



विकास प्रबंधन संस्थान
Development Management Institute

9th Foundation Day Celebration

13-February 2023

Foundation Day Lecture on
SMALL HOLDER AGRICULTURE & AGRI BUSINESS

Talk on: Why reforms elude agriculture: an Indian story

By Shri. Pravesh Sharma, IAS (Retd.)

About Speaker :



Mr. Pravesh Sharma is an alumnus of St. Stephen's College, Delhi University, where he earned a Master's degree in History in 1981 and was selected to the Indian Administrative Service in 1982. He served in Madhya Pradesh and the Govt. of India. He served as District Magistrate in 5 districts, besides senior state-level assignments in food and agriculture, rural finance, and natural resources management. He has also worked for 3 years in the Prime Minister's Office and as Agriculture Secretary of Madhya Pradesh.

In his last official assignment as MD of the Small Farmers' Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC), he led a national campaign to mobilize farmers into producer organisations (FPOs) to integrate smallholders in the value chain.

Mr. Pravesh Sharma took voluntary retirement from the IAS in January 2016 after a career spanning 34 years to launch an agri-tech start-up, with the objective of creating an inclusive supply chain by integrating farmers with markets. The start-up eventually merged with Samunnati, a Chennai-based agri value chain enabler, where Mr. Sharma now serves as Director, leading strategic initiatives.

Mr. Pravesh Sharma spent a year as Visiting Fellow at Princeton University during 1995-96, researching food policy issues. He served on a 5-year UN assignment with the International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD) between 2001 and 2006.

He has written extensively on issues of agriculture policy in journals and newspapers and has co-edited two books, including one on food and agriculture issues with Prof. M.S. Swaminathan.

Mr. Pravesh Sharma serves as an Independent Director on the Board of Directors of DCM Shriram Ltd. and is the Chair of the Steering Group of the National Association of Farmer Producer Organisations (NAFPO), a platform created to build awareness of issues related to FPOs.