

South Asian Network for Social & Agricultural Development (SANSAD)

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Brief report of the Farmers Convention held on January 10th 2016 at Chilkana, Saharanpur, UP



South Asian Network for Social & Agricultural Development (SANSAD) in collaboration with Gochar Mahavidyalaya, Rampur Maniharan, Sultanpur Chilkana Nagar Panchayat and more than 26 Gram Panchayats, organized a big Farmers Convention on January 10th 2016 at Jain Bagh, Chilkana, Saharanpur in which around 700 farmers and many eminent personalities participated and addressed the gathering. Those Gram Panchayats collaborated with SANSAD in organizing this farmers convention are Abdullahpur Ahardi, Alhanpur, Chalakpur, Daulatpur, Dhaulahedi, Dudhgarh, Dumjheda, Dumjhedi, Firozabad, Katla, Manakpur, Narayanpur Gurjar, Nalheda, Pathed, Patna, Patni, Raghunathpur, Rawanpur Bujurg, Sangmaur and Todarpur. It was **pertaining to note that first time in the history of Chilkana**, such collaborative programmes are happening due to SANSAD's efforts. Last Year also in both Farmers Convention all such organizations collaborated with SANSAD. Shri Swami Agnivesh, Dr. Yogesh Dahia, Dr. Mahipal, Shri Raj Kumar Ji, Ms. H Fujime and many were the Guest speakers. Senior Journalist Shri Vijay Saini anchor the function.

While welcoming the delegates Dr. Anil K Singh, Secretary General of SANSAD narrated the history of the organization for initiating a project in Saharanpur district of UP. which is sponsored by a Japanese organization called **Japan Fund for Global Environment (JFGE)** and technical support provided by another Japanese organization called **Shapla Neer**. He thanked local people who have provided whole heartedly all required support to start the project and later on also in implementation of the project which includes training of farmers for promotion of the organic farming. Mr. Singh called upon all participants that SANSAD wants to make this as movement for organic food and restore dignity of farmers who have lost today as nobody is willing to choose as career in agriculture which is possible only for adaptation of organic farming.



Swami Agnivesh appreciated the commitments of Anil K Singh who has left his national and international work and came to such a remote area to do grass root level activities which is very rare in the voluntary sector. Swami ji main stress was on Cow which gives us several lakhs worth of things including milk, cow dung, cow urine etc but we give dam care to the cow specially after she started not producing milk and sell to the people who are slathering them. He quoted Constitution of India, article 46 and 47 talks about ban of cow slathering and ban of alcohol in the Country. He call upon all delegates to organize themselves against alcoholism and he is ready Athe lead that movement from here.



Dr. Yogesh Dahia of Aam Admi Party talked in details about importance of the organic farming and how it is going to be beneficial to the farmers. He also narrated the plights of farmers and all struggles he has lead in the Saharanpur. He also highlighted that how big mafias are active in the area and grabbing agricultural and other lands in the name of development and government officials and politicians are helping them in their endeavour.

Dr. Mahipal as former Director in the Ministry of Rural Development, Govt. of India and also one of the expert on PRIs, talked about how newly elected Pradhans who are collaborating with SANSAD in organizing this Farmers Convention could mobilize maximum benefits under PRIs and help their constituents. He also offered to come and trained elected Panchayats members if they are willing.



Shri Raj Kumar (Guru Ji) explained various aspects of organic farming and how farmers can reduce their input cost and make agriculture as profitable enterprises. He requested every participant to adopt organic farming which will make people healthy, wealthy and wise. Technically and scientifically he explained that our so called agricultural scientists are fooling people and directly or indirectly helping multi- national corporations who have entered in our agricultural profession and taking all profits while farmers are the losers.

Anchor of the meeting, Shri Vijay Saini thanked SANSAD for choosing this area and deciding to empower local farmers through capacity building and sensitizing them for promotion of organic farming which is going to be the future of agriculture.

Many Pradhans of different Gram Panchayats and some farmers leaders also spoke and appreciated the efforts of SANSAD.

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