

# BEYOND COPENHAGEN

## A COLLECTIVE ACTION AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE



The Collective is a joint collaboration between a number of CSOs having different skills and expertise and working with a range of primary stakeholders, policymakers, grassroots organizations, NGO networks and media. The intervention recognizes the urgency to work in collaborative action on climate change, sustainable agriculture and food security issues and proposes to address these issues through a variety of actions at local, state, national and global level. The collective involves a number of organizations with varying experience ranging from grassroots works with farmers and peasant communities, policy analysis, advocacy and lobbying, media and education, scientific exploration in climate change, sustainable agriculture and food security.

The Collective recognizes the critical importance of COP15, in terms of achieving decisions and commitments for with long term and medium term objectives with regard to combating climate change at local, national and global levels.

However, it also underscores the need to sustainable collaborative intervention beyond COP 15.



## **Aims and Objectives of the Collective**

The goal of the intervention is to inform and educate the stakeholders on manifestations, likely impact and policy development on climate change and at the same time encourage environment building to broader policy formulation on climate change. The actions include awareness and education to primary stakeholders, political mobilization, working with media, collecting evidences of manifestations and impact of climate change, help evolve an informed and participatory country position in international negotiation.

## **Interventions of the Collective**

The Collective recognizes the critical importance of COP15, in terms of achieving decisions and commitments for with long term and medium term objectives with regard to combating climate change at local, national and global levels. However, it also underscores the need to sustainable collaborative intervention beyond COP15.

Recognizing critical importance and vital role that India has in fighting climate change at national level and in the global community, a number of activities aimed at generating awareness, education and action among CSOs, CBOs, media and policymakers have been undertaken in different states and regions of India.

### ***At National Level***

#### ***1. National Consultation on Climate Change with Policy Makers and Public Actors, Delhi***

A National Consultation with Policy Makers and Public Actors titled Towards Consensus on India's Position on International Negotiations discussed the implications of climate change on many economic and social aspects of climate change and nuances of international negotiations. Around 15 Members of Parliament and Leaders of various political parties participated in the Consultation. It was followed by an informal discussion with important Embassies, High Commissions and Bilateral donors of the countries who are key actors in climate change negotiations. Representatives of developed countries like Denmark (the host for COP15 Meeting), Australia, Norway, Italy, and developing countries like China, Nepal, Sri Lanka also participated in the Consultation. The Consultation arrived at a 'People's Declaration on Climate Change 2009'.

#### ***2. National Public Hearing on Climate Change, Delhi***

The Public Hearing was mainly organized by Oxfam-India in collaboration with more than 40 NGOs and networks and the Collective. It was the culmination of a series of public hearings organized in different agro-climatic zones. The Collective has been involved in organizing Public Hearing for semi-arid and arid zone and facilitated the National Consultation with mobilization and testimonies. More than 1000 people from all over India including experts, farmers, fisher folk, dalits and tribal groups, children and youth and women participated in the National Public Hearing.

### ***3. Public Hearing on Climate Change: Voices from Rain fed Regions, Jaipur, Rajasthan, India***

More than 400 representatives from Civil Society Organizations, community based organizations, academics, experts, farmers, and vulnerable populations converged at Jaipur, Rajasthan to tell their stories of impact of climate change on their lives, livelihood and economy. The public hearing sought to attract the attention of local and national policymakers to incorporate the voices of people in the policy making. The public hearing brought together people from 12 drought prone states in India who provided testimonies on how climate change has not only impacted their food and water security and livelihoods but also their culture. An Impressive jury comprising of retired judges, scientists, experts, practitioners, and civil servants pronounced a verdict which definitely castigated the developed countries for perpetuating disastrous impacts of climate change on the most vulnerable populations.

### ***4. Interactive Workshop on Climate Change: Priority areas for Policy and Action***

The objective of the interactive workshop was to brainstorm on priority areas in climate change and forge enhanced collaboration between stakeholders on these issues. Dr. Nitin Desai, the chief guest of the workshop said that the government and civil society must address denial. He suggested other areas of research and action where civil society not having scientific knowledge can contribute substantially. The issues discussed were the impact of climate change on agriculture, health and energy sector in urban and rural areas both. Various alternatives on this issue were discussed and assessed by the participants. The participants included Oxfam, WWF, TERI, RIS, CENTAD, etc.

#### ***At Regional or State Level***

##### ***1. Regional Multi-stakeholder Workshop with Media Persons, Jaipur, Rajasthan, India***

More than 70 representatives from state media attended the workshop along with representatives from national print and electronic media on 16th September 2009. Mr. Bharat Singh, Hon'ble Minister Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (Government of Rajasthan) informed the participants of the efforts of the state. Other speakers included Mr. V S Vyas, member of the Prime Ministers Economic Advisory Council, Mr. Samuel Mawunganidze (State Head, UNICEF), Mr. Sunil Thomas Jacob (State Representative, UNFP), Dr. Suman Sahai (Gene Campaign), Dr. Surjit Singh (Director, IDS Jaipur). The workshop was organized by the Collective in joint collaboration with UNICEF, UNIFEM and UNFP.

##### ***2. Regional Multi-stakeholder's Consultation (Western India) on Climate Change, Pune, Maharashtra, India***

The western region Consultation on Climate Change was organized on 27th October at Pune, Maharashtra by the Collective. This Consultation was a part of the nationwide program undertaken by the Collective to educate people, stakeholders, media, policy makers and public actors on climate change and broaden the space of public policy making with their critical inputs especially in view of COP15 taking place in December 2009. The objective of the workshop

was to create awareness amongst the civil society organizations regarding climate change and its impact over various spheres of life and also to sensitize the organizations on their role and responsibilities in this process.

### ***3. State Consultation on Climate Change, Patna, Bihar, India***

State level Consultation was organized by the Collective in collaboration with Bihar Council for Scientific and Technical Education which was attended by more than 200 representatives from NGOs, academicians, civil servant, media and policy makers. Mr. Vyas, Principal Secretary Disaster Management, Government of Bihar, drew the attention of the participants towards ill impacts of climate change. He said that the efforts of the central and state governments must be expedited in order to meet the challenges posed by climate change. Mr. C P Sinha, Ex-member Water Commission shared his research on decrease in rainfall and increase in temperature in Darbhanga district in Bihar. Other speakers included Dr. Diwakar (senior scientist India Rice Research Institute), Dr. Ajay Kumar, (Professor, Rajendra Agricultural University, Pusa), Dr. B K Dutta (Director, Council for Scientific and Technical Education), Mr. Vijay Pratap (SADED, Delhi), Mr. Vijay Pratap Singh (Bihar Statistical Institute).

### ***4. Regional Multi-stakeholder Consultation on Droughts in Dumka, Jharkhand, India***

A regional Consultation was organized at Dumka, Jharkhand with regional partners in which organizations, activist, administrative officials, academicians, belonging to Santhal-pargana area actively participated. A detailed discussion took on the origin and history of droughts and what were the earlier prevalent techniques to tackle the menace. The discussion also focused on the present drought situation in the state and its relation with climate change, up to what extent mankind is responsible for it as on large scale the green lands including forests and mountains are being removed. The consultation also assessed the measures taken by the Indian government on account of the present drought situation and discussed the possible long-term solutions for which are sustainable and achievable.

### **Research and Publication** *(The Publications are available at [www.pairvi.org](http://www.pairvi.org))*

1. Report of “Public Hearing on Climate Change: Voices from Rain fed Regions”, English
2. “People's Declaration on Climate Change 2009” (India), English
3. “Understanding Climate Change: A Learners' Dictionary”, English (under publication)

*A dictionary dealing with major concepts and terminologies related to climate change has been compiled by PAIRVI, a Collective partner. The dictionary is meant for small organizations willing to understand climate change and contribute towards its adaptation and mitigation.*

4. Study on “Drought and Climate Change: Agricultural Adaptation and Communities' Resilience”, English (under publication)

*The study covers 20 states of India and depicts the current situation, community's adaptation to changed climate and agricultural practices and their coping mechanism. A group of eminent authors and practitioners have been identified and are contributing to this study.*

5. Report of “National Consultation with Policy Makers and Public Actors: Towards National Consensus”, English
6. Concept Note on “Agriculture and Climate Change in India”, English
7. Background Paper on “India and Climate Change”, English

### **Delegation of the Collective at COP15, Copenhagen**

A delegation of 21 representatives from a wide spectrum of activities and skills has been registered at COP15, Copenhagen. The delegation includes policy makers, media representatives, scientists, lobbyists, and representatives from the communities affected directly. The Collective has organized a side event titled – “*Bringing Agriculture in Climate Change Negotiation*” on 11th December 2009 (Friday), 1445 hrs to 1615 hrs at Halfdan Rasmussen, Bella Centre. People's Declaration on Climate Change 2009 will be shared in the side event along with detailed discussion on how vulnerable communities are suffering from the effects of climate change.

### **Our Demands with National and International Community on Climate Change**

1. The Collective reaffirms the principles enshrined in the Rio Declaration and the UNFCCC and its Kyoto Protocol, in particular, the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities having regard to national circumstances, and, the precautionary principle.
2. Indian Government must stand united with other developing countries, G77, and more specifically, the most threatened people and nations – the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and the Small Island States (AOSIS).
3. COP15 negotiations are likely to develop a framework to sustain global efforts to contain climate change beyond 2012. It is likely to have a timeline for longer period say 2050. Therefore, Indian government along with other developing countries must ensure that agriculture gets due importance in climate change negotiations.
4. The Collective demands that governments of all countries must bring into its climate negotiating position, the enormous amounts of strife and hardship already faced by its poor, and amend its position from that articulated and demanded by its ruling elite.
5. The Collective insists on Mitigation First, demanding quick, large, binding and verifiable cuts in GHG emissions from the developed countries with legal recourse for failure to do so, and properly empowered monitoring mechanisms.

## MEMBERS OF THE COLLECTIVE

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Arthik Anusandhan Kendra, UP                     | Mahila Sanchetna, MP                                  |
| ASHA, MP   | Maldhari Rural Action Group, Gujarat                  |
| Bharat Jan Vigyan Jattha, Delhi                  | MANAVI, Jharkhand                                     |
| CECOEDECON, Rajasthan                            | Oxfam India, Delhi                                    |
| Centre for Sustainable Agriculture, AP           | PAIRVI, Delhi   |
| Chhattisgarh Citizens' Initiative, Chhattisgarh  | Parmarth Samaj Sevi Sansthan, UP                      |
| Development Support Team, Maharashtra            | Peoples Action for National Integration, UP           |
| Forum for Biotechnology and Food Security, Delhi | Rural Development Centre, Maharashtra                 |
| Gene Campaign, Delhi                             | Samarpan Jan Kalyan Samiti, UP                        |
| Gram Vikas Navyuvak Mandal Laporiya, Rajasthan   | Samarthan, MP   |
| Gramin Swabhiman Sansthan, Rajasthan             | SANSAD, Delhi   |
| Institute of Development Studies, Rajasthan      | Satya Path, Bihar                                     |
| Jagriti Seva Sanstha, Chhattisgarh               | Seva Mandir, Rajasthan                                |
| Jamin Adhikar Andolan, Maharashtra               | South Asia Dialouge for Ecological Democracy, Delhi   |
| Kalptaru Vikas Samiti, MP                        | Uttaranchal Development Institute, Uttarakhand        |
| Kisan Sewa Samiti Chaksu & Phagi, Rajasthan      | Van Panchayat, Uttarakhand                            |
| Kisan Sewa Samiti Malpura, Rajasthan             | Vasudev Kutumbakam, Delhi                             |
| Kisan Sewa Samiti Newai, Rajasthan               | Vidyasagar Samajik Suraksha Seva                      |
| Kisan Sewa Samiti Shahbad, Rajasthan             | Evam Shodh Sansthan, Bihar                            |
| Lokayan, Delhi                                   | Vikas Anusandhan Avam Shekshanik Pragati Sansthan, MP |
|  | Wada Na Todo Abhiyan, Delhi                           |
|  | YUVA - Rural, Maharashtra                             |

6. Considering that many of the adverse impacts are now unavoidable, for decades to come – in spite of any mitigating actions by the world community, all countries must seriously prepare for adaptive responses – keeping more vulnerable communities in focus. The recent accounting tricks of showing existing social sector spending as 'adaptation expenditure' in social sector.

And finally, the question of **JUSTICE** and **EQUITY** must be brought back in all their dimensions, transcending barriers of nations, generations and species into the centre-stage of Climate Change Negotiations.

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