



*Foundation for*  
**Agrarian  
Studies**



**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**2012 - 2013**

# F FOUNDATION FOR A AGRARIAN S STUDIES



The *Foundation for Agrarian Studies (FAS)* is a charitable trust based in Bangalore, India and established in 2003.

The major objectives of FAS are to facilitate and sponsor multi-disciplinary theoretical and empirical enquiries in the field of agrarian studies in India and other less-developed countries.

FAS works in association with a wide section of people interested in the agrarian question, including academics institutions, social and political activists, members of mass organisations working in the countryside, and other professionals and scholars.

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A woman wearing a red sari and a white headscarf with a floral pattern is holding a large, flat, woven basket. She is looking down at the basket with a focused expression. The background is a plain, light color.

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# P ROJECTS

- I. Project on Agrarian Relations in India (PARI)
- II. FAS-UNICEF Partnership Project
- III. TISS-ACTIONAID Project







# BIHAR ROUND

## Katkuian, West Champaran District

**Katkuian** is located in the north-west alluvial Gangetic region in the West Champaran district. The nearest twin is Bagaha, situated at a distance of 12 km from the village.

According to 2001 census data, the total net sown area of the village is 334 hectares, of which 98 per cent is irrigated. The major sources of surface irrigation are the Tribeni canal and its tributary Samarkund canal

*Surveys by the Foundation thus cover migrant workers from Katkuian both at their native village and destination village (Tehang in Punjab), and together constitute a unique data set on the dynamics of internal migration in India.*

The survey was a census of households, and covered 358 households. The major landowning castes in the village is Yadav (Ahir), Kushwaha and Kurmi. The Dalits in this village are mostly landless, and work at agricultural and non-agricultural labour. A significant proportion of the population (18 per cent) of the village is Muslim.

(these are part of the Gandak irrigation project) and the Harha, a seasonal stream and tributary of the Gandak river. The main sources of groundwater irrigation are borewells.

The main crops cultivated in Katkuian are sugarcane, paddy, wheat and pulses. A large



proportion of the sugarcane produced in the village is sold as raw material to the Nagaha sugar factory, which is situated close to the town. Migration plays a significant role in the household economy of Katkuian. The workers migrate to various places in India to labour at agricultural and non-agricultural tasks. Historically, an important destination for the migrant workers from Katkuian has

been Tehang, a village in Jalandhar district in Punjab, which was surveyed in 2011 as part of PARI. These two surveys thus cover migrant workers from Katkuian both at their native village (Katkuian) and destination village (Tehang), and together constitute a unique data set on the dynamics of internal migration.





# BIHAR ROUND

## Nayanagar, Samastipur District

Nayanagar is located in the north-west alluvial Gangetic region in Samastipur district. The nearest town is Rosera, situated at a distance of 6 km from the village.

are more upwardly mobile than any other caste group. Many Bhumihar households in the village have at least one member of their family employed in either the government sector or in private companies at middle and

**Horticulture, particularly the production of litchi and mango, is the most significant contributor to the village economy of Nayanagar.**

After a house-listing survey that covered 1205 households, we conducted an intensive socio-economic survey of 352 sample households in the village.

higher positions. The Dalits from this village are landless and perform the bulk of the labour in agricultural and non-agricultural operations.

The major landowning caste in the village is Bhumihar. The Bhumihars from the village

The primary source of irrigation in this village is groundwater, lifted through diesel-



driven borewells. The region is prone to flooding, due to which a significant proportion of land in this village cannot be cultivated during the kharif season. Paddy is cultivated on the remaining land. Maize is the primary rabi crop.

Nayanagar falls within the litchi-growing belt of India. Horticulture, particularly the

production of litchi and mango, is the most significant contributor to the village economy of Nayanagar.

Litchis of outstanding quality are produced in the village on a large scale, and are sent by refrigerated vehicles for sale to Muzzafarpur litchi market, and, beginning from 2012, directly to Mumbai.



# FAS-UNICEF

## PARTNERSHIP PROJECT



### FAS-UNICEF Partnership Project on Child Well Being, Schooling and Living Standards

The FAS-UNICEF collaboration began in late 2010, continued through 2011 and ended in December 2012.

Based on primary village-level data, a series of reports were prepared dealing with aspects of deprivation and living standards among women and children. In the current year, reports were prepared and submitted for three villages in Rajasthan, two villages in Madhya Pradesh, and two villages in Karnataka. A final Overview report was also submitted.



### List of Reports Prepared

#### 2011

*Child Well Being, Schooling and Living Standards: Report on Three Villages of Andhra Pradesh,*  
[http://www.fas.org.in/UserFiles/File/Andhra\\_Report.pdf](http://www.fas.org.in/UserFiles/File/Andhra_Report.pdf)

*Child Well Being, Schooling and Living Standards: Report on Two Villages of Uttar Pradesh,*  
[http://www.fas.org.in/UserFiles/File/UP\\_Report.pdf](http://www.fas.org.in/UserFiles/File/UP_Report.pdf)

*Child Well Being, Schooling and Living Standards: Report on Two Villages of Maharashtra,*  
[http://www.fas.org.in/UserFiles/File/Maharashtra\\_Report.pdf](http://www.fas.org.in/UserFiles/File/Maharashtra_Report.pdf)



## 2012

*Child Well Being, Schooling and Living Standards: Report on Three Villages of Rajasthan,*  
[http://www.fas.org.in/UserFiles/File/Rajasthan\\_Report.pdf](http://www.fas.org.in/UserFiles/File/Rajasthan_Report.pdf)

*Child Well Being, Schooling and Living Standards: Report on Two Villages of Madhya Pradesh,*  
[http://www.fas.org.in/UserFiles/File/MP\\_Report.pdf](http://www.fas.org.in/UserFiles/File/MP_Report.pdf)

*Child Well Being, Schooling and Living Standards: Report on Two Villages of Karnataka,*  
[http://www.fas.org.in/UserFiles/File/Karnataka\\_Report.pdf](http://www.fas.org.in/UserFiles/File/Karnataka_Report.pdf)

*Child Well Being, Schooling and Living Standards: An Overview of 14 Villages Across Six States of India*  
[http://www.fas.org.in/UserFiles/File/Overview\\_Report.pdf](http://www.fas.org.in/UserFiles/File/Overview_Report.pdf)

We have outlined a few of the conclusions from the Overview Report prepared by Venkatesh Athreya and Madhura Swaminathan.

This overview is based on 14 village reports and 6 State reports prepared as part of the FAS-UNICEF collaborative project on Child Well Being, Schooling and Living Standards. This fourteen-village data base is drawn from the Project on Agrarian Relations in India (PARI) of the Foundation or Agrarian Studies ([www.fas.org.in/pages.asp?menuid=16](http://www.fas.org.in/pages.asp?menuid=16)). The villages belong to the states of Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka. Detailed surveys were conducted in each village, between 2006 and 2010.

In these Reports, we have provided cross-sectional and micro-level data on the status of children in villages from a variety of agro-ecological settings. The unique FAS-PARI database of village data, from 14 villages across six States was used to examine and discuss various types of deprivation



among children, and the factors associated with such deprivations. Specifically, an attempt was made to link deprivations among children in respect of schooling and access to basic amenities, to social and economic characteristics of households and to the particularity of the agro-ecological and socio-economic structure of each village.

Each report covers the following features of the survey villages:

- Demographic features including age, sex and caste composition of households, sex ratio and family size;
- The pattern of schooling and educational attainment among children of different

social and economic groups;

- Literacy and educational achievements of the adult population in households with children;
- The incidence of child labour and household level variations in the same;
- Deprivations suffered by children on account of the lack of basic civic amenities within a household, including access to safe water, electricity, toilets and quality housing; and
- Women's work participation rates, and features of female-headed households.

In what follows, we shall bring together some of the important findings from the surveys. Some supporting Tables are provided in the Annexure.

### Demography

Both the overall and the juvenile sex ratios are highly masculine in most villages. It is only in Ananthavaram and Kothapalle in Andhra Pradesh, Rewasi in Rajasthan, Siresandra in Karnataka and Badhar in Madhya Pradesh that the number of females exceeds that of males. Of these, Badhar is a tribal village in Madhya Pradesh. Rewasi in Sikar district of Rajasthan is characterised by significant emigration of males for reasons of employment.

### Working Children

The proportion of persons below 18 years of age engaged in work exceeds 10 per cent in all the villages. The two tribal villages of Dungariya and Badhar have the highest proportions of working children: over 40 per cent of boys and girls in Dungariya were reported to be workers.

In six villages, the proportion of girls at work is higher than that of boys. In Rewasi (Rajasthan) and Gharsondi (Madhya Pradesh), with substantial peasant agriculture, the proportion of boys engaged in work exceeds that of girls by a substantial margin. One must, however, keep in mind that the work done by girls in household chores and care functions is not captured by these statistics.

### School Attendance

In no village did we find all children below the age of 18 attending an educational institution. Universal school attendance between the age group 6 to 14 years occurred in only one village, Siresandra in Kolar district of Karnataka (2009).

The highest proportion of children not attending school was in the tribal village of Dungariya in Rajasthan, followed by the landlord-dominated canal-irrigated village of Ananthavaram in Guntur district. The proportion of girls out of school exceeds that of boys by a good margin in all the villages except the tribal village of Badhar in Madhya Pradesh. The proportion of Scheduled Caste children out of school generally exceeds that of all children, though this is not always the case.

The proportion of girls attending school dropped sharply at age 15 and above. To illustrate, in Rewasi village of Sikar district, in 2010, over 85 per cent of girls aged 6-14 attended school, but the proportion dropped to 64 per cent at ages 15-16, and further to 54 per cent at ages 17-18.

Children with major disabilities, physical or mental, are invariably out of school. Often their siblings are also unable to attend because of additional household duties.

Although an Anganwadi centre was present in

*The two tribal villages of Dungariya and Badhar have the highest proportions of working children: over 40 per cent of boys and girls in Dungariya were reported to be workers.*

almost all the villages we surveyed, for a variety of reasons, not many children are found to be enrolled in them. The highest number of children attending an Anganwadi was found in Zhapur village in Gulbarga district. But even here, most of the children aged 3 to 6 and the younger children did not attend an Anganwadi. Further, in Zhapur, as many children attended a private “nursery” as did attend the Anganwadi. In Gulabewala village, only Scheduled Caste children attended the anganwadi.

### Literacy Rates

Literacy rates are generally low in all the villages. Further, the gender differential is very large in all the villages. The difference exceeds ten percentage points in all the villages.

Female literacy among the adult (18+) population is deplorable. In eight of the 14 villages, female literacy was 30 per cent or less. In the two tribal villages of Dungariya and Badhar, female literacy

was less than 10 per cent. Male literacy rates too were not high except in the two villages of Maharashtra.

### Years of Schooling

The extent of educational deprivation in the rural population surveyed by the FAS is most dramatically brought out by the evidence on median and mean years of schooling in the population aged 16 years and above. In ten out of the fourteen villages, half or more of the female

adult female. In the two tribal villages of Dungariya and Badhar, more than 90 per cent of households with children did not have a literate adult female and 70 per cent did not have a literate adult male.

### Amenities

We examine the availability of basic amenities specifically among households with children.

The condition of housing was highly unsatisfactory in most villages. We used the Census definition of

**In eight out of 14 villages, half or more of the households with children did not have a literate adult female.**

population aged 16 years or older had not completed even one year of formal school. This is the case for tribal females in all the seven villages where they are present in the population. This is also the case for Scheduled Caste females in all villages except Nimshirgaon (in western Maharashtra). In Nimshirgaon, the median years of schooling among Scheduled Caste women was two years.

### Literate home environment

Using our household level data, we have been able to separate households with children and then identify the presence of a literate adult male or female in such households. By this indicator, we are able to learn more about the home environment.

In eight out of 14 villages, half or more of the households with children did not have a literate

pucca shelter as one having both roof and walls made of pucca or permanent materials. Among families with children, the proportion living in non-pucca houses was more than 30 per cent in nine villages. The only two villages with better housing were Zhapur in Gulbarga district of Karnataka, where stone from local quarries is used, and Rewasi in Sikar district of Rajasthan.

Crowding is another serious problem that is important for all members of a family, but particularly for children. We calculated the proportion of households with children living in single-room houses and found that the proportion exceeded one-third in four of the 14 villages, one-fifth in another four, one-tenth in four others and fell barely below one-tenth in only two villages. In the seven villages where Scheduled Tribes are present, the proportion of families living in single-

room houses is higher for the Scheduled Tribes than others in six villages. The exception was the tribal village of Badhar in Madhya Pradesh. The same is the case for Scheduled Castes in the thirteen villages

well as in Zhapur village of Gulbarga, there were no toilets in any of the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe households.



where they are present, except for Mahatwar in Uttar Pradesh and Gharsondi in Madhya Pradesh. Mahatwar it may be noted is a Dalit-majority village.

Despite being selected twice for the Ambedkar Gram Vikas Yojana by the Government of Uttar Pradesh, three-fifths of households with children had no lavatory.

The situation with respect to the absence of access to a toilet is abysmal. With the exception of the richest households in each village, the majority of households in the villages surveyed resorted to open defecation. In the two tribal villages of Badhar (Madhya Pradesh) and Dungariya (Rajasthan) as

### Status of Women

In addition to the educational deprivation of females, both in absolute terms and in relation to the position of males, there are some other aspects of the status of women on which the FAS surveys throw light.

As is usually the case, the workforce participation rate (WPR) of adult males is substantially higher than that for adult females in all the villages. The female WPR (FWPR) is the highest among Scheduled Tribes. In the two tribal villages of Dungariya and Badhar, the FWPR is 97 per cent and 87 per cent respectively. The important point is that such high levels of FWPR in themselves do not imply female well being or 'empowerment'. In fact,

in all aspects of well being, the tribal women of Dungariya and Badhar are worse off than their counterparts in other villages with lower levels of workforce participation.

The most frequently reported activities of females in the workforce are cultivation and wage labour in agriculture. The involvement of females in work outside of agriculture remains quite modest. It is only in the tribal villages of Dungariya and Badhar that females are engaged in 'outside agriculture' to a considerable extent, but that was because wage labourers engaged mostly in collection of minor forest produce.

Finally, in relation to the situation of women, the proportion of female-headed households is less than

women. Sometimes, they are in single person households. The default option for head of household in the villages surveyed by FAS seems to be the male. It is only when the male spouse is either dead or not a resident of the household that a female is regarded as the head. It does not seem particularly fruitful to use the gender of the head of household as an indicator of exceptional deprivation or, at the other end, of female empowerment.

#### **Asset Inequality**

A point that needs to be highlighted and that emerges from the evidence of the FAS villages surveys is that the asset status of a household is a key factor in determining the degree of deprivation that children, women and men of the household experience. Whether it is the incidence of child

**The asset ownership status of a household is a key factor in determining the degree of deprivation that children, women and men of the household experience.**

one-tenth in 8 of the 14 villages and around one-tenth in three others. It is around one-seventh in Ananthavaram and Zhapur and one-sixth in Rewasi, a village with significant out-migration of males, both domestic and international. The important point about female-headed households is that they do not signify women's empowerment but rather the absence of an adult male to head the household. A good proportion of female headed households are headed by widows.

Generally, females heading households are elderly

work, the rate of literacy, the proportion of children out of school, the mean and median years of schooling, the absence of literate adults in households with children, or access to basic amenities, in all these instances, there is a clear correlation between the asset status of a household and the situation of its members with respect to these variables.

#### **Policy Implications**

The renewed effort to address child deprivation has to target about 90 per cent of the population. Thus,

there is a very strong case for child-related policies (in education, in health, in social mobilization for sanitation, etc.) to be universal in nature. Social policy for rural children needs to be designed in such a way as to ensure the inclusion of the lowest 90 per cent and not focus on exclusion of the wealthiest 10 per cent. The latter always have an option of self-selection.

Concurrently, it is clear that households in Q1 to Q3, that is, the bottom 60 per cent of the asset distribution, face acute deprivation, and therefore policy interventions must also be designed to ensure special attention to children from these groups. As we have shown, the lower quintiles have an over-representation of persons from the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Muslims.

At the same time, special attention has to be paid to girls. The child sex ratio, an indicator of relative well being of boys and girls, is unfavourable for girls in most of the villages (and we know this is so for large parts of the country as well).

In public policy, often the focus on women is implemented by identifying and targeting special programmes at female-headed households. We argue that “female headship” is a very blunt and unsatisfactory policy instrument. Our analysis showed that female headed households are a residual category. In all the villages, they generally comprised of households headed by widows, often elderly. While there may be pensions for widows or for elderly persons, it is clear that for child welfare

related policies, female-headed households are far from the appropriate or ideal focus of attention.

The provision of Anganwadi facilities is far from universal. Even where they exist, it does not follow that the personnel required to operate these centres



are in place. It is also observed that, even where they have been set up, for a variety of reasons, not many children are found to be enrolled in them.

Sadly, child labour persists in all the villages we surveyed. Child labour will not wither away merely with the passage of time. While the expansion of schooling is clearly the first step in ending child labour, unless made compulsory, provision of better schooling may not be sufficient to end child labour. With the exception of Siresandra in Kolar district of Karnataka, we did not observe 100 per cent school attendance among children aged 6 to 14 in any of the villages. The child labour problem has to be addressed from many fronts. Provision of financial

support to labouring households - a substantial proportion of which are Scheduled Caste households – to enable them to send children to school instead of work should also be given urgent consideration.

Our studies have highlighted the deplorable condition of housing and related amenities for the large majority of rural households. While the pucca or kuccha nature of houses is often discussed, the issue of crowding and space finds less attention in the policy discussion around children and their well being. How can a child study if she has to share the study space with all the other members of the family, the kitchen and sometimes the cow? Although well known, it is worth reiterating that access to clean drinking water and to proper sanitary toilets is essential for our children. Provision of water and toilets in schools is one step

in the right direction but much more has to be done at the household level.

Lastly, it is striking, in the context of the rhetoric of ‘inclusive growth’, how miserable and deprived rural Scheduled Tribe households continue to be. Given the population structure of tribal villages, their remoteness, the nature of income and occupations, suitable policies for tribal villages have to be designed. The two tribal villages we studied had pathetic social infrastructure. Not surprisingly, on almost all our indicators, the majority of the population of these two villages suffered deprivations. Special and immediate attention is imperative in respect of tribal villages like Dungariya, ensuring land rights, decent employment and provision of basic infrastructure for health and education.



# TISS-ACTIONAID PROJECT

## TISS-ACTIONAID Project on Land and Livelihood Strategies in Rural Karnataka: A Study Based on Intensive Household Surveys in Three Villages

The state of Karnataka, according to some scholars, has provided a new model of development, termed the Bangalore model, a path of development characterised by great dynamism in the services sector. At the same time, it is clear that the rural economy of Karnataka has not kept pace with the urban economy and that intra-State and inter-sector inequalities persist. In this context, we require more detailed study of the rural economy and, in particular, of the nature of livelihoods for households resident in rural areas.

A study of livelihood strategies in an agrarian society must start with an analysis of pattern of ownership of land and other means of production. Land relations – including the pattern of ownership of land across classes and castes and the nature of tenancy – have a fundamental bearing on the nature of livelihood strategies that different classes of households are able to access. Not only do these determine the position of different classes and sections of the village society in the system of agricultural production, they also influence their access to non-agricultural means of livelihood.

This project is being undertaken in collaboration with the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai (with funding from Action Aid India). The Principal Investigator at TISS is Professor T. Jayaraman, Professor of Science Policy and Chair, Centre for Climate Change and Sustainability Studies.

The Project will focus on three villages of Karnataka, one village from each of the following three agro-ecological regions:

- a. Alabujanahalli is in Maddur taluk, Mandya district drawn from the Canal-irrigated sugarcane/paddy growing region in southern Karnataka
- b. Siresandra is in Kolar taluk, Kolar district drawn from the Semi-dry rainfed region in southeastern Karnataka with cultivation of ragi on rainfed land and vegetables on tubewell-irrigated land.
- c. Zhapur is in Gulbarga taluk, Gulbarga district drawn from the Dry rainfed region of north Karnataka with cultivation of rainfed cereals and oil seeds.



# INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION

FAS is preparing for a collaborative research project with Professor Kaneko Jihei, Graduate School of Agricultural Science, Kobe University. Professor Kaneko is an expert on farm income accounting in Japan. This collaborative study is of the cost of cultivation of crops in rural India. The study will use data on costs of cultivation from the PARI database.

### **FAS China collaboration**

The Foundation for Agrarian Studies has initiated a collaboration with the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. The FAS China collaboration is an attempt to understand the recent developments in the agrarian situation and rural development of two countries.

### **India visit by Chinese scholars**

At the invitation of Foundation for Agrarian Studies, a group of eight Chinese scholars visited India from December 7 – 17, 2012. The visiting scholars were,

1. Enfu Cheng, Professor and President of Academy of Marxism, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences
2. Chongfu Li, Research Fellow at Chinese Academy of Social Sciences
3. Ke Chao, Research Fellow and Deputy Director of Bureau of Scientific Research Management, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences
4. Lili Wei, Research Fellow and Director of Office of Marxism Research Division, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences
5. Wenhua Xu, Director of Department of Human Resources of the Academy of Marxism, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences
6. Yanyang Wang, Assistant Researcher at Academy of Marxism, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences
7. Wen Zhou, Professor and Director of Division of Research Administration, Yunnan University of Finance and Economics



8. Xiaoqin Ding, Research Fellow and Director of Center for Economic Consultancy and Research of Shanghai School, Shanghai University of Finance and Economics

The group visited Delhi, Kerala and Mumbai. In Delhi, the scholars met political leaders of the CPI(M) and participated in an interactive session at AKG Bhavan. They visited a village in Mathura, Uttar Pradesh, for a firsthand experience of a relatively backward Indian village.

In Kerala, the scholars visited Karakulam panchayat in Thiruvananthapuram district and were apprised of the three tier local governance structure in India. They visited some production units of Kudumbashree to understand existing forms of cooperation in India, and a rubber plantation in the highlands of Kattakada. The group met members of the Kerala State Secretariat.

A seminar was organized on December 12, 2012 at the EMS Academy in Thiruvananthapuram. From the Indian side, Professor Venkatesh Athreya spoke on Indian Economy and Economic Crisis: A Marxist Perspective and Professor V. K. Ramachandran spoke on Agrarian Situation in India: A Marxist Perspective. Professor Enfu Cheng presented a paper on Seven Currents of Social Thoughts and their Development in Contemporary China with a Focus on Innovative Marxism.

At Mumbai, the Chinese scholars were hosted by the Tata Institute of Social Sciences. Professor Enfu Cheng delivered a lecture on Building a New Socialist Countryside in China in the Institute on December 14, 2013. The group also visited the Mankhurd urban migrant dwelling area to understand the problems of migrant workers in India. Rural to urban migration and conditions of living and employment remains an important development issue in both the countries.

# VISITORS

## International

Kaneko Jihei , Kyoto University

Jun-ichi Okabe, Yokohama University

Yoshifumi Usami, Tokyo University

Tapio Tamminen, Helsinki

## India

Vinod Koshti, Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung, Delhi

Ajay Parida, M. S. Swaminathan Research Foundation Chennai

Kezevino Aram, Shanthi Ashram, Coimbatore

R. K. Mall, Banaras Hindu University

Sudhanva Deshpande, LeftWord Books

Vijoo Krishnan, Kisan Sabha

Jayan Jose Thomas, Indian Institute of Technology Delhi

## Student Interns

Jack Norton, Rutgers University, USA

Zoe Huczok, University of Oxford, UK

Jharana Seth, University of Oxford, UK

# PUBLICATIONS & JOURNALS

## Scholarly Articles

Research papers, reports and newspaper articles based on the work of the Foundation are available on its websites ([www.fas.org.in](http://www.fas.org.in) and [www.agrarianstudies.org](http://www.agrarianstudies.org)).

## Journal: Review of Agrarian Studies

The Review of Agrarian Studies is the peer-reviewed journal of the Foundation for Agrarian Studies ([www.ras.org.in](http://www.ras.org.in)). The journal invites articles on agrarian studies – on the forces and relations of production in agriculture and in rural areas, on living standards, and on different aspects of social formations in the countryside. The Review carries theoretical and empirical articles on social, economic, historical, political and scientific and technological aspects of agriculture and rural societies.

The print edition of the Review is published jointly by the Foundation for Agrarian Studies and Tulika Books, one of India's most important publishers of books in the social sciences. The journal is rendered online, and the print edition typeset, by TNQ Books and Journals ([www.tnq.co.in](http://www.tnq.co.in)), one of India's leading providers of scholarly publishing services worldwide. We are grateful to the Indian Council of Social Science Research for a publication grant for the journal.

During 2012-13, two issues of the journal were published online and in print.

**Contents of Volume 2, Issue No. 1****Research Articles**

Alicia Puyana Mexican Agriculture and NAFTA: A 20-Year Balance Sheet

C.P. Chandrasekhar and Jayati Ghosh Addressing the Global Food Crisis: Causes Implications, and Policy Options

Jun-ichi Okabe and V. Surjit Village-Level Birth Records: A Case Study

Norman Chitonge and Lungisile Ntsebeza Land Reform and Rural Livelihood in South Africa: Does Access to Land Matter?

Kaye Lushington The Registration of Plant Varieties by Farmers in India: A Status Report

**SPECIAL ESSAY**

Enfu Cheng and Xiaoqin Ding/Translated by Chengyi Peng Building China's New Countryside: Multiple Modes of Collective and Cooperative Economy

**Research Notes and Statistics**

Pallavi Chavan Debt of Rural Households in India: A Note on the All-India Debt and Investment Survey

Yuri Emelianov A Note on Agriculture in Russia Today

Yoshifumi Usami Recent Trends in Wage Rates in Rural India: An Update

**Field Reports**

Madhura Swaminathan Who Has Access to Formal Credit in Rural India? Evidence from Four Villages

**Book Reviews**

John Harriss The Social Significance of Villages

D. Narasimha Reddy Studying Village Society in India

Judith Heyer Poverty and Seasonality in Africa, India and China

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Iravatham Mahadevan Agricultural Signs in the Indus Script

Pallavi Chavan The Access of Dalit Borrower's in India's Rural Areas to Branch Credit

John Harriss, J. Jeyaranjan, and K. Nagaraj Rural Urbanism in Tamil Nadu

Notes on a "Slater Village": Gangaikondan, 1916-2012

**REVIEW ARTICLES**

Sanjay G. Reddy Randomise This! On Poor Economics

**Research Notes and Statistics**

Yoshifumi Usami and Vikas Rawal Some Aspects of the Implementation of India's Employment Guarantee

Niladri Sekhar Dhar On Days of Employment of Rural Labour Households

**Field Reports**

M.V. Bhaskar, Madhu Viswanathan, A. Sarangaranjan, and William Stanley Adivasi Songs from Odisha

R. Ramakumar and Tushar Kamble Land Conflicts and Attacks on Dalits: A Case Study from a Village in Marathwada, India

**Book Reviews**

Madhura Swaminathan Food Policy and Public Action in Brazil

V. Sridhar Globalisation and the Determinants of Food Security

# PERSONNEL

FAS and the Review of Agrarian Studies draw on the voluntary services of academics across India. They include:

**Abhijit Sen**, Professor Jawaharlal Nehru University and Member, Planning Commission

**S. Mahendra Dev**, Vice Chancellor, Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research

**Venkatesh Athreya**, Professor (retd.), Bharathidasan University

**C. P. Chandrasekhar**, Professor, Jawaharlal Nehru University

**K. Nagaraj**, Professor, Madras Institute of Development Studies and Asian College of Journalism

**Indira Chandrasekhar**, Tulika Books

**V. K. Ramachandran**, Professor, Indian Statistical Institute

**Madhura Swaminathan**, Professor, Indian Statistical Institute

**T. Jayaraman**, Tata Institute of Social Sciences

**Vikas Rawal**, Associate Professor, Jawaharlal Nehru University

**R. Ramakumar**, Associate Professor, Tata Institute of Social Sciences

**Aparajita Bakshi**, Assistant Professor, Tata Institute of Social Sciences

**Pallavi Chavan**, Reserve Bank of India



**The FAS Team in Bangalore**

Amalendu Das  
Arindam Das  
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