



Reframing the Narrative

A National Media Workshop on Gender and Agri-Food Systems

16 -17 March 2026 | MSSRF, Chennai



DAY 1 - March 16

Venue: Sambasivan Hall

9:30-9:45	Welcome	
9:45-10:30	Reframing the story: Moving Past Barriers to Women's Agency	Nitya Rao Prof. Gender and Development, University of East Anglia, UK and Trustee, MSSRF.
10:30-11:00	Coffee break	

In Memory of Mrs. Mina Swaminathan

Venue: Mina and Swaminathan Hall

11:00- 11:20	Inaugural Address and official announcement of 2026 Mina Swaminathan Media Fellowship cohort	Mr. Arun Ram Resident Editor, Times of India, Chennai
11:30-12:30	Framing Gender: Storytelling Across Platforms - A panel discussion	Dr. Hanne de Bruin Programme Director and Co-founder of Kattaikkuttu Sangam Saurabh Gupta Associate Editor, NDTV Aparna Karthikeyan Independent journalist, Author Gayathri Station Head, Radio Ganesa FM 88.8 Moderator: Jyoti Shelar , Head, Communications & Donor Outreach, MSSRF
12:30-2:00	LUNCH + Group photo	

Venue: Sambasivan Hall

2:00-2:45	Women's Contribution to Agriculture	Dr. Madhura Swaminathan Professor, Indian Statistical Institute
2:45-3:30	Women in Rural Enterprises	N Manimekalai Director, Centre for Women's Development Studies (CWDS)
3:30-4:15	Climate Change, Heat Stress, and Women's Labour	A fireside chat with Dr. Soumya Swaminathan Chairperson, MSSRF
4:15-4:30	Coffee break	
4:30-5:30	Lived Realities and Stories of Strength	Author and journalist Aparna Karthikeyan in conversation with a woman farmer and a woman fisher
DAY 2 - March 17 Sambasivan Hall		
9:30-10:15	Gender Just Food Systems	Sejal Dand Director of ANANDI Technical Support Unit and founder member of Mahila Kisaan Adhikar Manch (MAKAAM)
10:15-11:00	Pro-woman Approach in Practice	R Rengalakshmi Executive Director (Area Operations), MSSRF
11:00-11:15	Coffee break	

11:15-12:00	Gender Transformative Governance	Dr Uma Mahadevan, Additional Chief Secretary and Development Commissioner, Govt of Karnataka (Online)
12:00-12:45	Women as Custodians of Biodiversity: Insights from Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Odisha	Dr E.D. Israel Oliver King, Ethno-Botanist and Director, Biodiversity, MSSRF
12:45-1:45	LUNCH	
1:45-3:00	Media and Farmer Producer Organisation (FPO) Leaders Interaction	FPO leader (Fisheries, Poompuhar) FPO leader (Agriculture, Koli Hills) and FPO leader (Dairy, Kannivadi)
3:00-4:00	Reflections and learnings from participants	Moderated by Shriya Naidu

Each session will have a presentation of up to 20 minutes followed by an open discussion and Q&A with journalists