

# ***QUARTERLY BULLETIN***

APRIL –  
JUNE 2025

[Greetings from the Foundation for Agrarian Studies!](#)

The second quarter of 2025 has been one of continued momentum, collaboration, and preparation for major upcoming events.

As part of the CGIAR-SPIA-funded research projects on agricultural innovation in North, and South India, the research team undertook visits to several CGIAR centres. These visits provided valuable insights into the work of various centres on crop improvement, agronomy, and natural resource management. The team also organised a series of discussions with scholars and experts in the field. These projects are funded by the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research – Standing Panel on Impact Assessment (CGIAR-SPIA) and are being conducted in collaboration with Monash University, Australia.

Preparations for the International Conference on Agrarian Studies, scheduled for November 6–9, 2025, have gathered pace. The conference aims to take stock of current thinking and scholarship on agrarian change and will bring together a distinguished set of participants. This quarter saw extensive work on outreach and coordination: eminent scholars, faculty members, and senior academics from leading universities visited the Foundation to explore possibilities for collaboration and participation in the conference.

Our engagement with young researchers continued through the Young Scholars' Online Seminar Series. Two scholars presented their work this quarter, marking the conclusion of the third edition of the series. We hope to launch the next edition in the near future.

With these activities, the Foundation continues to strengthen its research agenda while building bridges across institutions and regions. We look forward to the months ahead with anticipation and enthusiasm.

Sandipan Baksi  
Director, Foundation for Agrarian Studies

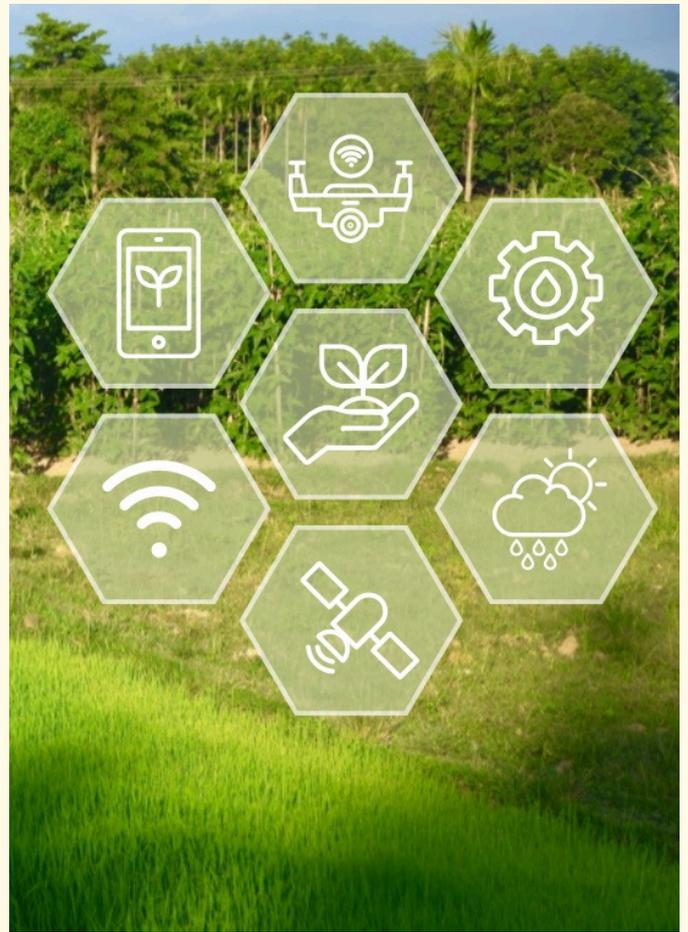


# RESEARCH

## Socio-economic Analysis of Classes from UP Survey Data

The Foundation re-surveyed two villages in Uttar Pradesh – Mahatwar (Eastern Uttar Pradesh) and Harevli (Western Uttar Pradesh) – in June 2023. These villages were first studied by the Foundation in 2006. With data processing now complete, the team is currently finalising manuscripts for the first series of publications based on the study’s findings. A few articles based on the findings of this research work will be featured in the next issue of the Review of Agrarian Studies.

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## Digital Agriculture in India

This ongoing project at the Foundation, supported by Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung, explores the evolving ecosystem of digital technologies, stakeholders, and policies. The project team is currently reviewing literature and mapping the policy landscape related to digital agriculture in India to examine how digital interventions are framed, deployed, and experienced, focusing on equity, accessibility, and affordability.

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# RESEARCH



## The Dynamics of Agricultural Innovation in India

The Foundation, in collaboration with Monash University, Australia, has initiated two research projects – “Dynamics of Agricultural Innovation in North India” and “Dynamics of Agricultural Innovation in South India” – funded by the CGIAR-SPIA.

These projects aim to study CGIAR-related innovations in India, their adoption, and their implications. The team is currently engaged with the first component of the project, the stocktaking exercise, which involves comprehensively documenting the innovations undertaken by all CGIAR research centres in India over the past 20 years.

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## CGIAR Visits

*As part of the projects, the team visited several CGIAR centres to learn about the diverse innovations being undertaken across different research areas.*



## IWMI

The research team visited the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) in New Delhi on April 1, 2025. IWMI is a key partner in the CGIAR Research Program on Water, Land, and Ecosystems.

The team had in-depth discussions with Dr. Alok Sikka, IWMI’s Country Representative for India and Bangladesh, who provided an overview of IWMI’s work and major innovations in India and assured their institutional support for the two projects. During the visit, the team also engaged with Dr. Deepak Varshney, Regional Researcher-Impact Assessment.

The team was apprised of IWMI’s key research areas in India and was introduced to the senior personnel and scientific staff leading these initiatives.

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# RESEARCH

## CGIAR Visits



### Office of Alliance of Bioversity and CIAT

The research team visited the Alliance of Bioversity International and the International Centre for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) in New Delhi on April 1, 2025. The Alliance has been active in the fields of biodiversity, environment, and nutrition for over three decades.

The FAS team had a fruitful discussion with Dr. Jai Rana, Senior Scientist and Country Representative for India, who provided an overview of the Alliance's work in India, with a focus on innovations and policy contributions over the past two decades. The team also interacted with Sonal Dsouza, Partnerships Manager for Asia, and Dr. Sarika Mittra, Consultant.

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### IFPRI

The research team visited the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) in New Delhi on April 2, 2025.

The FAS team had an engaging discussion with Dr. Anjani Kumar and Dr. Avinash Kishore, both Senior Research Fellows at IFPRI, who provided a detailed overview of IFPRI's research in India and introduced the team to key research themes and associated researchers. IFPRI has been working towards the objective of developing policy solutions aimed at reducing poverty, hunger, and malnutrition in developing countries for several decades.

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### CIFOR-ICRAF

The research team visited the office of the Center for International Forestry Research and World Agroforestry (CIFOR-ICRAF) in New Delhi on April 3, 2025

The FAS team had a productive discussion with Dr. Manoj Dabas (Country Director, India), Dr. Shiv Kumar Dhyani, and Aqeel Hasan Rizvi, who shared an overview of CIFOR-ICRAF's work in India, highlighting key projects and interventions, as well as their collaborative efforts with ICAR on agroforestry. The discussion also focused on CIFOR-ICRAF's role in shaping agroforestry policies in the country. CIFOR-ICRAF researches the role of trees in addressing interconnected issues related to biodiversity, climate, food systems, value chains, and equity, and has a long-standing presence in India through its South Asia Research Program.

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# RESEARCH

## CGIAR Visits



## ICARDA

The research team visited the International Center for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas (ICARDA) in New Delhi on April 3, 2025.

The FAS team had a productive discussion with Dr. Shiv Kumar Agrawal, Regional Coordinator of ICARDA's South Asia and China Regional Program, who provided an overview of ICARDA's research history with a specific focus on its work in India. He also outlined the centre's ongoing research portfolios and assured institutional support for the FAS projects. The team additionally interacted with other scientists at the New Delhi office, who shared insights into ICARDA's key projects and interventions. ICARDA has been working in India since 1986, and has an active presence in several Indian states, including Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Odisha, West Bengal, Punjab, and Assam.

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## CIMMYT

The research team visited the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre (CIMMYT) in New Delhi on April 3, 2025.

The FAS team had an insightful discussion with Dr. B. M. Prasanna, Distinguished Scientist and Regional Director for Asia, and Dr. Alison Laing, Agroecologist and CIMMYT Lead for the Cereal Systems Initiative for South Asia (CSISA) India. Dr. Prasanna provided an in-depth overview of CIMMYT's maize and wheat improvement research in India over the past two decades and introduced the team to ongoing research themes and key personnel. Dr. Laing shared insights into CIMMYT's work under the Sustainable Agri-food Systems research team, with a focus on the activities of the CSISA initiative. CIMMYT has been a key player in strengthening cereal production systems in the Global South, particularly in wheat and maize, and has a long-standing collaboration with ICAR in India.

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## Impact of Agrarian Crisis on Women Farmers in Akoli Khurd Village, Yavatmal, Maharashtra

The last seminar of the FAS Young Scholars' Online Seminar Series 2024-25 was presented by Shivangi Goswami, PhD. scholar, TERI School of Advanced Studies, on Thursday, May 22, 2025, at 4 PM IST.

Using an ethnographic approach, Shivangi's study explores multifaceted challenges faced by women farmers in the context of the agrarian crisis in Akoli Khurd village, Yavatmal district, Vidarbha region, Maharashtra—an area known as the epicentre of farmer suicides.

[The seminar can be accessed here](#)

## Young Scholars' Online Seminar Series

### Agrarian Change and Accumulation in Central India: Revisiting the Agrarian Question of Capital

The eighth seminar of the FAS Young Scholars' Online Seminar Series 2024-25 was presented by Sunit Arora, Assistant Professor of Economics, Azim Premji University, Bhopal, on Friday, April 25, 2025, at 4 PM IST.

Sunit's study, based on data from primary surveys in central India, argues for the continued relevance of the agrarian question of capital.

[The seminar can be accessed here](#)

# EVENTS

## In-House Seminars



### Regulatory Reforms and Innovation: The Case of India's Chemical Fertiliser Manufacturing Industry– **Ajil Mankunnummal**

Ajil Mankunnummal, Research Officer at the Foundation, presented his research at an in-house seminar at the Foundation on April 9, 2025.

Ajil's study examines how regulation in India's chemical fertiliser manufacturing industry has shaped the pace and pattern of technological change post-liberalisation. It identifies a shift from technological self-reliance to growing foreign dependence, with innovation being focused more on process rather than product development due to government emphasis on cost reduction.

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## The International Conference on Agrarian Change

The Foundation for Agrarian Studies has announced its upcoming international conference on agrarian change, to be held in Thiruvananthapuram from November 6–9, 2025. Eleven years after our landmark 2014 conference, this event will take stock of recent developments in the rural economy of India and other developing countries. It aims to bring together scholars, scientists, policymakers, and grassroots activists to reflect on current thinking and research on rural change.

We launched a dedicated conference website along with the Call for Papers. The deadline for abstract submissions closed on June 30, 2025.

**LEARN MORE ABOUT THE CONFERENCE**

**MAJOR THEMES**

- PRODUCTIVE FORCES AND RELATIONS OF PRODUCTION IN THE COUNTRYSIDE
- THE ROLE OF MODERN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN ADVANCING AGRICULTURE
- POVERTY AND STANDARDS OF LIVING IN RURAL AREAS
- THE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Foundation for Agrarian Studies

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON  
**Agrarian Change**

NOVEMBER 6-9, 2025  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

VISIT OUR WEBSITE:  
[FAS.ORG.IN/CONFERENCE2025](https://fas.org.in/conference2025)

# VISITORS

## **Professor Yoshifumi Usami**

Dr. Yoshifumi Usami, Retired Professor, Osaka Prefecture University, Japan, and a long-time research collaborator of the Foundation, visited our office on April 7 and 8, 2025.

During the visit, Professor Usami engaged with the research staff at FAS in an interactive session. This was an opportunity for our researchers to discuss their research interests and receive feedback from the professor.

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## **Team of Faculty Members – Christ (Deemed to be University)**

Faculty members from the Department of Economics at Christ (Deemed to be University), Yeshwanthpur Campus, visited the Foundation for an interactive session on May 30, 2025. The delegation included Dr. Vineeth M., Dr. Anirban Kundu, Dr. Jayesh M.P., and Dr. Shiba Shankar Pattayat.

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## **Professor Jens Lerche**

Professor Jens Lerche, Emeritus Professor in Agrarian and Labour Studies, Department of Development Studies, SOAS University, London, and member of the Editorial Advisory Board of Review of Agrarian Studies, the journal of the Foundation, visited our office between May 12 and 16, 2025.

During the visit, the research staff at FAS got the opportunity to interact with Professor Lerche, discuss their research interests, and receive valuable feedback from him.

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## **Dr. Mruthyunjaya**

Dr. Mruthyunjaya, Former Director, National Centre for Agricultural Economics and Policy Research, New Delhi, and Consultant to the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), New Delhi (2014-15), visited our office on May 22, 2025.

During the visit, Dr. Mruthyunjaya was introduced to the projects “The Dynamics of Agricultural Innovation in North India” and “South India” by Project Manager Tapas Modak and held a detailed discussion with Principal Investigators Professor Madhura Swaminathan and Dr. Sandipan Baksi.

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