

**Chartered of demands emerged in National Consultation on
Livelihood¹**

held on
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for
NAC members and Planning Commission of India

Prepared by
Livelihood Thematic Action Group (TAG)
Wada Na Todo Abhiyan (WNTA)

¹ The matter of this report is derived from the lectures given by experts in the two day national consultation held at Ranchi and recommendations suggested by panelists and participants. Report designed, notes taken and compiled by Santosh K. Patra, Livelihood- TAG, WNTA and Seema Kujur, LEADS Trust

Section I: Revitalizing livelihood in rural India: Key issues and Challenges

Key highlights and basic Recommendations

- ❖ While the country's development is visible by its GDP growth rate but the major challenge is the growth of GDP at the cost of what? GDP of the country can also touch a high at the cost of poor and marginalized sections of the society.
- ❖ Instead of GDP-led growth the country should focus more on equity-led development
- ❖ It will be disastrous if we follow the American model of development while formulating policies for development of India. Instead of borrowing the ideas from different models of development India should develop its own model of agricultural growth by considering the socio-economic dynamics of the country
- ❖ Instead of strengthening the rural livelihood, the schemes like NREGS taking out the farmers from land to some other manual laboures. A model should be developed by considering the local needs and the schemes like NREGS should use for the futuristic model of development in India.
- ❖ In contrary to the growing surplus of food grains of the country the pattern of food consumption suggests that India lagged behind than the countries like Chine while feeding their population. We are getting the food surplus by keeping our population un-feed or under-feed.
- ❖ Instead of poverty line, two lines should be prepared to address the issues of poverty and livelihood in India.
 - Hunger line
 - Poverty line
- ❖ Government of India (GoI) should consider different successful models of development and best practices of the country and implement in other parts as well.
- ❖ For example the innovations by Chhattisgarh: direct purchase from farmers and local distribution of the same in local areas
- ❖ There is a prolonged concern over the storage of the food grains locally so the panchayat offices should be converted into go-downs
- ❖ The income of Indian farmers should be ensured by comprising with other income groups
- ❖ Traditional agricultural system should be strengthened

Section II: Transformation of rural livelihood: promises of MNREGA, basic strategies and key challenges

Agriculture in the lenses of Indian farmers: Key recommendations

- ❖ A strong farmers lobby is the need of the time to negotiate with the policy makers of the country and bring pro-framer policies in India
- ❖ Instead of corporate centric agriculture it should be farmer centric agricultural policies
- ❖ A tool should be developed to train the farmers to use the traditional techniques more effectively

- ❖ Though 37% of farming land are irrigated in India but there is a urgent need fro rain water harvesting to solve most of the agricultural problems as water is the major constraint for Indian agricultural system
- ❖ All plans and policies should be more regional and inclusive
- ❖ A holistic approach should be adopted by our policy makers by considering all problems and consulting different stake holders in the process of policy making to address the issues of livelihood
- ❖ Relief centric development can't solve the problem in long run so with these relief centric approach we should follow it up with a futuristic approach
- ❖ To strengthen the traditional agricultural approach more research should be done in that area and in every district a research centre should be established

Section III: Seed Bill 2010: How it is going to help farmers?

Key Recommendations

- ❖ The bill is a copy of American agricultural policies so it need to be evaluated
- ❖ Failure of contract farming
- ❖ The food park initiative of GoI needs a major revision as the question is how much inclusive it is?
- ❖ Four major questions on this bill are:
 - Issue of cross-pollination
 - Increasing role of Central seed Committee instead of Private regulation clause of this bill
 - More governmental role on seed certification and verification
 - There should be a strong punishment clause with imprisonment system against those who are violating the basic standards and failed to deliver results as promised

Section IV: Issues of Adivasi and forest land in India: Life, Land and Livelihood

Key recommendations

- ❖ Time bound settlement plan of forest right act
- ❖ Time bound settlement for customary right
- ❖ Comprehensive survey and settlement
- ❖ Realignment of revenue and forest land status
- ❖ Recognition of record of rights
- ❖ Providing land to people living in sarvajulum camps
- ❖ DNT commission report submitted to the ministry of social justice. It is the minimum land holding act for poor.
- ❖ Consultation of Tribal Advisory Council in every stage of decision making for the tribal population
- ❖ Exemption of primitive tribes from the cut-up dates made by the forest right act
- ❖ Minimum land holding scheme should be incorporated and ensured immediately