

# Foundation for Agrarian Studies



November 6 to 9, 2025 | Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala

## Day-wise Conference Proceedings Report of Day 1 – November 9, 2025

### Inaugural Session

*Vizhinjam Hall, Time: 1630–1730*



Welcoming the delegates to the inaugural session of the four-day International Conference on Agrarian Change organised by the Foundation for Agrarian Studies (FAS) held at Kovalam on November 6, Chief Minister of Kerala Pinarayi Vijayan drew attention to the success of his government's recently concluded campaign to eradicate extreme poverty in Kerala – the first state in

India to achieve this milestone – as a measure that owed its success to the land reform measures implemented in 1957 by the first Communist government under the leadership of EMS Namboodiripad. Ending extreme poverty in Kerala, he said, was the “culmination of many years of public action with respect to agrarian relations and social policy as a whole.”

The Chief Minister, in his pre-recorded video message, underlined the “need to address the challenge of sustainable development in a scientific and rational manner.” He noted that Kerala is particularly vulnerable to the challenges posed by climate change.

In his opening comments, Convenor of the conference and managing trustee of the FAS, V. K.



Ramachandran, highlighted the levels of deprivation still prevalent in rural India. Based on the global criterion that identifies a family spending more than 30 per cent of its income on food as poor, over 85 per cent of rural households in India would be classified as in poverty.

Those who addressed the inaugural session included S. Mahendra Dev, Chairman of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister of India, Britta Petersen, Head of the Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung, South Asia Office, former Member of Parliament Brinda Karat, and Professor Luciano Rezende Moreira from the Federal Institute of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.



Eminent journalist and former Editor of *The Hindu*, N. Ram, released the Conference souvenir, and handed over the first copy to Shri S. Ramachandran Pillai, senior leader of the agrarian movement in India. While commending the FAS for its commitment to the study of rural India, he suggested that the organisation also take efforts to train journalists in quantitative and qualitative skills to report effectively on issues pertaining to rural India.



The four-day conference was attended by over 200 delegates from India and across the world. The attendees included social scientists, agricultural experts, policymakers, scientists, and members of agrarian organisations and unions. Over the four days of the conference, the delegates discussed issues relating to four broad themes of the conference, namely, 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, and the impact of climate change on agriculture and rural development.