

**National Seminar
On
Sustainable Family Farming for Food,
Nutritional & Livelihood Security**

March 05-06, 2016

Organised by



**Department of Agril. Extension, Agril. Economics
& Agril. Statistics**

Palli Siksha Bhavana (Institute of Agriculture)

VISVA-BHARATI, Sriniketan, Birbhum,

West Bengal-731236

At

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The problems accumulated due to more than a century of factory farming are aggravated by significant simultaneous and inter-related global phenomena. These include persistent global financial crises; volatility of food prices; widespread social unrest; and growing uncertainty that the impacts of climate change (such as water shortages, soil degradation, loss of biodiversity, desertification, and depletion of ecosystems) are coming sooner than previously expected. These events have created a renewed impetus and interest in family farming, with its potential to mitigate such phenomena. The greatest potential for family farming lies in providing healthy and nutritious food for entire population, including the most vulnerable social groups. It does contribute to food production but also stimulate local economies and play a role in the social dynamics. It also ensures health and nutrition aspects of the farming with diversified livelihood options. Family farming systems represent up to 80 per cent of the economic production units and more than 60 per cent of total natural food production in some countries including India. They also employ more than 70 per cent of the total agricultural work force, which in some countries is dominated by women.

Sustainable food systems and healthy diets have the potential to meet the nutritional requirements of the populations without compromising the needs of future generations. This is only possible through efficient and responsible use of natural resources, support for and fair treatment of farm workers, the reuse of waste, support for the production of nutritious foods, and their supply and availability primarily through local markets. Family farming promotes healthy and sustainable food systems and dietary patterns. It can yield natural foods while using fewer inputs, can improve the supply of local and seasonal agro-ecological foods, and operate in short marketing circuits, which reduces transaction costs and increases farmers' profits. These concepts were backed by the 2013 Madrid high-level consultation on *Hunger, Food Security and Nutrition*. This concluded that attaining food security and optimising nutrition are critical to the global post-2015 development agenda. It also noted the strong link between the nutritional status of a population and its potential for economic and social growth, such that 'nutrition interventions generate returns among the highest of 17 potential development investments'. Policy makers and scientists should therefore strengthen inter-sectoral policies, with special attention to (i) favouring food systems with policies that encourage the production of healthy foods to make them more accessible to the population, such as with subsidies for the production of healthy foods, (ii) supporting family farming in the sustainable production of healthy foods that are safe for human consumption, (iii) promoting and protecting sustainable systems of production and traditional diets, while ensuring food and environmental safety and protecting natural resources and biodiversity and (iv) using statutory regulation including taxation to protect consumers from fraudulent business practices, misinformation on health benefits, and the production and marketing of ultra-processed food products with little or no nutritional value. These are consistent with the content of, and the specific government obligations emanating from the human right to adequate food.

Objectives

There are four specific objectives of the Seminar. These are enumerated as follows:

1. Conservation
Family farmers have conserved local varieties of many crops and livestock, and their contributions as well as their rights in the field of genetic resources conservation and enhancement need to be recognized.
2. Cultivation
Family farmers need to adopt agricultural practices that increase productivity in perpetuity without ecological harm.
3. Consumption
Much can be done to improve the nutritional value of foods, including promoting naturally occurring biofortified crops and paying attention to nutrition sensitive agriculture.
4. Commerce
Providing family farmers with financial and scientific support to ensure food security should be the bottom line of all food and agriculture policies in developing countries like India.

Major Themes

- Potential of family farming in the context of conservation agriculture
- Innovations in crop and natural resources for sustainable food production
- Land, water policies and crop insurance programme in agriculture
- Dietary pattern, food & nutritional security and scope of family farming
- Transfer of technology, women empowerment and livelihood improvement in family farming
- Financial and market support for food security in family farming

About the Venue

Visva-Bharati was founded by the first non-European Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Thākur (popularly known as Tagore) in 1921 and was declared to be a central university and an institution of national importance by an [Act of Parliament in 1951](#). The President of India is the Paridarsaka (Visitor) of the University, the Governor of West Bengal is the Pradhana (Rector), and the Prime Minister of India acts as the Acharya (Chancellor). Visva-Bharati represents India where she has her wealth of mind which is for all. Visva-Bharati acknowledges India's obligation to offer to others the hospitality of her best culture and India's right to accept from others their best. Palli-Siksha Bhavana (Institute of Agriculture) was established on September 1, 1963 as Palli- Siksha Sadana and later renamed as Palli Siksha Bhavana in the Visva-Bharati Act, as amended in 1984. Palli-Siksha Bhavana (Institute of Agriculture) imparts education in Agricultural Sciences both at undergraduate and post-graduate levels. It offers four-years (eight semesters) B.Sc(Ag.) Honours Course and two-years M.Sc (Ag.) courses in Agronomy, Plant Protection, Agricultural Extension, Soil Science & Agricultural Chemistry, Plant Breeding and Horticulture with semester system of examination. There are facilities for research leading to Ph.D. degree in all branches of Agricultural Sciences. Apart from teaching and research, Palli Siksha Bhavana is also engaged in extension activities in the field of agriculture in the surrounding villages and elsewhere. Rural Awareness Work Experience (RAWE) and Experiential Learning are compulsory and a part of the academic curriculum for undergraduate students. Other academic support units are Agricultural Farm, Horticultural Farm, Dairy and Poultry Farm, Soil Testing Laboratory, Library and Rathindra Krishi Vigyan Kendra. The institute has its own placement cell. Generally, winter extends from December to February at Bolpur. Participants are recommended to wear light woollen clothes during winter.

How to reach

Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan is ensconced in a rural setting in the district of Birbhum, about 160 km by road from Kolkata i.e. the capital city of West Bengal. Bolpur is connected both by railway line and road. It takes around 3 hours either by road/train to reach Bolpur. There are several Express/mail/local trains either from Howrah/Sealdaha for those who will come from South/West and from Bardhaman / Durgapur for those who will come from North. The nearest railway station is Bolpur-Santiniketan on the Eastern Railway and the air-terminal is Kolkata Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport.

Call for Papers

Papers are invited from academicians, scientists, administrators, scholars, students, policy makers, planners, farmers' forum and activists on the major themes of the seminar. The full paper along with abstract (250 words) should be submitted through e-mail only. Presentation of the papers can be done either in the form of oral/poster presentation and the decision will be communicated in time according to the decision of the technical committee of the seminar. Papers should be typed in English (maximum 12 pages) in MS-Word in Times New Roman with font size 12. To ensure anonymity, the author's name, designation,

affiliation, official/residential address and other details must be appeared on the first page along with title of the paper, second page should start with the title of the paper followed by text. Footnotes in the text should be numbered consecutively in plain Arabic superscripts. All the footnotes (if any) should be typed under the heading 'footnotes' at the end of the paper immediately after conclusion. Bibliography/references should be arranged alphabetically and should be submitted at the end of the text in APA format.

E-mail address of the corresponding author must be provided for communication. Soft copy of the Abstract and Full paper is to be submitted through e-mail (nsemees@gmail.com) on or before 31st January, 2016. The selected papers after peer review will be published in book form with ISBN No. following normal procedure. However, abstract of all papers will be published in Seminar Abstract Volume with ISBN No.

Registration

Registration fee is Rs. 2500/- per participant and Rs. 1500/- for student. For stalls and technical presentation the registration amount is Rs. 15000/- per stall. Registration fee is to be paid in advance on or before 20th January 2016 in the form of DD/MO in favour of "NATIONAL SEMINAR OF EES-2016" payable at the State Bank of India, Sriniketan Branch, Sriniketan, Birbhum (A/c No. 35407975477, Branch: Sriniketan, Birbhum IFS Code: SBIN0012391, MICR Code: 7310020041, Branch Code:12391). Payment through cheque will not be accepted. Late fee for Registration @ Rs. 500/- will be charged if not paid on or before 20th January 2016. Money once deposited will not be refunded. Participants intending to bring accompanying persons are required to deposit Rs. 2000/- for each accompanying person. All assistance will be given to them for finding out accommodation in University Guest House/nearby Hotel on actual cost basis.

All the participants are required to fill-up the attached **Registration cum Accommodation Form** and send to the Organising Secretaries at the address before the due dates. For accommodation, local travels, venue etc. participants are requested to contact Organising Secretaries.

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Important Dates

Date of National Seminar	05-06 March, 2016
Last date for submission of full length paper with abstract	31 st January, 2016
Last date for receiving registration without late fee	20 th January, 2016
Last date for receiving registration with late fee	10 th February, 2016

Accommodation

Accommodation will be provided to the registered delegates on first come first serve and payment basis at Visva-Bharati Guest Houses at nominal charges and in nearby hotels charging from Rs. 1000/- (twin sharing) to Rs. 3500/- (single occupancy) per day. Since Santiniketan is a tourist place, request for accommodation should be made well ahead latest by 31st January 2016 by sending advance payment of the full duration of stay through D/D and registration form. No partial payment will be accepted for accommodation and it is non-refundable.

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Registration-cum-Accommodation Form
National Seminar on
“Sustainable Family Farming for Food, Nutritional & Livelihood
Security”

Visva-Bharati, Sriniketan March 05-06, 2016

1. Name of the participant:
2. Designation:
3. Sex: Male/Female
4. Address for correspondence:
.....
.....
5. Office Address:
.....
.....
6. Contacts:
 - Telephone No.:
 - Mobile No.:
 - Fax No.:
 - E-mail:
7. Details of Registration and Accommodation fee:
(a) D/D No.....Date..... for Rs.....
(b) Name of the Bank & Branch:
8. Food (Vegetarian/Non-vegetarian):
9. Arrival (official arrangement starts from afternoon 04-03-2016):
 - Date and Time:
 - Travel detail (Flight No./Train No. etc.):
10. Departure (official arrangement up to morning 07-03-2016):
 - Date and Time:
 - Travel detail (Flight No./Train No. etc.):
11. Accompanied Person details:

Exhibition/Stall

Registration form for participation as sponsor (both technical/non-technical for erecting exhibition/ stall during the National Seminar.

We wish to Sponsor/Co-sponsor (Yes/No):.....

We wish to exhibit the product (Yes/No):.....

Specify the product:

Date:

Signature of the participant