

Annual Report of SANSAD 2016-17



South Asian Network for Social & Agricultural Development
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India

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2016-17

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 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
- 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.

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.

1. Overall Progress:

In April 2016 again Japan Fund for Global Environment (JFGE) renewed our project for another one year and provided financial support to SANSAD basically to empower farmers of the local community through their capacity building, exposure and practical training so that marginalized communities of the area can secure their food security and adopt climate friendly sustainable agricultural practices. RKK also like last year generously agreed to provide financial support to SANSAD to meet the budgetary gaps in the overall project proposal.

In this support, SANSAD was supposed to do the followings: a) to build capacity of 200 farmers in the villages of the Saharanpur district of Uttar Pradesh, c) to aware farmers about effective use of animals to increase their income, d) to expose farmers on effectiveness of biogas plant to promote organic manures and generate cooking as well as lighting gas, e) awareness building of farming communities and f) effectively maintain a small office at its project site with basic infrastructure, communication system and other facilities for its smooth functioning of the project etc.

In the last one year, SANSAD has implemented all of the planned and supported activities by JFGE and RKK successfully.

1. Activities conducted in FY 2016-17

1.. Training of 200 farmers:

Since April 2016 formal training of farmers stated in phase manner and so far SANSAD has organized training of farmers in 20 villages of 2 days each. List of villages along with date of training mentioned at the end of the annual report. Apart from that field level practical training was also conducted to expose farmers how to plant paddy crop through SRI methods in June 2016, wheat plantation as mixed cropping methods in November 2016 and vegetable plantation in the month of September and October 2016.

3. Training and exposure of effective use of Animals and its product:: During training courses, special session was also organized to educate and sensitize effective use of animals and its product. It has been noticed that farmers are virtually cheated by local middle man and therefore they are not getting proper returns to their product. SANSAD encouraged farmers to form their cooperative and sell milk in collective manner so that they can get proper remunerations. Farmers are also trained how to make organic manures and pesticides at their house hold level to reduce input cost of agriculture and make land healthy with increasing use of organic manure and decreasing use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides. People were encouraged to rear local breed of cow and use cow dung and urine for increasing farm productivity.

4. Farmers Convention-



South Asian Network for Social & Agricultural Development (SANSAD) in collaboration with Gochar Mahavidyalaya, Rampur Maniharan, SultanpurChilkana Nagar Panchayat and more than 26 GramPanchayats, organized a big Farmers Convention on January 8th 2016 at Barat Ghar, Sultanpur Chilkana, Saharanpur in which around 300 farmers and many eminent personalities participated and addressed the gathering. Shri Umendra Datt from Punjab, Shri Madhukar a senior Journalist from Jharkhand and Shri A K Singh Director of LEADS Trust, Ranchi were guest speakers. Senior Journalist Shri Vijay Saini anchor the function and Shri Chand Mohammed, Chairman of Sultanpur Chilkana Nagar Panchayat presided the farmer's Convention..

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 **ShaplaNeer**. 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.

Mr. Anil K Singh was disappointed with less number of farmers participation this year and asked question from all that why this happening this time. Whether people are busy in Assembly election or losing hope from these initiatives of SANSAD?

While explaining past work of SANSAD Mr. Anil K Singh announced that next year onwards SANSAD will focus on creating some market mechanism for farmers such as FARMER'S COOPERATIVE so that they can sale their organic product without any problem. He requested farmers to help SANSAD in forming cooperative of farmers after mobilizing around 1000 farmers.

Farmer's convention started with welcome song from school children's of a nearby school. Later on Chairman Shri Chand Mohammed gave trophy to these children.



Shri Yogeswar Datt a prominent organic farmer from Punjab 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 endeavor.

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.

Shri Madhukar ji narrated his own experience of organic farming and said that future is of organic farming and nobody can escape from this. He also appreciated the efforts of SANSAD doing such a great help to the farmers not only in Saharanpur but all over the country and World.

Shri A K Singh Director of LEADS Trust, Ranchi who is 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. He also narrated governmental schemes of Jharkhand Government for promoting organic farming in the state.

Shri Chand Mohammed gave his presidential address and said that we are fortunate that a well known voluntary activist decided to come in this small place and helping our own people to change their life and building capacity of farmers to earn more.

Chairman Shri Chand Mohammed also answer the question raised by Shri Anil K Singh in his inaugural speech whether people are busy in Assembly election or losing hope from these initiatives of SANSAD, therefore they have come here in less number? Shri Chand Mohammed response was certainly not. People are less because this time lots of marriages going on in the villages and weather is also not conducive and suggested that next time you should not organize farmer's convention in January.

It is pertaining to note that during farmer's convention SANSAD put up a stall to show case organic

products made in SANSAD farm which include new seeds of paddy and wheat, organic fertilizers, vermin compost and pesticides.



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 farmer's leaders also spoke and appreciated the efforts of SANSAD.

5. Effectiveness of Bio gas plant: SANSAD organized several exposure trip of farmers on its farmland to show how effective is bio gas plant. With just one bio gas plant one family can get 1200 kg of organic fertilizer in a month, can lit 2-4 lamps and cook food for 6-7 members three times a day without incurring any additional cost. For running one bio gas plant only two buffalos or three Cows are needed.

6. Awareness building of farming communities: SANSAD organized wall writings of different slogans prepared by the master trainers in the selected 20 villages of the localities. So far we have organized painting of more than 240 slogans in the localities which created a very good environment about organic farming. Almost every day we are getting number of calls from farmers. A ripple effect one can see because of that.

7. Farmer's Rally: SANSAD also organized three rallies of farmers in the month of February 2017 in which a large number of Children participated. People were carrying hundreds of colorful banners on which slogans in support of organic farming was written and slogan shouting was part of the rally.

SANSAD also prepared 2 leaflets of 1000 each and after printing it distributed widely to the trainees as well as to other farmers.

8. Exposure visit of farmers:



A 19 member delegation of farmers visited three districts namely Patiala, sangarur and Barnala of Punjab and got exposure at 8 different organic farms during March 19th to 22nd 2017. List of farmers who were part of this exposure visit are enclosed.

This whole trip was organised by Kheti Virasat Abhiyan under the leadership of Dr. Umendra Datt who happens to be very close friend and well wisher of SANSAD and a well known organic farming promoter in India. Our last year's



exposure visit was also organised by the same organisation but at different locations.

On March 19th early morning at 5.00 am a 19 member delegation left for Patiala in three vehicles hired by SANSAD. At around 10.00am we reached Patiala and after having breakfast moved to the farm of Gyani Mohinder Singh where we had 4 hours



discussion with him and interjected with other farmers of the area as well as his family members who were involved in the organic farming for the last 12 years. He showed us his farm as well as spot where making organic fertilisers as well as organic pesticides. His family served snacks and tea to all of us.

After that we moved to the farm of Mr. Gurmeet Singh at village Bahawalpur in the district of Patiala. Here Mr. Gurmeet Singh has invited a retired doctor from Government medical collage who has decided to devote full of his time in explaining people about ill effect of chemical fertilisers and pesticides and decided to join as volunteer with Kheti Virashat Abhiyan.

Dr. Saurabh gave an hour long lecture to us and replied to all questions asked by our farmers. After lecture by Dr. We visited fruits orchards developed by Mr. Gurmeet Singh. At the end they served snacks and Fruits juice to all of us.



After that we went to the farm of Mr. Jai Singh of village Ghanour in Patiala district where he and his wife welcomed us and after offering tea took to their farm where we show wheat and mustard plantation through SRI method.



At around 7.00pm we came to our hotel Sarva Priya at Nabha in Sangrur district and stay overnight there. After reaching hotel SANSAD organised a brief session to find out various learning at 3 different places and recorded that. Main learning emerged that marketing is not a problem for them because they are organised and fixing their own price which is more than double of normal price and people are buying with them.

Next day (March 20th) at around 8.00 am we left for village Manjhi in Sangrur district and reached the farm of Mr. Jarnail Singh. He organised a formal lecture through that taught us how to make organic fertilisers and pesticides through various techniques. Highlights of his lecture was how to grow rice with less water as this area is having water scarcity.





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After that we reached to the farm of Mr. Anirudh Vasist who happens to be a big farmer and doing lot of experiments on his land because there is no dearth of land with him. Immediately after we reached there he organised and offered tea, fruits juice as well as some fruits to us. He and his brother explained how he came to organic field and full credit gave to Khati Virashat Abhiyan. Since 2004 he and his brother doing organic farming and selling in a higher price in the market. It was surprising news for us that they are selling cow milk in Rs. 90 per litre market. After an hour lecture and discussion he show us his farms where he is making different varieties of seeds and doing organic farming. After visiting his farm at around 9.00 pm we came back to our hotel and stay over night.

Next morning we left for village Tapa in Barnala district and visited farm of Mr. Gulab Singh. Best thing we observed here are a water purifier well and organic fertiliser making machine which they them self developed. Their main focus is how to save water and do farming with less water. They told us that based on their experience of several years, now they are promoting farmers not to grow rice as it requires lot of water and instead of that grow pulses and vegetable through which farmers can earn more as compare to rice cultivation.



After that we visited farm of Mr. Rajinder Singh in same village Tapa where they offered us roasted gram which is very very testy. He showed us his wheat and mustard cultivation field and explained that marketing is not a problem for them as they decides about price of their organic product after discussion collectively.

After that we visited a village called Chaurighar Matian where each and every house is having a kitchen garden and producing vegetables for their own consumption. Coordinator of Kheti Virashat Abhiyan mobilised and

motivated ladies of this village to have kitchen garden which will help to save money and keep them healthy. Today on an average each family saving a minimum of Rs. 1500 in a month and Rs 18,000 in a year. All together 256 households are their in this village and we calculated that on an average this village is saving Rs.46,00,000 in a year which is a very very big amount.

At the end we can summarized that this exposure trip was very very productive as we learned a lot and all participants were very happy with this exposure trip.

We started at night of March 21st and reached Saharanpur in the early morning at around 4.00am.

9. Farmers School: SANSAD has formed Farmers Schools in 25 villages and linked with more than 20 existing Farmers clubs in the old villages selected last year and provide additional literatures, films, books and booklets so that these farmers club can work as learning centre for farmers and become a real farmers schools. All those villages where Farmer's school was set up this year are as follows: Nangala, Rawanpur, Daulatpur, Danatpur, Lodhipur, Chauramandi, Baingani, Goverdhanpur, Dhulani, Chaurakalan, Dumjhedi, Dumjheja, Raipur, Patna, Bhojpur, Bahlolpur, Jairampur, Binakhedi, Gumti, Malakpur, Sikdi, Telipura, Suchela, Nanyari and Saliri.

10. SANSAD local office: SANSAD local office at Chilkana is functioning well with all modern communication facilities as well as like a call centre for farmers as they are calling us to know remedies of their various problems related with farming, animal husbandry as well as other local social problems such as alcoholism, domestic violence, indebtedness etc.

11. SANSAD Website: SANSAD Website was upgraded this year and one can see how many hits are there. It is a healthy sign that since inception of project in Saharanpur in September 2013, till date we are having more than 1,00,000 hits.

The achievement extent of ultimate outcomes of the project : As we are in the 3rd year of the project and some positive impact is visible but real impact one can see only after completion of 5-6 year of its implementation but ultimate outcomes of the project are as follows:

- a) 30 master trainers are prepared to impart training to local farmers in 2014-15 and 2015-16.
- b) A training manual emerged after ToT which was released in the Farmers Convention held on January 11th 2015.
- c) 2 leaflets of 1000copy each was printed and distributed.
- d) More than 1200 slogans are painted on the walls of different villages.
- e) 1400 farmers selected from 60 villages are trained in last 3 years. These farmers are mainly from marginalized communities such as Dalit, tribals, muslim minorities and women.
- f) Around 200 farmers are given practical training on paddy and Wheat plantation through SRI method and mixed cropping pattern.
- g) Practical training to the farmers are given on how to make organic fertilizers and pesticides at house hold level and many farmers are making it and using in their field which has reduced their input cost of farming drastically.
- h) SANSAD outreach has gone to Chilkana local Municipality, various local self government (Panchayats), Agriculture collage, Agriculture Science centre and many Governmental officials. In last 3 years SANSAD Farmer's Convention was hosted by all above mentioned institutions as well as village level Panchayats also collaborated with SANSAD in hosting this farmers convention held in different years.
- i) Local communities and farmers were educated and sensitized on adverse impact of climate change and how to cope with that.

Details of training activities in 2016:

Sl. No.	Date	No. of Participants	Name of Village
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1.	June 13-14	60	Nangala
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2. June 15-16	50	Rawanpur
3. June 17-18	62	Daulatpur
4. June 19-20	70	Danatpur
5. June 21-22	41	Lodhipur
6. June 13-14	60	Nangala
7. June 15-16	50	Rawanpur
8. June 17-18	62	Daulatpur
9. June 19-20	70	Danatpur
10. June 21-22	41	Lodhipur
11. June 30 and July 1	35	Chauramandi
12. July 2-3	52	Baingani
13. July 9-10	52	Goverdhanpur
14. July 11-12	52	Dhulani
15. Sept 5-6	39	Chaurakalan
16. Sept 9-10	40	Dumjhedi
17. Sept 12-13	38	Dumjheja
18. Sept 14 &19	42	Raipur
19. Sept 17-18	36	Patna
20. Sept 20-21	33	Bhojpur
21. Sept 22-23	26	Bahlolpur
22. Nov 3-4	44	Jairampur
23. Nov 5-6	26	Binakhedi
24. Nov 12-13	53	Gumti
25. Nov 13-14	39	Malakpur

Survey/ information dissemination/awareness raising (bench mark survey, review of reports/references, posters & leaflets dissemination, farmer's convention):

- a) For awareness raising SANSAD has organized wall writing of slogans in 20 villages and overall more than 240 slogans has painted on walls of these 20 selected villages.
- b) Many books/reports were reviewed to suit of training of farmers and used while training.
- c) SANSAD prepared and printed two leaflets on importance of organic farming and disseminated to all trainees as well as to large number of farmers of the area.
- d) SANSAD also printed 1000 copy of a appeal letter addressed to the farmers and appeal to adopt organic farming which was distributed widely.

Networking: During a short span of time SANSAD has build a very good rapport with many local NGOs, Panchayats(Local Self Government), local Municipality and many eminent people of the area.

Unavoidable Problem faced while implementing project: In this year also communal violence took place in Saharanpur and due to that our movement was restricted and therefore no activity took place during that time It is unfortunate that sometimes political parties create such tension to gain political mileage specially just before election time.

During October and November 2015 Panchayat election was happening on phase manner and for different post therefore almost two months project work was at halt and therefore we were behind our schedule plan for few months but make up the loss of time with our speed

Infrastructure Development: As mentioned earlier that SANSAD is having a two Acres plot and we have built a small cow sheds for animals with the support of RKK and at present 3 Cows and 2 Buffalos with their calf's are leaving there. SANSAD has also put up a Bio gas plant on the same farm land which produces sufficient organic manure for our land as well as produces cooking gas for 6-8 people and lighting 3-4 lamps. This piece of land is used for demonstrating various types of cultivation in different cropping seasons. So far we have demonstrated rice cultivation through SRI methods, Wheat cultivation as mixed crop and seasonal vegetables plantation to the farmers of the area on this demonstration plot of SANSAD.. This year we have put up boundary wall to make our animals safe as chances of theft was very high. SANSAD also put up tin shed on the boundary wall to make more space for animals as well as for vermy compost which SANSAD is making regularly.

Governing Board meeting of SANSAD

During this financial year SANSAD Governing Board meet twice-one on July 26th 2016 in New Delhi and another on January 10th 2017 at SANSAD Saharanpur office.

Governing Board of SANSAD

The Governing Board of SANSAD comprises of seven persons, including the President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary General and three 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:

1. President K.S. Gopal Centre for Environment Concerns, Hyderabad
2. Vice President Vacant Treasurer Dr. Sanjay Bhatt Delhi School of Social Work, Delhi
3. Secretary General Anil K. Singh SANSAD, Delhi
4. Treasurer: Dr. Sanjai Bhatt, Delhi School of Social Work, University of Delhi
5. Member Sheelu Francis Women's Collective, Chennai Member
6. Sharad Joshi CECOEDECON, Jaipur Member
7. Biplab Halim IMSE, Kolkata Member Rita Sarin The Hunger Project, New Delhi

The 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, Maldives

5. Staff Members of SANSAD

1. Secretary General : Mr. Anil K. Singh
2. Project Coordinator : Mr. Arvind Sharma
3. Assistant Agronomist: Mrs Bimla Singh
4. Account cum Administrator: Mr. K George Kutty
5. Care Taker: Mr. Abdul Sakur
6. Helper: Mr. Nitin Kumar
7. Manpower for Agriculture: Mr. Ravi Upadhyay

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