

Forum on FTAs
Agenda for the National Consultation on India's Free Trade
Agreements (FTAs)

August 31-September 1, 2009; Indian Social Institute (ISI)

| DAY 1 | | |
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| | Sessions | Presenter |
| 9.00 -9.30 | Registration | |
| 9.30-9.45 | Introduction and welcome: Why this consultation? | J John, Centre for Education and Communication (CEC) |
| Session 1 (Part 1) Introduction to Free Trade Agreements | | |
| 9.45-9.55 | ABC of FTAs (and Moderator) | Kavaljit Singh, Public Interest Research Group (PIRG) |
| 9.55-10.05 | Political economy of India's FTAs policy | Prof. Biswajit Dhar, Director General, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) |
| 10.05-10-15 | Development implications: the facts and fiction of FTAs | Prof. B.S Chimni, Jawaharlal Nehru University |
| 10.15-10.45 | Questions | |
| 10.45-11.00 | Tea Break | |
| Session I (Part 2) FTAs in the current context | | |
| 11.00-11.10 | Employment scenario (and Moderator) | Prof. D. Narasimha Reddy (Rtd), Department of Economics, University of Hyderabad |
| 11.10-11.20 | Agrarian Crisis | Prof. Utsa Patnaik, Centre for Economic Studies and Planning, Jawaharlal Nehru University |
| 11.20-11.30 | Health in trade negotiations | Dr. Amit Sengupta, Jan Swasthya Abhiyan |
| 11.30-12.00 | Testimonies: How will FTAs worsen the present situation? | 1. Fish workers: T Peter (KSMFTF) 2. Plantation workers: M. C. George 3. AIDS medicines: Loon Gangte (Delhi Network of Positive People) |
| 12.00-12.10 | Overview of FTAs | Shefali Sharma, Third World Network (TWN) |
| 12.10-1.00 | Open Discussion | |
| 1.00-2.00 | Lunch | |

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| Session II 2.00- 5.30 | Sectoral Workshops – For details See attached Brief on Workshop |
| Workshop I | FTAs versus Right to Food, Seed and Food Sovereignty, Fisheries & Agricultural Livelihoods Key questions for the workshop: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) How do these bilateral treaties impact our seeds, fisheries and livestock? 2) What will the impact of FTAs be on farm and fisher folk livelihoods? 3) Do such 'agreements' change the way we can use our lands, coasts and water? 4) Would our agriculture really gain from such trade in terms of export opportunities? 5) How do these trade commitments affect our right to food and food sovereignty? |
| Workshop 2 | FTAs versus labour rights, right to livelihood and community rights over natural resources Key Questions for the workshop: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) What are the impacts of FTAs on rights of workers and right to livelihood? 2) Do FTAs change the way we can access and use land and other natural resources? 3) Is inclusion of Labour standards in the FTA a suitable solution? 4) Does export led “growth” benefit workers? 5) What will be the impacts of FTAs on women workers? |
| Workshop 3 | Health and Environment in FTAs - What to Watch Out For Key questions for the workshop: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) What are the provisions impacting access to medicines? 2) What are the provisions impacting environment? 3) How do we get achieve greater transparency 4) How do we work with law makers? |
| Workshop 4 | Implications of FTAs - Banking retail, MSMEs and other Services Key questions for the workshop: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) What are the impacts of FTAs on services sector in general and financial services particularly? 2) Do FTAs change the way we can access credit? 3) Does FTA led “growth” benefit MSMEs including retailers? 4) What will be the impacts of liberalization of services (financial, telecom, water, waste management, power, public services) under FTAs on vulnerable sections of Indian economy i.e. urban poor, MSEs, etc? |
| Intended outputs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The key campaigning and mobilizing issues that emerge from this group • The position we need to take on issues of the workshop and FTAs <i>per se</i> • Identification of research, analysis and advocacy needs that emerge • Some key strategies that evolve as a result of the discussion • Bringing together groups/individuals/communities who can take things forward | |

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| DAY 2 | | |
| Session III | Feedback from Sectoral Workshops | |
| | Moderator: Shalini Bhutani, GRAIN | |
| 9.30-10.10 | Reflection from Groups – key points and summing up | |
| 10.10-11.00 | Open floor for inputs and cross learning and identifying commonalities – towards a common position on FTAs | |
| 11.00-11.15 | Tea break | |
| Session IV | Preparing the Ground for strategy | |
| | Chair: Kajal Bhardwaj, independent researcher | |
| | Facilitator: Pallavi Mansingh, CEC | |
| 11.15-11.25 | Timeline of India's FTAs Negotiations | Susana Barria, Intercultural Resources (ICR) |
| 11.25-12.00 | Transparency and RTI towards FTAs negotiations Open floor | Venkatesh Nayak, Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI) |
| 12.00-1.00 | Open discussion | |
| 1.00-1.30 | Introduction of Forum on FTAs position | Benny Kuruvilla, Focus on the Global South Gopakumar, Third World Network (TWN) |
| 1.30-2.30 | Lunch Press briefing | |
| 2.30-3.00 | Other FTA campaigns: Short movies and Interactive discussion | |
| Session V | Strategy Session in Plenary | |
| | Chair: R.A. Mital, Hind Mazdoor Sabha (HMS) and Gautam Mody, New Trade Union Initiative (NTUI) | |
| | Facilitator: Dharmendra Kumar, India FDI Watch | |
| 3.00-4.00 | Defining a campaign strategy – Open Discussion | |
| 4.00-4.15 | Tea Break | |
| 4.15-5.15 | Continue strategy session Defining Coordination Mechanism | Introduction by G. Manicandan, CEC |
| 5.15-5.30 | Wrap up | J John, CEC |