

Sindh (Pakistan): Hyderabad Declaration on Land Reforms

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Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum and Sindh land rights movement organized a peasants assembly on Land reforms on Saturday, 5th April 2014 at London Town, Hyderabad. The assembly unanimously extended following charter of demands.

1. Based on the rigorous philosophy of “Jo Khery So Khaey” (One who ploughs has the foremost right on the yield), the feudal system should be abolished at the earliest and land should be distributed among such farmers who has been tilling that land from the centuries.
2. Under the Green Revolution program agricultural lands have been overwhelmingly utilized rather exploited through the extensive use of Fertilizers and pesticides causing water logging and salinity. Therefore such practices must be checked and local, traditional and environment friendly methods of agriculture should be practiced.
3. Right to land and housing to the peasants in this country especially in Sindh has been persistently denied. Therefore, the government should chalk out comprehensive policy so as to ensure this historical rights of the peasants.
4. Unless the land reforms are introduced, landlords should never have right to displace the peasants from land based on any excuse. In this regard, Tenancy act should be implemented in letter and spirit to protect the rights of peasants.
5. Agricultural lands should not be included in urban schemes based on commercial use .Those who plan to sell their agricultural land for commercial use should be subjected to the seize of the land . Converting the agricultural land for urban purposes can potently create food insecurity issues.
6. Agriculture oriented Local markets should be developed to ensure accessibility of farmers and small growers to those.The farmers should be paid reasonable price of their products as they can live with dignity.
7. New policy should be developed to revive the riverine forests. Encroachments on such forests should also be undone.
8. Commercial, industrial and corporate agriculture should be put on complete check. Such devastative approach has been actively triggering the ongoing trend of land grabbing, displacement and hazardous land use.
9. Rather than compelling peasants to be trapped into vicious cycle of loan, they should be enabled to live life with dignity based on internationally recognized human rights principles.
10. Usage of hybrid seed not only damage the fertility of land but also creates threats for local environment; therefore, usage of local seeds should be promoted.

11. Based on the internationally recognized principles , policy should be developed to stop, victimization of peasants based on cast ,clan and religions .

12. Government should assess the damage of drought affected areas especially in Thar and provide compensation, access on food, water and medicines.

Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum / Sindh Land rights Movement, April 5, 2014 @ Hyderabad
