihoods, as well as sustainable energy, environment, and resilience. UNDP's programmes continue to integrate a global vision for catalytic change with India's national priorities. With over 30 projects on the ground in almost every state, today, it works to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by transforming traditional models to do development differently.



## About the Organiser

ACCESS is a national support organisation with focus on incubating innovations for sustainable livelihoods of the poor. With the support from DFID and CARE USA, ACCESS was established in March 2006 as a professional new generation agency to contribute to and support poverty reduction in India. ACCESS is structured uniquely to work at all levels of the value chain – implementing programmes on the ground, working with Civil Society Organizations, Government Departments, Corporate sector and Multilateral / Bilateral agencies to improve and enhance their programme implementation and also undertaking a few national initiatives.

For sustainable impact, ACCESS pursues a 3-tier approach to strengthen and support the livelihoods sector and implements several dynamic initiatives at all levels.

At Tier I, ACCESS has gained significant credibility for incubating innovations in livelihoods promotion that has helped in transitioning the economic lot of the poor from subsistence to sustainable levels. Across the states, ACCESS implements about 39 programmes across 9 states, with the core strategy of organizing the primary producers and integrating them into inclusive value chains. ACCESS also implements programmes in both the farm and non-farm sectors and works in both rural and urban areas.

As a part of its Tier II portfolio, ACCESS builds capacity of capacity builders, strengthening civil society capacities, supports government programmes, and undertakes studies, among others.

At the national level, as a part of its Tier III work ACCESS annually organises the Livelihoods Asia Summit and Inclusive Finance Summit and brings out annual reports and publications in the respective sectors. ACCESS also organises policy / thematic retreats and Round Tables to help catalyse issues and for making key recommendations to policy makers.



ACCESS Development Services



Livelihoods India  
*Summit 2021*



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International Initiative for Impact Evaluation



Sitaram Rao CASE STUDY COMPETITION documenting and disseminating knowledge

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