



INTERNATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMME 2026

Techno-Social India: India's Developmental Landscape across IT Industry, Healthcare, Agriculture, Consumer Markets, and Socio-Cultural Dynamics



Organized by: Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IITM), India

14 June – 23 June 2026 | IIT Madras, Chennai, India | Medium: English

About the Organizing Institution

Indian Institute of Technology Madras, established in 1959, is one of India's premier institutions for higher education, research, and innovation. Consistently ranked as the top engineering institution in India by the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF), IIT Madras is globally recognized for its excellence in teaching, cutting-edge research, and technological advancements.

The institute fosters a strong culture of interdisciplinary collaboration and innovation. The IIT Madras Research Park serves as a dynamic ecosystem connecting academia, industry, and startups, enabling the development of scalable solutions for real-world challenges.

Several initiatives from IIT Madras focus on rural and societal development, including:

- Water purification technologies
- Sustainable agricultural practices
- Affordable healthcare innovations
- Renewable energy solutions
- Educational technologies

Background

Rural communities across Africa and Asia continue to face significant challenges in areas such as livelihoods, healthcare, education, water access, and sustainable resource management. Science and Technology (S&T) play a crucial role in addressing these challenges through scalable, affordable, and innovative solutions.

The African-Asian Rural Development Organization has long been committed to promoting sustainable rural development by strengthening capacity, partnerships, and technical knowledge among its member countries.



In collaboration with IIT Madras, this programme aims to:

- Facilitate knowledge exchange among policymakers, researchers, and practitioners
- Showcase successful technology-driven rural development models
- Promote collaboration and long-term partnerships
- Strengthen networks for sustainable rural transformation

Programme Schedule

Date	Activity
June 14, 2026	Participant Arrival & Check-in
June 15 – 20, 2026	Technical Sessions & Workshops
June 21, 2026	Cultural Immersion & Sightseeing
June 22, 2026	Valedictory Ceremony & Farewell Dinner
June 23, 2026	Participant Departure

OBJECTIVES OF THE TRAINING PROGRAMME

Empowering Sustainable Development through Knowledge and Innovation

- **Showcase Techno-Social Models:** Provide participants with insights into India's development landscape across key sectors including IT, healthcare, agriculture, and rural livelihoods.
- **Promote Practical Learning:** Enable understanding of real-world applications of science and technology in rural development.
- **Capacity Building:** Strengthen participants' ability to design, implement, and manage sustainable development initiatives.
- **Knowledge Exchange Platform:** Facilitate interaction among policymakers, researchers, and practitioners from AARDO member countries.
- **Foster Collaboration:** Encourage cross-country partnerships and long-term institutional linkages.
- **Encourage Innovation:** Inspire adoption of scalable, affordable, and impactful technological solutions for rural transformation.

PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS

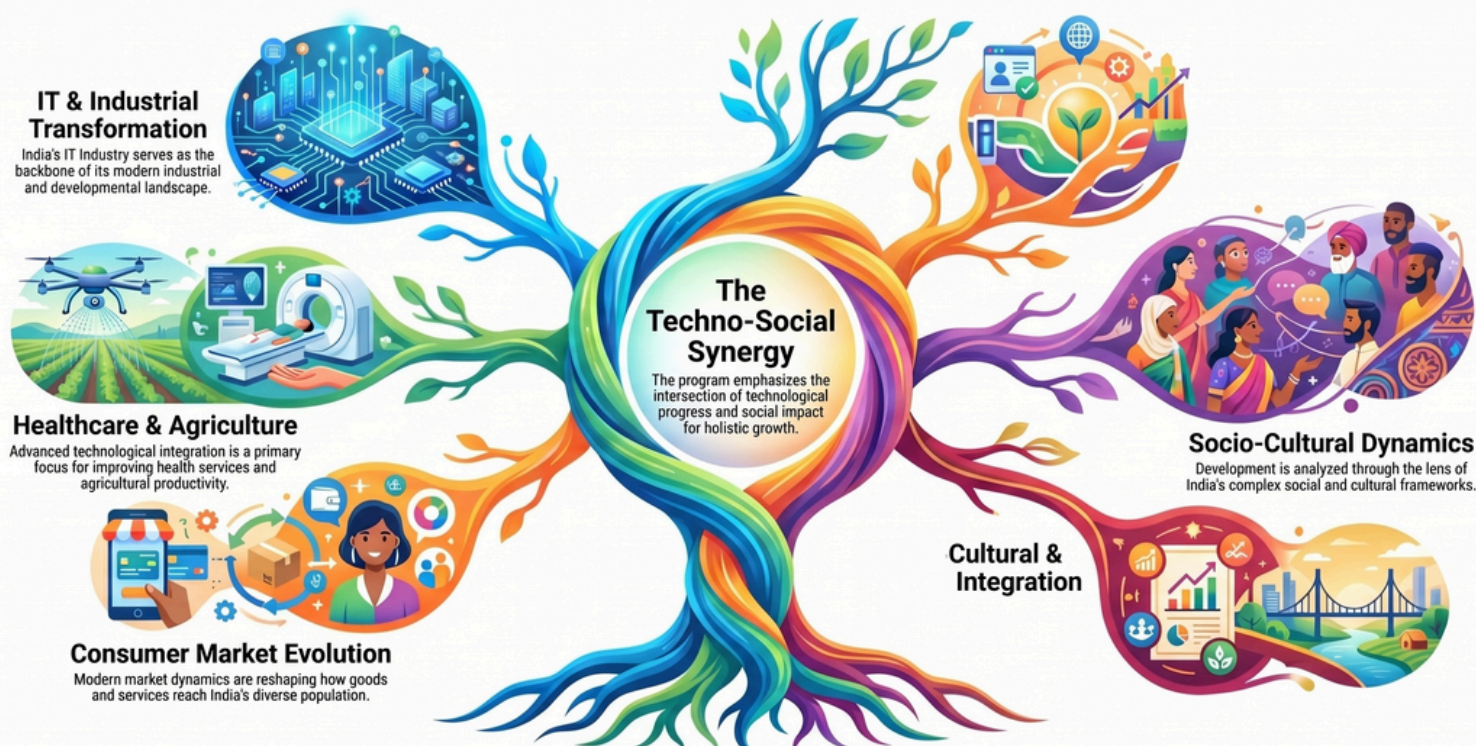
A Focus on Practical Interventions and Experiential Learning

- **Expert Sessions:** Lectures delivered by distinguished faculty from Indian Institute of Technology Madras and industry experts.
- **Interactive Workshops:** Hands-on sessions designed to provide practical exposure to innovative technologies.
- **Case Study Discussions:** In-depth analysis of successful rural development interventions and models.
- **Field Exposure:** Visits to technology-driven rural projects and innovation ecosystems.
- **Multidisciplinary Approach:** Coverage of diverse sectors including agriculture, healthcare, digital technology, and socio-economic systems.
- **Peer Learning:** Collaborative discussions and knowledge sharing among international participants.

SPECIAL FEATURES

Immersive Experiences and Unique Learning Opportunities

- **Inaugural Session:** Formal welcome ceremony marking the commencement of the AARDO–IIT Madras International Training Programme.
- **Campus Immersion:** Guided tour of the Indian Institute of Technology Madras campus and the IIT Madras Research Park, including visits to incubation centers and innovation hubs.
- **Best Practices Showcase:** Presentations by MS AARDO–IITM programme students highlighting successful rural research projects and impactful interventions.
- **Rural Engagements Trip:** A dedicated field visit offering hands-on exposure to rural development initiatives, community-based projects, and technology applications in real-world settings.



About AARDO

The **AFRICAN ASIAN RURAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION** is a rural centric inter-governmental autonomous organization located at 2, State Guest Houses Complex, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi 110 021, India.

African Asian Rural Development Organization is mandated to develop understanding among members for better appreciation of each other's problems and to collectively explore, opportunities for coordination of efforts for the welfare and eradication of thirst, hunger, illiteracy, disease and poverty amongst rural people in the African Asian region. The Organization comprises thirty-six (36) members, which include thirty-two (32) countries namely, Burkina Faso, Egypt, Ethiopia, Eswatini, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Libya, Malawi, Mauritius, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Tunisia and Zambia from Africa, and Bangladesh, R.O. China (Taiwan), India, Iraq, Jordan, R.O. Korea, Lebanon, Malaysia, Oman, Palestine, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Syria and Yemen from Asia, as the full members, and Korea Rural Community Corporation (KRC), R.O. Korea, the Agricultural Bank of Sudan (ABS), Sudan, Ekiti Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Mines & Agriculture (EKICCIMA), Nigeria and Economic and Social Development Center (ESDC), Palestine as four Associate Members.

AARDO is promoting South-South Triangular cooperation in the domain of agricultural and rural development. As such, AARDO is championing and advocating more science to rural societies for inclusive transformation of rural areas in Africa and Asia.

Essential Qualifications

- A Bachelor's degree with a minimum of five years of relevant field experience in planning and executing programs related to the subject of the training are required.
- Applicants should have good physical and mental health to complete the training course successfully.
- Applicants should be below 50 years of age, with no participation in any AARDO's offline training program over the preceding two years.

Note: If you have any known medical condition, kindly inform the organizers.

How to Apply

Step 1: Log on to the link: <https://aardo.org/aardot.php>

Step 2: Fill up the details and submit. Take print out of the filled in application form.

Step 3: Applicants are required to sign their applications and send them along with the recommendation letter of the Nodal Ministry of AARDO to our email: iec@aardo.org

Important Notes:

- Application without recommendation of the AARDO's Nodal Ministry in nominee's country will not be considered.
- Application, duly completed, must reach the AARDO Secretariat before or on the closing date, **16 MAY 2026**.
- Due to limitation of number of participants, only selected candidates would be intimated through the Nodal Ministry.

PARTICIPATION & LOGISTICS

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- Government officials, policy makers, and administrators involved in rural development, technology, and planning.
- Academics, researchers, and field experts from universities and research institutions.
- Project managers and professionals from NGOs focused on technology-based rural livelihood improvement.

VISA & AIR TICKETS

- **Visa Facilitation:** AARDO will actively facilitate the visa application process through the respective Indian Missions.
- **Travel Support:** Round-trip international air tickets (Economy Class) will be provided by AARDO once the candidate's visa is confirmed (T&C apply).

CONTACT FOR NOMINATIONS & INQUIRIES:

AARDO Secretariat

Dr. Sanjeeb K Behera

Head, IEC Division

African-Asian Rural Development Organization

+91-11-26877783/26115936 +91-9810664507

kamaldhameja@aardo.org / dhamejakamal@gmail.com

www.aardo.org

Mr. Kamal Dhameja

Head, CB&DP and Administration Division

African-Asian Rural Development Organization

+91-11-26877783/26115936 +91 8076448341

kamaldhameja@aardo.org / dhamejakamal@gmail.com

www.aardo.org

IIT Madras – Office of Global Engagement

Mr. Vinoth S

Senior Manager – Liaison

International Conference Secretariat

Office of Global Engagement

Indian Institute of Technology Madras

+91 44 2257 8878 | +91 8122 461 123

vinoth@ge.iitm.ac.in | <https://ge.iitm.ac.in/>

Mr. Thukaram M Damodhar

Lead – International Academic Programs

Office of Global Engagement

Indian Institute of Technology Madras

+91 44 2257 8865 | +91 8925488839

thukaram@ge.iitm.ac.in | <https://ge.iitm.ac.in/>