

UNFSS: Grassroots Perspectives
An Independent Food Systems Summit Dialogue, Asia & Africa
18 February 2021, 14:00 – 16:00 IST
Convened by Bharat Krishak Samaj and Rythu Sadhikara Samstha (RySS)

A broad understanding is emerging that our food systems are profoundly inequitable; they also play a major role in environmental degradation. The pandemic and its devastating impacts have brought these vulnerabilities into sharper focus. Yet, food systems also have immense potential to improve the health of our bodies, our economies and our environment. For this, it is vital to transform the way the world produces, consumes and thinks about food.

In pursuit of this goal, the [United Nations Food Systems Summit 2021](#) is being convened as part of the Decade of Action to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. Guided by five [Action Tracks](#), the Summit will bring together key players from the worlds of science, business, policy, healthcare and academia, as well as farmers, indigenous people, youth organizations, consumer groups, environmental activists, and other key stakeholders.

[Food Systems Summit Dialogues](#) are an important instrument for the same. These dialogues offer a purposeful and organized forum for stakeholders to come together to share their roles in food systems, consider their impacts on others and find new ways to support the SDGs. The outcomes of the Summit Dialogues will feed into the Summit process and help to guide individual and collective action towards a future of food that is sustainable, equitable and secure.

We believe the FSS Dialogues are a unique opportunity to bring voices and perspectives of diverse and often underrepresented food systems actors into the Summit process. These actors, such as farmers, are crucial stakeholders in any proposed transformation of our food systems. As organizations that advocate for and work towards the interests of farmers and producers, we felt the need to organize an Independent Dialogue that would represent the farmers' stakes in our food systems. This is especially important in the context of the Global South, where large populations depend on agriculture for their livelihood.

We invite you to join us in a [dialogue](#) with farmers' organizations, development practitioners and activists from Asia and Africa on 18 February 2021, from 2 pm to 4 pm IST. In keeping with Covid-19 restrictions, the discussion will be online (Zoom platform). The focus of the discussion will be on 'Building synergies between seemingly competing interests of production, consumption, livelihoods and the ecosystem'. Please find further details about the dialogue in the concept note attached with this email.

The varied experiences of our discussants across the two continents would provide fertile ground for the germination of game-changing ideas. We look forward to your participation in making this a stimulating and productive engagement. We request you to kindly confirm your participation at this [link](#). Thereafter, further details, including the meeting link, will be conveyed for your reference.

Thanking you,

Ajay Vir Jakhar,
Chairman,
Bharat Krishak Samaj
(<https://bks.org.in/>)



T Vijay Kumar, IAS (Retired),
Executive Vice Chairman,
Rythu Sadhikara Samstha
(<http://apzbnf.in/>)





AGENDA

Date: 18 February 2021

Time: 14:00 – 16:00 IST (**Please join at 1:50 PM**)

Convenors: Bharat Krishak Samaj and Rythu Sadhikara Samstha (RySS)

Format: Online (Zoom platform)

Dialogue Focus/Title: Building synergies between seemingly competing interests of production, consumption, livelihoods and the ecosystem

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| 14:00 – 14:10 | Welcome Address and Introduction to the Dialogue |
| 14:10 – 14:20 | Keynote Address by Guest Speaker |
| 14:20 – 14:25 | Introduction to UNFSS, Action Tracks and Facilitators |
| 14:25 – 15:25 | Breakout Session in 5 smaller groups, moderated by Facilitators (5-10 minutes can be taken at the end to prepare for reporting) |
| 15:25 – 15:55 | Reporting of Outcomes from Breakout Sessions (5 minutes each Facilitator) |
| 15:55 – 16:00 | Summary and Recommendations from the Dialogue |

The insights and recommendations from the Dialogue will be shared with the UNFSS team through their Official Feedback mechanism and inform the outcomes of the Summit process.