

Inviting you to the

SAMMELAN

ON THE

“NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY ACT

AND THE Campaign’s RESPONSE”

Date: 17th September, 2009 **Time:** 10.00 am- 5.00pm

Venue: Room no 301 (Auditorium), Indian Social Institute,
10 Institutional Area, Lodi Road, New Delhi 110003

Dear All,

Greetings from the Right to Food Campaign Secretariat.

This is to invite you for a sammelan on the “**Proposed National Food Security Act and our response**” on the **17th of September, 2009**. As you are aware, the Congress party in its manifesto promised to legislate the Right to Food Act. This promise was reiterated in the Budget speech of the Finance Minister and by the Prime Minister from the Red Fort on 15 August, 2009. All of us are also aware of the fact, at present the country is faced by severe drought with more than 246 districts been notified as drought stricken. This has exacerbated the situation of hunger and malnutrition in the country.

As far as the process of drafting the legislation is concerned, the steering committee of the **right to food campaign** has put together the set of the attached “**essential demands**” for this Act. This was the outcome of two national meetings organized on the 18 of June and 11 July, 2009 in Delhi. The earlier Consultation on 11 July, 2009 culminated in a resolution that RTF campaign will set up a platform to bring into the public domain all issues related to the hunger, right to food and nutrition that affect people and their food production system as well as their basic food entitlements. Several state and district level meetings are also underway to take this exercise to the people.

You can read all the developments till date towards the right to food act on the web link http://www.righttofoodindia.org/right_to_food_act.html

The sammelan on the 17th September in Delhi is being called so that we can discuss strategies and plans to **mobilize a national campaign on our demands for a** a) Universal PDS with affirmative action for the vulnerable, b) food procurement and distribution policy which strengthens small farmers and food sovereignty of the nation. c) Universal food entitlements for children and vulnerable sections, d) pension for the old and e) Preventing the invasion of corporate interest in food related matters among others. **This Sammelan will also be an opportunity to plan public action in order to put pressure on the government to ensure that the process of drafting and passage of this legislation is transparent, open, people centric and immediate.**

In this meeting we will also put forth our demands relating to the right to food in the wake of prevailing drought.

On the 17th we are hopeful that we will be joined by leaders of different political parties, elected Members of the Parliament and policy makers to hear people's views on this.

Please come with members of your organization and be a part of this discussion. ***Please drop us a line about your participation, so that we can make adequate logistic arrangements. Please help us spread the word regarding this meeting.***

With Regards,

Anuradha Talwar, Arundhuti Dhuru, Colin Gonsalves, Kavita Srivastava, Jean Dreze

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