



Institute of Development Studies



Indian Council of
Social Science Research

Two-Day National Seminar on Carbon Farming and Smallholder Agriculture: Pathways to Decarbonising India

Organised by

Institute of Development Studies, Jaipur (IDSJ)

Sponsored by

Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), New Delhi

Date: 19-20 November 2026
Venue: IDSJ

About the Seminar

The agriculture sector occupies half of the world's habitable land, and agrifood systems account for around one-third of global anthropogenic GHG emissions. Agriculture is severely threatened by climate change, which disrupts food systems and harms people's livelihoods. Agriculture is the second-largest contributor to GHGs, next to energy (75.66%), accounting for 13.70% of total emissions. Emissions from agriculture amount to 405.98 Tg CO₂e. This alarming sign underscores the urgent need for climate-resilient, sustainable agricultural practices in India, including reducing agricultural emissions and promoting carbon sequestration to mitigate the impacts of climate change.

Carbon farming is a sustainable approach to agriculture that farmers can implement, with positive effects on their operations and an additional source of revenue through carbon credits. Carbon-friendly practices will reduce GHG emissions from agriculture, store carbon, and help farmers adopt regenerative farming practices, such as conservation tillage, crop stubble management, mulching, cover cropping, integrated nutrient management, and livestock management. The Government of India launched the domestic carbon market, the Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS), on June 28, 2023, as one of its initiatives to reduce GHG emissions and transition the economy to a low-carbon one.

In view of this, the Institute of Development Studies, Jaipur, is organising a two-day national seminar to provide a platform for eminent scholars, environmental experts, government officials, policymakers, NGOs, academicians, and researchers from the domain to engage in fruitful discussions on the progress of carbon farming, especially among smallholder farmers in India. Further, this will encourage possible collaboration among stakeholders towards climate-smart agriculture.

Objective

The primary objective of this seminar is to critically examine the role of smallholder farmers in carbon farming to mitigate climate change and reduce GHG emissions in India. The seminar will also discuss the nature and processes of Indian carbon credit mechanisms, as well as the key functions in Measurement, Reporting, and Verification (MRV).

Subthemes

The following subthemes will guide fruitful discussions. Research papers/case studies will be invited on the following themes, with related topics relevant to the seminar also considered.

Climate-Smart Agriculture and Smallholder Farmers: Farmers' vulnerability to climate change; Climate-resilient cropping strategies; Sustainable water and resource management; Access and adoption of climate-smart technologies; Success case studies of CSA models.

Carbon Farming and Income Diversification for Smallholders: Economic viability of carbon farming; Soil carbon sequestration; Agroforestry; Biochar and Natural farming practices; Participation and opportunities in carbon markets; Traditional knowledge in low-carbon farming.

Food and Nutritional Security in Low-Carbon Agricultural Transitions: Balance between low-carbon agriculture and food production; Crop diversification for dietary diversity and nutritional security; Water-Energy-Food nexus.

Social Inclusion, Gender, and Equity in Low-Carbon Agricultural Practices: Role of Women in CSA; Household decision-making and gender-responsive adaptation; Participation of women, youth, and marginalised groups in carbon markets.

Institutional Roles in Carbon Farming: Role of Farmer-Producer Organisations (FPOs), Self-Help Groups (SHGs), and Community-Based Organisations in carbon farming; Capacity building; Awareness and training on low-carbon technologies; Best practices of institutions on sustainable agriculture.

Policy, Governance, and Climate Finance for Inclusive Low-Carbon Agriculture: Carbon market governance; Inclusive framework for governance; Public policy for incentivising farmers; Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) for carbon credits; Policy supports agroecology and regenerative agriculture; Global lessons, best practices of carbon farming.

Climate Change and Agriculture in Rajasthan: Climate change impacts on agriculture; Soil carbon sequestration in arid and semi-arid regions; Agroforestry and regenerative agricultural practices in Rajasthan; Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) in carbon farming; Regional case studies on CSA.

Submission Guidelines

- The seminar invites original conceptual and empirical research papers aligned with the seminar themes from academicians, researchers, policymakers, practitioners, and other stakeholders.
- Submitted papers must be original, unpublished, and not under consideration for publication elsewhere.
- Authors are requested to submit an abstract of not more than 500 words in Word format, clearly indicating the title of the paper, author(s)' name(s), institutional affiliation, postal address, email ID, and contact number.
- Abstracts should be submitted via email to idsjseminar@gmail.com
- All abstracts will undergo peer review. Shortlisted authors will be informed of the selection and invited to submit the full paper.
- The full paper should not exceed 7,000 words and must be prepared in Times New Roman, font size 12, with 1.5-line spacing. Manuscripts should strictly follow APA style for citations and references.
- The submitted full paper must adhere to academic integrity standards, with an overall similarity index of less than 10% (excluding references).
- Authors are also advised to ensure originality and strictly avoid reliance on AI-generated content. All submissions will be screened using standard plagiarism-detection and AI-detection tools.
- Authors are therefore encouraged to ensure proper citation, originality, and genuine scholarly contribution before submission.

Publication

- Selected papers, after a rigorous review process, will be considered for publication in an edited book by Springer.

Registration Fee

- There is no registration fee for participation in the seminar.

Logistics and Accommodation

- Accommodation and local hospitality will be arranged for the presenting author.
- Travel support will be provided to the presenting author by the shortest route, subject to the submission of original tickets and in accordance with institutional norms.

Important Dates

- Submission of Abstract: 9th October, 2026
- Intimation of Selected Abstracts: 13th October, 2026
- Submission of Full Paper: 14th November, 2026
- Seminar Dates: 19th and 20th November, 2026

About the Institute

The Institute of Development Studies Jaipur was established in 1981 on the initiative of a group of academicians, scholars, and administrators from Rajasthan. The Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) and the Government of Rajasthan are supporting the Institute. It is an autonomous organisation registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1958. IDSJ has adopted a multidisciplinary and dynamic approach to research on development-related topics. The Institute has established partnerships with the state and central governments, other parastatal organisations, the private sector, and a wide range of non-governmental organisations and members of civil society to further its objectives. It has also created a forum for voicing concerns about public policy on socio-economic issues in Rajasthan and beyond. Additionally, it conducted training programmes to build capacity among several stakeholders in the development sphere.



About the Funding Agency

The Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) is the apex body of the Government of India for research in the social and human sciences. Founded in 1969, ICSSR operates under the aegis of the Ministry of Education, Government of India. ICSSR plays a pivotal role in advancing knowledge and understanding of various social issues and challenges, and providing research-based solutions to policymakers and stakeholders in the development of the nation through initiatives and schemes such as research projects; doctoral, postdoctoral, senior fellowships, and national fellowships; research internships; training and capacity building of early career researchers; publication grants; national and international seminars, conferences and workshops; publication of cutting-edge research; national and international collaboration; promotion of social science and humanities research through research institutes, recognised institutes and regional centres. The Documentation Centre of ICSSR - National Social Science Documentation Centre (NASSDOC) provides library and information support services to researchers in the social sciences.



For further details, contact

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