

National Training on AGRI-FOOD SYSTEMS (NUTRITION)



16-20 November, 2026



MSSRF Regional Centre, Jeypore
(Jayapur), Koraput Dist., Odisha

Agri-Food Systems

One Health

Agroecology

Nutrition-Sensitive Agriculture

Integrated Farming Systems

Nature-Based Solutions



Sponsored by:
Department of Science and Technology
Ministry of Science and Technology,
Government of India, New Delhi



Organized by:
M. S. Swaminathan Research Foundation
Third Cross Road, Institutional Area,
Chennai – 600 113

INTRODUCTION:

India's agri-food systems are at a critical juncture. While the country has achieved significant progress in food production, it continues to face persistent challenges of malnutrition, hidden hunger, climate vulnerability, biodiversity loss, soil and water degradation, and emerging health risks at the human – animal – environment interface. Meeting future food and nutrition demands will require a shift from production - centric approaches to integrated, systems-based solutions that simultaneously address nutrition, livelihoods, ecological sustainability, and public health.

Scientists, technologists, extension personnel, and development professionals in Central and State Government institutions are central to this transition. They generate evidence, design and validate technologies, support policy formulation, and guide field-level implementation. However, agri-food challenges are increasingly interlinked and cannot be addressed through single-disciplinary approaches alone. There is a growing need to strengthen their capacity in systems thinking, transdisciplinary research, nutrition-sensitive agriculture, agroecology, One Health, integrated farming systems, and nature-based solutions. Equally important is the ability to engage communities, integrate traditional and local knowledge, communicate evidence to policymakers, and co-design scalable, equitable interventions. Scientists also need to navigate national legislations, policies, and programmes related to agri-food systems and align their work with national priorities and global frameworks.

This national training programme, sponsored by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and organised by the M. S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF), responds to this need. It is designed for middle-level scientists and professionals from government institutions across India. The programme combines classroom sessions, case studies, peer learning, and field-based experiential learning to help participants understand agri-food systems from global, national, and local perspectives. By the end of the training, participants will be better equipped to lead and support integrated, climate-resilient, nutrition-secure, and sustainable agri-food systems within their own institutions and regions.

TRAINING OBJECTIVE:



Strengthen participants' understanding of agri-food systems from global, national, and local perspectives.

Build capacity in nutrition-sensitive agriculture, agroecology, One Health, integrated farming systems, and nature-based solutions.



Promote systems thinking and transdisciplinary approaches for resilient, sustainable, and nutrition-secure food systems.

Enhance the ability to align research, extension, and policy support with national legislations, DST priorities, and Central/State Government programmes.



Encourage community engagement, gender integration, traditional knowledge use, and development of actionable plans relevant to participants' own regions and institutions.

TRAINING MODULES & THEMES:

1. Agri-Food Systems and Policy Linkages – Concepts, value chains, sustainability, national legislations, DST programmes, Central/State schemes, convergence, and extension approaches.
2. Nutrition-Sensitive Agriculture and Gender – Food and nutrition security, dietary diversity, biofortification, food safety, gender integration, and the seed-to-seed approach.
3. Agroecology, One Health, and Nature-Based Solutions – Ecological principles, biodiversity, soil health, sustainable pest management, human – animal – environment interface, zoonoses, antimicrobial resistance, climate resilience, ecosystem services, watershed management, carbon, and soil health.
4. Integrated Farming Systems and Field Learning – Crop – livestock – fishery – forestry integration, resource recycling, income resilience, successful models, interaction with farm families, agrobiodiversity, and community institutions.
5. Group Activities, Peer Learning, and Action Planning – Case studies, group exercises, question-and-answer sessions, feedback, peer-to-peer learning, and development of action plans, short projects, or papers.

METHODOLOGY:

01

Classroom lectures by eminent scientists and experts.

02

Group exercises and experience sharing.

03

Analysis of case studies.

04

Field visits and interaction with communities.

05

Audio-visual shows and facilitated discussions.

06

Peer-to-peer learning and action-plan development.

RESOURCE PERSONS:

Resource persons with diverse expertise from reputed institutions will facilitate the sessions, including: Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Central universities, Research organisations, Government institutions, MSSRF.

TARGET GROUP:

Middle-level scientists and technologists, development practitioners, extension personnel, and professionals from government sector institutions across India.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

- **Sector:** Strictly Government sector — Central/State Governments, Autonomous Institutions, PSUs, R&D Labs, Universities, State S&T Councils. No private sector.
- **Qualification:** Ph.D. or M.Tech preferred. Academicians must have at least one ongoing/completed Central Government-funded project. Relevant equivalent experience may be considered for government officers as per DST norms.
- **Age Limit:** Not more than 55 years as on 1 July 2026.
- **Nomination:** Through the DST Training Portal only.

HOW TO APPLY:

Portal Link: <https://training.dst.gov.in/index.html>

STEPS:

- Visit the DST Training Portal and register as an applicant.
- Log in and apply for the training under:
- Organisation: M. S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF)
- Training Title: Agri Food System (Nutrition)
- Complete the application form and submit all required details.
- Application Deadline: 25 October 2026
- Selection will be based on a first-come, first-serve basis.

LODGING, BOARDING AND TRANSPORTATION:

Selected participants will be provided single-occupancy accommodation with full lodging and boarding facilities at the Human Resource Development Centre, MSSRF Regional Centre, Phulbad, Umuri P.O., Jeypore-764 002, Koraput District, Odisha (Tel.: 06854-231773). MSSRF will also arrange local transportation, including pick-up and drop-off from the airports at Jeypore as well as from the nearest railway/bus stations at Koraput and Jeypore. Transportation for field visits and other programme-related activities will also be arranged by MSSRF.

EXPECTATIONS FROM PARTICIPANTS:

To facilitate peer-to-peer learning, participants are encouraged to bring case studies related to the subject for discussion and sharing.

At the end of the training, participants are expected to develop an action plan, short project, or paper on contemporary agri-food system issues relevant to their own region or institution.

ABOUT MSSRF:

The M. S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF) was established in 1988 by Professor M. S. Swaminathan, a world-renowned agricultural scientist and the architect of India's Green Revolution, as a not-for-profit trust dedicated to sustainable agricultural and rural development. Guided by the vision of harnessing science and technology for the benefit of the marginalised, MSSRF works at the intersection of research, policy, and community action to address hunger, poverty, malnutrition, climate vulnerability, and biodiversity loss. Its

programmes span agrobiodiversity conservation, nutrition-sensitive agriculture, climate-resilient farming, integrated farming systems, One Health, and nature-based solutions, with a strong emphasis on gender equity and traditional knowledge. MSSRF operates across multiple States in India and has a significant presence in Odisha, where it has been working in the Jeypore region for over two decades through its Tribal Agrobiodiversity Centre (TAbC). This centre promotes agrobiodiversity conservation, sustainable agriculture, livelihood enhancement, and community-managed genetic resources among tribal communities, integrating indigenous wisdom with modern scientific innovation. Recognised nationally and internationally for its pioneering contributions to food and nutrition security, MSSRF provides a unique platform for this training, blending cutting-edge research with field-based experiential learning to build the capacity of government scientists and professionals from across India.

FOR FURTHER DETAILS CONTACT:

Ms. Anbuwahini

Nodal Officer
MSSRF, Chennai
Third Cross Road, Institutional Area,
Chennai – 600 113, Tamil Nadu
Mobile: +91-9500054087
Email: Anbuwahini@mssrf.res.in

Dr. Kartik Charan Lenka

Course Director
MSSRF Regional Centre
Phulbad, Umuri PO, Jeypore – 764 002
Koraput District, Odisha
Mobile: +91-9437435537
Email: kartik.lenka@mssrf.res.in

Mr. Rajib Roul

Area Director
MSSRF-Odisha
Phulbad, Umuri PO, Jeypore – 764 002
Koraput District, Odisha
Mobile: +91-8470920136
Email: rajib@mssrf.res.in

VENUE:

**M. S. Swaminathan Research Foundation
Tribal Agro-biodiversity Centre**
Phulbad, Umuri Post, Jeypore – 764 002, Koraput District, Odisha





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