

October-December 2024



DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

New Year Greetings from the Foundation for Agrarian Studies!

The year 2024 concluded on a strong note for the Foundation, with the final quarter proving to be both eventful and successful, marked by a range of research activities and academic events.

Research at the Foundation continues at a brisk pace. Having completed the processing and analysis of the data collected through household surveys in two villages in the State of Uttar Pradesh, as part of our village studies programme, the Project on Agrarian Relations in India (PARI), we are now in the process of planning for the ways to present the main findings. The work on the collaborative research project on agriculture and surface irrigation systems in the Cauvery River Basin, with Professor Daizo Sugmito from Meijo University, Japan, is progressing well and is near completion. We hope to initiate the second phase of this project in 2025.

We continue engaging with emerging scholars on various aspects of the agrarian question and rural development through the ongoing third round of our Young Scholars' Online Seminar Series. This quarter, we conducted two seminars.

We successfully held an online panel discussion titled "Measuring Poverty in India," based on a paper published in the *Review of Agrarian Studies*. The findings of the study, presented in the discussion, revealed that over a quarter of India's population remains below the poverty line. These findings challenge the initial reports of poverty reduction. Eminent subject experts explored the implications and future directions for poverty measurement in India. The discussion was attended by more than 200 participants. This was arguably the first academic event of such scale to discuss the data on poverty in India from the most recent Household Consumption Expenditure Survey.

We congratulate our researchers for participating in national and international conferences this quarter.

We look forward to an exciting 2025.

Sandipan Baksi
Director
Foundation for Agrarian Studies

RESEARCH

>>> SOCIO-ECONOMIC ANALYSIS OF CLASSES FROM UP SURVEY DATA

The Foundation [re-surveyed two villages of Uttar Pradesh](#) in June, 2023. The villages, Mahatwar and Harevli, are located in Eastern and Western Uttar Pradesh respectively. They were first surveyed by the Foundation in 2006. Having completed the data processing, our researchers are now finalising the analysis of the socio-economic changes in the two villages across the two survey periods. The findings from this study will be disseminated through various channels in the coming year.



RESEARCH

»»» **COMPREHENSIVE RESEARCH ON CANAL IRRIGATION SYSTEM AND AGRICULTURE IN THE CAUVERY RIVER BASIN**

The Foundation has continued its collaborative research with Professor Daizo Sugmito from Meijo University, Japan, to examine the challenges facing agriculture and surface irrigation systems in the Cauvery River Basin. In August 2024, a team of researchers visited the Cauvery Delta, engaging with farmers and government officials involved in agriculture and irrigation.

This quarter, the team has completed processing the data collected during the visit and is exploring the best ways to showcase their findings. Additionally, planning for the second phase of the project is underway.

»»» **PROJECT ON THE ADOPTION OF TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGES IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION IN INDIA**

The Foundation has recently undertaken a study on the adoption of technological changes in agricultural production at the village level in India, with a particular focus on seeds, farm machinery, and digital technologies.

PUBLICATIONS BY FAS TEAM MEMBERS

»»» "PATTERNS OF INCOME GROWTH IN AN EASTERN UTTAR PRADESH VILLAGE, 2006-23"

Madhura Swaminathan, Professor and Head, Economic Analysis Unit, Indian Statistical Institute and Trustee at the Foundation of the Agrarian Studies (FAS); Arindam Das, Joint- Director, FAS; Niladri Sekhar Dhar, Associate Professor, Bihar Institute of Public Finance and Policy; and Kunal Munjal, Senior Research Fellow, Indian Statistical Institute, and PhD scholar, Indian Institute of Technology authored a paper analysing longitudinal data from a Dalit-majority village in eastern Uttar Pradesh. This village was surveyed by the Foundation in 2006 and 2023.

Published in the *Economic and Political Weekly*, the study highlights that while household incomes have more than doubled on average, the contribution of the agriculture sector has decreased.

The authors also explain how crop cultivation is largely undertaken by Scheduled Caste and Other Backward Class households on small plots of leased-in land in order to acquire foodgrain for home consumption. The paper further shows how income growth across all caste groups is driven by non-agricultural wages, salaries, and migrant remittances.



PUBLICATIONS BY FAS TEAM MEMBERS

➤➤➤ "POVERTY IN INDIA: THE RANGARAJAN METHOD AND THE 2022–23 HOUSEHOLD CONSUMPTION EXPENDITURE SURVEY"

C. A. Sethu, Senior Research Assistant at FAS; L. T. Abhinav Surya, Centre for Development Studies; and C. A. Ruthu, Office of the Vice Chairperson, Kerala State Planning Board; authored and published a paper in the *Review of Agrarian Studies*.

The study examines poverty data in India using the 2022–23 Household Consumption and Expenditure Survey. Applying the Rangarajan method, the authors show that poverty levels in 2022–23 were significantly higher than initially reported, challenging claims of a substantial decline in poverty.

➤➤➤ "GREEN REVOLUTION IN INDIA: MAKING SENSE OF THE QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE ASPECTS OF CHANGE"

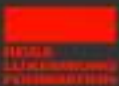
Through an article they published in the *Economic and Political Weekly*, Sandipan Baksi, Director at FAS; C. A. Sethu, Senior Research Assistant at FAS; and Deepak Johnson, Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), explored the critical role of the Green Revolution in increasing crop yields and ensuring food security in India despite criticisms on political, economic, and ecological fronts.

Through an analysis of agricultural statistics from 1950–51 to 2021–22, the authors underline the contours of the change in agricultural production brought about by the Green Revolution in India.

>>> YSOSS SEMINAR ON 'CRASHED FUTURES: A SOCIOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION INTO THE FAILURE OF CARDAMOM FUTURES MARKET'

The third seminar of the [FAS Young Scholars' Online Seminar Series 2024–25](#) was presented by Tony Kurian, Assistant Professor, Azim Premji University, Bangalore on Friday, October 25, 2024.

Tony's study delves into the reasons behind the unsuccessful launch and subsequent closure of the cardamom futures market. Despite being a globally traded spice with moderate price volatility, cardamom failed to establish a viable futures market. The primary factors contributing to this outcome are examined, focusing on the unique characteristics of cardamom as a commodity and the political dynamics influencing its market. This study uses mixed research methodology and places itself in the interstices of political economy and economic sociology.



FAS Young Scholars' Online Seminar Series 2024-25

Seminar 3

CRASHED FUTURES

A Sociological Investigation Into the Failure of Cardamom Future Markets



Friday
October 25, 2024



From 4:00 PM IST

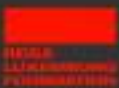
Tony Kurian,
Assistant Professor,
Azim Premji University



»»» YSOSS SEMINAR ON 'LABOUR ABSORPTION IN CROP CULTIVATION IN RURAL HARYANA'

The fourth seminar of the [FAS Young Scholars' Online Seminar Series 2024–25](#) was presented by Prachi Bansal, Assistant Professor, Jindal School of Government and Public Policy, O. P. Jindal Global University, on Friday, November 29, 2024.

Prachi's study gives a comprehensive view of total labour use in crop cultivation across different agro-ecological zones of rural Haryana. It identifies key features such as the use of unfree labour, high levels of mechanisation, gendered division of labour, and caste-class inequalities in villages. The study also explores the variations in labour use for different crops, different operations for each crop, the alternative techniques used for the same operation, and the various contracts under which labour is employed in the region.



**FAS Young Scholars'
Online Seminar Series
2024-25**

Seminar 4

**LABOUR ABSORPTION IN
CROP CULTIVATION IN
RURAL HARYANA**



Friday
November 29, 2024



From 4:00 PM IST

Prachi Bansal,
Assistant Professor,
Jindal School of Government and Public
Policy, O.P. Jindal Global University



»»» ONLINE PANEL DISCUSSION ON MEASURING POVERTY IN INDIA

The Foundation for Agrarian Studies, in collaboration with Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung, conducted an online panel discussion on measuring poverty in India on December 18, 2024. The event was based on findings from a recent research article published in the *Review of Agrarian Studies* (vol. 14, No. 2), which employed the Rangarajan Committee's methodology to estimate a national poverty headcount ratio of 26.4 per cent in 2023. This estimate significantly challenges recent reports suggesting a sharp decline in poverty in India.

Chaired by Professor Madhura Swaminathan of the Indian Statistical Institute, the discussion featured a distinguished panel of experts: Gaurav Datt, Monash University, Australia; Himanshu, Jawaharlal Nehru University; P. C. Mohanan, Kerala State Statistical Commission; and R. Ramakumar, Tata Institute of Social Sciences.

Sethu C. A., Senior Research Assistant at the Foundation and one of the study's authors, presented the findings, setting the stage for an engaging dialogue on poverty measurement in India. The panellists then shared diverse perspectives on the subject, discussing its implications and exploring future directions for poverty measurement in the country.

For those who missed it, the recorded session is available on our event page.



Online panel discussion on
Measuring Poverty in India

Chair: Madhura Swaminathan
Professor and Head of the Economic Analysis Unit, Indian Statistical Institute.

Panellists:

Gaurav Datt
Associate Professor, Centre for Development Economics and Sustainability, Monash University.

P. C. Mohanan
Chairman, Kerala State Statistical Commission.

Himanshu
Associate Professor, Centre for Economic Studies and Planning, Jawaharlal Nehru University.

R. Ramakumar
Professor, School of Development Studies, Tata Institute of Social Sciences.

FAS AT CONFERENCES

»»» INEQUALITIES AND MOBILITIES IN RURAL INDIA: RECENT TRENDS AND METHODOLOGICAL CHALLENGES

Sandipan Baksi, Director, FAS, and Arindam Das, Joint-Director, FAS, participated in an international conference titled “Inequalities and Mobilities in Rural India: Recent Trends and Methodological Challenges,” conducted at the Centre de Sciences Humaines (CSH), Delhi, focused on understanding the dynamics underlying contemporary inequalities and mobilities in rural India.

Sandipan Baksi presented a research paper titled “Farm Technology and Agrarian Inequalities: A Panel Study of a Western Uttar Pradesh Village,” and Arindam Das presented a research paper titled “Diversification of Occupations and Income, 2006–2023: Evidence from Two Villages in Uttar Pradesh,” at the conference.

VISITORS

»»» SOORAJ NIDIYANGA - KITU

Sooraj Nidiyanga, Secretary - Karnataka State IT/ITeS Employees Union (KITU), visited the Foundation’s office in Bengaluru on Monday, December 23, 2024.

During this visit, Sooraj and our team discussed various aspects of social science research.