



Fellow's Individual Project

Fellow	Host Institution	PhD enrolment	Start Date	Duration
ESR 7	UPAS	Y	Month 9	36 months

Project title and related WP(s): Eating relations: community economies, belonging and place-based food in the megacity Chennai, India (WP3, WP7).

Objectives: The mega-city Chennai has seen the development of a food counterculture visible in organic shops and food cooperatives. The ESR will aim to understand the evolving rural-urban linkages creating new human-nature relations from a FPE lens. The ESR will map out the new value chains and their political and ecological consequences of these value chains. It will look at the intersection of these food chains with notions of caste, gender, religion and age. As urban transition pioneers organise and reach out to farmers as rural producers, the question arises on the nature of this relation and the role of biodiversity in agricultural products. It will have an analytical focus on the effects of countercultures on agrobiodiversity investigating the negotiations at the interface over meanings of agrobiodiversity. The research will examine how people (re)connect to the land feeding them and investigates how much this movement is an elite, high caste mode of distinction or whether it opens up democratic space for a creative food movement.

Expected results: The research aims at discovering counter narratives to food supplies, mapping out the interaction between urban activists and rural producers providing new knowledge about changing human-nature relations.

Planned secondments: SOPPECOM (3 months) to work on food cooperatives and community economies and FUB (3 months) to work on urban transition and food sovereignty.