National Convention 2019

REVITALISING RAINFED AGRICULTURE
Restructuring Policy and Public Investments to Address Agrarian Crisis
India International Centre (IIC), New Delhi | February 14 – 15, 2019

A Summary of the Proceedings
Revitalising Rainfed Agriculture (RRA) Network, formed in 2010, is a pan India network with more than 600 members, that includes eminent academics, policy makers, farmer and civil society organisations, working for a prosperous and resilient rainfed agriculture. The network organized a two-day National Convention on 14 and 15 February 2019 in New Delhi.

Dr. Ashok Dalwai, CEO, National Rainfed Area Authority, was the chief guest of the programme. The other guests of the inaugural session were Padmashree awardee Shri Bharat Bhushan Tyagi, Mr. Tomio Shichiri, representative of FAO, UN, Smt. Leena Johri, Joint Secretary Department of Rural Development, Government of India and Mr. Srinivas Iyer, Senior Program Officer, Ford Foundation.

During the two days, sessions were conducted on 13 different themes. There were two motives: first, to sensitize the attendees about the wide variety of subjects that need to be dealt with respect to rainfed areas and, second, to provide a platform for farmers, researchers, policy makers, etc. for exchanging insights and experiences. So that some policy imperatives would emerge, which can help in altering the current policy framework governing the rainfed areas.

“We all need to put in efforts to bring in change [in current policy framework],” said Dr. Dalwai in his inaugural address.

In the plenary session of the convention, the policy imperatives, emerged from the discussions in the thematic sessions, were presented. The plenary saw exalted guests like Dr. B. Venkateswarlu, Ex-Director, CRIDA, Dr. Mihir Shah, President, BRLF, Prof. Rajeshwari Raina, Shiv Nadar University, Mr. Srinivasan Iyer, Ford Foundation and the Chief Guest of the convention, Dr. Ashok Dalwai.

The guests spoke on varied subjects. A few of them were: ‘Research priorities and appropriate technologies in rainfed agriculture’, ‘Future priorities for rainfed agriculture’, ‘Knowledge-policy-practice continuums for rainfed agroecosystems’, ‘Future of rainfed farmers in India’ and ‘Summarize: Key policy issues emerging for public investments in rainfed areas’.

The success of this convention was that Dr. Dalwai took cognizance of the imperatives presented during the conventions. He identified the need for shift in current policy framework in his concluding talk: ‘Future strategies for Revitalising Rainfed Agriculture’.

**Speakers: Inaugural and Plenary**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dr. Ashok Dalwai</th>
<th>Smt. Leena Johri</th>
<th>Dr. B. Venkateswarlu</th>
<th>Tomio Shichiri</th>
<th>Dr. Mihir Shah</th>
<th>Bharat Bhushan Tyagi</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C.E.O., National Rainfed Area Authority, Govt. of India</td>
<td>Jt. Secy., Dept. of Rural Development, GoI</td>
<td>Ex-Director, CRIDA</td>
<td>FAO Representative in India, United Nations</td>
<td>President, BRLF</td>
<td>Farmer and Padma Shri Awardee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Srinivasan Iyer, Senior Program Officer, Ford Foundation</td>
<td>Jagadananda, Mentor and Co-founder, CYSD</td>
<td>Prof. Rajeswari S Raina</td>
<td>A. Ravindra, Executive Secretary, WASSAN</td>
<td>Dr. Sabyasachi Das</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Shiv Nadar University</td>
<td>Shiv Nadar University</td>
<td>Executive Secretary, WASSAN</td>
<td>National Coordinator, RRA Network and WASSAN</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Key Issues and Challenges

- Missing attention – on rainfed areas – in the current programs; disparity in public investments between irrigated and rainfed areas
- Missing water policy for rainfed areas; centralized water management
- Changing mainstream discourse on water – in rainfed areas – from ‘Blue Water’ to ‘Green Water’ or ‘Irrigation efficiency’ to ‘Rainfall efficiency’ through scientific validity, and outcomes in forms of benefits to agrarian sector and livelihood
- Financial disparity and misplaced policy context and their effective consequences on rainfed areas
- Water metric in rainfed areas: it cannot be measured in TMC (or Cu. M), but to be measured in units of soil moisture; lack of technology

## Experiences

- **Anantapur, Andhra Pradesh**
  - Protective irrigation, Critical irrigation

- **Deواس, Madhya Pradesh**
  - Participatory Ground Water Management (PGWM)

- **Vikarabad, Telangana**
  - Collectivisation of Groundwater

- **Sirmour, Himachal Pradesh (Indian Himalayan Region)**
  - Springshed Management in mountain regions

## Recommendations

- Allocation of public investments in rainfed areas should be on par with irrigated areas
- Develop ‘Water Policy for Rainfed Areas’ as a subset of National Water Policy, with focus on protecting crops and surviving droughts
- The national convention also brought out the need for various donors / foundations/ CSR to consider piloting such new paradigm in their funded programs. The policy has to consider the water spectrum – from rainfall to soil moisture, from surface water to aquifers – as realm of its management
- The pilots (experiences) have to be taken up in at least 100 rainfed districts

## Speakers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Organization</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>U P Singh</td>
<td>Secretary, MoWR, RD &amp; GR</td>
<td>Gol.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K C Naik</td>
<td>Chairman, Central Ground Water Board, MoWR, RD &amp; GR</td>
<td>Gol.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. B. Venkateshwara,</td>
<td>Board Member, RRAN; Former VC, VNMKV, Parbhani, Maharashtra</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Raja Ram Deshmukh</td>
<td>Ex VC, MPKV, Tahuri</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B Rath</td>
<td>Technical Expert, NRAA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. KV Rao</td>
<td>PS, ICAR- CRIDA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pramethesh Ambastha</td>
<td>CEO – BRLF</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reshma Anand</td>
<td>CEO – HUF</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shaik Anwar</td>
<td>APPI</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jacob</td>
<td>APPI</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bishwadeep Ghose</td>
<td>Director Programmes, Arghyam</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ravindra A</td>
<td>Director, WASSAN</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vijay Shankar</td>
<td>SPS, Madhya Pradesh</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ramchandrudu MV</td>
<td>Director, WASSAN</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Debashish Sen</td>
<td>PSI</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. Bakka Reddy</td>
<td>WASSAN</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girish Mohan</td>
<td>ITC Bengaluru</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Yellamanda Reddy T</td>
<td>AF Ecology Centre, Anantapur</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Siddharth Patil</td>
<td>ACWADAM, Pune</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partik Kumar Fellow</td>
<td>RRA Network</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Recommendations

- Allocation of public investments in rainfed areas should be on par with irrigated areas
- Develop ‘Water Policy for Rainfed Areas’ as a subset of National Water Policy, with focus on protecting crops and surviving droughts
- The national convention also brought out the need for various donors / foundations/ CSR to consider piloting such new paradigm in their funded programs. The policy has to consider the water spectrum – from rainfall to soil moisture, from surface water to aquifers – as realm of its management
- The pilots (experiences) have to be taken up in at least 100 rainfed districts
KEY ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

- Too much focus on technologies to conserve soils and not on improving national policies to achieve food sovereignty and healthy agroecosystems
- Available technologies do not meet the local need
- Social systems like tenancy, massive subsidies for chemicals precluded the opportunities for farmers to think about soils as healthy living systems
- Soils continuing to lose quality in the commodity centric, transnational-corporate-governed food regimes

EXPERIENCES

- **SONARAITHADI, JHARKHAND**
  Soil management techniques helped Jharkhand farmer, Nandlal Singh, achieve good income

- **KHANDWA, MADHYA PRADESH**
  135 farmers practicing Conservation Agriculture

- **BANKURA, WEST BENGAL**
  From fertilizer to cattle feed, seeds to biofuel, farmer Khepu Hembram produces everything – input to output – from his farm itself.

- **ZAHEERABAD, TELANGANA**
  Soil conservation through permaculture techniques

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Initiating “living soils” pilots, 10 in each State.
- Follow agro-ecological practices that maintain a balanced relationship between soil, water and biodiversity
- Initiate farmer-to-farmer or inter-community exchange of living soils practices, and agro-ecological principles and practices
- An overarching policy and framework: new guidelines for the schemes and programmes that are directly on soil conservation, soil organic matter, organic farming, and integrated farming – covering changes, inclusion and anticipation – at agro-ecologically contiguous (district, block) level.
- Ensure State-specific payment for ecosystem services to farmers in Living Soils consortia through schemes like NREGA or PMKVY, assured availability and access to locally produced compost/biomass or Trichoderma cultures or support in kind-and-cash for the essentials.

SPEAKERS

- Bharat Bhushan Tyagi, Farmer and Padma Shri Awardee
- Dr. K. Sarmini Reddy, CRIDA-ICAR
- Prof. Rajeswari S Raina, Shiv Nadar University
- Ms. Richa Kumar, IIT Delhi
- Bruno Dorin, CSH, Delhi
- Dr. Om Damani, CTARA-IIT Bombay
- Sharmila Regina, Pondicherry University
- Channesh T S, CPUS
- Ardhendusekhar Chatterjee, DRSC, West
- Ms. Nivedita Varshneya, Welthungerhilfe
- Narsanna Koppula, Aranya Agricultural Alternatives
- Tarak Kate, Dharamita
- Krishna Kant, Abhiyakti
- Kamlesh Panchole, AKRSP (I)
- Jayesh Joshi, Vagdara
- Deepak Sharma, Independent Consultant
**KEY ISSUES AND CHALLENGES**

- Around 60-70% of India’s seed comes from informal seed system, which is out of public investment, knowledge and R&D
- Nearly 500 different crops are cultivated in the country. However, public investments are concentrated on just 20% of the crops
- Farmers’ varieties registered under the PPV&FRA are not introduced into the seed chain
- Land races, which are both popular and unpopular, are neither mapped nor registered
- No separate standards/guidelines for notification of farmers’ varieties

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

- A committee has to be formed with representatives of NRAA, MANAGE, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Seeds) and RRA Network to take the agenda forward.
- For landraces, which are not registered, make public investments to do socio-ecological mapping of landraces, involve BMCs, SBBs, NBA, NBPG, SAUs, farmers’ organizations and civil society organizations, design PGS-based quality management system, in-situ conservation
- PPVFRA should take an initiative to bring informal seed into formal seed systems
- Develop crop-specific seed standards for land races
- Relook at rules and norms: extend subsidy to even varieties released 10 years ago
- Promote participatory plant breeding programs
- Create a charter – develop guidelines – for landraces in the Seed Village Program with dedicated budgeting

**EXPERIENCES**

- **DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, ODISHA**
  Collection, purification and release of indigenous paddy varieties and landraces, e.g. Kalachampa (paddy) landrace
- **DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, ANDHRA PRADESH**
  Promoting Navadhanya through Community Managed Seed Systems
- **BHOPAL, MADHYA PRADESH (MP)**
  Operational framework of MP State Cooperatives Seed Producers & Marketing Federation Ltd.
- **MAHARASHTRA**
  Model: building cadre for purification and characterization of seeds

**SPEAKERS**

| RC Agrawal | Dr. D.T. Deshmukh | Dr. K Varaprasad | Dr. Sudhir Pal | Dr. Rajaram Deshmukh | Dr. Sarath Babu |
| Registrar, PPV&FRAz | PDKV, Akola | Former Director, ICAR-IIOR | Ahlawat NBPG, Delhi | Rtd VC, MPKV, Rahuri | NBPG, Hyderabad |
| Dr. R. Jagadeshwar | Dr. Vijay Kumar | Kavitha Kuruganti | Krishna Prasad, Sahaja Samrudha | Avil Borker, Maharashtra Gene Bank | Shailendra Tiwari, Seva Mandir |
| Director Research PJTSAU | IISS, Bhopal | ASHA Network, | | | |
| Venkateshwara Prasad, Dept. of Agri., AP | Chakaradhar Panda, Dept. of Agri. & FW, Odisha, | | | | |
| Dr. G.V. Ramanjaneyulu, CSA, Hyderabad | Bhagya Laxmi, WASSAN | Kanna Kumar S, Fellow, RRA Network | | | |
**KEY ISSUES AND CHALLENGES**

- Maintaining millet productivity, without losing diversity, in a sustainable – agro-ecological - away
- Processing technology for minor millets
- Appropriate agro-ecological policy framework for promotion of millets
- Development of localized rural and urban value chains
- Increasing local consumption in the context of migration and generational change
- Development of procedure for inclusion of millets in ICDS, MDM, PDS etc.

**EXPERIENCES**

- **NASIK, MAHARASHTRA**
  Even in drought conditions with appropriate farm management practices, crops thrived and productivity has increased. For example, the finger millet average production has increased from 2.4 quintals to 7.9 quintals

- **SRIRAKULAM, ANDHRA PRADESH**
  Value addition to the produce with processing and marketing linkages – confectionary, bakery items like cookies

- **OMM, ODISHA**
  The productivity of millets has increased three-fold with efficient farm practices and processing support.

- **MISSION SHAKTI, ODISHA**
  It was a millets based food stall set up inside the Kalinga Stadium by the State Programme Secretariat in collaboration with SHG members from Trishakti Federation to popularize millet recipes amongst urban audiences

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Creation of pool of experts who can support various state-level and district-level initiatives on localizing the package of practices
- Development of technical standards for different level of processing machines – from threshing to value addition
- Special packages should be developed for entrepreneurs/start-ups involved in millet processing
- Odisha Millets Mission type of model may be adopted by different state governments and multilateral agencies. Suitable changes may be made as per local situations
- A National Support Group should be formed with stakeholders having experience in millet promotion to support the millet initiatives in the other states

**SPEAKERS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chair: Dr Saurabh Garg</th>
<th>Frew Behabtu, Programme Officer, IFAD</th>
<th>Raman Ahuja, Consultant, FAO</th>
<th>Anushuman Patnaik, DAFP, Odisha</th>
<th>Jacob Nellithanam, Richharia Campaign</th>
<th>Ms. Ashwini Kulkarni, Pragati Abhiyan</th>
<th>Dr Bijay Kumar Nayak, DHAN Foundation</th>
<th>Sibaprasad Sahu, Ahinsa Club</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PS, Agriculture &amp; FE Dept. Govt. of Odisha</td>
<td></td>
<td>Anupam Mani, Consultant, DAFB</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chair: Prabhakar Adhikari, Pragati</td>
<td>Vikram Sankarnarayana, Director, Borne Technologies</td>
<td>Chitta Babu, NCDS</td>
<td>Susanta Choudhury, WASSAN</td>
<td>Ms Aashima Choudhury, WASSAN</td>
<td>B Srinivas, Manyam Grains</td>
<td>Chair: Dinesh Balam, Odisha Millets Mission (OMM)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chair: Dinesh Balam, Odisha Millets Mission (OMM)</td>
<td>Vikram Sankarnarayana</td>
<td>Chitta Babu</td>
<td>Susanta Choudhury</td>
<td>Anushman Patnaik</td>
<td>Jacob Nellithanam</td>
<td>Prasenjit Sengupta</td>
<td>Sriti Khatua</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
INNOVATIVE CROP PRODUCTION SYSTEMS FOR LIVELIHOOD SECURITY OF RAINFED FARMERS

KEY ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

- **Research**: CGAIR and other formal institutes do not recognize the need for research and scientific validation of SCI for productivity, nutrient management and water productivity.

- **Policy operationalization**: Lack of local context specific machinery, knowledge systems are missing which has hindered the implementation of SRI through government schemes.

- **Institutions**: Lack of recognition of community based organization

RECOMMENDATIONS

- “Innovation, Inclusion, Institutions and Investment”
- Increase research in Genotype based SRI, Integrated SRI, scientific validation of other crops (other than Rice and Wheat), and nutrient management. Agro-ecology should be made a part of ICAR curriculum
- Policy operationalization for following SCI practices:
  - Focus on bringing behavioural change among the farmers. Follow the steps taken for promoting Green Revolution
  - MSP needs to be ensured for oilseeds and pulses
  - Policy must be created to accord the status of “farmer” to women
  - Adequate financial support at the right stages during the plant growth period
  - Community Hiring Centres to keep appropriate machines available to the farmers

- Institutional arrangement:
  - Establishment of community based extension system
  - Role of women - impetus to woman land rights and Mahila Sashaktikaran Programme
  - Investments to skill local, spend on identifying master farmers, progressive farmers etc.
  - Investments on capacity building and establishment of community based extension and service systems.

EXPERIENCES

- **VARIOUS AGRO-ECOLOGICAL ZONES IN THE COUNTRY**
  ICPS like SCI has proved to be - sustainable, climate resilient, sound agro-ecological approaches. It can be one of the technique to achieving the doubling farmers’ income goal.

- **TAMIL NADU**
  Private sector’s support to the Sustainable Sugarcane Initiative (SSI) by providing inputs and buy back arrangements.

- **JIVIKA PROGRAMME, BIHAR**
  Locally trained resource persons have been pivotal in upscaling the programme reaching to nearly 5,00,000 farmers.

SPEAKERS

- Dr. S K Malhotra
  Agriculture Commissioner, MoA, GoI
- G.S. N Ayyengar
  Chief Secretary, Government of Tripura
- Dr. S. S Rathore
  (IARI)
- Ashok Methil
  (Ex.CGM, NABARD)
- Dr. Mahender Kumar
  (IIRR)
- Dr. Ravi Chopra
  Chair: (PSI)
- Dr. Amod Thakur
  (IIWM, Bhubaneswar)
- Prof. Shambu Prasad
  (IRMA, Anand)
- Dr. Ravi Chopra
  Chair: (PSI)
- Apoorva Oza
  (AKRSP-II)
- Mr. Jacob Nellithenam
  (Chhattisgarh)
- Prabhakar Adhikari
  (Pragati, Odisha)
- Dr. Debasish Sen
  (NCS & PSI)
- Ms. Mithila Yadav
  (Farmer, M.P.)
- Mr. Jacob Nellithenam
  (Chhattisgarh)
- Prabhakar Adhikari
  (Pragati, Odisha)
- Dr. S. S Rathore
  (IARI)
- Ashok Methil
  (Ex.CGM, NABARD)
- Dr. Mahender Kumar
  (IIRR)
- Baharul Islam Majumder
  (Tripura)
- Dr. T M Thiyagarajan
  (Dean, Agricultural Sciences, SRM, Chennai)
- Dr. Amod Thakur
  (IIWM, Bhubaneswar)
- Prof. Shambu Prasad
  (IRMA, Anand)
- Dr. Ravi Chopra
  Chair: (PSI)
- Apoorva Oza
  (AKRSP-II)
- Mr. Jacob Nellithenam
  (Chhattisgarh)
- Nityanand Dhal
  (PRADAN, New Delhi)
- Shiv Prakash
  (PRAN, Bihar)
- Prof. Shambu Prasad
  (IRMA, Anand)
- Dr. Ravi Chopra
  Chair: (PSI)
- Apoorva Oza
  (AKRSP-II)
- Ms. Mithila Yadav
  (Farmer, M.P.)
- Dhruba Charan Naik
  (Farmer, Odisha)
- Dinesh Balam
  WASSAN
- Ms Seema Ravandale
  (PSI)
- Prabhakar Adhikari
  (Pragati, Odisha)
- Dr. Debasish Sen
  (NCS & PSI)
- Ms. Mithila Yadav
  (Farmer, M.P.)
- Dhruba Charan Naik
  (Farmer, Odisha)
- Dinesh Balam
  WASSAN
- Ms Seema Ravandale
  (PSI)
KEY ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

- Dairy development, or popular White Revolution narrative: Milk produced through intensified, stall-fed practices using crossbred varieties makes livestock sector better and enhances livelihoods.
- Disintegration of livestock from farming systems, and increased mechanization.
- Shrinking of commons, and access to customary grazing resources.
- Lack of decentralized preventive healthcare, and services – fodder and grazing area development.
- Missing coordination between agriculture and animal husbandry departments.
- Insufficient public [institutes] research on the features of extensive livestock systems like their contribution in improving soil health, adaptive traits of indigenous breeds, etc.

EXPERIENCES

- GUJARAT
  Experiences of characterization and conservation model
- EXPERIENCES OF BANNI BUFFALO BREEDERS
  Association, Kharai Camel Breeders Association and Gaolao Cattle Breeders Association
- SAMVEDNA, MAHARASHTRA
  Conservation of lesser known florican bird and grassland development in Samvedana district, which state?
- SERVICE DELIVERY AT LAST MILE
  Design service delivery up to last mile with the help of trained local person, like Prani Mitra, Pashu Sakhi, para workers etc.
- VISHAKAPATNAM, ANDHRA PRADESH
  Desi Poultry: A Livelihood model with high potential for tribal farmers of Coastal Andhra

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Indigenous livestock breeds have to be promoted in extensive system and their habitat has to be treated in the same way as breed conservation
- A national fodder policy and states’ fodder policies
- Fodder development with the support of forest and revenue departments in every state in community-based, participatory-led approach
- Develop community-based backyard desi poultry to secure livelihoods
- Mapping of lesser known livestock population in mission mode through collaborative processes

SPEAKERS

| Dr. Kachhia Patel, Director, AHD, Govt. of Gujarat | Dr. Vineet Bhasin, PS, (AG&B), ICAR HQ | Dr. D. K. Sadana, Board Member RRA Network | Dr. Chalapathi Rao, DD, AH Dept., Govt. of A.P. | Ramesh Bhatti, Sahjeevan | Kaustubh Pandharipande, Samvedana |
| Sanjeev Kumar, Goat Trust | Vivek Barve, AKRSP I | Dr. Sabyasachi Das, National Coordinator RRAN | Chetanand Jha, FES | Sajal Kulkarni, YP, RRA Network |
KEY ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

- Non-availability of working capital to the farmers’ organizations and Self Help Groups to take the existing ponds/tanks on lease
- Existing community based tanks have multiple ownerships, which makes the waterbodies underutilised and unused for fish cultivation. Disputes occur and auction does not happen
- Inadequate and no updated data available on fish production, household consumption and market development, lack of technical/trained people in the rural areas
- Fisheries – small and seasonal water bodies in rainfed areas – have not been included in national development initiatives

EXPERIENCES

- **MALKANGIRI, ODISHA**
  Fish Nursery: Earnings for Odisha Farmer, Security for his Peers

- **MANIKA (BLOCK), JHARKHAND**
  Revives Hope For Livelihoods: Fisheries Nursery in a Remote Jharkhand Village

- **PALAMU, JHARKHAND**
  A New Identity Through Fisheries

- **SRIKAKULAM, ANDHRA PRADESH**
  ITDA has taken up fisheries programme among tribal communities

RECOMMENDATIONS

- There should be an inclusive, habitat development approach for sustainability – i.e. depending on the water body inflows, local food systems, environment an ecosystem has to be developed around fisheries.
- Creation of an institutional mechanism to build a comprehensive database – on resources, production, sales etc.
- Special programs in Central India and Eastern India. The government should come up with a special program like Central and Eastern Indian rainfed fisheries program covering regions like Vidarbha.
- Revision of existing water usage policy with respect to minimum water level in the water bodies for fisheries use.
- Potential of fisheries in rainfed areas has to be taken into account while planning watershed works, based on ecosystems
- In an integrated approach, promote and develop: entrepreneurship, value chain, farmers’ involvement, fisheries extension services, financial products, convergence of various rural development programs like NREGS, rights-based community participation etc, to make fisheries a sustainable one in rainfed areas.

SPEAKERS

| Chief Guest: Dr. J.K. Jeena  
DDG, ICAR Fisheries | Dr. Dileep Kumar  
Advisor, Bihar Animal Science Univ. | Dr N K Barik  
CIFA | Dr GH Pailan  
CIFE, Kolkata | Manish Rajankar  
MD, BNSAM, Bhandara | Prof. Sachin Belsare  
F.Sc. College, Nagpur |
|----------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Smita Shewta  
PD, JSLPS, Jharkhand | Prof. Swapnil Ghatge  
F.Sc. College Udgir | Niraj Kumar Verma  
Expert, Govt. of Jharkhand | P.K. Das  
Fishery Expert, Chhattisgarh | Ashrita Tirkey and  
Ramani Ranjan Nayak, VSK and WASSAN | Bidhya Bhushan Dutta,  
WASSAN |
KEY ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

- Livelihood interventions are carried out in a sector-specific approach than a local area-based approach. It becomes limiting to contextualized solutions and thus, a barrier for the majority, especially the poorer families to participate.
- In many cases, SHGs have not graduated to the next level; efforts in this direction seem inadequate.
- Limited success in sustaining group micro-enterprises and its ecosystems.
- Government’s transfer of assets without backward and forward linkage of services.
- Lack of customized financial products and inappropriate financial plans push farmers into debt.

EXPERIENCES

- **KORAPUT, ODISHA**
  PRADAN’s model helps farmers achieve better incomes by empowering women.

- **ANUPPUR, MADHYA PRADESH**
  Tribal farmer from Madhya Pradesh benefits through Farmers Producers Groups.

- **VISHAKAPATNAM, ANDHRA PRADESH**
  Desi Poultry: A Livelihood model with high potential for tribal farmers of coastal Andhra.

- **DANG, GUJARAT**
  AKRSP (I) seeks to empower Tribal farmers through backyard poultry.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Planning, agricultural extension services, knowledge sharing, farm-based technologies, asset creation, farm-gate processing etc. should be done with peoples’ participation to strengthen – and redesign if required – existing programmes: MGNREGS, NRLM, IWMP, NHM etc.
- Take integrated approach – NRM → production system: agriculture, fisheries, livestock, forest produce etc. → livelihood creation – to create and promote entrepreneurship, financial support, and market access: linkages, ease and feasibility in rainfed areas.
- Introducing ‘Right to Livelihoods’; Guaranteeing Minimum Income out of Livelihood Intervention.
- Forming region wise integrated natural resource management department under which agriculture/livestock/forestry/water departments function and provide single window to the rural community.

SPEAKERS

- Alok De, Lead - Livelihoods, NRLM
- Apoorva Oza, CEO AKRSP-I (as chair)
- Ardhendu Chatterjee, DRCSC
- Achintya Ghosh, Director, Kabil
- Ms. Nafisa Barot, Former Director, Utthan
- Ved Arya, Former CEO, SRIJAN
- Animesh Mondal, SPS
- Naveen Patidar, AKRSP (I)
- Ms. Monisha, PRADAN
- Bharat, SRIJAN

INTEGRATING THEMES OF RAINFED AGRICULTURE FOR SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS

8
KEY ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

- Characteristics of rainfed agriculture produce: small marketable surplus, multiple products, varied value chains, limited season, fragmented supply chain, diverse and inconsistent quality, last mile challenges in connecting produce to markets, role vs value of middle men

- Unavailability of specialised financial products that meet diverse needs of FPOs, within mainstream banks and financial institutions

- Low investment in village and cluster-level infrastructure for storage, processing and value-addition of produce

- Reset the vision from large is efficient to small is adequate, agile

EXPERIENCES

- **PROCIF, 3-FOLD MODELS**
  Incubation support and ecosystem services to FPOs

- **CREDIT LINKAGES: CAPACITY-BUILDING SUPPORT TO FPOS**
  Enable appropriate credit linkages with mainstream banks and financial institutions, without creating long-term dependency on supporting agency

- **MARKET LINKAGES: CAPACITY-BUILDING SUPPORT TO FPOS**
  Enable diverse market linkages such as eNAM, NCDEX, APMCs etc., without creating long-term dependency on supporting agency

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Provision of long-term working capital from appropriate agencies

- Mainstream banks and other institutions to develop a range of financial and risk guarantee products that take into account geographical and agricultural produce diversity

- Balancing scale and diversity while determining optimisation of interventions

- Allocation and efficient disbursement of public funds like RIDF for building local level post-harvest infrastructure in rainfed areas

- Allocation of funds for agencies providing capacity-building support to FPOs and other local cadre

SPEAKERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Institution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dr T N Prakash</td>
<td>Karnataka Agriculture Price Commission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manish Tripathi</td>
<td>NCDEX</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P V S Suryakumar</td>
<td>NABARD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rishabh Sood</td>
<td>Rabobank Foundation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nilanjan Chaudhury</td>
<td>FWWB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Shambu Prasad</td>
<td>IRMA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shirish Joshi</td>
<td>Consultant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Avni Malhotra</td>
<td>Heifer International</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Pranjit Talukdar</td>
<td>Heifer International</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Siddharth Kumar</td>
<td>Heifer International</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balakrishnan</td>
<td>VRUTTI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heeralal Choubisa</td>
<td>Amla Utpadak FPO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pratheek Abraham</td>
<td>IFHD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms. Chitrangna</td>
<td>Dewan Development Alternatives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ashwini Chandak</td>
<td>Ecociate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hari Rajagopal</td>
<td>Samunnati</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
KEY ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

- Since Green Revolution, public investments have been biased towards irrigated agriculture
- Agricultural subsidies hardly reach rainfed farmers – majority of them are small and marginal landholders
- Poor extension services, knowledge base, quality research, and trainings have bypassed rainfed agriculture
- Agricultural inputs, and benefits from it, have been reaching to large farmers mostly

RECOMMENDATIONS

- All schemes, which have subsidies, should have rainfed attributes/features
- In the existing schemes, public investments must be prioritized in favour of rainfed agriculture
- Investments to improve livestock extension services – research, training, knowledge – backyard poultry and desi-birds enterprises
- Investments to create storage facilities for rainfed produce
- Increase investments to procure coarse cereals, pulses, oilseeds and other rainfed crops.

SPEAKERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prof Abhijeet Sen (Retd), JNU</th>
<th>Pallavi Mali, Ministry of Agriculture, Govt of India</th>
<th>Nilachala Acharya, CBGA India</th>
<th>Partha Saha, Ambedkar University</th>
<th>Subrat Das, CBGA India</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anshuman Pattnayak, Odisha Millet Mission, Directorate of Agriculture, Govt of Odisha</td>
<td>Nesar Ahmad, BARC Rajasthan</td>
<td>Amitabh Mishra, GDS, Lucknow</td>
<td>Narasimha Hegde, IFHD, Karnataka</td>
<td>Ashwini Kulkarni, Pragati Abhiyan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jagadananda, CYSD</td>
<td>Basanta K Nayak, CYSD</td>
<td>Barsha Mohanty, CYSD</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**KEY ISSUES AND CHALLENGES**

- All India Coordinated Research Project (AICRP) centres has been developing number of implements – based on utilisation of animal energy (UAE) for rainfed cropping systems. However, only 15% rainfed farmers are aware of the implements.

- Although, the country, home to several indigenous draught animal breeds, they were not promoted since 1980. Primarily, the research was on milch breeds.

- Currently, draught animals are used in 60% of cultivable area i.e. 100 million hectares. But the attention is on farm mechanization – usage of tractors, power tillers etc.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Besides research centres, local fabricators play a crucial role in design and development of farm implements. Therefore, they should be available locally to cater to farmers’ need.

- In the Custom Hiring Centre guidelines, list of animal drawn implements should be added.

- Implements design – local fabricator, industry, ICAR – has to be done with farmers’ participation to meet farmers their requirement.

**EXPERIENCES**

Under National Innovations in Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA), custom hiring centres were established in Nandurbar district, Maharashtra. Farmers can hire implements from here.

**SPEAKERS**

- Dr. Kanchan K Singh, ADG (FE), ICAR, New Delhi
- Dr. B.S. Prakash, Ex-ADG (ANP), ICAR New Delhi
- Dr. G. Singh, Ex-Director, CIAE, Ex-ADG (Farm Machinery), ICAR, New Delhi
- Dr. Sanjeeva Reddy, Principal Scientist, Farm Engineering Division, CRIDA
- Dr. M. Din, Project Coordinator, AICRP on Utilisation of Animal Energy, CIAE, Bhopal
- Dr. Jayant N. Uttarwar, KVK Scientist, Nandurbar, Maharashtra

- Mr. Puneet Sharma, Panchal Pumps, Kanpur
- Shri Sunil Shinde, Grassroot innovator of animal drawn implements, Jalana, Maharashtra
- Mr. Chandrashekhar, WASSAN
- Dr. Anushree Singh, Program Associate (Policy Research), WASSAN

- Mr. Chandrashekhar, WASSAN
- Dr. Anushree Singh, Program Associate (Policy Research), WASSAN
KEY ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

- Recognition of rights, particularly on community forest resource, rights very poor; limits tribal communities’ access to schemes affecting livelihoods, employment and income generation.
- Exclusion of rights of: particularly vulnerable tribal groups and pre-agricultural communities, nomadic and pastoral communities, women, other traditional forest dwellers (dalits), residents of forest and un-surveyed villages and displaced communities in the FRA implementation.
- No adequate awareness/information and institutional support, at Gram Sabha/community level, on the provisions for post claim support, and various programs and schemes meant for the right holders.
- The soul of FRA is not induced into government policies, planning and budget; Centre and State governments have not taken steps to ensure allocation of funds to the Gram Sabha(s) under MGNREGA, CAMPA, TSP etc.
- Compensatory Afforestation Fund Act, 2016, National Forest Policy, land banks, diversion of forest land etc. are affecting tribal communities’ rights and creating obstacles for FRA implementation.

EXPERIENCES

MAHARASHTRA, ODISHA

- Post claim support to tribal and forest dwelling communities through government programs and schemes for transforming livelihoods and economic development
- Gram Sabhas have formed committees under FRA and have taken up forest conservation and eco-restoration measures, Gram-Sabha-based planning for IFR and CFR lands, effective management strategies and institutional support by the government agencies
- District level convergence committees to ensure coordination between government departments and to converging programs for forest rights holders’ livelihoods support
- Maharashtra government has allocated funds directly to Gram Sabhas under TSP
- Governments of Maharashtra and Odisha have issued guidelines and Government Orders to ensure support to the forest rights holders
- Recognition of forest rights, particularly CFR rights, should be scaled up.
- Both the Central Government (Ministry of Tribal Affairs and other concerned ministries) and State Governments should formulate comprehensive policies, create enabling institutional structures to provide support to the forest rights holders. The policy measures should be based on local needs, diversity of livelihoods resources and the ecology. [Experiences and best practices from Odisha, Maharashtra and other states should be drawn and used for upscaling efforts for supporting forest rights holders]
- All forest development funds (CAMPA) as well as other funds (MGNREGA, TSP) should be allocated to the Gram Sabhas for developing individual and community forest land.
- Enactments and policies which are in conflict with the FRA such as CAF 2016 should be repealed.

RECOMMENDATIONS

SPEAKERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Institution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Balram</td>
<td>Advisor to Government of Jharkhand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abhinandan Saikia</td>
<td>Asst. Professor TISS, Guwahati</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sanghamitra Dubey</td>
<td>Independent Researcher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Jitendra Ramgaokar</td>
<td>DFO, Thane Maharashtra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keshav Gurnule</td>
<td>Convenor Shristi, Gadchiroli</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debjit Nandi</td>
<td>Navrachna</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Neeraj Hatekar</td>
<td>Professor, Mumbai University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pravin Moti</td>
<td>Director, CPC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rajesh Yadav</td>
<td>Badlao Foundation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ayush Prasad</td>
<td>S.D.M, Akola, Maharashtra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pravat Mishra</td>
<td>RCDC, Odisha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tushar Dash</td>
<td>Independent researcher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dashrathi Behera</td>
<td>Odisha Jungle Manch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K. Laxman Wassan</td>
<td>Odisha Jungle Manch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Giri Rao Vasundhara, Odisha</td>
<td>TISS Mumbai</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


POLICY AND INSTITUTIONAL INTERVENTION FOR FOREST RIGHTS HOLDER IN RAINFED AREAS
KEY ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

- All India Coordinated Research Project (AICRP) centres has been developing number of implements – based on utilisation of animal energy (UAE) for rainfed cropping systems. However, only 15% rainfed farmers are aware of the implements.

- Secondary datasets on themes of rainfed agriculture.

- Lack of datasets on cost of cultivation, investment in irrigation, livelihood, groundwater etc. in rainfed areas.

EXPERIENCES

- Rainfed agricultural data centre

- Rainfed India Data portal (rainfed.net): These datasets range from state level to sub-district level over different time periods.
  - Mapping Portal - PCA, SECC, AG census datasets exist for a specific time period.
  - Trend Portal - Rainfall and temperature (1984-2013) and APY (1996-97 to 2015-16)
  - Compare Portal - Compare data in two different geographic locations. Currently we have APY data for comparison

RECOMMENDATIONS

- To include more granular data, insight on beneficiaries, schemes, inclusion of primary data and inclusion of data from private organisations.

SPEAKERS

Nabin Pradhan, ISB

Shreya Basu, ISB
The National Convention on Revitalizing Rainfed Agriculture Network was the perfect platform – and moment – to deliberate on the RRA Network’s decade-long experiences in Policy, Research and Practice. It was an opportunity to show the proof of concept – on all the themes. It was very clear from the convention proceedings that rainfed agriculture needs a paradigm shift – not in small ways but at large scale.

In all the themes, rainfed farmers’ stories, civil society organizations’ initiatives, several state governments’ role and experiences of several other participants had been discussed. The focus was on how we have partnered, worked with several state governments to design and deliver programs relevant to rainfed areas. Currently public investments for those programs are to the tune of Rs. 2,000 crores.

Three critical points emerged were emerged from the convention:
1) Diversity and decentralization are the strengths of rainfed agriculture
2) Rainfed agriculture is marginalized and vulnerable
3) Rainfed areas are underinvested

It was widely agreed that public investments in rainfed agriculture could improve production, productivity and growth rate. Also, marketing infrastructure, technology, extension services, groundwater governance etc. can be built. Therefore, the consensus was to invest on crops, livestock, soils, water, fisheries, seeds etc. in a comprehensive, integrated approach.

To that end, the RRA Network., National Rainfed Area Authority (NRRA), National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE), Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and its associated institutions have agreed to work together to revitalize rainfed agriculture in India.

Thank you

RRA Network Hub
C/o WASSAN
2nd Floor, H.No. 12-13-309, St. No. 19, Hyderabad - 500 017
Email: secretariat@rainfedindia.org

Project Management Unit (PMU)
IST, C/o JANVIKAS
C/105/106, Royal Chinmaya Simandhar Towers, Bodakdev, Vastrapur, Ahmedabad – 380 054
Email: rranpmu@gmail.com