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New age "hunger games": Redefining agriculture to address hunger, health, equity and climate change

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Conventional agriculture in its intensive manifestation of scale and impact has not only failed to address issues of hunger, health, equity, and access, but also emerged as a global forerunner in causing environmental degradation, global warming, climate change, social unrest and conflict. In emerging economies, large scale environmental degradation, livelihood destruction, marginalization of agriculture has led to rural-urban migration and disempowered rural farming communities dispossessed of age-old indigenous skills and traditional wisdom, leading to apocalyptic social imbalance and conflict. This paper explores the paradigm shift into the new consciousness of Sustainability, through a system analysis of food system management that emphasize on institutional interlinkages of food security, zero hunger practices, sustainable agriculture, farming communities, indigenous knowledge system, rural agrarian social formations and public policy implications. Informed by a qualitative research "A comparative study of organic farming in Assam, India with the French model of Organic farming emphasizing enhanced capacities of informal, indigenous local knowledge through formal strategies of ICT and sustainable business management", as a scientist in residence at INRA (Institut National De La Recherche Agronomique (INRA) Centre d'Economie et de Sociologie appliquées à l'Agriculture et aux Espaces Ruraux. Iaboratory. Dijon Cedex France under a Fellowship supported by ICSSR (Indian council of social science research and FMSH (Fondation Maison des Sciences de l'Homme) France in the frame of the Indo-French Programme of Cooperation in Social Sciences, this lecture aims to ending poverty and hunger and achieving food security, with improved nutrition and accessibility through sustainable agriculture. A systemic analysis of institutional linkages of food system reveals significance of public policy that support, evaluate, monitor, communicate and disseminate public policies effectively and work in sync with institutional networking, knowledge sharing, arbitration, dissemination, outreach and communication to enhance public action and community participation in agricultural practices and hunger annihilation. The study identifies outreach, dissemination and communication as an urgent need to address challenges in our food system and the crisis in management through the collaborative platform of local governance, scientists, farmers, decentralized local communities, traditional wisdom and indigenous knowledge system as the most important path to hunger management and food security.

Biography

Sujata Dutta Hazarika is the Deputy Director of the Guwahati Regional Centre at the Indira Gandhi National Open University and co-founder of Global Initiative for Sustainable Development and Planning, which seeks to redefine the role of economy and business in public policy through social innovations founded on creative and critical thinking. She began her career as a sociologist in the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences at the Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati.

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