

Annual Report of SANSAD - 2012-13



South Asian Network for Social & Agricultural Development (SANSAD)

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Context:

2012-13 has given us several occasions to cherish. But there are some developments which are quite heart-rending. The Parliament passed the historic legislation guaranteeing the citizen the Right to Food. The Lok Sabha has passed the Lokpal and Lokayukta bill to fight corruption in governance which includes the office of the Prime Minister. The new land acquisition act has come into force that has laid down strict norms for land acquisition and provides for adequate compensation to land owners. All these legislations, though fall short of expectations of the civil society and people at large, are quite progressive in their own ways.

On the other hand, the country faced communal riots in Muzaffarnagar and other parts of Uttar Pradesh. It shows our vulnerability to communal violence. Natural disasters such as heavy rainfall and floods in Uttarakhand, Phailin in Odisha, took hundreds of lives and destroyed property. It proves that India is not quite prepared to meet the challenges emerging out of natural hazards. Despite demands from several quarters, the legislation on SCP (Schedule Caste Sub plan) and TSP (Tribal sub plan) is going through phases of uncertainty with government reneging on its promise to give justice to the Dalits and tribals on their due in the financial allocation and expenditure.

In this financial year witnessed elections in several states. Election results reflected the wave of discontent by the voters against corruption and price rise. It also witnessed the limited choice people have in a bi-polar contest, except of course in Delhi. The victory of Aam Admi Party in Delhi has given a new twist in the political discourse in the country and raised the hope for a people-led politics in the national capital and its impact on the rest of the country.

In such circumstance, SANSAD, with wider support of civil societies and individuals, from across the country, has attempted to do, whatever small, in pursuing its objectives of seeking accountability on its promise to reduce poverty and fight against inequality and discrimination. In the process SANSAD has actively engaged itself in the global process on WTO Ministerial, World Social Forum, Open Forum on Aid & Development Effectiveness and World Summit on Sustainable Development held in Rio. SANSAD has successfully done its part in making Food Security a reality.

SANSAD'S Vision

To make South Asia free from hunger and poverty

SANSAD's Mission

To take global and regional initiatives for sustainable agriculture, rural development and human dignity aimed at putting collective pressure on policy makers.

SANSAD's Board Objectives

- To catalyze, support and strengthen civil society in promoting sustainable livelihood, ecological agriculture, food sovereignty, and equitable trade with a focus on the human dignity of poor and marginalized people in South Asia.

- To undertake training, research, publication and build capacities to promote economic, social and gender justice.
- To promote a democratic, accountable and transparent system of governance and create an enabling and supportive environment for development initiatives in South Asian countries.
- To build alliances and network at national and international levels in order to campaign and advocate policies for the marginalized in agriculture, agricultural trade, farming systems, natural resources ecological balance and human welfare

SANSAD's Interventions for Change

SANSAD creates knowledge that contributes to both the speed and quality of poverty reduction, with a focus on assisting those who are trapped in poverty and ecological degradation.

SANSAD organizes mass campaigns, public debates, advocacy work shop, builds alliances, and Forges partnerships between civil society of South Asia and Northern NGO's with similar objectives, on issues of agriculture, poverty, hunger, food sovereignty and social development.

SANSAD attempts to go beyond activism to analyze policies and advocates at decision-making and implementation levels for policies and programmes in favor of the poor in South Asia.

SANSAD brings together farmers and trade associations, academic institutions, like-minded voluntary organization on common platform to strengthen advocacy campaigns for policy changes with respect to hunger, poverty, agriculture and trade. SANSAD makes all efforts to involve the rural communities in all advocacy efforts.

SANSAD is continuously developing strategies to defend the livelihood of South Asia's poor and hungry. SANSAD is developing a resource centre that will function as nodal agency for research, documentation, collection, analysis and dissemination of information and reference materials.

Performance Area

In continuation to the Annual Report 2011-12, SANSAD is pleased in furnishing the Annual Report of the Organization for the year 2012-13. Here it is worth noting that SANSAD, established in the year 2004 is working for ensuring Advocacy and action for making South Asia free from hunger and poverty. The strategy for this goal is set to land these objectives to the ground reality through a collective process of different likeminded Groups, Networks, Foundations, Forums and NGOs.

The thematic areas for effective intervention on the issues are:

- **Information collection, Analysis and Dissemination**
- **Education, Sensitizing Motivating and Mobilizing Different Stake holders**

- **Advocacy with Policy Makers, at the National, Regional and Global level**

1 . Information Collection, Analysis & Dissemination

This is the background and fortitude on which all our intervention in society are deeply rooted. Information collection, analysis with the perspective of the poor, marginalized and downtrodden and then disseminated in a simple form to reach out to all stakeholders, has been one of our primary activities since inception.

SANSAD channels a constant stream of unassailable information about the state of South Asia its people, its economies its problems and its environments in to the hands of people who can make a difference.

Our three analytical articles mentioned below are appreciated globally.

- Problems of current MDGs and expectations in the post MDGs framework from Southern perspective
- Conditionality's related to Aid: a case study of India
- Final Report: National Conference on Water Policy

2. Educating, Sensitizing, Motivating & Mobilizing Stakeholders

Campaigning and awareness building has been one of the major thrust areas of SANSAD. The focus of the programme lies on making people conscious about the possibility of exploring innovation in their own surrounding, fostering the values and attitudes of creativity and innovations in wider audience, enabling the traditional knowledge-holders come forward with their own creativity and innovation etc. The entire exercise of knowledge dissemination and awareness building goes along the spirit of building up a strong public opinion in favor of a creative and innovative society.

During current financial year, SANSAD has organized number of meetings/ seminars/ workshops which are mentioned below:

- 1. Preparatory meetings for Peoples SAARC:** In this financial year as part of Peoples SAARC organizing Committee, SANSAD has participated in all preparatory meetings held and also helped in coming out of a detailed plan of action for Peoples SAARC as well as mobilizing people at large for that.
- 2. First Regional meeting on Peoples SAARC for East Zone:** SANSAD in collaboration with other organizations, organized first regional meeting in Patna on August 10-11. More than 150 delegates from Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, West Bengal and Chattisgarh participated in that. Local host was Bihar Voluntary Health Association.

3. **Food and Water Security Coalition India Strategic planning meeting:** SANSAD hosted partners meeting of Food and Water Security Coalition India in New Delhi on October 18-20, 2012. Dr. Yogesh Kumar of Samarthan, Bhopal facilitated the process and based on that exercise a detailed broad framework of future course of action was emerged.
4. **National Consultation on National Water Policy:** SANSAD in collaboration with Center for World Solidarity (CWS) and Center for Budget and Governance Accountability (CBGA) organized a national consultation on November 21-22nd 2012 on National Water Policy in Vishwa Yuvak Kendra, New Delhi. Union Minister of Water Resources Shri Harish Rawat inaugurated the consultation and many eminent people and experts presented their view. At the end a Chartered of Demand was emerged which was submitted to the Minister. [Final Report: National Conference on Water Policy](#)
5. **Consultation on Water and Sanitation:** On behalf of Wada Na Todo Abhiyan, Secretary General of SANSAD Mr. Anil K Singh facilitated two State level consultations held in Lucknow for Uttar Pradesh on December 7th and Patna for Bihar on December 12th 2012.
6. **National meeting on Sustainable Development Rio+20:** SANSAD participated as Resource person in the meeting on Sustainable Development Rio+20 on April 28th in India International Center and organized by PAIRVI.
7. **Workshop on Senior Citizens:** Two workshops which were not organized in the last financial year due to certain circumstances were organized in this financial year. One was on May 3rd in Gram Niyajan Kendra in Gaziabad and another in Bharatpur, Rajasthan.
8. **International Peace Conference:** Anil K Singh participated in the International Peace Conference organised by Hiroshima Prefectural Government on July 30-31st in Hiroshima. He also presented a paper entitled-Problems of current MDGs and expectations in the post MDGs framework from Southern perspective

Participated in meetings/ seminars:

1. Participated in training programme of NIPCCD as Resource person on April 9th at its headquarter in New Delhi. Trainees were from 8 States of India.
2. Secretary General of SANSAD participated in the meeting organised by Helpage India on rules/ regulation affecting voluntary sector in India held on April 26th.
3. Anil K Singh, Secretary General of SANSAD participated in training programme of NIPCCD as Resource person on July 27th. Topic for his presentation was good governance in voluntary sector in India.

4. As a Board member of Center for Budget and Governance Accountability(CBGA), Anil K Singh participated in its Board meeting held on November 24th in New Delhi. He missed another Board meeting held on June 29th due to his foreign tour at that time.
5. During this financial year, number of preparatory meeting held on Peoples SAARC and Anil K Sing as one of the core group member participated in all meetings held on April 25th, May 15th and September 25th.
6. As one of the Steering Group member of Wada Na Todo Abhiyan, Anil K Sing participated in its Steering Group meetings held on April 27th and Campaign Coordination Group meeting held on August 27-28.
7. As one of the Board member of CARES- Center for Agrarian Research and Equity Studies, Anil K Singh participated in its Board meeting held on September 29th at Action Aid office.
8. Anil K Singh as one of the Trustee of Centre for World Solidarity, participated in its Board meeting held on August 25th in Hyderabad.

Mass Mobilization

Dharna at Jantar Mantar:

Demonstration against BRAI bill

More than about 300 people gathered at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi on 25th June 2013 to demonstrate against the attempt of the government to make backdoor entry to the GM crop by way of bringing the Biotechnology Regulatory Authority Bill (BRAI), which is now lying with the standing committee of Parliament. The meeting was organised by Coalition for GM-free India, Green Peace, SANSAD, and others. The 'Haat Milao Dharana' was participated by farmers group, politicians, civil societies, women groups and others.

After the moratorium on the testing of the GM crop imposed by the then Environment Minister Jairam Ramesh, government is trying to bring them in a non-transparent manner to the country with an hidden agenda to promote interest of foreign corporate like Monsanto.

Participating in the demonstration Sitaram Yechury of CPI (M) declared his support to the cause and said "We do not need a bio-regulatory bill. We need a bio-safety law. We will fight against it in the Parliament and on the street." Similar voice was echoed by CPI's National Council member Dinesh Vasnik. Arvind Kejriwal of Aam Admi Party said that the Aam Aadmi is unaware of GM crops and the BRAI and their consequences on health and safety as proper debate and discussion have not initiated by the government on the bill. This type of regulations brings in corruption, he added. Nikhil De of Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan demanded the lack of right to information on GM crops, Devindra Sharma, Food policy analyst said BRAI and GM crops must be prevented at any cost. Sridhar Radhakrishnan, Convener for the Coalition for a GM Free India, said: "This bill forced upon us by the government is clearly a legal instrument to force GM crops into India's food basket" Neha Saigal of Greenpeace India termed this as a global threat. She said: "As damage is uncontrollable and irreversible, there is no rationale why one should even think of releasing GM crops into the environment".

Gurnam Singh of the Bhartiya Kisan Union in Haryana condemned the government's over-enthusiasm to to promote GM seeds when farmers and consumers were opposing it. "When the

Parliamentary Standing Committee and the Supreme Court have said against the GM crops, then why is the government allowing field trials clandestinely?”

Among others, Dr. Krishan Vir Chaudhary, President of Bhartiya Kisan Samaj, Prof.(Dr.) Praveen Jha, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Shri Dunu Roy, Environmental Scientist and Activist, Rakesh Tikait (BKU), Yudhvir Singh (BKU), Kamendra kishore Verma, Krishnabir Choudhary of Bharat Krishak Sangh, farmer leaders Laxman Singh, Naresh Sirohi, former journalist Ved Pratap Vaidik and Anil Singh of SANSAD were present in the demonstration.

Dharna in front of Parliament:

Massive dharna in front of Parliament was organized on August 9th in which around 10,000 people across all walks of life participated. Political leaders including Member of Parliaments from Congress Party, Bhartiya Janta Party, Communist Party of India, CPI(M), Biju Janta Dal, RJD, DMK, AIDMK participated and supported either our view or committed to raise our demands in the Parliament. See linkages of some of the media coverage and photos below



<http://www.demotix.com/news/2381430/protest-opposes-brai-gmos-and-monsanto-new-delhi#media-2380321>

<http://www.demotix.com/news/2381430/protest-opposes-brai-gmos-and-monsanto-new-delhi#media-2380022>

Advocacy at National and International Level:

To help in facilitating a dialogue between policy makers, academicians, the business community and civil society, SANSAD aims to become a catalyst for creating an environment for open and productive dialogue with policy makers within the region.

Understanding the critical co-relationship between global and development and local actions, SANSAD has taken up the responsibilities of advocacy with right earnest. In the field of advocacy, the focus of the efforts has been on academia including the international professional and scientific bodies, governments of various countries including India and business communities. The primary areas of professional intervention have been in the field of agro-biodiversity and integrating its concern in the level of policy formulation, influencing wide range of stakeholders in the field of intellectual property rights, evolving more public opinion on issues of traditional knowledge, bio-diversity, innovations etc.

1. World Summit on Sustainable Development: SANSAD participated in World Summit on sustainable Development held in Rio, Brazil from June 16th to 21st along with 20 others from a campaign called Copenhagen Beyond. We also organized parallel workshops on different issues concerning environment, Climate Change etc.

2. World Social Forum: Anil K Singh on behalf SANSAD and CBGA participated in World Social Forum held in Tunis, Tunisia from March 26th to 29th and organized 3 meetings on Sustainable Development and Agriculture; Climate Change and Livelihood; Agriculture, International Trade and WTO.

3. Advocacy against Bio Technology Authority of India(BRAI): SANSAD along with many farmers Associations, Greenpeace, GM Free coalition organized meetings/ workshops, dharna in front of Jantar Mantar and Parliament Street, meeting MPs and other policy makers and mobilized a critical mass against this bill.

Organizational Matters

SANSAD has taken up a new premises in New Delhi and has put up all relevant systems in place (financial/ administrative/ communication/ research) so that the development of its priorities and strategies for research, mobilizing, monitoring and evaluation of activities and the assessment of the impact of its outputs can be done with ease and in a manner that is transparent and promotes stewardship.

SANSAD has held two board meetings in this year and one advisory committee meetings thus ensuing that it meets all the legal requirements and has in place an ensemble which can guide it

at all times. SANSAD had also filled IT Returns, FCRA Returns and completed all legal formalities well before time.

SANSAD Board and Advisory Committee meetings were held as follows:

- Board Meetings: June 14th and November 23, 2012
- Advisory Committee Meetings: November 24th 2012

Governing Board of SANSAD

The Governing Board of SANSAD comprises of six persons, including the President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary General and four members. At present, the Vice President's position is vacant. It will be filled by a woman member in near future. The present Board Members with their positions are as follows:

President	K.S. Gopal	Centre for Environment Concerns, Hyderabad
Vice President	Vacant	
Treasurer	Dr. Sanjay Bhatt	Delhi School of Social Work, Delhi
Secretary General	Anil K. Singh	SANSAD, Delhi
Member	Sheelu Francis	Women's Collective, Chennai
Member	Sharad Joshi	CECOEDECON, Jaipur
Member	Biplab Halim	IMSE, Kolkata
Member	Rita Sarin	The Hunger Project, New Delhi

Advisory Committee of SANSAD

The advisory group has two representatives from each of the major countries of South Asia:

Afghanistan

- Mr. Roz Mohammad Dalili, Executive Director, Sanayee Development Foundation
- Ms. Hangama Anwari, Vice Chair, Women and Children Legal Research Foundation

India

- Dr. Devinder Sharma, Chair, Forum for Biotechnology & Food Security, Delhi
- Mr. Atul Kumar Anjan, General Secretary, All India Kisan Sabha, Delhi

Nepal

- Dr. Rohit Nepali, Executive Director, South Asia Partnership International (SAP-I), Nepal
- Dr. Nani Ram Subedi, Coordinator, Culture, Equity, Gender and Governance, International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)

Pakistan

- Mr. Mohammad Tahseen, Executive Director, South Asia Partnership, Pakistan
- Ms. Najma Sadeque, Project Director, The Green Economics and Globalisation Initiatives, Pakistan

Sri Lanka

- Dr. Harsha Kumar Navaratne, President, Sewalanka Foundation, Sri Lanka
- Dr. Deshpriya S. Wijetunge, Director-General, Sri Lanka United Nations Friendship Organisation (SUNFO), Sri Lanka

Bangladesh

- Ms. Farida Akhter, Executive Director, Policy Research for Development Alternative (UBINIG), Bangladesh
- Ms. Rokeya Kabir, Director, Bangladesh Nari Pragoti Sangha (BNPS), Bangladesh

Maldives

- Ms. Jennifer Latheef, Council Member. Human Right Activist

Staff Members of SANSAD

Secretary General	: Mr. Anil K. Singh
Programme Director	: Ram Gati Singh
Account Assistant	: Mr. F Khan
Office Attendent	: Mr. Bhairav Dutt
Driver	: Mr. Pappu Kumar

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