

Recommendations (Annam Declaration 2010)

Centre for Innovation in Science and Social Action (CISSA) and the organisations supported and participated in the five-day “Annam National Food and Agro-biodiversity Festival” declare:

-  That the permeation of junk food and processed food into the market systems of India, through the well organised corporate networks, resulted not only in severe health implications in the local population, but also has started affecting the availability of traditional and local food.
-  That the food security of the country will be at stake in the immediate future as a result of corporatisation of agriculture and food sector.
-  That there is a greater need to popularise the importance of good food and food security based on local agro-biodiversity, and organise the people and communities across India to carry the message forward.
-  That there is an urgent need for focusing on our highly diverse agro-biodiversity, especially the lesser known food crops, in order for achieving sustainable food production and nutritional security.
-  That biodiversity should be integrated into all developmental plans and biodiversity conservation should be highlighted in poverty alleviation programmes as food and nutritional security can only be achieved through conservation of biodiversity. The quality of food, and not just its quantity, ought to guide our agriculture.
-  That the government subsidies and tax relaxation given to junk food and carbonated soft drinks and pesticides and other harmful agro-chemicals should be stopped immediately so as to make the food safe and traditional food cheaper.
-  That the advertisements that spread wrong and spurious messages about the positive contributions of fast food and carbonated soft drinks should be banned and the sale of these items should be banned in educational institutions, considering several scientific studies on the serious health impacts of junk food and carbonated soft drinks in children.
-  That food and agriculture should become part of the syllabus in all stages of education and there should be specific training and action plans on agriculture at educational institutions.
-  That frequent scientific studies should be undertaken both in private and public sector on the health implications of junk food and carbonated soft drinks.
-  That a series of good food restaurants should be established across India for making quality food available to everyone.
-  That the Research & Development institutions in

India should take initiatives to do research on improving the quality of Indian food and its processing.

That the lesser known food crops of the country should be fully utilised to achieve food security and food processing and storage facilities as well as community seed banks should be established at local levels. The role of managing these facilities should rest with the local self help groups.

That there should also be proper documentation of traditional knowledge systems related to agriculture and local food items in order to preserve their identity and for popularising the same.

That there should be specific action plans for conserving the rich agro-biodiversity of the country and the government should publish a white paper on the status of agro-biodiversity of the country.

The central and state governments should formulate an organic farming policy and action plans to phase out unsustainable agriculture practices.

That genetically modified crops and genetically modified food should be totally banned in India as a precaution against their harmful effects on environment and health.

That biodiversity conservation should be integrated in all development planning and policy formulations and in all poverty alleviation schemes.

That Food and Agro-biodiversity festivals should be organised at every village in order to spread the message of importance of local food and agro-biodiversity.

That the unused government land should be maximally utilized for enhancing agriculture production.

