

National Round Table Discussions on Institutions

27th November, 2017

**NABARD Chair Unit
XIMB, Xavier University Bhubaneswar**

In partnership with

NABARD, TATA TRUSTS, DMI & NIAM

While the intent in many of our initiatives towards sustainability; whether in production, organizations, institutions, governance, 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.

NABARD Chair Unit, Xavier University Bhubaneswar announces the fourth Round Table Discussions (RTD) on **Institutions** on 27th November 2017. This RTD will deliberate and discuss the hidden challenges of unlocking sustainability in **institutions** and help discern the possible combinations of paths to transit towards sustainable communities. A select group of senior academicians, practitioners, policy executives, and delegates from the governments, civil society organizations, development agencies and corporations are being invited to participate in the deliberations.

Issues of Institutions

Nature and type of institutions at the district, state, national and global levels can either facilitate or destroy sustainable principles adopted in the other four inner layers, viz., community governance, community enterprise system, production systems, and culture of relationships at the core. Even if there are inconsistencies in the institutions at the higher levels from district to global level, coherence of institutions within a district that is at district, block & GP-Ward level can greatly facilitate sustainability at other four inner layers viz., GP, FPOs, Production Systems and Relationships. Accordingly, analysis in this dimension include five key factors of institutions viz., **learning process, managing commons, transaction norms, principle of justice, institutional architecture and network rules**; such that (a) Principles at different levels of institutions are in harmony with each other and are universally applicable and (b) higher level institutions in any country or globally facilitate sustainability of communitarian institutions at the community level for better governance.

While the desirable direction of each of these factors may have been well understood, studies need to figure out ways to overcome the challenges of institutions that can facilitate sustainability of a community.

Background of RTD on Institutions

To initiate holistic deliberations on the issues of sustainability of community systems, NABARD Chair Unit-Xavier University Bhubaneswar organized two National Round Table Discussions (RTD) on Optimal Designs of Farmer Producer Organizations and Sustainable Agricultural Systems on 18th and 19th January, 2016. Further, it organized First symposium on Transition Strategies for Sustainable Community Systems: Design & Systems Perspectives during 18-20 January 2017 to deliberate and discuss the various lock-in-effects arising out of design and systems of our Relationships, Sustainable Agricultural Systems, Organizational Design, Institutions, and Community Governance; that apparently hinder our transition to sustainable communities. The proposed national RTD on Institutions is an effort to understand the core factors of Institutions at different levels and functions and synthesize these factors for technical consistency with factors of other dimensions for overall sustainability of communities and society at large.

Focus of the RTD

This round table discussion on Institutions proposes to focus on the following factors. Additional critical factors; fundamental to understanding institutions from sustainability perspective are welcome for discussions.

Discipline Based	←	Learning System	→	Phenomenological
External Entity	←	Managing Commons	→	Local Community
Global Exchange	←	Transaction Norms	→	Local Exchange
Instrumental & Delayed	←	Principle of Justice	→	Fairness & Timely
Global to local	←	Institutional Architecture & Network Rules	→	Local to Global

Invited Delegates:

The delegates/participants shall include a few scholars/researchers working on this subject, practitioners with deep passion on the subject, donors/funding institutions that have heavily invested in this sector. The maximum number of participants to be invited for the round table discussion is estimated to be twenty (20).

Proposed Venue & Date:

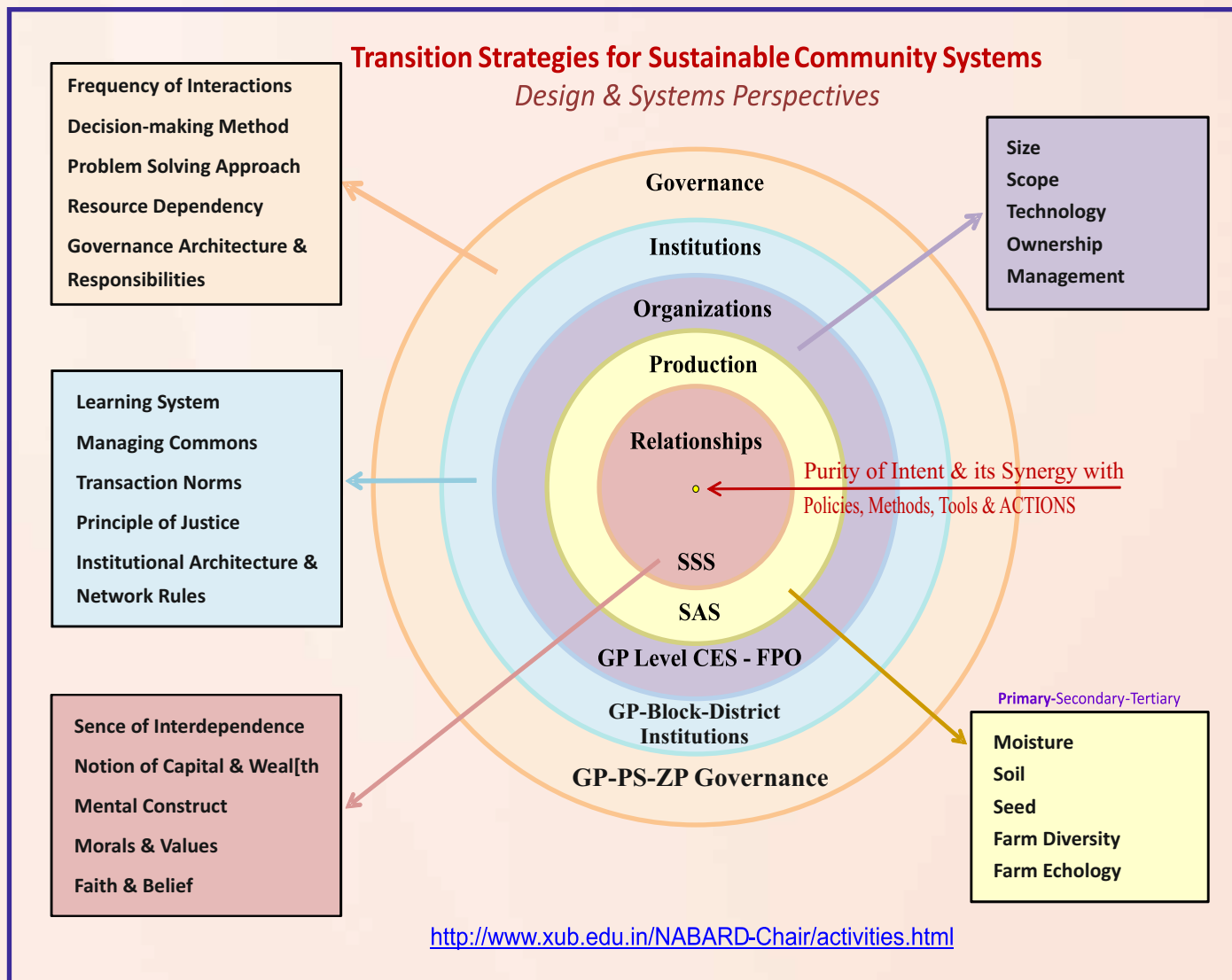
Xavier Institute of Management Bhubaneswar, 27th November, 2017

Expected Outputs of Deliberations:

The discussions and deliberations are expected to provide conceptual clarity, identify key areas of research and policy suggestions on sustainability of institutions. The outcomes shall be shared with all concerned to facilitate sustainability in local governance.

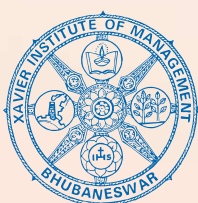
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