National Conference on Universal Health Coverage in India: Advancing the Agenda and Addressing the Challenges
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Trade and Health

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Trade and Health

- GATT - 8th Uruguay Round
- TRIPS
- WTO
  - IPR – One of the most Unjust International Trade Regime
  - Medicines
  - Traditional Medicine and Traditional Knowledge
TRIPS and Pharmaceuticals

- Doha declaration on TRIPS & PUBLIC HEALTH 2001
- CIPIH Commission on IPR Innovation & Public Health 2006
- WHO CEWG Report 2012
- Use of the TRIPS flexibilities (v.v.few)
  - Compulsary License
  - Parallel Import
- High Prices
- Poor Access
- TRIPS plus Agendas through FTAs
Traditional Medicines and Traditional Knowledge

- Budget for TSM 3 % of Health Budget
- TKDL Traditional Knowledge Digital Library documentation of Traditional Medicine
- Turmeric, Neem, Basmati, Melon, Mola Gattu
- Phyllanthus Niruri, Karela, Jamun
- Patenting of genes, Traits
- Continued Granting of Patents by USPTO for existing Traditional Knowledge
Trade in Food

- Lifting of Quantitative Restrictions
- Import Liberalization. Food importation at higher prices than given to farmers
- Continued subsidies to the farmers in west.
- Indian farmers unable to compete
- Indo EU and other FTAs pressure for opening Dairy, Poultry etc. Processed Food

Push for Seed Replacement with patented seeds (pushing out conventional seeds)

- 90% of cotton in cotton growing areas is Bt Cotton, licensing arrangement with the seed companies
- Conventional Seeds are not available
- Seed costs spiral Royalty payments
Seeds – IPR –

- SEED REPLACEMENT
- of traditional seeds, with patented seeds of seed Corporations
- Control on seed,
- Replacing Conventional
- Promotion of Patented seeds
- Wiping out of conventional seeds
- Making seed saving, sharing, selling, illegal

Agreements signed by farmers buying seeds
Media for Marketing Insecticide use has increased new bugs Mealy bugs.

*Image of an advertisement promoting Bollgard cotton farmers reducing insecticide use.*
Promotion with

India's Cotton Revolution - progress through partnership

Farmer's Pride. India's Pride.

Bollgard II
250,000 farmers suicides 
majority in cotton belt
- Using International and National Regulatory frameworks to push for corporate control on Seeds and thereby meeting Food Security
- Seed Act – making unregistered seeds illegal (70% Indian Agriculture related with small farmers)
- Biotechnology Regulatory Authority Act (under Department of Biotechnology mandated to promote Biotechnology)
- Indo US Knowledge Initiative on Agriculture on the Board are Monsanto, Walmart,
- MOUs with agriculture Universities promotion of GM, IPM initiatives stopped, or unfunded.
- Silence from Public Health Community.
- Epigenetics, Biosafety concerns blindspotted
- Genetic Contamination Genetic Pollution
- Percy Schmiezer, Canadian farmer sued for IPR violation on finding field contaminated with Round up Ready Conolla, accused of stealing Monsanto’s patented seeds
- Till free Agriculture selling Herbicide Round Up
Genetic Contamination is a Reality

- Entire collection of seeds saved for over 50 years farming taken
- Sued for $50,000 for violation of IPR.
- Percy was victim of unwanted GM contamination of his non-GM Canolla crop

- RoundUp is Herbicide
- Round up Ready is canolla with Herbicide resistant gene.
- When Herbicide is sprayed, it kills all other plants
• Royalty paid for Bt Cotton – Rs. 1000 crore per year

- Implications in terms of cost of seeds with GM Soya, GM Corn, GM Papaya, GM Cauliflower, GM Ladies fingers, GM rice

- Public Health Implications - 250,000 farmer’s suicides
  - Bio safety concerns
  - Economic Concerns
  - Wiping out of Traditional Livelihood concerns
  - Ecological Concerns about loss of Biodiversity,
BIOSAFETY CONCERNS

Biosafety studies not done because GM crop equated with Biologically Natural crops in US

- Bt Brinjal 3 genes inserted
- Bt gene from Bacillus Thurengenisisis
- Cauliflower Mosaic virus gene
- Antibiotic Resistant marker gene

- Inadequate Biosafety testing
  Only 90 days Long term impact of GM food
  Intergenerational impact assessment not done
Policy & Regulatory frameworks to increase Control & Trade of Patented seeds

- **Seed Act** to make unregistered farmers seeds illegal
- **Biotechnology Regulatory Authority Act** contents being challenged by civil society engaged in Right to Food, Doctors for Food & Biosafety.
- **FoodSafety Standards Authority** formulated by Food Processing Industry Ministry. Repealing of Infant Milk Substitutes Act was stalled because of Baby Food campaigners.
Food Security Nutritional Security needed

- Speculation on Food recognized as one of the main reasons for spiraling food prices – U.N Special Rapporteur on Food.

- Agreement on Agriculture AoA part of WTO loaded against developing countries. Korean farmers suicide in Cancun, protests by peasants, farmers & women organizations to not to threaten Nutritional, livelihood security of the citizens majority of whom are linked to Agriculture.

- Recognize the existing Agrarian crisis & the Malnutrition crisis
Food & Nutrition Security
Public Health Priority

- This requires
- Diverse Food Production, procurement, storage, equitable Distribution, consumption
- Based on nutrition needs, of affordable & safe food.