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SMALL FARMERS FEEDING 1 BILLION
There are 234 million small-scale farmers and farm employees in India; roughly three times the total population of the United Kingdom. Together these farmers are responsible for feeding a sixth of the Earth’s population at an ecological and financial cost far below most large scale farming systems found elsewhere. Despite this astounding achievement these individuals and the food systems they support continue to be considered backward and in need of development. Sadly the question of what the north could learn from their ancient knowledge and ways of being is rarely asked.

These images are moments captured with small-scale farmers on their farms during time I spent living in a small village in northern Maharashtra. The smiles and good humour of some are testament to the power and possibility of small-scale family farming systems, while the eyes and bodies of others serve as a warning against romantic idealisation. The shadows in the background provide brief narratives about their daily lives, the spiritual significance of cattle and the power of soil to sustain.