



# Capturing components of circular living practices and achieving climate resilience livelihoods

## The Wicked Challenge

Indigenous knowledge, though sustainable, is often overlooked due to modern development models. Effective revival demands coordinated efforts, institutional support, and long-term collaboration rooted in community sovereignty and traditional wisdom.

## BUT

Tribal and rural communities already embody knowledge systems naturally aligned with circular economy principles.

## Common agreement

Circularity is local and indigenous by nature, not imported or technical alone.

Current systems (agriculture, housing, consumption) are extractive and centralized.

Emphasis on local materials and decentralized production.

Need for policy and systemic change: not piecemeal but ecosystem-wide.

Cultural revival and rethinking value chains are essential.

Circular economy should be accessible, affordable, and community-driven.



**Speaker**  
**Sukanta Bhattacharya**  
Strategic Lead -  
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Indigenous practices are often seen negatively, but hold value.

**Tribal food systems have been altered significantly.**

Government programs promote monocultures (e.g., cashew, sunflower).

Public Distribution System (PDS) remains grain-focused (rice/wheat), limiting diversity.

NTFPs (Non-Timber Forest Products) are underutilized.

**There is a need for systems thinking to understand circularity holistically.**



**Speaker**  
**Vikas Hosoor**  
Consultant Soil Farming and  
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**“Beej se Bhojan tak” (Seed to Food)**

- Pre-industrial agriculture was circular; industrialization disrupted this.
- Agricultural input systems should be localized and low in energy intensity.

**Subah se Shaam tak” (Daily Consumption)**

- Local retail has shifted to centralized, packaged goods—causing environmental harm.
- Local production and materials should be reintegrated.

**Makaan se Mandir tak” (Built Environment)**

- Construction uses non-local, resource-intensive materials.
- Need to align housing aspirations with local materiality.
- Emphasized localized value chains and alternative paradigms (R&D, frameworks, measurement).
- Example: Timbuktu – local circular model in soap/detergent production.



**Moderator**  
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Circularity is not just a trendy buzzword but rooted in indigenous practices. It is -

- Not linear (take-make-dispose)
- Not just recycling
- Not a techno-fix or consumption-maximization model
- Not input or cost-intensive

## Potential Solution



**Reclaim Circularity from Indigenous Wisdom**



**Reform Key Sectors**  
Agriculture  
Daily Consumption  
Infrastructure



**Local Value Chains and Aspirations Must Align**



**Structural and Policy Support Required**



**Inclusivity in Implementation**