

Arnab Chakraborty

Junior Researcher (Institute for Advanced Studies, Vienna) and PhD candidate (University of Vienna)

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As a doctoral student in Science, Technology, and Society (STS), I am exploring the role of knowledge infrastructures and epistemic justice in Agricultural Innovation Systems. I am particularly interested in the tensions between how ecological and livelihood concerns are depicted by scientific establishments and social movements. I have more than 3 years of experience in conducting action research and evaluation studies with organizations working in agricultural research for development, and my current work helps ground the STS perspective within this tacit understanding of innovation practice.

Education and training

- **MA Development/** Azim Premji University (2019-2021)
Focus areas – Sustainability and Public health.
- **B.A. (Hons.) Sociology/** Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi (2016-2019)
Focus areas – Environmental sociology.
- **Certificate course on Innovating and Scaling for Social Transformation in International Food Systems- UC Davis**
- **Certificate course on field research management- DIME, World Bank.**

Language competency

- English(C1) • Hindi (Native) • Bengali (Native)

Research Experience

International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT)- November 2022 to November 2024

As a MEL Analyst with the Cereal Systems Initiative for South Asia (CSISA), a flagship project of CIMMYT, I have tried to operationalize the agricultural innovation systems perspective within the MEL systems through mixed methods research. My main contributions include a process evaluation study on how CSISA's work contributed to creating a new modality of integrating research, policy and extension; formulating a scaling strategy through a multi-stakeholder collaboration; and help build capacity of the project team and partner organizations such as the Bihar Rural Livelihood Promotion Society, Indian Council of Agriculture Research, etc. towards better incorporation of qualitative and rapid-learning tools withing the MEL workflow.

Institute of Rural Management Anand (IRMA)- August 2021 to October 2021

As an action researcher, I had been associated with an emerging civil society alliance aimed at promoting agroecological farming practices across the region. As researchers interested in sustainable transition within the food system, our team positioned itself as a knowledge broker, to create an innovation platform which could bring stakeholders from the academia and government to engage in conversations with the alliance. In the meantime, we were also to created knowledge products, such as case studies on niche innovations, commentaries, or assessments on the policy regime (More than 5 blogs were published), as well as mixed methods studies aimed at documenting the innovation system in the region. We also engaged with professionals, policy makers, and researchers from other regions to generate insights for addressing the scaling challenges in the region (2 national workshops and 2 capacity development programs).

Academic Publications

- Samaddar, A., Chakraborty, A., Ajay, A., Mkondiwa, M., Britwum, K., & Dubey, S. K. (2026). Rethinking agricultural research-extension-policy nexus: A process evaluation of the Landscape Diagnostic Survey (LDS) initiative in India. *The Journal of Agricultural Education and Extension*, 1–21. <https://doi.org/10.1080/1389224X.2026.2696553>
- Braun, R., Bernstein, M. J., Chakraborty, A., Starkbaum, J., & Winkler, F. (2025). Societal Readiness Thinking Process 2.0: Incorporating Epistemic Reflexivity for Responsible Innovation. *Science and Engineering Ethics*, 31(6), 42. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11948-025-00568-7>
- Prasad C, S., Dutta, D., & Chakraborty, A. (2025). Academic Institutions as Innovation Intermediaries; Co-creating knowledge and building the Gujarat agroecology learning alliance (GALA). *Environmental Innovation and Societal Transitions*, 57, 101033. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.eist.2025.101033>
- Ajay, A., Chakraborty, A., & Dubey, R. (2025). Machine Learning-Led Solutions in Indian Agriculture: Case of Drought and Heat Stresses. In R. Dubey, K. Shubha, A. Rakshit, S. Kumar, & A. Das (Eds.), *Drought and Heat Stress in Agriculture* (pp. 409–418). Springer Nature Singapore. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-96-5735-3_16
- Prasad, C. S., Chakraborty, A., & Dutta, D. (2024). The need for ground-up transitions: Exploring the knowledge politics of agroecology in Gujarat, India. *Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems*, 1–25. <https://doi.org/10.1080/21683565.2024.2316124>
- Dutta, Deborah, C. Shambu Prasad, and Arnab Chakraborty. 2023. "Thinking beyond Ecology: Can Reskilling Youth Lead to Sustainable Transitions in Agri-Food Systems?". *Social Sciences*. 12, no. 9: 478. <https://doi.org/10.3390/socsci12090478>

Online publications/Blogs

- Beyond Schemes and Projects: An ecosystem Perspective for Gujarat's 100% Organic District <https://www.smallfarmincomes.in/post/beyond-schemes-and-projects-an-ecosystem-perspective-for-gujarat-s-100-organic-district>
- Grounded and Practical: An alternative vision for agri-education at Lokbharti <https://www.smallfarmincomes.in/post/grounded-and-practical-an-alternative-vision-for-agri-education-at-lokbharti>
- Time for a Revolution? Leveraging natural farming thrust to support sustainable transitions <https://www.smallfarmincomes.in/post/time-for-a-revolution-leveraging-natural-farming-thrust-to-support-sustainable-transition>
- The Green Frontier: Sustainable Housing in India <https://thebastion.co.in/politics-and/the-green-frontier-sustainable-housing-in-india/>
- Kolkata's 'Environmental Subsidy' is in Danger <https://thebastion.co.in/politics-and/environment/kolkatas-environmental-subsidy-is-in-danger/>
- Effect of Lockdown on the Indigenous Communities of Central India <https://usingdiversity.keystone-foundation.org/effect-of-lockdown-on-indigenous-communities-of-central-india/>

Other Experiences

MA capstone project, June 2020 – August 2021

Transformation of Agricultural Livelihoods Interventions of PRADAN: A case study on how internal and external factors affect integration of health, ecology and adaptive skilling

Bengaluru Navanirman Party, July 2020-September 2020

Policy Research and Campaign material creation on housing and food security of urban poor

Centre for Sustainable Employment, Azim Premji University, April 2020-June 2020

Volunteered as trainer of enumerators for the survey on effect of COVID-19 lockdown on livelihoods.

Undergraduate Dissertation at Jamia Millia Islamia, November 2018-July 2019

"Local Commons in a World System", dealing with management of the socio-ecological system of East Kolkata Wetlands as a common property

National Foundation for India, Delhi, June 2017- July 2017

Assistance with monitoring and evaluation of a project of a partner NGO in South 24 Parganas, West Bengal.