

ATV will be a central focal point for Danish research's contribution to India's green transition

A grant of 2 million DKK from the Novo Nordisk Foundation enables ATV, over the coming two years, to build up the collaboration with the echo network, which is a research-based social innovation network initiated by the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India in 2019. Together with the echo network and Innovation Center Denmark in India, ATV will establish a platform where Danish, Indian and international researchers contribute to solving India's challenges within green transition.

India's green transition concerns us all

The Danish-Indian relations have developed rapidly in recent years. In 2020, a green strategic partnership was initiated, and Mette Frederiksen met Prime Minister Modi in 2021. ATV has been involved from the start when we visited India with a larger delegation back in 2019, and in that context published the report *India – land of opportunities*.

"I am incredibly happy that the Novo Nordisk Foundation has chosen to support our collaboration with echo network. When we visited India in 2019, it was immediately clear that India's sustainability challenges are so great that the world's overall sustainability in a way depends on whether India succeeds in making a green transition. Therefore, it is also great, that India over the past couple of years has initiated several programs to pursue a more sustainable development. It's a great challenge and learning possibility for ATV to collaborate with echo network in this endeavor," says Academy Director Lia Leffland, and continues:

"The echo network was initiated by the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India to ensure two things: firstly, that research contributes positively to India's green transformation, and that concrete projects in the countryside and in the cities are driven by the best and latest knowledge in the field. Secondly, that Indian knowledge and competencies within sustainability broadly understood and specifically within regenerative agriculture, one health and ecosystems must be linked to the strongest and best knowledge environments internationally. These are the tasks that we must help echo network to succeed in."

From the Innovation Center in India, Innovation Attaché Jakob Williams Ørberg also welcomes the grant: "Since 2019, ATV has been absolutely central to our efforts that have focused on highlighting the many opportunities for partnership between India and Denmark on the sustainability agenda. In such collaborative partnerships, Denmark can contribute to shaping absolutely essential research agendas in India, e.g. the road towards a more sustainable food system. At the Innovation Center, we see ATV's collaboration with echo network as an important opportunity to establish personal and deep relationships between the research and technology environments in Denmark and India, which will form the basis for new strong research initiatives in the coming years."

The ATV Secretariat strengthens its India resources

As part of the collaboration with echo network, ATV hires Shannon Olsson, as head of echo network's international hub, which will be based at ATV. Shannon already leads the echo network in India, but now has extra resources to develop the international partnerships. This work will initially focus on engaging Danish universities and researchers in specific collaborative projects between India and Denmark, and at the same time raise funds to expand the collaboration and involve exchanges between, for example, the Nordic countries, Europe and the USA.

"The echo network is a completely unique concept to change how science is embedded in society both in India and, we hope, the world. It was established in 2019 and today has already grown into a community of over 1000 members from 22 different countries. The project is supported by a large number of partners and foundations crossing public and private sectors of society. We have established a fine-meshed network that allows the sharing of knowledge and purpose between scientists, key decisionmakers, on-the-ground community organizations, private companies, and the public.

We accomplish this through collaborative science-based activities and research. Therefore, the next natural step in our development was that we established a strong international hub that provides a forum to allow international members to participate in, and learn from, our Indian efforts. Choosing ATV as the host for that work was straight forward; from the beginning, we have had Danish experts involved in our activities, and they have excelled in understanding and appreciating echo network's special task and starting point. In addition, the Danish-Indian green strategic partnership represents a fantastic momentum, which I expect we can use to expand Danish-Indian relations within research, education, and innovation with a focus on sustainability and green transition," says Shannon Olsson, Global Director, echo network.

Contact

If you are interested in the ATV-echo network-ICDK collaboration or would like to contribute, please contact senior advisor Martin Bech, PhD (+45 3024 9959 / mab@atv.dk).