

# PROFILE OF P.S. VIJAYSHANKAR

## PRESENT POSITION

- Founder Member
- Director, Research

P.S. Vijayshankar is a founder member of Samaj Pragati Sahayog (SPS), an NGO based in Dewas district of Madhya Pradesh. He received his M. Phil. from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. As part of SPS, he has lived and worked among the tribal communities of the Narmada valley for the last 24 years. His areas of interest are water resource management, sustainable agriculture and strengthening of community-based and self-reliant people's institutions. He has been engaged in training and capacity building of a wide range of organizations and is a member of the Faculty of the Baba Amte Centre for People's Empowerment (BACPE), one of only 7 national centres set up by Government of India for extending training and field support to grass-roots agencies implementing watershed projects in different parts of India. As a faculty member, he has assisted in the development of curricula and teaching material for training programmes of the BACPE. At SPS he is currently the Director of Research. He is also a member of the Core Group of the Revitalising Rainfed Agriculture Network (RRAN), a civil society initiative for mainstreaming issues of rainfed drylands. He was a member of the 12<sup>th</sup> Plan Working Group on Natural Resource Management and Rainfed Farming and Working Group on Sustainable Groundwater Management set up by the Planning Commission. He was also a member of the Steering Committee of the Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP), Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, from 2009 to 2014.

Vijayshankar has co-authored the book, *India's Drylands: Tribal Societies and Development through Environmental Regeneration* (OUP, 1998) and co-edited, along with Mihir Shah) the book, *Water: Growing Understanding, Emerging Perspectives* (Orient Blackswan, 2016). He has published many papers including "Groundwater Demand Management at Local Scale in Rural Areas of India: A Strategy to Ensure Water Well Sustainability based on Aquifer Diffusivity and Community Participation", (with H. Kulkarni, S. B. Deolankar and Mihir Shah, published in the *Hydrogeology Journal*, 2004), "Rural Credit in 20th Century India: Overview of History and Perspectives" (with Mihir Shah and Rangu Rao, *Economic and Political Weekly*, 2007) and "India's Groundwater Challenge and the Way Forward" (with Himanshu Kulkarni and Sunderrajan Krishnan, *Economic and Political Weekly*, January, 2011). He has been a Visiting Scholar at the Centre for Advanced Study of India (CASI), University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, USA, in February-March 2011.

# CURRICULUM VITAE OF P.S. VIJAYSHANKAR

---

**Address** : Samaj Pragati Sahayog, Bagli, District Dewas, Madhya Pradesh – 455227

**Position** : Founder Member & Treasurer

**Tel and Fax:** 07271-275757, 275550 (R); 73544-89935 (M)

**E-mail** : [viju28@gmail.com](mailto:viju28@gmail.com), [vijumenon28@gmail.com](mailto:vijumenon28@gmail.com)

**Date of Birth:** 18<sup>th</sup> May 1960

## PRESENT POSITION

- Director, Research, Samaj Pragati Sahayog

## ACADEMIC CAREER

- M.A.(Economics) Calicut University, Calicut, Kerala (1982)
- M.Phil in Applied Economics, Centre for Development Studies, Trivandrum. Dissertation Title "The Urban Casual Labour Market in Kerala: A Case Study of the Headload Workers" (1987).

## WORK EXPERIENCE

- Project Associate: "Agro-Processing Industries in Kerala and Tamil Nadu" for National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), at the Centre for Development Studies, Trivandrum (1987-88)
- Founder Member, Samaj Pragati Sahayog (1990).
- Project Associate, Samaj Pragati Sahayog, "An Action Plan for Resolving the Grave Water Crisis facing Dewas Town" a study for the **Planning Commission, Government of India** (1991-1993).
- Project Officer, Samaj Pragati Sahayog, "The Struggle for Survival: Collective Regeneration of the Endangered Resource Base of Tribal Communities in the Narmada Valley", a project funded by the **Department of Science and Technology, Government of India** (1993-96)
- Project Co-ordinator, Samaj Pragati Sahayog, "Water Harvesting Project with Dugwells at villages Neemkheda, Mansinghpura and Ratatalai in Dewas district", for **CAPART, Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India** (1993-1994).
- Project Co-ordinator, Samaj Pragati Sahayog, "Innovative Schemes of Watershed Development in the Dryland Areas of India" for **CAPART, Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India** (1994-1995).
- Consultant, **Directorate of Institutional Finance, Government of Madhya Pradesh**, for the preparation of **Madhya Pradesh Tribal Development Project**, Bilaspur Division, funded by the **International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD, Rome)** (1997)

- Faculty, **Baba Amte Centre for People's Empowerment**, one of the 7 national centres set up and assisted by Government of India for training and field support to agencies implementing watershed projects in the 5 states of MP, Chhatisgarh, Jharkhand, Bihar and Rajasthan. As a faculty member, assisted in the development of curricula and teaching material for training programmes on Watershed Development, Agriculture and Land Use Planning, Sustainable Community Management of Groundwater and Self Help Groups and Micro-Finance. Identified several promising NGOs and assisted them in formulating their projected proposals following the Guidelines of CAPART and conducted Basic Training Course (50– 60 day duration) for members of the WCT of these NGOs (1998-).
- Co-Principal Investigator, "Towards Sustainable Livelihood Security in Tribal Drylands Through Watershed Development and Empowerment", **Department of Science and Technology, GoI** (1999-01)
- Project Co-ordinator, "TATA-ICRISAT-BAIF-SPS Project for Enhancing Rural Livelihoods in Dryland Areas", with assistance from **Sir Dorabji Tata Trust** (2002-07). As part of this work, formulated a low-cost, low risk sustainable agricultural package for dryland regions. The programme, which is at present spread over 100 villages.
- **Empanelled Monitor** for CAPART, conducted evaluations of several projects being implemented by NGOs for CAPART, Delhi and CAPART, Western Zone, Ahmedabad (1998-2003)
- Team Leader, **Technical Review of OXFAM funded projects in the arid region of Western Rajasthan** (2004)
- Project Officer, **Narmada Samagra Watershed Development Project**, being implemented in 12 tribal villages of Dewas District (2008-10)
- Project Director, **Research and Policy Advocacy for Better Watershed Programmes in the NREGA Context**, supported by Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, USA (2009-10)
- Programme Director, Agriculture, **Towards Livelihoods and Food Security in Adivasi Central India**, supported by Axis Bank Foundation, Mumbai (India).
- Member, Steering Committee of **Integrated Watershed Management Programme**, Government of India (2009- )
- Member, Steering Committee of **Agricultural Water Management (AWM) Solutions Project**, covering Sub-Sahara Africa and India implemented jointly by IWMI, FAO, IFPRI, SEI, IDE and BMGF (2009-2012)
- Member, **Working Group on Planning and Execution of MGNREGA**, Central Employment Guarantee Council, Government of India (2011)
- **Visiting Scholar** at the Centre for Advanced Study of India (CASI), University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia (1st February to 4th March 2011).
- Member, Working Group on **Sustainable Groundwater Management**, set up by the Planning Commission for 12<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan (2011)

- Member, Working Group on **Rainfed Farming and Natural Resource Management**, set up by the Planning Commission for the 12<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan, (2011)
- Member, Editorial Advisory Group for **Review of Rural Affairs**, Special Issues of the *Economic and Political Weekly*
- Member, Advisory Council for **India Rural Development Report 2013**, Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India (2013)
- Project Director, **UNDP-AusAid Project** titled “Water, Climate Change and Food Security in Drought-Prone Central India” (2011- 2014)
- Project Director, **Comprehensive Pilots Programme** titled “Towards Livelihoods and Food Security in Tribal Central India”, supported by the HIVOS-Revitalising Rainfed Agriculture (RRA) Network (2012-15)
- Co-Editor, **India Rural Development Report 2014**, Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India (2014-15).
- Guest Editor, Economic and Political Special Issue on **Water Governance**, Vol. 51, No. 52, December 24, 2016.
- Member, the Team of Experts developing the two-year Masters programme on **Water Science and Policy (WSP)**, at Shiv Nadar University, Delhi
- **Visiting Faculty**, Centre for Public Affairs and Critical Theory (C-PACT), School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Shiv Nadar University, Delhi (2017- ).

## PUBLICATIONS

### BOOKS\*

1. Mihir Shah, Debashis Banerji, P.S. Vijayshankar and Pramathesh Ambasta. 1998. **India's Drylands: Tribal Societies and Development through Environmental Regeneration**, Oxford University Press
2. Himanshu Kulkarni and P.S. Vijayshankar and S. Krishnan. 2009. *Synopsis of groundwater resources in India: status, challenges and a new framework for responses*, **Report submitted to the Planning Commission, Government of India**, New Delhi.
3. Mihir Shah and PS Vijayshankar (Eds.). 2016. *Water: Growing Understanding, Emerging Perspectives*, Orient Blackswan, New Delhi and Hyderabad,

### BOOK CHAPTERS

1. Mihir Shah & P.S. Vijayshankar. 1998. “Water and Sustainable Livelihoods”, chapter in the **First Madhya Pradesh Human Development Report 1998**
2. Mihir Shah and P.S. Vijayshankar. 2002. “Land Reforms in Madhya Pradesh: Redefining the Agenda”, in Praveen Jha (ed.), **Land Reforms in India: Issues of Equity in Rural Madhya Pradesh**, New Delhi.
3. Mihir Shah and P.S. Vijayshankar. 2006. “Watershed Reforms in India”, in R. Parthasarathy and S. Iyengar (Eds): **New Development Paradigms and Challenges for Western and Central India (2 vols)**, Concept, New Delhi.

4. P.S. Vijayshankar and Mihir Shah. 2012. "Rethinking Reforms: A New Vision for the Social Sector in India", in R. Nagaraj (Ed.) **Growth, Inequality and Social Development in India: Is Inclusive Growth Possible?** Palgrave Macmillan, New York, USA.
5. P.S. Vijayshankar. 2015. "Science and Technology in Agricultural Development: Need for a New Paradigm", in Rajeswari S. Raina (Ed.), **Science, Technology and Development in India: Encountering Values**, Orient Blackswan, Hyderabad.
6. Surinder Jodhka and P.S. Vijayshankar. 2015. "Rural Development: Emerging Regional Perspectives", in **India Rural Development Report 2014**, Chapter 1, IDFC Foundation and Ministry of Rural Development, Govt of India, New Delhi.
7. Himanshu Kulkarni and P.S. Vijayshankar. 2015. "India's Groundwater Typology: Relevance for Rural Development", in **India Rural Development Report 2014**, Chapter 2, IDFC Foundation and Ministry of Rural Development, Govt of India, New Delhi.
8. P.S. Vijayshankar. 2017. "India's Agricultural Development: A Regional Perspective", in R Nagaraj and Sripad Motiram (Eds.), **Political Economy of Contemporary India**, Cambridge University Press, New Delhi.

## PAPERS

1. P. S. Vijayshankar and Mihir Shah. 1997. "Water Crisis in Dewas: Is Rainfall the Culprit?", **Economic and Political Weekly**, Vol. XXXII, No. 24, June 14
2. H. Kulkarni, P. S. Vijayshankar, S. B. Deolankar and Mihir Shah. 2004. "Groundwater Demand Management at Local Scale in Rural Areas of India: A Strategy to ensure Water Well Sustainability based on Aquifer Diffusivity and Community Participation", **Hydrogeology Journal** (Springer-Verlag, Heidelberg; official journal of the **International Association of Hydrogeologists**), [http://imprimatur.springer.de/proofs/botu12774/s10040-004-0320-x\\_Fulltext.html](http://imprimatur.springer.de/proofs/botu12774/s10040-004-0320-x_Fulltext.html)
3. P.S. Vijayshankar. 2005. "Four Decades of Agricultural Development in Madhya Pradesh: An Agro-Ecological Regions Approach", **Economic and Political Weekly**, Vol. XL, No. 46, November.
4. P.S. Vijayshankar. 2006. "Unlocking the Hidden Potential of Dryland Agriculture", **Seminar** No. 564.
5. *Incidence of Repeated Deaths Due to Malnutrition in Sheopur District, Madhya Pradesh*. 2006. **Report submitted to the Commissioner, Supreme Court of India.**
6. P.S. Vijayshankar, Rangu Rao, Nivedita Banerji and Mihir Shah. 2006. "Government Schedule of Rates": Working Against Rural Labour", **Economic and Political Weekly**, Vol. XLI, No. 17, April 29.
7. Mihir Shah, Rangu Rao and P.S. Vijayshankar. 2007. "Rural Credit in 20th Century India: Overview of History and Perspectives" **Economic and Political Weekly**, Vol. XLII, No.15, April 14.
8. Pramathesh Ambasta, P.S. Vijayshankar and Mihir Shah. 2008. "Two Years of NREGA: The Road Ahead", **Economic and Political Weekly**, Vol. XLIII, No. 7, February 23.

9. P.S. Vijayshankar.2008. "Employment Policy, Growth and Emerging Opportunities: The Case of NREGA", paper presented at the **International Conference on Employment Opportunities and Public Employment Policy in Globalising India**, organised by Centre For Development Studies, Trivandrum, April 3.
10. Himanshu Kulkarni and P.S. Vijayshankar. 2009. "Groundwater: Towards an Aquifer Management Framework", **Economic and Political Weekly**, Vol. XLIV, No. , February.
11. P.S. Vijayshankar, Himanshu Kulkarni and S. Krishnan. 2011. "India"s Groundwater Challenge and the Way Forward", **Economic and Political Weekly**, January, 2011.
12. Himanshu Kulkarni and P.S. Vijayshankar. 2011. "Sustainable Groundwater Management: Challenges for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century", **Proceedings of the International Conference on Dynamics of Rural Transformation in Emerging Economies**, Planning Commission and Institute of Human Development, New Delhi.
13. Himanshu Kulkarni and P.S. Vijayshankar. 2011. "Groundwater Knowledge Systems in India: Need for a Fresh Look", **Working Paper SIID, 08/2009, Collaborative Research Project on Systems of Innovation for Inclusive Development – Lessons from Rural China and India**, Supported by IDRC, Canada.
14. Himanshu Kulkarni and P.S. Vijayshankar. 2011. "Groundwater Governance: Backing CPR Principles with a Process-based Approach", **International Association for the Study of the Commons (IASC-2011), Digital Library of the Commons**, Indiana University, USA, <http://dlc.dlib.indiana.edu/dlc/handle/10535/7340>
15. P.S. Vijayshankar. 2011. "India"s Groundwater Challenge", *India in Transition*, **Centre for Advanced Study of India (CASI)**, University of Pennsylvania, USA. <http://casi.ssc.upenn.edu/iit/shankar>, 28<sup>th</sup> February
16. P.S. Vijayshankar. 2011. "Towards a Paradigm Shift in India"s Rainfed Agriculture", **Innovation and Development**, Vol.1, No. 2, October 2011, pp.321-322.
17. P.S. Vijayshankar. 2012. "Reframing the Fluid Mosaic: Changing Perspectives on Management of Water in Rainfed Agriculture", Keynote Address delivered in the Workshop on "*Rainfed Production under Growing Rain Variability: Closing the Yield Gap*", on 29<sup>th</sup> September at **Stockholm World Water Week 2012**, Stockholm, Sweden. [http://www.worldwaterweek.org/documents/WWW\\_PDF/2012/Tue/Rainfed-production-under-growing/Vijay-Shankar.pdf](http://www.worldwaterweek.org/documents/WWW_PDF/2012/Tue/Rainfed-production-under-growing/Vijay-Shankar.pdf)
18. P.S. Vijayshankar and Mekhala Krishnamurthy. 2012. "Understanding Agricultural Commodity Markets", **Economic and Political Weekly**, Vol.XLVII, No. 52, December 29
19. Himanshu Kulkarni & P.S. Vijayshankar. 2014. "Groundwater Resources in India: an arena for diverse competition", **Local Environment: The International Journal of Justice and Sustainability**, 19:9, 990-1011.
20. P.S. Vijayshankar. 2014. "India"s Agricultural Development: A Regional Perspective", paper presented at the **International Conference on the Political Economy of Contemporary India**, held at Indira Gandhi Institute for Development Research (IGIDR), Mumbai, November 20-21.

21. Himanshu Kulkarni, P.S. Vijayshankar and Mihir Shah. 2015. "Shaping the Contours of Groundwater Governance in India", **Journal of Hydrology: Regional Studies**, [www.elsevier.com/locate/ejrh](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/ejrh)
22. P.S. Vijayshankar and Mihir Shah. 2016. "Introduction" in Mihir Shah and PS Vijayshankar (Eds.) **Water: Growing Understanding, Emerging Perspectives**, Orient Blackswan, New Delhi and Hyderabad.
23. P.S. Vijayshankar. 2016a. "Regional Inequality: A Long View", **Seminar** No. 682.
24. P.S. Vijayshankar. 2016b. All Is Not Lost, But Water Sector Reforms Must Go Ahead", **Economic and Political Weekly**, 51:52, December 24.