

National Seminar  
on  
**Farmer Producer Organisations**  
*(Design and Systems Perspectives)*

**Sharing of Experiences & Success Stories across India**

**13-14 March, 2020**

Center for Sustainable Ecological Systems  
Xavier Institute of Management, Bhubaneswar

While the intent in many of our initiatives towards sustainability; whether in Ecology, Governance, organizations, production, institutions, and culture of relationships have been noble; inconsistencies between the intent and approaches, methods, tools, techniques and actions often make these initiatives unsustainable over time. The inherent inconsistencies and tensions in designs and lack of synergy across different sub-systems even in small communities perpetuate lock-in effects, path dependencies and greater external control than freedom leading to inequity and unsustainability of smallholder communities and our society at large. It appears that unless people and communities recognize the realities of these tensions and simultaneously make efforts to unlock themselves from the various lock-in effects arising out of the various dimensions; our transition to sustainability will only be partial at best.

While there is an increasing recognition of the significance of farmer collectives and Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) for the overall sustainability of organization, rural economy and society as a whole; there is much need to develop conceptual clarity in design, practice and policy to make FPOs sustainable in India. In the above context, XIMB announces the National Seminar on 'Farmer Producer Organisations: A Pillar for Sustainable Ecological Systems' on 13-14 March, 2020 at Xavier Institute of Management Bhubaneswar.

A select group of experts and discussants including senior academicians, practitioners, policy executives, spiritual leaders and delegates from the governments shall deliberate on the design and systems issues faced by the FPOs and the future course of policy, practice and research to make FPOs sustainable. All organizations, institutions and individual working on FPOs and related issues are welcome to participate in this Seminar.

### **Background of proposed Seminar**

In the past, Xavier Institute of Management, Bhubaneswar (XIMB) has organized a number of seminars / conferences on various thematic topics. XIMB organized the first and second National Round Table Discussions on Optimal Design of Farmer Producer Organization & Sustainable Agricultural Systems in XIMB in January, 2016 and Sustainability Summit at XIMB and XUB in August, 2016. A National Symposium on Transitions Strategies for Sustainable Community Systems: Design and Systems Perspectives was organized by XIMB in January, 2017 at Bhubaneswar.

Thereafter the third, fourth and fifth National Round Table Discussions on Institutions, & Governance and Relationships were organised in November 2017 and March 2018 respectively at XIMB. Further two Seminar Series on Relationships were also conducted in February 2018 at XIMB. Again, XIMB in collaboration with NABARD organised the Seminar on Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) and Agriculture in the context of Relationships, Institutions, and Governance on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2018 at Xavier Institute of Management Bhubaneswar. All these Seminars & RTDs were attended by academic, researchers, senior practitioners, policy formulators, delegates belonging to civil society organizations, doctoral scholars and students etc.

### **Key Dimensions of Proposed Seminar**

**Farmer Producer Organizations:** Farmer Producer Organization (FPO) has been a special case of study under organizations in the rural agricultural context. The key design factors for study of FPOs and organizations in general include size, scope, technology, ownership and management. Size refers to the number of membership and geographical extent. Scope refers to the number and type of activities that an organization can engage in. Technology refers to the process and product technology suitable for an organization. Ownership refers to shareholding structure in the organization and Management refers to management structure, type of managerial skills appropriate for an organization. In the overall sustainability context of FPOs, we also study the following key dimensions viz., sustainable agricultural system, community governance, institutions, relationships and ecology.

**Production: (Sustainable Agricultural Systems):** Agriculture, the primary production activity is greatly being impacted by climate changes and has been increasingly becoming unsustainable across the world. It appears that in the course of our taking agriculture forward for greater productivity through intensive external inputs; we have made many small farmers unviable, increased risk in food safety, and environmental degradation. The key factors that shall be discussed include *Infrastructure (farm forestry-support structures-local networks)*, *Resource Base (moisture-raw material-machinery)*, *Competence Base (seed-product technology-process technology)*, *Systems Services (soil-systems coordination)*, *Diversity (production scope-actors & actants-cultures)*.

**Institutions:** Among the above three dimensions, deciphering the issue and factors of institution has been one of the most challenging ones. Increasingly there has been the realization that without appropriate institutions, sustainability can only be a distant dream. This seminar shall be a part of our exercise to better understand the factors of institutions for sustainability. The key factors that shall be discussed include *norms & conventions*, *rules & regulations*, *principles of justice*, *interaction intensity and institutional loading*.

**Governance:** Governance has been an encompassing dimension in subsystems and systems of our society. It has therefore been an important component with regard to sustainability of our community systems. The focus of our study has been to identify factors and principles of governance that can facilitate sustainable community systems at the lowest level of governance as well as are technically consistent for sustainability at higher level of governance, viz., district, national state, and global level. The key factors of study include *frequency of interactions, decision-making method, problem solving approach, resource dependency and governance architecture & responsibilities.*

**Relationships:** The nature and state of relationships often shape the sustainability of our endeavour in production systems, organizational designs, community governance and institutions within and outside the community. Indeed, relationships seem to have been at the core of human engagements and our endeavour towards sustainability. We could possibly explore Relationship from the systems science and spirituality perspectives. The key factors that shall be discussed include *sense of interdependence, notion of capital & wealth, mental construct, morals & values and faith & belief.*

**Ecology:** Ecology in our study represents a basic comprehensive unit (habitat-ecosystem) of our planet that is driven by the fundamental principles of nature. Ecology includes all living (biotic) and non-living (abiotic) objects in a given habitat. The natural principles of interconnection, interdependence, complementarities and caring for the weakest shall be the principal axioms to the study of ecology. The design and systems analysis of the other concentric and embedded layers of any ecosystem shall also be determined by the above natural principles. The key factors that shall be discussed include *Changes (atmospheric), Renewability (of resources), Balance (of species), Compatibility (of human & natural systems), Openness (in ecosystems).*

### Expected Outputs of Seminar:

The discussions and deliberations are expected to provide conceptual clarity to various factors of Ecology, Governance, Productions, Institutions and Relationships to improve practice and policy towards holistic development of FPOs. The outcomes shall be shared with all concerned to facilitate and strengthen the efforts on sustainability of governance, production, organizations (FPOs) and society at large.

### Important Dates

Last Date for Registration	1 <sup>st</sup> March, 2020
Last Date for Booking of Accommodation	7 <sup>th</sup> March, 2020
Seminar Date	13-14 March, 2020

**Proposed Venue:** Xavier Institute of Management Bhubaneswar

### Registration Fee

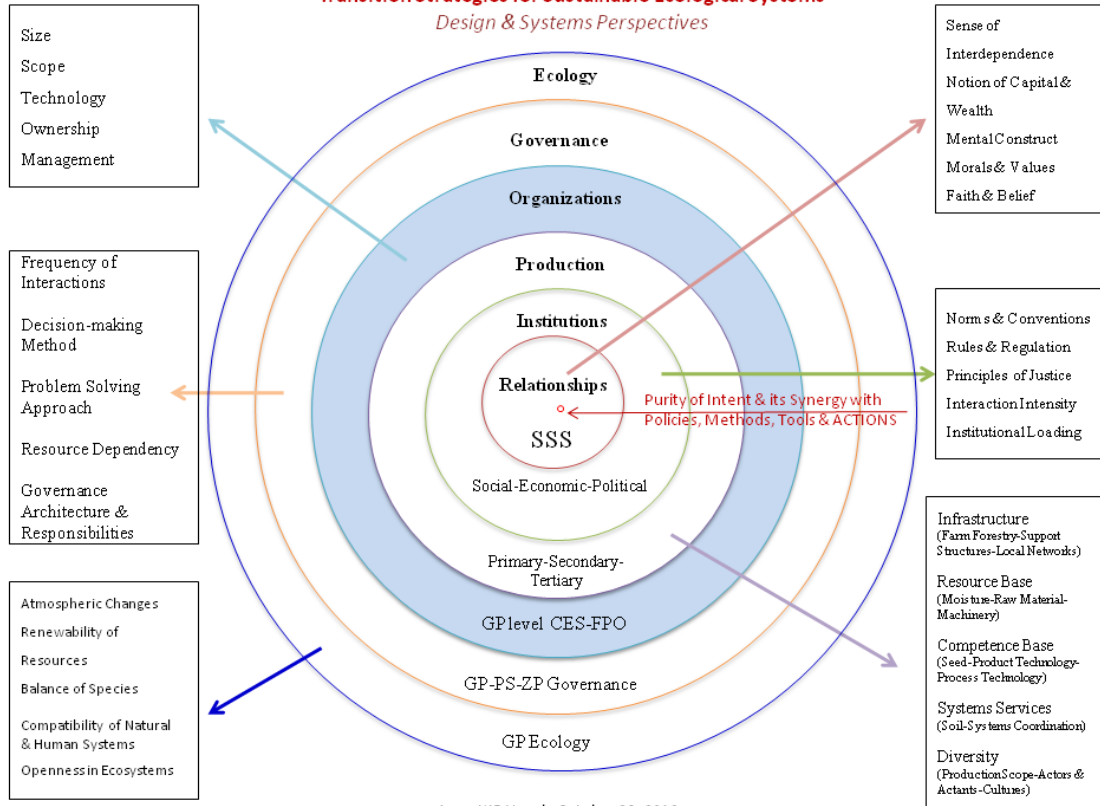
Policy Makers, Government Officials, Academics & Representatives from NGOs & CSOs	Rs. 2400/-*
Research Scholars/Students	Rs. 1800/-*

\* Inclusive of GST Charges.

### Panel of Experts and Discussants:

- A Chandrasekhar, Chief General Manager / OIC, NABARD RO, Bhubaneswar
- Amar KJR Nayak, Professor of Strategic Management & Chairperson of CSES, XIMB
- Amar Patnaik, MP, Rajya Sabha
- Anup Dash, Former Professor in Sociology, Utkal University, Bhubaneswar
- Ashis Mondal, Director, ASA, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh
- Benugopal Mukhopadhyay, Retd. CGM, FSPD, NABARD, Mumbai
- Bijayananda Kar, Former Professor in Philosophy, Utkal University, Bhubaneswar
- Maqbool Ali, Administrative & Management Consultant, Bhubaneswar
- M P Raju, Advocate, Supreme Court, New Delhi
- Nadia EI-Hage Scialabba, Independent Food Ecology Expert
- N. P. Mohapatra, CGM, DEAR, NABARD, Mumbai
- Natabar Sarangi, Farmer, RDCGK, Niali, Cuttack
- P. K. Swain, Joint Secretary, Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare, New Delhi
- R K Nayak, Ex-MP, Rajya Sabha
- Radhamohan, Retd. Professor & Advisor, SAMBHAV
- Rangaswamy Elango, Managing Trustee, TVSG, Chennai
- Sanjeev Chopra, Chairman, Odisha Mining Corporation Ltd., Bhubaneswar
- Saurabh Garg, Principal Secretary, Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment, Bhubaneswar
- Sashmi Nayak, Director General, NISWASS
- Sibachidananda, Patron Divine Life Society, Bhubaneswar
- S M Vijayananda, Chairman, Center for Management Development, Trivandrum, Kerala.
- Subhash Mehta, Managing Trustee, Devarao Shivaram Trust, Bengaluru
- Sunil Ray, Fellow, Max Weber Stiftung, India Branch

**Transition Strategies for Sustainable Ecological Systems**  
*Design & Systems Perspectives*



Amar KJR Nayak, October 28, 2016

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**Directorate Of Horticulture,**  
 Government Of Odisha

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS'  
 EMPOWERMENT  
 (GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA)



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