

Annual Report of SANSAD

(For the year 2011-2012)

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In continuation to the Annual Report 2010-2011, SANSAD is pleased in furnishing the Annual Report of the Organization for the year 2011-12. 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**

Following are the activities undertaken during the tenure under reporting

1. Information collection, Analysis and Dissemination

This is the fundamental agenda of all our interventions in society. Information collection and its analysis from the point of view of the poor, marginalized and downtrodden and its dissemination in the simple form to reach out all stakeholders has been one of our primary activities.

SANSAD provides a consistent stream of information about the state of South Asia, its people, its economies, its problems and its environment into the hands of people who can make a difference.

1.1 Our publications

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

Published books in 2011-12

- **Shaping The Right To Food: A Dialogue on National Food Security Bill**

This publication seeks to bring out the diverse perspectives on the proposed National Food Security Bill, which might be the largest social welfare scheme in the world. By presenting different perspectives on the bill this publication brings out the legislation's lacunas, its potential influence and the existing challenges. All the comprehensive insights presented are from the point of view of the marginalized and disadvantaged sections of the society.

1.2 NEWSLETTERS: MONTHLY UPDATE OF THE ACTIVITIES OF SANSAD

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 /happening at the SANSAD office.

SANSAD also brought out newsletters every month which would highlight a burning issue, carry the months program being held nationally, regionally, internationally, and also a brief write about a relevant book or film .

1.3 DOCUMENTS ANALYSED AND DISSEMINATED

1. Policy analysis on Senior Citizens:

A document has been prepared on Policy and Provisions by the state on senior citizens. This document contains

- **New Economic Policy and Senior Citizens**
- **Impact of Health Situation on Senior Citizen**
- **Senior Citizen &Family**
- **Social Security and Senior Citizen**
- **Senior Citizen as useful Productive Citizen**

The main objective of the document is to support advocacy and action with regard to the rights of the senior citizens

Major Achievements

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Did a research on policies related to senior citizens for the welfare of senior citizens.❖ SANSAD with the help of HELPAGE INDIA organized no. of consultations on below mentioned thematic issues out of which 4 were held in urban areas and 3 in rural areas “ THE IMPACT OF NEW ECONOMY POLICY ON THE SENIOR CITIZEN “ . SANSAD drew a program on the problems of senior citizens, in which it was decided to organize 9 consultation programs , out of 6 which were held in cities and 3 in villages |
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The issues on which consultation were held are:

- ✓ **New Economic Policy and Senior Citizens:** Most of the retired senior citizens living in cities and those who are non working rural people who are managing their living on savings that are attracting very low interest rates now. Thus incomes are falling as savings are used up. SANSAD and its partners had tried to find out what kind of economic hardships Senior citizens are facing now and what could be done to overcome such hardships. Participatory methods have been used for research and advocacy.

- ✓ **Impact of Health Situation on Senior Citizen:** With the move to health insurance and the privatization of medical services the elderly are finding it increasingly difficult to obtain health services and cover at a reasonable cost. SANSAD and its partners had tried to find out what kind of hardships Senior citizen are facing due to heavy privatization of health services and increase of cost of medical treatments and medicines so that based on these findings detailed chartered of demand had been prepared to do advocacy with policy makers for their remedial measures.

- ✓ **Senior Citizen & Family:** There is a tendency for Indian families to move to the nuclear family model. What does this mean for senior citizens and what are the effects on senior citizens had been studied by SANSAD and its partners. What could be the alternative system so that loneliness of these senior citizens could be reduced was also an important point which has been dealt throughout the study, which is one of the biggest challenges.

- ✓ **Social Security and Senior Citizen:** As mentioned above majority of senior citizens are leaving today on fear of life and looking for some or other kinds of support mechanism to overcome such fear. It is also a fact that Govt. of India has launched many social security schemes for senior citizens but due to corruption and long procedures these schemes are not reaching to the persons to whom these schemes are made. SANSAD and its partners had tried to find out what kind of support mechanism senior citizens are looking for and what benefits do elderly people enjoy and how many people can take advantage of these social security schemes?

- ✓ **Senior Citizen as Useful Productive Citizen:** Senior citizens are a source of large and untapped resources, with huge amounts of knowledge and experience that can be assessed, shared and utilized effectively. As mentioned above that many productive minds and skills which Senior Citizens have acquired during their long career, are unutilized today, which can be converted to teach and trained youths who are looking for such support system to grow and make their career more productive. That way Senior Citizens also feel safe and their loneliness will also disappear. This small participatory research helped us to know how this resource can be accessed so that, for instance, younger people such as students can make use of it.

2. Education, Sensitizing Motivating and Mobilizing Different Stake Holders

Campaigning and awareness building has been one of the major thrust areas of SANSAD. The focus of the program lies on making people conscious about the possibilities of innovative development in their own surroundings. The traditional knowledge holders are encouraged to come forward with their own artisanal skills and are sensitized and trained to propagate these skills to the larger population. Our campaigning and awareness building programs, over the years has branched out to rope in diverse set of stakeholders viz. grassroots innovators, traditional knowledge holders, organic farmers, academicians, policymakers, scientists, students to build a common platforms that shares the concerns of hunger and poverty .Following are our major attempts in campaigning and building awareness and mobilizing voice from grassroots as well civil society in favor of a ‘vibrant South Asia’.

Seminars/Meetings Organized:

SANSAD generally organize meeting /seminar/workshops/consultation to educate, sensitize, motivate and mobilize people as well as seek interventions from various stake holders of the society such as academicians ,media ,trade unions ,grass- root organizations and common citizens of the country .During this financial year SANSAD organized several meeting /seminars mentioned below:

1. SANSAD along with Wada Na Todo Abhiyan and Food and Water Security Coalition India and Oxfam India has organized a series of consultations which were held in the different zones of the country and organized a discussion in which representatives of 28 states had participated and discussed about the shortcomings of the present bill and suggested a number of recommendations.

Regional consultations were held across five zones of the country over an intensive period of two months were:

- East zone(Patna-Bihar)participants were Jharkhand, West Bengal, Odisha and Chhattisgarh
- West Zone (Ahmedabad-Gujarat) participants were Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra
- South zone(Anantpur-Andhrapradesh)participant were Karnataka, Kerala, Andhrapradesh and Tamilnadu
- North zone(Dehradun-Uttarakhand)participants were HP, J&K, Punjab, UP, Haryana and Uttarakhand
- North-East Zone (Guwahati- Assam) participants were, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Agartala and Nagaland
- National Consultation (New Delhi)

OBJECTIVES OF THE CONSULTATIVE PROCESS

- Educate ,sensitize, motivate and mobilize people at large
- Develop and publish critiques of the food security bill
- To emphasis on various thematic covered under the rubric of the bill to emphasize the need for special focus its particular aspects that look at provisions of food security, issues of food security in terms of the marginal voices in the country
- Develop a charter of Demands and recommendations that could help in improving the bill at hand
- Advocacy with government and other policy makers in the interest of common people

Civil society actors academics along with political representatives were brought together to deliberate on various key themes with relation to food security issues in India .Some of the thematic were:-

- ✓ State perspective on food security

- ✓ Food security and the issue of livelihood
- ✓ Marginal voices
- ✓ Agrarian reforms
- ✓ Respecting food sovereignty

Although all states have some particular set of problems with the present bill even though all the consultations aimed at making the bill a stronger and people sensitive legislation which could help resolve food insecurity issues in a comprehensive manner. All the recommendations came together to create a charter of demands for consideration of political stakeholders.

East zone consultation

- ❖ First in series of regional consultation across the country on the national food security bill was held in Patna, Bihar, on the 30th and 31st of January 2012 at the Bihar Industrial Association. The East zone consultation brought together NGO's, academics and other socially engaged individuals and groups from West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha and the host state of Bihar. Mr. Pramod Kr. Singh, the state convener of Wada Na Todo Abhiyan as a member of host organization, welcomed all the participants to the meet. Chief Guest of the occasion was Shivanand Tiwari, member of parliament (Rajya Sabha) from JDU, who congratulated civil society for this effort. Famous sociologist Dr. Sachindra Narayan was also present in the meeting. Other eminent participants were: A. V. Sinha, advisor to the state, Planning Board, Bihar, Anil Kr. Singh of SANSAD, New Delhi, Dr. I. C. Kumar, A. K. Singh, Director of Leads India, Madhukar from Prabhat Khabar, Ram Kirpal Yadav, M. P. (Rajya Sabha, RJD).

The success of the first consultation was apart from building a civil society consensus on a set of recommendations to improve the proposed bill, the two participants Ram Kirpal Yadav & Shivanand Tiwari were very encouraging and promised to take the recommendations forward.

- ❖ **After regional meeting in Patna, Bihar Govt. immediately to distribute seeds free of cost to the farmer as well as decided to provide financial support to needy farmer's for development of their agricultural land.**

Western Zone Consultation

Western zone consultation on the food security bill was held in Ahmedabad on the 7th & 8th of February 2012. Participants from western states Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra attended the consultation. The key speakers of the consultation were Chief Guest Madhusudan Mistry, Gen. Sec. of AICC and member of CWC and Shri Shakti Singh Goyal, Leader of Opposition in the Gujarat state assembly and Mr. Anil K. Singh, SANSAD, New Delhi, Paulomi Mistry of Disha, Mahesh Pandya of Paryavan Mitra, Vipul Pandya from Bandhkam Mazdoor Sangathan, Vinod Chavan from VSP Mumbai and Rehana Ben Riyawale from SEWA Ahmedabad, Dutta Rao Patil from Yuva Maharashtra, Indu Kumar Jani and social activist Kavita Srivastawa.

South Zone Consultation

South zone consultation on National Food Security bill was held in Anantpur, Andhra Pradesh on the 17th February 2012 at the campus of the host organization, Action Fraterna. Participants from southern states of Tamilnadu, Karnataka, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh attended the consultation. Mr. Malla Reddy of the host organization welcomed everybody to the meet, Mr. K.S. Gopal of Centre for Environment Concern shared the objectives of the meeting. Mr. K.R. Venugopal, an IAS Officer (Retd.), said that it was important to safeguard the nutritional rights of people. Other eminent speakers were: Dr. Gyan Prakash, Mr. Dinesh Kumar, Activist, Ms. Arthi Devi of Centre of Indian Knowledge Systems, Mr. Sudhakar of OXFAM, India (Hyderabad), Mr. K. Velom of Vechilam, Tamilnadu.

North Zone Consultation

North zone consultation on the National Food Security bill was held in Dehradun from 1st to 2nd of March 2012. Participants from Northern states of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand attended the consultation. The consultation was hosted by Disha social organization. Programme started with the words of Shri Anil K. Singh of SANSAD, New Delhi, who brought some of the main provisions of the National Food Security bill and points to critique. The Guest speaker was Usha Goyil who was associated with the world food programme in the past. Other eminent speakers were Avdesh Kaushal, RLEK, Solomon Prakash and Subhash Mendhapurkar of Sutra, Biraj Swain and Kumaran of OXFAM.

North East Consultation:

The last in the series of regional consultation on National Food Security bill was held in Guwahati in Shanti Sadhna Ashram, in Basistha on the 5th of March. The North East zone consultation brought together NGO's, academics and other socially engaged individuals and

groups from Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur, Nagaland, Tripura, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh. Renowned social activist from Assam and receiver of the prestigious 'Rajeev Gandhi National Sadhbhawna' Award Shri Hem dutta, Hon'ble Shri Anil K. Singh of SANSAD, New Delhi, Shri R.K.Majumdar, Director of Food & Civil, Govt. of Assam had participated in the meeting. Other eminent speakers of the meet were, Dr. Bhaskar Barua, an IAS officer (Retd.), Mr. C.K. Das an IAS Officer (Retd.).

The National Consultation on the National Food Security Bill

The National consultation on the Food Security Bill was held in New Delhi from 20th to 21st of March, at the Vishwa Yuwak Kendra, Chanakypuri, New Delhi. Academicians, civil society members and political representatives coming together from more than 28 states of India, the national consultation was a coming together of diverse perspectives on the proposed food security bill, currently being tabled before the Standing Committee on food in the Parliament. National consultation organized by SANSAD along with the Livelihood Thematic Action Group of Wada Na Todo Abhiyan and Water Security Coalition India and Oxfam India. The process of holding in-depth discussion on the food security bill was initiated with the regional consultation that were held across the country, culminating with the national level meeting in the capital. The key note speech for the occasion was delivered by Harsh Mandar from Centre for Equity Studies and member of National Advisory Council, Chief Guest address was delivered by R.B. Singh of National Academy of Science. Other eminent speakers were K.R. Venugopal (Retd. IAS officer and Former Secretary, PMO). Some of the M.P.'s responded on our chartered demands emerged on regional as well as national consultation. Those M.P.'s were Manishankar Aiyer (Congress), Ramkripal Yadav (RJD), Rajneeti Prasad (RJD) and Member Parliamentary Standing Committee.

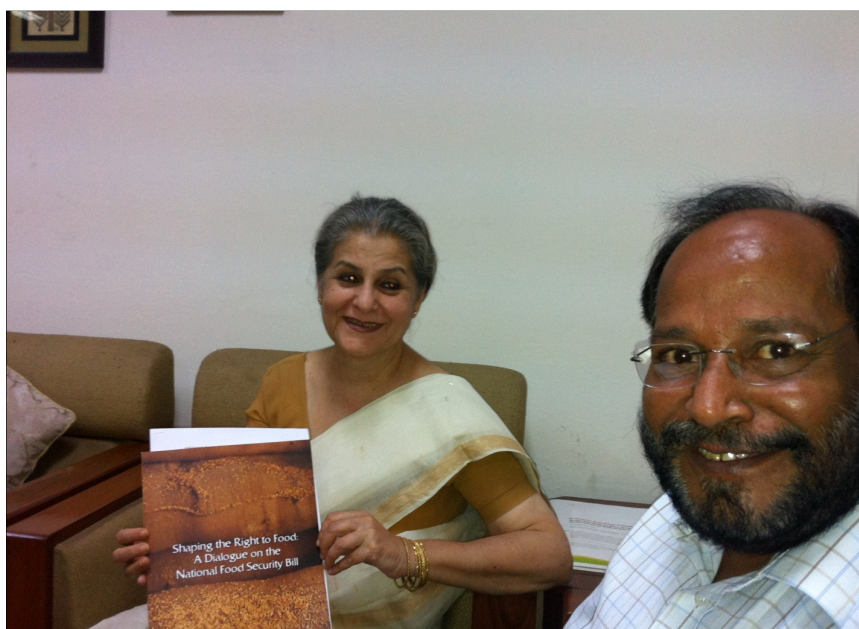
Recommendations from national consultation: Anil K Singh presented the charter of demands that has emerged through the country-wide consultative process.

- The Bill should be universal and not targeted.
- It should adopt a 'rights based approach' and not remain restricted to a mere 'entitlement'.
- As per ICMR figures, every person must be entitled 14 kgs of food grains in a month rather than the current stipulated amount of 7 kgs/person/month for priority households and 3 kgs/person/month for general category households.
- The Bill must call for nutritional security and not just provision of food, to people. Thus local procurement, storage and distribution must be stressed on in the Bill, keeping the regional food diversity of the country in mind.
- The Bill must also ensure that pulses, oil, vegetables, meat, sugar and fuel are also provided to households under its aegis.

- Prioritize the need for agrarian reform and make it incumbent on the governments to focus/ invest on increasing/improving agricultural production, procurement and distribution networks. Currently government's intention vis-a-vis support/promotion of agriculture is merely encompassed in Schedule III of the Bill. One must ensure that the Schedule is made a part of the main body of the Bill so that governments can be made accountable to it, and it does not remain at the level of mere political 'intention'
- The ambit of 'Special Groups' must be expanded to include single women, denitrified tribes, persons with disabilities, HIV/AIDS infected people, adolescent youth and old people who all faced food insecurities in various ways.
- Have budget allocations for awareness generation around the Act so that people became familiar with it when it would be executed.
- Concentrate on the infrastructure that would be required to implement the bill effectively, which was currently not mentioned in the draft at all.
- Cash transfers in lieu of food should not be allowed.

Biggest flaw in the Bill was "Clause 52" which diluted all responsibility of the government to provide food for its citizens in the most food insecure situations like drought, war or any such 'act of God' must be removed as it defeated the purpose of the such a legislation in the first place.

- ❖ **Based on recommendation emerged from 5 regional and a national consultation on National Food security Bill, SANSAD reached to several members of the Planning Commission of Govt. of India, members of National Advisory Council and members of parliamentary standing committee. several above mentioned members of planning commission, NAC, PSC appreciated our efforts, supported our chartered of demands and ensure to raise our concern at appropriate level.**





2. Under the Project “Research and Advocacy on the Impact of the new Economic Policies on Senior Citizens” SANSAD initiated to know and understand situation of senior citizens in India especially after introduction of New Economic Policies known as Structural Adjustment Program to promote the advocacy with the Planning Commission and other resource agencies for this socially excluded group. The Planning Commission and other Governmental agencies will be engaged and involved for influencing them so that XII Plan process can take care of Senior Citizens and Governmental schemes can be made in favor of them. For knowing and understanding situation of Senior Citizens it is proposed to hire 5 Researchers to do small studies on various aspects mentioned below and based on these 5 studies, SANSAD had organized 9 workshops in and around Delhi in collaboration with HelpAge India. Two workshops one in Delhi and one around Delhi will be organized on each thematic area. Based on findings of 5 small research papers and 9 workshops reports, a Chartered of Demands will be used as Advocacy tool for advocacy with policy makers and governmental departments. This Chartered of Demands will be used as Advocacy tool for advocacy with policy makers and governmental departments.

Below provides details about the workshops:

1. **Senior Citizens as Useful and Productive Citizens**, Organized by Department of Social Work, University of Delhi and SANSAD at International Guest House, on 2nd September, 2011.

2. **Impact of New Economic Policies on Senior Citizens**, organized by Global Gandhi Forum Gandhi Peace Foundation and SANSAD at Gandhi Peace Foundation on 14th January, 2012.
3. **Impact of New Economic Policies on Senior Citizens**, organized by Haryana Nav Yuvak Kala Sangam and SANSAD at Meham District Rohtak (Haryana) on 21st June, 2011.
4. **Senior Citizens as Useful Productive Citizens**, organized by CECODECON and SANSAD at Jaipur on 20 September, 2011.
5. **New Economic Policies and Senior Citizens**, organized by DISHA 22 October, 2011, Dasna, Ghaziabad
6. **Senior Citizens as Useful Productive Citizens**, Organized by Tarun Bharat Sangh and SANSAD at Alwar on 27 June, 2011
7. **New Economic Policies and senior citizen**, organized by SANSAD in collaboration with HelpAge India at Bharatpur on 23rd May 2011
8. **New Economic Policies and Senior Citizen** ,organized by SANSAD and HelpAge India, on 3rd May 2011 in Delhi
9. **New Economic Policies and Senior Citizen** ,organized by SANSAD and HelpAge India, at Bhajanpura on 25th of January 2012

The recommendations emerged during the Workshops and from five research Papers are listed below:

Recommendations

1. National Policy for Senior Citizen should be formulated. For the formulation of National Policy, Government should constitute a Task Force to deliberate on issues related to senior citizen and suggest a mechanism to address their issues.
2. Policies/Programmes related with senior citizens should be implemented in an effective way with suitable monitoring mechanism at the place. The implementation mechanism should be restructured and the functionaries should be sensitized about the importance of the scheme.

3. Raise awareness among the senior citizens about the various policies and programmes of the Government by using Information Education and Communication (IEC) materials. Special emphasis should be given in the rural areas.
4. To educate the younger generation with the issues of senior citizens moral education on senior citizen should be included in study curriculum. There should also be regular communication/conversation between young and senior citizen. This will help in changing the mind-set of younger generation or children towards senior citizens.
5. Our culture/ values need to be revisited where all senior citizens were treated like parents. This will help to change the attitude of youth towards senior citizens and would also enable to educate and spend time with senior citizens.
6. Senior Citizens should be given an opportunity to engage themselves after retirement and they should be encouraged to contribute to the society by starting educational institutions or consultancy related with their subject matters. This will provide some material gain which is necessary for the wellbeing of the senior citizens. This will also help in integrating senior citizen in the productive system.
7. Ensure benefit of Old Age Pension to Senior Citizens and there should be different amount of a pension according to age group. This will provide self reliance among the senior citizens because as they grow older they require more and more financial support.
8. There should be no age limit in Life Insurance Policy for senior citizens. There is a need to increase the year of coverage under the life insurance policy and one should not be asked for hefty premium.
9. The bank should pay 2 percent more interest on deposits instead of 0.5 percent to 1 percent being currently paid by different banks and also sought more liberal insurance schemes for them.
10. Government should provide the separate facilities in hospitals for the senior citizens like separate queue, single window system as prevalent in the AIIMS should be established elsewhere in the government hospital etc. Provide health services to

Senior Citizens and free mobile dispensary service for senior citizens which can visit to villages on weekly basis.

11. Government should increase the budget expenditure on the health sector, apart from that initiatives should be taken for the promotion of alternative medicine like Ayurvedic, Naturopathy etc.
12. There should be a Day-care centre and Multi-purpose Centre/ Senior Citizens Club/Council in Village/Urban area and Chaupal for rural areas for senior citizens, where they can spend their time/ engage their life like watching TV, playing and reading. People employed at this centres should be sensitized with the issues related with senior citizens.
13. Government should make available all the benefits to deprived/abandoned senior citizens at districts and block level. This step will make services in reach and accessible to senior citizens and will remove dependency. At State level, Network for Senior Citizens should be formed comprising members of rural and urban areas.
14. At the national level Government should establish a separate Ministry for Senior Citizens as their need is quite different from the other segment of the population.
15. Civil society should be encouraged to play a pro-active role in strengthening the multi-service centre and Chaupal meant for senior citizens in rural areas. They should also be engaged to play active role in State level network.
16. Special attention should be accorded for the elderly women because their numbers are likely to increase in the future and, given the multiple disadvantages they face in life, they are likely to be grossly unprepared to tackle these issues.
17. The social security benefits need to be extended to the people working in unorganized sector for example provision of pension or provident fund. More than 93 percentage of the entire work force, that is roughly 423 million, are unorganized and informal who contribute 62% of the total GDP.
18. Senior Citizens should be made available reservation in Air and Bus services, at present it is limited to railways service. This would enable them to enhance their accessibility.

19. There should be toll-free helpline for the senior citizens and should be more effective and active.

20. Provide free houses to senior citizens and give the preference of ground floor or first floor and lift service in case of multi-floors building. This would be a significant step because many senior citizens live alone and face different types of problems related with their mobility.

Based on recommendations emerged from several consultation held on issues related with senior citizens, a chartered of demand prepared and submitted to different department/ministries for their consideration. Officials from these ministries and department ensured us to take appropriate action based on our recommendations.

3. Public Hearing on climate Justice: SANSAD along with Yuva Rural ,WNTA and GCAP with association of Retired judges of Supreme Court and High Courts of India organized a hearing on women & Climate Justice on November 14th 2011. Over 100 former judges deliberated on the subject with the emphasis on its legal aspects for two days here. Acting judge of Supreme Court , Hon'ble Justice G.S. Singhvi inaugurated the conference .Justice V.S.Dave , Justice Lahothi and Justice P.C. Jain addressed the conference they expressed concerns over the impacts such as increase in temperature ,shortage of rain fall and decline in agricultural production.

Suggestions/ Recommendations from public hearing:

- During preparation of new DSAPCC Govt. must consult and involve various stakeholders specially women in large numbers.
- Govt. should take up massive awareness programme on Climate Change.
- All vehicles must be run on CNG only.
- Metro rail linkages should be expanded to all areas and taken up on priority basis, so that number of buses gets reduced.
- Implementation of Mandatory Rain Water Harvesting must be taken up seriously.
- Use of Solar energy must be taken up in a massive way.
- For all, such plans, programmes and schemes, special allocation of fund is must.

- All State Govt. must set up a dedicated Climate Change department or Ministry for proper implementation, Monitoring and regulation of related Acts, Rules, Programmes, and Schemes etc with full participation of Civil Society.

4. SANSAD in collaboration with National Centre for Advocacy Studies , Pune organized a **South Asian Consultation on “Peoples Centered Advocacy in South Asia”** held in India Islamic cultural Centre ,New Delhi on Dec.23rd participants from India ,Pakistan, Nepal and Bangladesh Participated in the consultation.

The aim was to strengthen rights-based advocacy so as to empower people, especially marginalized communities, to claim and realize rights, and work towards creation of a just and humane society. Responding to demands arising out of the fast changing socio-economic and political environment across the globe, and its impact on marginalized communities, NCAS has forged its way forward towards addressing advocacy concerns in South Asia. A group of 25 committed individuals – consisting of activists, political scientists, NGO leaders and academicians from the five South Asian countries participated in this process.

The study process was insightful for both – advocacy at the local and national levels, as well as regional level-

- All rights-based local struggles have to learn to perceive issues as being ‘South Asian’ in character and go beyond political boundaries.
- It has been traced that several advocacy struggles when organized as ‘south Asian’ have helped local groups to advocate with their own governments for the rights of citizens of another south Asian neighbor.
- Lastly, and importantly, it has been realized that as south Asians, we share a common culture, and mainstreaming culture would prove to be an effective strategy for mobilizing the south Asian population for people centered advocacy.

5.SANSAD, Pairavi ,Beyond Copenhagen, Bharat jan vigya jattha,CECOEDECON ,IDS and Pan Himalayan Grassroots Development Foundation jointly organized the **National consultation on Sustainable Development** on 28th April at India International Centre ,New Delhi.National and Global Priorities For RIO +20 with a view to bring in multiple stakeholders ,persons and institutions to build an understanding on the agenda of sustainable development .The keynote speech was delivered was by Dr. Jyoti pareekh ,Nobel prize recipient ,President IRDAE & highly respected authority on issues relating to Energy and Environment.

On the basis of detailed discussions, the co-chairs suggested the avenues and ways for the process. It was suggested that state level consultations should be organized so as to broaden the debate and deepen the understanding on sustainable development as well as to bring out the agenda /charter from the people and stressed on the need to organize activities at Delhi, simultaneously with HIF at RIO+.

National consultation on sustainable development held on 28th April makes sustainable development as one of the major concern of the voluntary sector and no. of organization decided to work on sustainable development on a sustained manner .

SANSAD participated in seminars /meetings/lectures :

1. As one of the board member of the CWS trust Mr. Anil k singh has participated in Bihar State Annual Consultative meeting held at Patna on April 9th 2011
2. Anil k. Singh has participated state level consultation on the issues related with poverty and hunger .Meeting was organized by Lok Jagriti Kendra from April 11-12th 2011 held at Madhupur, Jharkhand
3. As a member of the board of trustee and treasure of CBGA, Mr. Anil k. Singh has participated in the board meeting held on April 27th 2012
4. Mr. Anil k. Singh has participated in CWS board meeting held in Hyderabad on June 25th 2011
5. Mr. Anil k. Singh has participated as a resource person in the National consultation on the issues related with violence in tribal areas held at S D Centre, Ranchi from August 8th-9th 2011
6. Mr. Anil K. Singh has participated in the CBGA Board meeting held on August 23rd 2011
7. Anil k. Singh ,as one of the board member of NCAS participated in board meeting held in Pune on August 25th 2011
8. Mr. Anil k. Singh as a member of CHARKHA board, participated in the meeting held at India Habitat Centre ,New Delhi on September 13th 2011
8. Mr. Anil k. Singh as a member of a steering group member of WNTA ,participated in campaign coordination group meeting held in Indian Social Institute ,New Delhi from *September 27th-28th* 2011
9. Mr. Anil k. Singh participated in Indo-Japan development summit held in Tokyo, Japan from Oct. 2nd-4th, 2011 organized by Indo-Japan Foundation.

10. Mr. Anil k. Singh as a resource person participated in a women's hearing organized by WNTA and hosted by Yuva Rural at Nagpur on November 15th 2011

11. Mr. Anil k. Singh participated in 4th high level forum on aid effectiveness held in Busan ,National capital of South Korea , from Nov. 25th -30th 2011

12. Mr. Anil k. Singh participated in steering group WNTA held in New Delhi on December 7th 2011

13. As one of the member of board of trustee Mr. Anil K. singh ,participated in national annual consultative meeting of Centre for World Solidarity held in Bhubaneswar ,Odisha from Dec.16th -17th 2011

14. Mr. Anil K. Singh participated in 25th anniversary of Shramik Bharti in Kanpur on Feb.25th 2012

15. Mr. Anil K. Singh ,as a member board of trustee of CWS participated in board meeting held in Hyderabad on March 23rd 2012

16. Mr. Anil k. singh as a member of steering group member participated as resource person in a state level consultation on 12th V years Plan organized by Wada Na Todo Abhiyan in collaboration with Lead Trust ,Ranchi from 27th-28th March 2011

3. Advocacy with Policy Makers, at the National, Regional and Global level

To help in facilitating a dialogue between policy makers ,academics ,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 development and local actions ,SANSAD has taken up the responsibility 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 various countries including India and business communities .The primary areas of professional interventions have been in the field of agro-biodiversity and integrating its concerns 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 Advocacy initiatives :

Although it is difficult to say that it is primarily due to only SANSAD's effort 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

-various consultations on food security bill were the attempt to create a force for advocacy with government.

-Restructuring the policies related to senior citizens with the help of advocacy with government.

-Women and Climate Justice Hearing -2011 was an event for serious advocacy effort. A critical analysis of status of action plans in different states on the issue has been done during the course of Hearing. On the basis of presentation a status report is prepared for advocacy on the issue.

- Outcomes of research on senior citizen given a message in society that respect to elders is an integral part of our culture.

-Research on impact of the new economic policies on senior citizens created an environment where people recognized the need of Food security policy, Establishment of a separate Ministry exclusively for senior citizens, Mobile Medicare unit and Health insurance scheme for senior citizens.

-Regional Level

-SANSAD as one of the core group member of the people SAARC participated in people SAARC held in Maldives and did serious advocacy with SAARC secretariat on SAARC food bank ,south Asian development fund ,free movement of labor within region and free visa regime in South Asia

-International Level

-4TH High level forum held in Bussan was Culmination of hundreds of national consultation organized in different countries .SANSAD also organized 2 national consultations in year 2010-11 and work intensively to make donor accountable and transparent as well as motivated hundreds of cso's to follow guide lines prepared by to maintain transparency, accountability and good governance .Tool kit prepared by SANSAD was circulated widely among cso's.

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 "grassroots "organizing to help better advocate on the needs of their constituencies.

Organizational Matters

SANSAD has continued to strengthen its 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: May 24th, and November 11th 2010.
- Advisory Committee Meetings: December 24th 2010.

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. F Khan

Office Attendent : Mr. Bhairav Dutt

Driver : Mr. Pappu Kumar

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