THE GANDHIGRAM RURAL INSTITUTE
(Deemed to be University), Gandhigram, Dindigul
Accredited by NAAC with 'A++' Grade (4th Cycle)
Ministry of Education, Govt. of India

INSTITUTION'S INNOVATION COUNCIL

SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT STUDIES

Organizing

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Rural Transformation in the Global Context :Strategies for Resilience and Sustainability

3 – 5 February, 2027
(Wednesday – Friday)

Hybrid Mode
(Online / Offline)

Silver Jubilee Hall, GRI
Gandhigram, Dindigul

Rationale for the Conference

Rural regions worldwide are undergoing rapid structural, environmental, and socio-economic shifts. While rural communities remain central to global food security, ecological stewardship, and cultural heritage, they face compounding vulnerabilities. Climate change, degradation, water scarcity, agrarian distress, demographic shifts, and persistent digital divides threaten rural livelihoods and widen spatial inequalities. Traditional development paradigms focused narrowly on agricultural productivity are no longer sufficient.

Achieving the United Nation Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) requires a holistic transition toward resilient, inclusive, and sustainable rural transformation. This transformation demands integrated climate adaptation, diversified rural economies, grassroots governance, and technological innovation while respecting local ecosystems and indigenous knowledge systems. In this context, resilience (the ability to absorb and recover from disruptions) and sustainability (long-term ecological and socioeconomic viability) emerge as the twin pillars of modern rural policy.

The International Conference is jointly organized by the Department of Cooperation, Department of Economics, and Department of Rural Industries Management, and the conference provides an interdisciplinary platform to examine global rural transitions. By uniting institutional governance, macroeconomic policy, and rural enterprise management, the conference aims to identify scalable, evidence-based strategies that empower rural communities worldwide.

Objectives of the Conference

1. To analyze comparative trajectories of structural, demographic, and economic changes across rural regions in both developing and developed economies.
2. To evaluate the strategic role of Cooperatives, Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), and community collectives in fostering grassroots resilience and social equity.
3. To identify viable pathways for non-farm employment, rural MSMEs, agro-processing, and green value chains to boost rural incomes.
4. To explore the role climate-smart practices, renewable energy, and digital public infrastructure can future-proof rural livelihoods.
5. To facilitate dialogue among global academicians, policymakers, cooperative leaders, and practitioners to generate actionable policy frameworks.

Organized by

School of Management Studies, The Gandhigram Rural Institute (Deemed to be University)

Department of Cooperation · Department of Economics · Department of Rural Industries and Management

About the Institute

The Gandhigram Rural Institute (GRI), founded by two dedicated disciples and contemporaries of Gandhiji, Dr. G. Ramachandran and Dr. T.S. Soundaram Ramachandran, has as its foundation Gandhiji's revolutionary philosophy of Nai Talim, which focuses on the holistic development of learners, with an emphasis on skill development through value-based education.

The GRI was established in 1956 and was granted Deemed to be University status in 1976. GRI introduced CBCS pattern of Education way back in 1996 and It got accredited with Five Star status in its first cycle in 2002 and presently it is placed with A++ status in its 4th cycle (2025). GRI follows the New Education Policy 2020, from 2024 – 2025 onwards. GRI at present comprises 8 Schools, 19 Departments and 11 Centres, offering 64 academic programmes across various disciplines. It has approximately 5,000 students, including Ph.D. and PDF scholars, supported by 178 teaching and non-teaching staff members. Since its establishment, GRI has been unstintingly contributing to higher education and has successfully pioneered rural higher education.

GRI integrates Teaching, Research, Skill Development and Community Outreach to address rural challenges and promote sustainable livelihoods. It offers a wide range of academic programmes, from certificate courses to Ph.D. degrees, with an emphasis on experiential learning. With a strong commitment to rural empowerment, inclusive education and community development, the Institute aligns its academic, research and outreach activities with the United Nations 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

School of Management Studies

The School of Management Studies (SoMS) was created in 2017 by bifurcating the Faculty of Social Sciences. The SoMS consists of three departments namely i) Cooperation, ii) Rural Industries and Management (RIM), and iii) Economics. The Three Departments were established in 1956 along with the GRI as pioneering Departments.

Department of Cooperation is first of its kind in offering Cooperation as an Academic discipline at the University level in India, with the objective of developing manpower with the updated knowledge and skill for leading, managing, organizing and revitalising cooperatives from grassroot to National level. It offers B.Com (Hons.) Cooperation, M.Com (Cooperative Management), Ph.D (Cooperation) and PDF.

Department of Rural Industries and Management is preparing manpower as Entrepreneurial, Techno – Managerial Cadres suit largely to the domain of MSMEs in Rural areas. Combining the academic inputs with the Hands-on-Training is the notable feature of the Department. It offers Diploma in Textile Technology, B.B.A (Hons.), M.B.A, Ph.D and PDF.

Department of Economics has the vision of Excellence in Education and Research towards Integrated and Sustainable Rural Economy. It offers courses in the specialized areas of Agri-Economics, Environmental Economics, Energy Economics, Developmental Economics, Resource Economics and Health Economics. It offers B.A (Hons.) Economics, M.A (Economics), Ph.D. and PDF.

Target Participants

- Academicians, faculty members, and research scholars in Cooperation, Economics, Management, Sociology, Agricultural Sciences, Rural Development etc.
- Policymakers, government administrators, and representatives from rural development agencies (e.g., NABARD, NCDC, FAO, IFAD).
- Leaders and executives of cooperatives, FPOs, NGOs, and social enterprises.
- Rural entrepreneurs, agribusiness professionals, and sustainability development practitioners.

Call for Papers

We invite original and unpublished research papers, case studies, empirical studies addressing the conference theme and its related sub-themes. Selected papers will be considered for publication in the conference proceedings with ISBN / ISSN Volume, subject to academic peer review and acceptance. Participants are encouraged to submit their valuable contributions and actively participate in the conference to share the knowledge and strengthen the sustainable development of the rural economy.

Sub-themes of the Conference

Track I : Macro-economic Dynamics and Inclusive Rural Growth

1. Structural transformation, agrarian transitions, and shift in rural-urban Dynamics.
2. Rural labour markets, migration patterns, and demographic dividends.
3. Rural financial ecosystems, microfinance, green credit, and risk-mitigation instruments (crop/ livestock insurance).
4. Fiscal policy, public investment, and social safety nets for poverty alleviation.
5. Impact of global trade policies and supply chain disruptions on smallholder economies.

Track II : Cooperatives, Collective Action, and Institutional Resilience

1. Role of Cooperatives, FPOs, and Self-Help Groups (SHGs) in absorbing climate and market shocks.
2. Democratic governance, leadership, and capacity building in member-owned rural institutions.
3. Showcasing global cooperative models in agriculture, dairy, credit, and consumer sectors.
4. Social inclusion, gender equity, and youth engagement through collective enterprises.
5. Public-Private-Cooperative Partnerships (PPCP) for inclusive rural service delivery.

Track III : MSMEs, Rural Industrialization, and Sustainable Value Chains

1. Non-farm livelihood diversification and rural entrepreneurship ecosystems.
2. Agro-processing, post-harvest management, and farm-to-fork value chain integration.
3. Circular economy models, waste-to-wealth enterprises, and green rural manufacturing.
4. Reviving traditional, handloom, and cottage industries through branding and e-commerce.
5. Quality standards, packaging, and export competitiveness for rural MSMEs.

Track IV : Climate Change Adaptation and Natural Resource Governance

1. Climate-smart agriculture, regenerative farming, and biodiversity conservation.
2. Community-led watershed management, water security, and sustainable land-use planning.
3. Decentralized Renewable Energy (solar, bio-energy) powering rural industries and agriculture.
4. Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and early warning systems for vulnerable rural regions.

Track V : Digital Transformation and Smart Rural Infrastructure

1. Bridging the rural digital divide through Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) and financial technology.
2. Applications of AI, IoT, remote sensing, and precision tools in cooperatives and rural enterprises and MSMEs
3. Smart villages, sustainable rural housing, and resilient logistics and infrastructure.
4. Integrating indigenous knowledge systems with modern scientific and management practices.

IMPORTANT DATES

Last Date for Abstract Submission	**05.12.2026**
Notification of Acceptance	**07.12.2026**
Registration Deadline	**10.12.2026**
Full Paper Submission	**26.12.2026**
Conference Dates	**3 – 5 February 2027**

REGISTRATION FEES

Participants	Offline			Online	
	GRI Mem. (INR)	Indian (INR)	Foreign (USD)	Indian (INR)	Foreign (USD)
Students	500	750	20	300	10
Research Scholars	1000	1500	25	750	15
Academicians/ Administrators	1500	1750	30	1200	20
Leaders & Others	2000	2500	40	1500	30

Registration must be done separately by the Author and Co-Authors. Registration fee includes Conference Kit, Conference Sessions, Working Lunch and Refreshment.

Online delegates will be allowed to have access to Conference Sessions, Paper Presentations and E-Certificate.

CONFERENCE E-MAIL

icrtgc2027@gmail.com

Registration G-Form:
https://forms.gle/1hviQ9JjREhoPzSH8

SCAN THIS TO FILL THE FORM

Guidelines for Paper Submission

1. The Abstract must be in 500 words and Full manuscript in MS-Word format not exceeding 7500 words (Size – A4, Line Spacing – 1.5, Font Style – Times New Roman, Font Size – 12 and Margin – 1 inch) and sent through e-mail. (icrtgc2027@gmail.com), For Registration G - Form - (https://forms.gle/1hviQ9JjREhoPzSH8).

2. Figures, Labels and Charts etc., must be original ones, or with proper sources.

3. First page must contain the track, title, abstract and name of the author(s), designation, affiliated institution, contact number and email. Institution/University and Place.

4. References and text citation as per APA style 7th Edition.

5. The selected papers will be permitted for presentation in the conference. Papers with permissible limit of AI and plagiarism will be published in ISBN/ISSN.

Note: Publication charges will be intimated to the authors of selected papers.

Mode of Payment

Account Name	Conference Chair
Account Number	110343624637
Name of the Bank	Canara Bank
Branch	GRI
IFSC	CNRB0008500
MICR Code	625015050

PAY Participants are requested to complete the registration fee payment through the given Account number and mention your Name with mobile number in the Remark Section.

Accommodation

Sl. No	Hotel Name	Single (INR)	Double (INR)	Contact Number
1	GRI Faculty Guest House (On First Come First Served)	–	1000	96775 04478
2	Parsons Court, Dindigul (4 Star Hotel)	2415	2730	96777 02007
3	Vevera Grande, Dindigul (4 Star Hotel)	4900	5900	96590 00001
4	Vari Park, Dindigul (3 Star Hotel)	2730	2940	91500 07202
5	Chenduran Park, Dindigul (3 Star Hotel)	2520	2940	97872 80005
6	PVK Grand, Dindigul (3 Star Hotel)	2415	3675	80983 40099

Room rent may vary. Delegates are informed to contact the Hotel concerned for their Accommodation on payment basis. Dindigul is 12 kms away from GRI.

REACHING GANDHIGRAM (GRI)

Train – Dinidgul Junction is 12 km from GRI. Ambathurai Railway Station is 2 km from GRI.
Flight – Madurai Airport is 77 km from GRI. Trichy Airport is 116 km from GRI.
Bus – GRI is located at NH 44. From Madurai Aarapalayam Bus Stand to GRI / Chinnalapatti Pirivu is 57 km (towards North). From Dindigul Bus stand to GRI is 12 km (towards South).

SCAN TO GET THE LOCATION

SCAN & PAY

UPI ID: 9443830861a@canara

SCAN TO VISIT OUR WEBSITE

Organizing Team

Chief Patron



Prof. N. Panchanatham
Vice Chancellor, GRI

Patron



Prof. K. Marimuthu
Registrar, GRI

Conference Chair



Prof. B. Tamilmani
Dean, SoMS

CONVENORS



Prof. K. Ravichandran
HoD of Coop.



Prof. K. Manikandan
HoD of Eco.



Prof. Well Haorei
HoD of RIM.

Dept. of Cooperation

Dr. S. Manivel – Sr. Prof.
Dr. C. Pitchai – Sr. Prof.
Dr. B. Baskar – Prof.
Dr. K. Devan – Prof.
Dr. M. Jansirani – Asst. Prof. (Temp.)

Dept. of Economics

Dr. S. Nehru – Sr. Prof.
Dr. N. R. Deepa – Asst. Prof.
Dr. M. Anandan – Asst. Prof. (Temp.)
Dr. P. Satheswaran – Asst. Prof. (Temp.)
Dr. K. J. Reeshma – Asst. Prof. (Temp)
Dr. M. Saravanan – Asst. Prof. (Temp.)

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Dr. K. Raja Pranmalai – Sr. Prof.
Dr. H. Samuel Thavaraj – Prof.
Dr. B. Senthil Kumar – Prof.
Dr. P. Muruganandan, Sr. Tech. Assistant
Mr. M. Sadasivam – Instructor
Mr. E. George Muller, Food/Chem. Tech.
Dr. V. Seema, Asst. Prof. (Temp.)
Dr. A. Rajesh, Asst. Prof. (Temp.)
Dr. S. Sumathy, Asst. Prof. (Temp.)
Mr. K. Raja, Teaching Assistant
Mr. J. Jeyaprakash, Technical Assistant
Mr. K. Sandeep, Instructor
Mrs. G. Rajalakshmi, Computer Assistant

For Queries, please contact

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Registration	Dr. M. Jansirani - Asst. Prof (T) Ms. K. Rajalakshmi - (Lab Tech)	9976799499 9159679288
Submission of Abstracts and Papers	Dr. V. Seema - Asst. Prof (T) Dr. M. Anandhan - Asst. Prof (T)	9345427624 9940875550
Accommodation	Dr. A. Rajesh - Asst. Prof (T) Dr. Satheswaran - Asst. Prof (T)	9843529364 9789398731