

Participant Information Sheet

Invitation to take part in a research project

You are being invited to take part in the project “Towards a Relational Approach to Agency for Mapping Pathways Into and Out of Poverty”. Before you decide whether or not to take part, it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. This research is being conducted by Dr. Saurabh Arora, Dr. Divya Sharma, Prof Andy Stirling, Prof Ian Scoones at the University of Sussex, Brighton, U.K; Prof. Barbara Harriss-White (Emeritus Professor, Oxford University); Dr. Ajit Menon and Dr Vijaybaskar Manimegalai (Madras Institute of Development Studies, Chennai, India).

Purpose of Research

Through this research we are studying how farming practices have changed over the last 40-50 years as well as changes in the lives of small farmers and farm workers as well as the environment in this region. Specifically, our focus will be on the use of Green Revolution technologies that is the use of hybrid seed varieties of rice, fertilizers, pesticides, tractors and other machinery such as pump sets for irrigation since the 1970s. In what ways have these technologies made life better and in what ways have they been harmful. And what has been their impact on the material environment - soils, trees, crops, animals, on the physical landscape of the village and social relations. To document these changes, I will conduct a detailed interview with you and with 23 other elderly men and women farmers and farm workers who have seen these changes over a long period of time. I will ask you about the significant events over your life-time specially those that involve shifts in ways of farming, occupations in your family, changes on the farm, interactions among people and with the physical landscape.

Participation and Confidentiality

It is up to you to decide whether or not to take part. If you decide to take part you are still free to withdraw at any time without giving a reason. You can refuse to answer any specific questions that make you uncomfortable or that you would not like to respond to. There is no payment or other benefits for taking part in the study. I will be making an audio recording of this interview, if that is okay with you so that I can get your specific words down. If you do not want to be recorded, I will write down the answers. Your

name will not be used anywhere while discussing or publishing the findings based on this study.

Your participation provides a valuable source of information to help us understand how technological interventions unfold in practice and how they shape social and environmental relations and therefore people's well-being. The results of the research will be published in academic journals, as well as research or policy briefs and conference presentations.

Contact

If you have any questions relating to this research, or the way it has been conducted, please contact: Dr Divya Sharma Research Fellow Science Policy Research Unit (SPRU)

Room 331, Jubilee Building University of Sussex Brighton BN1 9SL Telephone: +44 7500060344 Email: Divya.Sharma@sussex.ac.uk

Or at

Madras Institute of Development Studies 79, Second Main Road, Gandhinagar, Adyar, Chennai - 600 020 Tamil Nadu, INDIA.

Tel: 0091-44-24412589 / 24419771