Institut National de la Recherche
Agronomique, Paris, France
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Bharathidasan University
www.bdu.ac.in

THREE DAY INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
ON

"TECHNOLOGY, INNOVATION AND
THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN INDIA"

12-14 JULY 2007, TIRUCHIRAPALLI, INDIA

Coordinators:

Shyama V. Ramani (INRA & Ecole Polytechnique, France)
N. Manimekalai (Bharathidasan University, India),

Organization Committee:

Antonin Benyar (Association Un-Ami) & Annebelle Didier (Association, Un-Ami),
Raji Srikant (Trust FIN (counterpart of Un-Ami in India))
Dr.S.Suba, Centre for Women's Studies
Mr.A. Kannan, Centre for Women's Studies
Ms.M.S. Sameem Banu, Centre for Women's Studies

In 1990, the United Nations agreed upon eight essential objectives, referred to as the Millennium Development Goals or MDG to be attained by 2015 in order to ensure a more equitable and sustainable development of the planet. The Indian government has confirmed that the attainment of the MDG is a national priority. The main sectors concerned which are to be considered with gender perspective are: **food, health, education, environment and energy** and the objective is to **increase the quantity of products and services produced** in an environment governed by market forces while ensuring **sustainability, access to poor and greater empowerment of the poor and/or marginalized including women.** The design of solutions is necessarily governed by local contexts in terms of knowledge base, socio-economic characteristics of targeted populations, institutional landscape and the regulatory framework. In this context, **innovation refers to new technologies, new physical structures as well new organisational routines, new social norms or social routines supporting markets, structures, technologies or institutions.** In India, as in most countries, clear strategies have yet to be developed in terms of investment allocation, due to insufficient data and understanding of the processes underlying the evolution of the sectors associated with the MDG. In particular interlinks between the different millennium goals such as environmental management, livelihood provision, gender equality and security for children have not been much studied.

Science and technology revolutionise the lives of people of 21st century. They are opening tremendous career opportunities to women but restrict opportunities to those who fall behind in the technology divide. Technology gender gap is emerging, changing the power and career growth of women. There are many silver lines in the career women around the globe. But that should not obsure the fact that much work remains to be done.

The objective of the conference is thus to explore technological solutions, organizational routines, social norms and public policy to attain the MDG while facilitating exchange between academics, NGOs, firms, funding agencies and policy makers. **To the best of our knowledge, this is the first time in India a conference is being specifically organized to bring about a dialogue between mainstream academics, NGOs, policy makers and private funding agencies.** We invite you to join us and make this initiative a success and ensure the continuation of this dialogue, which could lead to concrete action thereafter.

With sincere thanks,

The Coordination Committee:
Shyama V. Ramani (INRA, France) and N. Manimekalai (Bharathidasan University, India)

Program Details

Day 1: 12th July, Thursday

Each presentation will be for about 35 minutes with 10 minutes for questions.

9.00-9.05 : Inauguration by *Manimekalai and students of Bharathi Dasan University.*

9.05-9.20: Introduction and purpose of the conference (*Shyama V. Ramani, INRA*)

9.20-10.00: MDG, what, why and where with respect to India ? (*Shyama V. Ramani, INRA*)

10.00-10.45: Achievements and Challenges of Tamil Nadu: Views of an experienced practitioner (*Swaran Singh, IAS, MD of TWAD (Tamil Nadu Water and Drainage Board*)

10.45-11.15: Tea Break

11.15-12.00: Technological options, Food security and commercialization of Indian agriculture by food processing firms (*Sukhpal Singh, IIM-A*)

12.00-12.20: Pharmaceutical Markets & Health Security: The broader context for accessibility to medicines (*Arijita Dutta, Calcutta University*)

12.45-14.00 Lunch

14.00-14.45 Environmental security: Technology models for sanitation in marginalized zones and determinants of utilisation of Ecosan toilets (*Antonin Benyacar, Annabelle Didier, Association Un-Ami & Shyama V. Ramani, INRA*)

14.45-15.30 Main challenges and solutions for environmental sanitation in rural and semi-rural areas (*Subburaman, SCOPE*)

15.30- 16.15 : Contemporary Urban India : Challenges and Government Initiatives (*Raja Venkataramani, Team Leader, Technical Cell, JNNURM, Mission Directorate, Ministry of Urban Development, Government of India*)

16.15-16.45 Tea

16.45-17.30 Indian Tribals: Present state, present problems, integration and MDG (*Hanumappa Sudarshan, VGKK, Bangalore*)

17.30-18.15 Women Empowerment: The remaining challenges and possible solutions (*Manimekalai, Bharathi Dasan University*)

Day 2: 13th July, Friday

9.00-9.20 : Introduction to second day. A brief note on how economists view the links between innovation and development. (*Shyama V. Ramani, INRA*)

9.15-11.30: The following members will touch upon one or more of the following topics according to the interest for 15 minutes.

Panel 1: The Doers (9.20-10.45) : Taking one of the MDG : food security, health security, economic security, environmental security please outline strategies possible according to your views and experience.

- Current Municipal Commissioner or District Magistrate of Tiruchi: How does the government make its plans to ensure health, environment and food security to citizens at a city or district level?

- *Pankaj Khanna, (Development Alternatives, Delhi)*: What are the models of toilets (technology and incentives for utilisation) and waste management strategies in marginalised zones that can work?

- *Kadepalli Vijayanthi, (UNICEF & Tamil Nadu, Slum Clearance Board, Chennai):* What are the typical problems of slums and what kind of strategies can improve the socio-economic security of its residents?

- *Shankar Venkateswaran*, (*American India Foundation, New Delhi)*: How do funding agencies decide which aspects of development to promote? How does they choose they partners or design contracts with NGOs? What are the best practises to ensure efficient implementation?

10.45-11.15 : Tea

Panel 2: Social Watch (11.15-1.15): What is meant by being socially responsible? How can different actors (consumers, policy makers, government (State, local,Central) firms, families, NGOs) be socially responsible and contribute to achieving food security or health or environmental security and in the process improve their own performance? Please formulate and justify your arguments with concrete examples.

- An editor's perspective : *N.Ram* (Editor, The Hindu, Chennai)*

- A firm's perspective: *N. Mahatvaraj (A.M.M. Foundation, Murugappa Group, Chennai)*

- A practitioner's perspective : *Ajay Parida (Swaminathan Foundation, Chennai)*

- A scientist's perspective : *Dhrubajyoti Ghosh (CSSS, Calcutta)*

1.00- 1. 15 Summary & Vote of thanks(Shyama V. Ramani, INRA)

14.30-17.30 : **Participation in working groups or Visit of Trichy**.

Participation in working groups: Four Working Groups will be formed to discuss an agenda for a "Research-Action" program involving collaboration between academics, firms, NGOs and policy makers. Each group leader from academics will explain his/her the framework developed and then the ideas will be thrown open to the floor. By 16.00 hours or 4 PM, each group leader will present the ideas to be pursued further and stay in touch with the group. Working Groups & Group Leaders are:

- Empowerment : *Manimekalai (Bharathidasan University)*

- Food security: *Sukhpal Singh (IIM-A)*

- Environmental security: *Shyama V. Ramani (INRA)*

- Health Security: *Arijita Dutta (Calcutta University)*

Trichy Visit: This will include a visit to the first communal Ecosan toilet in Musiri, visits to other NGOs (dealing with health or food or empowerment), visit to Rock fort temple with free time.

Day 3: 14th July, Saturday

**Visit to Kameshwaram site of Franco-Indian Reconstruction Project after the Tsunami (Mainly Financed by French families and French local governments). Note that 14th July is the French National Day.

9.00-9.20 : French embassy speaker.

9.20-9.40: Speakers from French Associations working in India: Strategies of French Development Agencies in India.

9.40-10.10: Short Presentation of Franco-Indian Reconstruction Project after the Tsunami: Shyama V. Ramani

10.30 Tea and leave for Kameshwaram

Visit to Kameshwaram. Visiting and seeing the results of the Franco-Indian Reconstruction Project. This will consist of viewing a subset of the 250 Ecosan toilets constructed, the Ecosan toilets in the school (thanks to the Grenoble School of Business), the solar drier and the market place. Talking with village leaders and women's Self-Help Groups there and discussing how to attain MDG in marginalized zones with a bottoms-up rather than a top-down approach.

If you are interested in joining us please send an email to :

Dr. Shyama V. Ramani (INRA)

ramani@ivry.inra.fr or shyama_ramani@yahoo.com

manimekalaidr@yahoo.com or seminarwscentre@gmail.com

Then the registration form will be emailed to you.

Registration costs are Rs 600.

We look forward to hearing from you.

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ASSOCIATION UN AMI
www.project-fir-tsunami.org

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13-D/2 Williams Road, Tiruchirapalli.
www.ramyas.com**

REGISTRATION FORM
(Last day to register : July 7, 2007)

Please fill and send to shyama_ramani@yahoo.com /
seminarwscentre.gmail.com/manimekalaidr@yahoo.com

Full Name:

Professional address:

Contact Info (tel, mobile, email):

Means of payment:

Cheque:

Cash payment on day of entry:

Please tick [or put √] against the days which interest you and in which you will be participating: Each day costs Rs 200. The full conference is Rs 600.

Day 1 (Academics & Policy makers: Key note speeches):

Day 2 (Panel speakers, work group or Trichy NGO visits):

Day 3 (Visit to Kamehswaram, site of Franco-Indian Reconstruction Project, 250 Ecosan, solar drier, first school with ecosan, fish market place)