

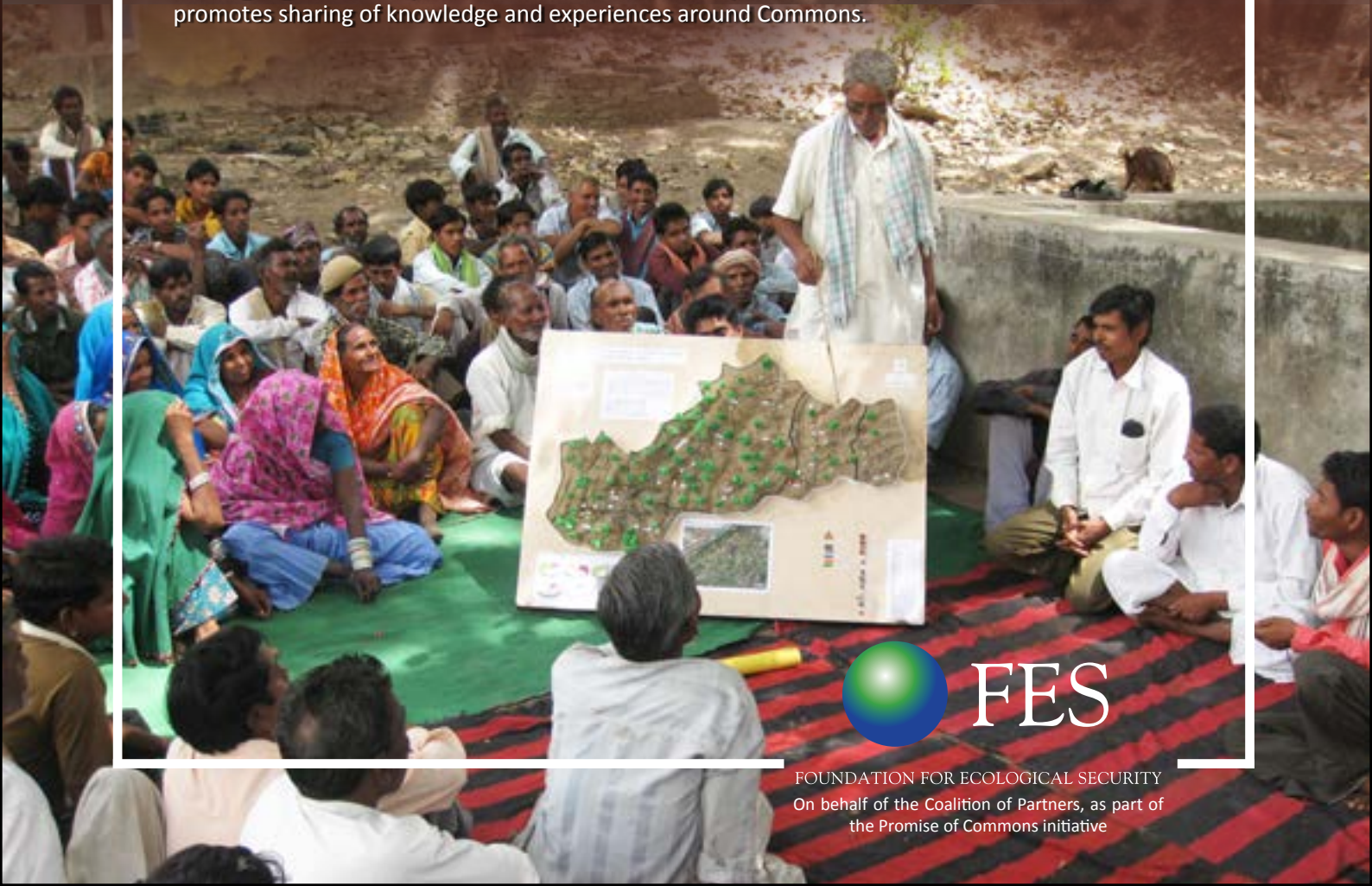
Commoning the Commons: Celebrating Community Stewardship

Virtual Conference

8-10 December 2022

Commons, or shared resources such as groundwater, forests, pastures, other natural resources and cultural knowledge systems associated with them, sustain the lives and livelihoods of millions of people worldwide. Rural communities have been at the centre of protecting, conserving, and managing these resources in innovative ways which have stood the test of time. Diversity of approaches and indigenous knowledge provide a roadmap for building symbiotic relationships with nature, effectively addressing the challenges that we are encountering in the ongoing climate crisis across the globe. The distinct voices of indigenous communities, forest dwellers, farmers and pastoralists resonate the knowledge, expertise and understanding of Commons evolved over several generations. As they need to be heard and discussed widely, favourable platforms need to be evolved to advance and propel these voices further.

As a part of the Promise of Commons initiative, a virtual conference on Celebrating Community Stewardship seeks to provide a platform for community members to share their experiences in natural resource governance and management. It is a platform for community-to-community interaction that can aid in cross-learning and enhanced knowledge and capacities. The conference also seeks to bring together practitioners, academicians and policymakers, along with members of civil society, who can benefit from the rich and diverse experiences shared. This conference is being organized as a part of World Commons Week (December 4-10) which celebrates and promotes sharing of knowledge and experiences around Commons.



FES

FOUNDATION FOR ECOLOGICAL SECURITY
On behalf of the Coalition of Partners, as part of
the Promise of Commons initiative

Format: Community leaders will be sharing their experiences through case studies on the themes given below. The presenters are welcome to share in the language of their choice. We request the NGOs/Academicians/Government representatives facilitating the presentations to assist in on-spot translation in English.

Thematic Areas for the Case Studies

Land and Water Commons

Village-level initiatives taken to protect, manage and conserve land and water Commons by a community, including pastures, grasslands, forests, groundwater, lakes, and rivers etc.

Commons in a Landscape

Initiatives of natural resource management at the landscape level that considers various inter-linkages between water, land, and livelihoods over an expansive geographical area such as a group of villages, a panchayat, watershed, or block/tehsil.

Commons and Biodiversity

Commons play a significant role in sustaining diverse flora and fauna by providing them a safe habitat and nutrition. Community initiatives around protection and conservation of various species or habitats can be shared.

Commons and Food

Forests, rivers and pastures are a major source of food and nutrition for millions of households across India. They provide seasonal tubers, fruits, vegetables, seeds, medicinal plants, fish, meat etc. Case studies highlighting Commons' contribution to food security can be shared.

Commons and Livelihoods

Commons support major livelihoods such agriculture, livestock and minor forest produce. Case studies involving community action which recognizes the Commons-livelihood linkage can be included.

Commons and Gender

One of the important aspects of Commons management is the difference in men and women's interactions with natural resources and with existing social structures. Cases involving women-led governance of natural resources can be included.

Commons and Culture

Commons have immense cultural significance which could be reflected in case studies demonstrating nature-worship (deities for rivers and forests, for instance), the use of produce from Commons for artefacts, indigenous knowledge on agriculture practices, medicinal uses of Commons, as well as craft and art traditions handed down across the generations.

Struggles of Commoning

The case studies can include experiences sharing the struggles and challenges faced by communities for retaining and protecting their Commons in the face of several threats that puts their identity, access, livelihoods and well-being in risk.

Any other entries related to Commons are also welcome for submission.

How to participate:

Word limit for abstract submission:
250-300 words

Registration link:
<https://forms.gle/Na2iRzMFkBJqg27a7>

Grassroots level NGOs/Academicians/Government representatives may help community members in registering for the conference.

Conference Dates:
8th - 10th December 2022

Last date for submission is
25 November 2022 5:00 PM IST.

For selected entries, confirmation mails shall be sent by 30 November 2022.

The case studies will be compiled and published as a Compendium and shared through various print and online medium for wider reach.

For any queries please write to: community.conference@fes.org.in
In case of urgent queries, please contact: Richu (+91 8129719386) / Deepannita (+91 7982550103)
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