

National Virtual Conference
**Revving Up the Rural Non-Farm Economy:
Potential and Strategies**

October 14-15, 2022

Organised by  **Gujarat Institute of Development Research, Ahmedabad**

Sponsored by  **Indian Council of Social Science Research, New Delhi**

The conference aims at discussing, by both younger and established scholars around some aspects of the following issues. With the farm sector constrained to contribute towards local income and employment generation, distress migration (seasonal and long-term) from villages and small towns to unwelcome and non-remunerative urban work spaces has been on the rise over the last several decades. The pandemic not only has bared the anonymity, precarity and vulnerability of millions of informal migrant workers from rural India but also has resuscitated the key elements of the ongoing debates on local and regional economic regeneration. Sustained neglect of rural infrastructure, innovative area planning and promoting enterprises drawing upon local traditional knowledge, skills and raw materials has often been noted as the root cause of the decline of the rural non-farm economy and impending crisis in potential livelihood options. Rethinking innovations (mainly, institutional) in rural production and work spaces have also been paid little attention to in strengthening the rural non-farm economy.

Programme

Time	Sessions
First Day (October 14, 2022)	
10.00-11.30	Inauguration
10.00-10.10	<i>R. Parthasarathy</i> {Gujarat Institute of Development Research, Ahmedabad} Welcome by the Director
10.10-10.20	<i>Keshab Das</i> {Gujarat Institute of Development Research, Ahmedabad} About the Conference
10.20-11.10	<i>K. P. Kannan</i> {Centre for Development Studies, Trivandrum} Inaugural Address by the Chief Guest
	Interactions
11.30-13.30	Special Panel: Towards a Dynamic Rural Non-Farm Economy Chair: <i>D. Raghunandan</i> {Centre for Technology & Development, Delhi/Dehradun}
(15 minutes per Panelist)	<i>Susan Bhaktul</i> {Industree Foundation, Bangalore} <i>Saswata Narayan Biswas</i> {Institute of Rural Management, Anand} <i>Rajeswari Raina</i> {Shiv Nadar University, Delhi NCR} <i>Deepak K. Mishra</i> {Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi} <i>Nirmalendu Jyotishi</i> {Foundation for Ecological Security, Bhubaneswar}
	Q&A and Chair's Closing Remarks
Lunch Break	
14.15-15.45	Technical Session 1: (Issues in Employment) Chair: <i>Deepak K. Mishra</i> {Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi}
(15 minutes per Presentation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Vulnerabilities of Non-farm Employment in Rural India: Evidences from NSSO and PLFS Data <i>Priya Harchandani</i> {Institute of Management, Nirma University, Ahmedabad} <i>Samik Shome</i> {Institute of Management, Nirma University, Ahmedabad} ▪ An Empirical Study on Determinants and Trends in Female Workforce Participation Rate in Rural-Urban Economy <i>Neha Chauhan</i> {Ministry of Finance, New Delhi} <i>Nausheen Nizami</i> {Pandit Deendayal Energy University, Gandhinagar} ▪ A Study on the Labour Force Participation of Socially Marginalized Youth in Kerala <i>VJ Muhammed Anfas</i> {Central University of Punjab, Bathinda} ▪ Trends in Rural Non-Farm Employment and Wages in Telangana during 2004-05 to 2020-21 <i>Sivakumar</i> {Council for Social Development, Hyderabad}
	Q&A and Chair's Closing Remarks
15.45-17.30	Technical Session 2: (Sectoral & Occupational Dynamics) Chair: <i>Indira Hirway</i> {Centre for Development Alternatives, Ahmedabad}
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Forest Based Livelihood and Economic Vulnerability: A Case Study on Gandhamardhan Hill

(15 minutes per Presentation)	<p><i>Baijayanti Rout</i> {CSEP, Central University of Gujarat, Gandhinagar}</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Traditional Fisheries, Market Hegemony and Collective Organisation: A Case Study on the Gulf of Kutch Coast <p><i>Tara Nair</i> {Gujarat Institute of Development Research, Ahmedabad}</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Occupational Diversification in the Rural Non-Farm Sector: A Post Covid Analysis <p><i>Tiyasa Mishra</i> {Department of HSS, Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur} <i>Bhagirath Behera</i> {Department of HSS, Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur}</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Occupational Diversification of Rural Households in Manipur: A Field Based Study <p><i>Thokchom Doordarshni Devi</i> {CESP, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi}</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Rural Non-farm Sector in Punjab: Viability and Challenges in the Post Reform Period <p><i>Manjit Sharma</i> {DAV College, Chandigarh} <i>Jatinder Singh</i> {Centre for Research in Rural and Industrial Development, Chandigarh} <i>Raminder Singh</i> {Centre for Research in Rural and Industrial Development, Chandigarh}</p> <p>Q&A and Chair's Closing Remarks</p>
Second Day (October 15, 2022)	
10.00-11.30	<p style="text-align: center;">Technical Session 3: (Challenge of Infrastructure)</p> <p>Chair: <i>M. Vijayabaskar</i> {Madras Institute of Development Studies, Chennai}</p>
(15 minutes per Presentation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sociological Evaluation of Basic Civic Infrastructure in 112 Aspirational Districts of India <p><i>Pratham Parekh</i> {Institute of Management, Nirma University, Ahmedabad}</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Healthcare Infrastructure Development in a Rural Area of India: Critical Analysis of Policy Gaps in the Healthcare Delivery <p><i>Nenavath Sreenu</i> {Department of Management Studies, NIT, Bhopal}</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Rural Infrastructure in Karnataka: Status, Challenges and Policy Priorities <p><i>R. Manjula</i> {Institute for Social and Economic Change, Bangalore} <i>D. Rajasekhar</i> {Institute for Social and Economic Change, Bangalore}</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Rural Energy: Strategies for Solarization of Agriculture <p><i>Hippu Salk Kristle Nathan</i> {Institute of Rural Management, Anand}</p> <p>Q&A and Chair's Closing Remarks</p>
11.30-13.00	<p style="text-align: center;">Technical Session 4: (Enterprise & Entrepreneurship)</p> <p>Chair: <i>Tara Nair</i> {Gujarat Institute of Development Research, Ahmedabad}</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Challenges and Prospects of Rural Entrepreneurship: A Pragmatic Policy Discourse <p><i>Sunkari Satyam</i> {Council for Social Development, Hyderabad}</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Labour Process and Production Issue of the Handloom Industry at Purba Bardhaman and Nadia districts in West Bengal

(15 minutes per Presentation)	<p><i>Sumana Lahiri</i> {Pandit Deendayal Energy University, Gandhinagar} <i>Nausheen Nizami</i> {Pandit Deendayal Energy University, Gandhinagar}</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Changing Industrial Structure and Non-Farm Self-Employment in India <i>Basit Abdullah</i> {Centre for Development Studies, Thiruvananthapuram} ▪ Indian Rural Industrialisation from a Policy Perspective: A Long View <i>Keshab Das</i> {Gujarat Institute of Development Research, Ahmedabad} <p>Q&A and Chair's Closing Remarks</p>
<i>Lunch Break</i>	
14.00-15.30	<p style="text-align: center;">Technical Session 5: (Migration, Skill & Wellbeing) Chair: <i>D. Rajasekhar</i> {Institute for Social and Economic Change, Bengaluru}</p>
(15 minutes per Presentation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pandemic Pushed Reverse Migration and Skill Diffusion in India <i>Ramun Prasad</i> {National Institute of Technology, Patna and Govt. Polytechnic, Aurangabad} <i>Deepak Kumar Behera</i> {Department of HSS, National Institute of Technology Patna} ▪ Understanding the Pull-Push Factor in Non-farm Employment from Inter-state Migrants' Perspective: Evidence from Telangana State <i>Rohit Kumar Rawat</i> {School of Economics, University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad} ▪ Health and Economic Well-being of Non-farm Sector Workers in Rural India <i>Amrita Ghatak</i> {Gujarat Institute of Development Research, Ahmedabad} ▪ Is Nonfarm Sector Getting Formalized? Evidence from PLFS Data <i>Partha Pratim Sahu</i> {National Institute of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Hyderabad} <i>Manik Kumar</i> {GB Pant Social Science Institute, Prayagraj} <p>Q&A and Chair's Closing Remarks</p>
15.30-17.00	Valedictory Session
15.30-16.30	<p><i>Dinesh Abrol</i> {Transdisciplinary Research Cluster for Sustainability Studies, JNU, New Delhi} Valedictory Address Interactions</p>
16.30-16.50	Observations by Participants
16.50-17.00	<p><i>Keshab Das</i> {Gujarat Institute of Development Research, Ahmedabad} Vote of Thanks</p>

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