

# SOLIDARITY LAUNCHING/13-15 SEPTEMBER



The Campaign for Sustainable Rural Livelihoods (CSRL) is a platform of about 200 local, national and international organisations in Bangladesh. Since its inception on September 26 in 2007, the platform has been heavily active as regards food, agriculture, climate change, and trade and economy. CSRL has played a significant role in conserving the interests of the Bangladeshi people at the international level. Thousands of reports in Bangladesh's local and national media convincingly indicate the extent of this platform's initiatives. Its numerous endeavours include drawing up a Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Programme, National Agriculture Convention 2008, 3-day National Agriculture Symposium 2009, Climate Hearing 2009 and a symbolic Climate Tribunal 2010. CSRL has voiced Bangladesh's need for assistance in tackling climate change at different international forums including the European Parliament, Dutch Parliament, the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, Asia-Pacific Tribunal on Climate Change and the International Climate Hearing at Copenhagen.



Every day 925 million people go to sleep hungry. It is not that there is a shortage of food in the world or that there is a shortfall in production. The world continues to produce enough food to go around for everyone. But the distribution chain has been broken down. Climate change on the other hand will affect future global food production negatively. Triggered by a rising population, higher food demand will only worsen the situation. Oxfam's new global campaign, GROW began its journey on June 1 aiming to resolve this impending food crisis, 'breaking' into world media. As its foremost objective GROW demands that agricultural investment around the world be significantly increased so that small and marginal farmers, mostly women, may produce sufficient food for themselves as well as for others. Secondly, Grow demands that through distribution network, limiting corporate machinations, plugging loopholes in national and international policies and empowerment of families and communities so that they are able to cope with disasters. GROW's third demand is that economy and lifestyle be reformed and reconstituted towards building a world safe from the fallouts of natural disasters and the impacts of climate change. Across the world, and more than anything else GROW is like a fellow comrade in CSRL's onward battle.



A dedicated and committed stance beside the hungry during the World War II sparked off Oxfam's journey. The organisation's first initiative in Bangladesh was in 1954 when it supported flood victims through Red Cross. Later similar support was also channelled through CARE. Oxfam was the one that came forward to help Bangladeshis after the deadly cyclone of 1970 when the colonial powers had refrained and looked the other way. Oxfam, once again, came to the aid of Bangladesh during its Liberation War in 1971 when it supported about 500,000 refugees for nine months with food, shelter, healthcare among other things. The 'Testimony of Sixty' published at this time by Oxfam galvanised global public opinion regarding Bangladesh and expedited decisions at the highest international levels besides of course providing pointers for the future course of action. Oxfam was there in Bangladesh again in 1972 as the country went through reconstruction after perilous independence with three ferries- Kamini, Kasturi and Karabi- greatly helping Bangladesh's road communications. It also helped with agricultural production with tractors and training in new technology. Oxfam has also stood by the side of Bangladesh through numerous natural disasters. In fact this organisation alone accounted for over a fifth of all assistance from non-governmental organisations in the aftermath of Cyclone Sidr. Oxfam's contribution towards land reform, ensuring minimum wage for garment workers and securing quota-free access to international markets is well-known. Besides supporting a number of NGOs take shape, Oxfam continues to support over a hundred local organisations.

Campaign for Sustainable Rural Livelihoods (CSRL) organises the Climate Tribunal 2010



Former Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva expresses solidarity with GROW



Testimony of Sixty

## 13 September 2011

10am, CIRDAP Auditorium, Dhaka

### Food, Human Rights and State

Why do food prices increase in Bangladesh? Who are responsible? Are the steps sufficiently effective? Are the real reasons being addressed? What are national and international obligations, if any, towards ensuring such a basic right as food? What should be done at the local, national, regional and international level as regards food production and distribution? What is the government's role in all this? Would it be possible to ensure food security without providing substantial assistance to the small and marginal farmers?

**Presentation** by **Ziaul Hoque Mukta**, Member Secretary, CSRL, on CSRL's Diagnostic Research on Recent Food Price Hike in Bangladesh

**Deliberation** on Food, Human Rights and State by **Professor Dr. Mizanur Rahman**, Chairperson, National Human Rights Commission

#### Discussants

**Dr. Q K Ahmad**, Chairman, Palli Karma-Sahyak Foundation (PKSF)  
**Tarana Halim MP**, Vice-Chairperson, All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Extreme Poverty

**Dr. Toufiq Ali**, Former Permanent Representative, Bangladesh Mission in Geneva  
**Dr. Pratima Paul-Majumder**, Researcher and President, Karmajibi Nari

#### Chairperson

**Dr. C S Karim**, Convener, CSRL and Former Adviser to the Caretaker Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

*This Ramadan was most difficult due to high food prices*



## 14 September 2011

10am, CIRDAP Auditorium, Dhaka

### Farmer's Access to Common Resources and Agricultural Services

How can 500,000 acres of canals, rivers, water-bodies and khas land play a role in Bangladesh's food production and food security? Who possess them now? Which laws or regulations do these encroachers resort to? Who abet them in their illegal activities? Where even politicians are not above the law and have to go to jail, how can these encroachers continue to live so comfortably despite their illicit activities? Why are the abettors never punished? Where does their strength stem from? How can they repeatedly ignore court orders?

On the other hand, how many of the 13.7 million Agricultural Input Assistance Cards have found their way to women? What did Ambia Khatun tell policymakers in front of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina?

#### Testimonies

**Ambia Khatun, Bibhash Mandal and Kamala Rani Gayen**

#### Discussants

**Hasanul Haq Inu MP**, Chairperson, All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Food, Agriculture and Rural Development

**Shawkat Momen Shahjahan MP**, Chairperson, Parliamentary Standing Committee on Ministry of Agriculture  
**Professor Dr. Sadeka Halim Chowdhury**, Information Commissioner

**Dr. Mihir Kanti Majumder**, Secretary, Rural Development and Cooperatives Division, Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives

#### Chairperson

**Dr. Ahsan Uddin Ahmed**, Eminent Climate Scientist

*What did Ambia Khatun tell policymakers in front of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina?*



## 15 September 2011

10am, CIRDAP Auditorium, Dhaka

### Celebrating Innovations in Food and Agriculture

Who has contributed most to the fourfold production of wheat and rice for a population that has doubled since independence? Why have thousands of researchers left the country? And for those who chose to stay back, did the country give them recognition? Do people know about the innovative contributions of many a peasant farmer? What is Bangladesh's future plan as regards agricultural research and production?

On behalf of the nation, young and committed Members of Parliament (MPs) will honour these national heroes, researchers and farmers, who have made singular contributions to the country's food security.

**Innovators will be honoured by**  
**Shahiduddin Chowdhury Annie MP**  
**Andalib Rahman Partho MP**

**Iqbalur Rahim MP**  
**Nazrul Islam Manju MP**  
**Shahriar Alam MP**  
**Golam Maula Rony MP**  
**Tanvir Shakil Joy MP**  
**Junaid Ahmed Palak MP**  
**Gareth Price-Jones**, Country Director, Oxfam

#### Chairperson

**Dr. C S Karim**, Convener, CSRL and Former Adviser to the Caretaker Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

*Campaign for Sustainable Rural Livelihoods (CSRL) organises Agriculture Symposium 2009*



**SOLIDARITY LAUNCHING**



13-15 September 2011, CIRDAP Auditorium, Dhaka, Bangladesh

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# SOLIDARITY LAUNCHING



13-15 September 2011, CIRDAP Auditorium, Dhaka, Bangladesh

## Schedule of Events

Date, Time and Venue	Title of the Event	Guests
Tuesday, 13 September 2011, 10am, CIRDAP Auditorium, Dhaka	Food, Human Rights and State	<p><u>Presentation</u> by Ziaul Hoque Mukta, Member Secretary, CSRL, on CSRL's Diagnostic Research on Recent Food Price Hike in Bangladesh</p> <p><u>Presentation</u> on Food, Human Rights and State by Professor Dr. Mizanur Rahman, Chairperson, National Human Rights Commission</p> <p><u>Discussants:</u> Dr. Q K Ahmad, Chairman, Palli Karma-Sahyak Foundation (PKSF) Tarana Halim MP, Vice-Chairperson, All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Extreme Poverty Ambassador Dr. Toufiq Ali Dr. Protima Paul-Majumder, Researcher and President, Karmajibi Nari</p> <p><u>Chairperson:</u> Dr. C S Karim Convener, Campaign for Sustainable Rural Livelihoods (CSRL) and Former Adviser to the Caretaker Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh</p>
Wednesday 14 September 2011, 10am, CIRDAP Auditorium, Dhaka	Farmer's Access to Common Resources and Agricultural Services	<p><u>Testimonies:</u> Ambia Khatun, Bibhash Mandal and Kamala Rani Gayen</p> <p><u>Discussants:</u> Hasanul Haq Inu MP Chairperson, All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Food, Agriculture and Rural Development Shawkat Momen Shahjahan MP Chairperson, Parliamentary Standing Committee on Ministry of Agriculture Professor Dr. Sadeka Halim Chowdhury Information Commissioner Dr. Mihir Kanti Majumder Secretary, Division of Rural Development and Cooperatives, Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives</p> <p><u>Chairperson:</u> Dr. Ahsan Uddin Ahmed Eminent Climate Scientist</p>
Thursday 15 September 2011, 10am, CIRDAP Auditorium, Dhaka	Food Heroes of Bangladesh: Celebrating Innovations in Food and Agriculture Sector	<p><u>Scientists and Farmers will be honored by youngest and committed Members of the Parliament (MPs)</u> Shahiduddin Chowdhury Annie MP Andalib Rahman Partho MP Iqbalur Rahim MP Nazrul Islam Manju MP Shahriar Alam MP Golam Maula Rony MP Tanvir Shakil Joy MP Junaid Ahmed Palak MP Gareth Price Jones, Country Director, Oxfam</p> <p><u>Chairperson:</u> Dr. C S Karim Convener, Campaign for Sustainable Rural Livelihoods (CSRL) and Former Adviser to the Caretaker Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh</p>