

LADENGE! JITENGE!

WE WILL FIGHT! WE WILL WIN!!

3rd Announcement for the

FOURTH

NATIONAL CONVENTION

ON

THE RIGHT TO FOOD AND WORK

6-8 AUGUST, 2010,

Venue: Meera Bhawan, Rourkela, Orissa

Dear friends,

The Steering group of the Right to Food Campaign¹ invites you and your organization to the fourth National Convention on the Right to Food and Work, to be held in Orissa from 6-8 August 2010.

This convention, convened by the Right to Food Campaign, is extremely significant in the current context where the Government on the one hand is increasingly eroding people's control over their livelihoods and resources while on the other, promising to enact a National Food Security Act that guarantees food security for all. With spiraling food prices and widespread drought experienced across the country last year, pushing people further into hunger and poverty, the principle of universality in food entitlements must be established in an urgent manner. The draft National Food Security Act proposed by the government, in fact falls far short of any such guarantee and even erodes entitlements that already exist.

The right to food for all can only be realised if water, land and forests are not diverted from food production and people's control over these resources is safeguarded. The Government has to be forced to make a commitment that nobody goes to sleep hungry. Further, with such high levels of malnutrition as in India, food security must be understood to mean "nutritional" security and not just access to cheap food grains.

It is in this backdrop that we want to discuss issues related to the question of people's right to food that are of concern to our campaign.

¹ The "Right to Food Campaign" is an informal network of organisations and individuals committed to the realisation of the right to food in India. We consider that everyone has a fundamental right to be free from hunger. For a brief account of the campaign's activities so far, please log into our website <http://righttofoodindia.org/>.

The Convention will be held over three days and will be a mix of plenary sessions and parallel workshops. The discussions on the first day will focus on issues related to *determinants of food security and hunger*. The second day will focus on the National *Food Security Act, entitlements and government schemes*. On the last day we have a plenary on addressing the issue of access to the Right to food in areas of Conflict including in areas where struggles against displacement are taking place. The Convention will end with a Rally and public meeting. **Please find and attached the detailed programme.**

Pre Conference Preparation: Please consider organising meetings, workshops and conventions at the district/state level on these issues in advance of the national convention. This would facilitate better involvement of local groups and grassroots organisations at the national convention. Participating organisations are also invited to bring their campaign material (e.g. reports, posters, exhibitions, etc.) for circulation or display at the Orissa convention.

Parallel Workshops and Stalls/Exhibitions: The organizing committee in Orissa is planning on having some exhibitions on issues such as children's right to food, foods of the forest, sustainable agriculture and so on. In case you are interested in putting up a stall or exhibition, please let us know by the 26th of July, so that necessary arrangements can be made.

There is also a proposal to set up a stall with local foods from different areas, for instance the Karnataka campaign will display some "ragi" recipes. Please let us know if you would be able to contribute to this.

Below is a list of workshops that have been finalized until now. In case, you have any suggestions for other workshops and are willing to co-ordinate workshops on other issues, please let us know by the 26th of July. The programme committee will review all such suggestions and see if they can be included.

Venue: The venue is Meera Bhawan, opposite Rourkela Railway Station, Rourkela, Orissa. The place of stay for participants would be **Amar Bhawan**, which is 100 meters away from Rourkela Railway station. The meeting venue (Plenary meeting / Large meeting) which is Meera Bhawan which is around 50 meters away from railway station and same distance from Amar Bhawan.

Registration Fee: All participants would be expected to pay Rs. 50 per day making it a fee of Rs. 150 per participant for the conference registration. This would take care of lodging, boarding and the conference kit for the participants.

Donation: The campaign also welcomes any other donations that you can send will be most helpful. All participants are expected to make their own travel arrangements. Kindly book your tickets well in advance. And kindly intimate us about your participation as it will help us plan for the convention.

We request you to share news of this convention within your organization and with other interested organizations/individuals as well. The same letter in Hindi and English is attached.

National Campaign Contacts: The Right to Food Campaign secretariat at 011-2649 9563. mobile: 9560923178 (Deepika) righttofood@gmail.com , check the campaign website (www.righttofoodindia.org)

Orissa Contact Persons:

Convenor of the Orissa Organising committee of Fourth National Convention: Mr. Prafulla Samantary "Prafulla Samantara" <psamantary@rediffmail.com>

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Rourkela Organiser: Mr. Abul Kalam Azad, Email: disharkl@yahoo.co.in, Phone: +91-9437049329.

URGENT: Please send confirmations of participation to righttofood@gmail.com, bidyut.mohanty@gmail.com and disharkl@yahoo.co.in

Looking forward to meeting all of you at Rourkela, Orissa!!!

In solidarity,

Steering group of the Right to Food Campaign

We are,

Annie Raja (National Federation for Indian Women), Anuradha Talwar (New Trade Union Initiative), Arun Gupta & Radha Holla (Breast Feeding Promotion Network of India), Arundhati Dhuru and Sandeep Pandey (National People's Movement of India), Ashok Bharti (National Conference of Dalit Organizations), Anjali Bhardwaj, Aruna Roy and Nikhil Dey (National Campaign for People's Right to Information), Asha Mishra and Vinod Raina (Bharat Gyan Vigyan Samiti), Colin Gonsalves (Human Rights Law Network), Kavita Srivastava (People's Union for Civil Liberties), Mira Shiva and Vandana Prasad (Jan Swasthya Abhiyan), Paul Diwakar (National Campaign for Dalit Human Rights), Subhash Bhatnagar (National Campaign Committee for Unorganized Sector workers), Jean Dreze (Former support group and Allahabad University), V.B.Rawat (Former support group and Social Development Foundation)

For more information, please contact

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