

**THE GUJARAT DECLARATION -
2014**

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

**On
“CLIMATE JUSTICE”**

**8th and 9th November 2014-At
Ahmadabad**

Declaration on Action towards Climate Justice

This declaration is in response to felt need for focused call to reduce “climate-burdens” faced by farmers. All farmers face burdens with equal intensity and the small farmer however is exposed to greater spread and depth of risks due to inherent multiple vulnerabilities.

Climate justice is to view climate change as an ethical issue (causes and effects relate to concepts of social and environmental justice) linking equality, individual human rights and collective rights. This is also viewed from a historical responsibility. This creates the context for multiple legal and administrative systems to converge. Justice that recognizes the severity of challenges and accords access to appropriate remedies in a timely and holistic manner is essential. The three well known facets of justice are fairness, moral rightness and a scheme or system of law that benefits every citizen. This has to be centered on natural and legal rights.

- The efforts of attorneys, judges, and legislature and public administration systems to deliver such justice are quite commendable.
- Poor people are however not able to meet multiple costs of procedures or tools that can expedite access. The wealthy secure greater privileges and the poor tend to be neglected. This is especially true of farmers. Much as they suffer on several fronts, climate change and its impacts impose greater challenges and enhance vulnerability of the poor farmers in particular.
- Poor farmers need technical, technological and financial support and safety nets to tackle climate related challenges immediately and sustain such transitions in the future too.

Farmers have to be oriented to “Climate Smart Practices” on a priority basis. Climate Smart agriculture contributes to achievement of sustainable development goals. It integrates – social, economical and environmental development to meet challenge of providing sustainable, livelihood to farmers, food security to hungry millions, and eradication of poverty. The sustainable livelihood in this context means to provide enough to one to live, without becoming less, and to increase gradually despite the natural adversities.

March towards climate Justice:-Restoring Equity

- In the deliberation that took place farmers voiced inequities suffered by them vice- a verse urban counterpart in a range of areas like say insurance-farmers gets paid crop insurance over period 6 months -18 months but if urbanities car gets, damaged there are “cashless services” Similarly - Embargo on exports is imposed –to ensure that urbanities gets agriculture produce at reasonable but vice-verse does not happen.
- The town Development Authority -Every year expand urban areas. The Act authorities town planning officer to draw out town plan, acquire land and re-allocate exiting plots. Every 1000 of villages in country like India are covered under such expansion.

Every village has animal holders who are farmers and landless persons. The government has provided, since land revenue code come in to existence in 1879, *allocation* of “Community

Grazing Area” . This land is used for grazing and also most of cattle spend time there during the day. Due to increase of temperature and in summer –may villages provide row community sheds to protect cattle from “Heat?”

But in the new Town plan generally there is no retention of Community Grazing Area. It gets acquired and distributed for other community purpose like roads, gardens ect. The end result is that Animal Holders are put to higher cost-They have now buy fodder and create Space for housing them-Which they cannot .As end result either they sell the cattle to butchers or Some who keep them –their cattle finally land on the street.

- Similarly most burning issue is acquisition of agriculture land is compulsory acquisition for public purpose and it is by negotiation by private developers-for non agriculture activities –In the both cases monetary compensation is paid-but money gets withered away and farmers become land less and ultimately become a poor family -Can we have a “Rehabilitation policy “for providing gainful occupation to displaced farmers? In Narmada Irrigation –Sardar Sarovar Narmada Nigam Project –This has been successfully implemented and all displaced persons are provided land/gainful occupation elsewhere by state Government.

It is essential to recognize that poor farmers

- Have not been able to seize opportunity or assistance that are available
- Do not have adequate capacity to voice their grievances and many of them in clutches of rural rich.

Young farmers are restless-and like to witness brutality-and this is spreading as a direct challenge to the public Governance system.

- Alternative livelihood practices including micro enterprises / capabilities supported with improved cropping practices with a special attention on Women farmers, value added agriculture-with market links and local processing will demonstrate the sincerity of purpose.
- Public leadership through robust local institutions for community action based on principles of equity and justice are equally important.
- An integrated approach to deliver climate justice will provide answers to such questions as
 - What are the legal and administrative framework / provisions that the farmers can invoke so that their quality of life becomes the basis for redressal?
 - What can be the mechanism for ensuring responsibility from the Industry and Urban Townships, infrastructure projects like Ports Mining that generates these externalities?
 - Can we have a perspective of “Rehabilitation in occupation”?
 - What are the challenges to the existing rules and regulations and administrative practices which do not meet quick redressal and how they can be modified e.g. Payment of crop insurance?
 - What are existing Government Support Schemes which endeavour to meet these challenges but most often get delayed in delivery at grassroots level
 - Measures to ensure that farmers receive in timely manner (a) warning focused on weather forecast for taking precautions measures (b) agro-advisory before and after event has

taken place to sustain crops – livestock Can Agriculture University accountable be made to provide this?

There are increased events of suicide by farmers and if, farmers risks/opportunities are not covered in time, then nobody would do farming, everybody would like migration to Urban centers or wed local terrorism and obtain justice through brutality. This happens because the Public Governance System fails to deliver.

The International Context:

In the current discussion & policy framework of the Conference of parties in UNFCCC deliberations, agriculture is addressed from the point of view of food security, food to hungry millions but not from view of sustainable livelihood to farmers and role of agriculture and of farmers for mitigation is not prioritised. Agriculture vegetation due to its unique photosynthesis process is only known technology which naturally absorbs Co₂ from atmosphere and releases oxygen. This unique function is not given due importance and farmers are advised do mitigation by reducing use of fertilizer which they need get higher productivity

Conversely agriculture is treated on par with industry, mines, new urban areas for releases (a) GHG-But later release directly by its operations (b) reduce absorption of Co₂ which to take place by agriculture on same land acquired by them. Hence their impact on global warming is double by on the other hand.

The while calculation on GHG emission by agriculture –absorption by it co₂ is not given given due attention. Policy framework for Carbon Credit is industry oriented. No farmer or their organisation can fill up such complicated forms to avail carbon credit. But pundits do not recognise these facets.

Resolution-

The Conference unanimously resolved as under:

- Give voice to farmers, understand their options and empower them to act.
- Identify areas where there is apparent in-equity in laws, schemes, procedures and safety net provision.
- Suggest inclusive sustainable legal and administrative process with the involvement of all stakeholders to reduce inequality through appropriate redressal system and with protective assistance to get it and make authorities responsible for its regulation accountable
- Strengthen governance through local level public leadership who should be made statutorily responsible under Panchayati Raj System should be made responsible to communicate to entire village about weather forecast and agro advisory.-
- Improvement in existing legal framework and tools to suggest ensuring preventive and remedial action to reduce vulnerability through transparent credible, long – lasting and effective but quick enforcement of climate and related policies.

- Develop capacity building programmes which to trains farmers in Climate Smart Agriculture make them ready to give voice to their concern and sharing of their difficulties with leadership initiatives.
- Disseminate information on weather and Agro-advisory with Vice chancellor of Agriculture Universities are responsible to make that available.

It is urged that united Nation and UNFCCC and Conference of Parties take note of direct impact of Global Warming on farmers and related impact on Food Security for hungry millions and enhanced social-turmoil resulting into violence and deaths of poor people. It is urged that Global resources be diverted to support poor farmers, provide technology transfer “Those who have it to those who need it” to bridge productivity gaps and climate Smart Agriculture.

It was uniformly further resolved that participants conference-Which included farmers-that international community will find just and smart ways to provide them relief for the act and omission of others.

Epilogue

In India and even in the COP’s a very positive atmosphere exists in regards to Climate Justice. India has now made it statutory responsibility of Government to provide backup employment in rural areas and also provide food security to poor families. The concerns for poor and rural farmers have been explicitly expressed by the President and Prime minister of India in their message to participants of conference The Chief Justice of India too expressed his concern and implored that farmers should not be compelled to adopt mitigation practices if that makes his farming not viable. He further advised that land Acquisition of agriculture land should be sparingly done-and emphasis should be on use of wastelands-Which exist in abundance. The Governor of Gujarat and Chief Justice of Gujarat High Crt expressed similar concern in the Conference.

The participants of International conference were overwhelmed with such support- All these go a long way in promotion of Sustainable livelihood to poor in arena of Climate Change

WHAT DO OUR LEADERS SAY

Extract of Messages and Speeches made at International Conference



H. E the President of India

Climate Change poses a serious challenge in the new millennium .It is unpredictable and can have directs adverse impact on the entire habitat. Our goal must be to achieve sustainable

development and sustainable livelihood. I am sure the deliberations in the Conference will result in useful suggestion and ensure that income of the farmland contributes to the increase in the income of the farmers.

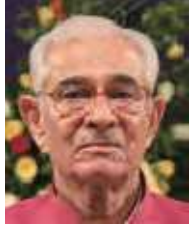
(Shri Pranab Mukherjee)



Hon'ble the Prime Minister of India

The climate change is complicating the existing vulnerabilities and people's ability to sustain their source of livelihood, especially the farmers. The climate change is also affecting the traditional agriculture activities and allied sectors harmfully. I hope that the deliberations will go a long way in inculcating the awareness about the capacity building of public leadership for sustainable development.

(Shri Narendra Modi)



H. E the Governor of Gujarat

Pujya Mahatma Gandhiji, Father of the nation had grasped the very essence of sustainable development long before the concept of the global warming became popular. He had said

“The earth has enough for everyone's need but not for anyone's greed”

“This means that our sustainable development should start from a search for way to redirect development that is more benign for future conservation. We should meet our own needs without compromising the ability of the future generation to meet their own. Whether our children will be able to enjoy the fruits of development or will suffer the ill-consequences of it depend upon what legacy we are going to leave behind us for them today. It is in this context that it has become absolutely necessary to accelerate the pace of development in an environmentally responsible manner. This should involve substantial shifts in policies and priorities”.

‘सर्वेऽत्र सुखिनः सन्तुः ।

सर्वे सन्तु निरामयः ।।

सर्वे भद्राणि पश्यन्तु ।

*Our scriptures say: **मा कश्चिद् दुःखमाप्युनात् ।।’***

“Let all the living being upon the earth be happy; Let all be healthy and free from disease; Let all get the ultimate bliss; Let no one be unhappy.”

(Shri Om Prakash Kohli)



The Hon’ble Chief Minister of Gujarat

The appearance and growth of life on our planet earth were in balance with the Eco-cycle. When this balance in the cycle of interdependency was disturbed, it gave way to disturbing and destructive effects, which we have termed as the effects of climate change. In this era of fast progress, urbanization and industrialization, it is expected of us to take care of the groups those are lagging behind. It is highly essential to ponder and implement novel initiative at local level.

(Smt. Anandiben Patel)



The Hon’ble Minister of Agriculture, Government of India

Climate change is the most difficult challenges in new millennium, due to its unpredictability, increasing frequency and intensity of its impact on habitat particularly on livelihood. This gets magnified for rural areas where majority depend on agriculture as direct or indirect source of income. Devastating cyclone-Tsunami, Torrendo and floods affect entire habitat with destruction houses, infrastructure apart from farmers and livestock.

In view of the above, there is an urgent need to deliver justice to the affected communities and in a timely manner. These should include technical, technological and financial inputs and safety net so that the farmers can tackle climate related challenges immediately and sustain such transition in the future too or for that matter advisory on Climate Smart Practices.

(Shri Radha Mohan Singh)



The Former President of India

Conference being farmer centric covering important aspects of sustainable livelihood is important under prevailing climate change leading to frequent flood hazard and shortage of rain in the country. Based on my experience I am of the opinion that places like cold desert are of help in providing Conducive climate for protected agriculture, organic agriculture using modern hi-tech sustainable practices in addition to other important aspects and for famers' wellness.

(Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam)



The Hon'ble Minister, Agriculture, Co-operation, Government of Gujarat

Climate Change has become most important threat to livelihood of farmers. It adversely affects entire sustainable development process. Impacts due to climate change are becoming increasingly evident especially through unpredictable weather. Monsoon and productivity constraints. These in turn have a significant impact on farming with changes in the physical, chemical and biological profiles of soils, water and biological parameters affects productivity fails crops or yield from livestock.

(Shri Babubhai Bokhiria)



The Hon'ble Minister, Education, Government of Gujarat

“The world is passing through irregular change weather conditions .It is cyclone, heavy rain, drought or extraordinary snowfall. All these have already affected livelihood means of farmers who are at receiving end. Successful climate change adaptation and mitigation require appropriate knowledge, skills and behavior change that education can provide. Specifically, education can enable individuals and communities to make informed decisions and take action for climate resilient sustainable development. Policymakers have not fully engaged the education sector, even though existing climate change frameworks are in place that could utilize education as a mitigation and adaptation strategy.

Strategies are needed how to overcome this challenge through strategic changes in developmental framework, policies and modern advanced technology with backup a legal framework which provides redressal if existing programme and rule framework either fail or do not reach out to them within time limit prescribed.”

(Shri Bhupendrasinh Chudasama)



The Formerly Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha)

The world is passing through unpredictable changes. All these have already affected livelihood means of farmers who are at receiving end. There is main threat to food security and food for hungry millions. Strategies are needed how can overcome this challenge through strategic changes in developmental framework, policies and modern advanced technology with backup.

(Shri Parsottam Rupala)



Hon'ble Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of India

“The consequence of climate change is only going to intensify this vulnerability. It must be an extremely important priority for us to address the consequences of climate change in India, and particularly farmers. The agriculture sector and India’s farmers are already in doldrums that it would be a travesty not to address their concern on a priority basis. We have to acknowledge that the adverse consequences are going to most acutely affect the farming community first. There is an immediate and strong link between the impoverishment of India’s small and marginal farmers on the one hand and the condition of farming that will be altered by climate change on the other”.

“The role of agriculture in climate change discussions is a rather complex one. On the one hand it is seen as an activity capable of tremendous CO₂ absorption and there for good for the environment but at the same time there are concerns about agriculture and related activities contributing to greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions”.

“I am aware that one of the main debates on agriculture in the context of climate change is whether agriculture is a net emitter”. While it is for the scientists to analyze the evidence on whether the emission from agriculture related activities is offset by the potential of agriculture to absorb CO₂ I would only say that this exercise must be context specific. We need to invest in significant research on this issue so that we can make policies on accurate data rather than assumptions and the research should give us an indication that is as local as possible. This is of critical importance because once agriculture is seen as a “net emitter” there will be increasing pressure on farmers to adopt climate –smart practices and technologies that would impose a significant burden on them. While evidence –based law and policy making still has a long way to go in India, it assumes much greater importance in this context because agriculture in India is already under great strain”.

“Farmer suicides are an issue that must deeply trouble us. And today we are faced with a situation where we subject the families of farmers who commit suicide to inhumane treatment. For example - families of farmers who commit suicide are required to submit a post-mortem report certifying that the death was due to suicide so as to be eligible for compensation but the plague of corruption in our system is entrenched so deeply that often such families are required to bribe individuals to get this report they are entitled to. It is heart-breaking to read of accounts where families are unable to claim compensation they are entitled to because they can’t pay the bribe to get the requisite post-mortem certificate .If there ever was a vicious cycle, this must surely qualify for it”.

“There have been attempts at providing comprehensive crop insurance through the years. Starting with the comprehensive crop insurance scheme in 1985 and then experimenting with the National Agriculture Insurance Scheme in 2000, India has failed to develop a viable crop insurance scheme. The fact that it has not worked so far cannot mean that we do not try further. A viable and sustainable form of insurance for our farmers will be crucial to ensure that their livelihood is not destroyed.”

“As the centre plans to make amendments in the land acquisition bill,” The government in power to make minimum use of agriculture land for the corporate sector and if at all the land was to be given –not only give him compensation but also give more than he deserves.”

(Justice H. L. Dattu)



The Hon’ble Chief Justice of the Gujarat High Court

“To give justice, the issue and challenges that appear to have been met with by, need to be tackled by two pronged strategies. As I said in the beginning, first measures are to be adopted precluding the release of greenhouse gases or co2 in the environment and Second ,structuring the proper legal framework which could take into account the concerns of one and all including the farmers too. Existing legal framework especially in the area of climate change vis-à-vis farmers” livelihood does not seem to be adequate, sufficient and efficient. As talked about principle of vis major or force majeure which I of course not fully an expression of vis major, but operates on wider sense in the French jurisdiction have got their own imports. These principles coupled with exiting legal framework at least in civil jurisdiction may not be termed as adequate. Adequacy of legal framework via status, precedents and through other instrument needs to be strengthened.”

(Justice V. M .Sahai)



The Director General, Indian Council of Agricultural Research & Secretary, Department of Agricultural Research and Education

Sustainable optimum production in agriculture has become a global concern. In the global context of climate change with an agenda of “One world one health” We must mitigate the adverse effect on ecosystem health and therefore, its services. Hence legal instruments and

research policies should be made in advance to address such issues for climate justice, at least with respect to farmers. (Dr. S. Ayyappan)



Founder, M S Swaminathan Research Foundation, Chennai

The world is passing through unpredictable changes weather it is cyclone or heavy rain or drought or extraordinary snowfall. All these have already affected livelihood means of farmers who are at receiving end. There is main threat to food security and food for hungry millions. Strategies are needed how can overcome this challenge through strategic changes in developmental framework, policies and modern advanced technology with backup a legal framework which provides redressal if existing programme and rule framework either fail or do not reach out to them within time limit prescribed.

(Prof. M. S. Swaminathan)



Director General, ICRISAT

Climate change is exerting tremendous pressure upon agriculture to produce more food by as much as 70% by 2050. Warming temperatures, drought, floods, increasing land degradation and desertification, loss of biodiversity, rising food prices, zooming energy demand and population explosion: their confluence, if unabated, will lead to a “Perfect Storm”!

Climate change can create cereal yield reductions of up to 50% in many African countries, and up to 30% in Central and South Asia by 2080s. The 18 impact of climate change will be most disastrous in the semi-arid tropics, home to 2 billion people and most of the world’s poor. Models indicate that there will be a 10% increase of dryland areas of the world with climate change.

Considering this, we have a keen interest in how climate change is studied and understood including as an ethical issue that impacts people and communities. This conference is therefore timely and relevant in considering how the causes and effects of climate change relate to concepts of justice. After all, those most adversely affected by climate change – the poorest of the

poor who live mostly in the drylands of developing countries – contribute least to the causes of climate change. Justice dictates that those who have least in life must have more in law.

(Dr. William D Dar)



Director General

The International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA)

The capacity of the people in the drylands to cope with climate change will depend, primarily, on their social and economic status such as wealth, social status, gender, race, ethnicity and age. It will also depend on their capacity to actively engage in decisions about the challenges and opportunities they face in adapting and becoming more resilient to climate change as well as their capacity to access and use natural resources, credit, insurance, markets, information, science and innovation.

(Dr. Mahmoud Solh)



Formerly Judge of the Supreme Court of India & President of NCCSD

“We are all aware that our Constitution has specific framework for social responsibility with focus on poor families under its Directive Principles. The government - both Central and States have come out with range of schemes, programmes for poor families of urban and rural areas. Some of very important programmes which are made statutory responsibility are Employment Guarantee Scheme and Food Security.”

“But in arena of climate change, farmer is increasingly becoming insecure. There is crop insurance and cattle insurance scheme but payment take years when farmers needs liquidity to buy new inputs as soon as his crop and cattle is lost. There are increases in price of agricultural commodities, but farmer can not avail of this as Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) Act compels him to sell his product to local APMC only where price gets cartelized.

Hence, when market price of onion is Rs. 80/- per k.g. farmer get only Rs. 10/- or 15 per k.g. Similar glaring example is under Town Planning Act - new township get added in rural areas to convert villages to become town but animal holders "Community Grazing Land - Gauchar" vanishes for other public purpose ! cattle start moving in the street !"

(Justice B. P. Singh)19



The Veteran NGO

If we look at our eternal resources the Panch Tatwa, The sun, air water soil and the space as true resources, managed responsibly by the community a new civilization can emerge. We create water security, food security and infused excellent sprit for future responsibility among our young generation through Rukmavati River Basin covering 46 villages and 70000 persons. We now have our earth as a good residence for all. But most important we are building a cohesive interacting community brotherhood

(Shri K.C Shroff)



Executive Chairman – NCCSD

"In various regions across the world, some high-altitude and high-latitude ecosystems have already been affected by changes in climate. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change reviewed relevant published studies of biological systems and concluded that 20 percent to 30 percent of species assessed may be at risk of extinction from climate change impacts within this century if global mean temperatures exceed 2-3 °C (3.6- 5.4 °F) relative to pre-industrial levels."

"Climate change has already adverse impact but there are available solutions – what is needed is to translate them at village level. There are already existing programmes – plans – missions but they need to happen at bottom level and hence despite their existence – we need to start for CSA at bottom level."

(Dr. Kirit N. Shelat)
