



Seminar on

Regenerative Agriculture : Key to Future Farming

**Speaker : Dr. AVIJIT SEN, Ex-Professor, Department of Agronomy,
Banaras Hindu University**

Brainstorming session on

**Exploring the Agri-Entrepreneurs to Boost up the Livelihood of Young
Generations Based on Agriculture and Allied Sector Business**

- Agri-Entrepreneur 1 : Mr. SAIKAT SARKAR, Agri-Entrepreneur :
Shroddha FPC from Cooch Behar**
- Agri-Entrepreneur 2 : MR. MANOJ MISHRA, Agri-Entrepreneur : Factory-
Foodies Agro from Murshidabad**
- Agri-Entrepreneur 3 : MR. SWAPAN RANA, Agri-Entrepreneur : Palashi
Dishari Gramin Bikash Sanstha from Paschim
Medinipore**
- Agri-Entrepreneur 4 : MR. GUNADHAR SAHANA, Agri-Entrepreneur :
Sahana Engineering from Howrah**

Organized by

**The State Agricultural Technologists' Service Association (SATSA), West Bengal
Venue : Bhasha Bhavan Auditorium, National Library, Alipore, Kolkata – 700025**

About the Speaker

Speaker :

**Dr. Avijit Sen, Ex-Professor, Department of Agronomy,
Banaras Hindu University**

Title of the Lecture : Regenerative Agriculture - Some Special Thoughts

Dr. Avijit Sen is a distinguished academician and researcher with an illustrious career spanning 38 years. He holds a Post-Graduate and Doctoral degree from the prestigious Institute of Agricultural Sciences, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, specializing in Plant Nutrition, Soil Fertility, and Resource Conservation Technology.

A recipient of esteemed fellowships and awards, including the CSIR Senior Research Fellowship, Dr. Sen has demonstrated exceptional expertise in his field. His academic journey began as a Lecturer at Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi and culminated in his retirement as a Professor in 2020. Throughout his tenure, he mentored numerous Master's and Doctoral students and successfully led several ICAR, DST and UGC-sponsored research projects.

Dr. Sen's leadership expertise was further underscored by his role as Deputy Coordinator of the Special Assistance Programme (SAP) on Water Productivity by UGC, New Delhi from 2012 to 2017. He has also served as an Expert Member on various Selection Boards, including ASRB (ICAR), PSCs of Rajasthan and Jharkhand, and College Service Commission, UP.

As a testament to his international recognition, Dr. Sen has visited esteemed institutions abroad, including Widener University, Philadelphia-USA, Harvard University, USA, and Corning Glassware Factory, USA. His research objectives have focused on plant nutrition, soil fertility and resource conservation technology, allelopathic or biocontrol of weeds and revalidation of ITKs.

Dr. Sen's impressive publication record includes 122 research papers, six edited books and book chapters. As a speaker, Dr. Avijit Sen shares his expertise with researchers, agricultural officers inspiring innovation and excellence in agricultural science.

About the Agri-Entrepreneur

Agri-Entrepreneur 1 :

Mr. SAIKAT SARKAR, Agri-Entrepreneur: Shroddha FPC from Cooch Behar

Address : Gopalnagar, P.O. Dinhata, District-Cooch Behar, Pin-736135

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Mr. Sarkar, son of Late Shyamal Kumar Sarkar, a dedicated social worker and teacher from Dinahata, Coochbehar, has been driving positive change in his community for last seven years. His school has received notable accolades, including the Nirmal School Award and the Sishu Mitra Award, from Govt of West Bengal for its exemplary performance. A pioneer in sustainable agriculture, Mr. Sarkar has been working tirelessly to reduce the use of chemical fertilizers by promoting the production and use of organic fertilizers among local farmers. Since 2022, he has successfully been cultivating and processing millets and involved female farmers in this initiative, and also inspired many farmers empowering them through economic development. His efforts have led to the formation of Shroddha FPC, which currently engages over 830 farmers in agricultural and livestock activities; motivated farmers in Dinhata to adopt cultivation of various millet varieties across 76 acres of land in 2023. Mr. Sarkar's outstanding contributions have earned him many recognition namely, invitation to the G-20 Summit in New Delhi, where he promoted millet as an ancient food to foreign dignitaries. He also represented India at the Asian-Indian Millet Utsab and participated in the India Food Festival organized by the Agriculture Department, GOI. Through his initiatives, Mr. Sarkar has improved the lives of hundreds of people by promoting the health benefits of millet consumption. His ultimate vision is to establish Cooch Behar district as a Millet Hub. As a speaker, Mr. Sarkar brings his wealth of experience and passion for sustainable agriculture to inspire and educate.

Agri-Entrepreneur 2 :

MR. MANOJ MISHRA, Agri-Entrepreneur: Factory-Foodies Agro from Murshidabad

Address : Factory-Foodies Agro, Vakuri Krishak Bazzar, Berhampore, Murshidabad.

E-mail : foodiesagro@rediffmail.com; Mobile No. - 97751 86565

Mr. Manoj Mishra, son of Late Debi Prasad Mishra, is a trailblazing young Agri-Entrepreneur from Berhampore, Murshidabad, empowering the community through pioneering initiatives and tireless efforts for last fifteen years. With a strong educational foundation in food science and technology, he holds a B.Tech degree from the West Bengal University of Technology and a Diploma in Food Processing Technology from SARM Government Polytechnic. Prior to co-founding FOODIES AGRO, Mr. Mishra garnered valuable industrial working experience, as Technical Executive at Amul, Assistant Production Manager at MPS Food Products, and Production In-charge at HUL. As the co-founder of FOODIES AGRO, a prominent food processing company based in Murshidabad, West Bengal, Mr. Mishra has been instrumental in driving the company's growth since 2010. Through its flagship brand 'FOODIES', the company operates in various segments, including Foodies Agro Herbs & Spice, Foodies Agro Food & Beverages, and R S Naturals. Under Foodies Agro Herbs & Spice, Mr. Mishra's team sources high-quality spices, herbs, and seasonings globally, processing them domestically with a keen focus on food safety and quality. The Foodies Agro Food & Beverages segment offers a wide range of products, including Tomato Ketchup, Tomato Sauces, Pickles, Jams, and a lot more. Mr. Mishra's innovative project works have earned him recognition from esteemed institutions IIT Kharagpur, where he secured the 1st position, and CFTRI Mysore, Karnataka, selected him as a project assistant. As a speaker, Mr. Manoj Mishra brings his expertise, passion, and innovative approach to the food processing industry, offering valuable insights and experiences.

Agri-Entrepreneur 3 :

MR. SWAPAN RANA, Agri-Entrepreneur: Palashi Dishari Gramin Bikash Sanstha from Paschim Medinipore

Address : Palashi, Debra, Paschim Medinipore – 721160,

Email : palashidishari.gbs@gmail.com; Mobile No. - 99336 81030

Mr. Swapan Rana, son of Sri Shanti Bhusan Rana, from Debra, Paschim Mednipore catalyzing positive growth and development in his community for last eight years. As Secretary of Palashi Dishari Gramin Bikash Sanstha, he undertakes keen initiatives benefiting approximately 3000 farmers across Purba Medinipur, Paschim Medinipur, and Jhargram districts. The NGO operates a processing unit and warehouse for agricultural products in Karnagarh, Salboni, Paschim Medinipur. Mr. Rana has been instrumental in promoting Hi-Tech potato cultivation since 2016. Here, Mr. Rana and his team employ Apical Rooted Cutting (ARC) Technology to produce disease free true to the type high quality potato seed tubers. Under his able leadership the NGO produce & supply substantial quantities of G0 generation mini seed tubers to project partners and government farms across various districts, supporting the Hi-Tech project. Such effort of him was recognized with the prestigious *Krisak Samman* award at Kharagpur from the Hon'ble Chief Minister of West Bengal in 2022. Recently, the NGO has begun providing Apical Rooted Cuttings of potatoes to project partners. Additionally, Mr. Rana successfully produces parental lines of maize and maize hybrids, conducting Multi-Location Trials under the guidance of the Economic Botanist-III, West Bengal. He has expertise on varietal selection achieved remarkable success in producing high-quality seeds of paddy HYVs and hybrids in collaboration with beneficiary farmers. As a speaker, Mr. Rana brings his wealth of knowledge and experience for inspiring innovative agricultural practices and improved rural livelihoods.

Agri-Entrepreneur 4 :

MR. GUNADHAR SAHANA, Agri-Entrepreneur: Sahana Engineering from Howrah

Address : Saheb Bagan, Samabaypally, Niscinda, Bally, Howrah – 711205,

Email : gunadhar.sahana@gmail.com; Mobile No. - 9433148242

Mr. Gunadhar Sahana son of Late Ramkinkar Sahana, is a visionary entrepreneur with humble roots in Purba Bardhaman, making a profound impact in his community through his efforts over last 20 years. Being born in a middle-class farming family, he developed determination to succeed, which led him to pursue a degree in mechanical engineering. Following five years of professional experience, Mr. Sahana took a bold leap and founded SAHANA ENGINEERING in 1990, realizing his dream of being successful entrepreneur. His engineering workshop flourished, leading to successful collaborations with prominent companies such as Hindustan Motors, Larsen and Toubro, and Godrej and Boyce in construction of projects namely, Super Speciality Hospital and Medical College project and the Metro project KMRCL. Beside, Mr. Sahana is deeply passionate about plants, a connection rooted in his farming heritage. This passion led him to integrate his engineering expertise with agricultural practices, resulting in establishment and nurturing hi-tech gerbera cultivation under Polyhouse in 2005. Mr. Sahana is also the founder of PUSPA GREEN AGRO INDIA, a renowned plant nursery offering an extensive selection of flora and comprehensive landscaping services. His expertise has been sought by prestigious institution such as IITs, Medical Colleges and the Mati Tirtha Training Centre. In 2019, he ventured into rice mill equipment manufacturing and maintenance services. Throughout his journey, Mr. Sahana has received numerous accolades, including the “Kriti Krishak” award from the Government of West Bengal. As a speaker, Mr. Gunadhar Sahana brings his unique blend of engineering expertise, agricultural innovation, and entrepreneurial spirit to inspire and educate.