



## SAMVAAD ACTION RESEARCH COLLECTIVE

Encourages action research on different aspects concerning the tribal development sphere, aiming to contribute to the dialogue at a policy level.

The Samvaad ecosystem engages with a host of youngsters from tribal communities who are leading some very impactful action as well as thinking on the ground. It is our firm belief that the best interests of the country would be served if their voice finds greater resonance in the space of academia and policy articulation. Our consistent realization, however, is that the biggest impediment for this is the gap between great ground action and an evidence led articulation that begets good policy and research. We initiated an effort to bridge this gap and ran a Samvaad paper presentation competition for three years which has given a database of more than 60 papers which have been published in three annual compilations. Since its inception, we have received more than 160 papers out of which 67 were shortlisted for presentation and thereby collated in three publications. (If you can hyper link and upload the attached publications here).

The intention, now, is to use this experience to transition to the Samvaad Action Research Collective (Samvaad ARC) which will foster a collective of ground-up, grassroots action research on issues core to the tribal narrative as recognized by tribal communities. It will be reflected in a publication with 30 selected articles that will bring to fore issues as experienced by our presenters and encourages action research on different aspects concerning the tribal development sphere, aiming to contribute to the dialogue at a policy level.

### IN COVERSATION WITH

DAY 1  
16<sup>th</sup>

DAY 2  
17<sup>th</sup>

DAY 3  
18<sup>th</sup>



**Dr. Ankur Sarin**

Dr. Ankur Sarin is an Associate Professor at the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad. His past work includes investigations of the effects of social and economic inequality on welfare outcomes of children, and understanding the influence of technology on the social and economic life of the marginalised. He has been working on making the Right to Education an instrument not only for increased access to education, but also one that promotes a more inclusive education system as part of the institute's Right to Education Resource Center. He has a Ph.D. in Public Policy from the University of Chicago and prior to joining IIM-Ahmedabad, he was a Researcher at Mathematica Policy Research, Princeton.



**Sabarmatee**

Sabarmatee along with her father Prof. Radha Mohan has been awarded the Padma Shree award in the year 2020 for their incredible work in the field of Agriculture. The Father-Daughter duo transformed 36 hectares of degraded land in Nayagarh district of Odisha into a food forest by soil and water conservation techniques. The forest has over 1,000 species of plants and 500 varieties of rice and supports a seed bank with 700 indigenous varieties of seeds. They have started Sambhav, a resource centre for farmers across the country. Sambhav has successfully grown many vanishing food crops such as clove bean, jack bean, black rice and sword bean etc.

NOVEMBER  
16

NOVEMBER  
17

NOVEMBER  
18



**Dr. Himanshu Kulkarni**

Dr. Himanshu Kulkarni leads ACWADAM as its Executive Director, a not-for-profit knowledge institution and think-tank on India's groundwater resources. He is a hydrogeologist by qualification and has been working on aquifers and groundwater across India's diverse groundwater typology for about 37 years. He has worked on the practice and policy of sustainable groundwater management through teaching, research and outreach. Dr. Kulkarni has also travelled extensively as part of his work, both in India and overseas.



**Baba Simon Oraon**

Simon Oraon Minj, popularly known as the Waterman of Jharkhand in the media and Simon Baba among his villagers, is an Indian environmentalist and social worker, who is known to have worked to combat drought in the state of Jharkhand. He has contributed to construction of five irrigation reservoirs as well as an environmental project which included mass tree plantation and digging of wells and ponds in the Bero block near Ranchi, covering 51 villages. The Government of India awarded him the fourth highest civilian honour of the Padma Shree, in 2016, for his contributions to society. In 1964, the villagers elected him as the Parha Raja (Chief of the tribe) and he initiated the social forestry program at his ancestral property which he continues, planting 1000 trees every year, to prevent soil erosion and depletion of water resources. He served as the Prime Minister's Rural Development Fellow during 2012-14.

NOVEMBER  
16

NOVEMBER  
17

NOVEMBER  
18



**Dr. Rabindranath Sarma**

Dr. Rabindranath Sarma is an Associate Professor and Head in the Department of Tribal Studies at Central University of Jharkhand prior to which he was engaged with Tezpur University, Gauhati University, Silpakorn University, Nakorn Pathom campus and the University of Tartu in Estonia.

He was Editorial Assistant in Assamese Encyclopedia Project: World Literature and Folk Literature Volume: V, VIII and IX. He has published more than 150 articles in different journals, books etc. including Assamese Encyclopedia of Asom Sahitya Sabha. He is a member of esteemed bodies including International Society for Folk Narrative Research, International Society for Studies in Oral Tradition, Academic Folklore Society, North-East India Council for Social Science Research, among others. Most of his writings are based on field-work (primary source only). He has published several books including Tradition, Identity and Diversity: the Future of Indigenous Culture in a Globalised World, and Bhasa Sahitya Sanskritir Dhetor Kola (in Assamese). The National Human Rights and Crime Control Bureau awarded him the Nelson Mandela Human Rights Award 2019 for his remarkable contribution in promoting Tribal and Human Rights,



**Sri Daitari Naik**

Shri Daitari Naik also known as Canal Man of Odisha, is a tribal man of village Baitarani under Banspal block of Keonjhar district of Odisha. He is a social worker and has single-handedly carved out a three-kilometre canal from the Gonasika mountains so that the water stream could irrigate the parched land below from a mountain stream to water his and his neighbouring fields. It took nearly four years for Naik and his family to dig the canal with just hoe and digging bar. Daitari Naik was conferred with the fourth highest civilian honour-Padma Shri for his unwavering will power towards the betterment of his community.

[VIEW RESEARCH PAPERS HERE](#)