



Action Report: Dec. 2006

PROTEST DEMONSTRATION AGAINST PESTICIDE DAY

A protest demonstration was held at Arakkonam on 3.12.06 near Odianmani theatre at 3.00 p.m.

The meeting was organized by Rural Women's Liberation Movement and was guided by **Ms. Shanthi from RWLM**. For about 52 members participated in this meeting.

Ms. Shanthi from RWLM shared the following points to the media persons of Tamilan Television.

Use of chemical fertilizers causes enormous problems to women and they were affected by cancer, uterus disorders, itching of eyes, stain rashes and they also become snap tent and barren. Food has also become poisonous.

Ganesan of Tiruttani area was affected by slow functioning of the veins. Farmers should come forward and use their traditional knowledge and use of natural fertilizers to produce save and quality food.

Ms. Arputhammal, Alliance of People's Movement

Traditional farming requires more time. For more harvest, pesticides are used to get more yield within a short period of time. Women are affected than men.

The occupation of lands by the foreign companies has increased. There is a lack of importance and preferences to the farmers in India. Foreign products seems more attracting and inviting to the people.

It is recommended to use natural fertilizers and we should stop all the foreign companies entering our land.

Govindaiah Leader- Landless Labourers Movement

The Special Economic Zones which are coming up near the suburban areas are harming the ground water and agriculture. They are a threat to the domestic market. The growth of these zones has increased land rates. The landless are suffering because of want of decrease in agriculture and employment. Transgenic crops and genetically modified foods are harmful to agriculture as well as to the health of human beings. Foods of the land are destroyed. There is no protection for agriculture.

Ms. Vimala, Tamil Nadu Women's Forum, Chennai

Ten pesticide companies in the World are dominating the agricultural production. People lose their resources and their food production system. The land becomes infertile and the water becomes unpurified. Government should assert the people land and food rights and result corporate agriculture. We should stop the big Trans National companies and Corporations emerging our country. Even the World Health Organization has warned that 250 lakh people are affected in South Asian Countries.

Ms. Pramila, Tamil Nadu Dalit Women's Movement, Chennai

Each year of December 3rd remembered as Against Pesticide Day. In the year 1984 on December 2nd millions of people were affected and eight thousand people lost

their lives 22 thousand were affected due to the Bhopal poisonous gas leakage.

Many foreign companies have occupied the fertile land and it is if no use by just talking the issue. We should express our protest.

Mr. Egambaram, Irular Development Movement

The use of pesticide brings irreversible damage not only to the farmers also to the environment and bio-diversity. The Monsanto Companies have introduced T.T. seeds which are genetically modified. The Tamil Nadu Agricultural organization demolished the genetically modified paddy seeds, which has been sowed by Mahico companies for research purpose. It is high time for our government to take considerable action and stop the foreign companies entering our land.

Ms. Gracy, Dalit People's Movement

Our Country is an agricultural country. America imposes power and demoralizes our country. Before there was a great respect for our agriculture because of the traditional farming? Our land was a fertile land and full of natural resources. Even if we are blessed with all the natural resources, due to the Government profitable improper and sluggish practice, our natural resources were taken by the corporate nations.

A special scheme of investment has been decided to sign within the year of 2015. By using pesticide, women, children, agricultural workers, peasants and farming communities were affected.

The program came to an end by thanking and requesting everyone to use and practice their traditional ways to use natural fertilizers instead of welcoming modern technologies using pesticide and chemicals which poisons our food and which destroys our culture, livelihood and lives.

We should all take this issue in our collective hands to save millions of lives and to eradicate the use of pesticides.

The participants carried placards and raised slogans as:

- Ban Pesticides.
- WTO out of agriculture
- We want food sovereignty
- Stop Transgenic Foods.
- Ban Pesticide Companies
- Let us use Organic Foods.
- We want Employment for Women.
- Ban Corporate Agriculture

For further inquiry, please contact to the secretariat of Tamil Nadu Women's Forum

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