

Comments on Ongoing Research Projects
except for those subject to Mid-term or Final Evaluation

Project Year	FR3	
Project Title	An Interdisciplinary Study toward Clean Air, Public Health and Sustainable Agriculture: The Case of Crop Residue Burning in North India	
Abbreviated Title	Aakash	
Project Leader	HAYASHIDA Sachiko	
Project Period	5 years Full Research	
Affiliated Program	3rd phase program1: Sugihara advisor	

General comments of the EREC

In its third year of research, the leadership has shifted to Dr. Patra upon the retirement of Professor Hayashida. This appears to allow the project to maintain its momentum and further development. In fact, despite the problems imposed by Covid-19 restrictions and rapid societal changes in the Punjab region of study, the project has continued to make good progress in carrying out its inter- and transdisciplinary research, as well as in identifying new questions and methods to pursue.

The committee suggested that the project focus more of its research effort on understanding and addressing root causes of the continued burning of crop residue in a semi-arid region in which rice has been cultivated following the “green revolution” with its consequent dependence on water and fertilizer use.

The effort in social-ecological system modeling was viewed favorably by the EREC members in that it helps in considering possible consequences of changes in local attitudes, health impacts, and economic changes, as well as the physical measurements of air pollutants. The existing collaboration with international researchers who are also studying air pollution sources and impacts in the Himalayan region is encouraging as a potential synergy.