



Centre for Labour Research and Action  
and RLS invite you to

**Dissemination Workshop**

## **Footloose in Farms**

*Presentation of main findings of the  
Study on Tribal Migrant Agricultural  
Workers in Gujarat*

**On 17<sup>th</sup> Dec 2020 at 4:00 pm (IST)**

Please Register at :

<https://forms.gle/dmdbWfWRot3UzobS9>

Opening address: Prof. Jan Breman, Netherlands  
Chair & Closing remarks: Prof. Kiran Desai, Director, Centre  
for Social Studies, Surat

Centre for Labour Research and Action and Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung e.V. invite you to the virtual presentation of the main findings of

### **'Footloose in Farms: Study of Migrant Agricultural Workers in Gujarat'**

by Anushka Rose and Vijeta (CLRA) on December 17th, 2020 at 4pm (IST)

The study seeks to highlight the extent and the condition of migrant tribal agricultural workers in the state of Gujarat. A vast tribal region extending from Rajasthan to Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, and Maharashtra surrounds the plains of Gujarat on the East and North borders. With shrinking landholdings, climatic change, and limited opportunities for alternative livelihood(s) locally, seasonal migration has emerged as the primary source of livelihood in this vast tribal hinterland. These tribal migrant workers have replaced local Dalits and OBC agriculture workers across many regions of Gujarat - Central Gujarat, North Gujarat, Saurashtra, and Kachch. They are preferred by farmers over local workers as they provide a cheaper and more vulnerable workforce. The tribal migrants are engaged as both long term workers employed under a wage share cropping arrangement (locally known as Bhag-kheti) as well as short-term peak season agriculture workers.

The study maps the migration stream of the tribal agriculture workers from the source to the destination and elaborates on conditions of work agreement, conditions of living, access to basic amenities and public services, perceptions about work, violence, and multi-various vulnerabilities faced by both long-term workers (working as wage sharecroppers) and short term casual agricultural workers. In spite of being a widely prevalent practice for decades, there exists scant documentation of the practice of wage sharecropping (Bhag-kheti) and the impact on the lives of the people involved in it – who were found to be working under conditions comparable with neo-bondage.

The study will share the findings from data mapped and collected from across the sampled blocks of eight districts in three states, undertaken in close partnership with seven grassroot organizations as listed below:

1. Saurashtra Dalit Sangathan, Junagadh, Gujarat
2. Anandi, Maliya , Gujarat
3. Rajkot Dalit Yuva Vikas Sangathan, Rajkot, Gujarat
4. Jagrit Dalit Adivasi Sangathan, Badwani , Madhya Pradesh
5. Adharshila Sikshan Kendra, Sendwa, Madhya Pradesh
6. Khedut Majdur Chetna Sangathan, Alirajpur, Madhya Pradesh
7. Vichardhara Foundation, Sahada, Nandurbar, Maharashtra

This virtual workshop will be chaired by Prof. Kiran Desai (Director, Centre For Social Studies, Surat) with opening remarks by Prof. Jan Breman (Netherlands).

The event is scheduled for December 17th , 2020 (Thursday) from 4pm to 6 PM.

To register, kindly click here: <https://forms.gle/dmdbWfWRot3UzobS9> by December 16th midnight.  
Looking forward to your presence.

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