Zeitgeist in Geisterstadt: Nanoimaginaries and Indian Agriculture

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The ways in which nanotechnology has swept the attraction of national governments, public and private funding agencies, physical, natural and social science researchers, NGOs and the rest of the world, it will not be an exaggeration to call it the 'spirit of time' or the Zeitgiest. However, this spirit of time embarks upon the future and the manner in which various actors relate themselves to it. This may vary depending upon social, political and cultural contexts, leading to numerous imaginations of future associated to a 'nanoworld'. The Agriculture sector in India is not untouched by this effect, especially when it is constantly projected as a primary focus in national policy discourses. The present study analyses such 'nanoimaginaries' extended to Indian agricultural sector by various actors and how these imaginaries interact, struggle, count, discount and strive to build a collective imagination of agriculture in India in a future 'nanoworld'.