

Arnab Chakraborty

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Junior Researcher (IHS, Vienna)

As student of science and society, I am interested in exploring issues at the intersection of ecology, livelihood, and health through an international development perspective. I have more than 3 years of experience in conducting action research and, evaluation studies with organizations working in the domain of agriculture using participatory and digital tools. In my current work, I am exploring the role of reflexivity and responsible research principles in initiating sustainability transitions in the (Agri)food systems.

Professional skills

- Qualitative and Mixed methods Research
- Monitoring evaluation and knowledge management
- Participatory evaluation and scaling (Completed course on Innovating and Scaling for Social Transformation in International Food Systems)
- Field data and telephonic survey management (Completed course on field research management by DIME, World Bank).
- ODK/Qualtrics for survey data collection
- Policy analysis and desk review.
- Quantitative data analysis, visualization and, dashboarding- R Studio and Python.
- Atlas.ti/Dedoose for Qualitative analysis.
- QGIS and R for spatial data analysis.

Languages:

- English: speak, read, and write
- Hindi: speak, read, and write
- Bengali: speak, read, and write

Research Experience

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

As a MEL Analyst with the Cereal Systems Initiative for South Asia (CSISA), a flagship project of CIMMYT, I have tried to operationalize the innovation systems perspectives to develop MEL systems that are more focused on scaling interventions through mixed methods research, within the project team and partner organizations such as the Bihar Rural Livelihood Promotion Society, Indian Council of Agriculture Research, etc. My role is focused on developing learning tools that foster adaptive strategies for the intervention team, and program leadership. I am part of an international community of professionals engaged in integrating systems thinking within MEL systems, and these associations help me get updated on the state of the art in this domain, and put the knowledge generated as part of our work in the larger context.

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 knowledge brokers, 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 dedicated to creating 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 (2 peer reviewed articles). We also engaged with professionals, policy makers, and researchers from other regions to generate insights for addressing the scaling challenges in the region (Organized 2 national workshops and two training capacity development programs).

Education

MA Development/ Azim Premji University (2019-2021)- 8.9 CGPA

Focus areas – Sustainability and Public health.

B.A. (Hons.) Sociology/ Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi (2016-2019)- 8.7 CGPA

Focus areas – Urban sociology and environmental sociology.

Journal Publications

- 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>

Conference papers

- **“Rice Nursery Entrepreneurship” for climate adaptation: Managing Localized sharing economies in the Eastern Indo-Gangetic plains.**

The paper was presented at the Managing Sustainable Transitions in Agriculture conference, 2023 at the Institute of Rural Management Anand.

- **Natural Farming as Social Movement? Institutional structure and civil society in Gujarat**

The paper was presented at the 17th International Conference on Public Policy and Management at Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore.

- **Innovations in agricultural education: A knowledge-centric vision of rural-urban linkages in India**

This paper was presented at the Development Studies Association conference, 2022 at University College London.

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	Transformation of Agricultural Livelihoods Interventions of PRADAN: A case study on how internal and external factors affect integration of health, ecology and adaptive skilling	June 2020 – August 2021
Bengaluru Navanirmana Party	Policy Research and Campaign material creation on housing and food security of urban poor	July 2020-September 2020
Centre for Sustainable Employment, Azim Premji University	Volunteered as trainer of enumerators for the survey on effect of COVID-19 lockdown on livelihoods.	April 2020-June 2020
Keystone Foundation	Research, archiving, cataloguing, and content creation on food security and traditional agriculture	July 2020-September 2020
Azim Premji University	Helped compile volume on findings of final year research projects of MA. Development students, batch of 2020.	February 2020-March 2020
The Bastion Media LLP	Research and Reporting on Environmental Issues	Sept 2019- Jan 2020
Pratichi Institute, Kolkata	Assistance in project management; and independent study	Nov 2019-Dec 2019
India Institute, Delhi	Research Intern for data cleaning and analysis	May 2018- July 2018
Undergraduate Dissertation at Jamia Millia Islamia	“Local Commons in a World System”, dealing with management of the socio-ecological system of East Kolkata Wetlands as a common property	November 2018-July 2019
National Foundation for India, Delhi	Assistance with monitoring and evaluation of a project of a partner NGO.	June 2017- July 2017