



## Panel Discussion

### Digital Agriculture and Food Systems Transformation: AI, Evidence and Partnerships for Sustainability, Resilience and Inclusion

Jointly organized by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), and the CGIAR Science Program on Policy Innovations at the AERA Regional Seminar

17 June, 2026 | 14:00 PM - 15:30 PM (IST)

North Block Auditorium, University of Agricultural Sciences (GKVK), Bengaluru

#### AGENDA

TIME	PROGRAM
	<p><b>Chairs:</b> <b>Prof. Ramesh Chand</b>, <i>Distinguished Professor, Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relation (ICRIER) and Former Member, NITI Aayog (TBC)</i></p> <p><b>Dr. P.K. Joshi</b>, <i>President, Agricultural Economics Research Association, and Vice President, Social Sciences, National Academy of Agricultural Sciences (NAAS)</i></p>
14:00-14:07	<p><b>Welcome and Framing: Why digital agriculture needs evidence, climate intelligence, and inclusive scale</b></p> <p>Dr. Mamata Pradhan, <i>Senior Research Coordinator, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)</i></p> <p>Dr. Shalander Kumar, <i>Deputy Global Research Program Director of the Enabling Systems Transformation Program and Cluster Leader, Markets, Institutions and Policies, International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT)</i></p>
14:07-14:20	<p><b>India's Digital Agriculture Transition: Policy Architecture and Digital Public Infrastructure</b></p> <p>Shri Vikas Kanungo, <i>Senior Advisor Digital Strategy, AI Governance and Policy, World Bank Group (TBC)</i></p>

**Moderated Panel Discussion: From Pilots to Scale: What will make Digital Agriculture Actionable, Inclusive, and Accountable?**

<p><b>14:20-15:00</b></p>	<p><b>Panelists:</b></p> <p>Mr. Abhishek Upperwal, <i>Founder- Soket AI Labs</i></p> <p>Dr. Kishore Kumar, <i>Associate Scientist, Digital Innovations, ICRISAT</i></p> <p>Mr. Mallikarjun Kukunuri, <i>CEO, Niruthi</i></p> <p>Mr. Jagadish Babu, <i>Chief Operating Officer, Ekstep</i></p> <p>Dr. Dinesh Balam, <i>Head - Food Systems, AI and Regenerative Agriculture, Bharti Institute of Public Policy, Indian School of Business (ISB)</i></p> <p>Dr. Anil Rai, <i>Former Assistant Director General-ICT, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)</i></p>
<p><b>15:00-15:15</b></p>	<p><b>Open Discussion/Q&amp;A</b></p>
<p><b>15:15-15:20</b></p>	<p><b>Special Remarks</b></p> <p>Dr. Arabinda Kumar Padhee, <i>Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Revenue and Disaster Management, Government of Odisha (TBC)</i></p>
<p><b>15:20-15:27</b></p>	<p><b>Remarks by Chairs</b></p> <p>Dr. PK Joshi, <i>President, AERA and Vice President, Social Sciences, NAAS</i></p> <p>Prof. Ramesh Chand, <i>Distinguished Professor, Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relation (ICRIER) and Former Member, NITI Aayog (TBC)</i></p>
<p><b>15:27- 15:30</b></p>	<p><b>Vote of thanks</b></p> <p>Dr. Anjani Kumar, <i>Senior Research Fellow, IFPRI</i></p>