



# Civil society action for innovations community driven solutions for ClimateResilient Agriculture

## The Wicked Challenge

Rural and tribal ecosystems, livelihoods, and agricultural sustainability are increasingly threatened by climate change. Fragmented civil society efforts and the inadequate integration of indigenous knowledge and traditional practices into mainstream climate action add to the challenge.

## BUT

Reviving indigenous knowledge, Civil Society collaboration, and Policy Engagement presents a sustainable, low-cost solution for resilient agriculture.

## Common agreement

### Local knowledge is essential

All three emphasized using or reviving indigenous knowledge

### Community-centric approach

Whether through clusters, partnerships, or gram sabhas, the community was the central actor

### Climate resilience + livelihood improvement

All aimed to make agriculture both climate-resilient and economically sustainable

### Flexibility and contextual design

All acknowledged that strategies must adapt to the local geography, culture, and socio-economic conditions

### Innovation through partnerships and collaborations



**Speaker**  
**Rucha Limaye,**  
Senior Analyst, SELCO Foundation

We work for climate resilience and future mitigation is important - a mid way to separate the two ideas of **climate adaptation and climate mitigation**

### Follow a two-way learning process:

SELCO partners

Sustainable agri practices - use local knowledge to create climate smart solutions through renewable energy and appropriate technology



**Speaker**  
**Ashish Kothari**  
Indian Environmentalist

Deccan Development Society - empowering dalit women through collectives, revived traditional agricultural practices (grew millets), 5000 families achieved eco-sovereignty

### Awareness of indigenous knowledge and not discounting foreign/modern knowledge either

Radical Democracy - maha gram sabha [gadchiroli, maharashtra], federation of 90 villages, working towards gram swaraj - **protecting biodiversity, empowering local communities, increasing income**



**Speaker**  
**Ekta Jaju**  
Executive Director, SwitchON Foundation

**Reduce emissions of agricultural practices and make them more climate-adaptable, also increase income**

### Creating self-reliant clusters through a Farm-to-Fork ecosystem:

Cluster (ideal size: ~1000 acres; flexible to geography) - CRA cropping, biolabs, processing units, and seed labs can ensure self-reliance of these clusters in 3-5 years



Moderator  
**Sabyasachi Das**  
National Coordinator, RRA Network

From decentralized energy to federated governance, innovation is driven through networks and partnerships

## Potential Solution



Community Sovereignty is Central



Scalable but Contextual Models



Decentralization and Commons



Integration of Knowledge Systems