



आशा-किसान स्वराज सम्मेलन 2026

SPEAKERS / FACILITATORS IN KISAN SWARAJ SAMMELAN 2026

(WESTERN & NORTHERN INDIA)

1. **Afsar Jafri:** Researcher and policy analyst. Currently with GRAIN.
2. **Akash Badave:** Heads NIRMAAN in Chhattisgarh and has played a critical role in Dantewada district being certified as the largest contiguous organic landscape in the country, larger than Sikkim.
3. **Akash Naoghare:** Currently a freelancer, working on issues related to seed sovereignty, pastoral communities, artisanal livelihoods after a Master's in Development Studies in IDS, Sussex.
4. **Ananthoo:** A former telecom engineer turned into an activist for organic farming, farmers' rights and food safety. Founded OFM Chennai, a not-for-profit retail cooperative set up for organic food and TULA India, a complete hand-made organic cotton garment/fabric line.
5. **Anjali Gamit:** With AKRSP-I, heading the district team of landscape-level agro-ecological transformation work in Dang district, Gujarat.
6. **Ashis Panda:** Heading Sambhaav Trust working in the Bhil-dominated trijunction of Rajasthan, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh on issues related to Panchayat governance, water, seed sovereignty and organic farming.
7. **Atman Shah:** Works as an Assistant Professor of Economics in St. Xavier's College, Ahmedabad. Is a Commentator on contemporary developments and publishes in national dailies.
8. **Babubhai Patel:** Is the National Secretary of Bharatiya Kisan Sangh, Gujarat. He is well known for leading struggles for farmers' issues and has been active in fighting against PepsiCo India Holdings to protect farmers' rights.
9. **Bharat Jambucha:** Working in Bhavnagar district of Gujarat amongst farmers to promote organic farming. Also involved in resistance against atomic power plant locally. Providing market support to local organic farmers.
10. **Bipinbhai Patel:** Founder Member, North Gujarat Potato Contract Farming Farmers Association. Has been sued by PepsiCo India Holdings, on the pretext that he (and other farmers) infringed on the company's IPR. They successfully fought the injustice with the help of ASHA and other activists. He is now organising contract potato farmers.
11. **Dr CK Timbadia:** Vice Chancellor of Gujarat Natural Farming Science University. He is popular amongst farmers as a scientist with commitment to agroecology.
12. **Dr Debal Deb:** Ecologist and organic farmer. Well-known conservator of more than 1400 landraces/farmers' varieties in paddy, and conservator of some rare and extinct plant species. Founder of Vrihi, Asia's largest community rice seed bank, distributing seeds for free.
13. **Dr M Din:** Worked as Project Coordinator, All India Coordinated Research Project on Utilization of Animal Engineer in Indian Council of Agricultural Research's Central Institute of Agricultural Engineering (CIAE) in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh. Published research paper " Use of bullocks for agriculture production through efficient animal-drawn implements."
14. **Devesh Patel:** Is an Organic Farmer. Heads Satva Organic and is an active part of OFAI (Organic Farming Association of India). He also runs an FPO to support other farmers find remunerative markets.



15. **Devinder Sharma:** Devinder Sharma is a well-known and respected agriculture and food policy analyst. He is also a Member of Hon'ble Supreme Court's High-Powered Committee on Agrarian Reforms.
16. **Dhirendra - Smita:** Pioneering Organic Farmer, who began organic farming on 2 acres land in 1986, who walks the talk through simple and humane living. He believes that organic/natural farming along with village industry and deeper lifestyle changes should be adopted for the better upliftment of individual, family and society.
17. **Gopalbhai Sutariya:** Heads Bansi Gir Gaushala, and is famous for his innovation of Gau Kripamrita which has become a very popular input for natural farming across India. Also works on traditional fodder systems for Desi Cows. Has a very large and growing followers' groups across India.
18. **Harish Chauhan:** Prominent farmer leader of Himachal Pradesh. Convenor, Hill States Horticulture Forum; Convenor, Sanyukt Kisan Manch; President, Fruits, Vegetables & Flower Growers Association, Himachal Pradesh. Advocate for rights of apple growers in the state.
19. **Harish Panwar:** Associated with Sampark in Jhabua district of MP, works on farmers' rights and promotion of sustainable farm livelihoods. Writer and video reporter.
20. **Dr Hemantkumar Shah:** Professor in Economics in Ahmedabad. Former Principal of HK Arts College. Author and orator on democracy, economics and development issues.
21. **Hiral Dave:** Associated with Cohesion Foundation as a Program Director, she lends direction to the organisation's teams in integrating gender, inclusiveness and institution-building. She has 25 years of working with women farmers and promoting climate resilient sustainable agriculture.
22. **Hiren Panchal:** Heads MittiDhan, an initiative in the tribal area of Dharampur, Valsad, Gujarat. He's the innovator of many ergonomic, low-cost farming equipment & rural technology solutions.
23. **Jagtar Dhaliwal:** An organic farmer and seasoned trainer from Punjab, associated with Kheti Virasat Mission's movement for transformation of Punjab's agriculture.
24. **Janani Barath:** A freelance development worker at present, Janani has been associated with philanthropic and environmental organisations in the past, other than working with vulnerable children and people with disabilities.
25. **Jashoda Somabhai Vanzara:** Woman farmer leader associated with Panam Mahila Sangathan. Organic farmer.
26. **Jaya Iyer:** Jaya Iyer was earlier the CEO of Pravah, currently based out of Gandhinagar and is on a journey of creating joy, beauty and ease through theatre, art, inner work and curated experiences. She focuses on theatre of the oppressed. She also works on sensitisation of political workers.
27. **Dr Kandarp Mevada:** Agronomist with deep commitment to agroecology. Former Principal of Agriculture College, and Director-Research of Gujarat Natural Farming Science University.
28. **Kapil Shah:** Pioneering promoter of organic farming in Gujarat from the 1980s, he leads Jatan, a mission for organic farming. He is a Co-Convenor of ASHA-Kisan Swaraj and was earlier Secretary of Organic Farming Association of India. Served in several government committees and was instrumental in Gujarat's policy shift towards agroecology.
29. **Kavitha Kuruganti:** Farmers' rights activist and promoter of sustainable farm livelihoods.
30. **Kiran Chavda:** Director, Lokniketan. Nature-lover, Mountaineer, Birder. Firmly on the side of social and environmental justice.
31. **Krishna Prasad:** Known as the Native Seeds Man, Krishna Prasad heads Sahaja Samrudha and has founded Desi Seeds Producer Company, an FPC specialising in organic native seed supply. Was instrumental in bringing together scores of seed conservator farmers across India into the Bharat Beej Swaraj Manch.
32. **Lakshman Singh Muniya:** An experienced farmer and grassroots activist with Lok Jagriti Manch, Jhabua district, Madhya Pradesh.
33. **Manoj Solanki:** National President, Akshay Krishi Parivar. Founding Trustee of Ramakrishna Trust promoting organic/natural farming in Kutch for 25 years now.
34. **Minal Parmar:** Manages the Secretariat of Working Group on Women's Land Ownership (WGWLO), a unique civil society platform of organisations and individuals in India which adopts a feminist approach to rural women's land rights and livelihoods.

35. **Naseem Shaikh:** CEO of Swayam Shikshan Prayog, a very unique pioneering women's organisation based out of Pune, known for empowering grassroots women's leaders and promoting large-scale community level resilience through agroecology, to protect economic equality and environment..
36. **Nekram Sharma:** Recipient of the prestigious Padmashri award, he is well-known for his work to revive traditional mixed cropping systems and millets cultivation in Himachal. Pioneering natural farmer.
37. **Nilesh Desai:** Founded, and leads Sampark, a grassroots organisation in Madhya Pradesh, working to support self-reliant adivasi communities in holistic development. Recipient of Jamnalal Bajaj Award for Constructive Work, 2022.
38. **Nivedita Ramanan:** A dedicated volunteer in sustainable agriculture, safe food and holistic health movements. Committed to sustainable living.
39. **PL Patel:** An able and effective trainer in agroecology, associated with Vaagdhara, Rajasthan.
40. **Pallavi Sobti Rajpal:** Pallavi is a Board member of Working group for Women & Land Ownership (WGWO) initiated in 2002 as a diverse network now working across 17 districts of Gujarat. Through the network's efforts 18000 rural women now are proud land owners. She is also the Joint CEO of Utthan, one of WGWO's founding member organisations. Pallavi has deep experience around issues of gender justice, rights and sustainable development.
41. **Pratap Marode:** Pratap Marode is an organic farmer from Vidarbha, cultivating a diversified agroecological system at Sayal Farm, where he works to regenerate soil health and revive indigenous cotton and indigenous seed. He is Director of Friends of Earthworm FPC collective of young farmers.
42. **Pravin Muchhadiya:** Program Coordinator associated with Satvik promoting ecological agriculture.
43. **Dr Rajendrabhai Khimani:** PhD in Horticulture. Formerly Scientist in two SAUs. Former Vice Chancellor of Gujarat Vidya Pith. At present, Vice Chancellor of Lok Bharti University for Rural Innovation
44. **Dr Rajeshwar Chandel:** Vice Chancellor, YS Parmar University of Horticulture & Forestry, Solan, Himachal Pradesh. One of the key persons in India today, in promoting natural farming especially in Himachal Pradesh. With keen interest in the fields of natural farming, agroecology and sustainable food systems, he earlier held the position of Executive Director of Natural Farming Mission, Govt of Himachal Pradesh.
45. **Ramesh Ruparelia:** Gaupalak Rameshbhai Ruparelia is the founder of Gir Gau Jatan Sansthan, Gondal, a key leader of the Zahar Mukt Bharat Yatra, and a motivational speaker dedicated to promoting a nationwide awareness campaign for cow-based natural farming and sustainable living. He has developed cow-milk-based and gomay products that are exported to over 65 countries, spreading global awareness of indigenous cow-based wellness and self-reliance.
46. **Resmi Deepak:** An official with the Kerala Agriculture Department, Resmi facilitated the setting up of NIRA Sena labour collective in Alathur of Kerala, an idea of the MLA of the constituency.
47. **Rohit Jain:** a passionate social entrepreneur building the farm-to-fork supply chain with Banyan Roots in Udaipur. As a Management Committee Member of Organic Farming Association of India (OFAI), promoting sustainable agriculture and connecting consumers with local farmers.
48. **Rohit Parakh:** A young spiritual volunteer, associated with various networks promoting environment-friendly livelihoods and lifestyle. Believer in Sarvodaya and the need for swaraj.
49. **Rupsi Garg:** Associated with Kheti Virasat Mission and Founder of Nav Trinjan, a unique initiative based out of Punjab that revives desi cotton handmade initiatives to ensure that artisanal skills and knowledge are kept alive, and livelihoods improved.
50. **Sai Nikam:** Development Practitioner. Coordinator with Consortium for Agroecology Transformations (CAT).
51. **Sajanaben Bhoya:** Woman farmer leader associated with Ujas Mahila Khedut Sanghatan, Navsari, Gujarat (a CBO promoted by Cohesion Foundation).
52. **Sanjay Patil:** BAI/F's Agro-Biodiversity Specialist and Senior Thematic Programme Executive. Recipient of Hasmukh Shah Memorial Award. An expert in end-to-end scientific conservation and revival of agrodiversity.
53. **Santosh Pachar:** A woman farmer, who is recognised and awarded for her innovative carrot seed breeding work. Well-known organic farmer of Rajasthan.

54. **Sejal Dand**: Founder of ANANDI, a feminist organisation working with adivasi communities in Gujarat. Feminist activist, trainer, development practitioner active in various networks in India including the Right to Food Campaign and Mahila Kisan Adhikaar Manch (MAKAAM).
55. **Prof Shambu Prasad**: Professor of Strategic Management and Social Sciences at IRMA and Tribhuvandas Sahkari University with expertise in sustainability transitions in agriculture, producer collectives, rural livelihoods and inclusive entrepreneurship. Member of Board of studies of academic institutions and non-profits, and mentor to social enterprises.
56. **Shruti Shah**: Botanist, Tree-lover, Tree-grower. Expert in identification of herbs and weeds.
57. **Soumik Banerjee**: Trained in Biotechnology as well as Forest Science, Soumik is an organic farmer and landrace conservator in Madhya Pradesh. Supports the work of seed conservation work of many farmers across India. Well known for his widespread knowledge of agroecology in India, in the past and present.
58. **Srajesh Gupta**: Founder of C-GEM incubated at AKRSP-I. Cofounder of Samavesh - A community with a mission to transform Public Discourse in India.
59. **Subhash Sharma**: Pioneering natural farmer from Yavatmal district, Maharashtra, awarded with the prestigious PadmaShri recognition. His farm is a veritable pilgrimage spot for those who want to understand natural farming and his philosophy is an inspiration for many practitioners.
60. **Sunitaben Amarsinh Baria**: A woman farmer leader associated with Panam Mahila Sangathan. She is a trainer for organic/natural farming.
61. **Susanta Choudhary**: Program Manager, WASSAN Odisha. Technical Expert in Seeds, engaged in traditional seed diversity revival in Odisha, with state government support.
62. **Sushilaben Hemantbhai Mahala**: A woman farmer leader of Ujas Mahila Khedut sangathan, (CBO promoted by Cohesion Foundation Trust in South Gujarat.
63. **Uday Vora**: Retired Chief Conservator of Forests, Gujarat. Renowned birder and wildlifer.
64. **Umendra Dutt**: Founded, and leads Kheti Virasat Mission, a movement to transform Punjab's agriculture towards agro-ecology. Well known environmentalist and promoter of "Nanak Kheti" organic and natural farming successfully with hundreds of farmers in Punjab.
65. **Vijay Shah**: Organic farmer and Vipassana Sadhak, Gujarat.
66. **Vinay & Charul**: Dreamers, researchers and singer-songwriters who create and sing songs of hope, songs of life. Their songs inspire people to fight injustice and work towards a better world.
67. **Dr Vipin Chaudhary**: National Coordinator and Principal Scientist, All India Network Project on Vertebrate Pests, National Coordinating Unit, CAZRI Jodhpur.