

A Step in the Right Direction

Annual Report 2010-11

**South Asian Network for social & Agricultural Development
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Foreword

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The journey of the last six years has been a symphonic Marathon. It has been symphonic because every sansadion, a maestro in his or her own right, subordinated individual interest to work as part of a fine team, and has endeavored to produce result. It is a maratham since we have a long way to go before we hit the tape.

A great organisation must live for hundreds of years. Hence, we are still very young, but these initial years have taught us several lessons. These lessons are valuable not just for our future journey but also for other organisations in the country and perhaps, the world. Let me recount just two of the majorones.

- Aspiration is the main fuel for progress. Aspirations transform a set of ordinary people into extraordinary achievers. They provide mental and physical energy for people to convert plausible impossibilities into convincing possibilities.
- An enduring value system based on openness, honesty, integrated, meritocracy, fairness, transparency and excellence, helps raise our confidence and the confidence of donors in our organisation. It gives the courage to handle tough situation with confidence, and sacrifices become easy and natural.

Ships are safest in the harbor, but they are meant to be there. They have to sail long and hard and face stormy seas to reach the comfort of a desirable destination. Hence, progress require us to take calculated risk and make bold moves. During the last year SANSAD took up its sails to set course towards:

- Organizing the South Asia People Summit which was a daunting challenge in itself as all organisations trusted SANSAD's capabilities and we managed to have a gathering of South Asian civil society organisatrions, representative of regional netwoks, human rights activists, development professionals that sought to address and formulate agendas of action of problems faced by the people of the South Asian region. We also got complete unrestricted support fromall donors for this event showing their faith in SANSAD.
- During the year we have also managed to go into the region of Afgahnistan, Maldives and Bhutan thus becoming a force in the region that needs to be reckoned with as it now completes its presence in all countries, a feat unperformed so far.

Thus though these were some gains yet we are looking at expanding our frontiers and I would urge SANSAD to choose a worthy dreams, to go after it confidently, and to play a role that will make all of us proud in the years to come. But always, without fails, she should follow her bliss.

I thank the SANSAD Board and advisory committee members for their constant guidance and support at all times and also the staff members without whom we would not have done what we started to do.

Numerous people, from all over the world, inside and outside the SANSAD, have enabled the organisation to reach this stage. There is no better way for SANSAD to acknowledge their contribution than to express her appreciation by borrowing the words of my favorite soprano, Russel Watson:

*“ You raise me up, so I can stand on mountain;
You raise me up, to walk on stormy seas;
I am so strong, when I am on your shoulders;
You raise me up, to more than I can be.”*

K.S Gopal

President

The Secretary General

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Dear fellow Co-travelers,

It gives me pleasure to present the annual report of the year 2010-2011 of the South Asian Network for Social and Agricultural Development (SANSAD). As the Secretary General, it is my special privilege and honour to commend your efforts and support in fulfilling the mission agenda of SANSAD. The year under review has been very significant in the life of SANSAD. SANSAD renewed, refocused and reaffirmed its commitment to liberate from bondage and to build communities of resistance and hope.

An organisation's reputation is more than its performance in society. It is the totality of a company's identity: the quality of its people, the value of it, its standing in the community and its performance in society. Building reputation, in this broad sense of the term, is what great organisations are all about.

Thus having journeyed with people for three years now, last year, SANSAD too decided to cross over to the other side. The journey, though turbulent, has been a learning and meaningful experience. It has provided new insights and perspective and enlarged the canvas for a large cause.

SANSAD has identified people-centered advocacy as key strategy to realize the economic, socio-political and cultural (ESC) right to steps towards ensuring social justice and equity. To address issues of livelihood, food security, land, identity, and social exclusion, SANSAD has developed a new structure and process. We all need to be committed and united to this cause and mission. Get ready and be equipped,

At SANSAD we believed deeply in the power of technology to empower, to teach and to connect. We are tremendously fortunate to have apposite vision of the future and the resources to act on our mission and vision. We have acted boldly to create the infrastructure that will stimulate the growth and innovation that will drive society forward and open new opportunities to help us serve the poor and down trodden. And we have energized our people around the idea of creating a future for themselves and contributing something of lasting value to society.

Actions reveal character, in people and in institutions. We hope to show you in this report how our employees are living our values and, in the process, defining the character of the Verizon.

I take this opportunity to thank the SANSAD Board and advisory community members, for their contribution and for their guidance and support. We also appreciate the support of the resource sharing agencies. We do count on them. SANSAD staff team deserves appreciation for their hard work and willingness to put in extra effort.

In the community and its leaders, we found echoes of resistance and hope. They were our *raison-d'etre*. We would always be grateful to them.

Anil K. Singh
Secretary General

Introduction

South Asia is home to 1.4 billion people, constituting 22.2 percent of the world population. Despite being rich in human resources and sophisticated technical skills, yet the number of people unemployed climbed to new heights in 2005. The region faces rising unemployment in the face of sustained economic growth. The common factor that cuts across all the countries in the region is poverty. Poverty and an appalling inequality between the rich and poor are also causative factors for socio-political tension, armed insurgencies, gender discrimination, violence and child labour.

Apart from the Maldives, the population below the poverty line ranges from 26.7 percent to nearly 50 percent. On an average, nearly 31.7 percent of South Asia (around 433 million) are living in abject poverty in various countries of the region.

Most of the South Asian poor are dependent on agriculture for their livelihood. Around 60 percent of South Asian labour force is still involved in agriculture, and agriculture contributes about 23 percent to GDP. Agriculture in the region is dominated by small land holdings with the average size being 1.5 hectares. Naturally policies affecting agriculture have far-reaching implications for a large mass of people, especially the poor.

In many South Asian countries, agricultural workers are creating an army of unskilled casual labour, exploited by labour contractors and therefore resort to migration to cities but end up further impoverished. These issues need the urgent attention of the policy makers to ensure that the development process will result in poverty reduction.

There are more hungry people living in South Asia, than in any other region of the world. Our 400 million people go hungry in South Asia every day which is a debilitating human experience. Almost two-thirds of all deaths under the age of five in South Asia are due to malnutrition. Overall, 60 percent of South Asian women of childbearing age are underweight and malnourished.

79 percent of South Asia's poor live in village. The lack of access of the rural areas to roads and basic infrastructure, inaccessibility to progress and communications, access to markets, and resources for health and education have perpetuated conservative practices of gender bias.

Natural disasters and rising energy prices compound the woes of the poor. The current pattern of globalization countries to have an uneven social impact with some experiencing rising living standards and others being left behind.

Obviously, South Asia is in the grip of multifaceted crises extenuated by poor quality of governance and its inability to grapple with the challenges of population explosion, poverty and deprivation, social exclusion, rapid urbanization, and environmental degradation caused by forces of development.

The poor are either out of the mainstream of development and chronically marginalized, or face hardships on account of anti-poor policies, priorities and institutions. The region can be seen in terms of ineffective inefficient institutions of governance. Increasing corruption and criminalization is eating into the vitals of society, economy and polity.

The region is also characterized by discriminatory social structures, which prevent the effective functioning of democracy. Women, Dalits, indigenous groups and other marginalized groups, caste and communities are excluded from the political and decision making process. Trafficking for sexual exploitation victimized some 30 million South Asian women and children during past 30 years.

To sum up, South Asian countries are affected by diverse challenges that are threatening lives of poor and vulnerable communities. It indicates the need for regional attempt for conquering these regional challenges. In this context,

civil society organizations in South Asia have long felt the need to initiate people to people dialogue to advocate and affect regional policies and actions that can significantly improve the lives of ordinary people.

These needs gave rise to the birth of South Asian network for Social and Agricultural Development (SANSAD) In 2004 which is formed as a regional label network of like-minded voluntary organizations, academic institutions, farmers and trade associations to ensure people's participation in the process of development, peace and governance for addressing the regional concerns.

Three years later, we continue to develop these kinds of relationships with people who share an analysis that hunger, poverty are under and caused by structural in inequalities between and within nation, and who work to promote social justice in their communities and countries.

SANSAD supports people's efforts to build community, and create the social cohesion necessary for healthy, caring societies. We assist in the development of sustainable livelihoods that meet the needs of all community members. SANSAD accompanies people in their efforts to hold their governments accountable, promote democratic, social and economic policies, and bring about real possibilities for change. SANSAD emphasizes making women's lives and work visible, empowering women in their role as community leaders and agents of change, and working towards one universal standard of opportunity and dignity for all, regardless of gender.

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We support people's efforts to challenge structural obstacles to change, their struggles for self-determination, and their alternative development approaches. SANSAD raises money for the work of our counterparts. We defend their work and their lives through our presence and support, and through national advocacy and education. We collaborate with counterparts in international campaigns to influence the social and economic conditions in which they work.

We also create opportunities for our counterparts to learn the directly from each other, by supporting mutual support networks and exchanges. SANSAD also relates to social and economic issues in India, linking social action at home with social change internationally.

We learn from all these efforts, make them known to all stake holders, and advocate nationally and internationally for global justice and equitable development.

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 catalyzed, 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 Areas

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 publications

“ Reading maketh a full man, conference a ready man, and writing an exact man.” Bacon.

This the premise through which we try to make our knowledge available to all our stakeholders.

PUBLISHED BOOKS in 2010-11

1. Transnational Corporations: The Unholy Grail

A concise book on how this “productive core of the globalizing world economy” Account for most of the world’s industrial capacity, technological knowledge, international financial transactions, and ultimately the power of control and how transnational corporation exert significant influence over the domestic and foreign policies of the Northern industrialized government that host the.

2. Networking : Towards a better tomorrow

This book written from the Southern perspective deals with the subject of networking for civil society organizations, which is increasingly being talked about in developmental field. This book is intended to contribute to the conceptual understanding of network and associated capacity issues : what is a network, why do network emerge, why and how are network distinct or different from organizations of multi-organizational system, what capabilities make them work, how these capabilities develop over time, and what is their significance in responding to development challenges in the present context, and to explore some implications for addressing capacity issues in networks, including choices of intervention strategies.

3. South Asian People’s development Agenda

This volume is the outcome of the various level interactions held in the context of the Thematic Commission setup by South Asian People Summit and covers altogether five separate issued identified by the South Asian Peoples Summit of People’s Agenda.

The five thematic commissions and the themed covered respectively were : Democracy : Governance in the Countries of South Asia; Peace and militarization : Cooperation, Peace and harmony; Human Trafficking: Trafficking and Human Security; Social Security and Natural Disaster : Disaster and Risk.

MONTHLY UPDATES AND NEWSLETTERS

SANSAD had succeeded in bringing out every month a monthly update which would describe all the events / meetings / seminars that SANSAD organized or participated in and also information about its partners and any changes / happenings at the SANSAD office.

SANSAD also brought out newsletters every month which would highlight a burning issues, carry the month’s programs being held nationally, regionally and internationally and also a brief write up a relevant book affirm.

DOCUMENTS ANALUSED AND DISSEMINATED

1. The Progress of Market Led Reforms and Retrogression of Agriculture
2. IT- Drive Offshoring : The Exaggerated Development Opportunity
3. Developing Countries and the Dollar
4. The Indian Budget : Farmers being made the new untouchables
5. Food Security Concerns in India
6. Market, Morals and the Media

7. Common Macroeconomic Fallacies
8. The Cost of Free Trade
9. Genetically Modified Foods and Genetically Engineered seeds
10. Agreement on Agriculture and its implications on livelihood and food security
11. The Doha Agenda
12. Redefining Poverty : A New Poverty Line for a New India
13. FDI in Retail
14. Towards a New Petroleum Products Pricing

Major Achievements

- The Carnegie Foundation, USA invited SANSAD from the whole of Asia in 2006 to 10 to make a presentation of the issues surrounding The Doha Round and Trade in Agricultural Products- Who are the losers and what should be done?
This presentation has become the baseline for their new policy outlook that points the way forward to break the Doha Deadlock.
- Did the analysis of SAFTA and bilateral agreements for APNFS.
- Did a review of the Common Minimum Programme of the government of India along with a host of other organizations and presented them to the government as a score-card to illustrate the fact that how the policies that were being followed were anti-poor and did not match up the claims exhibited by the UPA government.

Petitions, Memorandums, Declarations and Resolutions

- Environmental and Animal Welfare
- Saving the Narmada river
- Health and Public Safety
 - No-to- India's crops-being-genetically-engineered
 - Politics and Government
 - Stop increasing prices of drugs for HIV affected patients
 - Stop taking away agricultural lands for industrial purposes
 - Human Rights
 - Stop-dalit-atrocities-and-brutality-against-dalits-in India
 - Protect-the-property-rights-of-poor-tribals
 - Fair trade and employment
 - No-more-shopping—malls-in-India
 - Stop-pizza-delivery-gimmicks

Major Achievements

The government has agreed to :

- Look into the pricing of drugs for HIV patients and
- To prevent the genetic engineering of crops apart from those already given constant to and has also stipulated a minimum 200 meters distance from the conventional crops grown area

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. Our campaigning and awareness building programme, over the year, has branched out to rope in diverse set of stakeholders viz. grassroots innovators, traditional knowledge holders, organic farmers, academicians, policy makers, scientists, students, to build a common platform that shares the concerns of hunger and poverty. Following are our major attempts in campaigning and building awareness for mobilizing voice from grassroots as well civil society in favour of a 'vibrant South Asia'.

Seminars / Meetings organized :

1. Stakeholders Debate on Post WTO-Hong Kong Ministerial on the 31st of January 2011 in New Delhi in which Mr. S.K. Menon, Commerce Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, Government was the lead debater along with Dr. Devender Sharma, Chair of the forum for biotechnology & Food Security.

South Asian Seminar on Globalization and Food Security held on the 26th April, 2011 in New Delhi in which 50 representatives of civil society, consumer organizations, industry representatives, expert and policy makers involved in the field, came together from 5 South Asian Countries including India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh.

2. On October 16th, The eve of World Anti-Poverty Day, SANSAD along with a host of other organizations gathered more than 4,544 children from across the country at the constitution club, New Delhi to make the United Nation's call to STAND-UP against poverty. The campaign, NINE IS MIME, led by children urged the government to allocate three percent and six percent of the GDP towards health and education respectively as a matter of right for every child.
3. A Citizen's Convention on Right to land & Food with special reference to Singur block of West Bengal was held on the 18th of October 2010 in Delhi to show how in the name of encouraging industry and providing employment to teeming populace, the Government of West Bengal has resorted to the force full acquisition of agriculture land from farmers for the purpose of setting up a manufacturing unit of TATA motors in Singur block of Hoogly district.
4. "The Scientific Investigation of Genetic Modification and Food Safety" by leading Nutrition scientist and toxicologist, Dr. Arpad Pusztai, on November 5, 2010 in New Delhi accomplished along with Forum for Food Safety and Biotechnology

5. International seminar on food sovereignty (WTO Doha collapse and the raise in bilateral trade agreement : implication on food sovereignty and development) held on the 12th of November 2010 in New Delhi Along with APNFS during the Indian Social Forum 2010.
6. A “National Tribunal on NREGA” was organized during the Indian Social Forum 2010 in a attempt to capture the grassroots experiences of the implementation of this promise, and develop clear recommendations for the government emerging from the experience of the intended beneficiaries of the resultant schemes being implemented at the state level.
7. Organized an International Peoples Tribunal on Eviction of Peasants And Violation of Human rights in Sigur And Nandigram and other areas in West Bengal, India in Kolkotta on 31st of January 2011 with a host of organizations to highlight the issues of the recent Supreme Court Judgment regarding the ninth schedule of the Constitution of India.
8. SANSAD along with CGAP and SAP-I organized the South Asian People Summit at the time of SAARC Head of State meeting in Delhi from the 31st of March 2011 to the 2nd April 2011. The three-day conference was attended by over 200 delegates from all South Asian Countries of SAARC namely Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, The Maldives . The participants deliberated together not only sectorial issues of specific interests but also the strengthening of a board solidarity and alliance to achieve justice for all the people of the region through peace and democracy.

These seminars / meetings / lectures / were attended to by MP’s, bureaucrats, senior lawyers, journalists and a host of other influential people.

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The aim of these seminars / meetings / lectures was:

- To create a platform for public discussion of important policy issues with a view to building up a broad-based support for such policies.
- To organize regular policy dialogues with participation from major stakeholders including apolicy makers, academics, experts, civil society, representative from business community, NGO’s and other civil society group and stimulate a culture of dialogue and discussion on various important development issues.
- To conduct in-depth research on critical developmental issues which could service the needs of an informed public debate.
- To provide policy inputs to the principal decision-makers on the basis of research and dialogue outputs.
- To enhance and stimulate endogenous capacity to design and implement domestic policy agendas with a view to generate a sense of ownership by encouraging research activities.
- To disseminate the revealed wisdom stemming from the dialogue discussion to a board spectrum of civil society through active dissemination and networking activities.

Addresses in seminars / meetings / lectures on:

1. The Secretary General delivered lecture / took session on good governance and accountability organized by.
 - a) National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development on the 18th of January, 12th of June, 27th of June, 22nd of August, 20th November, 18th December 2010
 - b) Gandhi Peace Foundation on the 18th of May 2010
 - c) ICIMOD on April 25th to 27th 2011
 - d) South Asian Partnership-International on March 28th 2011

- e) NSWC on the 12th of April 2011 and a host other organization at least on 20 occasions in 2010-2011.
 2. Trade and its impact seminars organized by ICRIE, CENTAD and a host of other organizations such as INSAF, focus on the Global South etc.
 3. Human Right Issues seminars organized by Center for Civil Society, Francois-Xavier Bagnold India, Narmada Bachao Andolan, Madhaya Pradesh Kissan Sangathan Simiti, Indian Social Action Forum and a host of other organization in New Delhi.
 4. Agribusiness Accountability Initiative Asia AAI Regional Forum, Chiang Mai Thailand from the 26th to 29th of May 2010 : SANSAD presented a paper entitled “TNC’s and Implications for South Asia” and also discussed and how to implement the activities of it in the South Asia Region.
 5. Eco Fair Trade Dialogue for the South and South East Asian Region 30th 31st May, 2010, Chiang Mai, Thailand: SANSAD participated in this consultation and focused on the issue of role agricultural export and how to frame agricultural exports in terms of Market Concentration.
 6. SANSAD also attended the thirty-second Session of the Committee on World Food Security at the FAO Headquarters, Room, Italy from 30th of October to the 4th of November 2010 for the review of and follow-up to policies concerning world food security, including food production; the sustainable use of the natural resource base for food and other food security related aspects of poverty eradication; and the implications of food trade for world food security.
 7. SANSAD also participated in the 2nd ASEAN Civil Society Conference held from December 10-12,2010 at Cebu City, Philippines to deliberate on the subject of “Myths and Reality on ASEAN and MDG Commitments: Can ASEAN countries deliver on their commitments?”
 8. SANSAD also participated at the World Social Forum 2010 in Nairobi, and organized a three day event, *Asserting People’s Food Sovereignty*, together with people’s coalition on food Sovereignty (PCFS), Pesticide Action Network Asia and the Pacific (PAN AP) and Kenya Debt Relief Network (KENDREN).
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9. A Civil Society strategy meeting at the junction of the Annual WB & IMF Meeting Was organized by SANSAD and PAIRVI on the 12th of September 2010, to register their remonstrance with the developing countries.
 10. A five –day international Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (ICARRD) was held in Porto Alegre, Brazil from 6-10 March, organized by the FAO and the Government of Brazil, stressing that new development opportunities in rural areas would offer an escape from hunger by providing more equitable access to basic land and water resources. During this meet, SANSAD along with other partners also organized an Asia Level meet on March 9th to discuss the issues of a New Agrarian Reform based on Food Sovereignty along with future role of IPC which was attended by nearly 40 participants including those from Iran and the Philippines.

Major Achievements

SANSAD was recognized as :

- A Force in South Asia
- The Secretary General was elected as the convener of GCAP-South Asia
- A resource bank through which ideas, opinions and information could be obtained which could be used to build a just and equitable society

Mobilization

All over the South Asian region, people are urgently striving for a new kind of ‘development’ – one which does not irretrievable damage the environment and demean the sacrifice that the toiling masses are doing for the prosperity and pleasure of the upper classes. In the South Asian region

this awareness has found expression in various different forms of thought, action and struggle over the last five decades.

A diverse range of individuals, groups and movements also have opted to stay out of the structure of state power and work for the unfulfilled promise of a democratic, egalitarian and independent South Asian region. These efforts have extended from local issues based campaigns and agitations to lobbying for policy changes, to nation-wide mobilization on broader issues.

The active, vibrant mobilisations of people is necessary to deal with the challenges faced by our people including farmers and agricultural labourers, women, youth, workers, urban and rural poor, unemployed, children, the aged and people with disabilities. By doing so people get activity involved in development Assessment- Analysis-Action process that address the more basic causes of maldevelopment in an effort to increase their power base; it engaged them in action to fight for their rights and to gain more control over the resources they need.

Mobilization are of two types:

- (a) Mass Mobilization of people
- (b) Mobilization of people who can influence policy makers

We mobilized at the:

- National level
 - Mobilization of people
 1. Against farmers suicides through candle lights vigils (dharnas), on the 16th of November 2010 in New Delhi and then on the 18th of November in Bhubaneswar and the 19th of November at Pune in collaboration with Shri Mohan Dharia and a host of other organizations
 2. Against WTO Director General meeting in New Delhi on the 5th, 6th and 7th of April 2011 in collaboration with Bharat Krishak Samaj
 3. Against commercialization of agricultural land for industries and SEZ's on August 17th 2010 at Ghaziabad organizes along with Jan Morcha, a political outfit
 - Regional level
 1. SAARC Summit 2010 holding the leaders accountable for their commitments to the goals established under the SAARC Mandates
 - Events level
UNCTAD, FAO and other such platforms participating in the people's campaigns and also presenting papers in them.

Major Achievements

By doing so SANSAD has begun to make a series of recommendations for amending legislation, policies and practice, which, taken together, constitute the basis for a national/ regional/ global dialogue on resisting anti-poor policies, be they economic, social, political or environmental: encouraging regional development cooperation amongst the governments of the region, as well as amongst non-state actors: facilitating alliances in the region and supporting existing networks, to work on strategies that could effectively change and combat the harmful economic policies of corporate globalization, liberalization and privatization which cause increasing poverty in the region and develop common strategies that make

governments, states, and local authorities accountable and responsive to people's needs and aspirations.

Media Management

The media too can be a critical partner in all advocacy efforts. Media attention not only raises awareness and educate the community, it also helps influence decision makers, funders and potential supports.

With the fourth estate we had:

Debate on Jain TV channel under the programme kisan ki awaz

- Budget and its impact on agriculture
- Agrarian crises
- Foreign Direct Investment in Retail Trade and its impact

Debate on NDTV TV channel under the programme The Big Fight

- SEZ and their impacts

Debate on Total TV channel under the programme Face to Face

- Privatization of services and the non-accountability of service providers

Press releases

- Through a regular column in an English News Paper (The Financial Express) to highlights agrarian and social developmental issues appearing twice a week carried out by Ashok B. Sharma
- Through columns appearing in Hindi News Papers occasionally (The Navbharat Times, Rashtriya Sahara)
- Through magazines on the national level to highlight agrarian issues (Agriculture Today)

Public forum or events

- Participated in forums organized on TV shows such as the The Big Fight on NDTV
- Participated in forums organized by other organizations on issues relating to the agrarian crises such as the FTN coalition

3. Advocacy with policy makers and the National, Regional & Global 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.

Our initiatives at the:

All though it is difficult to say that it is primarily due to only SANSAD's efforts that many of the policy changes have taken place but SANSAD's role as being an important player that has enabled a change in the direction of the policy makers cannot be denied. Following are some of the examples of our advocacy efforts.

- National level
 - Were able to make the Government accede to our request for :
 - Reduction of military spending which is reflected in the budget
 - Look into the aspects of pricing of drugs for HIV affected patients
 - Restructuring of the National Bank for Rural and Agricultural Development
 - In terms of signing of agreements such as the WTO under the bilateral and multilateral trade agreements to look into livelihoods and food security issues
 - Increase in the budget of education, health and other social sector

- Regional level
 - We were able to make the SAARC leadership accede to our request for
 - Setting up of a poverty development fund
 - A SAARC university and
 - A food bank for the region

- International level
 - Asian Development Bank redrafting of their future aid to be more pro-people and more accountable
 - IMP & World bank restructuring
 - FAO participation of civil society, make it more accountable and less in favour of corporate
 - US Congress looking into the issues of livelihood than just trade
 - Pepsi launch of soy products in India
 - Syngenta & Monsanto stopping the sale of banned pesticides in region

Major Achievements

We learnt how to pursue influencing outcomes including public policy and resource allocation decision within political, economic, and social system and institutions that directly affect people's lives and

How to build broad and deep citizen alliances and formal coalitions of organizations and both formal and informal networks of individual advocates, sometimes called "grass roots" organizing to help better advocate on the needs of their constituencies

4. Capacity building

The sector needs to be **engaged, not dictated to** partners are unlikely to respond to statements such as "we think you should communicate more" or "we think you need to improve quality".

We shall be building the capacity of our partners and other key stakeholders through the organizing of meetings and seminars, mobilization, research and information dissemination, capacity building exercises and exposures.

SANSAD has a history of and strong commitment to strengthening local partner organizations. Since its creation, SANSAD has operated through partner organizations in the region, including community groups.

SANSAD's capacity building activities are based on three key elements:

- Partnership
- Organizational development
- Civil society strengthening

Towards this end we did capacity building workshops on:

Food sovereignty

- A four day training of trainers Capacity building workshop was held on Food sovereignty for our partners for the South Asian Regions held in collaboration with M S Swaminathan Research Foundation and Haryana Institute of Rural Development in Nilokheri, Haryana from the 13th to 17th of November 2010.
- Awareness visits were made to M/s Tilda Ricelands, Haryana to help partners organizations know about how rice can be grown in various areas and climatic conditions and thus ensure food security
- Awareness visits were made to a self-sustained village in Haryana to help partner organizations know how to develop a safe, secure and environment friendly village complete with food and nutritional security
- An exposure visit was organized with select partners from India during the World Social Forum 2010 held at Nairobi, Kenya. There of the partners namely Mr. K.N. Tiwari from Disha, an organization in Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh; Mr. J. Placid from SAHAYI, an organization in Kerala and Mr. Ashok Nanda from an organization VIKASH in Orissa participated in this exposure visit.

Major Achievements

SANSAD was the first organization in the region to have organize such a workshop and that too for all the countries of region. SANSAD was able to partner this workshop with the M S Swaminathan Research Foundation, one of the key research foundation in India on agriculture and also get one of the key government organizations the Haryana Institute of Rural Development to partner in this. SANSAD was also able to rope in Tilda Ricelands one of the major exporters and producers of rice in the world to help participants visualize how to grow rice variable climatic zones and conditions.

Good Governance

Presentations and trainings were held for a number of organisations to help them become clear about how to become effective, efficient, professional, transparent and accountable, and go beyond the concept of rules and standards to help set an example. These presentations and trainings were given at SAP-

International, ICIMOD, NSWC, WNTA, government bodies such as NIPPCD and a host of other smaller organizations.

Major Achievements

SANSAD is the first organization in the region to highlight such issues for all the countries of the region and has been invited numerous times to give lectures on this topic.

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 three board meetings in this year and two 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: April 25th November 11th 2010 and 2nd April 2011
- Advisory Committee Meetings: April 25th 2010 and 2nd April 2011

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 : Dr. Robin Stevens
Account Assistant : Mr. Niraj Tiwari
Office Attendent : Mr. Bhairav Dutt
Driver : Mr. Pappu Kumar

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