

KAVITHA KURUGANTI

Kavitha Kuruganti has around 23 years of experience working on development issues, mainly on farm livelihoods, food security and seed sovereignty, democratisation of science & technology, and promotion of ecological farming. She is a Development Communicator by qualification, having obtained her Master's degree in Communication from Central University of Hyderabad.

She has worked in a variety of organizations over the years – grassroots, campaign, women's, funding and state-level resource organizations in addition to working along with farmers' movements and forming national networks, from 1993 till date. Having decided not to hold any job to take forward her mission in life, which is to contribute to the promotion of sustainable farm livelihoods in India (with a special focus on smallholders and women farmers), she has been working on various social, economic and environmental justice issues on a non-monetary basis from 2008 onwards.

She is at present taking an active lead role as a National Convenor of Alliance for Sustainable & Holistic Agriculture (ASHA, www.kisanswaraj.in), an informal network of more than 400 organisations across 23 states of India that have come together in 2010 during the Kisan Swaraj Yatra, to address the agrarian crisis in India, and promote sustainable farm livelihoods. She is also the Founder member of a recent initiative that focuses on the rights of women farmers called MAKAAAM (Mahila Kisan Adhikaar Manch, www.makaam.in).

Her work at the grassroots has been with the Deccan Development Society, with dalit women farmers to promote agro-diversity, millet-based farming systems and seed sovereignty. A special focus has been on strengthening women in agriculture through collectivization and she continues to work with many grassroots organizations to empower women in agriculture.

Kavitha Kuruganti is a freelance writer who has written extensively on issues related to agriculture, food safety, food security, impacts of pesticides etc., undertaken research studies related to agricultural and forest livelihoods and has published papers in journals. Her documentation has focused on seed bank models, organic farming marketing models, inclusion of women in farmers' institutions, and a compilation of research findings related to organic farming. Over the years, she has also been involved in several project reviews and evaluations, assisting many donor agencies and their grassroots partners in improving their work. She also worked earlier in developmental film-making. She has recently ventured into a not-for-profit social enterprise around supporting many livelihoods through revival of organic Indian cottons that are handspun and handwoven, through an enterprise called Tula (www.tulaindia.org). She is also active in campaigning against hazardous agri-technologies like pesticides and coordinates India For Safe Food (www.indiaforsafefood.in). A few years ago, she was chosen by India Today as one of the Top 20 Most Influential Persons in Andhra Pradesh.

She serves on the Board of different organizations, incl. two organizations which are exclusive all-women organizations. She has served as a Member of the High Level Committee on the Status of Women in India (Government of India) and Member of the Government of India Committee examining methodological issues in fixing Minimum Support Price in Agriculture. She is right now serving as a Member in the Government of India Task Force on Organic and Non-Chemical Farming. She lives in Bangalore. She can be contacted at kavitakuruganti@gmail.com. Mobile Number: +91-8880067772.

YUDHVIR SINGH

Yudhvir Singh is a well-known farmers' leader based out of Delhi. He has been associated with various struggles pertaining to improvement of farm livelihoods from 1978 onwards and is part of Bhartiya Kisan Union. After his land in Delhi has been acquired, he continues farming in Rajasthan.

Spread over nearly 40 years, his struggles have spanned issues like Fair and Remunerative Prices for Farm Produce, Chemical-free Farming, Land Acquisition, Free Trade including World Trade Organisation, Family Farming, Income Guarantee for Farm Households and GMO-free India at the all-India level. He is one of the Founder Members of Coalition for a GM-Free India.

Yudhvir Singh is the Member Secretary of Indian Coordination Committee for Farmers' Movements (ICCFM) which he founded along with others in 2000 in Hyderabad. Prominent and strong farmer unions from Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Delhi are part of this formation which represents lakhs of farmers across these states.

For eight years now, he has been the South Asia Coordinator of *La Via Campesina*, the most prominent peasants' and farmers' movement across the globe.

He had played an active role as part of civil society delegations from India in the Hongkong, Bali and Geneva WTO Ministerials.

Being a key member of delegations on various issues, he had an opportunity to meet with, and raise issues of farmers' interest with the President, Prime Minister, Agriculture, Commerce and Rural Development Ministers of India on various occasions. He also deposed in front of Parliamentary Standing Committees to present farmers' views on key debates and legislations (like Committee on Commerce led by Mr Shantakumar on free trade and Committee on Rural Development led by Ms Sumitra Mahajan on Land Acquisition).

Yudhvir Singh served as a Member on the Government of India Committee on MSP-fixing methodology and formula set up under the Ministry of Agriculture.

He serves as a civil society representative in UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)'s Committee on Food Security (CFS).

Dr SHARAD EKNATH PAWAR

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Academic Qualifications: Ph.D., Cytogenetics & Plant Breeding

Positions Held:

Period	Dept	Position	Institution
1968 -2002	Pulse Improvement section	Head, SO (H)	BARC
1979 - 80	Dept. of Agronomy	IAEA Fellow	Univ. of Missouri, Columbia U.S.A.
2002 -05 Mar	NABTD	DAE-BRNS Senior Scientist	BARC
1999-2013	DHARA/ Mother Dairy Sponsored project, RTM Nagpur University, Nagpur	Consultant (Rapeseed-Mustard)	NDDB, Anand/ R.T.M. Nagpur University

Membership of Academic/Professional bodies:

- 1) Fellow of Maharashtra Academy of Science (1992).
- 2) Fellow of National Academy of Agriculture Sciences (1994).
- 3) Fellow of National Academy of Sciences - India (1995).

International Participation:

- 1) Principal investigator for the IAEA Project (No: 1892 /R6/ CR)
- 2) Consultant for the FAO/IAEA research coordination meeting in Changmai, Thailand (1986)
- 3) Visited Brazil (1996) as a member of delegation led by Dr. R. Chidambaram, Chairman, and Secretary DAE for bilateral collaboration.
- 4) Expert assignment from IAEA Vienna to South Africa and Zimbabwe in 2001 and Cameroon in 2002 for AFRA project.

National Participation:

- 1) Member of Research Advisory Committee of Indian Institute of Pulses Research, Kanpur (ICAR) for the year 2001 – 2004.
- 2) Member of QRT team appointed by Director General ICAR to review the work done by NRC(RM) Bharatpur & AICRP, during the five year period from 1999-2003 and suggest new programmes for future work (2006).

3) Member of Research Advisory Committee of Directorate of Rapeseed Mustard Research (ICAR), Sewar Bharatpur. (2005-2008).

Output:

- 1) Number of Publications: >80
- 2) Number of varieties released: 14 (6 of Mungbean, 4 of blackgram, 2 each of Pigeonpea & Soybean)

Awards:

- 1) ISPRD Recognition Award for 2001 for outstanding research contribution in the field of pulses improvement by Indian Society of Pulses Research & Development, ICAR, Kanpur.
- 2) Maharashtra State Seeds Corporation award (2006)

N.D.D.B. Association:

- 1) Consultant for Dhara Division of Mother Dairy Fruit and Vegetable Private Ltd. (unit of National Dairy Development Board, Anand) on the development of '00' (low erucic acid and low glucosinolate) variety of rapeseed-mustard using mutagenesis and conventional breeding approaches. This programme has resulted in the development of *B. napus* variety NUDB- 26-11 which has been released for zone I (Punjab, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir). In *B. napus* NUDB-38, NUDB-42, have been registered with NBPGR. NUDB-38 has been granted US patent (patent No. US 6,706,953 B2; dated March 16, 2004). In *B. juncea* Heera (IC-296501) and NUDH-YJ-5 (IC-296507) have been registered with NBPGR (ICAR) as '00' *B. juncea* genetic stocks. EH1 ('00') NUDH-YJ-1 ('0'), NUDH-YJ-2 ('0'), NUDH-YJ-3 ('00'), NUDH-YJ-4 ('00') were given accession number by NBPGR (ICAR). Canola selections giving similar oil and seed yield over the national checks have been developed.
- 2) Involved in the development of *B. juncea* hybrids system using CMS (Mori) and other systems developed elsewhere. Established A, B and R lines successfully.
- 3) Associated with farmers' participatory Rice Breeding programme and developed scented fine grained selections maturing in 130-135 and 145-150 days. Training farmers to produce store and distribute, genetically pure seed of all the above mentioned varieties.
- 4) Improving the milling, cooking and aroma of local popular rice varieties viz., HMT sona, Chinoor, DRK, Jai shriram and Basmati through breeding and selection programmes .on farmers field. During 2015-16 Maharashtra state seed corporation has conducted field demonstrations of newly developed varieties Talodhi Heera-135 & Parvati Soot-27 on large areas in Bhandara, Chandrapur, Gondia & Gadchiroli districts. M.S.S.C. Akola has requested to provide 300 qu. each of the above varieties for 2016-17 season.

KAPIL SHAH

Kapil Shah inherited (from his Gandhian parents) values to work for society selflessly. Academic training in the field of agricultural plant breeding and respect for natural ecosystem including farm diversity made him a missionary to promote organic farming in Gujarat since 1985, when he co-authored his first book on organic farming (locally coined term is "*Sajiv Kheti*") introducing the concept of agro-ecology in Gujarat. In spite of having a brilliant academic background (Topper of Gujarat Agricultural University in M.Sc. Plant Breeding & Genetics who bagged 4 Gold medals, he was offered many jobs including from multinational seeds companies, banks, fertilizer companies, Govt. institutes & universities), he chose to teach rural youth for their Bachelor of Rural Studies degree through Gandhian Naitaleem higher education institute since 1987 to 1992 with the conviction that he would satisfy himself in life in the best way if his talent and skills are utilized to develop rural India by benefiting farming community, conservation of natural resources and producing healthy food in sustainable way.

After quitting a salaried job in 1992, he has remained a full-time missionary for promotion of organic farming. During his journey of three decades of social work to promote *Sajiv Kheti*, he wrote/edited more than 8 books, published more than 20 books, edited a magazine, produced educational material including films and training manuals, trained hundreds of farmers, organized consumer awareness programmes, organized organic food festivals, established Gujarat's first domestic organic outlet, run produce-consumer networks, organized 8 state level meetings on organic farming and made presentations in various national and international fora to convince people at large to switch over to organic food and farming. He has also organized dialogues and debates on issues related to impact of chemical farming and genetically modified crops. He remained instrumental in stopping a project under which a multinational seed giant was distributing non-recommended Hybrid Maize seeds using Govt. funds to chemicalize tribal agriculture in unscientific and unsustainable ways. He is also engaged in a farmer-led successful project to develop non-Bt cotton hybrid seeds after Bt Cotton began contaminating organic cotton seed which left no choices for organic cotton farmers. He has also developed domestic standards for organic farming before APEDA took any initiative and today runs a robust, farmer friendly organic certification programme. Kapil Shah is seen as a highly credible selfless worker doing his best to promote agro-ecology and to improve farm livelihoods.

He has played key roles in several Govt. initiatives to promote organic farming including recently adopted Organic Farming Policy by Govt. of Gujarat. He is also a Member of several Govt. committees including Task Force on Organic & Non-Chemical Farming, Govt. of India. His tireless efforts are well appreciated not only in Gujarat but at national level, where he remained co-founder of two largest networks of this field - Organic Farming Association of India (OFAI) and Alliance for Sustainable & Holistic Agriculture (ASHA). He is convinced that technology based on the principles of agro-ecology is the most scientific approach to develop Indian agriculture, improve farm livelihoods and ensure national food security in a sustainable way.

Being a life time student and promoter of "science with ecological and social concerns", his work is well-recognised and supported by farmers, consumers, NGOs, farm unions, agri-scientists, media and universities. He leads the organic movement keeping his organization small as hundreds of people volunteer their resources for a good cause as and when needed.

Kapil Shah is also a Trustee of many organizations working in the areas of sustainable agriculture, health and education including Gujarat Vidyapith, the Ahmedabad-based University established by father of the nation. He prefers to live on voluntary financial contribution of his friends & well wishers and has restrained himself from drawing salary for his time and skills. His organization named JATAN: A Mission for Organic Farming, never utilizes any Govt. or foreign funds and remains solely dependent on donations received from Indian citizens & organizations.

Kapil Shah can be contacted at jatantrust@gmail.com (Ph: +91-9427054132).

Dr DEBAL DEB

Debal Deb is a biologist, with specialization in genetics, and doctorate in mathematical ecology from Calcutta University. He conducted post-doctoral research in human ecology of estuarine resource use at the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore (1988), and in ecological economics at University of California – Berkeley, as Ford Foundation Fellow (2001) and as Fulbright Fellow (2009).

Deb's work encompasses conservation biology, agroecology, forest ecology, and ancient 'sacred' ecosystems in eastern India. In 1997, Deb founded **Vrihi** (Sanskrit for 'rice'), India's largest non-governmental folk rice gene bank, conserving 1320 folk rice varieties *in situ*.

His research farm **Basudha**, in Odisha, demonstrates ecological agriculture, ecoforestry, alternative energy use, and ecological architecture.

Deb's effort to reinvigorate traditional communitarian ethos has revived many forgotten indigenous sports and musical traditions in Bengal.

His free-lance research in agroecology, crop genetic diversity, food web theory, forest ecology and ecological economics has been published in international journals including *Nature*, *Oikos*, and *Society & Natural Resources*, and *Experimental Agriculture* and several books. His latest book *Beyond Developmentality: Constructing Inclusive Freedom and Sustainability* (2009, Earthscan: London) contributes to development studies and ecological economics.

He serves as one of the Members of the Expert Committee on Agro Biodiversity in the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA), GoI. He is a technical referee for numerous publications and journals in India and abroad.

Dr Debal Deb is a Recipient of the National Plant Genome Saviour Recognition Award, 2009 (Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India).

He can be contacted at debdebal@gmail.com.

RAJESH KRISHNAN

Rajesh Krishnan holds a Bachelor's degree in Biotechnology followed by a Masters in Ecology from the Pondicherry Central University. After working with Greenpeace India in its Sustainable Agriculture campaign for almost 10 years, he has gone back to his home state Kerala to become a full-time farmer.

He currently resides in Wayanad where he not only runs an organic farm but is motivating other farmers to get into organic farming using traditional seed varieties and finding remunerative markets for the same. As part of efforts to provide a sustainable market for farmers he has mobilised farmers to form a Farmer Producer Company which is now supported by NABARD.

He works closely with the Panchayat machinery and is part of the Advisory Council of the local Panchayat.

He is an active member of Alliance for Sustainable and Holistic Agriculture (ASHA) as well as a Co-Convenor of the Coalition for a GM Free India, a large network of farmer unions, scientists, consumer groups and other civil society organisations who actively campaigns against any open release of GMOs into the environment owing to their adverse impacts on human health, environment, farm livelihoods etc.

Rajesh Krishnan can be contacted at rajeshecologist@gmail.com (Ph: 07559915032).

VR ANANTHASAYANAN (Ananthoo)

Ananthoo's formal training was in Telecom Engineering and he worked in the Telecom and IT sectors for many years. After coming back to India in 2006 from Europe – his last stint was 6 years in Switzerland - he had stopped working for any monetarily-gainful employment and does not hold a job.

He works on public interest causes like food safety and sustainable agriculture. He leads a consumer movement in Tamil Nadu called Safe Food Alliance.

Along with like-minded citizens, he works with small and marginal farmers, helping them move to sustainable farming, and runs a not-for-profit organic retail outlet in Chennai called reStore (www.restore.org.in).

As an extension to this initiative and to take safe organic food to a larger set of citizens, especially the middle class, he initiated OFM or Organic Farmers' Market (<http://www.ofmtn.in>), which is collective that works with many organic farmers on one side and urban youngsters interested in supporting farm livelihoods on the other side. These initiatives are evolving as strong consumer cooperatives at this point of time.

Ananthoo is one of the National Convenors of ASHA (Alliance for Sustainable and Holistic Agriculture), and he anchors the market-related activities of the network, helping smallholders find better markets including through various direct marketing events and mechanisms. An internet-based portal for better information flows between producers and procurers has been set up and run by me, as part of this effort.

He works with cotton farmers in the states of Karnataka, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu to help them switch to Indian cottons grown organically, by procuring such cotton, and later supporting hand spinners, natural dyers and handloom weavers to produce an organic Indian cotton garment line called Tula (www.tula.org.in). Through this social enterprise, hundreds of livelihoods related to cotton are being supported.

Ananthoo has worked closely with the Tamil Nadu State Planning Commission in giving a thrust to millets production and consumption and setting up a millets mission for the state. This initiative is gaining much support in the state amongst farmers and consumers, for its ability to combat malnutrition, as well as improve farm livelihoods and adapt to climate change vulnerabilities in addition to bringing better health for consumers.

He also served as Member of the Committee set up by the Tamil Nadu Government to draft the state organic farming policy.

Ananthoo is the Convenor of Safe Food Alliance, a large consumer movement focusing on food safety and sustainable farm livelihoods in the state of Tamil Nadu.

He can be contacted at ananthoo@gmail.com (Ph: 09444166779).

संक्षिप्त जीवन घुत



रामपाल जाट – संस्थापक-राष्ट्रीय अध्यक्ष – किसान महापंचायत

संस्थापक एव राष्ट्रीय अध्यक्ष रामपाल जाट का जन्म दिनांक 03 जुलाई 1952 गाम बहरावण्डा कलाँ, तहसील खण्डार, जिला सवाई माधोपुर, राजस्थान में हुआ। गाँव से लेकर जयपुर तक विधि स्नातक की शिक्षा प्राप्त की।

विद्यार्थी जीवन में सदस्य लोक संघर्ष समिति राजस्थान रहते हुए आपातकाल में भूमिगत संघर्ष किया। 1975-1977 की अवधि में सवाई माधोपुर, उदयपुर एवं सेवर (भरतपुर) जेल वाला की। इसी दौरान सवाई माधोपुर लोकतांत्रिक युवा मोर्चा के जिला संयोजक 1977-1978 एवं 1978-1980 अखिल भारतीय विद्यार्थी परिषद राजस्थान में प्रदेश सहमंत्री के पद पर रहते हुए छात्र हितों के संघर्ष एवं रचनात्मक काम किये। 1980-1995 से भारतीय किसान संघ राजस्थान के प्रदेश मंत्री तथा 1995-2004 तक प्रदेश सहमंत्री रहते हुए किसानों के लिए हितों के लिए संघर्ष किया। 1987 से 2004 तक भारतीय किसान संघ की राष्ट्रीय कार्यकारिणी के रूप में सदस्य नीति निर्धारण में भागीदारी निभाई।

1980 से पकालात आरम्भ कर 2007 में स्पेशल निवृत्ति ले ली। इसके अंतिम तीन वर्षों में अतिरिक्त महाविषयता के पद पर काम किया। इस अवधि में सदस्य विधिक सेवा समिति एवं स्थायी लोक अदालत के सदस्य के रूप में राजीनामा द्वारा मुकदमों के निस्तारण में भागीदारी निभायी और इसी क्रम में गाम पंचायत बहरावण्डा कलाँ को "मुकदमा विहीन" कराने की भूमिका के लिए राज्यपाल द्वारा सम्मानित किया गया तथा राजस्थान उच्च न्यायालय की विधिक सेवा समिति की ओर से राज्य स्तरीय प्रशस्ति पत्र दिया गया। 2001-2004 की अवधि में सदस्य-न्यायालय स्थायी लोक अदालत (जन उपयोगी सेवाएँ) के सदस्य के रूप में सेवाएँ दी।

वर्ष 2007 से 2010 तक भारतीय जनता पार्टी राजस्थान के प्रदेश सहमंत्री के रूप में काम किया और इस अवधि में हुये गुर्जर आंदोलन में मध्यस्थता के साथ ही सरकार की ओर से घातकार की भूमिका का निपटर्न किया।

वर्ष 2010 से अनवरत् किसानों में चेतना एवं संघर्ष का काय

राष्ट्र स्तरीय किसान संगठनों का सम्मेलन - 23, 24 जनवरी 2016 (जयपुर, राजस्थान) के अतिरिक्त चम्पटीगढ़ , बैंगलौर, हैदराबाद, दिल्ली शिमला आदि के साथ अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्तर पर अखिल एशिया किसान सम्मेलन में भागीदारी (मनीला-फिलीपिंस) 14-19 मार्च 2016 में भागीदारी रही है। राजस्थान प्रदेश में ग्राम से लेकर संभाग एवं राज्य स्तर पर किसान महापंचायतों का आयोजन एवं - विधानसभा पर धरना, गिरफ्तारियों एवं कोर्टों के चित्तन शिविर में 18 जनवरी 2013 को किसानों का प्रभावी प्रदर्शन, देश व्यापी विभिन्न किसान संगठनों के कार्यक्रमों में सक्रिय भागीदारी निभाते हुए किसान विधेयक का प्रचार प्रसार के साथ संकल्प दिलाया इसी क्रम में 5 मई से 12 अगस्त 2015 तक "भूमि अर्जाओं - किसान अर्जाओं" 100 दिवसीय यात्रा में 590 गांव में ग्राम सभाएं आयोजित कर खुला विचार विमर्श किया।

कार्य का आधार सत्याग्रह - सत्य अहिंसा के साथ सत्याग्रह को आंदोलन का उपकरण बनाया और इसी कारण पुलिस द्वारा गिरफ्तार कर न्यायालय में मजिस्ट्रेट के समक्ष विरचित किये गये आरोपों के सत्य को स्वीकार किया और इसी के आधार पर मजिस्ट्रेट के आदेश से आठ दिन की जेल यात्रा रही और जिला न्यायाधीश के आधार पर ही बिना जमानत मुचलके रिहा हुआ।

अध्ययन एवं लेखन - 1926 से लेकर अब तक की कृषि मूल्य नीति का आध्योनात अध्ययन तथा लेखन का काम निरन्तर है। प्रमुख दैनिक समाचार पत्र राजस्थान पत्रिका के सम्पादकीय में अब तक छपे लेख समर्थन मूल्य का जलाया, देश के अन्नदाता को ईसाफ का ईतजार, बढ़ता खर्च घटता सम्मान, किसानों की खुशी से खिलवाड़, असुरक्षित ना हो जाये किसान, खाद्य सुरक्षा से खिलवाड़, कानून की आड़ में जल, फायदों का सौदा होगी खेती ? जहर डगल रहें खेत, किसानों का रखिए ध्यान, शीर्षक से लेख छपे हैं। कोन्द्रीय एवं राज्य बजटों पर प्रतिक्रियाओं के साथ सामयिक विषयों पर टिप्पणियाँ निरन्तर छपती हैं।

इसके अतिरिक्त "व्यथा - कथा किसान की", एवं "किसानों की सुनिश्चित आय एवं मूल्य का अविकार -2012" के सम्बन्ध में पुस्तकों का लेखन किया गया है। इस विधेयक के आधार पर लोकसभा में प्रस्तुत किसान विधेयक सर्वसम्मति से स्वीकार किया गया है।

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