

For Favour of Publication

Patna 17 March. On the concluding day of the workshop titled **Socio-Economic Perspectives for India's Next Few Decades** and organized by Asian Development Research Institute (ADRI), Professor Amit John Kurien from RV University, Bangalore presented findings from a human development survey done in a village in the Garo Hills region of North-East India. The growth model followed in agriculture is causing a huge ecological strain on forest cover. The North-East region can be a case study to study the effects of agricultural practices on climate change for other regions of India. He pointed out that shifting agriculture or Jhoom cultivation constituted the main use of land that allows for survival of the people in the North-East. He remarked that forest cover is declining in the North-East region of India. Dr. A. R. Vasavi, an independent researcher from Bangalore reported that there is a presence of agrarian distress in India. There has been an emergence of a rural middle-class but many small cultivators are seeking to exit agriculture by selling their plots or abandoning agriculture all together. This session was chaired by Professor S K Bhaumik, Director, Patliputra School of Economics, Patna.

The next technical session was chaired by Dr. Prem Chadravarkar, Managing Partner, CnT Architects, Bangalore. In this session, Dr. Shahana Chattaraj, Director at WRI India emphasized that the informal economy is the real economy of India. She talked about how *Jugaad* is a pervasive practice throughout India. It has come up as a need to innovate is felt with the state's failure to provide facilities for infrastructure. She said that India is now the third most surveilled country in the world due to things like Aadhar. The workshop's final remarks were made by Dr. Smita Srinivas, Researcher at the Technological Change Lab. She held out that we live in a nation with an extraordinary dynamism that is observed through field-based research. However, there is a huge gap between theory and practice in the field, that is not captured in our standard Economics curricula. She opined that theorizing this practical dynamism in the field could help us to predict the changes in the world economic systems for the next 30 years.

In this workshop, Dr Arunish Chawla, Additional Chief Secretary, Planning and Development graced the occasion and held brainstorming session with the delegates and other participants. Academicians from many local reputed institutions participated in this workshop. Mementoes were presented to the speakers by Dr. Sunita Lall while the Vote of Thanks was proposed by Dr. Ashmita Gupta of ADRI.

(Anjani K Verma)