

# National Dialogue on India's Agricultural Crisis & Farmer Suicides

1st November, 2015



**Organised by The Child Trust, FIAN in India and its Maharashtra Chapter**

THE METHODIST CENTRE

Ground Floor, 21, YMCA Road,  
Mumbai Central, Mumbai-400 008, Maharashtra

The consultation titled 'National Dialogue on India's Agrarian Crisis and Farmers Suicides.'

## Introduction:

Despite national level debates and raising concerns on agrarian crisis and farmer's suicide for over two decades, the trend is continuing without a halt. In the last 20 years, nearly 300,000 farmers have ended their lives by ingesting pesticides or by hanging themselves. There are diverse systemic and structural lapses and underlying causes for this human tragedy. Looming agrarian crisis, spiraling price raise of agricultural inputs, crop failure, unremunerative income for farmers due to loss, non competitive selling price for agricultural produces due to uneven competition with subsidized imports from west, lack of subsidies and support prices for small as well as marginal farmers, debts at the hands of private money lenders at exorbitant interest rates push them to such a tragic decision. Land acquisition process that alienate farmers from their lands, WTO induced Agreement on Agriculture which has been responsible for opening up market access and negatively impacting seed policies and so on, there are multiple factors responsible for this sad state of affairs. The ground realities of farmer suicides are very striking. Maharashtra state - with 60,000 farmer suicides - tops the list. Five States account for two-thirds of all farm suicides in the country, in Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. 41 farmers commit suicide every day, leaving behind scores of orphans and widows. During 2002-2011 the lives of 55,000-65,000 people was ruined due to the farmers' suicides in Vidarbha region alone.

The outcomes of these suicides are leading to unspeakable trauma and despair among the survivors of the family members. The traditional food producing communities-farmers, tree tappers, fish workers, Tribals who produce/ gather food from land, forest and sea for the entire world and those ensuring food securities for all, indeed have been deprived of human security. The poverty and hunger that is pushed on these subsistence farmers are due to structural violence perpetuated on these communities and should be perceived as a human rights violation.

In the backdrop of this local man-made/natural disasters and global call for actions, FIAN India organized a national dialogue to revisit the critical issue of farmer's suicides-its causes and impacts on food security of marginalized communities.

**Objective** of national dialogue is bring together activists, CSOs, intellectuals and farmers movements to Highlight various issues associated with continuing farmers' suicide in contemporary times. FIAN India State Chapter representatives put forth their views on ground realities in their regions.

- Provide the FIAN India state chapters a platform to share strategy to address the issue ,with state level analysis, case stories with telling facts and figures with localized trends and patterns.
- Focus in an in-depth and elaborate manner the socio-economic impact on the families of farmers who have committed suicide.
- Explore the effectiveness of mechanisms available in Govt and Pvt., arena to assist and help families of suicide victims.
- Discuss and evolve mechanisms to make farming interesting and viable as an occupation amongst the youth.
- Provide recommendations to State and Central Govts.
- Release of a Statement for call for action and solidarity in the form of "Mumbai Declaration"

## Inaugural and Plenary Session:

The registration for the consultation started around 9.30 a.m. all the participants registered themselves and were provided with a kit. Fifty five members from all over India attended the consultation jointly organized by The Child Trust, FIAN in India and its Mumbai chapter. Ms. Renuka Kad of FIAN Maharashtra welcomed the dignitaries, FIAN members and all the participants. She invited various FIAN chapter members to felicitate the chief guest and dignitaries on the dais.



**Mr. Gurusamy the President of FIAN India** introducing the theme spoke at length on crop loss and indebtedness as the major reason for farmers committing suicide. The manner in which crop loans are being provided and administered to farmers are mostly against the norms of RBI which clearly stipulates that when farmers face crop failure, then the banks should not levy interest. But in reality the banks in collusion with fertilizer, farm equipment, seed and pesticide manufacturing companies provide loans despite knowing well the credit

worthiness of the farmers and levy compound interest and when the farmer defaults payment he is harassed and humiliated. So most of farmers take their life on account of their inability to repay debt either to Govt. agency or a private agency. He also highlighted the plight of family members of agri-suicides; children of such families grow up in debt and have to carry the huge burden of the responsibility of repaying the loan.

He also threw light on the apathy of Govt. towards the plight of farmers. He took the case of Land Reforms Act 1957, which mandates State Govt. to make needed amendments to implement and operationalise the act to the benefit of common man, but so far to his knowledge no state has taken any initiative in this regard. In Tamil Nadu, the issue of land is highly politicized. He sadly observed that food a means for survival is being converted into a tool for politics causing innumerable suffering to the marginalized people. He mentioned that in Tamil Nadu each family is entitled for 35 kilos of rice per month but ironically the farmer who sweats and produces the rice goes hungry and lives in misery. According to him, this is state sponsored violence on farming community for inducing voters. He also pitched for a deeper discussion and analysis of this phenomenon and its impact on farmers, and based on the detailed study FIAN can chart its strategy for the year and he also advocated that since the farmers community is non-unionized FIAN should involve in advocacy for their cause. He pitched for a study to get deeper insight into the impact of agri-suicides on the families of the victims.

**Key note speaker: Vijay Jawandhiya from Shetekhari Sanghatana, Maharashtra:**

*Vijay Jawandhiya is a leading farm activist in the Vidarbha region. He is one of the founder members of the Shetkari Sanghatana and of the Kisan Co-ordination Committee, an organisation of Indian farmers and a member of La Via Campesina, an international peasant's organization. He has worked ceaselessly for the welfare of farmers and is best known for his unrelenting documentation of farmers' suicides and his efforts to bring the issue to the government's attention.*



The situation of Maharashtra is so pathetic this year, 40% less rainfall as per average rainfall. In vidarbha region only 10% less rainfall but the situation of farmer's in vidarbha is so pathetic and cruel. We started discussion on Farmer's suicide before 20 years when new economic planning in existence. I am a farmer from my Grandfather and Father property I got 50 acres of agriculture land, In our country we have Land Ceiling Act which says no one have land beyond 10 acres, Now I feel that I am not economically less than Tata and Birla, I experienced that by paying only 1 Rs. labour wage in previous 45 years, how we say remove poverty from our country, The problem in our system, which ask to pay less labour wage, more production and sell it on less prices. It's a big problem I realize.

Everyone says grow more production per acre, use technology, Irrigation, and green revolution etc. Government share in their policies that instead of production we measure the economic growth of farmer, we fight for the farmer welfare since 1972, So many state level organizations with us, I accept since 1972, that it is not the problem for one crop; it is the problem of economic status of our country. For that we formed All India Farmer's Coordination Committee, It is not a issue that one political party is responsible for farmer's suicide, when Atal Bihari Bajpayee is Hon. Prime Minister of India import duties on rice and wheat for levied for the first time. Government again and again revised the pay commission, as per my research average 10 years on each pay commission increase three times the salaries, so government does not take similar action for the welfare of farmers the food producers of this country. Reserve bank of India again and again say that by increasing the support price to farmers we face financial problems, my question is that by increasing salaries how our financial status is in control?

I appreciate the FIAN for concept note on Farmer's suicide, It cover all aspects, today everyone complains that we don't have manpower for agriculture work, After freedom we have 40 crore total population, 80% in residing in villages means 32 crore, In 2015 we are 125 crore, 60% residing in villages means 72 crore, everyone says unemployment problems, and at village level we say no labour for

agriculture work. Youths are not interested in doing agriculture work, I want for the poor citizen of India get food at low prices, For stop farmer's suicide Government need to take action as per ground reality in advance, Increase the support cost to farmers as well as advance demand of food grains created by Government.

He strongly advocated the purchase of 'Gram' using MSP to farmers. He cited the case of Vidish District in Madhya Pradesh which is larger producer of Gram. He also narrated with anguish how the political masters are playing with life and occupation of the farmers. Immediately preceding the just concluded general election politicians from political party including the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh met The President of India and placed the demand that Govt buy Gram in MP by MSP. But sadly after the election until now no initiative has been taken in this regard by the same political party which is in power at the centre.

Similarly during the Lok Sabha campaign the present ruling party promised in its manifesto that it will implement Dr.Swaminathan's recommendations that MSP will be calculated with at least 50% profit on the overall cultivation cost. But once in power it declared Rs. 25 to 75 increase on the MSP of last year.

The prices of farmers produce is governed by prices of global market. The prices in global market is kept low by western countries by providing subsidies to its farmers, so farmers with no such support get very little on their produce leading to loss.

Speaking on the main theme '**Agricultural Crisis and Farmer Suicides**', **Mr.Ramesh Padhye, writer and researcher** shared the following.

There is a current in the air that Indian agriculture and Indian peasants are in distress and this is the reason behind increasing number of peasant suicide from Maharashtra State. Such a theme is being propagated by political rivals of BJP such as INC and NCP who measurably lost in last general election. However if we look at the other regional parties like ADMK, BJD, TMC, SP, etc. which are ruling parties at state level, they are not making such allegation. This is reality suggests that agriculture and peasants are in distress is a political slogan mongering devoid of any economic basis. In view of this, it is necessary to analyze the causes behind the agriculture distress and growing number of peasant suicides. So let us try to do so with an open and mind and without any preconceived notion.



Indian subcontinent is endowed with number of different agro-climatic zones and different types of soil textures. In view of this diversity, we observe diversity in crops all over India. For example, in Punjab, Haryana and western U.P. during Kharip season the main crop is rice. In M.P. main Kharip crop is soya bean. In Gujrath cotton and groundnut are main Kharif crops. In Maharashtra jowar, pulses oilseeds, cotton and onion are cultivated during Kharif season. Likewise during Rabi season, north western states sow wheat, now M.P. is following suit of north western states. However, in Maharashtra irrigation is

scanty and climate is not suitable to grow wheat and as such peasants grow jowar, bajra, pulses, oilseeds, etc. If we take into account such diversity of crops then to confirm the hypothesis of agricultural distress, there has to be perceptible fall in the production of all these crops or fall in the prices of all such crops. However, such processes are not visible at national level. Exception to these general conditions is a few mainly due to change in scenario at international level. Thus there is fall in prices of a few agricultural commodities such as cotton, soya bean and basmati rice. In view of this, it will be grossly wrong to consider that Indian agriculture is in distress.

If we look at the disaggregated scenario, we find that in Marathwada Region of Maharashtra has been victim of scanty rains during last two years. Likewise some districts of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana state are adversely affected by monsoon vows. Some district of Punjab state growing cotton is facing crises like situation due to attack of white fly which has nearly wiped out the cotton crop during current year. During this calendar year unseasonal rains and thunder storm in March had damaged the wheat crop. However the central government promptly came to rescue of farmers and it had diluted quality norms for purchase of wheat by FCI and salvaged the situation. In view of this prompt action by the government farmer's monetary loss was averted. Thus if we review the overall condition of peasants, we observe that in some pockets like Maharashtra and Telangana state the peasants are experiencing economic distress and amongst such distressed peasants at large at national level are not experiencing economic distress.

The economic condition of marginal farmers and small farm holders has been adversely affected by fury of nature. For example, during 2014 and 2015 the southwest monsoon was less than 50 years average and due to scanty rainfall in Maharashtra Region there was total loss of kharif crop. In addition to this late monsoon turned back on Maharashtra. So by and large there was no sowing during Rabi season. Those peasants who were lucky to have some source of irrigation, their standing crops were heavily damaged by unseasonal rains and hailstorms. For the last 15 months or so the nature has played havoc and large number of peasants had been victims of such nature's fury. Some peasants amongst such victims are committing suicide. According to media report during current year more than 800 peasants from Maharashtra Region had committed suicide. The state government and government at centre should take serious note of this ongoing process and devise proper insurance scheme to protect peasants from such natural calamities in future. At this juncture government should come forward to pay drought relief compensation more liberally and promptly without any delay.

General heavily indebted peasant to private money lenders is motivated to commit suicide. This is the finding of all the experts' committees which were appointed in the past to study the causes of peasant's suicide. In all such committees' reports there is in depth analysis of as to why and how they become over indebted. Some peasants take loan from private moneylender to meet the expenses of medical treatment of ailing family member. Some take loan to dig a well to get assured water supply for their farmland and if they fail to get water from the well they get entangled in debt-trap. Some are indebted due to vagaries of weather when their standing crops are destroyed for more than one season. Government can do a lot to avoid monetary loss arising due to such acts of god or nature. Thus if public health service is improved by the government not only peasants but all the people in the country will be assured good medical treatment at reasonable cost. This change will guarantee that no one from this

country including peasants would be indebted due to serious ailment in the family. Likewise a chance of failed well for irrigation or likely chances of weather disturbances and consequent loss of crop can be easily insured with a small amount of premium by appropriate insurance cover. Furthermore the government can subsidize such insurance scheme. Till date no government has devised such insurance scheme. Very recently Modi government has announced that they are contemplating a comprehensive weather based insurance policy for crops and premium for such policy would be subsidized by the government. We have to wait and watch the actual outcome of such a scheme in near future.

The government's intervention in the past to relieve indebted peasants was an act of farce. This is so because the debt relief scheme drafted and implemented by the UPA government in 2008 had helped the well to do farmers rather than indebted peasants. As a matter of fact the same government had appointed an experts' committee under chairmanship of Dr. R. Radhakrishna who was director of Indira Gandhi Developmental Research Institute to review indebtedness amongst peasants and suggest remedial measures to give relief to the indebted peasants. The said committee observed that by and large they are caught in a debt-trap because of usurious rate of interest of private moneylenders. The way out is conversion of such private moneylenders debt in institutional loans with a medium term repayment schedule. UPA government put this report in cold storage and devised its own scheme in which all outstanding institutional loans of peasants as on 31/03/2008 were waved off. Due to this loan waver scheme the sugarcane growers from Maharashtra and other states were turnout to be main beneficiaries, who were not in distress and heavily indebted did not get any relief whatsoever. Besides this the balance-sheet of banks got cleaned-up. The most important political outcome of this gesture was that in general election of 2009 UPA got reelected with majority. Due to this farcical act of UPA government the peasant suicides continued mainly in Vidharbha Region of Maharashtra state.

The narration made above does not mean that the peasants are enjoying prosperity and they are living happily. The majority of peasants are poor, some of them even in BPL category. According to Mr. Sharad Joshi peasants are poor because they are not getting for their agricultural produce price based on the cost of production. However this accusation is not true in any sense. To some extent condition of peasants in China is much better compare to Indian counterpart. This is so because productivity level of China's agricultural sector is 2.5 times that of India. The land under food grain in China is 60 percent of that of India, whereas production of food grain is 1.5 times that of India. Per hector production of food grains in Maharashtra is not even 50% of all India level. In view of this low productivity an average peasant from Maharashtra state is relatively poor than average Indian peasant. About 80% of farmland in Maharashtra is totally dependent on monsoon without any support of protective irrigation. If protective irrigation is made available to farms the output will be double that of present level is the opinion of all agricultural scientists. However this will never happen because 74% of water reserved for irrigation is utilized for sugarcane cultivation on ten lakh hectares. Hardly anyone criticizes such unsustainable agricultural practice as sugarcane cultivators and owners sugar factories make a ruling clique here. Hence majority of peasants will continue to suffer during for seeable future.

In short the development of agricultural sector in India and more so in Maharashtra state is not waiting for scientific invention at this stage for increasing agricultural production or enhancing productivity. The system is awaiting a political change to curb unsustainable agricultural practices. I am extremely sorry to

point out that even left parties have refused to grasp this reality and hence failed to write agenda for political change. In view of this failure on the part of the left leadership political and social activists have become members of herd who follow Mr. Sharad Joshi or Mr. Sharad Pawar. They are propagating ideology of Mr. Sharad Joshi. The final outcome of such an act in practice will enrich the rich farmers. The historical burden of this process is very huge and rejection of such ideological position is not an easy task. I want to draw your attention to this important fact.

**Ms.Suman, senior activist and FIAN**

**India Vice President** highly appreciated the analysis and inputs put forth by the previous speakers. She provided powerful insight into the issue. She strongly critiqued the adverse role played by WTO and free trade agreements. According to her any transnational trade agreements should be finalized and signed only after a fair and transparent consultation process with diverse stakeholders



particularly, the farmers. Social movements should work towards making this process transparent and also demystify the existing policies to educate the common man and farmers and peasants' movements on the intricacies of the issue.

Lastly, the social movements which are working for right to food should, connect with the peasants, she emphasized that the rural population who are mostly the sufferers should be part of the solution finding process and FIAN should go to them and capture the true gravity of the issue. Since they are most affected people, they can articulate their suffering more truthfully and provide sustainable solutions. She strongly advocated for a bottom up approach in framing of policies. She also suggested that deeper research should be done on the impact of agrarian crisis and farmers' suicide on the household of the



victim; their testimonies should be documented and highlighted. In order to pressurize the Govt. with recent facts on the crisis, block wise, district wise, and village wise analysis should be carried out the Govt should be presented with case documentation and possible solutions and urge the Govts to make this issue a priority area.

She concluded her speech by saying – ***“The framers; the food producers of this country are hungry and killing themselves”***. She gave a clarion call to stop the trend and the urgent need to sensitize the average Indian on sweeping implications of agrarian crisis for people throughout the country.

### Sharing by FIAN India State Chapters:



Mr.M P.Gautam, FIAN Jharkhand

I regret to say that still now we are discussing the state which more than 1000 farmer's commit suicide in past, some part of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh makes Bundelkhand, Which is now a days popular for their dried and heavy hailstones. Farmer's commit suicide, a state where families commit suicides for non availability of food also. Mainly Banda, Hamirpur, Mahoba, Chitrakut, Jhansi, Lalitpur, Chatarpur, Sagar, Tikamgarh and other

adjacent districts are affected mainly. In above districts the position of farmer's is so pathetic. Due to dried and heavy hailstone till date 100 of farmer's commit suicide.

M P Gautam shared some case studies, first one is from Mahoba District Farmer Preetam Lodhi commit suicide due to heavy hailstone, 100% crop of 20 acre land was damaged, and before past 8 years effects by dried season. He has loan from Kishan Credit Card is 3 lac, by Moneylander is 1.5 lac and by other sources he takes .50 thousands, overall by adding interest it becomes more than 10 lac of rupees was to pay. One case was of farmer where Ramadhar Sahu, a villager committed suicide due to unavailability of Food, When administration hear, they put Wheat, rice and pulses in vessels and pots to represent the farmer death is not by unavailability of Food.



I only request to all my dear friends, Please share the Jharkhand status at all platform, by which we are able to stop one more Vidarbh in our country.

### **Sanjay.K. Rai. FIAN in India Secretary and FIAN Uttarpradesh**



In Uttar Pradesh we document 10 cases which is related to the policies of Agriculture Insurance, Chief Minister office directly interfere with banks and insurance, for the sake of farmer's. All insurance companies declared that Suicide is not covered under agriculture as well as general insurance also, they provide many excuses for this. We document one case of death occurred of couple when he travel by bicycle, ICICI Lombard company said that we not accepts claim for such incident in which two persons travel on same bicycle is an offence, if they alive so they would go to the jail for violating rules. Loan default of Farmer's is treated as criminal offence, Where we already have clear direction of Supreme court if someone is poor, than it is not crime, From Uttar Pradesh my colleague planning to file an PIL for treated as civil case only, Its not crime.

My question with Mr. Vijay Jawaniya ji, as we know after three or four months govt. of India budget is to be presented, Is there policy level meet by any organizations, Ficci, some voluntary organizations is going on for the farmer's position?

### **Ravi Kumar – FIAN Andhra Pradesh**

Ravi share everyone here have experiences related to farmer's suicide and talking about, I what to know with respected guests what action should be taken? State will is not working when any farmer commit suicide, but when any Politician commit suicide, the state government reacts same? In Telangana more than 400 families effected by Farmer's Suicide, In farmer's suicide Vidarbh was the First and second



is Telangana, In Telangana important is that, women farmer's commit suicide maximum. In 2014 – 149 female farmer's commit suicide, Geographical status of Telangana and Vidarbh is mostly same, The major factor behind suicide is Irrigation Problem. Another Problem is the Banks strategies for small farmers, they give debt of only 30 -40 thousand amount only. Another big issue is instead of using traditional seeds, we are totally depending on seed agencies. Telangana is really big problem, To save the Farmer's position we need to change the policies of RBI as well as to improve the High yield seeds availability also. It means state is not want to support the farmer's



## Santosh Uppadhyay – FIAN Bihar

My suggestion is that if we feel central and State governments policies are responsible for Farmer's suicide, instead of saying Farmer's suicide, we say it is Farmer's killings.

### Report Release



### Report Release of 'Right to Food and Nutrition Watch 2015'

The 'Right to Food and Nutrition Watch 2015' was released during the National Dialogue on India's Agricultural Crisis & Farmer Suicides by Vijay Jawandhiya and Prof. Ramesh Padhye from Maharashtra. Shri. Vijay Jawandhiya is a leading farm activist in the Vidarbha region. He is one of the founder members of the Shetkari Sanghatana and of the Kisan Co-ordination Committee, an organisation of Indian farmers and a member of La Via Campesina, an international peasant's organization. He has worked ceaselessly for the welfare of farmers and is best known for his unrelenting documentation of farmers' suicides and his efforts to bring the issue to the government's attention. Prof. Ramesh Padhye is a senior researcher and writer who has done extensive work on agrarian crisis in Maharashtra state.

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## PRESS RELEASE

“Peoples’ Nutrition Is Not a Business”

With malnutrition affecting more than 2 billion people all over the world and around 194 million (as per FAO recent report) people hungry in India itself and obesity rates rising, the Right to Food and Nutrition Watch 2015 underscores the artificial separation of nutrition and sustainable food systems, which is resulting in vertical, technical and product-based solutions that ignore human determinants and entitlements. Pointing to the influence of corporations on policy-making processes, authors throughout the publication warn that there exists commercialization of nutrition that is putting people’s sovereignty and rights at great risk.

‘The Watch’ is a product of a collaborative effort by the Right to Food and Nutrition Watch Consortium, which currently comprises 20 civil society organizations and social movements around the world and is also the most prominent monitoring tool of the Global Network for the Right to Food and Nutrition (GNRFN), an initiative of public interest by CSOs and social movements that recognize the need to act jointly for the realization of the right to food.

The increasing control of businesses over food systems and policies – ‘known as corporate capture’ makes nutrition a luxury affair. As demonstrated by the diverse predicaments the world has faced in the last decades, the present political and economic model seems to give priority to corporate interests over the realization of peoples’ right to food and nutrition.

‘The Watch’ uncovers the subtle but appalling corporate abuse and impunity around the peoples’ right to food and nutrition and provides a series of recommendations for States to prevent and punish initiatives that hamper the enjoyment of human rights. India’s traditional food is disappearing with the coming of packaged food and big corporate houses taking over the market. It directly affects the health and nutrition and income of the small farmers and local food production.

The Right to Food and Nutrition Watch aims to :- 1) present nutrition from a human rights perspective, beyond medical and technical conceptions and 2) expose corporate control and list a series of recommendations for States to guarantee the realization of the human right to food and nutrition and prevent corporate abuse and impunity.

First published in 2008, the Right to Food and Nutrition Watch is an annual publication that monitors key policies, processes and issues related to the right to adequate food and nutrition at the global, regional, national and local level. In doing so, it gives visibility to peoples’ struggles and efforts on the ground. As a monitoring tool, its goal is to contribute to strengthening accountability and advancing the realization of the right to adequate food and nutrition for all.

The Watch 2015 was launched at FAO Headquarters, unveiling key findings around nutrition and the impact of business operations on food policies. Representatives from civil society, social movements and the UN welcomed the report which will be a strong advocacy tool for furthering the cause of Right to food.

**Going beyond corporate-rooted conceptions**, this year’s Watch focuses on nutrition from a human rights perspective. “Peoples’ Nutrition Is Not a Business” is about the competing visions of nutrition, the causes of

malnutrition and the policy responses, often targeting women inappropriately, both behind the scenes and in the public sphere. What are the main causes that explain why hundreds of millions go undernourished while half a billion suffer from obesity? What would it take to ensure that nutrition belongs to the peoples and not to the corporations?

The report has highlighted the following affirmation to strengthen the movement for Right to adequate and nutrition-

- Public policy must address food production and human nutrition simultaneously and through the legally binding human rights framework for the progressive realization of adequate food and nutrition for all.
- All countries (including developed countries) should conceive and implement comprehensive support programs to develop sustainable food production systems that ensure domestic food security and economies.
- The realization of women's human rights predetermines all peoples' human right to adequate food and nutrition; their leadership and participation in food and nutrition governance from the household to an international scale must be a priority.
- The CFS has been the preferred international arena for rural social movements seeking an alternative policy space to the WTO and the World Bank. Its work to strengthen local food systems that promote successful nutritional outcomes based on agro-biodiversity must continue and expand.
- Without absolute transparency and the participation of public interest CSOs and communities, international trade agreements, especially in food and agriculture sectors, must not be signed. Trade interests can never be allowed to supersede the right to adequate food and nutrition.
- Governments have the obligation to promote human rights through education and the empowerment of those, in particular, whose human rights have been violated, as well as through the efficient availability of remedy mechanisms for human rights holders to seek redress for violations. Peoples' Nutrition Is Not a Business.
- The link between food production, access and nutrition must be strengthened: through the promotion and protection of labor-intensive and locally rooted food systems engaged in sustainable agroecological methods; through women and men's secure access to land in urban, as well as rural, settings; and through restoration of traditional rights to harvest and re-use seeds. Nutrition is inherent to people, not to corporations. It must not be for sale or profit. Peoples' food sovereignty and a human rights perspective are fundamental to addressing all forms of inequity, oppression and discrimination and to the democratization of national and global societies. Peoples must hold their governments accountable for the implementation of states' national and extraterritorial human rights obligations



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## MUMBAI DECLARATION

The unabated suicides of farmers have to be strongly addressed by social movements. The causes for the phenomenon are complex and multifactor, ranging from climate change, corporate driven agenda, Govt. apathy, ineffective implementation of Govt. schemes meant to ameliorate the suffering of farmers, corruption etc.

**As the outcome of the National Dialogue on India's Agricultural Crisis and Farmer Suicide-FIAN in India on 1st November, 2015, the following declaration is produced. The trend of politicising the farmer crisis has to be stopped.**

The serious crisis faced by peasants in India has to be given priority focus and strategies should be worked out to highlight their issues.

All stakeholders including the general public should be educated and sensitised that the agrarian crisis is a social issues which is impacting them and that they need to be well informed and active participants in arresting the trend.

Adequate awareness will be created amongst peasants about various support mechanisms available to help them absorb shocks.

Focus on the plight of the family of suicide victim should be documented and highlighted.

Calls for transparency and multi-stakeholder engagement in signing trade treaties to institutionalise bottom –up approach in framing policies.

Publish analytical reports on Govt policies and its impact on the agrarian crisis.

Formulate strategies to effectively link peasants and farmers with social movements.