



**DOWN TO EARTH:
An Interdisciplinary Conference on Agri-Innovation
and Entrepreneurship**

UKIERI-supported research collaboration between
Leeds Beckett University, UK
and University of Calcutta, India

Conference Partner: International Management Institute Kolkata

21st January, 2019

Venue: International Management Institute Kolkata

PROGRAMME SCHEDULE

Time	Event
9:30 am – 10:00 am	Registration
10:00 am – 10:30 am	Inauguration: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professor Arindam Banik, Director, IMI-Kolkata • Professor Dhruva Ranjan Dandapat, Dean, Faculty of Commerce, University of Calcutta • Dr. Vandana Shiva, renowned Indian scholar
10:30 am - 11:15 am	Plenary Session by Dr Vandana Shiva
11:15 am – 11:30 am	Tea Break
11:30 am – 1:00 pm	Concurrent Sessions chaired by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professor Suneel Kunamaneni, Leeds Beckett University • Professor Alfred Chinta, Leeds Beckett University • Professor Rajib Dasgupta, University of Calcutta • Professor Pinaki Acharya, University of Calcutta • Dr. Sanjib Kumar Basu, St. Xavier’s College • Dr. Sanjay Gopal Sarkar, Joint Registrar, Jadavpur University • Mr. Somesh Bhattacharya, Dept. of Agriculture, West Bengal
1:00 pm – 2:00 pm	Lunch
2:00 pm – 3:30 pm	Concurrent Sessions
3:30 pm – 3:45 pm	High Tea
3:45 pm – 5:00 pm	Concurrent Sessions
5:00 pm – 5:30 pm	Valedictory Session: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speaker: Dr Debanjan Chakraborty, Director of British Council, East and Northeast India

ABOUT THE UK-INDIA EDUCATION AND RESEARCH INITIATIVE (UKIERI) PROJECT

The project, **Fostering Entrepreneurship for Sustainable and Inclusive Agri-Food Innovation: A comparative analysis of India and UK** is being conducted jointly by Dr. Suneel Kunamaneni and Dr. Alfred Chinta of Leeds Beckett University and Professor Sharmistha Banerjee from University of Calcutta and Professor Mohua Banerjee of IMI Kolkata.

The objectives of this project are three fold. Firstly, it aims to evaluate entrepreneurial & environmental capabilities to boost agri-food opportunities in India. Secondly, the idea is to assess the entrepreneurial opportunities of farmers in UK and how they are guided by the market forces. Finally, the objective is to develop ‘learning’ and ‘training’ packages to impart agri-entrepreneurial competencies and skills for solving global food challenges.

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

Down To Earth - Interdisciplinary conference on Agri-Innovation and Entrepreneurship is the 1st conference of the UKIERI-supported research collaboration. It aims at highlighting the opportunities and challenges in sustainable agriculture in India and UK. The objective of the conference is to bring together academic researchers, sustainable agricultural entrepreneurs, businesses engaged in the agri-value chain and policy makers to share knowledge and practice of current agricultural businesses. The event will also be of interest to researchers who are aspiring to study the operational factors hampering agricultural businesses, issues of farm productivity, use of sustainable fertilizers and hybrid models of agribusinesses to increase the returns from agricultural businesses.

ABOUT THE RESEARCH TEAM FROM LEEDS BECKETT UNIVERSITY, UK

Dr. Suneel Kunamaneni is a Faculty in Enterprise and Innovation within the school of strategy, marketing and communication at Leeds Business School, Leeds Beckett University. Prior to joining Leeds Beckett, Suneel worked as a Technology transfer specialist at University of Leeds and Research Scientist at GE Advanced Materials. A PhD in Polymer Physics from University of Leeds, he has spent his entire career after his PhD developing and implementing innovative ways for transfer of technology and knowledge.



Dr. Alfred Chinta is the Course Director of the MBA Programme at Leeds Business School, Leeds Beckett University. He has delivered several consultancy projects for The Retail Institute, Leeds Beckett University. Alfred manages an MSc course in Supply Chain Management, delivers training to SMEs on regional projects and researches sustainability among procurement and logistics professionals in regional businesses.