

Let Justice Roll



NewsWatch on Livelihood, Food Security, Land Rights, Gender, Identity & Social Exclusion

About Us

Vision

"Where there is justice in the land, fields and forest every living being will dance and sing"



Mission

In the spirit of service and sacrifice of Christ, CNI-SBSS would like to accompany DBSS and its partners to engage with the reference communities, so that they will develop the capacity (skills and assets) to negotiate with the policy makers and to realize their rights and emerge as an alternative political force. To move towards this direction, communities would be sensitized socially, politically, economically and culturally to organize themselves and claim their rights over livelihood means while protecting their identity.

Our Resource Centres

CNI Resource Centre for Social Actions on Livelihood and Food Security, Agra

CNI Resource Centre for Social Actions on Land Rights and Dalit Studies, Pune

CNI Resource Centre for Social Actions on Tribal Identity and Indigenous Rights, Ranchi

CNI Resource Centre for Social Actions and Research, Kolkata

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News of the Fortnight

THE FOOD INSECURITY BILL

The relentless rise in prices of essential commodities has put food out of the reach of Indian food-deprived and malnourished people. Due to this the situation of poor people especially women and children has worsened. The prices of rice, wheat, edible oil, and salt have ascended by 12 per cent to 20 per cent, and the prices of some vegetables have doubled. The cost of pulses has more than doubled, and the price of arhar (tur) dal is now Rs 100 a kilo. Sugar at Rs 30 a kilo is the consumer's bitter lot. The drought which has hit many rural families has further added to the problem of price rise and food security in India.



Government's proposed Food Security legislation lacks the rights and concerns of Indian farmers. It speaks about the importance of imports to meet domestic requirements. Whereas the need is to include policies to increase food grain production and their procurement, enhance the production of cereals like ragi, jowar, bajra and their distribution through PDS to consumers who prefer these cereals. It is vital that any Food Security legislation should expand public procurement and pay fair prices to Indian farmers for a variety of crops. It is also essential to develop the rural infrastructure and this could be done through public spending, and ensuring the availability of inputs at controlled prices.

The 'National Food Security Act', A Concept Note of the Government of India says the Act is to ensure food security to all citizens based on rights approach, with individual household members as the focus (emphasis added). But what follows these moral statements is more a prelude to a 'National Food Insecurity Act'.

The Food Security Bill that has been proposed will allow every family living below poverty line in rural or urban areas to get 25kg of rice or wheat per month at Rs. 3 a kilo as against 35kg of rice or wheat per month at Rs. 2

Resources

Food Insecurity in Incredible India

To provide foodgrains, the state expects its citizens to be living on air and not have any other needs! [Read More](#)

Legislating Against Hunger

The time has come for a comprehensive right-to-food law to tackle the deprivation and food insecurity that haunts India. [Read More](#)

Food Security in India

The focus on accelerated food grains production on a sustainable basis and free trade in grains would help create massive employment and reduce the incidence of poverty in rural areas. [Read More](#)

Food Security Act

The much-awaited announcement in the Union Budget 2009-10 to ensure entitlement of 25 kg rice or wheat per month at Rs 3 per kg to every family... [Read More](#)

Food Security- Extracted from State of Environment Report 2009

[Read More](#)

Draft Inputs for the PDS

Background Note:

In the first week of January this year the Union Cabinet took a decision to drastically reduce people's entitlements to grain through the public distribution system. [Read More](#)

Ambiguity in the proposed Food Security Bill

[Read More](#)

per kilo. This is a weak proposal in terms of quantity and price. The present *Antyodaya Anna Yojana* entitles every BPL family to 35kg of rice or wheat per month at Rs. 2 per kilo. If this scheme is abolished then the same family will not only get 10 kg less but will be bound to pay more for the monthly allotment of 25kg rice or wheat. If NFSA comes into effect many State Governments will have to change their respective food security measures. Some states like Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal have introduced schemes of rice to poor families. For example, Tamil Nadu gives 16-20 kg rice per month at Re.1 per kilo, while Chhattisgarh provides 35 kg rice.

With more than a quarter of India's districts affected by drought the proposed National Food Security Bill has received a major setback. Monsoon rains play a very vital role in India's agriculture scenario. About 60% of India's farms depend on rains and up to 70% of Indians are fully reliant on farm income. Keeping these figures in mind it is important to recognize the value of agriculture as the backbone of livelihood for over 60% of our population. But when this source of revenue is affected by irregular rains or drought and fall in water reservoirs level it becomes a cause of great concern. The Prime Minister has announced that the repayment of loans taken from banks will be rescheduled. It will be helpful to find a long-term solution to the problems faced by farmers.

Control Price Rise! Ensure Food Security for All:

Said the CPI (M) during the National Convention For The Right To Food And Against Price Rise' organised by them. They put forward three sets of demands related to food security. [Read More](#)

Synergy between Food Security Act & NREGA

The successful implementation of NREGA and the Right to Information Act indicates that the climate is conducive for a far-reaching, rights-based legislation to eliminate hunger and deprivation. [Read More](#)

Climate Change and Food Security

The United Nations recently said that chronic food shortages had pushed the number of affected people across the world's poor countries to 963 million, up from 923 million in the previous year. [Read More](#)

Drought Management for Rural Livelihood Security

Agriculture is not just a food producing machine but the backbone of the livelihood of 60 per cent of Indians. [Read More](#)

What is right to food?

The right to food means that Governments must not take actions that result in increasing levels of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition. [Read More](#)

NewsWatch is an electronic News Bulletin, a collection of previously published news and views from the print as well as the electronic media, transmitted by Synodical Board of Social Services (SBSS), a justice and development arm of the Church of India (CNI) to keep a watch on various issues related to people and communities and draw the attention and the greater participation of civil society organisations to bring change in the lives of people. Visit us at www.cnisbss.org

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