



New Year Greetings from the Foundation for Agrarian Studies.

We are happy to let you know that during the last quarter of 2023, our book "Economic Change in the Lower Cauvery Delta : A Study of Palakurichi and Venmani" came out. The book is an outcome of the Project on Agrarian Relations in Lower Cauvery Delta, initiated in 2019. Edited by Madhura Swaminathan, V. Surjit and V.K. Ramachandran, the book analyses different dimensions of agrarian change in the region. More details about the book can be found [here](#) .

The processing of data collected through surveys conducted in two villages of Uttar Pradesh in June 2023, is progressing steadily. The villages are situated in two different agro-ecological zones of the state.

We Congratulate our researchers who participated in two international conferences during this quarter.

We are looking forward to an exciting 2024.

Sandipan Baksi  
Director  
Foundation for Agrarian Studies



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## Data Entry and Processing of the UP Survey

In June 2023, the Foundation resurveyed two villages in Uttar Pradesh, namely Mahatwar in the Rasra tehsil of Ballia district, and Harevli in the Najibabad block of Bijnor district. These villages were previously surveyed by the Foundation as part of our [Project on Agrarian Relations in India \(PARI\)](#) in 2006.

The processing of the data is going on at a good pace and we will start the analysis of the data soon.



## *Economic Change in the Lower Cauvery Delta*

"[Economic Change in the Lower Cauvery Delta: A Study of Palakurichi and Venmani](#)", a book based on the Foundation's Project on Agrarian Relations in the Lower Cauvery Delta, came out in November 2023.

The essays in the book explore the nature and direction of socio-economic change in the lower Cauvery delta. They draw primarily on the results of two census-type, schedule-based surveys of all

households conducted in the villages of Palakurichi and Venmani in Nagapattinam district, Tamil Nadu, in 2018–19.

The book, edited by Madhura Swaminathan, V. Surjit, and V. K. Ramachandran, is the seventh book in the Agrarian Studies series published by Tulika Books, New Delhi in association with the Foundation for Agrarian Studies.



## **FAS at International Rice Congress**

Tapas Singh Modak, Associate Fellow with the Foundation recently presented a paper titled, "Crop Diversification and Profitability in India" at 6th International Rice Congress in Manila, Philippines.

The paper was co-authored with Deepak Johnson, Niyati Singaraju, and Kulvinder Gulia. This study is part of a project jointly undertaken by the International Rice Research Institute, India and the Foundation for Agrarian Studies.

## **FAS at India Land and Development Conference**

Researchers from the Foundation presented their work at the 7th India Land and Development Conference - 2023, held at FLAME University, Pune from November 1 to 3, 2023.

Rakesh Kumar Mahato, Senior Data Analyst, FAS presented the paper, "Gender Inequality in land ownership in India" that he coauthored with Arindam Das, Joint Director, FAS and Bheemeshwar Reddy, Assistant Professor, BITS Pilani, Hyderabad Campus . The paper focuses on the gender inequality in land ownership in India using official government databases.

Sai Chandan Kotu, Research Assistant, FAS presented a paper titled "Land inequalities in India : Insights from Village Surveys". This paper investigates aspects of inequality in access to land by households in contemporary rural India across agro-climatic regions, and by social structure using data from village studies conducted by the FAS. The results show that severe inequality in ownership of land is a general phenomenon in rural India today. This paper is co-authored with Madhura Swaminathan and Tapas Modak.

Sethu C.A., Senior Research Assistant presented a paper titled "Insights and Limitations in Understanding Change through Official Land Records in India: A case study of Palakurichi village, Tamil Nadu". His paper looked at changes in land ownership in Palakurichi, a village studied by the Foundation in 2019. The paper has been co-authored with Tapas, Daisuke Sakata, Daizo Sugimoto, Yoshifumi Usami.

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## In-House Events

### **Self Exploitation in Indian Manufacturing: Observations from Large-Scale Sample Surveys in India**

Soham Bhattacharya, Assistant Professor at the BASE University, Bengaluru and a long time collaborator of the Foundation presented a seminar titled "Self Exploitation in Indian Manufacturing: Observations from Large-Scale Sample Surveys in India".

The seminar was based on a collaborative study which Soham did with Nelson Mandela S and S. Niyati.

The aim of their work was to provide a quantitative basis for the existing theorisations on self-exploitation.

### **Understanding and Using Power BI**

Sethu CA, Senior Research Assistant, Foundation for Agrarian Studies and Arumugham, Consultant from Free Software Movement of Karnataka presented an In-House seminar titled "Understanding and Using Power BI". Microsoft Power BI is an interactive data visualization software product developed by Microsoft with a primary focus on business intelligence.

They elaborated on various features and tools available in PowerBI. Sethu made use of the Situation Assessment Survey data of the NSO to depict some visualisations and calculations.

### **International Developments in Rice Research**

Tapas Modak, Associate Fellow at the Foundation for Agrarian Studies presented an In House seminar on International Developments in Rice Research. The seminar was based on observations from his visit to Manila as a delegate to International Rice Congress, 2023.

He discussed about several themes that were discussed in the Congress which included – Opportunities and challenges in rice cultivation for Asia and Africa, Scaling Direct Seeded Rice (DSR), Development of high quality rice industry, the development of “Super Rice” which produces 30% higher yield, IRRI’s identification of the genes responsible for low and ultra-low glycemic index (GI) in rice, Transformation of Rice Value Chain for Sustainable Development of the Mekong Delta, and Sustainable Rice Production.

The discussion in the seminar also shed light on Tapas’s experience during his visit to some centres which included the International Rice Gene Bank, Grain Quality and Nutrition Center, Plant Growth Facility, and the Long term continuous cropping experiment (LTCCE).

### Stay tuned with us!

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