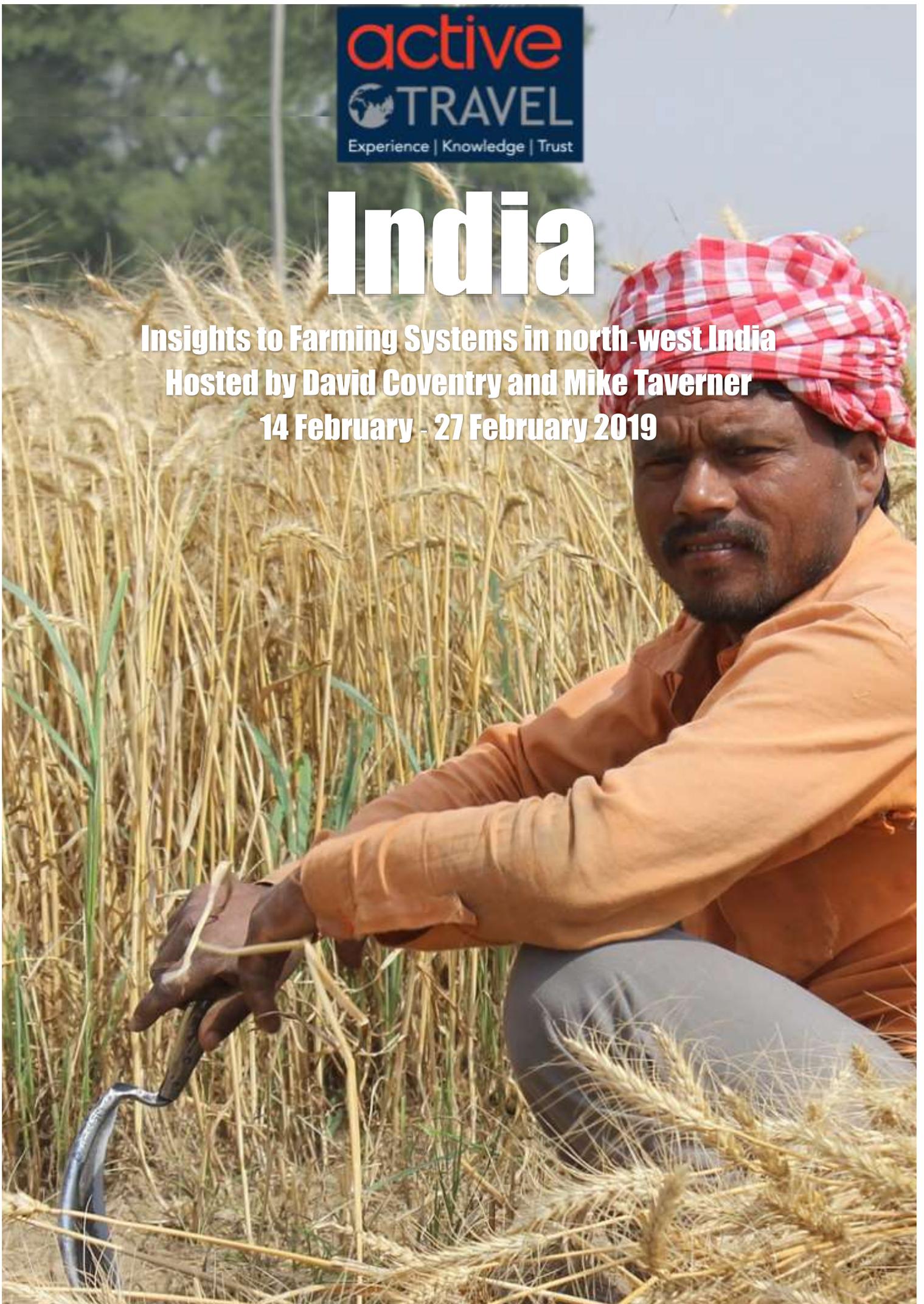


India

Insights to Farming Systems in north-west India
Hosted by David Coventry and Mike Taverner
14 February - 27 February 2019



Insights to farming systems in north-west India



David

This tour will introduce or re-acquaint you with life in rural India. This will be achieved as David Coventry leads us through the work of a team of Australian and Indian scientists as they sought to understand the practices, the challenges and achievements of farmers in hundreds of villages in the north Indian states of Haryana and Punjab.

David, now adjunct Professor at the University of Adelaide, has a long history of travelling and working in rural India, including living in Haryana for more than two years in the late 1970s. He has considerable contemporary experience in India with active associations with farm-based projects from 2002 to 2014. David's involvement has included an extensive collaborative ACIAR project as well as Australia-India Council and Crawford Fund projects. These have focussed on the development and adaptation of zero-till and nutrient efficient methods for the diverse wheat cropping systems of northern India.



Mike

We have the opportunity to follow these works and to meet with some of the Indian scientists involved and importantly, to meet with some of the collaborating farmers throughout Haryana and Punjab who hosted field trials. It will be fascinating to understand the legacy of this work with the many local village farmer groups and a variety of professional practitioners who were exposed to the research and its outcomes.

This was innovative work in Farming Systems Research that has subsequently been used as a model for other projects in India and overseas. The following is a link to the most recent publication from the work of David and his colleagues. {<https://doi.org/10.1080/1389224X.2018.1435420>}

David comments that the one thing that never changes in rural India is the generosity, friendship and hospitality of the farming communities. David is well informed on local conditions and has great enthusiasm for the northern India environment with its special cuisine, culture and history. He says "Travelling in rural India is like being on an endless movie set, always colourful, stimulating and always a celebration of life and living".

Whilst David will provide the expert guidance, Mike Taverner, now an experienced tour leader, has been working with local group Shikar Travel and with Active Travel to arrange this program. Some will know Mike from his days in research and R&D management (pigs - PRDC, poultry - RIRDC, and grains - GRDC). He now leads small group travel with Active Travel specialising in walking adventures in places that include Japan, West Timor, NE India, Peru, Oman and Ethiopia. Having hosted so many tours over the years Mike looks forward to complementing David on this journey.



Highlights

Share experiences with the local people, culture and day-to-day life of Indian agriculture

Spend time discussing farming techniques, issues and solutions with an expert

Visit large scale and commercial manufacturing workshops

Explore cultural icons rich in beauty and history

Witness a beating retreat ceremony on the India - Pakistan border

What to expect

Our 14 day itinerary has been carefully designed for guests with an interest in agricultural systems, rural development and Indian culture. Working with Indian counterparts who will serve to interpret our communications, we have arranged visits with local farmers, research and extension organisations and large scale manufacturing sites. We have the opportunity to meet with experts to discuss techniques as well as challenges encountered by those in the industry. These visits are then balanced with time exploring sites of cultural and historical significance.

While the majority of the accommodation is basic, you will experience warm hospitality and come home with memories to last a life time on this carefully tailored program.



Your experience begins here...

Thursday 14 February 2019 | Arrive Delhi

Welcome to India- a country where hospitality is a way of life; to a culture steeped in tradition, a land where history lives in music and dance. Upon arrival a group transfer will be offered to take you to your hotel.

Friday 15 February 2019 | Delhi | BLD

This morning we visit the CIMMYT office for an overview of Indian grain production and farming systems and where you will meet with several key industry leaders. At the Australian High Commission, we will discuss current collaborative initiatives with Australian agricultural research and grain marketing opportunities in India.

Saturday 16 February 2019 | Delhi | BLD

After breakfast we will begin our sight seeing of Delhi which includes Humayun Tombs, Outab Minar and later the Khan Market & take a leisurely walk through the Lodhi Gardens.

Sunday 17 February 2019 | Delhi | BLD

Today we continue our exploration with a day trip to one of the world's most famous cultural icons; the Taj Mahal in Agra.

Monday 18 February 2019 | Delhi - Rewari | BLD

With an early start we travel by road to Kapriwas Village to visit Dharam Pal Yadav Farm (about 1-hour west from Delhi). Today you will explore first hand on-farm grain production and marketing systems in Haryana (and later the Punjab). These two northern states are amongst the most productive and intensive wheat growing regions globally. We share experiences with the people, culture and day-to-day life of Indian agriculture. This visit will introduce us one-on-one to the dynamics of India's grain production systems, starting with the farmer through to researchers. We finish the day with a visit to Mani Ram farm, Jhabua village. This remote village and farm is typical of the many thousands of similar locations where we enjoy the local hospitality, culture and possibly organised chaos!

Tuesday 19 February 2019 | Rewari – Bhiwani – Hisar | BLD

Today you will meet Indian farmers and their families in another culturally rich village (Tigra), experience rural life, and share with them your own Australian farming system approaches and expertise. Tigra is a typical small village and farming community where the farmers have demonstrated proactively a hunger for technical knowledge. After lunch we continue to Hisar. This drive will be through gently rolling farmlands where there is a never-ending parade of daily-life rural activities to observe.

Wednesday 20 February 2019 | Hisar – Sirsa – Hisar | BLD

We will proceed for a day trip to Sirsa to meet locals and farmers including Sawan Singh in Bhangu village. The crop rotation in this region is different from yesterday with cotton the main monsoon-season crop. Later we have the opportunity to visit the field sites at CSS Haryana Agricultural University where we will see field trials highlighting long-term benefits from ZT systems, and discuss issues associated with herbicide resistance and other problems associated with residues from monsoon crops.

Thursday 21 February 2019 | Hisar – Karnal BLD

This morning we drive to Karnal and on the way visit Kartar Singh Farm in Teek Village. Teek village is in the Kaithal District and is a village that proudly advertises that all farmers are ZT adopters. Kaithal, Kurukshetra and Karnal Districts are the backbone of the continuous rice-wheat growing areas in Haryana. Before reaching Karnal we visit the Regional Research Station at Uchani to discuss some of the issues raised by the Teek farmers.

Friday 22 February 2019 | Karnal | BLD

In the morning we visit the Indian Institute of Wheat and Barley Research. Features will be agronomic research in wheat production systems, wheat quality and market chain development. From there we visit Anil Kumar Farm, Kalri village and later Sahab Singh at Waraich Agriculture Farm, Rambha village. Best practice systems and diversification of agriculture (organic farming, direct marketing of grain, horticulture) will be featured.

Saturday 23 February 2019 | Karnal | BLD

This morning a visit to IIWBI is offered alternatively you may like to explore Karnal and Kurukshetra which is rich in history as it is the spine of the Grand Trunk Road, with famous Mughal sites at Sirhind, huge forts and the cantonment back in Karnal.

Sunday 24 February 2019 | Karnal – Ludhiana | BLD

After a lazy morning we will visit to the entrepreneurial Vikas Chaudhary farm at Taraori village. In the afternoon we continue towards Ludhiana enroute visiting Mughal gardens at Sir hind and Sikh holy site.

Monday 25 February 2019 | Ludhiana – Amritsar | BLD

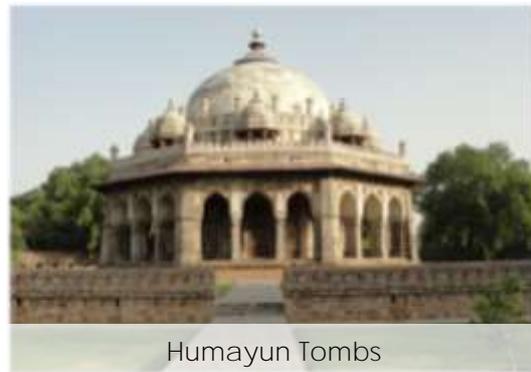
Today we travel to visit Rajdeep Singh and the family-run ZT drill manufacturing workshop (National Agro Industries). Here we inspect ZT drill manufacturing and how they are meeting the challenges posed by handling large stubble residue loads. Near Ludhiana and now in the Punjab province we will view the important work undertaken at the Borlaug Institute for South Asia. We also will visit a Woollen Mill before heading towards Amritsar.

Tuesday 26 February 2019 | Amritsar | BLD

Enjoy a relaxed start to the day before heading out on a sightseeing tour of Amritsar including Golden Temple & Jallianwala Bagh. In the afternoon we proceed to visit India - Pakistan border at Wagah for the beating retreat ceremony.

Wednesday 27 February 2019 | Depart Amritsar | B

After breakfast, you are welcome to depart at any time.



Humayun Tombs

\$3617pp twin share

Single room supplement: \$648* (subject to availability)

Inclusions

- Accommodation for (13) nights on Double share basis in the above-mentioned hotels or similar.
- All transfer and sightseeing will be using air conditioned tourist vehicle (Mini Coach).
- English speaking local spot guide for sightseeing places
- One-time entrances at the monument places as per program.
- Services of a local tour escort
- Services of Mike Taverner as an Australian tour host

Exclusions

- All flights
- Travel Insurance
- Personal expenses
- Beverages for all meals
- Other meals not stated in the itinerary
- Gratuities for tour guides & drivers



Booking information

Securing your place A minimum number of tour guests is required to confirm and guarantee this tour's departure. Spaces are limited; book early to avoid disappointment.

All deposits and interim payments are non-refundable and no exemptions can be made for any tour guest who has paid a deposit and can no longer attend the tour. Progressive payments will be required for this tour.

Deposit \$500.00 per person upon booking your place on the tour

Interim payment: \$1,000.00 per person due within one week of the tour becoming a confirmed departure

Final payment: Balance due 60 days prior to departure

TravelPay allows you to pay for your holiday by interest-free monthly instalments on your own credit/debit card.

You choose: you can pay over 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 or 10 months. Ask us for more details today.

*The tour price may change, subject to confirmation of all services. As the tour cost is based on the US dollar, a currency surcharge may be applicable if the US dollar exchange rate falls prior to final payment.

Travel insurance Travel insurance is required for all tour guests. We suggest taking out a comprehensive insurance policy on payment of your deposit to protect your non-refundable payments in the unlikely event of an unforeseen cancellation.

Disinclination to travel is not covered by travel insurance. It is the responsibility of each tour guest to ensure that their travel insurance covers their personal requirements and any pre-existing medical conditions.



MEMBER

ACCREDITED

For bookings please contact our experienced travel advisors

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