

Central University of Gujarat
School of Social Sciences
in collaboration with
Network of Rural and Agrarian Studies (NRAS)
organises sixth international conference of NRAS on

Whither Rural Commons?
State Policy, Natural Resources and Rural India

September 20-22, 2018
Sector-29 campus, Seminar Hall, Central University of Gujarat, Gandhinagar.

Knowledge Partner
Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi
Co-Sponsored by
The Ford Foundation, New Delhi
National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)
Foundation for Ecological Security (FES)

Programme Schedule

DAY ONE Thursday, September 20, 2018

09:00 am - 09:30 am	Registration
09:30 am - 10:45 am	Inaugural Session
Welcome:	Prof. Indira Dutta, Dean, School of Social Sciences
Introduction of Conference:	Dhananjay Rai, Assistant Professor, CUG, Coordinator
Introduction of NRAS and Theme:	Richa Kumar, Associate Professor, IIT Delhi, and Sudhir Kumar Suthar, Assistant Professor, CPS, JNU
NABARD's interventions in Natural Resource Management:	Shri. S.D.P. Sharma, General Manager, NABARD Gujarat, RO Ahmedabad
Keynote Address:	Prof. Y.K. Alagh, Hon'ble Chancellor, Central University of Gujarat, Gandhinagar <i>Changing Contours of Land Policy and the Commons in India</i>
Presidential Remarks:	Prof. S.A. Bari, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Central University of Gujarat, Gandhinagar
Vote of Thanks:	Tulika Tripathi, Assistant Professor, CUG, Co-Coordinator

Rapporteur: Abhigya, Research Scholar, Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi

10:45 am - 11: 00 am Tea Break

11:00 am- 01:30 pm Technical Session 1: Understanding and Interpreting the Commons

Chair: Prof Y. K. Alagh, Chancellor, Central University of Gujarat

1. N. Rajaram, Former Professor and Dean, Central University of Gujarat: *Reimagining the Rural Commons – Lessons from the Past*
2. Natasha Koshy, Post-Doctoral Fellow, Indian Institute for Human Settlements, Bengaluru: *Common to Whom? Environment and Development-Making Practices in Uttarakhand*
3. Krithi S. Assistant Professor, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Hyderabad: *Exploring the Changing Commons in the Rural: A Case Study of Chamba and Puducherry*
4. Sudha Nagavarapu, Research Associate, Sangtin, Sitapur district, Uttar Pradesh, Richa Kumar, Associate Professor, IIT Delhi, Surbala Vaish, Sangtin, Sitapur and Richa Singh, Sangtin, Sitapur: *The Commons as Place, Resource, Usage, Memory: Perspectives from Western Awadh*
5. Seema Mundoli, Research Associate, Azim Premji University and Harini Nagendra, Professor, Azim Premji University: *Commons in “no-man’s land”: Status and governance of rural commons in the urban fringes of Bengaluru city, India*

Discussant: Richa Kumar, Associate Professor, Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi

Rapporteur: Anand Prakash, Research Scholar, Indian Institute of Technology Delhi

01:30 pm - 02:30 pm Lunch

02:30 pm - 03:30 pm Technical Session 2: Seeds as Commons

Chair: Tulika Tripathi, Assistant Professor, CUG

1. Archana Patnaik, Assistant Professor, IIT Kharagpur and Joost Jongerden, Wageningen University, Netherlands: *Seeds, sustainable practices and biosocial commons*
2. Neeraj Kapoor, Member of PRADAN New Delhi and Ashutosh Kumar, Action Research Fellow in Rayagada, Centre for Development Practice, Ambedkar University Delhi (AUD), New Delhi: *Understanding the Process of Rural Commoning through Indigenous Seed Conservation Practices*

Discussant:

Rapporteur: Debottam Saha, PhD Scholar, Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi

03:30 pm - 03:45 pm Tea Break

03:45 pm - 06:15 pm Technical Session 3: Governing the Commons: Water

Chair and Discussant: P.S. Vijay Shankar, Director of Research, Samaj Pragati Sahyog, Dewas, Madhya Pradesh

1. Rashmi Mahajan, PhD Scholar, Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE): *Everyday politics of state-community interactions: A case of water management in Eastern Vidarbha region, India*

2. Gopi Verma, Institute of Rural Management Anand (IRMA) and Anand Venkatesh, Professor, IRMA: *A community-based model of managing common pool resources (CPRs): A case of Aahar-Pyne irrigation system in South Bihar*
3. Kumar Gaurav M. Sc. Student, School of Ecology And Environment Studies, Nalanda University and Aviram Sharma, Assistant Professor, School of Ecology and Environment Studies, Nalanda University: *Revisiting Community-based Traditional Irrigation System of South Bihar*
4. Frederic Landy, Director, French Institute of Pondicherry, Laurent Ruiz, INRA-IRD-IISc, Julie Jacquet, University of Lyon and Roma Hooge, Agro Paris Tech/Department of Social Sciences, French Institute of Pondicherry: *The commons as (demanding) social constructions: The case of aquifers in rural Karnataka*
5. Raghav Chakravarthy, CSO (Consultant), Samaj Pragati Sahayog, Dewas, Madhya Pradesh, Harshala Jambhulkar, Samaj Pragati Sahyog and Rajaram Mory, Samaj Pragati Sahyog: *Groundwater as Commons: Exploring Hydraulic Solidarities among Tribal Communities of Central India*

Rapporteur: Vrinda Acharya, PhD Scholar, JNU, New Delhi

07:00 pm NRAS Meeting

DAY TWO Friday, September 21, 2018

09:30 am - 10:45 am Panel Discussion with Farmers from Gujarat

Chair: Indira Dutta, Dean, School of Social Sciences, Central University of Gujarat

Discussion with Farmers

Resource Persons:

Amarendra Pandey, Assistant Professor, Gujarat Vidyapith

Vikram Singh Amarawat, Assistant Professor, Gujarat Vidyapith

Discussant: C Shambu Prasad, Professor, IRMA

Rapporteur: Neeraj Kapoor, Member of PRADAN, New Delhi

10:45 am - 11:00 am Tea break

11:00 am - 1:30 pm Technical Session 4: The Politics of Land

Chair: Sudhir Kumar Suthar, Assistant Professor, Centre for Political Studies, JNU, Delhi

1. Vrinda Acharya, PhD Scholar, Centre for Political Studies, JNU, New Delhi: *The Inadequacy of Law: Land, Protests and Demands in Bhavnagar, Gujarat*
2. Chinglen Laishram, PhD Scholar, Central University of Gujarat: *International financing and pressure on Indigenous peoples land in Manipur: Case study of ADB projects post 2010*
3. Carol Upadhya, Professor, National Institute of Advanced Studies: *Rural Real Estate: Agrarian Land as a Financial Asset*

4. Sukhpal Singh Professor, Centre for Management in Agriculture (CMA), IIM, Ahmedabad: *Access to and Control of village common lands in Punjab: The state policies and their contradictions*
5. Pampa Mukherji, Professor, Panjab University, Chandigarh: *Decommonisation of Common Land in Punjab: Interplay of Caste, Gender and Power*

Discussant: Sailen Routray, Director, Centre for Human Sciences Bhubaneswar

Rapporteur: Natasha Koshy, Post-Doctoral Fellow, Indian Institute for Human Settlements

01:30 pm - 02:30 pm Lunch

2:30 pm - 4:00 pm: Technical Session 5: Appropriating the Forest: Commons and Community Rights

Chair: Dhananjay Rai, Assistant Professor, CUG

1. Saurabh Chowdhury, Ambedkar University Delhi and Samrakshan Charitable Trust, Agara M.P.: *Factors affecting Fuel wood Extraction within a adivasi village communities and its impact on the forest ecology: A case study from Sheopur District, Madhya Pradesh, India*
2. Nikita Sonavane, Working Group For Women And Land Ownership (WGWLO): *Interpreting the Rural-Commons in light of the Forest Rights Act*
3. Kamal Nayan Choubey, Assistant Professor, Dayal Singh College, Delhi University: *Forest as contested 'commons': Some Ethnographic Notes on the Quest for Forest Resources and Emerging Democratic Consciousness*

Discussant: A.R. Vasavi, Independent Scholar, Bangalore

Rapporteur: Debottam Saha, PhD Scholar, Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi

04:00 pm - 04:15 pm Tea break

04:15 pm - 06:15 pm Technical Session 6: Sites of Contestation: Managing the Commons

Chair and Discussant: C. Shambu Prasad, Professor, IRMA

1. Venkat Ramanujam Ramani, PhD Scholar, Ashoka Trust For Research, In Ecology And The Environment (ATREE) Bangalore: *Of swiddener-turned farmers, and farmer-turned migrant labour: Changing Adivasi-commons relationships in the Baiga Chak, eastern Madhya Pradesh*
2. Amrita Sen, Azim Premji University and Harini Nagendra, Professor, Azim Premji University, Bangalore: *Hybrid forms of urban commons management: lessons from three lakes in Bangalore, India*
3. Vinay Sankar, BITS-Pilani, Hyderabad campus: *"Tragedy of Cultural Commons"- Sacred Groves in Kerala*
4. Charles-Alexis M. P. B. Couvreur, PhD Scholar, University of Oxford, UK: *Socio-environmental Valuation Conflicts in the Fisheries of Southern Kerala*

Rapporteur: Sailen Routray, Director, Centre for Human Sciences Bhubaneswar

DAY THREE **September 22, 2018**

09:30 - 10:45 am **Concluding Session**

Chair: AR Vasavi, Independent Scholar, Bangalore

Discussion on Conference Proceedings

Next steps for NRAS

Rapporteur: Abhigya, Research Scholar, Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi

10:45 am - 11:00 am Tea Break

11:00 am - 1:15 pm: Mentoring Workshop

Presenters:

1. Ashvin N Vasava (CUG): *Resistance Movements Amongst the Adivasis of Gujarat: A Case Study of Kotwalias Movement*
2. Inamul Haq and Sheeraz Ahmad Sofi (CUG): *Kashmir Conflict and Water Resources: Impact of Indus Water Treaty*
3. Mudasir Dar and Sabzar Bhat (CUG): *Impact of Globalisation on Indian Agriculture in Post-reform Period*
4. Murari Behera, Centre for Study in Economics and Planning (CSEP, CUG): *Addressing an Overview of Agrarian Distress in India*
5. Ashok Nayak and Neha Rai (CUG): *Indebtedness Inequality of Agricultural Households*
6. Pankaj Soni (BHU): *Ascertaining the role of Agrarian Culture in the Economic Transformation*
7. Priya Gupta, National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS): *Commons in wildlife conservation areas: Contemporary notion of community resources*
8. Vrinda Acharya, Centre For Political Studies (CPS, JNU): *Constitutionalism and Politics of Land in the Global South: Laws, Rights And Protests On Land Acquisition In India And South Africa*
9. Waseem Hussain Rather (CUG): *Agrarian Crisis in India: The Root Cause, Consequences and Remedies*
10. Angshuman Sarma (JNU): *Riparian Agriculture and Rural Commons of Char Areas*

01:15 pm - 01:30 pm Vote of Thanks

01:30 pm - 02:30 pm Lunch