



*National Conference on*  
**Digital Interventions & Sustainable Livelihoods in Hill-Ecosystem:  
Towards Vision Viksit Bharat@2047**

*Important Dates:*

Date of National Conference: 10-11 January, 2025

**The Seminar will be conducted in Hybrid Mode (Offline+Online)**

Last Date for Submission of Abstract: 25<sup>th</sup> December, 2024

Last Date for Submission of Full-Length Paper: 25<sup>th</sup> December 2024

Communication for Selected Abstracts & Full-Length Papers: 30<sup>th</sup> December, 2024

Submission of Registration Fee: 3<sup>rd</sup> January, 2025

For any query please drop mail to: [nationalconficssrvb2025@gmail.com](mailto:nationalconficssrvb2025@gmail.com)

Organised By :

**Department of Agricultural Economics  
Palli Siksha Bhavana (Institute of  
Agriculture) VISVA-BHARATI, Sriniketan,  
Birbhum West Bengal-731236**

**Indian Council of Social Science  
Research (ICSSR), Aruna Asaf Ali Marg  
New Delhi- 110067**

## ABOUT VISVA-BHARATI

Visva-Bharati was founded by the first non-European Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Thākur (popularly known as Tagore) in 1921. In May 1951, Visva-Bharati was declared to be a Central University and "An Institution of National Importance" by an Act of Parliament. The President of India is the Paridarsaka (Visitor) of the University, the Governor of West Bengal is the Pradhana (Rector), and the Prime Minister of India acts as the Acharya (Chancellor). The President of India appoints the Upacharya (Vice-chancellor) of the University. It was granted the status of a unitary, teaching and residential university. The status and function of all the major institutions have been redefined in successive Amendments.



## ABOUT CONFERENCE

The **National Conference** will explore the transformative potential of digital technologies in addressing the unique challenges faced by rural communities in India's hill regions. As these areas grapple with geographical isolation, socio-economic disparities, and environmental vulnerabilities, digital interventions emerge as a vital tool for fostering sustainable development. This conference will bring together leading academics, policymakers, practitioners, and industry stakeholders to discuss how digital platforms can bridge gaps in agricultural productivity, market access, rural tourism, and livelihood diversification while addressing the critical issues of digital literacy and accessibility. By emphasizing inclusive growth and focusing on marginalized groups such as smallholder farmers, women, and tribal populations, the conference aligns with India's **Vision Viksit Bharat@2047**, envisioning a developed and equitable nation. Through a blend of expert-led discussions, evidence-based research presentations, and collaborative dialogues, the event will provide actionable insights into leveraging digital innovations for socio-economic empowerment in hill agro-ecosystems. By bridging the divide between policy, practice, and academia, this conference aims to inspire transformative strategies that will enhance resilience, sustainability, and prosperity in rural India.

## ABOUT ICSSR

The **Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR)**, established in 1969 by the Government of India, stands as a premier institution dedicated to advancing social science research in the country. As an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Education, ICSSR plays a pivotal role in fostering a robust ecosystem for interdisciplinary and policy-relevant research that addresses critical socio-economic and developmental challenges. Through its wide-ranging initiatives, ICSSR supports academic excellence by funding research projects, providing fellowships, and organizing capacity-building programs for scholars across the nation. The council also facilitates knowledge dissemination through conferences, seminars, and publications, thereby bridging the gap between academia, policymakers, and practitioners. With a strong emphasis on inclusivity, ICSSR champions research that contributes to national development priorities and aligns with India's vision for a sustainable and equitable future. By sponsoring this conference, ICSSR reaffirms its commitment to nurturing innovative solutions for pressing challenges in rural livelihoods and digital transformation, ensuring that the outcomes of research contribute meaningfully to policy and practice.

## ABOUT DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS, VISVA-BHARATI

The Department of Agricultural Economics, Palli Siksha Bhavana, Visva-Bharati has been functioning as an independent department since 2nd June, 2019 by restructuring the erstwhile Department of Agricultural Economics and Agricultural Statistics. (The discipline of Agricultural Economics was a part of the erstwhile composite Department of Agricultural Economics and Agricultural Statistics for the period from September, 2017 to May, 2019 and Department of Agricultural Extension, Agricultural Economics and Agricultural Statistics (before September, 2017). The Department is engaged in applied, policy, and problem-solving research in agriculture and allied sectors covering various thematic areas like market, trade, finance, agri-business, livelihood, natural resource, institutions, growth and development. Based on the relative importance of the issues in agriculture, the Department has been engaged in continuously shifting its focus on these issues. Different research projects were carried out, covering areas like production economics, agricultural marketing, agricultural finance, agricultural growth and development. The Department has a mandate to carry out teaching and research in socio-economic issues concerning agriculture and rural development. Accordingly, the Department has tailored teaching and research programmes to meet the challenges of post-economic liberalization era. The Department offers several compulsory core courses as well as advance elective and minor courses both at Undergraduate and Postgraduate levels. This Department has been playing very vital role in enlightening the policy makers in the emerging areas of international trade and evaluation of public policies and programmes in agricultural sector. The Department of Agricultural Economics has five sanctioned teaching posts with multi-fields of specialization. The department is also having a Computer Laboratory. Department offer fully functioning master's programme and Doctoral degree programme.

### Theme 1: Digital Inclusion and Bridging the Divide in Rural Regions

#### Subthemes:

- 1. Challenges in Digital Accessibility and Literacy**  
This subtheme explores the infrastructural, socio-economic, and cultural barriers to digital accessibility in rural areas. It examines gaps in digital literacy and their impact on the adoption of digital tools and technologies.
- 2. Socio-economic Barriers to Digital Adoption**  
Discussions under this subtheme focus on affordability, gender disparities, and the digital readiness of underserved rural communities, highlighting strategies to overcome these barriers.
- 3. Role of Government and Private Initiatives in Digital Infrastructure Development**  
This subtheme analyzes government schemes, private sector contributions, and public-private partnerships aimed at enhancing digital connectivity and infrastructure in rural areas.
- 4. Strategies for Inclusive Digital Empowerment**  
Panelists will explore approaches to ensure equitable access to digital technologies, with a focus on marginalized groups such as women, tribal communities, and smallholder farmers.

### Theme 2: Enhancing Agricultural Productivity and Livelihoods Through Digital Technologies

#### Subthemes:

- 1. Digital Platforms for Agricultural Market Access and Resource Optimization**  
This subtheme highlights the role of platforms like e-NAM and mobile apps in improving farmers' access to markets, price discovery, and resource management.
- 2. Impact of Precision Agriculture and IoT on Farming Practices**  
Discussions will explore how advanced technologies like IoT, sensors, and AI-based tools are transforming traditional agricultural practices, increasing productivity and sustainability.
- 3. Strengthening Agricultural Extension Services through ICT Tools**  
This subtheme examines the use of digital tools to deliver timely agricultural advice, weather updates, and input recommendations to farmers in remote areas.
- 4. Case Studies on Digital Interventions for Livelihood Diversification**  
Real-world examples of how digital technologies enable income diversification, such as by promoting agri-entrepreneurship and non-farm activities, will be presented.

### Theme 3: Rural Tourism and Cultural Preservation Through Digital Platforms

#### Subthemes:

- 1. Digital Marketing Strategies for Rural Tourism**  
This subtheme discusses how digital platforms like social media, websites, and mobile apps are promoting rural tourism, creating new opportunities for local businesses and communities.
- 2. Sustainable Tourism Models Enabled by Technology**  
It focuses on leveraging technology to promote eco-friendly tourism practices, minimize environmental impact, and ensure long-term sustainability in rural tourism ventures.
- 3. Promoting Local Artisans and Cultural Heritage through E-commerce**  
Discussions will explore how digital marketplaces and platforms empower local artisans by providing a wider audience for their crafts and helping preserve regional cultural identities.
- 4. Community-driven Digital Initiatives for Tourism Development**  
This subtheme highlights grassroots digital efforts that engage local communities in showcasing their heritage and attracting tourists, fostering community ownership and empowerment.

### Theme 4: Policy and Governance for Digital Transformation in Rural Regions

#### Subthemes:

- 1. Role of Policy Frameworks in Promoting Digital Accessibility**  
This subtheme examines how well-crafted policies can bridge the digital divide by addressing systemic challenges such as connectivity gaps and affordability.
- 2. Institutional Barriers and Enablers of Digital Interventions**  
Discussions will focus on the regulatory and institutional challenges in implementing digital interventions and the role of supportive governance structures in driving their success.
- 3. Public-Private Partnerships in Digitalizing Rural Areas**  
This subtheme highlights the importance of collaboration between government bodies, private companies, and civil society in creating sustainable digital ecosystems.
- 4. Ethical and Sustainable Approaches to Digital Governance**  
Topics under this subtheme will include data privacy, equity, and the ethical use of digital tools to ensure that technological advancements benefit all sections of society sustainably.

## PARTICIPANTS

The conference would be a great utility for researchers, academicians, policy planners, industrialists, NGO and students contributing to research and development.

## CALL FOR PAPERS

Original research/review/data-based papers are invited on identified themes of the conference.

- Type of font: Times New Roman
- Font Size: 12
- Space between the line: 1.5
- The abstract should be less than 250 words including keywords.
- Full papers should be maximum 15 pages/8000 words
- Paper should be sent by the attached google form link: <https://forms.gle/wNGdi9ygjwoo4TwM8>
- Author(s) should write the name of the theme on the top of the abstract.

## IMPORTANT DATES

Date of National Conference: 10-11 January 2025

Communication for Selected Abstracts & Full-Length Papers: 30 December 2024

Last Date for Submission of Abstract & Full-Length Paper: 25 December 2024

Submission of Registration Fee: 3 January 2025

## PUBLICATION

The selected abstracts will be published in Seminar Proceedings with ISBN Number. The top twenty-five selected full papers will be published as book chapter in Edited Book with reputed International/National publisher after the seminar. The selection will be purely based on the decision of the editorial committee constituted by ICSSR. No external recommendation will be entertained.

Particulars	Registration Fee (By 3 <sup>rd</sup> Jan 2025)	Spot Registration
Existing M.Sc. Scholars/ Ph.D. Scholars (Regular Mode only) in Offline Mode [Proof to be uploaded]	Rs. 1200	Rs. 1500
RA / SRF / Project Staff / In-Service Ph.D. Scholars (Proof Required) Offline	Rs. 1500	Rs. 1800
Faculty/ Scientists/ Regular Service Offline Mode	Rs. 2200	Rs. 2500
Existing M.Sc. Scholars/ Ph.D. Scholars (Regular Mode only) in Online Mode [Proof to be uploaded]	Rs. 750	N.A.
RA / SRF / Project Staff / In-Service Ph.D. Scholars (Proof Required) Online	Rs. 1000	N.A.
Faculty/ Scientists/ Regular Service Online Mode	Rs. 1500	N.A.

Registration Fee includes Seminar Kit, Local Hospitality and Local Transport. Accompanying Person has to pay Rs. 4000 as Registration Fee. Registered participant has to fill up a google form available: <https://forms.gle/wNGdi9ygjwoo4TwM8>

**Please note that online participants will get 'e-Certificate' and 'e-book' only**

THE REGISTRATION FEE SHOULD BE DEPOSITED ONLINE TO THE FOLLOWING ACCOUNT:

A/c Name	NATIONAL CONFERENCE UNDER ICSSR FUNDED PROJECT
Name of the Bank	STATE BANK OF INDIA
Branch	SRINIKETAN
A/c No.	4358703947-3
IFSC	SBIN0012391

SCAN & PAY



UPI ID: icssrfund@sbi

## HOW TO REACH SANTINIKETAN/SRINIKETAN, VISVA-BHARATI

Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan is ensconced in a rural setting in the district of Birbhum, about 160 km by road from Kolkata i.e. the capital city of West Bengal. Bolpur-Santiniketan is connected both by railway line and road. It takes around 3 hours either by road/train to reach Bolpur-Santiniketan. The nearest railway station is Bolpur-Santiniketan on the Eastern Railway and the air terminals are Kazi Nazrul Islam Airport, Durgapur and Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport, Kolkata. There are several Express/mail/local trains either from Howrah/Sealdah for those who will come from South/West and from Bardhaman/Durgapur for those who will come from North. Some of these trains are given below:

Train Name/No.	Timing	Coming From	Destination
Vande Bharat Exp.: 22301	5.55	Howrah	Bolpur
Gandevta Exp.: 13017	6.05	Howrah	Bolpur
Kulik Exp.: 13053	8.55	Howrah	Bolpur
Santiniketan Exp.: 12337	10.05	Howrah	Bolpur
Kaviguru Exp.: 13015	10.40	Howrah	Bolpur
Sahid Exp.: 12347	11.55	Howrah	Bolpur
Shatabdi Exp.: 12041	14.25	Howrah	Bolpur
Malda Intercity Exp.: 13011	15.25	Howrah	Bolpur
Viswabharati Fast Pgr.: 03047	16.35	Howrah	Bolpur
Howrah Gaya Exp.: 13023	20.00	Howrah	Bolpur
Howrah Jamalpur Exp.: 13071	21.40	Howrah	Bolpur
Kaviguru Exp.: 13027	22.40	Howrah	Bolpur
Koaa HDB SF Exp.: 12363	09.05	Kolkata	Bolpur
Maa Tara Exp.: 13187	7.20	Sealdah	Bolpur
Uttarbanga Exp.: 13147	19.40	Sealdah	Bolpur
Kanchankanya Exp.: 13149	20.35	Sealdah	Bolpur
Darjeeling Mail: 12343	22.05	Sealdah	Bolpur
Padatik Exp.: 12377	23.20	Sealdah	Bolpur
Howrah Rajdhani: 12302	16.50	New Delhi	Howrah
Poorva Exp.: 12382	17.40	New Delhi	Howrah
Netaji Exp.: 12312	6.15	Old Delhi	Howrah
Sealdah-Rajdhani: 12314	16.30	New Delhi	Sealdah
Sealdah Duronto: 12260	19.45	New Delhi	Sealdah
Saraighat Exp.: 12346	12.20	Guwahati	Bolpur
Kanchanjungha Exp.: 13174/13176	22.55	Guwahati	Bolpur
Gitanjali Exp.: 12859	6.00	CSMT	Howrah
Duronto Exp.: 12261	17.15	CSMT	Howrah
Howrah Mail: 12809	21.10	CSMT	Howrah
Jan Shatabdi Exp.: 12074	6.00	Bhubaneswar	Howrah
Shatabdi Exp.: 12278	6.49	Bhubaneswar	Howrah
Howrah Duronto Exp.: 12246	9.20	Bhubaneswar	Howrah
Vande Bharat Exp.: 22896	14.49	Bhubaneswar	Howrah

## ACCOMMODATION

Delegates attending the conference will be assisted in getting accommodation at university's guest house on payment and first cum first serve basis. Delegates can also arrange their own accommodation in any hotels surrounding the campus in and around Bolpur. There is a rush round the year since Santiniketan is a tourist place and world heritage site. Therefore, intimation about accommodation may be filled in the same google form link of the conference well in advance to avoid last minute inconvenience.

## VENUE

The conference will be held at Department of Agricultural Economics, Palli Siksha Bhavana (Institute of Agriculture), Sriniketan, Bolpur, West Bengal

## WEATHER

The weather in Santiniketan around 10-11 January is typically chilled yet pleasant, participants are requested to carry winter garments during the stay.

## AWARDS

- Best paper presentation award under each theme
- Best poster presentation award under each theme

## CHIEF PATRON

Prof. Binoy Kumar Saren, Vice Chancellor, Visva-Bharati

## PATRON

Prof. Debashis Sarkar, Head, Department. of Agricultural Economics, Palli Siksha Bhavana, Visva-Bharati

## NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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Dr. Subrata Mondal, Senior Scientist & Head, RKVK, Visva-Bharati

## CONVENER

Prof. Bidhan Chandra Roy, Professor, Department of Agricultural Economics, Palli Siksha Bhavana, Visva-Bharati

## ORGANISING SECRETARY

Dr. Bitan Mondal, Assistant Professor & Principal Investigator, ICSSR VVB@2047, Department of Agricultural Economics, Palli Siksha Bhavana, Visva-Bharati

## JOINT-ORGANISING SECRETARIES

Dr. Prem Chand, Senior Scientist & Co- Principal Investigator, ICSSR VVB@2047, ICAR-NIAP, New Delhi,  
Dr. Vinita Kanwal, Assistant Professor & Co- Principal Investigator, ICSSR VVB@2047, PAU, Ludhiana, Punjab  
Dr. Ashish Santosh Murai, Scientist & Co- Principal Investigator, ICSSR VVB@2047, ICAR-ATARI, PAU, Ludhiana, Punjab  
Dr. Vishal Sankar Thorat Assistant Professor & Co- Principal Investigator, ICSSR VVB@2047, NAU, Gujarat  
Mr. Subrata Gorain, Assistant Professor, Department of Agricultural Economics, Palli Siksha Bhavana, Visva-Bharati

## JOINT-ORGANISING SECRETARY CUM TREASURER

Dr. Arti, Assistant Professor & Co- Principal Investigator, ICSSR VVB@2047, Department of Agricultural Economics, Palli Siksha Bhavana, Visva-Bharati

## ORGANISING COMMITTEE

Dr. Swarnali Bhattacharya, Assistant Professor, Department of Agricultural Entomology  
Dr. Bholanath Mondal, Assistant Professor, Department of Plant Pathology  
Dr. Prahlad Deb, Assistant Professor, Department of Horticulture & Post Harvest Technology  
Mr. Sourav Mondal, Subject Matter Specialist, Plant Protection, RKVK, Visva-Bharati  
Dr. Sananda Mondal, Assistant Professor, Department of Crop Physiology  
Dr. Darshan N.P., Assistant Professor, Department of Agricultural Extension  
Mr. Vivek Khare, Assistant Professor, Department of Plant Pathology  
Dr. Umalaxmi Thingjum, Assistant Professor, Department of Soil Science & Ag. Chem  
Dr. Rebeka Sinha, Assistant Professor, Department of Animal Science  
Dr. Arijit Roy, Assistant Professor, School of Agricultural Science, TI University

## STUDENT COORDINATORS

Mr. Shubhrajyoti Mishra, Ph.D. Scholar, Department of Agricultural Economics  
Mr. Mehedi Hasan, Ph.D. Scholar, Department of Agricultural Economics  
Mr. Abhishek Anand, Ph.D. Scholar, Department of Agricultural Economics  
Mr. Satyabrata Mohanty, Ph.D. Scholar, Department of Agricultural Extension  
Dr. Sk. Mossaraf Hossain, Department of Agricultural Extension  
Mr. Shubhajit Mukherjee, Ph.D. Scholar, Department of Agricultural Extension  
Mr. Ayush Dewangan, M.Sc. Scholar, Department of Agricultural Economics  
Mr. Subhadeep Mukherjee, M.Sc. Scholar, Department of Agricultural Economics  
Mr. Sayantan De, M.Sc. Scholar, Department of Agricultural Economics  
Mr. Raja Dey, M.Sc. Scholar, Department of Agricultural Entomology  
Mr. Biman Ghosh, M.Sc. Scholar, Department of Horticulture & Post-Harvest Technology  
Mr. Ujjal Ghosh, M.Sc. Scholar, Department of Agricultural Extension  
Mr. Ranadip Patra, M.Sc. Scholar, Department of Agricultural Extension  
Ms. Ritushree Bakshi, M.Sc. Scholar, Department of Agricultural Extension  
Ms. Soumita Dawn, M.Sc. Scholar, Department of Genetics & Plant Breeding

## REGISTRATION-CUM-ACCOMMODATION FORM

National Conference on

“Digital Interventions & Sustainable Livelihoods in Hill-Ecosystem: Towards Vision Viksit Bharat@2047”

Visva-Bharati, Sriniketan January 10-11, 2025

1. Name of the Participant : .....
2. Designation : .....
3. Sex: Male/Female
4. Address for correspondence : .....
5. OfficeAddress : .....
6. Contacts :
  - Telephone No. :
  - Mobile No. :
  - Fax No. :
  - E-mail :
7. Details of Registration andAccommodation fee :
  - Registration fee payment ID :
  - Date of fees payment (transaction) :
  - Name of the Bank :
8. Food (Vegetarian/Non-vegetarian) : .....
9. Arrival
  - Date andTime :
  - Travel detail (Flight No./Train No. etc.) :
10. Departure
  - Date andTime :
  - Travel detail (Flight No./Train No. etc.) :
11. Accompanied person details : .....

### Exhibition/Stall

Registration form for participation as sponsor (both technical/non-technical for erecting exhibition/stall during the National Seminar.

We wish to Sponsor/Co-sponsor (Yes/No) : .....

We wish to exhibit the product (Yes/No) : .....

Specify the product : .....

Date : ..... Signature of the participants

## CONTACT US :

For any queries Contact us on: [nationalconficssrvb2025@gmail.com](mailto:nationalconficssrvb2025@gmail.com)

Mob : 9896677149, 8250627219