



Multistakeholder joint action for indigenous practices and processes at local, regional, and national agenda

The Wicked Challenge

Small-scale farmers, vital to food production, face mounting ecological and economic challenges while their sustainable practices erode under a market-driven system with little institutional support.

BUT

Reviving Indigenous knowledge and circular community practices through multi-stakeholder collaboration can drive climate-resilient agriculture and inclusive development.

Common agreement

Indigenous practices are effective but undervalued in policy and science

The dominant systems (governments, corporates, scientific institutions) undermine traditional knowledge.

Emphasis on reclaiming indigenous knowledge and community-led empowerment.

Need for collaborative, multi-stakeholder engagement, especially involving CSOs and tribal leaders.

Alarm over the erosion of traditional agricultural systems due to external market forces and lack of policy support.



Speaker
Mayfereen Rynthiang
President, Grassroot Shillong

The term "indigenous" is often misused, while ironically absent from crucial policy documents on water, forests, etc.

Indigenous people face the consequences of climate change without causing it

National government's control over underground resources (e.g., uranium mining) despite local stewardship of above-ground resources

The scientific community is hypocritical for questioning indigenous knowledge while failing to address climate change

There is a need for evidence-based policymaking that centers indigenous realities



Speaker
Jaipal Singh Kaushik
Development Expert

Indigenous agricultural practices like land levelling, vermicomposting, and multi-cropping on small plots (1-2 acres) are ideal practices, their decline is concerning

Five global companies dominates seed production, posing a threat to indigenous farming, tweaking consumption patterns.

There is a need for critical study on microfinance institutions and agro-economies.

Civil society organizations (CSOs) should partner with tribal leaders for sustainable agri-practices and improved agro-economies.



Moderator
Shirish Joshi
Consultant
Organisation Design
and Strategic HR

Potential Solution

The scientific community has historically taken away the intellectual rights of indigenous people, and a collective effort is needed to reclaim these rights



Evidence-Based Policymaking



Reclaiming Intellectual Rights



Revival of Traditional Agricultural Practices



Engagement of CSOs and Tribal Leaders



Spiritual and Community-Centered Knowledge Systems