With Human Rights ....... Against Hunger

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Newsletter Jan-Dec 2015, New Delhi
Highlighting the activities of,
National Office, FIAN Delhi, FIAN Uttar Pradesh, FIAN Rajasthan,
FIAN Andhra Pradesh, FIAN Tamil Nadu, FIAN Karnataka, FIAN Bihar,
FIAN Orissa, FIAN Jharkhand, FIAN Kerala, FIAN Maharashtra.
This newsletter of FIAN India is presenting the activities that were carried out in the year 2015 on wide range of human rights issues of historically marginalized as well as vulnerable communities- Dalits, Adivasis, Women and Children and their inalienable right to food. The emphasis was also given on the right to food of migrant workers and workers of mines and minerals. The activities were focussing on multipronged- case work on specific violations of right to food, advocacy actions and networking and alliance building.

The important activities that require special mention were the National Dialogue on Agrarian Crisis and Farmers Suicide, Training of Trainers on Advocacy, Consultation on Mines, Minerals and Indigenous People in Jharkhand at the national level and engagement in the Universal Periodic Review-II Assessment process along with Working Group on Human Rights in India and the UN-WGHR and also the participation in the UPR III reporting process with National Human Rights Commission-NHRC need specific mention at the International Level.

It is important to read the deliberations of the National Dialogue on Agrarian Crisis and Farmer Suicides as it has emphatically capture the causes for the phenomenon of farmer suicide as they are complex and multifactor, ranging from climate change, corporate driven agenda, Govt. apathy, ineffective implementation of Govt. schemes meant to ameliorate the suffering of farmers, corruption etc

The 'Right to Food and Nutrition Watch 2015' has given a clarion call that public policy must address food production and human nutrition simultaneously and through the legally binding human rights framework for the progressive realization of adequate food and nutrition for all.

The concerns over unbridled displacement, lack of adequate compensation, neglect or negation of the need for total rehabilitation and resettlement, disastrous impact of mindboggling mining by extractive industries on the Adivasi community and environmental damage were the major issues that surfaced in the State of Jharkhand.

This newsletter is also highlighting the meaningful work done on the ground by FIAN Chapters. FIAN Rajasthan’s advocacy work among mine workers, FIAN Karnataka’s effort and initiative to document the plight of farmers, FIAN Odisha’s grass roots work on the living and working condition of fish workers in Samal village and FIAN Andhra Pradesh’s proactive work on to facilitate building check dam for the benefit of tribal communities and FIAN Delhi’s reactive work to protect the right to food and water of slum migrant workers in Sanjay Colony- all these need special mention. This also carries a brief on the joint strategy meeting between FIAN India, FIAN UP and FIAN NEPAL.

Though poverty eradication and rural development were focused and regarded as panacea for all ills that prevail at the rural side and also to protect food security and land rights, including the need for adequate budgetary allocations for schemes and policies on food security at the macro level, there has not been any perceptible changes in the lives of marginalized communities on the ground due to either policy are fundamentally flawed in perspective or poor implementation of those half-baked policies itself. The marginalized communities such as Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Women, Children and persons with disabilities, face multiple, systemic as well as structural discrimination and facing severe obstacles to the realisation of their right to food and nutrition. Let us collectively work together to ensure the right to food for all with dignity.
FIAN India had conducted a training of trainers (ToT) program at Delhi in July 2015. Participants from various state chapters of FIAN India had participated in the two-day ToT program. The objective of the program was to build the capacity of the state chapters on various tools of advocacy. This would equip them to prepare effective advocacy strategies, to identify key challenges according to their area of work, to prepare advocacy plan for each state chapters as well as for the national level.

The themes such as Right to work, right to livelihood; Right to shelter and the Right to clean water were highlighted as core areas of focus in the training by the participants and expectation were pitched on these themes. The participants also shared with the audience biggest challenges that they have faced in the field of advocacy. Challenges that were mentioned included the inability to convince government officials to carry out implementation of welfare measures comprehensively and consistently; inability to seek coordination better between various government departments working on similar issues; excessive reliance of activists on courts to address violations of rights and entitlements, limited utilization of social media; and difficulty in obtaining information related to land and forests rights.

Analyzing these challenges, resource person Mr Narendra discussed some of the key tools to ensure effective advocacy. These included:

- Stocktaking of the Internal environment to understand SWOT in facilitating advocacy actions
- Identifying Direct and potential Stakeholders
- Using schools, colleges, and media.
- Lobbying with MLAs and their representatives.
- Partnering with other NGOs working on similar issues.
- Spreading awareness in the community.
- Analyzing the local geographical outreach.
- Approaching authorities and providing suggestions.
- Focusing on one objective at a time, breaking up bigger goal into smaller objectives and not taking up larger issues at once.
- Advantages of preparing a checklist and using the same.

Building on these key tools the participants worked in groups on four topics of Right to work, Right to food, Right to water and entitlements to government / social security schemes. As part of this activity the four groups prepared case studies where tried to explain the problem faced, identify the stakeholders and develop an appropriate advocacy strategy.

Figure 1 and Figure 2 below are training material shared at the conference

**Figure 1: Step-wise advocacy guide**

Select an issue or problem you want to address → Analyze and research the issue/problem → Develop specific objectives for your advocacy work → Identify your targets → den-
Figure 2: Relevance of Advocacy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Advocacy</th>
<th>What can it change?</th>
<th>Target Group</th>
<th>Does it really target people who have influence over the other?</th>
<th>Typical indicators of Success</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Policies, Implementation of policies, laws and practices</td>
<td>Decision makers, leaders, policy makers, people in position of influence</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Policy implementation, laws or practices which enables improved condition.</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
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National Dialogue on India’s Agricultural Crisis & Farmer Suicides

Mumbai November 2015

The Child Trust, FIAN in India and its Mumbai chapter jointly organized a consultation “National Dialogue on India’s Agricultural Crisis & Farmer Suicides” in Mumbai on 1st November 2015. Activists from all over India shared the most pressing concerns regarding the agricultural crisis in India and strategized on possible roadmaps to alleviate the crisis. A declaration was also passed that encapsulated the demands of the participants in the consultation. The 2015 Right to Food and Nutrition Watch Report was also released as part of the event.

Fifty-five members of FIAN India (Chapters) from all over India attended the National Dialogue organized by FIAN in India and its Maharashtra chapter. Mr. Guruswamy, the President of FIAN India introducing the theme gave an overview of the current scenario that is propelling farmer suicides and aggravating agrarian crisis. He pointed out that crop loss and indebtedness are the major reasons for farmers committing suicide. He also criticized that the manner in which crop loans are being provided and administered to farmers is highly problematic, not solution-oriented. Mr. Guruswamy called for a deeper discussion and analysis of farmer suicides and its impact at various social levels especially on the families of the victims. He suggested that based on detailed studies, FIAN can chart its strategy for the year. Since farmers are mostly un-unionized FIAN should carry out advocacy for their cause.

Mr. Vijay Jawandhiya from Shetekhari Sanghatana, Maharashtra, and the keynote speaker for the event is a leading farm activist in the Vidarbha region and is also one of the founder members of
the **Shetkari Sanghatana** and of the **Kisan Co-ordination Committee**, an organization of Indian farmers and a member of La Via Campesina, an international peasant's organization. He appraised the gathering of the pathetic situation of farmers in Maharashtra specifically in 2015, their vulnerability has been increased manifold. One of the contributory reasons for agrarian distress in Maharashtra is due to unpredictable weather and drought like conditions. He highlighted that in 2015 the state received 40% less rainfall then the average yearly rainfall and this has also clearly contributed to the crisis. Yet the Vidarbha region received only 10% less rainfall but the situation of farmer’s in Vidarbha is equally critical.

Professor Ramesh Padhye a writer and researcher is renowned for his extensive work on agrarian crisis in the state of Maharashtra. He bemoaned the fact that agrarian distress in the country has been reduced to political sloganeering by parties. In the process the media and wider public fail to analyze the underlying causes behind the agriculture distress and growing number of peasant suicides. Prof. Pandhye urged the gathering to try and look at the issue with an open mind and without any preconceived notions. It remains extremely vital to look for constructive solutions. Yet it is important to note that the development of agricultural sector in India and more so in Maharashtra state is not waiting for some sort of scientific invention to increase agricultural production or enhance productivity. The system is really awaiting a political change to curb unsustainable agricultural practices. Prof. Padhye argued that even leftist political parties have refused to grasp this reality and hence failed to write agenda for political change.

Ms. Suman, senior activist and FIAN India Vice President highlighted that any transnational trade agreements should be finalized and signed only after a fair and transparent consultation process with diverse stakeholders particularly, the farmers and social movements should work towards making this process transparent and also demystify the existing policies to educate the common man and farmers and peasants’ movements on the intricacies of the issue. Social movements which are working for right to food should, connect with the peasants, she emphasized that the rural population who are mostly the sufferers should be part of the solution finding process and FIAN should go to them and capture the true gravity of the issue. Since the rural population are most affected, they can articulate their suffering more truthfully and provide sustainable solutions. She strongly advocated for a bottom up approach in framing of policies. She also suggested that deeper research should be done on the impact of agrarian crisis and farmers’ suicide; their testimonies should be documented and highlighted. In order to pressurize the Govt. with recent facts on the crisis, block wise, district wise, and village wise analysis should be carried out. The Government should be presented with case documentation and possible solutions and must be urged to prioritize areas in distress.

Mr. M. P. Gautam, FIAN Jharkhand shared case studies relating to challenges facing farmers in Jharkhand. In one especially poignant case, Mr.Preetam Lodhi a farmer from Mahoba district committed suicide as all the crops in his 20 acre land was damaged due to hail storm. Earlier in the
past 8 years, his crops were affected by dry weather. He had taken loans from various sources that amounted to a total of 10 lakhs with interests (including 3 lakhs from Kishan Credit Card and 1.5 lakhs from local money lender). Like in this case, Indebtedness and vagaries of weather constitute key sources of distress to farmers across Jharkhand.

Ravi Kumar from FIAN Andhra Pradesh highlighted the distressing situation in Telengana where more than 400 families are being effected by farmer’s suicide. According to Mr. Kumar the scale and gravity of agrarian distress in Telengana is only second to Vidarbha. What is distinct and worrisome about the Telangana is that a large number of women farmers have committed suicide. In 2014, about 149 female farmer’s committed suicide. Geographically speaking, Telangana and Vidarbha are quite comparable. Both regions suffer from acute deficiency in irrigation facilities. Banks in both regions have also been declining to provide loans and usually disburse a paltry amount of 30 -40 thousand/per farmer. Mr. Kumar demanded that immediate steps must be taken to challenge the policies of financial institutions and public sector banks and their lack of aid to farmers. Apart from this, good traditional seeds must also be made available to farmers along with irrigation facilities.

The consultation “National Dialogue on India’s Agricultural Crisis & Farmer” culminated in the preparation and release of the Mumbai Declaration that encapsulated the collective demands of FIAN in India and other participants to work towards to alleviate the agrarian distress and progressively to bring an end to the disturbing phenomenon of farmer suicides.

**MUMBAI DECLARATION (1st NOV 2015)**

“The unabated suicides of farmers have to be strongly addressed by social movements. The causes for the phenomenon are complex and multifactor, ranging from climate change, corporate driven agenda, Govt. apathy, ineffective implementation of Govt. schemes meant to ameliorate the suffering of farmers, corruption etc. As the outcome of the National Dialogue on India’s Agricultural Crisis and Farmer Suicide-FIAN in India on 1st November, 2015, the following declaration is produced. The trend of politicizing the farmer crisis has to be stopped. The serious crisis faced by peasants in India has to be given priority focus and strategies should be worked out to highlight their issues. All stakeholders including the general public should be educated and sensitized that the agrarian crisis is a social issues which is impacting them and that they need to be well informed and active participants in arresting the trend. Adequate awareness will be created amongst peasants about various support mechanisms available to help them absorb shocks. Focus on the plight of the family of suicide victim should be documented and highlighted. Calls for transparency and multi-stakeholder engagement in signing trade treaties to institutionalize bottom –up approach in framing policies. Publish analytical reports on Government policies and its impact on the agrarian crisis. Formulate strategies to effectively link peasants and farmers with social movements.”
The ‘Right to Food and Nutrition Watch 2015’ (henceforth ‘The Watch 2015’) was released during the National Dialogue on India’s Agricultural Crisis & Farmer Suicides by Sri.Vijay Jawandhiya and Professor Ramesh Padhye from Maharashtra. With malnutrition affecting more than 2 billion people all over the world and around 194 million (as per recent FAO reports) people hungry in India itself and obesity rates rising, the Watch 2015 underscores the artificial separation of nutrition and sustainable food systems, which is resulting in vertical, technical and product-based solutions that ignore human determinants and entitlements. Pointing to the influence of corporations on policy-making processes, all contributing authors to the Watch 2015 warn that there exists commercialization of nutrition which is placing people’s sovereignty and rights at great risk.

The increasing control of businesses over food systems and policies – ‘known as corporate capture’ makes nutrition a luxury affair. As demonstrated by the diverse predicaments the world has faced in the last decades, the present political and economic model seems to give priority to corporate interests over the realization of peoples’ right to food and nutrition.

‘The Watch’ uncovers the subtle but appalling corporate abuse and impunity around the peoples’ right to food and nutrition and provides a series of recommendations for States to prevent and punish initiatives that hamper the enjoyment of human rights.

India’s traditional food is disappearing with the coming of packaged food and big corporate houses taking over the market. It directly affects them health and nutrition and income of the small farmers and local food production.

The Watch2015 aims to: - 1) present nutrition from a human rights perspective, beyond medical and technical conceptions and 2) expose corporate control and list a series of recommendations for States to guarantee the realization of the human right to food and nutrition and prevent corporate abuse and impunity. **Going beyond corporate-rooted conceptions**, this year’s Watch focuses on nutrition from a human rights perspective. “Peoples’ Nutrition Is Not A Business” is about the competing visions of nutrition, the causes of malnutrition and the policy responses, often targeting women inappropriately, both behind the scenes and in the public sphere.

The report has highlighted the following affirmation to strengthen the movement for Right to adequate and nutrition-

- Public policy must address food production and human nutrition simultaneously and through the legally binding human rights framework for the progressive realization of adequate food and nutrition for all.
All countries (including developed countries) should conceive and implement comprehensive support programs to develop sustainable food production systems that ensure domestic food security and economies.

The realization of women’s human rights predetermines all peoples’ human right to adequate food and nutrition; their leadership and participation in food and nutrition governance from the household to an international scale must be a priority.

The CFS has been the preferred international arena for rural social movements seeking an alternative policy space to the WTO and the World Bank. Its work to strengthen local food systems that promote successful nutritional outcomes based on agro-biodiversity must continue and expand.

Without absolute transparency and the participation of public interest CSOs and communities, international trade agreements, especially in food and agriculture sectors, must not be signed. Trade interests can never be allowed to supersede the right to adequate food and nutrition.

Governments have the obligation to promote human rights through education and the empowerment of those, in particular, whose human rights have been violated, as well as through the efficient availability of remedy mechanisms for human rights holders to seek redress for violations.

Peoples’ Nutrition Is Not a Business. The link between food production, access and nutrition must be strengthened: through the promotion and protection of labor-intensive and locally rooted food systems engaged in sustainable agro-ecological methods; through women and men’s secure access to land in urban, as well as rural, settings; and through restoration of traditional rights to harvest and re-use seeds. Nutrition is inherent to people, not to corporations. It must not be for sale or profit.

Peoples’ food sovereignty and a human rights perspective are fundamental to addressing all forms of inequity, oppression and discrimination and to the democratization of national and global societies. Peoples must hold their governments accountable for the implementation of states’ national and extraterritorial human rights obligations.

Conference “Mines, Minerals and Livelihood”

Ranchi, 20th December 2015

The conference “Mines, Minerals and Livelihood” was organized by FIAN India and The Child Trust in Ranchi, Jharkhand on the 20th of December, 2015. The conference attempted to bring to discussion some of the burning socio-economic issues related to mining in India. It also sought to provide an arena where alliance building and networking could be fostered among civil society organizations. This will enable focused and well strategized efforts on the part of CSO and allow them to play a constructive role in addressing pressing issues.

The concerns over displacement, lack of adequate compensation, rehabilitation and resettlement, impact on the Adivasi community and environmental damage were the major issues that surfaced in the conference. These concerns were linked to policy and legislative provisions to brainstorm on possible ways to mitigate concerns relating to mining. At the same time varied participation of affected groups, local activists and NGOs ensured that conference which gave affected communities a platform to voice their concerns and express themselves liberally.

In total 81 persons were participated and deliberated on mining issues. The chairperson of the conference Ms. Priyadarshini moderated the proceedings. Some of the key speakers in the conference were Mr.Chani Singh from FIAN Jharkhand, Dr Sunita from Jan Mukti Sanharsh Vahini of Jharkhand, Dr Kiran official of Central Coalfields Limited, Shri, Hemendra Pratap Sahi, an ex MLA from Jharkhand, Ms Suman from FIAN India, Kumar Deelip from Chatra Yuva Sangharsh Vahini, Jamshedpur and Vinod Kumar from Jharkhand Upanayaikas. The participants represented all major mining areas of Jharkhand such as Bokaro, Giridi, Hazaibagh, Ramgarh, Chatra and Palamu.
FOOD IN DIGNITY
Mines, Minerals and Livelihood

Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act 2013
The Coal Bearing Areas Acquisition and Development Act, 1967
The Damodar Valley Corporation Act, 1948
The Land Acquisition (Mines) Act, 1885

RESPECT & FULLFILL

Article 21, 21A
PESA 1996 PFA 2013
ILO 1998 CEDAW
FRA 2006 CRC

5/26 - A Ground Floor, Jangpura - B, New Delhi - 110014
Ms Suman - of FIAN India pointed out that mining is related to a number of socio-economic issues such as displacement, child labor and human trafficking. Ms Suman noted that FIAN’s engagement with mining issues in Jharkhand gave it some very crucial insights. One problem that we noticed at the level of policy and legislation is that are far too many laws for land acquisition. While there is a central law (earlier Land Acquisition act 1894 and now repealed in favor of Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act 2013) there are state level laws modeled on the central law as well as several sector specific laws. Currently there are 13 sector specific laws that allow land acquisition and it includes the likes of Land Acquisition (Mines) Act 1885, the Coal Bearing Areas (Acquisition and Development) Act 1957, The Atomic Energy Act, 1962 and the Damodar Valley Corporation Act. The existence of so many land acquisition laws gave tremendous powers to the state and largely ignored the interest of communities. On the other hand, current protective legislations for the interests of the marginalized groups such as FRA, PESA, CNTA, were being overlooked and in fact were undermined by the land acquisition law. Ms Suman suggested that this situation pointed to an urgent need for the state to bring about a convergence between the land acquisition laws and the others laws safeguarding the interests of the people.

Dr. Kiran of Central Coalfields Limited lamented that mining has often taken place in the name of development but hurt the local communities of mining areas the most. The dreams of jobs and progress made to these communities have had a mirage like quality and have rarely been delivered. Instead of reaping benefits local communities such as Adivasis have borne a huge burden. She reminded the audiences that about 40% of all displaced in India are Adivasis. She also highlighted the negative impact of displacement on women. She rues the fact that most jobs to displaced persons inevitably go to men. Dr. Kiran alleged that these practices are in effect perpetuating patriarchy. She strongly advocated for transparency in awarding mining contracts, land acquisition process and dialogue with local community and the community must be proactively involved in the deciding how much land is needed for the project and how it will be acquired. Their concerns need to prioritized over land acquisition process.

Former Member of Legislative Assembly from Jharkhand, Mr. Hamendra Shahi expressed deep worry at the phenomena of Adivasi’s and their culture being destroyed by fundamentally flawed development policies. In one case, a displaced person was not even aware where rest of his family migrated to and how they are surviving. Because of impoverishment and denial of dignity to marginalize persons many communities are languishing in abject poverty and powerlessness. Mr Shahi suggested that:

- Before physical displacement take place all families must already be allotted new houses
- Every member of a displaced family must get job
- Ensure livelihood by encouraging enterprises such as bee keeping, horticulture and animal husbandry.
- All displaced persons in Jharkhand such as those in ATC, Bokaro, Chandili must be given houses.

Mr. Gulab Chandra represented Damodar Bachao Abhiyan focused on the threat to rivers in Jharkhand and attempts of movements to protect them. He pointed out that both Damodar and Konar have faced tremendous pollution from mines in their basins especially from the coal mines. In 1999 the organization Damodar Bachao Andolan organized a yatra along the river Damodar to highlight the pollution to the river caused by the mining industry as well as destruction caused by mega dams in the state. Gulab Chandra exhorted the participants to help the movement in spreading awareness on the issues and influence the state to take corrective measures urgently. The state, he noted, has become more aware and receptive to some of the concerns of the people in the recent years. He however also cautioned that if the river Damodar is not saved soon, Jharkhand will soon turn into a “Black Desert.”
The conference also provided an occasion to brainstorm on critical issues and develop strategies to tackle them. It encouraged networking and alliance building that yielded extremely positive outcomes. The participants of the conference came up with an agreed set of points as a follow up plan:

- Strategize and carry out efforts to seek stringent implementation of the Forest Rights Act 2006
- Attempt a systematic study and documentation of cases of displacement across Jharkhand
- Organize a workshop to the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement 2013
- Prepare and disseminate booklets on the Central, state level and various sector specific land acquisition laws
- Engage in mass-based advocacy actions at the national and state level
- Take up the issue of domicile whereby the concerns of citizens of Jharkhand are taken up and discussed fruitfully
- Deliberate and strategize on the issue of supply of water and electricity.

**Developments in Kusum Tola:** Communities were able to assert their rights and claim their entitlements – semi-permanent jobs have been provided to 95 families that is 50% of the project affected; compensation still is an unresolved issue, exerting pressure to demand fair compensation is ongoing; land to land as a rehabilitation is still not respected, though recognised in principle and continuing conflicts on the ground with the arrest and filing of cases against victims, thus twice victimised after displacement.

**National Consultation: Food Security Act and Challenges in its implementation**

**Delhi 5th August, 2015**

FIAN India organized a consultation on “National food security Act: challenges in its implementation on 5th August, 2015 at Constitution Club of India to discuss the challenges in implementation NFSA, 2013. The objective of this consultation was mainstreaming of right to food issues in the regular course of implementation among different stakeholders and CSOs / CBOs, to increase the
pace of entitlements of Right to Food, bring out points of advocacy from the discussions for the government at policy and implementation level and to build up alliance of CSOs & CBOs.

Some of the key points of consensus that emerged from the consultation include:

- Need to sensitize vulnerable groups
- Form a platform under one banner through which we can work on this issue
- Government must deploy officials or sewikas from within the community to help
- The ambit of the NFSA should be enlarged to cover large population.
- Women should be given special attention.
- Migrants should be paid attention due to disadvantaged status.
- Advocacy for the government at policy and implementation level
- Build-up alliance of CSOs & CBOs.
- Monitoring and social auditing should be undertaken to check corruption and bring accountability.
II. FIAN Chapters in 2015

FIAN Delhi

Right to Food of Women

FIAN Delhi along with National Office organized a round table conference on Right to food of women at Indian Social Institute, Lodhi Road, Delhi on 21st March, 2015. The main objectives were: mainstreaming of ‘Right to Food of Women’ in the regular course of implementation among CSOs / CBOs, to build up alliance of CSOs & CBOs, Identifying the advocacy points for policy makers, and last not the least perspective building among members of CBOs and CSOs. Major outcome of this meeting was the decision to form a core committee which can suggest and give recommendations on the issue time to time involving different stakeholders, review budget allocated to food, health and education which has a direct impact on the condition of women health, and to follow best documentation practices.

Majority of women in rural areas are malnourished despite the fact that they have the highest contribution in food production. They are not able to take adequate nutritious diet due to limited food and their subordinate status within families. Figures show that 81% pregnant women in India are anemic. Women in most of the households ignore their health and nutritional needs. The number of adolescents suffering from anemia is even higher. Iron deficiency in adolescent years makes it difficult for girls to reach their full potential as adults, both in their working and personal lives. Iron, zinc, folic acid deficiencies in the diet lead to hidden hunger because these deficiencies are not visible. A UNICEF study shows that the more educated mothers are, the more nourished the children are. Education is the prerequisite to generate awareness among women about the nutrition needs and health care, apart from addressing the issues of accessibility to productive resources such as land, water and traditional seeds to produce adequate food for all women.

Right to Food of Migrants

FIAN Delhi has been actively raising the concerns of migrant labours in urban environs. Due to failure of agriculture in rural areas, loss of livelihood sources, lack of productive employment etc, rural to urban migration has been increasing rapidly over the years. This is in large part to inadequate means of livelihood. In cities, they are faced with severe challenges to ensure adequate wages and sustainable employment. Moreover, failure or limited success in gaining access to services related to health, education and other social welfare measures is a massive and often under-emphasized aspect of lives of migrants. Migrants are also one of the most vulnerable groups in the country so far as right to Food is concerned. It is in this area FIAN Delhi is attempting to intervene.

- FIAN Delhi has sent several recommendations asking the government to register migrant labours to increase interstate cooperation. In last legislative Assembly election, representatives from FIAN Delhi met different political party’s leaders asking them to include registration of migrant workers as an agenda in their election manifesto. Delhi government has carried forward our recommendations and has started registration drive for migrant’s workers. The Delhi government has started registration camps at 100 identified ‘labour chowks’ for the first time. Started on April 20th, 2015 the state government has been holding registration camps at different sites. The first phase of the drive ended on May 8, 2015. This is the first attempt from the government’s end to bring genuine worker into the welfare fold and raise enrolment.
FIAN Delhi had taken up the activity of facilitating the filling of Ration Card forms. FIAN Delhi submitted 32 household applications. 30 were accepted by the authorities. 22 received ration cards and now entitled to receive ration from ration-shops. So, far 8 households are still in under-process. Every person entitled to receive 5 Kilogram of food grains per person per month at highly subsidized rates.

A community meeting and training was organised by FIAN Delhi on 4th May, 2015, on various provisions under food security Act. FIAN Delhi has sent letter of recommendations to the Minister of Labour Welfare, Delhi Government. The purpose of the letter was to ensure the welfare of unskilled workers while, revising wages of unskilled workers. FIAN Delhi met Honorable, Gopal Rai, Minister of Labour (Delhi Government) and discussed the recommendations by FIAN for the welfare of workers in unorganised sectors. Minister proposed a round table discussion on the same and invited FIAN Delhi to participate in the discussion.

Training of Trainers on entitlements under Food Security Act was conducted on 30 October 2015. Government has plethora of food related schemes and the country is a proud exporter of food grains and then also it has 194 million hungry populations as per FAO recent report. After a long struggle of civil societies and various other stakeholders, government have brought National Food Security Act in 2013 to give food security to ensure access to adequate quantity of quality food at affordable prices to people to live a life with dignity. NFSA proposes to cover 75% of rural and 50% of urban population. NFSA fall short both in terms of implementation and performance. On implementation side there are serious problems like proper targeting, quality of food supplied and the supplying agency. Rarely the food reaches the intended beneficiaries especially in case of ICDS for pregnant and lactating women. Delhi is one of pioneer state in implementation of the National Food Security Act, 2013 w.e.f. 1st Sept., 2013 National Food Security Smart Cards of 17.68 lakh have been issued to eligible households covering total beneficiaries of 62.55 lakh for disbursement of food entitlements under National Food Security Act, 2013 after verifications of eligible beneficiaries as on 10th May 2015. Almost all the digital Food Security Cards are Aadhar enabled.
**FIAN Jharkhand**

**TOT for Human Rights Defenders**

FIAN in Jharkhand/National Office organized a training of trainers to strengthen and protect the Human Rights Defenders on 15th March (Sunday) 2015, in HRDC-Ranchi, Jharkhand. The focus of the training was on how human rights defenders and organization can uphold their people’s oriented work to address justice for communities, and at the same time, how to improve their safety and security while working in the field under oppressive conditions and intimidated by the state and its institutions. Specifically, the participants discussed and shared tactics, strategies and resources on how to HR defenders can create effective security protocols to protect themselves against physical threats and secure their data in the field or office.

**FIAN Odisha**

**Community Meeting on National Food Security Act**

National Office along with FIAN Odisha organized a community meeting on ‘National Food Security Act’ at Samal Island District Ganjam, Odisha on 13 February, 2015.

The Challenge of Food Security in Samal Village

Samal village is surrounded by saline water and it is impossible to grow any crop in this village making survival of the villagers difficult. There is acute crisis of safe drinking water as there is only one well which has potable water for the village of around 1375 people. The situation becomes worse when pregnant women of the village could not reach to Health centre on time. It is only during natural calamity like cyclone or flood, government or any NGO sense the responsibility to visit the village and help them. Some serious cases are referred to MKCG Medical, Berhampur which is 48 km away and Cuttack Medical, 130km away from Samal. There is a great need to generate awareness among people about health issues, and the way to live a healthy life as people there, believe in taboos like fever is believed as wrath or curse of goddess. They perform puja and rituals to cure fever instead of going for medical treatment. During the meeting, it was found that
government has handed over the Chilka Lake to big companies and businessmen on lease and thus fishing is restricted to only a small part of the lake for villagers. Companies had put their big fishing net restricting access to villagers. This has further worsened their situation in a village lacking sustainable source of livelihood and basic infrastructure necessary for a decent and dignified life.

FIAN UTTAR PRADESH

FIAN UP organized its Capacity Building Programme on Right to Food and Nutrition with around its 150 General Body members on Aug.16, 2015 in Lucknow the capital city of Uttar Pradesh with different FIAN UP groups of all over the geographical area. The focus of the meeting was to find out practical ways and means on how to ensure Rights Based Work in day to day work in different programmes like Integrated Child Development Services ICDS, Accessing Food Schemes under National Food Security Act.

FIAN Rajasthan

Workshop on Occupational Safety and Health

The National Coordinator participated in the workshop jointly organized by FIAN RAJ and PRASAR on “Occupational Safety and Health in India from 19-20 March 2015 with Special Focus on Food Grain & Alternative livelihood for Mine workers in India.

A state level workshop on the right to adequate food of migrant mine workers was organised in Hotel Badri place, Jodhpur on World Food Day, the 16th October 2015. 88 people including 40 men mine workers and 48 women mine workers participated in the programme. This was organized to critically analyse the issue of food security of mine workers and also threadbare analysis of the implementation of the National Food Security Act in the State and specifically its relevance to mine workers. Post-this state level workshop most of migrant mine workers have applied online and in panchayats to make their identity cards, job cards, ration cards and other formalities which are required to access food and work. The community more sensitized to demand their due rights in front of govt. dept. and offices and officials.
On 8th March 2015, public hearing was organized with 139 participants in mining area of Baleser. Dr. M.K. Devarajan Member of Rajasthan State Human Right Commission (SHRC), Jaipur (Rajasthan), various Government & non-government organizations, media, social activists took part actively.

Mass Mobilization of Women to demand right to food in the form of Women Rally was organized on March 8th. In total, 233 women mine workers participated in the event. This was organized with a demand migrant mine workers’ rights by mass mobilization and exerting pressures on the State. Through this event, mine workers are able to internalize their issues, source collective strength due to this kind of mass mobilization in the rally, able to voice their issues in front of the government officials.

**FIAN Karnataka**

**Meetings and Workshops**

FIAN Karnataka participated in a meeting organized by Bhartiya Krishak Samaj, at Belgaun, Karnataka on May 24-25, 2015 in Kumar Gandhrva Hall, Belgaun. Office bearer Participate with him because BKS is our alliance partner.

Collection of information was done on farmer’s suicide in Hunsur in Mysuru district, Pankanahalli in Mandya District, Kestur village in Chamrajanagar District of Karnataka, the River Cauvery basin, where 50 suicides reported in July 2015. This survey was undertaken basically to understand the economical, sociological and agrarian related underlying causes for suicides and the current status of families of those victims. This activity is conducted due to the call for solidarity given by the NaO and also to understand the fundamental reasons for the problem.

**FIAN Andhra Pradesh**

**Research Visit and field Intervention**

FIAN AP carried out research visit and interventions in December 2014 under NORAD project. Following up with the intervention FIAN is helping Sunnametta village in working to build check dam for irrigation water. The response of villagers has been extremely positive and the villagers are working for the check dam. Through this check dam 400 acres will get the irrigation water for cultivation.
III. Networking and Alliance building

FIELD VISIT TO JHARKHAND

Field Visit to Jharkhand was carried out between 21st November and 26th November 2015. In order to get insights on recent developments relating to land acquisition in Jharkhand, several resource persons were contacted. The idea was to draw on their experience and understanding as local observers who have followed issues relating to land acquisition and mining closely over the years and also strengthen networking and alliance building in the State. The following are some of key persons who were met and briefed about our work and discussed about their work and challenges: Father Tony Herbert (academic and former director of Prerna Resource Centre, Hazaribagh, also member of FIAN Jharkhand); Father Alex, Director of Xavier’s Institute of Social Service (XISS), Ranchi; Professor Himadri Sinha, Head of Research Department (XISS), Ranchi; Mr. Shashi Bhusan Pathak, Activists and former Secretary of Peoples Union of Civil Liberties and Mr. Raimul and other researchers of BIRSA, Ranchi.

The tracking of the UPR II Recommendations and towards preparation of NHRC report to the UN HRC

The National Human Rights Commission-NHRC has organized a Northern State’s Consultation on October 28 in Chandigarh in which state human rights institutions have been invited to present their report on the implementation of UPR Recommendations, and CSOs also have been invited from Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh and Uttar Pradesh. Nearly 85 participants from State Women’s Commissions, Human Rights Commissions, Commissions for Protection of Child Rights and Commissions for Scheduled Caste were participated and made their presentation on the progress or lack of progress of the implementation of the UPR II recommendations. Ms Suman FIAN India was invited as a resource person to make a presentation and comments on the implementation of recommendations on Right to Food. She had made a presentation on the implementation of UPR Recommendations on Right to Food as well as recommendations pertaining to important socio-economic and cultural rights. She had pointed out that the budget allocation to NFSA has considerably reduced in the budget of 2014-2015 to the tune of Rs 28000 crores and efforts to exclude PDS Card holders in many states are serious issues which had negative impact on the implementation of NFSA. The migrant worker’s registration has been given some attention in Delhi where most of the migrant workers from Jharkhand and Bihar are settled.

WGHR -FIAN India interface on UPR II : Tracking the implementation of UPR II Recommendations

The UN Human Rights Council conducts periodic reviews and assessments of how countries are acting upon their commitments to uphold international human rights standards. This is done through 4 and half yearly appraisal of national government reports, under a Universal periodic Review (UPR) process instituted in 2007. India has reported twice, in 2008 and 2012 (UPR I and II), and is due to submit its third report for the 2016-17 in the Third UPR. The Council accepts independent civil society reports as an input to its consideration of official reporting; this is a valuable window of opportunity for people’s views to find their place in the international process.

The Working Group on Human Rights in India and the UN (WGHR) – a national coalition of human rights organisations and independent experts in the field of human rights in India and FIAN INDIA were convened a National Thematic Consultation on the UPR II Mid-term Reporting Process. Under review is the status of India’s action to carry out the obligations it accepted at the Council’s 2012 peer review of its national performance.
This assessment of UPR II reporting examines and assesses the official steps India has taken to address the 68 recommendations it accepted from the 169 recommendations made by the Council in 2012. The consultative exercise invited separate examination of five thematic areas of rights, of which an important concern was Economic, Social and Cultural rights and to focus on the rights entitlements and status of marginalized and deprived communities. This meeting to discuss ESCR thematic was organized on August 24 in FIAN Delhi. As an outcome of this national thematic meeting, a detailed thematic assessment report was prepared and presented to WGHR with FIAN India inputs along with expert’s views.

**State Level Conference on Unorganized Workers and Right to Food**

The Child Trust and FIAN Delhi were jointly organized a ‘Collective Introspection' Round Table on 'Right to Food through Sustainable Livelihood' with special focus on women, children and migrant workers, in New Delhi to be held on 23rd December, 2015. 42 participants from civil society organizations, trade unions and women’s rights organizations took part in the round table and discussed the issues of right to food of unorganized migrant workers. The objective was to highlight the myriad of socio-economic insecurities particularly in accessing adequate food and nutrition prevalent in unorganized employment sector and initiate critical introspection among stakeholders particularly CSOs to, devise ways for convergence in advocating with law makers and policy implementers to address the issue through direct regulatory and institutional reforms, as well as broader welfare measures.

As an outcome of the round table, it was decided to focus

1. Mapping of living and working conditions of unorganized and migrant workers in selected pockets of Delhi Slum to show case their plights and issues
2. Mobilize and organize unorganized workers in to viable slum based labor associations to discuss their issue in depth and come up with collective strategies.
3. Formation of women’s and children’s collectives to scan the issues of hunger and malnutrition that prevalent among women and children of unorganized workers
4. Advocacy cell to interface with the government as the Union Government is planning welfare measures in the budget of 2016.

**A JOINT STOCK TAKING AND STRATEGY MEETING ON LAXMANPUR DAM CASE BETWEEN FIAN INDIA AND FIAN NEPAL**

A Joint stock taking and strategy meeting on Laxmanpur Dam Case between FIAN INDIA and FIAN NEPAL was organized on 14th December, 2015. in Lucknow. In this meeting, 40 members from both countries participated and discussed the pertinent issues related to this issue with an update on the current situation in Laxmanpur Barrage and future course of actions. The objective of this joint inter country strategy meeting was to discuss about those issues which can be solved jointly in both in India and Nepal, so that the problem which affecting people in both countries can be solved and to make Strategy for Joint Action for one year. Also this meeting is to provide a space to understand the international instruments available to resolve water disputes among inter countries.

In the deliberations, both countries, field activists of FIAN UP, FIAN India and FIAN Nepal have shared the progress and developments from both countries and also intensity of the issues that could be gauged now and can understand about what is the current stage of the issue. Participants have shared their respective activities and its outcomes and also shared about the possible impacts of the activities. The inaction by the states was also discussed and how to do Advocacy and Lobbying with MPs and SAARC Summit in 2017 was also discussed.

This kind of Joint meeting on Laxmanpur Barrage and Kalkawa Afflux issue among India and Nepal is a collective analysis of positive progress and negative developments and this kind of meeting would lead to joint initiatives in both sides of the countries and create visibility to the issue.
III. NETWORKING AND ALLIANCE BUILDING

Following action plan was evolved after the iterations in the meeting and these multipronged strategies need to be looked at for implementation.

1) Documentation-
- Documentation is to be prepared by both FIAN UP and Nepal 31st Jan, 2016 and sends to the National office, FIAN India.
- Making joint case sheet of both documentations that would be a first draft within only 15 days.
- After that the draft would be shared with FIAN Nepal and FIAN U.P for their suggestions.
- Final documentation will be prepared by March, 2016
- Again both team will meet in March and also find the advocacy points that what needs to be done at national and international level.
- In the meantime, the both team also do awareness programmes for the displaced people due to flood through Disaster Management Authority.

2) IEC Material-
- To make jointly draft of pamphlets, booklets and letter by both team.
- Identify national, regional, community and international issues in IEC material.
- After making pamphlet or booklet by jointly then it also be share with community, media also.
- Timeline of IEC material is last May.

3) To organize TOT (Training of Trainers) in the Board meeting of both countries. If organized joint programme then to add 2 days of TOT also.

4) To organize Conference and invite both sides of MP’s i.e India and Nepal and raise the issues in Parliament

5) A Memorandum also submit to SAARC Secretary by 31st March, 2015 by both FIAN Nepal and U.P
राज्य में खाद्य सुरक्षा कानून का क्रियान्वयन अधूरा; प्रो ज्याम ड्रैज

अर्जेंटाइन में बुधवार को एक छोटी सी वस्तु व्यवसायीय अटून के लिए निर्णय दिया जाता है। इस वस्तु में किंचेंजा हिमालय के निचले भाग में स्थित था। यह एक छोटी सी वस्तु है जो व्यवसायीय अटून के लिए दो वर्ष से अधिक समय लेती है।

आजीविका नहीं बन सकते खानिज

न्यूज़लेटर खानिज और जीवन-प्राप्ति विषय पर रोमिनार, वकालों के लिए अलग अभियान जारी किया है।

अभियान, रोमी

राज्य में खाद्य सुरक्षा कानून का क्रियान्वयन अधूरा; प्रो ज्याम ड्रैज

संयुक्तवता, रोमी

अग्रसरणों को जा पहुंचने पर कहा जा रहा है कि जो देश भर में खाद्य सुरक्षा कानून का क्रियान्वयन अधूरा है। यह राज्य में खाद्य सुरक्षा कानून का क्रियान्वयन अधूरा है।

आजीविका नहीं बन सकते खानिज

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संयुक्तवता, रोमी
ensuring Right to Food for all
STARTS WITH WOMEN

As mothers and caregivers women bear the burden of providing food and nutritional requirements of their families. In India 87% of pregnant women are estimated to be anemic which is closely correlated to poor maternal health and high infant mortality and low birth weight.

85% of rural women in India are engaged in agriculture yet only 13% on land. As per census 2011 work force participation rate for women stands at only 25%.

Women produce more than 50 percent of the food grown worldwide (FAO)

ENSURING RIGHT TO FOOD OF WOMEN MEANS:

Ensuring,
Access to naturals resources - land, water & forest.
Equal and adequate wages in safe working conditions.
Access to health care, nutrition and education.
Equal participation in decision making bodies & its implemention
Right to property of women.

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