

QUARTERLY BULLETIN

APRIL–JUNE
2026

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

The second quarter of 2026 was marked by important steps in the Foundation's research, collaborative initiatives, and outreach activities.

The Foundation has just completed the first stage of a socio-economic survey of two villages –Yendagandi and Panduvva – in West Godavari district, Andhra Pradesh. This stage entailed the listing of 1,850 households in the two villages. The second stage, covering the sample households, is currently underway. These studies are part of the Project on Agrarian Relations in India (PARI), the village studies programme of the Foundation which is more than two decades old. These in-depth surveys collect data on key aspects of rural life, including land, agricultural production, labour, livelihoods, migration, credit, assets, and other socio-economic dimensions. These studies provide a comprehensive understanding of agrarian relations and the changing rural economy.

During this quarter, the Foundation reviewed the progress of the CGIAR–SPIA-funded research project on agricultural innovation in North India, and prepared for a consultation under the South India component of the project.

The Foundation also collaborated with the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) and the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT) in organising a five-week training programme for undergraduate students from Kerala Agricultural University (KAU).

As the year enters its second half, the Foundation hopes to continue field research under various projects, deepen its academic collaborations, and contribute to informed public and scholarly debates on agrarian change in India.

Sandipan Baksi
Director, Foundation for Agrarian Studies





RESEARCH

Digital Agriculture in India

This ongoing project at the Foundation explores the evolving ecosystem of digital technologies, stakeholders, and policies. During this quarter, the team reviewed existing literature and worked on mapping digital advisory applications and the diffusion of agricultural drone technologies.

The team also published an article in *The Hindu Business Line* on digital infrastructure, digital literacy, and access to agricultural schemes.

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A drone at the office of a drone service provider in Nalgonda, Telangana, September 2025. Photo credit: FAS Archives.



A view of the Panchayat pond at dusk in Yendagandi village, Andhra Pradesh, 2026. | Photo credit: FAS Archives.

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

The Foundation, in collaboration with the Archives at NCBS, has undertaken 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 processing 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), has undertaken two CGIAR–SPIA–funded projects on agricultural innovation in North India, and South India.

During this period, the North India project team shortlisted innovations and prepared for the pilot survey scheduled for the next quarter, as well as the main survey expected to begin in October. The South India project team finalised the draft longlist of innovations and prepared for the consultation scheduled for the first week of October.

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Socio-Economic Household Survey in Andhra Pradesh

The Foundation began the survey of two villages, Panduvva and Yendagandi, in West Godavari district, Andhra Pradesh, in June. These surveys are part of the Foundation's Project on Agrarian Relations in India. Both villages are in the Undi mandal.

The survey was preceded by a scoping visit from March 28 to April 1, 2026, during which the research team held discussions with local stakeholders to inform the design of the study. Fieldwork commenced on June 8 with an introductory training session for field investigators, followed by a listing of 1,850 households. A detailed survey of 350 sample households from both the villages is currently in progress.

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Glimpses from the socio-economic household survey in Andhra Pradesh, June–July 2026. | Photo credit: FAS Archives.



PUBLICATIONS



New Waves of Sugarcane Commercialisation: Unequal Forms of Exchange in a North Indian Village

Madhura Swaminathan, Trustee, Foundation for Agrarian Studies, and Kunal Munjal, Senior Research Fellow, Economic Analysis Unit, Indian Statistical Institute, Bengaluru, and PhD scholar, Department of Liberal Arts, Indian Institute of Technology, Hyderabad, published an article in the ***Journal of Agrarian Change***.

Drawing on two rounds of FAS village studies (2006 and 2023), along with insights from qualitative fieldwork conducted between 2022 and 2024 and secondary data, the paper looks at the recent wave of sugarcane commercialisation in western Uttar Pradesh driven by the spread of a high-yielding “wonder” variety.

It examines the resulting expansion of private sugar mills and infrastructure improvements, and their implications for the agrarian structure in the region.

[READ THE ARTICLE HERE.](#)

Book Review: Suvobrata Sarkar, *History of Science, Technology, Environment, and Medicine in India*

Sandipan Baksi, Director at the Foundation, published a book review in ***Science, Technology and Society***.

The review examines the book *History of Science, Technology, Environment, and Medicine in India*, a volume edited by Suvobrata Sarkar, in honour of Professor Deepak Kumar, a pioneer in the study of the History of Science in India under colonialism.

The reviewer concludes that “Scientific development under colonialism was a nuanced process, driven undoubtedly by the motives of colonialism. But the results of this process were far more complex than what colonial powers could have intended them to be.”

[READ THE ARTICLE HERE.](#)

PUBLICATIONS

Limitations of the Politics of Social Justice in Transforming Rural Bihar

Sandipan Baksi, Director, Foundation for Agrarian Studies, and Mrityunjay Pandey, Consultant, National Centre for Good Governance, Government of India, and a research collaborator with the Foundation, published an article in the ***Economic and Political Weekly***.

The paper discusses the dichotomy between Bihar's progressive discourse of caste-based social justice, and the state's failure to improve the material conditions and political freedoms of the majority, and examines the reasons behind this contradiction.

It argues that this dichotomy arises from the inability of the chief proponents of the politics of social justice in Bihar to tackle the agrarian question and the iniquities of the prevailing systems of land and social control.

[READ THE ARTICLE HERE.](#)

Examining the Roadblocks to Bihar's Development Trajectory

Rebecca Rose Varghese, Coordinator (Communication and Events), Foundation for Agrarian Studies, published an article in ***The Hindu***.

The article offers a clear introduction to the piece "Limitations of the Politics of Social Justice in Transforming Rural Bihar," by Sandipan Baksi, Director at the Foundation, and Mrityunjay Pandey, research collaborator with the Foundation, published in the ***Economic and Political Weekly***.

It enquires into the gap between the progressive rhetoric of social justice that has shaped the political discourse in Bihar for a long time, and its realisation in the countryside in the State.

[READ THE ARTICLE HERE.](#)

PUBLICATIONS

How Kerala Is Rewriting India's Higher Education Playbook

Sai Chandan Kotu, Senior Research Assistant, Foundation for Agrarian Studies, and Vandana Devi, an independent researcher, published an article in *The Federal*.

The article examines Kerala's higher education reforms, highlighting how the State offers an important alternative model of public-led expansion and modernisation.

[READ THE ARTICLE HERE.](#)

Digital Agriculture in India: Problems of Inclusion

Sai Chandan Kotu, Senior Research Assistant, Foundation for Agrarian Studies, Sandipan Baksi, Director, Foundation for Agrarian Studies, and Tapas Modak, Joint Director, Foundation for Agrarian Studies, published an article in *The Hindu Business Line*.

The article highlights the need to improve digital infrastructure and digital literacy among farmers to improve access to farm schemes and advance digital agriculture in rural India.

[READ THE ARTICLE HERE.](#)





Review Meeting: The Dynamics of Agricultural Innovation in North India

The research team of the Foundation for Agrarian Studies held a meeting to review the progress of its ongoing project, “The Dynamics of Agricultural Innovation in North India,” which is being undertaken in collaboration with Monash University and ICAR–National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources on May 26, 2026.

The team discussed the current work and the next phase of the study, including the upcoming survey. The meeting provided an opportunity for detailed review and feedback from experts.

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Workshop on PARI Methodology

The Foundation for Agrarian Studies (FAS) organised a one-day workshop on May 25, 2026, in Bengaluru to discuss the methodology for a multi-component research project under the Project on Agrarian Relations in India (PARI) in West Godavari District in Andhra Pradesh.

The study aims to gain a more comprehensive understanding of the economy of the region (its agricultural-economic regime) as a whole.

The workshop was attended by the FAS team, subject matter experts, and representatives from farmers’ organisations.

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Participants at the Workshop on PARI Methodology, Bengaluru, May 2026.

Photo credit: FAS Archives.

FAS TEAM AT EVENTS

FAS–IRRI–CIMMYT Collaborative Internship Programme with KAU

The Foundation for Agrarian Studies collaborated with the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) and the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT) to organise a five-week internship programme for undergraduate students from Kerala Agricultural University (KAU). The programme commenced in June 2026 and introduced students to socioeconomic research, covering research question formulation, survey design, data analysis, scientific writing, and presentation. Seven students from four KAU colleges participated in the programme.

FAS–CHRIST Collaboration Meeting

The FAS team visited the Department of Economics, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Yeshwanthpur Campus on May 15, 2026.

The purpose of the visit was to strengthen academic and research collaboration between the two institutions under the existing Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

The discussions were led by Dr. Sandipan Bakshi, Director, FAS, and Dr. Vineeth Mohandas, HoD, Department of Economics, CHRIST. Dr. Arindam Das, Joint Director, Dr. Tapas Modak, Joint Director, and Dr. Harshan T. P., Associate Research Fellow from FAS, were also part of the visiting team. This was an occasion to share research ideas and explore possibilities for future collaboration. It is hoped that these discussions will pave the way for joint initiatives between the FAS and the Department of Economics, CHRIST.



Attendees at the FAS–CHRIST Collaboration Meeting, Bengaluru, May 2026. | Photo credit: CHRIST Photo Archives.

FAS TEAM AT EVENTS



Evidence-Led Food Systems Transformation Policies in the Context of Viksit Bharat

7 April 2026 | 09:00AM – 03:30PM

Parijat Lecture Hall, Ground Floor, NASC Complex, New Delhi

Policy Dialogue on Food Systems Transformation

Madhura Swaminathan, Trustee of the Foundation for Agrarian Studies, spoke at the policy dialogue “Evidence-Led Food Systems Transformation Policies in the Context of Viksit Bharat,” held on April 7, 2026, at the National Agricultural Science Complex (NASC), New Delhi.

In her remarks, she highlighted the importance of evidence-based policymaking and underlined how village studies offer unique and grounded insights into agrarian realities.

The dialogue was organised by the International Food Policy Research Institute and the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics in collaboration with the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, with support from CGIAR Policy Innovations.



Delegates at the policy dialogue “Evidence-Led Food Systems Transformation Policies in the Context of Viksit Bharat,” April 2026. | Photo credit: IFPRI South Asia Photo Archive.



Dr. Jayesh M. P.

Dr. Jayesh M. P., Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Yeshwanthpur campus, visited the Foundation's office on April 23, 2026.

During the visit, the FAS team explored potential collaborations with CHRIST (Deemed to be University) under the FAS–CHRIST MoU.

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A discussion with Dr. T. Sundaram at the FAS office, Bengaluru, May 2026. | Photo credit: FAS Archives.

Dr. Mihika Chatterjee

Dr. Mihika Chatterjee, Lecturer in International Development, Department of Social & Policy Sciences, and Co-director, Centre for Development Studies (CDS), Bath University, visited the Foundation's office on April 30, 2026.

The visit included discussions on FAS's ongoing research on digital agriculture, future collaborative opportunities, and interactions between Dr. Mihika and FAS's young researchers on their research proposals.

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Dr. T. Sundaraman

Dr. T. Sundaraman, an independent consultant and adjunct faculty in the JIPMER International School of Public Health, Puducherry, visited the FAS office on May 20, 2026.

During the visit, the FAS team reviewed progress on its WHO-funded project, undertaken in consultation with Dr. T. Sundaraman, to examine health systems in Sri Lanka and develop policy recommendations for primary health care across the WHO South-East Asia Region.

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