



# AGRO-ECONOMIC RESEARCH CENTRE

Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare  
Government of India

Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan

## A PROFILE



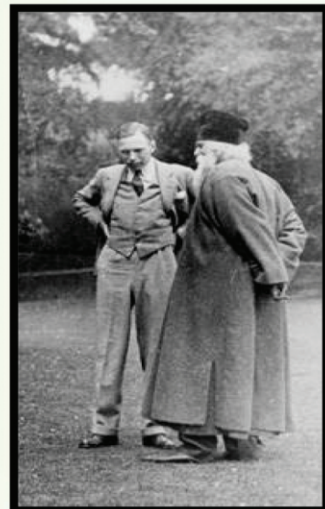
### Genesis

Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore's vision of rural reconstruction was rooted in a scientific understanding of village life through systematic surveys and data collection. To translate this vision into practice, the Sriniketan Experiment was launched in 1922–23 under the supervision of British Philanthropist and Agronomist L.K. Elmhirst. Its objectives were to identify the problems of Indian villages, seek practical solutions, and work towards making them self-reliant and prosperous. The aim was to improve the economic condition and well-being of the rural population. The Sriniketan activities were organized under three broad branches: (i) Research and Experiments, (ii) Training, and (iii) Extension and Development. Later, in 1954, the Agro-Economic Research Centre (AERC) was established at Visva-Bharati with the support of the Government of India, absorbing the projects under the Sriniketan Experiment. The Centre became permanent in May 1990 and was integrated with Visva-Bharati in April 1995. It is funded by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Government of India. Initially, this Centre was established as Agro-Economic Research Centre for Eastern India, covering Assam, Bihar, Orissa, and West Bengal. It was set up in line with Visva-Bharati's tradition of rural reconstruction initiated by Tagore at Sriniketan. At present, its jurisdiction covers West Bengal, Sikkim, and the Andaman & Nicobar Islands. The Centre's existing building was constructed with





capital grants sanctioned by the Ministry of Food and Agriculture in 1957–58. The building, with a plinth area of 6,970 square feet, was designed by Sri A. C. Bose, Engineer-in-Charge of Visva-Bharati's Works and Building Department. The sculpture in front of the building was created by Sri Suren Dey of Kala Bhavana, under the guidance of the renowned artist Sri Ramkinkar Baij.



Inauguration of the AERC Building in 1954 by Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru Tagore and Elmhirst

## Distinguished Scholars



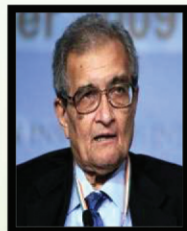
**Barbara  
Harriss  
White**

Renowned for her work on agricultural markets and poverty in India.



**Prof. Ashok  
Rudra**

Pioneering contributions to Indian agricultural economics and planning.



**Prof. Amartya  
Sen**

Nobel laureate, instrumental in welfare economics and development.



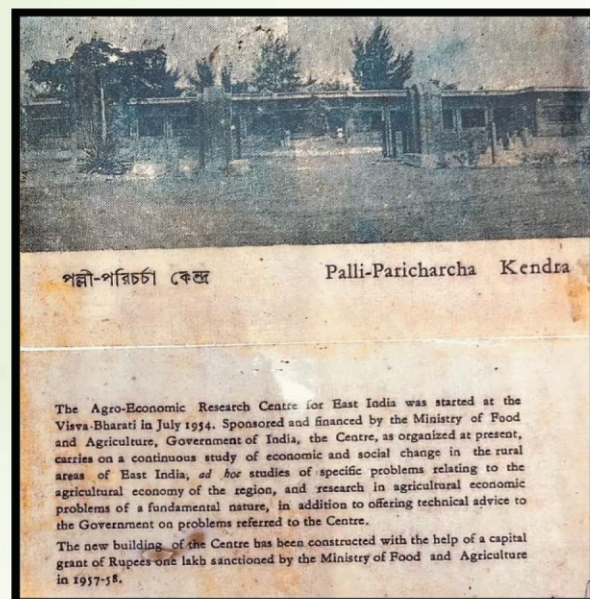
**Prof. Samar  
Kumar Dutta**

Significant research in agricultural finance and rural development issues.

Over the years, the Agro-Economic Research Centre, Visva-Bharati has been enriched by the contributions of several distinguished scholars and researchers who have shaped its academic reputation and policy relevance. Through their pioneering studies on rural development, agrarian relations, and agricultural marketing, these scholars have carried forward the legacy of Tagore's Sriniketan experiment, establishing AERC, Visva-Bharati as a leading institution in applied socio-economic research in Eastern India.



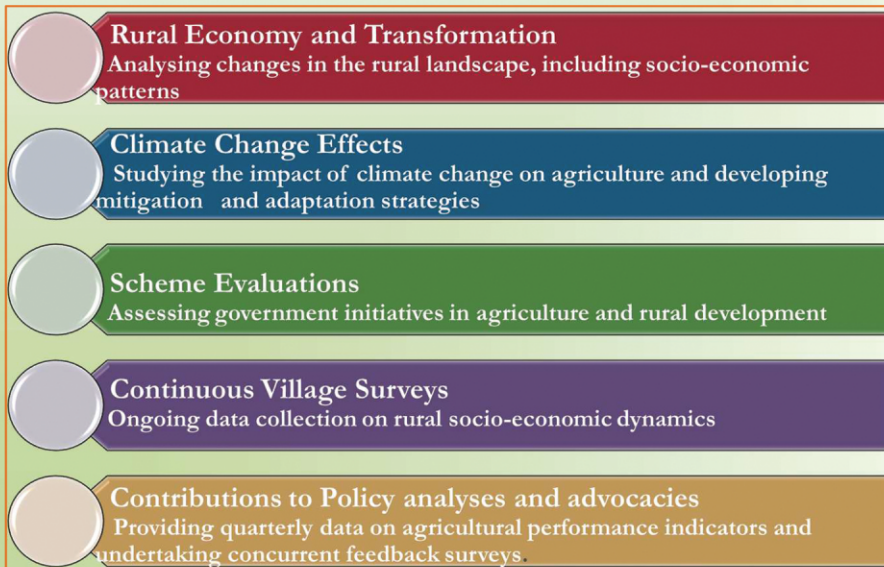
## Organizational Structure



## Jurisdiction



## Focus Area



The Goal is to provide evidence-based research and analysis to support informed decision-making by policymakers, farmers, and other stakeholders in the agricultural sector.



## Human Resources



**Prof. Souvik Ghosh**  
(Honorary Director)



**Dr. Achiransu Acharyya**  
(Honorary Deputy Director)



**Nityananda Maji**  
(Office Superintendent)



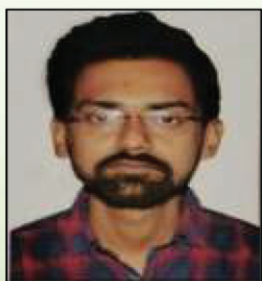
**Munshi Abdul Khaleque**  
(PA to Director)



**Deb Sankar Das**  
(Accounts Assistant)



**Dibyendu Mondal**  
(Typist-cum-Clerk)<sup>1</sup>



**Saptarsi Chakraborty**  
(Research Associate)<sup>2</sup>



**Rishav Mukherjee**  
(Research Associate)<sup>2</sup>



**Dr. Sreejit Roy**  
(Research Associate)<sup>2</sup>



**Dr. Muhammed Irshad M**  
(Research Associate)<sup>2</sup>



**Mehedi Hasan**  
(Research Fellow)<sup>3</sup>



**Dr. Sridev Adak**  
(Research Fellow)<sup>3</sup>



**Parag Mitra**  
(Research & Reference Assistant)<sup>2</sup>



## Accomplished Research (2015-2025)

Sl. No.	Title of the Research/Evaluation Studies Undertaken	Coordinator AERC/AERU
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### 2024-25 to 2025-26

1	Impact of Climate Change on the Livelihood of Agricultural Households of the Coastal Regions of India	AERC, Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan
2	Rejuvenating Rice Fallow Land: A Study Using Remote Sensing and GIS	ADRTC, ISEC, Bengaluru
3	Status of KCC in India with Special Reference to Animal Husbandry and Fisheries: A Realistic Assessment	AERC, Jorhat
4	Pradhan Mantri Kishan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN): Problems, Prospects and Needed Improvements	IEG & AERC, Delhi
5	An Empirical Study of Farming Community Development under the Aspirational Districts Programme of India	ADRTC, ISEC, Bengaluru
6	Agricultural Performance Indicators for West Bengal (Continuing for every quarter since 2012)	ADRTC, ISEC, Bengaluru
7	PM-KISAN: Concurrent Feedback Study	AERC, Prayagraj
8	AIF: Concurrent Feedback Study	AERC, Pune

### 2021-22 to 2023-24

1	Farmers' Suicide: Causes and Policy Prescription in West Bengal	ADRTC, ISEC, Bengaluru
2	Land Titling and Agricultural Productivity in West Bengal	ADRTC, ISEC, Bengaluru
3	Cost of Milk Production and Gross Return to Milk Producers in the Selected States of India (West Bengal)	AERC, Vallabh Vidyanagar
4	Decentralized Procurement Scheme for Procurement of Paddy under Minimum Support Price (MSP) in West Bengal	IEG, New Delhi
5	Consumption Pattern of Different Edible Oils in West Bengal	IEG, New Delhi

### 2019-20 to 2020-21

1	Impact evaluation study on the Per Drop More Crop component of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) in Sikkim	AERU, CMA, IIM Ahmedabad
2	Assessment of feed and fodder in West Bengal	ADRTC, ISEC Bengaluru
3	Village Survey Study in West Bengal (Sahajapur Village, Birbhum)	AERC, Visva-Bharati & 3 AERUs
4	Assessment of the ratio of different products/forms of Spices being marketed: A Study based on Ginger and Turmeric in Sikkim	AERC, Pune



Sl. No.	Title of the Research/Evaluation Studies Undertaken	Coordinator AERC/AERU
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#### 2017-18 to 2018-19

1	Performance evaluation of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)	CMA,IIM, Ahmedabad
2	Rural Livelihood Diversification in West Bengal	AERC Visva-Bharati

#### 2016-17

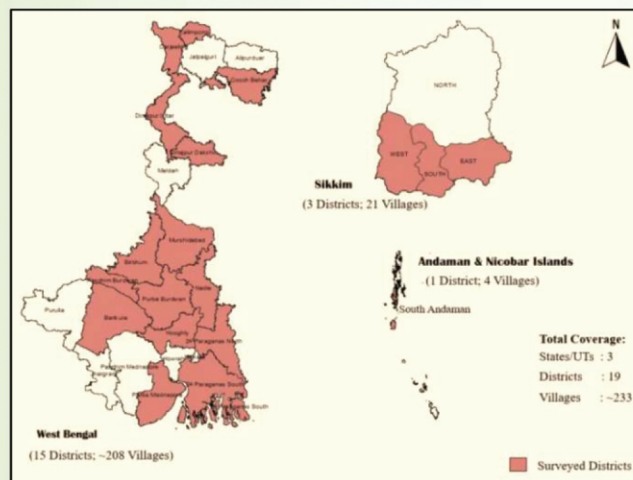
1	Farmers' Suicides: causes and policy prescriptions	ADRTC, ISEC Bengaluru
2	Assessment of the status of dairying in the eastern states and potential to improve socio-economic status of the milk producers and convergence of all central and state schemes at district level	AERC V.V. Nagar
3	An Economic analysis of protected cultivation under MIDH in Himalayan States	AERC Shimla
4	Economic Analysis of Cost & Return of off-season vegetables with focus on greenhouse effect	AERC Shimla
5	A study on indigenous rice varieties in the Sundarban Delta and their role in ensuring local food security in the face of climate threats	AERC Visva-Bharati

#### 2015-16

1	Adoption of recommended doses of fertilizers on soil test basis by farmers	ADRTC, ISEC Bengaluru
2	Impact of National Food Security Mission on Input Use, Production, Productivity and Income in India	ADRTC, ISEC Bengaluru
3	A Study on Productivity and Profitability in Agriculture and Horticulture in Eastern Himalayan Region	AERC Visva-Bharati
4	Evaluation and Assessment of Economic Losses on Account of Inadequate Post-Harvest Infrastructure Facilities for Fisheries Sector in West Bengal	AERC Chennai

### Survey Coverage

List of Villages Surveyed		
State	No. of Districts	Villages
West Bengal	15	208
Sikkim	3	21
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	1	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>233</b>





## Field Survey





## Capacity Building Programmes



Interaction Between the Scholars of AERC & Research Methodology Experts (24-25 February 2025)



Visit and Interaction Programme of Indian Statistical Service (ISS) Trainees (46<sup>th</sup> Batch) from ISI Kolkata with AERC, Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan (7<sup>th</sup> March 2025)



Expert's Talk by Dr. N.M. Patnaik (Scientist, ICAR-MGIFRI, Motihari, Bihar) on "Integrated Farming System for Livelihood Diversification and Increased Farm Income" and by Dr. Usha Das (Former Assistant Professor, College of Agriculture, CAU, Pasighat, Arunachal Pradesh and Scientist, ARS of ICAR) on "Climate Smart Agriculture and Farm Livelihood" (27<sup>th</sup> June 2025)



Expert's Talk by Prof. Bhaskar Goswami (Professor, Department of Economics, University of Burdwan) on "Green Nudge" (18<sup>th</sup> July 2025) and by Mr. Rajesh Dey, Senior Commissioning Editor, Taylor & Francis on "Mastering the Art of Research Writing and Publishing" (25<sup>th</sup> August 2025)



Expert's Talk by Prof. Kalyan Kanti Das, (Professor, Department of Agricultural Economics, UBKV, Cooch Behar) on "Understanding the Applicability of Behavioral Economics in Technology Dissemination" (1<sup>st</sup> September 2025)



## Visit of Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor



Visit of Honorable Vice-Chancellor to AERC, Visva-Bharati and Interaction on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2025.

## Summer Internship



Certificates distributed to students for their successful completion in the Summer Internship programme on Sustainability and Corporate ESG (Environment, Social, and Governance) during 1-15 July 2025. Dr. Achiransu Acharyya coordinated the Internship Programme.

## Symposium & Special Lecture by Dr. P.K. Joshi

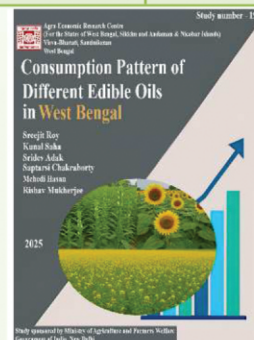
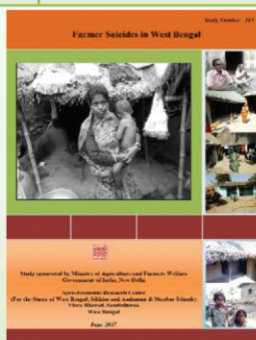


A Symposium on “Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development” was jointly organised by Dept. of Agricultural Economics, AERC, AKD Centre, & Tribal Dev. Consortium, where a Special Lecture on “Feeding the Future: India’s Agri-Food Transformation Roadmap for Amrit Kaal” was delivered by Dr. P.K. Joshi (Former Director, IFPRI), South Asia, followed by an Interaction Meeting at AERC on 5<sup>th</sup> August 2025 to have the guidance of Dr. Joshi in future works.



## Research Reports Published (2015-2025)

Study No.	Title of the Book/Report	Year of Publication
193	Consumption Pattern of Different Edible Oils in West Bengal	2025
192	Village Survey Study in West Bengal (Sahajapur Village in Birbhum District)	2021
191	Assessment of Livestock Feed and Fodder in the State of West Bengal	2020
190	Improving Water Use Efficiency in India's Agriculture: The Impact, Benefits and Challenges of Micro-Irrigation under the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sichi Yojana: Per Drop More Crop (PMKSY-PDMC) in Sikkim	2020
189	Rural Livelihood Diversification in West Bengal	2018
188	Performance Evaluation of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) in West Bengal	2018
187	Assessment of the Status of Dairying and Potential to Improve Socio-Economic Status of the Milk Producers in West Bengal	2017
186	An Economic Analysis of Protected Cultivation under MIDH in Sikkim	2017
185	Economic Analysis of Cost and Return of off-Season Vegetables with Focus on Poly Houses Effect in Sikkim	2017
184	Indigenous Rice Varieties in Sundarbans Delta and their role in ensuring local security in the face of climate threats	2017
183	Farmer Suicides in West Bengal	2017
182	Evaluation and Assessment of Economic Losses on Account of Inadequate Post-Harvest Infrastructure Facilities for the Fisheries Sector in West Bengal	2016
181	A Study on Productivity and Profitability in Agriculture and Horticulture in the Eastern Himalayan Region	2015
180	Impact of the National Food Security Mission on Input Use, Production, Productivity and Income in India	2015
179	Adoption of recommended doses of fertilizers on the soil test basis by farmers	2015



## Library Resources

The Library has more than 7500 Books, several Journals, Periodicals, & Research Reports

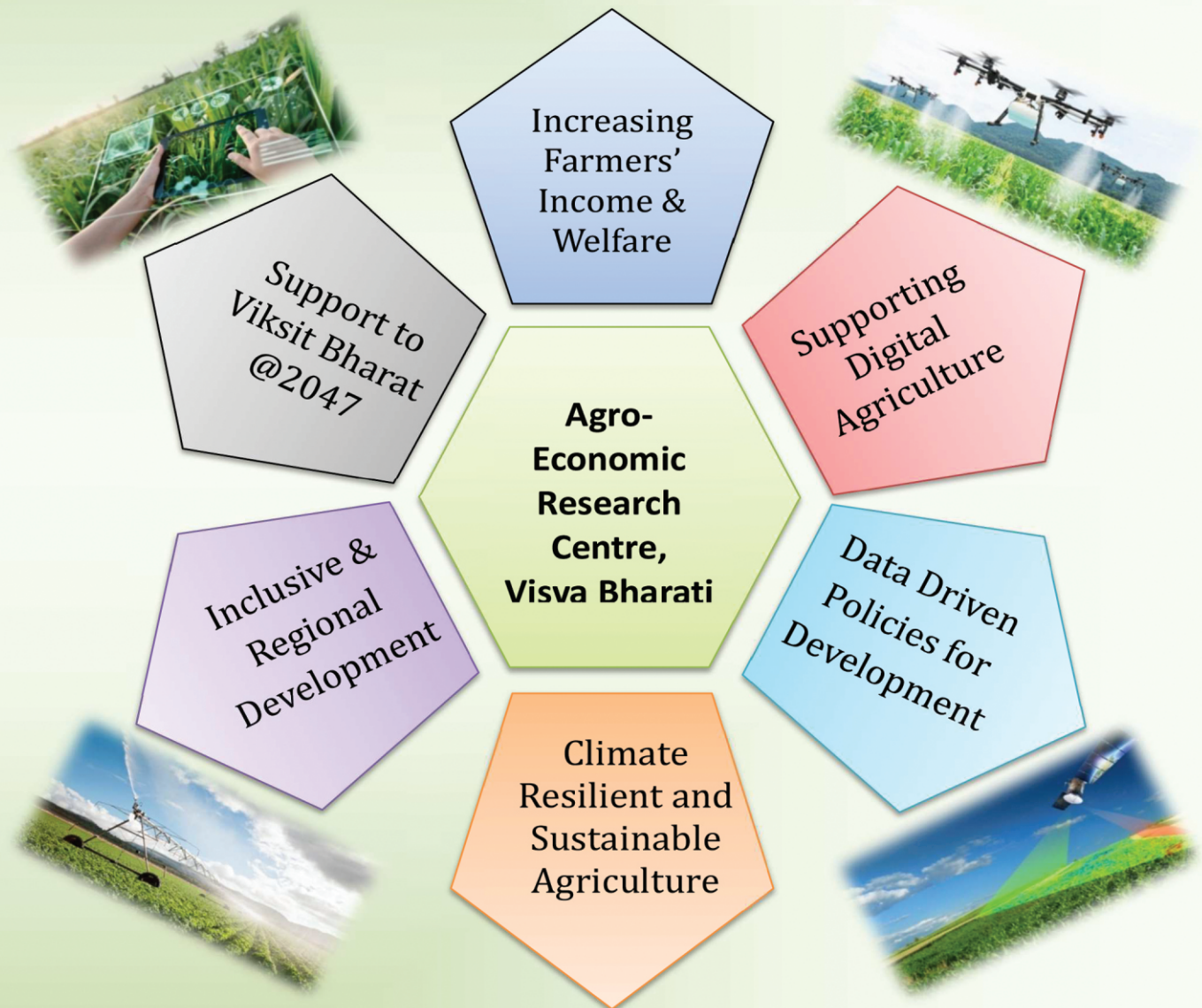




## Way Forward

### Vision

"To emerge as a premier institution in evidence-based Agro-Economic policy research, with a focus on inclusivity, climate resilience, and technology-enabled transformation of Indian agriculture in line with national priorities"





## AERC in Visva-Bharati- World's First Living Heritage University

Visva-Bharati founded by Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore in 1921 at Santiniketan, West Bengal, is a place "where the world makes a home in a single nest." The university blends Indian traditions with global cultural exchange and promotes harmony between nature, learning, and creativity. As Gurudeva noted, Santiniketan is the land of peace and Sriniketan is the land of prosperity, and these are the twin campuses of the University. Visva-Bharati was declared 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). The President of India appoints the *Upacharya* (Vice-Chancellor) of the University. The institution is renowned for its emphasis on holistic learning, artistic expression, rural reconstruction, and international collaboration. In recognition of its unique cultural and educational heritage, Santiniketan, the campus, is declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2023, acknowledging its outstanding universal value as a living centre of learning, creativity, and cultural dialogue.

The Agro-Economic Research Centre, since its establishment in 1954, embodies Gurudeva's vision of linking knowledge with rural well-being. As one of the oldest centres of its kind in the country, AERC has been engaged in pioneering research on agriculture, rural economy, farmers' welfare, and agrarian institutions. It has contributed significantly to policy formulation at both state and national levels by providing evidence-based insights into issues of agricultural development, rural livelihoods, and sustainability. The Centre continues to carry forward the Sriniketan legacy of rural reconstruction and integrated development, making Visva-Bharati not only a cultural and educational heritage hub but also a knowledge institution serving grassroots economic transformation.



**Agro-Economic Research Centre**  
(For the States of West Bengal, Sikkim, and Andaman & Nicobar Islands)  
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