

South Asian Network for Social & Agricultural Development (SANSAD)

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Brief report of the Farmers Convention held on September 20th at Chilkana, Saharanpur

South Asian Network for Social & Agricultural Development (SANSAD) in collaboration with KrishiVigyan Kendra (KVK), SultanpurChilkana Nagar Panchayat and more than 20 GramPanchayats, organized a big Farmers Convention on September 20th at Jain Bagh, Chilkana, Saharanpur in which around 600 farmers and many eminent personalities participated and addressed the gathering. Those Gram Panchayats collaborated with SANSAD in organizing this farmers convention are AbdullahpurAhardi, Alhanpur, Chalakpur, Daulatpur, Dhaulahedi, Dudhgarh, Dumjheda, Dumjhedi, Firozabad, Katla, Manakpur, NarayanpurGurjar, Nalheda, Pathed, Patna, Patni, Raghunathpur, RawanpurBujurg, Sangmaur and Todarpur. It was pertaining to note that first time in the history of Chilkana, Saharanpur that such a convention was organized jointly by many public institutions and elected local self-governments.



Dr. Kamal Taori, IAS and retired Secretary Government of India; Former Minister of State Shri Sanjay Garg; National Convener, Education Forum, New Delhi ShriAmbrishRaj; Director of PANI Sansthan Shri Bharat Bhushan; Dr. Ashok Kumar of KrshiVigyan Kendra and Shri Yogendra Singh, Krishi Adhikari, Saharanpur participated as Guest speakers. Farmers Convention was chaired by Advocate Amir Zaidi as a representative of Chairman of Sultanpur Chilkana Nagar Panchayat Smt. Suraiya Jamal and Senior Journalist Shri Vijay Saini anchored the show.



Anil K Singh in his opening remarks highlighted why his organization selected Saharanpur district to implements this project which is sponsored by a Japanese organization called **Japan Fund for Global Environment(JFGE)** and technical support provided by another Japanese organization called **ShaplaNeer**. He highlighted that what kind of hurdles they have faced initially but thanks the local communities who have helped a lot in initiating this project in this area. He highlighted that farmer's suicides in the country has forced him and some of his friends who give- up their lucrative jobs and set up SANSAD as an organization to focus mainly on Farmers issues.



Dr. Kamal Taori stressed the important of Cow rearing and promotion of organic farming. He also proposed to set up many agricultural based small scale industries

and make Chilkana as “Chilkanaway” the way Americans have developed to provide employment to local people and generate additional income for them. He also stressed the need of linking village level “FARMERS SCHOOLS” promoted by SANSAD with Banks and NABARD.



Shri Sanjay Garg, former Minister of State, UP was of the opinion that organic farming must be adopted as a movement to counter multi- national companies who are trying to grab our agricultural land make us food insecure country and then dictate terms. He said that present national government policies are same of previous government and both have worked and working to help corporates such as Ambanis and Adanies.



Shri Ambrish Rai called upon farmers to unite and expose ill design of multi-national companies and challenge anti farmers policies of the Government. Organic farming could be one tool to expose ill design of multi-national companies the way Mahatma Gandhi exposed Britishers with boycotting of foreign clothes.



Shri Bharat Bhushan said that his organization is promoting organic farming in their area and results are very positive and farmers are adopting in a big way as they have understood the benefits of organic farming which requires less input cost and gives healthy food. He also called upon farmers to make Saharanpur as Chemical free district with adoption of organic farming. He also pointed out that Prime Minister himself believes in organic farming therefore interested in promotion of organic farming in North Eastern states on India.



Dr. Ashok Kumar of KrishiVigyan Kendra, Saharanpur and Shri Narender Singh Bhullar of village Paniyali who are participating in Farmers training organized by SANSAD for the last one and half years has said that there is a need to systematically organized and motivate farmers of ill effect of chemical fertilizers and pesticides as our lands are becoming less fertile day by day. We have given training to farmers on how to make organic fertilizers and pesticides with local materials used in our household level. Dr. Ashok Kumar highlighted role of Krishi Vigyan Kendra in promotion of farming with less input cost. SANSAD efforts are commendable in this regards.



ShriYogendra Singh, Krishi Adhikari, Saharanpur stressed the need of adopting vermi compost (KetuaKhad) against heavy use of chemical fertilizer. He offered to help and trained farmers in making pit for making vermy compost free of cost.



Chairperson of the meeting, Advocate Amir Zaidi 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 also spoke and appreciated efforts of SANSAD.

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