

RAITA TEERPU

SHIVAMOGGA FARMERS ROUND TABLE DECLARATION

December 21, 2010

On Agricultural Research

- ✓ In every part of Malnad research must take place on all landraces at every stage under farmers leadership
- ✓ All research must promote local food sovereignty. Government must strengthen *Farming* as a holistic concept and not individual *crops*.
- ✓ Agricultural research priorities must not be set in universities and research institutions. Instead they must be set under the leadership of farmers. Such research must include traditional wisdom, knowledge and culture.
- ✓ Farm research must not limit itself only to crops. To be effective it should research whole of agriculture
- ✓ Instead of pursuing research that is made applicable to an entire region, eco system specific research must be followed by agricultural institutions.
- ✓ Agricultural research must stop its current obsession with short duration crops and instead concentrate on long duration crops which can withstand various stresses and hence are favourable for organic farming.
- ✓ We reject farming policies that support subsidies and thereby mislead farmers. Instead we demand agricultural research that will complement farming life.

- ✓ Study the relationship between farmer suicides and expensive input intensive agricultural research and if evidences are found of a relationship, such research must be abandoned.

On Raita Teerpu

- ✓ In today's environment that disheartens farmers, we welcome processes such as ***Raita Teerpu*** which infuse self confidence in farmers. This process must be extensively discussed in every village in Karnataka. Farmers movements such as *KRRS, Savayava Krushi Parivar* are ready to take on this responsibility
- ✓ ***Raita Teerpu*** must be regularly studied at the Study Circles of various farmer organizations
- ✓ The value of ***Raita Teerpu*** lies in the profound experience that has given birth to the issues it has raised. It should be our collective next step to spread among rural communities these experiences which can teach the Art of Living to the entire society.
- ✓ Farmers must acquire the strength to fight the bureaucracy that constantly oppresses them. ***Raita Teerpu*** has the potential to provide this strength to farmers. Therefore there must be many workshops on ***Raita Teerpu*** in the homes and farms of farmers. Many farmers are ready to host such workshops at the ground level.

On Food Sovereignty and general

- ✓ We will fight any law that will negatively affect our food sovereignty
- ✓ The recent report submitted to the Karnataka Government by an Expert Committee which argues for planting biofuel

plants such as jatropha is a serious threat to food sovereignty. Therefore this Round Table totally rejects this report

- ✓ Irrigation projects and canals should not be meant to grow commodity crops. Instead they should promote food crops. The current laws that meant for this must be enforced strictly.
- ✓ Instead of slogans such as loan waivers, government must seriously attempt to help farmers desist from hankering after loans. This can happen only when farmers' produce gets scientific and profitable prices.
- ✓ Agricultural policies should be framed under the leadership of farmers and not be by university trained scientists.