

Towards Think Globally and Act Locally

Annual Report of SANSAD - 2013-14



South Asian Network for Social & Agricultural Development (SANSAD)
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Context:

Year 2013-14 was a transition period for SANSAD as it moved from national and international level advocacy to grass root level direct implementation of the project specially related with food security, climate justice and capacity building of the farmers. This transition was based on our past experience of national and international level advocacy where we found that national and international level advocacy is having its importance but unless its fruits and benefits reaching to the grass root, having no meaning, therefore SANSAD decided to move to the grass root level activities. SANSAD was fortunate that RKK an funding agency from Japan agreed to support our intervention specially to build ground for grass root level activities. This support came at a time when voluntary sector in India was facing a big financial crisis. Another agency from Japan known as ShaplaNeer has agreed to become our collaborative partner in securing financial support from Japan Fund for Global Environment (JFGE). We submitted a project proposal through ShaplaNeer entitled “Strengthening Food Security of the Marginalized Communities through adoption of Climate friendly Sustainable Agriculture Practices” in February 2014.

The Parliament passed the historic legislation guaranteeing the citizen the Right to Food known as “Food and Nutrition Security Act” for which SANSAD was advocating for the last 10 years. 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 Saharanpur which is our project area. Due to Parliamentary election due in May-June 2014, some of the Political Parties tried to divide communities on Caste and Religious line for their vote bank which also helped in communal tension in the Country. 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.

National capital of India show a dramatic political change where a newly formed political party called Aam Admi Party (AAP) emerges as major force in the Assembly election and formed Government in Delhi which could not sustain for a longer period and Government fell within 51 days of its formation. 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 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 Area

In continuation to the Annual Report 2012-13, SANSAD is pleased in furnishing the Annual Report of the Organization for the year 2013-14. 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**

Name of Project: Strengthening Food Security of the Marginalized Communities through adoption of Climate friendly Sustainable Agriculture Practices

Period of Project: November 2013 to 30th April 2014

Project Outline: The main purpose of the project is to ensure livelihood and food security of the farmer households and other agricultural labour households. As we have seen, due to use of excessive chemical fertilizers and non traditional (genetically modified) seeds, fertility of land and productivity of soil has fallen. On the other hand, costs of agriculture have increased in the target region of Saharanpur. This has resulted in loss of income of the farmer households and agricultural labourers. In some recent years, the gap between cost and income has been rising rapidly. As an instrument of achieving the broad objective of food security, we have planned to sensitize, mobilize and train farmers to practice organic farming by using traditional seeds, fertilizers (fossils, cow dung etc.) and traditionally known farming practices so that soil fertility increases and costs are less. Thus, use of organic farming will not only ensure food security, but will also help in maintaining environmental balance and soil fertility.

With this broad project goal, SANSAD got support from RKK to prepare well in advance to implement bigger project proposal getting awarded from Japan Fund for Global Environment which we have done successfully. We were suppose to do benchmark survey in selected 50 villages, construct animal sheds, set up office at our project site with basic infrastructures, purchasing of a motorbike for local travel, identifying and recruiting staff of the project etc.



Our newly constructed Animal shed at our farm land



Our Biogas plant is almost ready after construction



Our bore well of hand pump under drilling

Schedule of Activities:

i). Benchmark Survey: Benchmark survey was done in 50 villages with 1000 households in January and February 2014. In December 2013 we have prepared questionnaire and do the training of surveyors. In March we have done filling of questionnaires on excel sheet and in April final report of the benchmark survey was

prepared after tabulation of data and comparative analysis of data from secondary sources.

ii). Setting of office at Saharanpur: A small office was set up in our field location on a rental premises and make it functional after putting some furniture, one Computer, connectivity with phone, internet etc. After completion of our Animal sheds in which one room was also constructed for Care taker as well as for temporary office space. Japan Fund for Global Environment sanctioned to us a new project which we were pursuing with them, therefore there will not be any problem in maintaining that office as rent component is covered in that.

iii). Installation of Biogas plant: After exploring all option locally to build a biogas plant (Deenbandhu Model) on our farm land, which was not available locally, we have hired a consultant from AFPRO (An technical NGO based in New Delhi) which is having wide expertise in construction of Biogas plants all over India and making it successful. A technical person came from Ranchi which is around 1200 Km away from our location and after staying 12 days in field, he constructed a nice Biogas plant on our land and also trained a local Meson. Our Biogas plant will be functional after 15-20 days after putting animal dung in that. As it is proposed that in the second phase of the project, we will buy two Buffalos and two Cows and put up in our Animal sheds so that with their dung our biogas plant will be functional, some cooking gas will be available for cooking and lighting. This biogas plant will also generate sufficient Organic compost for our land.

iv). Farmers Conventions:





Two farmers convention were organized during this project period. One was on December 25th 2013 initially to inform farmers of the area about our this new project, seeking their help in benchmark survey and helping in identifying 50 villages of the area. Second farmer's convention was organized on January 20th in which around 80 farmers from our selected 50 villages participated. Two persons from Shaplaneer who has agreed to collaborate with us as technical organization from Japan in the project submitted to Japan Fund for Global Environment (JFGE) also present in this farmers convention. Almost all present in this convention appreciated SANSAD's initiatives and agreed to cooperate in the project to be implemented in future.

v). Printing/dissemination of literature survey: During this project period, SANSAD has collected lot of literature, booklets, manuals on organic farming and based on that a "Training Manual" was prepared in Hindi for future use by farmers during our capacity building programmes. Soft copy of this manual is ready which will be printed in the second phase of the project.

vi). Motorbike purchased: A Hero Honda (Splender Model) motorbike was purchased for local travel of staff and placed in our field office.

vii). Land preparation: As informed that SANSAD is having two Acres of land in its position on which Animal Sheds, Biogas plant, Hand pump was installed. This land was twice prepared-once in December 2013 and again in April end 2014. For Kharif Agricultural session, a new type of plantation will be done in the end of April or early May to expose farmers on new techniques of organic farming which will include preparation of organic manure, barmy compost, and energy consumption and also help them in reducing input costs in agriculture and increasing productivity of the yields.

viii). Hiring of personals (Interview and Recruitments): In the Month of November 2013 a full time Helper was hired to help in our construction work, guarding our office etc. We have also taken help of another two local persons on part time basis in organizing all our planned activities of the project. Also during this period we have identified required staffs and appointed for our future project sanctioned by JFGE.

5. Results (As specific as possible): As this RKK support was for preparatory phase, therefore not much tangible result was expected, even though we have shown some positive results which are mentioned below:

a) Farmers conventions and Benchmark survey has given a wide visibility of SANSAD in the identified 50 villages and amongst farmers of the area. People of the area are very much excited about the project. As mentioned earlier that farmers of the area were fed up with agricultural practices due to increase input costs and low returns but after knowing that SANSAD is going to intervene in this area with new agricultural techniques and practices which will reduce their input costs in agriculture and make it a viable occupation where farmer feel proud. People of the area are looking forward about this upcoming project with a great hope.

b) Construction of Animal Sheds and Biogas plant makes people confident that some thing positive is going to happens in their villages. All those who have seen construction of Biogas plant and its new techniques are more excited as their earlier experience was not positive and they have lost hope but now that confidence is more or less back on their thinking and approach due to SANSAD intervention. Many of farmers has said that they will also like to build similar biogas plant on their own land after seeing it functional which will ultimately save a lot of money which they are putting in purchase of cooking gas and for lighting. A rough estimate suggests that minimum of Rs. 5000 each farmer household can save in a year.

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.

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: July 22nd and December 6th, 2013
- Advisory Committee Meetings: December 7th, 2013

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
 Programme Coordinator: Satendra Kumar
 Agronomist: : Mr. Raitulal
 Assistant Agronomist : Ms. Bimla Singh
 Account Assistant : Mr. Kalam Khan
 Care Taker : Mr. Kameer Hassan

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