



## Policy Dialogue to Achieve the Promise of Commons

Organiser(s)/: Sanjoy Pattanaik  
Institution(s) Foundation for Ecological Security



**Objective:** Design and build multi-actors' commitment to policy solutions

A growing body of literature on rural livelihoods and climate discourse have established with evidence the contribution of village commons to household and community level economic gains and the range of ecosystem services. India's more than 150 million acres of village pastures, forests, water bodies and wastelands provides an ideal platform to uniquely address issues of social, environmental and climate justice. It has the potential to directly benefit more than 500 million small and marginal land and livestock holders by creating an additional income worth 50 billion USD annually for rural households from food, fuel and firewood, livestock rearing, wage income, and so on.

Commons space is replete with examples of wrong policies, lack of appropriate legal, institutional and policy frameworks that have either led to their steady decline or fast degradation. Even after 70 years of planned development, Commons continues to be a less traversed area as regards policy dialogue and change. Neither the policy makers nor the village communities are adequately aware and sensitised on the transformational effects of commons. Therefore, the effort is to regroup key and critical players to facilitate multi-actor debates and follow up actions to advance the cause of Commons.

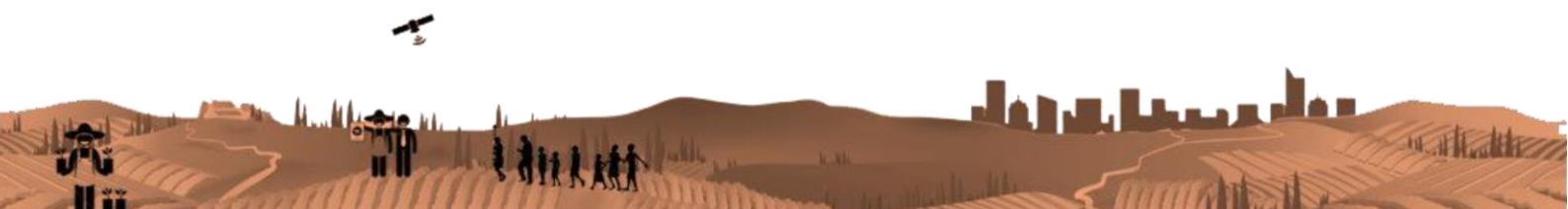
The proposed session aims to brainstorm and devise actionable strategies and policies around; a) decentralising ownership of village commons, b) design and develop innovative tech solutions including access to correct data, c) designing scalable models with state governments and programmes, d) devise ways to integrate commons with public investments to double farm income, and e) integrated land use and eco-restoration of commons. The session will also discuss; what would incentivise governments to prioritise Commons, what could be a realistic policy change framework, how relevant capacities can be built, what institutional reforms and innovations needed, how can a commons collective formed and operate, and so on. The session would look towards achieving three specific outcomes for improved governance of Commons; a) policy solutions designed at the state and national level, b) policy change road map designed, and c) wider commitments achieved on building a commons constituency.

### Session Plan

A panel of experts will discuss policy engagement strategies required at national, cross-state and intra-state, and develop a roadmap required to enable crucial policy shifts to achieve the 'Promise of Commons'. The recently developed policy brief 'Planning for Integrated use of Village Commons: Key Findings and Policy Implications' by Council for Social Development would form the background to the discussion.

Session will be chaired by Dr.T.Haque and other panellists could be J.K.Mohapatra, Dr Vijayanand and one or two experts suggested by Dr.Haque

- The session will also have representation from state departments like Land Resources/Revenue from selected states like Jharkhand, Maharastra, Rajasthan
- State and National Livelihoods Missions and other state rural development programmes will also be invited to share models that concerns Commons protection and development





- Efforts are also on to rope in MoRD to reflect on NREGA and Commons integration – models and policies
- The movement/transition of best practices to policy frameworks have been a vital issue in natural resource management. The session with experts from different spaces including grassroots would be delving on system driven approaches

The session and panellists are expected to through some light on designing a set of specific, achievable and grounded recommendations and policy engagement strategies that could be taken to newly formed governments in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chattisgarh, Odisha, Telengana, Andhra Pradesh and Jharkhand by mid 2019. Post ILDC, a group of players would work together to sustain the impact of a collective process at multiple levels and forums in the form of multi-layered campaigns.

### Season plan

13-Mar-19

Panel 11: Policy Dialogue to Achieve the Promise of Commons

10.45 - 12.45 Hrs



FOUNDATION FOR ECOLOGICAL SECURITY

**Chair**

**Dr T Haque, Ex-Chair, Land Policy Cell, Niti Ayog**

**Sanjoy Patnaik, Consultant, FES**

Introducing the session – Objective and panelists

**Dr. Ankita Goel, Associate Professor, Council for Social Development, New Delhi**

Planning for Integrated use of Village Commons: Key Findings and Policy Implications'

**Dr. Kanchan Chopra, Former Director and Professor, Institute of Economic Growth, University of Delhi**

**Dr. A B Ota, IAS, Director, SCSTRI, SC&ST Dev Deptt, Govt of Odisha**

Commons Tribes interface, Reference to Sacred Groves – TSP perspectives and policy gaps

**Kamran Rizvi, IAS, Joint Secretary, MoRD, Govt of India**

Commons-MGNREGA interface and integrations

**Himani Pandey, IAS, Secretary, Welfare, Govt of Jharkhand**

State Commons Perspective from Jharkhand in the context of SPTA and CNTA

**Vishnukant Govindwad, TISS**

Forests and Revenue Waste Lands: Its Governance and Importance

