Hunger free society strives to transform

Welcome to yet another edition of our newsletter. FIAN sees food in dignity as an important aspect to bring change in the society or retain sustainability.

Editorial

16th Of October is celebrated as World Food Day of action against hunger. The right to adequate food is realized when every man, woman and child has the physical and economic access at all times to adequate food or means for its procurement. Making hunger-free society is not just a moral imperative, but also a good investment for society. Extreme climate events, lack of resources and opportunity, illiteracy can dramatically affect a person’s ability to feed themselves and their families. Without social safety nets, resilience and good policy in place, these small and large events can set off a cycle of hunger and poverty.

The conferment of right to food would be adding a diamond to the crown of the world’s largest democracy, but the delay in its implementation is another serious concern which is creating doubts about the government’s intention.
FROM THE NEWS

Govt delays food Act rollout

The Indian Express, June 27, 2014

The Centre has decided to delay the implementation of the Food Security Act by giving states three months extra for rolling out the major social sector plan passed by the previous UPA government. As many as 25 states and Union Territories are yet to roll out or even give indication of implementing the scheme anytime soon.

“States should tell us clearly if they want to implement the Act and any other concerns they face regarding the Act. As of now, there is a lot of haziness on it,” said Food Minister Ram Vilas Paswan. Paswan has called a meeting of all states on July 4 to understand the issues affecting the implementation.

The outgo towards the ambitious scheme under the Act is Rs 1.31 lakh crore. The huge amount is supposed to be one of the reasons why the Centre has been dragging its feet in pushing the rollout.

The implementation of the law would increase the Centre’s food subsidy bill by Rs 25,000 crore, while the annual grain requirement would rise by 6-8 million tonnes from the current level of 55 million tonnes, he said. Haryana, Rajasthan, Punjab, Chhattisgarh and Maharashtra, have fully implemented the Act; while Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Chandigarh, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar have rolled it out it partially.

“The Food Security Act came into force on July 5, 2013. As per the law, state governments were to implement the law within 365 days (by July 4, reporters here. 2014). Twenty states and five Union Territories have not implemented the food law so far. So we have decided to extend the deadline by three months,” Paswan told the reporters.

Cabinet approves ordinance on amendments to Land Acquisition Act

The Economic Times, Dec 29, 2014

Government recommended promulgation of an ordinance making significant changes in the Land Acquisition Act including removal of consent clause for acquiring land for five areas of industrial corridors, PPP projects, rural infrastructure, affordable housing and defence.

The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, decided to amend the Act to bring under its purview 13 central legislations, including those relating to defence and national security, to provide higher compensation and rehabilitation and resettlement benefits to farmers whose land is being acquired.

Finance Minister Arun Jaitley said the government decided to relax certain provisions of the Act and add Section 10A to the legislation keeping in mind the development needs of the society. As per the changes brought in the ordinance, multi-crop irrigated land can also be acquired for these purposes. The earlier Act provided for consent of 70 per cent of land owners whose land is acquired for PPP projects. Jaitley said there is a mandatory condition for provision of job for those whose land is acquired for industrial corridors.

With this decision, rehabilitation and resettlement and compensation provisions of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 will be applicable for the 13 existing central pieces of legislation including the Coal Bearing Areas Acquisition and Development Act, 1957, the National Highways Act, 1956 and the Land Acquisition (Mines) Act, 1885.

"The existing Act vide Section 105 (read with Schedule IV) has kept 13 most frequently used Acts for Land Acquisition for the central government projects out of the purview."
These Acts are applicable for national highways, metro rail, atomic energy projects, electricity-related other projects etc. Thus, a large percentage of farmers and affected families were denied the compensation and R&R measures prescribed under the Act,” it said

**NATIONAL CONSULTATION**

**ON**

**RIGHT TO FOOD: SUSTAINABILITY AND CONCERNS**

FIAN along with its partners organized a National Consultation on “Right to Food: Sustainability and Concerns” on December 5th, 2014 in Delhi. The objective of this consultation was to discuss issues pertaining to sustainable approach of Right to food with dignity and progressive realization of right to food including access to natural resources, technology, nutrition, adequate income, employment and to come up with an action plan focusing on region specific issues.

An inaugural speech was given by Dr. E. M. Sudarsana Natchiappan, co-founder and President of the Parliamentary Forum on Human Rights, reaffirming the need for people to voice and demand the local governments to properly implement the National Food Security Act (NFSA).
Ms. Suman, Vice President of FIAN India, shared her views considering the alarming data that 37% people are living below the poverty line; sustainable approach is the need of the hour. She further stated that generally in Govt. Policies, the nutritional aspect of the food palate is ignored with little choice given to regional preferences. The governments need to bring a more universal approach to the Food Security with a women-centric focus in policy and implementation while ensuring right to food to its people as they are the main food provider in the family, she added.

**TRAINING WORKSHOP FOR TRAINERS**

FIAN in a pragmatic effort to contemplate more on the issue of Right to Food organized a two-day Training Workshop in Delhi on September 27\textsuperscript{th} & 28\textsuperscript{th}, 2014 at Indian Social Institute. The training module focused on people in general whose rights are being violated with explicit focus on women’s rights because the structure of society marginalizes women resulting in unequal power.

The training was built on international and national human rights laws, but went beyond the legal or technical approach, supporting people to analyze and confront power imbalances and taking sides with people living with hunger and poverty. Poverty arises principally because human rights have been denied. If poverty has to be ended, it is necessary to protect, promote and fulfill the human rights of people living in hunger and poverty. People living in poverty are seen as the leading agents in their development process and in challenging unequal power and injustice.

On the first day of the training, a role-play was initiated to provide trainers a better understanding of rights based approach. A case analysis was done on the difference between charity and service delivery approach. An in-depth understanding on human rights was developed by doing an analysis of newspapers. Case studies were done on women’s human rights and their violations taking in reference various Articles of Indian Constitution. On the second day of the training too, the analysis was done on the women’s human rights with
reference to several articles but by using different methodologies like fact finding visits, street play, role play, social audit, press notes, and budget analysis of government schemes.

The main strategies of this Rights Based Approach Training were to empower people to become rights activists, to make them capable to claim their rights and to hold the people and institutions (duty bearers) meant to deliver on these rights accountable.

FIAN in India has initiated a wide range of activities and is involved in advocacy with the government to ensure adequate food rights in India. Representatives from FIAN India attended a National Workshop on Building Consensus for a South Asia Human Rights Mechanism in New Delhi, India on 26th -27th August 2014. The national workshop explored challenges faced by the region, models of other regional mechanisms and avenues for engagement. With the participation of several civil society organizations, experts, lawyers, Parliamentarians and other key stakeholders, this meeting could prove to be crucial for building consensus among national groups and shape the way forward for the regional initiative.

India currently ranks 127 out of 186 countries in the UN's Gender Inequality Index of 2013. Traditional patriarchal norms have relegated women to secondary status in private and public sphere. This affects women's health, financial status, education, and political involvement. Ensuring gender equality is one of the "most pressing" development challenges India is facing. Woman as an individual has not an equal position as of a man in the societal structure. She has always been marginalized and FIAN in India has taken many initiatives to raise public awareness and increase political will and resources for preventing and ending all forms of violence against women. FIAN in India had organised two-day training workshop on 27th and 28th September, 2014 at Indian Social Institute, New Delhi with a focus on people in general whose rights are being violated and explicitly focus on women's rights. The structure of society marginalizes women resulting in unequal division of power. The training aimed to help people find real and substantial solutions to the uneven distribution of power and gender inequality and encourage them to do their part to help promote gender equity in the society. This training was an effort to mainstream HR with special focus on women’s rights.

Networking and alliance building: Ms. Suman from FIAN India was an eminent speaker at Right to Food Movement for Zero Hunger: Civil Society Campaign on 22nd November, 2014 at Dalit Ayog Hall staff College, Jawalakhel, Nepal.
To reaffirm the solemn commitments to human rights in the region and to promote sustainable approach of development, FIAN India attended a panel discussion on “People’s struggle for poverty eradication: Towards a new development agenda in South Asia” on 22nd November, 2014 organised by South Asia Alliance for poverty eradication in the people’s SAARC regional convergence, 2014. Representative from FIAN in India attended “People’s SAARC meet in Kathmandu, Nepal from 22nd – 24th Nov, 2014. The objective of this meeting was to develop strong network of organizations working for the Human Rights of minorities and to evolve a broad principles based on which South Asian Charter for Minority Rights could be developed.

Regionalization of FIAN network in Asia - “Regions” can be defined as primarily geographical entities, emerging as more or less integrated units on the basis of shared interests or identities. The members discussed possibilities to work towards intensifying cooperation in Asia and explore possibilities for collaborative projects and explore creation of a regional FIAN structure and planned for collaborative work at regional level.

Ms. Suman from FIAN India attended the 7th International Conference of the ETO Consortium at Bangkok on 2nd -3rd September, 2014. The ETO- Consortium is a member-led network aimed at information-exchange, monitoring, compilation, coordination and capacity--building supporting lobby work and standard setting. FIAN continues to provide a secretariat to the Steering Group until decided otherwise by the Steering Group, with reasonable notice (at least one year) in advance. The participants discussed possibilities to follow up on the ETO conference and work towards intensifying cooperation in Asia. Civil society and academia from different parts of the world have gathered in Geneva, Kampala, Bangkok, and Bogota to discuss ETOs in relation to a wide range of issues, including corporate control over food systems, access to natural resources, trade and investment, development cooperation, international financial institutions and regulation of TNCs.

ENDEAVORS AND EXPERIENCES OF FIAN UNITS

FIAN and its members from different state units organized multiple events, training workshops and community meetings to promote new legislations and raise awareness on the issues of right to food.

FIAN in Andhra Pradesh

FIAN in Andhra Pradesh has been working at the community and state level, to enhance monitoring capacities of CSOs and selected key stakeholders.

The Board Meeting of FIAN in Andhra Pradesh was held on 24th May, 2014 at Araku Valley. Board members reviewed previous meeting minutes and decisions.

A Capacity Building Programme was organized on 25th May, 2014 at Araku valley. 7 Board members and 7 staff and 4 volunteers participated in the programme. Mr. Ravi Kumar explained the project details and the treasurer presented the budget.
The Right to Food is primarily the right to feed oneself with dignity. A Workshop on Right to Food was organized on 19th May, 2014 at Social service center, Vijayawada. Five members from FIAN team, 3 from District Monitoring Committee, 4 staff, 8 indigenous community leaders and 4 volunteers participated in the workshop. The cases of Right to Food violations occurring in Araku valley were discussed. The responsibilities of different stakeholders to address the issues in broader level and the stake holders also agreed to take different responsibilities for the fulfillment of right to food and water of indigenous communities. A follow-up stakeholder meeting was held on 8th June 2014 at office, Vijayawada. FIAN Team members, local group members and Ms. Vanaja, Ms. Gulabhi and Ms. Lakshmi from local panchayat participated in Training on Advocacy on 26th June, 2014 in Araku region. The objective was to provide adequate skills, knowledge and information to the community leaders. They discussed on issues of safe drinking water, right to work, social security schemes and land. Mr. Ravi Kumar explained on advocacy skills and how to approach government officials.

Andhra Pradesh had witnessed another spate of farmers’ suicides. Delayed rainfall, prolonged dry spells, subsequent crop failures, debt trap and unfriendly government policies have forced many farmers to commit suicide. A team of 10 members visited Rayavaram, Kodakondla, Thimmakkapally and Gajwel villages in Medak district, Telangana on 30th and 31st of August, 2014. The purpose of visit was to understand the causes on suicides committed by farmers in the region and plan for preventive methods to stop suicides among farming community.

FIAN in Andhra Pradesh had organized awareness building programme, trainings / TOT and developed strategies to contact with struggling groups. About 163 struggling group members from 22 villages participated. The objective was to empower communities to claim their entitlements. FIAN team gave inputs to the people on how to claim their rights and approach the government officials. The issues discussed were ‘Right to Work, Right to water and social security schemes’.

**FIAN in Jharkhand**

With the expansion of mining activities in Jharkhand, land degradation, water, air pollution have drastic impact on the lives of the people. Moreover displacement becomes a problem because of the dispossession which results from it. FIAN in Jharkhand with FIAN National office conducted a meeting and discussed primarily on FIAN case work strategy to support local community demand for
compensation, case for damages caused due to blasting by C.C.L mine, and Resettlement & rehabilitation packages, etc. with special reference to Kusumtola (Purnadhi OCP coal mine-CCL, NKParea).

FIAN in Jharkhand released a Handbook on Legal Analysis of Kusum Tola Case study Purnadhi OCP Coal mine block North Karanpura valley (NKPV) coalfields M/S Central Coalfields Ltd. (CCL), Chatra district, Jharkhand. The Handbook is an attempt to provide a guiding tool for people displaced in coal mine areas, with a case study of Purnadihi (Kusum tola) coal mine of Central Coalfield Ltd. (C.C.L). It is a study of Government and Company rules and regulations regarding Notification for land acquisition, Compensation for land lost to mining, Resettlement & Rehabilitation, and related issues which have lapsed, infringing on the Human Rights of the people by mining company.

FIAN in Jharkhand put forward a Demand Notice at Ranchi on 10th December, 2014 to protect the Right to Food. The aim of FIAN in Jharkhand, is to ensure the implementation of the provisions of the International Bill of Human Rights by working and networking with other groups for the protection of the human right to food and, above all, the right to feed oneself of persons or groups threatened or suffering from hunger and malnutrition, especially displaced people, forced evicted people, migrant workers, homeless people, rural and urban poor, women, children, peasants, agricultural workers, landless laborers, daily wage earners, trafficked women and girls, squatters, sharecroppers, and other whose land rights or agricultural labor rights have been or are being violated.

**FIAN in Karnataka**

One day meeting of MGNREGA workers was organized at the taluka level in 22 taluks on ‘Right to Water & Right to Food’.

Training programme was organized for the newly elected State Committee of GRAKOOS (State Union of MGNREGA) in Bangalore on 22nd & 23rd December, 2014. It was attended by 65 taluk representatives.

On 30th December, 2014, a massive rally was organized in Bangalore by FIAN in Karnataka, GRAKOOS, Pension Parishad, Rft Campaign and other likeminded organizations on the twin demands of Universal PDS and pension (50% of minimum wage) for all senior citizens. Over 6000 people had come from all over the State. Shri Sharan Prakash Patil, Minister for Higher education, received the memo on behalf of the Government.
On 16th-17th December, a two-day workshop was organised at Davengere with local NGOs to evaluate the working of MGNREGA in Karnataka for the last nine years. Media, concerned government officials and other Stake Holders participated.

**FIAN in Delhi**

Between May to July, 2014, FIAN in Delhi along with the target group launched phase one of application for ration cards. Families of the target group, which were identified by the task group, were helped and the team at FIAN in Delhi arranged all the required supporting documents. Then these families were helped by the project staff in filling the application forms, which were finally submitted at the circle office of the Department of Food and Supplies.

A capacity-building workshop was organised 13th July, 2014 at Sanjay Colony, attended by 35-40 participants. They discussed the existing policies which the migrants could avail for their benefit such as Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog, Dilli Swavalamban Yojana, the Delhi Family Benefit Scheme, Scheme of old age assistance, Financial assistance to persons with special needs, etc for the livelihood and Right to Food of the migrants. The workshop also included discussions on right to shelter and education.

FIAN in Delhi published Booklet on National Food Security Act – It covers detailed provisions of the Act, and other food related welfare schemes of the Government. It also features a comprehensive section on FAQs, and grievance redressal mechanism for the benefit of people. Also, a booklet on 'Legal Analysis of Migration related laws from human rights perspective’ is published.

**FIAN in Uttar Pradesh**

FIAN has been advocating Right to adequate Food, adequate means nutritious and rich
food necessary to stay healthy. FIAN in UP and National Association of the Visually handicapped (NAVH) jointly released Right to Food and Nutrition Watch- 2014 on 16th October, 2014 at U.P Press Club Hall in Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh) India. Malnutrition is one of the prime factors responsible for physical disability. Lack of vitamins, calcium and weakness in immune system in initial stages of life often triggers blindness and anemia. While releasing the report Mr. S.K Singh, General Secretary NAVH and board member of FIAN U.P said that as per Census 2011 in India, around 3% of population is physically challenged. The main reason of disability in India is poverty and malnutrition. Right to Food and Nutrition Watch 2014 has been covered broader issue for all victims of hunger and malnutrition across the world. More than 51% women and 24.7% men in Uttar Pradesh were anemic. According to Sample Registration System Survey 2013 53 out of 1000 children die within one year of their birth due to malnutrition.

**FIAN in Odisha**

In Odisha, FIAN has identified a case violation of Right to Food and nutrition of the people, who are largely dependent on fishing. After receiving complaints from the people of chillika, the first hand information was collected by the local activists.

Samal village is surrounded by saline water. Because of saline water all around, vegetation is not possible. Villagers have no access to safe drinking water as the village has only one bore well giving
potable water. There is no public health centre within village, people have to travel 10km at Khallikote during emergency.

**FIAN in Rajasthan**

On World Food Day (16 October, 2014) a workshop was organized by FIAN in Rajasthan at Nirali Dhani Jodhpur. 80 workers participated in the workshop.

On 24 July, 2014, a community training was organized by FIAN in Rajasthan at Bikala Nada. There were 64 participants in the training. Secretary of FIAN in Rajasthan Mr. Rajendra Kumar discussed National Food Security Law, 2013 with the community and shared the procedure of applying for job cards by Mahatma Gandhi Scheme and advantages of having job cards.

A “Training of Trainers” (TOT) was organized on 17 September, 2014 by FIAN in Rajasthan at Aganwadi center of Bheel Basti. In the training, 70 people participated from Bheel basti and Bhat Banjara Basti. Mr. Rajendra Kumar, Secretary of FIAN in Rajasthan, discussed the various challenges faced by the migrant mine workers and informed the trainees about the various schemes run at the panchayat level.

On 12th December, 2014, a stakeholders’ workshop was organized by FI AN in Rajasthan. 65 people participated from various fields like education, health, Panchayati Raj Institution, MGNREGA and Co-operative society and NGOs. Symptoms of TB and silicosis disease and their effects were discussed and community was asked for checkup in the Kamla Nehru Nagar Chest Hospital. Community shared their problems of irrigation, ineffective PDS Shops etc.

Training on Right to Food was organized for mine workers on 27 June, 2014 in Bheel Basti. 56 people participated in the training. Aganwadi worker Ms. Santosh Kanwar and Suraj Devi shared information about vaccination and nutrition for women, child below 2 years of age and adolescent girl.

Training on Right to Food was organized by FIAN Rajasthan for mine worker in Bhat Banjara Basti. Total 61 people participated in the training. A workshop on Right to Food was organized on 16th October, 2014 in Nirali Dhani, Jodhpur. FIAN in Rajasthan along with several CSOs and Govt. departments participated in Jal Chetna workshop organized by GRAVIS on 7th November, 2014 and discussed various issues
regarding drinking water. FIAN Rajasthan has started 24*7 helpline for mineworkers to support them in case of accidents, violations of right to food etc.