

University of Arizona and World Bank Development Economics Conference

**Empowering the Poor: Reducing Vulnerability, Enhancing Livelihoods**

**17-19 February 2020**

**Location:** University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona

**Overview:** This conference brings together a group of development practitioners from governments in South Asia and Africa, World Bank, IFAD, UNDP, Foundations, and academia who are at the forefront of development, implementation and study of *Agriculture and Rural Livelihoods Program*. With the financial and professional support from the World Bank and related international development agencies, various regional governments in Asia and Africa have implemented or are implementing such programs. Individually, these programs have been monitored, evaluated, and studied, but the lessons learned from them are scattered, highlighting the need for a comprehensive, rigorous synthesis of steps involved in their development; an examination of the challenges in their implementation; and a discussion of the evidence of their impacts.

This 3-day conference is designed to meet the above goal by allowing in-depth discussions on a select number of livelihoods programs in Asia (e.g., JEEViKA and the National Rural Livelihoods Mission) and Africa, and by inviting the perspectives of the three key stakeholders: the international development organizations, regional governments responsible for the implementation of the programs, and researchers who have systematically evaluated and studied these programs for their economic and non-economic aspects, as well as their short- and long-term impacts. More specifically, the workshop will look at what has been achieved, what lessons have been learned, and what the implications are for programming the implementation of similar programs in other countries.

**Organizer:**

Tauhidur Rahman, PhD

Associate Professor, Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics (AREC)

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**Host:**

The Initiative for Agency and Development (IfAD), The University of Arizona

**Supported By:**

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, World Bank, and the Center for the Philosophy of Freedom

## Program

Monday, 17 February

**Location:** *Sonora Room, University of Arizona Student Union*

**8:30-9:00 AM: Coffee and Networking**

**9:00-9:30 AM: Welcome and Opening Remarks**

- Shane Burgess, Vice-President, ALVCE and Dean, CALS, University of Arizona
- Arvind K. Chaudhary, Principal Secretary, Govt. of Bihar, India
- Shobha Shetty, Practice Manager, Africa Region, World Bank
- Usha Kiran Tarigopula, Deputy Director, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

*Facilitator:* Tauhidur Rahman, Associate Professor, University of Arizona (UA)

**9:30-10:30 AM: “Empowering the Poor and Enabling their Economic and Human Development: Scaling up Agriculture and Rural Livelihoods Program”**

- ❖ 9:30-10:10 AM: Parmesh Shah, Global Lead, World Bank
- ❖ 10:10-10:20 AM: Discussant Remark
- ❖ 10:20-10:30 AM: Q&A

*Discussant:* Price Fishback, Thomas R. Brown Professor of Economics, UA

**10:30-11:15 AM: “Gender in the Developed and Developing World”**

- ❖ 10:30-11:00 AM: Basit Zafar, Professor of Economics, Arizona State University
- ❖ 11:00-11:15 AM: Q&A

*Moderator:* Anna Josephson, Assistant Professor, Agricultural & Resource Economics, UA

**11:15-12:30 PM: JEEViKA and the NRLM Program: The Overall Lessons and Learnings**

- ❖ 11:15-11:45 AM: The JEEViKA Story: Origins and the Scale up
  - Arvind K. Chaudhary, Principal Secretary, Ministry of Rural Development, Bihar, India
- ❖ 11:45-12:30 PM: Implementation of JEEViKA: Key Challenges and Lessons
  - Balamurugan D., CEO, JEEViKA, Government of Bihar, India
  - Asha Devi and Amarita Devi, Community Members of JEEViKA

*Chair:* Parmesh Shah, Global Lead, World Bank

**12:30-1:30 PM: Break**

**1:30-3:00 PM: JEEViKA and the NRLM Program: Specific Lessons and Learnings**

- ❖ 1:30-1:45 PM: Learning from Initiatives on Access to Financial Services
  - Pushpendra Tiwari, State Project Manager, Financial Literacy & Bank Linkage  
JEEViKA, Government of Bihar, India
- ❖ 1:45-2:30 PM: Learning from Agriculture and Livestock Initiatives
  - TBD
- ❖ 2:30-3:00 PM: Leveraging Community Mobilization for Human Development:  
JEEViKA Experience
  - Irina Sinha, Technical & Strategy Advocacy, Project Concern International
  - Ms. Somya, Project Manager, Health & Nutrition, JEEViKA, Govt. of Bihar, India

*Moderator:* Russell Tronstad, University Distinguished Outreach Professor, Agricultural  
and Resource Economics, UA

**3:00-3:15 PM: Coffee Break**

**3:15-5:30 PM: Results from Impact Evaluations**

- ❖ 3:15-3:45 PM: Monitoring and Evaluation System of JEEViKA
  - Ajit Ranjan, State Project Manager, M&E, JEEViKA, Govt. of Bihar, India
  - Paramveer Singh, Resident Representative to JEEViKA from World Bank
- ❖ 3:45-4:30 PM: Results from the Impact Evaluation of JEEViKA
  - Tauhidur Rahman, Associate Professor, University of Arizona
- ❖ 4:30-5:15 PM: Specific Impacts on Health and Nutrition
  - Kala Mehta, Stanford University
- ❖ 5:15-5:30 PM: Q&A

*Moderator:* Jeffrey Michler, Assistant Professor, Agricultural & Resource Economics, UA

**6:00-9:00 PM: Reception (By invitation)**

**Tuesday, 18 February**

**Location:** *Sonora Room, University of Arizona Student Union*

**8:00-8:30 AM: Coffee and Breakfast**

**8:30-11:00 AM: Reflections and Perspectives from Key Development Actors**

- ❖ 8:30-9:00 AM: Fabrizio Felloni, Deputy Director, Independent Office of Evaluation  
International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

9:00-9:10 AM: Q&A

- ❖ 9:10-9:40 AM: Almudena Fernandez, Advisor to the UN Assistant Secretary  
General and Regional Director, United Nations Development  
Program (UNDP) Latin America and Caribbean

9:40-9:50 AM: Q&A

- ❖ 9:50-10:20 AM: Usha Kiran Tarigopula, Deputy Director, Bill & Melinda Gates  
Foundation

10:20- 10:30 AM: Q&A

- ❖ 10:30-11:00 AM: Nicholas Eichman, Private Sector Engagement Advisor, The  
Palladium Group

11:00-11:10: Q&A

*Chair:* Timothy Finan, Professor of Anthropology, University of Arizona

**11:15-12:15 PM: “The Shifting Challenges of Poverty as Countries Move Up the  
Development Ladder: The Case of China**

- ❖ 11:15-12:00 PM: Scott D. Rozelle, Helen F. Farnsworth Senior Fellow, Freeman  
Spogli Institute for International Studies, Stanford University

- ❖ 12:00-12:15 PM: Q&A

*Moderator:* Satheesh Aradhyula, Associate Professor, Agricultural & Resource Economics, UA

**12:15 -1:15 PM: Break**

### **1:15 to 2:45 PM: “Agriculture and Rural Livelihoods Programs in Africa”**

- ❖ 1:15-1:30 PM: “Overview of Agricultural and Rural Livelihoods Programs”  
--James Musinga/ Vinay Vutukuru, Senior Specialist, World Bank
- ❖ 1:30-2:00 PM: “National Agriculture and Rural Inclusive Growth Project (NAGRIP)”  
--John Kimani, National Program Coordinator, NAGRIP
- ❖ 2:00-2:30 PM: “Kenya Climate Smart Agriculture Project (KCSAP)”  
--Francis Muthami, National Program Coordinator, KCSAP
- ❖ 2:30-2:45 PM: Q&A

*Moderator:* Vinay Vutukuru, Senior Specialist, World Bank

### **2:45-3:45 PM: “Agency and Development”**

- ❖ 2:45-3:30 PM: David Schmitz, Kendrick Professor of Philosophy and Director of the Center for the Philosophy of Freedom, University of Arizona
- ❖ 3:30-3:45: Q&A

*Moderator:* Daniel Asia, Professor of Music, University of Arizona

### **3:45-4:00 PM: Coffee Break**

### **4:00-5:30 PM: Panel- “Gender Equality”**

- Liesl Folks, Senior Vice-President and Provost, University of Arizona
- Shobha Shetty, Practice Manager, Africa Region, World Bank
- Jane Bambauer, Professor of Law, University of Arizona
- Alison Deming, Agnese Nelms Haury Chair in Environment & Social Justice  
Regent's Professor, University of Arizona

*Moderator:* Tauhidur Rahman, Associate Professor, Agricultural & Resource Economics  
Director, The Initiative for Agency and Development  
The University of Arizona

### **6:30 PM: Dinner (By invitation)**

**Wednesday, 19 February**

**Location:** *Marley 230*

**8:30-9:00 AM: Coffee and Networking**

**9:00-10:00 AM: “Laboratory Experiments on Growth and Development”**

❖ 9:00-9:45 AM: Charles Noussair, Eller Professor of Economics and Director  
Economic Science Laboratory, University of Arizona

❖ 9:45-10:00: Q&A

*Moderator:* Cathleen Johnson, The Initiative for Agency and Development

**10:00-11:30 PM: “Way Forward: Applying Lessons from South Asia”**

--John Kimani, National Program Coordinator, NAGRIP

--Francis Muthami, National Program Coordinator, KCSAP

--Vinay Vutukuru, Senior Specialist, World Bank

--James Musinga, Senior Specialist, World Bank

--Usha Kiran Trigopula, Deputy Director, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

*Chair:* Shobha Shetty, Practice Manager, Africa Region, World Bank

**11:30 -12:00 PM: Closing Remarks and Way Forward**

--Vinay Vutukuru, World Bank

--Anjani Kumar Singh, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

--Tauhidur Rahman, University of Arizona

**12:15-1:30 PM: Lunch for the Guests @ AREC with AREC Faculty and Staff**

**2:00-6:00 PM: Biosphere 2 (for out of town participants)**