



Call for Applications

South Asian Youth Camp on Climate Agriculture and Water

26- 28 September 2013

Noakhali, Bangladesh

BACKGROUND

South Asia is one of the highly populated regions of the world with 22% of total world population. Around 80% of the poor of this region live in rural areas and are highly dependent on agriculture for livelihood. Another estimation shows that 40% of South Asian rural communities directly depend on common water bodies for their life and livelihoods whether the other study shows that 33% of common water bodies in South Asia have already been grabbed by the influential persons, corporate aquaculture or industries. So, agricultural and water management is the key to eradicating poverty and creating conditions for sustainable and equitable growth. Study reports suggest that if urgent actions are not undertaken to averse the trend of climate change, above 17% of total population in South Asia may face food insecurity by 2050 and 35% by 2100 due to shortage of staple food. Due to industrial pollution and land and water grabbing, smallholders including farmers and fisher folks are deprived from their traditional rights on water which is essential for food production, household use and livestock. Cross-boundary river basin management is another major problem in South Asia. Most of the main river-systems of the region are trans-boundary and upstream river management affects the downstream countries like Bangladesh and Pakistan. Due to injustice in water flow from upstream in GBM and Sindhu Basin, riparian communities of downstream, especially coastal zone, face problems of increasing salinity, flood, water logging and high sedimentation.

Water is also a major area which will be potentially affected by climate change. Due to sea level rise water is the first sector which likely to be contaminated by extreme salinity. On the other hand, ice melting in the Himalayas may increase frequency and intensity of floods. Furthermore, water scarcity will touch tough levels due to increased cyclones, drought, erratic rainfall and storm surges. Considering the water grabbing, trans-boundary water management and impact of climate change, a regional framework and policy direction is essential in South Asia.

In response of the problems, the SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation), albeit a least-functioning regional entity, has adopted Agreement on SAARC Food Bank, SAARC Seed Bank and Climate Change, however all of the multilateral policies are yet to be implemented properly. There are some bilateral agreements on trans-boundary water body management but different stakeholders, including the riparian communities, criticize inadequate implementations of those agreements. It is to mention that, a large portion of the common (i.e. that are common for communities, not for countries) water bodies in South Asian countries are grabbed by the commercial farms, local influential persons and industrial sector. It highly impacts food production and creates shortage of production.

OBJECTIVE

To mobilize ideas and opinions and build capacity of youth groups and relevant stakeholders towards influencing the states and regional entities for undertaking proper initiatives on climate change, agriculture and water sector for protecting the rights of smallholder producers in South Asia.

THEMES

- Agriculture
- Climate Change
- Water Resources

WHO CAN APPLY?

Youth between the ages of 21 and 35 from the South Asia (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Maldives & Sri Lanka) region with proven experience on related fields, including campaign and advocacy, are eligible to apply. Those with demonstrated leadership in equitable development issues

are strongly encouraged to apply. Participants will must have active engagement and commitment to continuous participation is required as a follow up after the camp. Female candidates, young Journalists and candidates from Indigenous groups will be given priority to participate in the Camp.

SPONSORSHIP?

Due to limitation of resources, very few participants will be provided with economy class travel, accommodation, food and local transport. Self-funded participants are highly encouraged. Please mention your required support in the application form.

SELECTION

The names of selected participants will be posted on the event page. Selected participants will also be notified via email. Selected participants will be required to present a copy of their valid passport/national identity card from their stated country of origin. Inability to do so will result in disqualification from the program.

HOW TO APPLY?

Participants can register by filling-up Online Application Form on Google only. Please [click here](#) (<http://goo.gl/Oa1nzT>) for the application form. Please don't forget to attach scanned copy of your valid passport (at least 6 months validity) or National Identity Card (for Bangladeshi participants only) with the email.

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION

The application deadline is September 14, 06:00 pm (GMT+6), for those who need a Bangladesh visa and September 18, 2013, 10:00 pm (GMT +6) for those who are Bangladeshi citizen or do not need visa to enter to Bangladesh.

ENQUIRIES

For information on the SAYCAW, please see our Facebook Page www.facebook.com/SAYCAW

Write to: Monisha Biswas (mbiswas@oxfam.org.uk), Nurul Alam Masud (masud@pran-bd.org), Prodip Kumar roy (prodip2006@gmail.com) or Hasan Mehedi (hwforg@gmail.com).

For physical contact: Participatory Research Action Network- PRAN, House 11, Road 33/A, Housing Estate, Maijdee Court, Noakhali-3800, Bangladesh. Phone : 88 0321 61920, 88 01919 231 722, camp@pran-bd.org.

ORGANIZER & CONTACT PERSONS

Monisha Biswas	Prodip Kumar Roy	Nurul Alam Masud	Hasan Mehedi
Member Secretary Campaign for Sustainable Rural Livelihood (CSRL)	Executive Director Online Knowledge Society (OKS)	Chief Executive Participatory Research Action Network (PRAN)	Chief Executive Humanitywatch

