Biographies of Presenters
Aakanksha Sinha earned her Ph.D degree in Social Work from Boston College, USA. A trained mixed-methods social science researcher, her passion lies in examining social and cultural factors that determine access to basic needs. She utilizes a strength based perspective in her research, thus focusing on community resilience, household and individual level strengths and social capital. Her contributions in the area of child welfare, health and poverty have been published in highly recognized scholarly journals and books such as Children & Youth Services Review, Routledge Handbook of Poverty in the U.S., Sage Encyclopedia of World Poverty, Global Social Welfare, and BMC Public Health, amongst others.

Aalok Ranjan Chaurasia is currently Professor at ‘Shyam’ Institute, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh. His PhD is from Jiwaji University, Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh, and he holds Post Graduate Diploma in Population and Development from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. He has worked as Director, Population Resource Centre, RCPV Noronha Academy of Administration, Government of Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal, and Professor, Population Research Centre, Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi. He is a member of International Union for Scientific Study of Population and life member of the Indian Association for the Study of Population. He has written and edited many books and monographs and published more than 110 research papers.

Abdul Muheet Chowdhary is a legislative aide to B Vinod Kumar, Lok Sabha Member of Parliament from Karimnagar, Telangana. His work involves providing legislative and policy assistance to the Honurable MP. Prior to this he worked in the United Nations Information Centre for India and Bhutan. Abdul is a columnist with the Huffington Post and has written extensively on tax reform. He has also written on good governance at length, and his work has been published by Niti Aayog, UNDP, Ministry of Personnel (GoI) and various state governments.

Abhinav Narayanan is Ph. D Scholar from University of Georgia. He has completed his master’s in economics from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. His research interests include development economics, macroeconomics, labor economics and econometrics. He has received several awards like the E.T Comer Scholarship Award from the University of Georgia, Graduate School Dean’s Award for Social Sciences, and University of Georgia Labor Economics Award for Young South Asian Scholars and the South Asia Research Network (SARNET) Award.

Ahmed Moummi is Head of Research in the Center of Initiative of Development Euro-Africa in Meylan, France. Before this period, Mr. Moummi was Senior Research Economist at the Development Research Department of the African Development Bank since October 2007. He has been Task Manager of several projects and flagship studies and Reports on Fiscal policy, poverty and inequality measurement, Inclusive growth and employment analysis. He has been task Manager of the African Economic Outlook Report as well as the African Economic Conference for two editions. He was also Assistant and Associate Professor for 14 years at the University of Mascara, Algeria. Ahmed Moummi holds a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Tlemcen, Algeria and CERDI-Clermont-Ferrand, France.
Akshaya Kumar Panda has a Master degree in Sustainable Development. He has worked with M. S. Swaminathan Research Foundation, Regional Centre, Jeypore, Odisha, since 2001 in the areas of biodiversity conservation, medicinal plants, community seed management system, food, nutrition and health security, and participatory livelihood improvement. He has experience and understanding of pro-nutrition agriculture interventions, knowledge and experience of participatory assessments, training methodologies, ICT tools and documentation skills. Currently he is working as a senior scientist in the research project “Leveraging Agriculture for Nutrition in South Asia (LANSA)” and coordinates the Farming System for Nutrition (FSN) initiative in Koraput district, Odisha.

Alejandra Villanueva Ubillús holds a BA and a professional title in Sociology from the Pontificia Universidad Catolica del Peru, and a MA in International Development and Development Management from the University of Manchester. She has worked at the Universidad del Pacifico Research Center as an analyst for consultancies and research projects with a focus on international cooperation, extractive industries and development in Peru and Latin America. She is currently engaged in M&E consultancies for academic institutions, and collaborating with On Think Tanks on research pieces on the challenges think tanks face in developing countries. Her research interests include the impact that international development agendas have at a national and subnational level, and the politics of development.

Amir Ullah Khan is a development economist, policy advisor to the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and Visiting Professor at the Indian School of Business in Hyderabad. He teaches Economic policy at the ISB and Health economics at the Manipal Institute of Technology. Amir has a PhD in Business Studies from Jamia Millia Central University. He graduated from the Institute of Rural Management in Anand (IRMA) and earlier from the Osmania University College of Engineering. He is on the Governing board at the Welham Girls School, Aequitas Consulting, Digital Empowerment Foundation and the Presidency University. He has worked as Editor at Encyclopedia Britannica and Director of the India Development Foundation. Amir has served as a member of the Post Sachar Evaluation Committee.

Amrita Ghatak is currently working with Gujarat Institute of Development Research, Ahmedabad, as an assistant professor. Her doctoral thesis focused on the impact of health on labour supply and wages with a special emphasis on agricultural workers in West Bengal. Her present research interest includes various issues on health, environment and labour. She is presently looking into (a) the environmental regulations and compliance behaviour in textile dyes sector of Gujarat; (b) occupational safety, health and well-being of workers in selected industries in India; and (c) factors determining usage of toilets in rural Gujarat. She uses both qualitative and quantitative techniques as the tools in her research work.

Andrea Frank is a Senior Lecturer in the School of Geography and Planning at Cardiff University (Wales, UK). Andrea has a background in both Urban Planning and Architecture. One of her research areas is urban sustainability and she has investigated how sustainability is progressed and implemented in European cities. In particular, she has explored which kind and how institutional and governance arrangements at metropolitan or city region level can enhance sustainability. More recently she started to explore different interpretation of green
infrastructure in different world regions as well as the contributions of green infrastructure to sustainability. She also has expertise in planning education and pedagogy and public participation for planning and urban design.

**Anil Methipara** is currently an undergraduate economics major in his final year at Carleton College, and will be graduating in mid-June of this year. He is currently looking into careers in public policy, climate policy, and environmental finance. His academic interests vary from the economics of climate change and development to the examination of the Malayalee diasporic experience and race in the United States. His paper for the PES conference was initially inspired by an internship experience he had in Kerala at the Centre for Public Policy Research where he learned more about the “Kerala Model of Development” and the more recent socio-economic challenges emerging in Kerala.

**Anjana Thampi** is a research scholar at the Centre for Economic Studies and Planning, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. Her research interests include development economics, environmental economics and political economy. Her doctoral thesis studies the nutritional impact of food transfers in India, in the context of the continuing debate on cash versus in-kind transfers. The paper considers the impact of expanded coverage of the Public Distribution System on the nutritional status of beneficiary children, in light of the recent revival of this system in certain states.

**Anjani Kumar** is Research Fellow at the South Asia Office of International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) in New Delhi. Before joining IFPRI, he was Principal Scientist (Agricultural Economics) at the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), Patancheru, India. Earlier, he has served as Principal Scientist at National Centre for Agricultural Economics and Policy Research (NCAP), New Delhi and as Senior Agricultural Economist in the Asia Office of International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), Nairobi. His area of research includes food & nutrition security, agricultural diversification, impact assessment, value chain analysis, agricultural trade and food safety.

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**Asilata Karandikar** has worked as a researcher in the field of gender and health with the Centre for Enquiry into Health and Allied Themes, Mumbai. She has been associated with advocacy on safe abortion and prevention of sex selection through CEHAT and with the Asia Safe Abortion Partnership. She has done her Masters in Political Science from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, and in Women’s Studies from Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai.
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Lubna Naz is presently serving as Assistant Professor Economics, Karachi University. She has completed her Ph.D. in Economics in 2016 from Pakistan Institute of Development Economics, Islamabad, Pakistan. She has published her research work in Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews, and Pakistan Development Review. She has participated in many national and international conferences and presented articles on energy, health economics, and growth-poverty nexus. Presently, she lends her services as reviewer in Pakistan Development review. Dr Naz has coordinated in many research projects at the national and international level.

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Mario Spieżio is an international consultant specialized in data and policy analysis at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, “Reduce Rural Poverty Programme”. He is mainly working on the production and compilation of data on rural incomes, livelihoods and rural development as part of an inter-agency initiative, namely the Rural Livelihoods Monitor. Mario previously carried out comparative research on social protection systems at the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP). He is also a Doctoral Researcher in Political and Social Sciences at the European University Institute of Florence.
Marta Duda-Nyczak is a national of Poland and serves as an Associate Economic Affairs Officer at the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, Southern Africa Subregional Office based in Lusaka, Zambia. In addition to playing the role of a Statistics focal point for projects focused on enhancing statistical capacity in the sub-region, she closely works with the subregional stakeholders on other development issues, spanning from industrialization to regional integration. Before joining UN-ECA in 2015, she worked at International Labour Organization, Job-friendly Macroeconomic Policies Unit in Geneva. A graduate of Warsaw School of Economics with a degree in economics and an MSCE from HEC Lausanne, she also followed special programmes at Korea Advanced Institute of Technology and University of Sydney.

Matthew Morton is a Social Protection Specialist in the World Bank with a focus on South Asia. Matt’s focus areas include youth development and skills, gender equity, social safety nets, and policy evaluation. He joined the World Bank Group in December 2012 through the Young Professionals leadership development program and initially coordinated the global Gender team’s research and activities on women’s economic opportunities and prevention of gender-based violence. Prior to joining the Bank, Matt served as Special Advisor on youth and family policy in the United States government where he worked on the US Strategy to End Youth Homelessness, national youth development programs, and developing a priority agenda around addressing child trauma. He has been a fellow and consultant with a number of institutions, including the US Senate, the European Commission, and philanthropic foundations. In several regions and capacities, Mat has focused on the production and uptake of rigorous evidence to inform social policy. He holds a D.Phil. and M.Sc. in Evidence-based Social Intervention and Policy Evaluation from the University of Oxford. He received a B.A. in Political Science from Stetson University. Matt is based in New Delhi.

Md. Juel Rana is a Ph. D. research scholar of Population Studies at Centre for the Study of Regional Development, School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. His M. Phil. research work was on “Linkage between family planning and nutritional status of women and their children in select south Asian countries”. His research interest are issues regarding family planning, fertility and health.

Mohammad Mainul Islam received his PhD in Demography from the Institute of Population Research, Peking University, China. He completed a Global Health Research Capacity Strengthening Program Postdoctoral Fellowship at McGill University, Canada in 2014. Currently he is Associate Professor in the Department of Population Sciences, University of Dhaka. Awarded the ‘First Prize of Academic Excellence Award’ of Peking University in 2008, he was later named as ‘Nick Simons Scholar’ of the New Investigator in Global Health (NIGH) of the Global Health Council, Washington, D.C., USA. Dr. Islam works on reproductive health, child health, urban health, and health communication. Other areas of research include population health, with specific interests in global health and population, social demography, population and development, and China Studies.

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**Naline Gandhi** completed her B.A. Economics from Holy Cross College, Trichy and a gold medalist of the Bharathidasan University. She joined her Master’s in Economics at Loyola College, Chennai and passed in first class with distinction. Right now pursuing her research as a full time research scholar at Madras School of Economics under Dr. Brinda Viswanathan, Professor, Madras School of Economics with the UGC-JRF fellowship. Her main area of research interests lies in child health, morbidity and nutrition related issues. She attended lot of workshops and conferences which enhanced the skills. An earlier version of this paper was presented in International Conference on Public Health- 2015 at Sri Lanka where she got ‘Best Paper Award’ in Nutrition and Wellness session.

**Natalie Langford** is a doctoral researcher at the Institute of Development Policy and Management (IDPM) at the University of Manchester. Natalie is also a contributor to Rising Powers and Global Standards, a global research network studying the role that Brazil, China and India playing in shaping labour standards in the production of goods and services. Prior to her commencement of the PhD, Natalie worked for a number of non-governmental organisations, focusing on labour issues in global supply chains. She holds a Masters (MSc) in Climate Change and Policy from University of Sussex. Her current research interests include labour rights, regulation and governance and the intersection between public and private institutions within the creation of standards.

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Pankhuri Jha works as a Research Consultant with J-PAL South Asia. She completed her graduate studies from South Asian University, New Delhi. Her research interests include rural financial markets, financial inclusion, disaster studies and econometrics. She is working on a number of research assignments involving a great deal of empirical work and qualitative assessments. She has in the past worked with a number of leading Non-Governmental Organizations in the country giving her strong insights about the working of this sector and the challenges of creating sound public policy.

Pedro Arruda holds a (B.A and Honors) in International Relations from the University of Brasilia – UnB (2009) and a Master’s degree in International Relations from Jawaharlal Nehru University, JNU, India (2012). He has been a researcher at the IPC-IG, UNDP since 2013. During this time he has performed a series of research roles including technical support for constructing social programmes in African countries, Guest-Editing and authoring IPC publications and providing technical assistance to Study Tours. Mr. Arruda is a specialist in social policies and programmes of the Global South, with a focus on South-South cooperation.

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**Pouriketa Rita Nikiema** earned her Ph.D recently in Applied Economics from University Cheikh Anta Diop (Senegal). Her dissertation examined firstly, the impact of school feeding programs on enrollment and attendance particularly for girls; secondly it analyzed the determinants of child nutritional status in particular the role of mother’s education in Burkina Faso. Rita is graduated from the University of Koudougou and the University Ouaga II. Her research interests are broadly economics of education, nutrition, health, labors economics and human capital. In future work, she hopes to learn about women empowerment and youth employment through financial inclusion in developing world, and its effect on child health outcomes and local economic development.

**Praduman Kumar** is former professor of Agricultural Economics, Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi, India. Dr Kumar has been conducting research for almost 45 years now. Dr Kumar has made significant contributions to different sectors of agriculture including water management, livestock, crops and fisheries and has written extensively in the areas of total factor productivity, sustainability issues, demand supply projections for food commodities, price policy, small farmers and household food and nutritional security. Dr Kumar has developed a number of econometric models for crops, livestock and fisheries. Dr Kumar’s research on TFP, food demand projections are utilized and acknowledged at national and international levels.

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