

SOCIAL SECTOR, AGRICULTURE AND GREEN ECONOMY

INSIGHTS FOR INDIA'S INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

**PROF. KABITA KUMARI SAHU
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Social Sector, Agriculture and Green Economy

**Insights for India's Inclusive and
Sustainable Development**



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Social Sector, Agriculture and Green Economy

Insights for India's Inclusive and Sustainable Development

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Preface

Sustainability has become a central principle guiding development agendas at global, national, and local levels. For a diverse and rapidly evolving country like India, realizing sustainable development demands a comprehensive approach that integrates economic growth, social equity, and environmental stewardship. In this context, the Department of Economics, MSCB University, Odisha, hosted a two-day International Conference on “India’s Pathways to Sustainable Development” on 19–20 April 2025, generously supported by the R&D Cell of MSCB University and the Bank of India.

The conference provided a dynamic platform for scholars, practitioners, policymakers, and students to exchange ideas, present empirical research, and share policy insights on India’s sustainability journey. Discussions were structured around four key themes—economic, environmental, digital, and social sustainability—highlighting the multifaceted nature of sustainable development research.

This edited volume, *Social Sector, Agriculture and Green Economy: Insights for India’s Inclusive and Sustainable Development*, will be the second set of conference proceedings, compiling a curated selection of high-quality papers presented at the conference. The chapters combine rigorous academic analysis and empirical evidence, capturing India’s diverse development experiences. Organized around themes such as social sector economics, agricultural economics and green economy, the book offers valuable insights for academics, policymakers, researchers, and students in economics, public policy, development studies, and environmental sciences. It is also intended to stimulate critical reflection and informed debate on building inclusive and sustainable futures for India.

The editors express sincere gratitude to the authorities of MSCB University, all organising committee members, all contributors, resource persons and peer reviewers, for their support and cooperation. Special thanks are also due to the internal and external review committee members for their guidance, and to Parab Publications, India, for bringing this volume to publication.

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Prof. Sahu is currently serving as Professor and Head, Department of Economics at MSCB University (erstwhile North Orissa University), Baripada, Odisha. She earned her M.Phil. & PhD degrees from Utkal University, Bhubaneswar, and has contributed over 125 publications to reputed journals and edited volumes to date. Her academic work includes four textbooks, four research books, and three edited books. She has also completed two ICSSR-funded research projects, with one ongoing project funded under UFIRP. She has to her credit the supervision of 07 Ph.D. and 35 M.Phil. scholars, while 07 Ph.D. scholars are still pursuing their research under her guidance.



Dr. Pratap Kumar Jena

Dr. Jena is working as a full-time Assistant Professor of Economics (teaching and research) in the Department of Economics, Maharaja Sriram Chandra Bhanja Deo University. He has nearly 13 years of teaching experience at the PG level. Before joining this university, he worked for a short period at GITAM University, Vishakhapatnam and Central University of Karnataka. He obtained his Master's degree, M.Phil. degree and Ph.D. degree from the University of Hyderabad. He has been teaching Macroeconomics, International Trade & Finance, Econometrics and Time Series Modelling to MA students. His research interests are broadly in the commodity market, climate change, agriculture, rural development and applied macroeconomics. He has published 3 books, 7 book chapters and 22 research papers in refereed journals, and also completed 4 research projects.



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Mr. Sarangi is currently serving as an Assistant Professor in Economics at CDOE (Centre for Distance and Online Education), MSCB University (erstwhile *North Orissa University*), Baripada, Odisha, and is also pursuing his PhD from the same University. He completed his Graduation in Economics from F. M. Autonomous College, Balasore, in 2020 with a CGPA of 8.51, and his Post-graduation in Analytical & Applied Economics from Utkal University, Bhubaneswar, in 2022, securing a 9.05 CGPA with specializations in Econometrics, Mathematical Economics, and Financial Institutions & Markets. To date, he has published seven papers in various reputed journals, three books, two edited books and one book chapter.



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Mr. Dalai is a Doctoral Scholar in the Department of Economics at Maharaja Sriram Chandra Bhanja Deo University. He holds a Master's degree in Analytical and Applied Economics from Utkal University in 2022. He is currently awarded the National Fellowship for Scheduled Castes (NFSC) and was previously a recipient of the ICSSR Doctoral Fellowship (2024). His research interests lie in development economics, with a focus on rural development, tribal studies and related socioeconomic issues.



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ABOUT THE BOOK

The book “Social Sector, Agriculture and Green Economy: Insights for India’s Inclusive and Sustainable Development” offers a comprehensive examination of India’s development through the lenses of social sector progress, agricultural transformation, and environmental sustainability. Structured into three thematic chapters, Inclusive Growth & Social Dimensions of Development, Agriculture, Trade & Rural Transformation, and Sustainability, Environment & Green Economy, the book brings together research that addresses critical issues such as female literacy and tribal livelihoods, social inclusion of marginalized communities, public health and education expenditure, sustainable agricultural practices, minimum support price policies, agricultural trade, circular economy initiatives, green macroeconomic strategies, environmental incentives, and the role of technology in promoting sustainable and resilient urban and rural systems. By combining empirical evidence with policy analysis, the volume highlights both the challenges and opportunities in fostering inclusive, sustainable, and equitable growth. This book provides valuable insights for academics, policymakers, development practitioners, and students seeking a multidimensional understanding of the social, economic, and environmental dynamics shaping contemporary India.



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