



Colloquium Series: Science, Knowledge Swaraj and Democracy

Speaker:

C Shambu Prasad, Professor, Rural Management, XIMB

Date / Time:

April 5, 2012 - 3:15pm

Venue:

Room 307, Third Floor, Pixel B, APU

Abstract:

The talk will explore recent initiatives by a network of researchers- activists who have been involved in knowledge dialogues for alternative imaginations of science. The Knowledge In Civil Society, or KICS network, has brought out an Indian manifesto on science and technology that explores alternative futures organized around principles of sustainability, plurality and justice. The talk will present the ideas of this citizens manifesto on science and technology, its processes, its explication through case studies in water, sustainable agriculture, medical ethics, the built environment and climate change. The speaker will also share recent dialogues in South Asia to look at the role of intermediaries in inclusive innovation and development.

A Note on the Speaker:

Prof C Shambu Prasad is a professor with the Rural Management and Development area and currently the programme coordinator of the rural management programme. His teaching includes courses on rural environment and public policies, social entrepreneurship, ecosystem management and innovation management. His interests are in science and innovation policy and his education involved a basic training in engineering, a Masters in Industrial Management with specialisation in science policy (both at IIT Madras) and a doctorate in science, technology and society studies from IIT Delhi.

Dr Shambu Prasad has worked in various capacities in several global and local organisations on innovation policy and sustainable development. Some of these are the Centre for Research on Innovation and Science Policy (CRISP where he served as the first Director), the International Crop Research Institute for Semi Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), and non-governmental organizations such as Dastkar Andhra and an industry stint as an engineer. He is involved with the Institutional Learning And Change (ILAC) initiative of international agricultural research

centres and coordinates a national level dialogue forum on 'Knowledge in Civil Society' (www.kicsforum.net).

His publications cover a broad range of interests from innovation and ecosystems management to application of managerial and science studies insights in sustainable agriculture, science policy, textiles and rural industries. Dr Shambu Prasad's work on agricultural innovation includes applying innovation systems principles and ideas in agriculture. In his work he has argued for greater involvement of civil society in agricultural innovation and policy. His work on the institutional history of SRI (System of Rice Intensification) in India is oft quoted and he has enabled the formation of learning alliances for scaling up of SRI in Orissa. He is also a member of the national consortium on SRI and has tried to promote alternate models of co-creation and open sourcing innovation in agriculture. Dr Shambu Prasad is currently working with Wageningen University on SRI as a socio-technical movement in India and is a member of the 'Sub-group on Upscaling Innovative Technologies' as part of the 12th Five year plan of the Planning Commission. He has also coordinated a network of higher education institutes to look at the HR requirements for state rural livelihood missions.