

# South India Regional Workshop

## Understanding the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership and its Implications

2-3 April 2017, Indian Social Institute, Bengaluru

PROPOSED PROGRAMME

### Day 1 – Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2017

Time	Session	Speakers
8.30-9am	Registration	
9.00-9.30am	<b>Welcome</b> by Co-organisers and Self-introduction	Chukki Nanjundaswamy, Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha (KRRS) Shalini Bhutani, Forum Against FTAs
9.30-11.00am	<b>SETTING THE CONTEXT</b>  - 25 years of neoliberal policies: Impacts on employment, privatisation and policy space - Situating RCEP within the crisis of free trade today  Discussion	Chair: Kajal Bhardwaj, Independent Researcher  Babu Mathew, National Law School of India University Benny Kuruvilla, Transnational Institute (TNI)
11.00-11.30am	Tea	
11.30-1.30 pm	<b>AGRICULTURE</b>  Impacts of existing agreements on smallholder farming in South India and what to expect from RCEP  - Context of farm crisis in South India - Existing evidence of impacts of signed FTA - RCEP and agricultural trade - RCEP's intellectual property provisions: Implications for seed, farmer practices and people's knowledge  Discussion	Chair: Fatima Burnad, Society for Rural Education and Development (SRED)  Aninhalli R. Vasavi, Punarchith Afsar Jafri, Focus on the Global South Ranja Sengupta, Third World Network (TWN) Shalini Bhutani, Legal Researcher
1.30-2.30pm	Lunch	
2.30-4.00pm	<b>MANUFACTURING</b>  Impacts of existing agreements on key manufacturing sectors and what to expect from RCEP  - Existing evidence of deindustrialisation, loss of employment, and increase in import dependence - Global Production Networks, manufacturing and RCEP  Discussion	Chair: Pratibha R, Garment and Textile Workers Union (GATWU)  Puti Gaonkar, New Trade Union Initiative (NTUI)  Satyaki Roy, Institute for Studies in Industrial Development (ISID)
4.00-4.30 pm	Tea	
4.30-5.30 pm	<b>ESSENTIAL SERVICES</b>  - Treat to essential services: Current context and what to expect from RCEP - Access to Medicines: Where we are and what to expect from RCEP  Discussion	Chair: Prasanna Saligram, Jan Swasthya Abhiyan (JSA)  Susana Barria, Public Services International (PSI)  Anand Grover, Lawyers Collective

## Day 2 - Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2017

9.30-10.45	<b>FINANCIAL SERVICES</b>  - Impacts of Neoliberal policies on banking sector  - Banking and Insurance Services: What to expect from RCEP  Discussion	Chair: V Narasimhan, All India National Life Insurance Employees Federation (AINLIEF)  Thomas Franco, All India Bank Officers' Confederation (AIBOC) Kavaljit Singh, Madhyam
10.45-11.30	<b>DIGITAL ECONOMY</b>  - Role of Trade agreements in opening E-Commerce  - Inputs by IT services unions and small retailers unions  Discussion	Chair: Parminder Jeet Singh, IT for Change  Pranesh Prakash, Center for Internet and Society (CIS) Dharmendra Kumar, FDI Watch India
11.30-12.00	Tea	
12.00-1.30 pm	<b>INVESTOR PROTECTIONS VS PEOPLE'S RIGHTS</b>  - Corporate Impunity through Investor State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) - Case Studies of impacts on Medicines  Discussion	Chair: Leo Saldanha, Environment Support Group  Kavaljit Singh, Madhyam  Shailly Gutpa, Medecins sans Frontieres (MSF)
1.30-2.30 pm	Lunch	
2.30-5.30 pm	<b>STRATEGY SESSION</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Call for Action – July RCEP Round in India</li> <li>• Strategy vis a vis State Governments</li> <li>• Strategy vis a vis Elected Representatives</li> <li>• Media strategy,</li> <li>• Linking with other Campaigns</li> <li>• Lobbying with negotiators</li> </ul>	Moderator: Chukki Nanjundaswamy, KRRS, Kiran Vissa, Alliance for Sustainable and Holistic Agriculture (ASHA)  Interventions by movements and mass organisations
5.30 pm	Closing & Vote of Thanks	Nawaz, La Via Camesina, Rashmi Munikempanna, KRRS