



CONFERENCE ON SMALLHOLDER FARMERS

Resilient Future for Small Farmers

March 10-12, 2015 | India International Centre, Lodhi Road, New Delhi

Organised by:



Co-Financed by:



Caritas
Austria

Background and Rationale



The Conference on Smallholder Farmers focuses on “Resilient Future for Small Farmers”. This initiative under Strengthening Adaptive Farming in Bangladesh, India & Nepal (SAF-BIN) programme is organised by the SAF-BIN South Asia Coordination Unit, Caritas India, Council for Social Development and other civil society organisations. The conference addresses the issues and challenges of

smallholder farmers in the context of climate change.

The deliberations during the conference are expected to draw together the efforts of various stakeholders and smallholder farmers to share innovations, good practices and potentials for building a resilient future for smallholder farmers. These potentials includes

South Asia hosts the largest proportion of poor and hungry people in the world. In the region smallholder farmers are numerous and cultivate a substantial portion of agricultural land, mostly under rainfed conditions. About 70% of all farms are less than 2 ha. In India alone 60% of rural families (490 million people) own small farms. Food and nutritional security of the smallholder farmers are at risk in the context of climate change and under pressure from present developments in agricultural research, education, extension and markets.

- Reduced water, energy and ecological foot prints in farming
- Use of local labour and materials to produce agro-ecologically and culturally relevant food
- Use of ecological and sustainable agriculture principles
- Conservation of agro-biodiversity
- Increased efficiency in terms of inputs and labour





Expected Results

Immediate Results

- Sharing the objectives, processes and results of SAF-BIN project among stakeholders and enable better appreciation of smallholder farmers' situations and requirements
- Sharing of initiatives around smallholder farmers by other stakeholders' including NGOs, Donors, Private Sector, Research Institutes/Universities and Government
- Multi-stakeholder dialogue and consensus on immediate and long-term actions around transforming small farms towards future resilient food production systems

Short-term Results

- Formation of a multi-stakeholder alliance around smallholder farmers
- More informed and strategic advocacy and networking around causes of small farmers to make the policy, research and extension demand oriented

Long term Results

- Increased investment and attention to small farms by national agriculture research systems and extension network
- Sustainable and resilient small farms taking care of food, nutrition and livelihoods security of farm family

Conference Schedule

■ DAY I: MARCH 10, 2015

Inaugural Session

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| Panel Discussion by Smallholder Farmers | : Small Farmers' Future in South Asia: Food Security, Livelihoods, Climate Change Resilience |
| Multi-stakeholder Voices around smallholder | : Small Farmers' Future in South Asia: Food Security, Livelihoods, Climate Change Resilience |
| Technical Session I | : Experiences from SAF-BIN Program |
| Cultural Programme / Inaugural Dinner | : Stakeholder Interaction / Formal Inauguration |

■ DAY II: MARCH 11, 2015

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| Technical Session II | : Experiences of externally funded projects promoting smallholder farmers' resilience |
| Technical Session III | : Experiences of National Agriculture Research and CGIAR |
| Technical Session IV | : Experiences of organizations promoting smallholder farmers |

■ DAY III: MARCH 12, 2015

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| Technical Session V | : Experiences of Civil Society & Alliance Building |
| Small Farmer Day Celebration | : Exhibition and Cross Learning |
| Valediction Session | |



Special Features

- Farmers Session
- Technical Session
- Gallery Walk – Poster Exhibition & Exhibition of Farmers Produce / Experience
- Farmers Round Table Discussion
- Smallholder Farmers Alliance
- Stakeholder Alliance on Food Security

Participants

Farmers / CSO's / Universities / Research Institutes / ICAR / Donors / INGO's / Private Sector / SAFBIN Project Partners



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Strengthening Adaptive Farming in Bangladesh, India and Nepal (SAF-BIN) is an action research programme under the European Union Global programme on Agriculture Research for Development (ARD). It is a multi-dimensional research that address the agricultural development challenges of developing and emerging countries. It is an initiative to promote local food and nutritional security through adaptive small scale farming in four rainfed Agro Ecosystems (AES) in South Asia. The programme is implemented by the Caritas Organisations in Bangladesh, India & Nepal in partnership with University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences (BOKU), Austria and in association with Action for Food Production (AFPRO), India; Sam Higginbottom Institute of Agriculture, Technology & Sciences (SHIATS), India; Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRRI), Bangladesh and Local Initiatives for Biodiversity, Research and Development (LI-BIRD) to address the Food Security and Climate Change Challenges of the Smallholder Farmers living in rainfed areas in South Asia.

Partners



Caritas
Austria



AFPRO
Action For Food Production