South Asia is known as the land of smallholder farmers. The definition of smallholder farmers itself underline the characteristics of their possession of small land holdings. The fact that this 'possession' and 'holdings' connotes different policy and practice interpretations of land tenure in different socio-cultural and legal landscapes, engagements with small farmers is never complete without understanding and addressing their tenure security. However, in policy and practice, there has been limited attention and actions on this key structural dimension of small farming.

SAFBIN, while engaging with small farmers and planning policy dialogue series, sees a compelling need in organising the second event of the series around land tenure reform. ILDC2019, provides an excellent convergence platform to jointly organize this event in partnership with Caritas India, ICRISAT and Centre for Agricultural Policy. This Policy Dialogue seeks to reiterate the land tenure dimensions of small farming in the context of South Asian Policy Landscape and engage with policy makers, researchers, practitioners and donors on the need, challenges and options to mainstream smallholder agenda.

The major areas of discussion would be:

- Why securing tenure is critical for Smallholder Farmers in South Asia?
- Land policy reforms in South Asia and how they integrate Smallholder concerns
- Whether tenure matters in the pre-election declaration of farm-schemes (viz. PM-Kishan, KALIA etc.) in India? Can their impact be more targeted and improved with tenure integration?
- Potential areas of improvements in existing / new policies to mainstream the smallholder agenda
- Pathways for integrating SHF concerns: Low hanging fruits and long-term engagements

**Season plan**


**Chair**

Dr T Haque, Former Chairman, Land Policy Cell, NITI Aayog

Dr Ashok Dalwai, IAS, CEO, National Rainfed Area Authority

Dr Arabinda Padhee, IAS, Director-Country Relations, ICRISAT

Dr Rajesh Rajora, IAS, Principal Secretary, Agriculture, Govt of Madhya Pradesh

Fr Paul Moonjely, Director, Caritas-India