



Plenary Session

Samudayik Swaraj (Community) principles and its linkages with Sustainability

Objective: To discuss and showcase different approaches and real-world experiences where community sovereignty (Swaraj) contributes to sustainable development.



Speaker
Reshma Anand
Regional Director,
Ford Foundation

Swaraj is not a gift; it is a daily consistent practice

We should look at people as partners (bhagedari), not just beneficiaries.

There is an utmost importance of incorporating successful youth mobilization models into swaraj strategies.



Speaker
Biswarup Banerjee
IKEA Foundation, India

Swaraj demands patience and passion

Swaraj and dialogue are two sides of the same coin.

The progress through constitutional mechanisms (gram panchayats, gram sabhas) are just a beginning; there is a need for continued effort, patience, and inclusive consensus-building.



Speaker
Dr. Rajendra Singh
Waterman of India

Jal is the entry point for all Swaraj

Swaraj is self-reliance rooted in self-respect, particularly at the village level.

Jal (Water) swaraj can meet regional water needs through conservation and optimal rainwater use.

In these challenging times, swaraj must still be pursued with struggle and love for people.



Speaker
Maansingh Ninama
Convener - Krishi Evam Adivasi Swaraj Manch

Need to strategically spread Swaraj Sandesh

Over the past 25 years, we have strengthened the principles of swaraj in farming, seeds, forests, and water.

Initiatives like *Swaraj Sandesh Yatras* have helped disseminate these messages across larger level

Communities now embrace seed swaraj, planting confidently without depending on external seed sources.



Moderator
Jayesh Joshi
Secretary, Vaagdhara

When we work courageously, then only Swaraj can be realized.

Common agreement

- Emphasis on identifying and including those often excluded, especially women and youth.
- Youth Engagement is crucial for promoting sustainability
- From listening, learning, to co-creating shared goals.
- Creating common agenda shared visions instead of fragmented or competitive efforts.