

July - September 2024



## DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Greetings from the Foundation for Agrarian Studies!

July-September was an eventful quarter marked with a range of research activities, academic events, and collaborative opportunities. The analysis of data collected through detailed household surveys conducted in 2023 in two villages of Uttar Pradesh continued at a good pace. We got an opportunity to study the changes in the canal irrigation system in the Cauvery Delta, as part of a collaborative project with Professor Daizo Sugmito from Meijo University, Japan.

The latest issue of the Review of Agrarian Studies, the journal of the Foundation, was published. The issue brings attention to a range of topics, including rural India's role in the 2024 elections, child food poverty, and the potential for carbon trading in agriculture. It also features research articles on range of topics such as women's ownership of livestock, and solar irrigation.

We continue to work with emerging scholars working on different aspects of the agrarian question and rural development, through our Young Scholars' Online Seminar Series. The third round of this Seminar Series began in this quarter. We also had the opportunity to engage with a number of scholars who visited the Foundation's office. These engagements will certainly prove to be stepping stone for meaningful research collaborations in future.

Sandipan Baksi  
Director,  
Foundation for Agrarian Studies

# RESEARCH

## >>> SOCIO-ECONOMIC ANALYSIS OF CLASSES FROM UP SURVEY DATA

The Foundation [re-surveyed two villages of Uttar Pradesh](#) in June, 2023. The villages, Mahatwar and Harevli, are located in Eastern and Western Uttar Pradesh respectively. They were first surveyed by the Foundation in 2006. The initial impressions from the analysis were presented in an in-house seminar.

Having finished the processing of data, our researchers are now engaged in analysing the socio-economic classes in the two villages.



# RESEARCH

## »»» COMPREHENSIVE RESEARCH ON CANAL IRRIGATION SYSTEM AND AGRICULTURE IN THE CAUVERY RIVER BASIN

The Foundation has taken up a research project, in collaboration with Professor Daizo Sugmito from Meijo University, Japan. It aims to study the challenges facing agriculture in relation to surface irrigation systems in the Cauvery River Basin.

As part of this project, a team of researchers visited the Cauvery Delta in August 2024. The team interacted with a number of farmers, and various government officials involved with agriculture and surface irrigation in the Cauvery Delta.



# PUBLICATIONS

## ➤➤➤ *Review of Agrarian Studies* (14,1)

This year's first issue of our peer-reviewed open access journal came out during this quarter.

The current issue of the *Review of Agrarian Studies* (vol. 14, no. 1) carries three editorials. The first examines the 2024 Indian elections and rural India's role in it; the second analyses new evidence on child food poverty in India; and the third explores the feasibility of carbon trading for the Indian agriculture, forest, and land use sectors.

The issue features a number of research articles. R. Ramakumar's article traces the trajectory of India's agricultural economy from 2014 to 2024, with a focus on policies and outcomes. R. Vijayamba's study analyses women's ownership of livestock assets using evidence from Karnataka. Sristhi Yadav presents a case study from Haryana assessing the role of animal husbandry in social reproduction. Juhi Chatterjee and Tejal Kanitkar's article discusses the shift to solar irrigation pump-sets in two Uttar Pradesh villages.

The book reviews section of the issue carries three reviews:

- 'Reclaiming Africa – Scramble and Resistance in the 21st Century' reviewed by Silva Lieberherr;
- 'Universal Food Security: How to End Hunger While Protecting the Planet' by Madhura Swaminathan; and
- 'The Indebted Woman: Kinship, Sexuality, and Capitalism' by R. V. Bhavani.

## ➤➤➤ "THE PROBLEM OF INDIA'S STAGNANT REAL WAGES"

Arindam Das, Joint Director, FAS, along with the renowned economist Jean Drèze, published two articles discussing the trends in real wage rates that were featured in '[Ideas for India](#)' and '[The Wire](#)'.

The articles talk about the persistent stagnation of real wages in the informal sector in India.



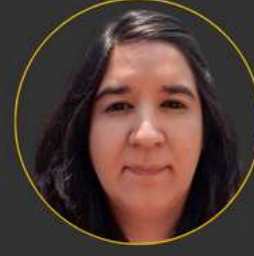
# EVENTS

## >>> YOUNG SCHOLARS' ONLINE SEMINAR SERIES 2024-25

The third round of the FAS Young Scholars' Online Seminar Series (YSOSS) began during this quarter. FAS YSOSS is a platform for young scholars working in the field of agrarian studies and on socio-economic life in rural India to present their findings and receive feedback from peers, expert discussants, and other eminent scholars. The end-goal is to build a network of such scholars.

The series, chaired by Barbara Harriss-White, Emeritus Professor of Development Studies, University of Oxford, started in the year 2022 and has finished two successful rounds with 15 presentations from scholars from a diverse background.

The third round of the series will feature eight Young Scholars, and cover a range of exciting topics, from investigating futures markets in agriculture, capital penetration through input markets in agriculture, to the history of rural hierarchies, among others.



### FAS YOUNG SCHOLARS' ONLINE SEMINAR SERIES

2024-25



Starting on Friday, August 30, 2024



From 4:00 PM IST



# EVENTS

## »»» YSOSS SEMINAR ON 'RURAL TRANSFORMATION AND THE NON-FARM ECONOMY: EVIDENCE FROM ASSAM'

The first seminar of the [FAS Young Scholars' Online Seminar Series 2024-25](#) was presented by Ritwika Patgiri, PhD Scholar at the South Asian University, on Friday, August 30, 2024.

The objective of Ritwika's study is to analyse the historical development of the rural non-farm sector in Assam, and its implications for rural poverty in the State. Her study also tries to understand the streams of seasonal migration in rural Assam, and their effect on livelihoods. Ritwika's research is based on empirical data from 18 villages across 6 districts in Assam.

The discussant for the seminar was Rajshree Bedamatta, Professor, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati.



FAS Young Scholars' Seminars

### FAS Young Scholars' Online Seminar Series 2024-25

Seminar 1

### RURAL TRANSFORMATION AND THE NON-FARM ECONOMY

Evidence from Assam



Friday  
August 30, 2024



From 4:00 PM IST

Ritwika Patgiri  
PhD Scholar  
Faculty of Economics  
South Asian University



# EVENTS

## »»» YSOSS SEMINAR ON 'CAPITAL PENETRATION THROUGH INPUT MARKETS IN HIMACHAL PRADESH'

The second seminar of the [FAS Young Scholars' Online Seminar Series 2024-25](#) was presented by Anchal Kashyap, Doctoral Student, Jindal School of Government and Public Policy, O.P. Jindal University, on Friday, September 20, 2024 at 4 PM IST.

Anchal explores the role of capital in the horticulture sector of Himachal Pradesh. Her study discusses the penetration of capital through agrochemicals and machinery, and how it affects class differentiation among apple farmers. It also highlights the role of the state in creating and facilitating the process.

The discussant for this session was Taniya Sah, Assistant Professor, Economics, Vidyashilp University, Bengaluru.



FAS Young Scholars' Seminars

### FAS Young Scholars' Online Seminar Series 2024-25

Seminar 2

### CAPITAL PENETRATION THROUGH INPUT MARKETS IN HIMACHAL PRADESH



Friday  
September 20, 2024



From 4:00 PM IST

Anchal Kashyap,  
Jindal School of Government  
and Public Policy,  
O.P. Jindal University



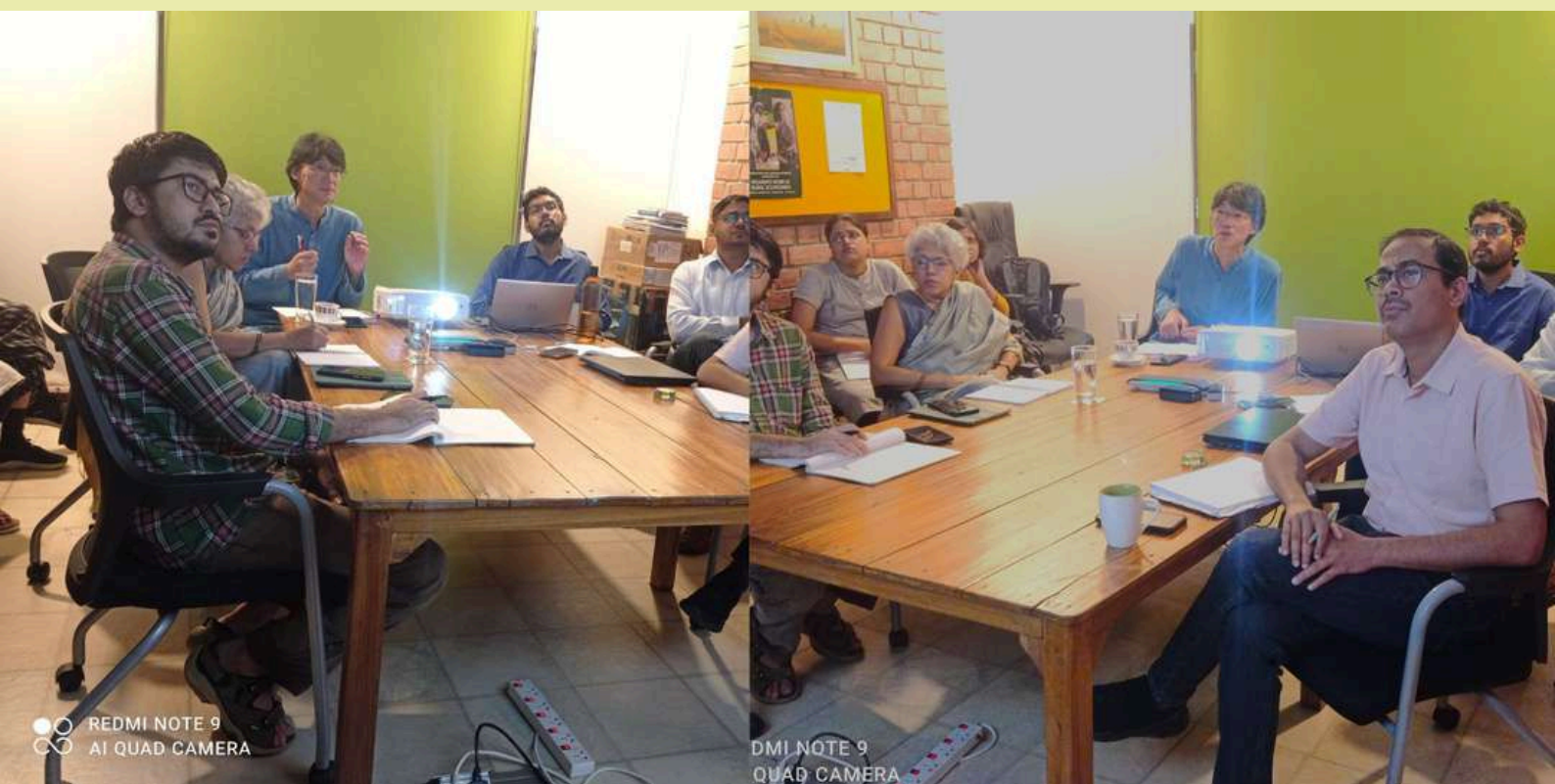
# VISITORS

## »»» PROFESSOR TAKASHI KUROSAKI

Professor Takashi Kurosaki, Director, Institute of Economic Research, Hitotsubashi University, Japan visited the Foundation's office on August 12, 2024. He presented his research titled "Who becomes a politician in a gender quota system? Evidence from rural Karnataka, India." This presentation is part of Professor Kurosaki's collaborative work with Yuko Mori (Tsuda University), R. Manjula (ISEC), D Rajasekhar (ISEC), and Jun Goto (GRIPS).

The study aims to examine the impact of gender quotas on political representation, and candidate competence in India. The results suggest that the quota system could have the potential to promote broad political participation and encourage meritocratic candidate selection.

He also interacted with the research team at the Foundation, and was introduced to the programme of village studies. This was an opportunity to share different research ideas, and scope for future collaboration.



# VISITORS

## »»» KALYANI RAGHUNATHAN

Dr. Kalyani Raghunathan, Research Fellow, at the Poverty, Gender, and Inclusion Unit of International Food Policy Research Institute visited the Foundation's office on Friday, September 13, 2024.

Kalyani presented her recent work on MGNREGA conducted in four states using a mixed-methods approach. During the visit she was introduced to the village studies database developed under the Project on Agrarian Relations in India (PARI). She also interacted with the research team at FAS, and discussed various research projects.



# VISITORS

## »»» DR. VIJESH KRISHNA - CIMMYT

Dr. Vijesh V. Krishna, Principal Scientist / Lead Economist, International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT), visited the Foundation's office in Bengaluru on Wednesday, September 25, 2024.

During this visit, a number of research ideas and avenues for research collaboration were discussed between Dr. Vijesh and our research team.

Here are some glimpses from the visit.



Our social media handles :

