



Executive summary of the Submission to the UNCSD Bureau as input to the Zero Draft Outcome Document for the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20)

Submitted by the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy, USA and endorsed by over forty Indian national and regional farmers organizations and other civil society organizations.¹

Executive summary

1. Agriculture both contributes to and has the potential to help resolve the multiple crises the world faces today. As a sector that supports the livelihoods of the majority of the poor in the world, agriculture has the potential to address not only sustainable development but also lift many millions of people out of poverty. Affirming the inputs provided by hundreds of our ally organizations towards the outcome document, we support the call to locate agro-ecological practices and small farmers at the center of food production in the green economy. This would help us pay equal attention to all three pillars of sustainable development—economic, environmental, and social—in the context of agriculture.
2. Rio+20 must place realization of the right to water and the right to food at the center of national plans to build a green economy and any future global development framework. Towards this, the outcome document must make explicit references to these rights as it elaborates on the green economy.
3. Rio+20 must address the means to reduce food price volatility, including support for measures to prevent excessive speculation on commodity markets in agriculture and energy derivatives contracts. Rio+ should reduce ambitious targets for biofuels in global frameworks and national plans around the green economy.
4. Rio+20 must redirect investments towards the greener and more pro-poor options across key economic sectors and the outcome document must support a green economy that works for the poor.
5. Rio+20 must ensure that Precautionary Principle be applied to national and international green economy plans.

Prepared by:

Shiney Varghese
Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy,
Minneapolis, USA
svarghese@iatp.org

¹ Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (www.iatp.org), which coordinated this submission works locally and globally at the intersection of policy and practice to ensure fair and sustainable food, farm and trade systems. In 1986, IATP began documenting the underlying causes of America's rural crisis and proposing policies that would benefit farmers, consumers, rural communities and the environment. Alongside a global coalition, IATP advocates for fair trade policies that promote strong health standards, labor and human rights, the environment and, most fundamentally, democratic institutions. See the list of our co-signatories towards end of this submission.

Endorsed by:

AHIMSA, Trichy, Tamil Nadu, India

Alliance for Democratizing Agricultural Research in South Asia, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh, India

Alliance for Food Sovereignty in South Asia, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh, India

AP Alliance for Food Sovereignty Network, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh, India

ASSMA, Kondapaka, Medak District, India

Both Ends, The Netherlands

Centre for Economic and Social Studies, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh, India

Community Media Trust, Pastapur, Medak District, Andhra Pradesh, India

CREATE, Thiruvavur, Tamil Nadu, India

CROPS, Janagaon, Andhra Pradesh, India

Deccan Development Society, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh, India

DULAL, Bhubaneswar, Orissa, India

FEDCOT, Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India

Flow for Water, Great Lakes, United States

Gramya Resource Centre for Women, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh, India

International Rivers, United States

Janawadi Sanghatan, Parbhani, Maharashtra, India

Kasturba Gandhi Women's College, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh, India

Kudumbam, Trichy, Tamil Nadu, India

LEISA Network, Trichy, Tamil Nadu, India

Living Farms, Bhubaneswar, Orissa, India

MARI, Warangal, Andhra Pradesh, India

Medak Jilla Chirudhanya Raitula Samakhya, Zaheerabad, Medak District, Andhra Pradesh, India

Millet Network of India, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh, India

National Alliance of Peoples Movement, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh, India

Navabharath Rural Development Society, Ananthapur, India

North East Network, Chizami, Nagaland, India

PEACE, Nalgonda, Andhra Pradesh, India

PILUPU, Nalgonda, Andhra Pradesh, India

Pragathi Seva Samithi, Warangal, Andhra Pradesh, India

Premier Rural Education Society, Kadiri, Anantapur, India

Pristine Organics, Bangalore, Karnataka, India

READS, Toopran, Medak District, India

RISE, Kubeer, Adilabad, Andhra Pradesh, India

SABALA, Vizianagaram, Andhra Pradesh, India

SAGE Samvada, Mysore, Karnataka, India

Sangham Radio, Machnoor Village, Medak District, Andhra Pradesh, India

Sarada Valley Development Samithi (SVDS), Thummapala, Anakapalli, Andhra Pradesh, India

SEED, Hanamkonda, Warangal, Andhra Pradesh, India

Southern Action on Genetic Engineering, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh, India

SUN (P), Bhainsa, Adilabad, Andhra Pradesh, India

SWARD, Medak District, Andhra Pradesh, India

TDASS, Medak District, Andhra Pradesh, India

THANAL, Trivendrum, Kerala, India

TREES, Mulugu, Medak District, Andhra Pradesh, India

VANAGAM, Madhurai, Tamil Nadu, India

Women's Collective, Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India