

Note on the Workshop

The Foundation for Agrarian Studies is a charitable trust based in India and established in 2003. Its major objectives are to facilitate and sponsor multi-disciplinary theoretical and empirical enquiry in the field of agrarian studies in India and elsewhere in less-developed countries. As a network of academics and other scholars, it is supported by progressive corporate organisations and donor agencies that are interested in promoting research to eradicate hunger, poverty, and malnutrition, promote gender equality, and research on measures to reduce social and economic inequalities.

The Foundation undertakes a wide range of activities in fulfilling these objectives. Our research programme includes the Project on Agrarian Relations in India (PARI), an India-wide programme of village studies ongoing since 2005. The project involves description and analysis, and the creation of a detailed database on village India in diverse agro-ecological and socio-economic regions of the country, based on regular village surveys conducted by the Foundation. The Foundation has surveyed 25 villages in 11 States of India under this project.

The Foundation has an active publication programme. The Foundation periodically publishes the results of village surveys in a “Socio-Economic Surveys Book Series.” The *Review of Agrarian Studies* is the peer-reviewed journal of the Foundation for Agrarian Studies. The *Review* is one of the most well-read journals world-wide on agrarian issues. The Foundation also publishes edited volumes and monographs on specific issues pertaining to rural India as part of an “Agrarian Studies Series.”

We have held national workshops for activists of the All India Kisan Sabha, and State-level workshops on agrarian relations for scholars and activists in Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Karnataka. Our 10th Anniversary International Conference was attended by more than 150 delegates from India and 17 other countries. The conference brought together senior academics, activists from mass organisations in India and abroad, and young scholars working on agrarian issues.

The work of the Foundation is characterised by the participation of young scholars. Apart from their involvement and leadership role in the multiple activities of FAS, the Foundation also arranges and co-sponsors regular workshops, seminars, and conferences exclusively for young scholars. Since its inception, the Foundation has been supporting the research of young M.Phil. and Ph.D. scholars. It also runs a rolling internship programme for students interested in aspects of studying rural India.

As part of its efforts, FAS is organising a two-day workshop to explore the research interests of young

scholars working in the field of agrarian studies and different socio-economic aspects of rural life in India. The long-list of faculty that is expected to participate in the workshop include: Abhijit Sen, Aparajita Bakshi, D. Narayana, John Harris, Judith Heyer, Madhura Swaminathan, Niladri S. Dhar, R. Ramakumar, T. Jayaraman, Venkatesh Athreya, and V. K. Ramachandran.

The objective of the workshop is to promote engagement between young and senior scholars on the subject. This workshop is exploratory and the Foundation hopes regularly in future to organise an international school on agrarian studies in a changing world.

The dates of the workshop are December 4-5, 2017, and it will be held at KTDC Suvasam, Cherthala, Kerala.