

QUARTERLY BULLETIN

JANUARY –
MARCH 2026

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

The first quarter of 2026 began with renewed energy and a clear focus on advancing the Foundation's research agenda, strengthening collaborations, and setting the tone for the year through key academic engagements and field activities.

As part of the CGIAR–SPIA-funded research project on agricultural innovation in North India, we organised a one-day consultation in collaboration with Monash University, Australia. The consultation brought together senior scholars, scientists, and administrators from institutions working on related issues and provided valuable feedback on methodology, data sources, and approaches to assessing the scale of adoption of different CGIAR-related innovations in India. These inputs will support the project team in preparing a shortlist of innovations for the subsequent stages of the study.

We conducted a one-day workshop in Bengaluru to review the village studies methodology developed and employed under the Project on Agrarian Relations in India.

The quarter concluded with a webinar titled “UN International Year of the Woman Farmer: Some Perspectives from Village Studies in India.” The webinar marked the culmination of a social media campaign designed by the Foundation to underline women's contributions in sustaining rural economies in India. The campaign included a visual series depicting different dimensions of women's work in rural India.

Through these activities, the Foundation continues to strengthen its research work while building meaningful academic linkages across institutions and regions. We look forward to the months ahead, with fieldwork and events planned through the year, as we continue to build momentum in our research and outreach efforts.

Sandipan Baksi
Director, Foundation for Agrarian Studies



RESEARCH

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 finalising a policy paper on the evolution of digital agriculture policies in India, and has published a blog article as part of its ongoing work on the theme. The blog highlights the lack of digital infrastructure, and digital literacy – a critical prerequisite for the adoption of digital technologies in agricultural production – in the Indian countryside.

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Oral History Project on Agricultural Scientists in India: 1950–1990

The Foundation, in collaboration with the Archives at NCBS, is undertaking an Oral History Project to document and critically assess the contributions of Indian agricultural scientists to agricultural science, food production, and development practice. The research team is currently conducting new interviews and continuing the processing of earlier interviews.

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RESEARCH



The Dynamics of Agricultural Innovation in India

The Foundation, in collaboration with Monash University and ICAR–National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGR), is undertaking two CGIAR–SPIA–funded projects on agricultural innovation in North India and South India.

During this period, the research team undertook a field visit to monitor the implementation of a mini-pilot survey in Bihar, and visited various agricultural universities and institutions in Odisha. The team also organised a one-day consultation at the National Agricultural Science Complex (NASC), New Delhi, to discuss the comprehensive long-list of CGIAR-related innovations in North India since the 2000s with key stakeholders. The consultation led to a number of follow-up engagements with various experts.

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As part of these projects, a number of field visits were also undertaken during this period.



Bihar

On January 12, 2026, the research team undertook a field visit to Rajgir, Bihar. The visit aimed to monitor the implementation of a mini-pilot survey in the state.

On January 13, 2026, the FAS team also visited the office of the Director of Agriculture at Krishi Bhawan, Patna, Bihar, to collect relevant administrative data related to the project.

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RESEARCH



Delhi

During 25–27 March 2026, a three-member research team from the Foundation for Agrarian Studies and ICAR–NBPGR visited ICAR–NBPGR, New Delhi, and the ICAR–Indian Institute of Maize Research (IIMR) to document crop improvement innovations and understand varietal development processes in India.

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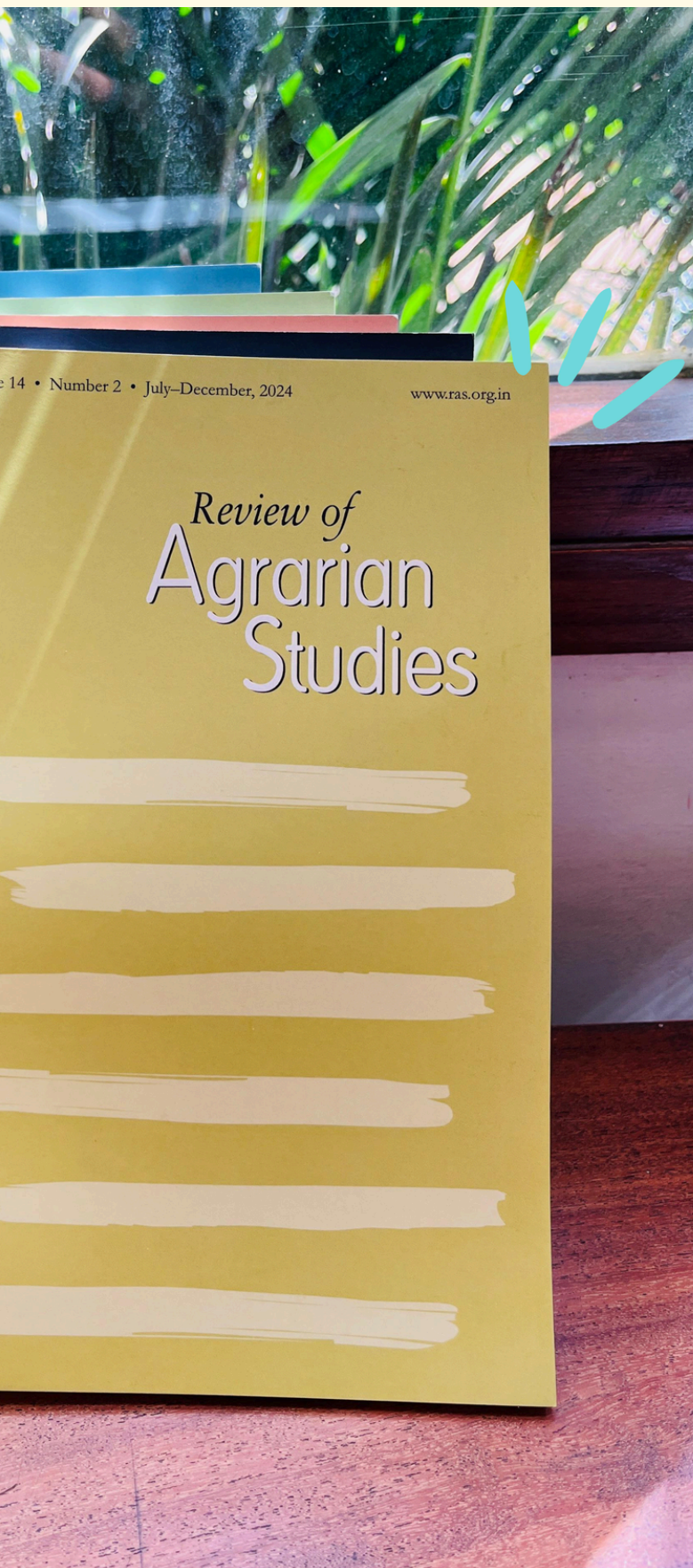


Odisha

The research team visited Bhubaneswar and Cuttack during March 16–18, 2026. The visit included meetings with key government departments, ICAR institutes, state agricultural universities, and CGIAR centres. The visit aimed to meet with senior scientists and scholars, gather their valuable insights, and collect relevant documents on CGIAR-related innovations in the state of Odisha.

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PUBLICATIONS



Examining the Ground for Adoption of Digital Technologies in Agricultural Production in India

Sai Chandan Kotu, Senior Research Assistant, FAS; Sandipan Baksi, Director, FAS; Tapas Singh Modak, Joint Director, FAS; and Nagesh Maurya, Research Assistant, FAS, published a blog on the FAS website.

The blog examines the conditions required for the adoption of digital technologies in agricultural production in rural India, focusing on access to the internet, smartphones, and digital literacy. It highlights major gaps in infrastructure and skills, especially among women and disadvantaged groups, limiting the effective use of digital tools.

[READ THE BLOG HERE.](#)

SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGN

#TheYearoftheWomanFarmer

In the context of the UN's declaration of 2026 as the International Year Of The Woman Farmer, the social media team of FAS designed a campaign to look at the crucial role women play in agriculture.

It is built on the research by the organisation on women's contribution to agrarian societies and includes a visual series drawn from FAS archives depicting women's work

[CHECK OUT THE VISUAL SERIES HERE.](#)

Hands at Work: Women's Agricultural Labour

Drawn from the FAS archives, this collection centres women's agricultural labour across farming activities, shown through close views of their hands at work.



On the right:
A woman
transplanting
rice seedlings
in a paddy
field, Tripura,
2016.

Across Ages: Women's Labour

Drawn from the FAS archives, this collection shows women at different stages of life engaged in work in rural India.



Carrying from
the fields:
From girlhood
to old age,
women carry
mud, fodder,
and harvests
from the fields.

Cooking as a Chore: Women's Labour

Drawn from the FAS archives, this collection shows women at different stages preparing food for their families in the rural countryside. It draws attention to the labour involved, and the double burden women shoulder alongside their participation in the workforce — unpaid and invisibilised.



Work Space:
Kitchen area of a
village household
in Nayanagar,
Bihar (2013), with
a traditional
wood-fired
earthen chulha
and everyday
utensils, the
primary space
where women
undertake the
labour of food
preparation in
rural homes.

Collective Lives: Women in Rural India

Drawn from the FAS archives, this series shows women in collective action — engaged in agricultural work, participating in social gatherings, and taking part in everyday rural life.



Tripura, 2016:
Women returning
home after a day of
work, carrying soil
from the fields.



EVENTS

One-Day Consultation on The Dynamics of Agricultural Innovation in North India

The Foundation for Agrarian Studies (FAS), in collaboration with Monash University, Australia, and ICAR–NBPGR, organised a one-day consultation on January 23, 2026, at the National Agricultural Science Complex (NASC), New Delhi, as part of the CGIAR–SPIA-funded project “The Dynamics of Agricultural Innovation in North India.”

The consultation brought together scientists and administrators from ICAR institutes, State Agricultural Universities, and CGIAR centres, and provided valuable feedback and methodological inputs to support the shortlisting of innovations for the next phase of the study.

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UN International Year of the Woman Farmer: Some Perspectives from Village Studies in India

The Foundation for Agrarian Studies conducted a webinar titled “UN International Year of the Woman Farmer: Some Perspectives from Village Studies in India” on March 26, 2026, in the context of the United Nations declaring 2026 as the International Year of the Woman Farmer.

The webinar was led by Professor Madhura Swaminathan, Trustee, Foundation for Agrarian Studies, and was chaired by Dr. Divya Pradeep, Associate Professor, Department of Economics, CHRIST (Deemed to be University).

[ACCESS THE WEBINAR HERE.](#)

FAS invites you to a webinar on

UN International Year of the Woman Farmer:
Some Perspectives from Village Studies in India

Presentation by
Madhura Swaminathan
 Trustee, Foundation for Agrarian Studies, and former Professor and Head, Economic Analysis Unit, Indian Statistical Institute

Chaired by
Divya Pradeep
 Associate Professor, Department of Economics, CHRIST (Deemed to be University)

Join us at 4 pm IST on Thursday, March 26 2026
 Register here:
https://us06web.zoom.us/join/register/WN_-4xPACj-SEauMfNWqVksSg#/registration



Dr. Monica Biradavolu

Dr. Monica Biradavolu, CGIAR–Standing Panel on Impact Assessment (SPIA) Member and CEO and founder of QualAnalytics, visited the Foundation’s office on January 13, 2026.

During the visit, she discussed the various aspects of the ongoing research projects, “The Dynamics of Agricultural Innovation in North India” and “The Dynamics of Agricultural Innovation in South India,” with Professor Madhura Swaminathan and Dr. Sandipan Baksi.

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Professor Prabhu Pingali

Dr. Prabhu Pingali, Professor of Applied Economics and Director of the Tata–Cornell Institute for Agriculture and Nutrition, Cornell University, visited the Foundation’s office on March 2, 2026.

[KNOW MORE.](#)

Priti David

Priti David, Executive Editor, People’s Archive of Rural India (PARI), visited the Foundation’s office on March 27, 2026. During the visit, she was introduced to the Foundation’s work, including its research, publications, and events. It gave an opportunity to discuss the possible role of media in shaping a realistic picture of the Indian countryside.

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Dr. Manoj Patel

Dr. Manoj Patel, Research Associate at ICAR–National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NPGR), New Delhi, visited the FAS office during the second week of April 2026, as part of the CGIAR–SPIA–funded projects on agricultural innovation in North India and South India.

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