

**Press Release by CUTS International**

**“Management of agricultural surplus in the market is the problem; importing produce from other states and countries will not solve access to food issues in Karnataka”**



***Bengaluru, 26<sup>th</sup> October, 2016:*** “Management of agricultural surplus in the market is the problem; importing produce from other states and countries will not solve access to food issues in Karnataka” said T. N. Prakash Kammardi (Chairman, Karnataka Agriculture Price Commission, Government of Karnataka).

He was speaking at an interactive workshop on ‘**Food Security in India: The Interactions of Climate Change, Economics, Politics & Trade**’ organized by CUTS International in partnership with Consumer Rights Education and Awareness Trust (CREAT), Bengaluru and funded by Research Council of Norway (RCIN) on 26<sup>th</sup> October, 2016.

Kammardi also stressed on the importance of addressing agriculture as a viable income source for farmers. He explained the close interaction of production and distribution of agricultural produce in determining security of food access at the household level. He also shared a presentation on agrarian crisis and food security.

Taking on from where he left, C. Yathiraju, (Environmentalism, Tumkuru Science Centre) addressed the various issues related to drought in the aspect of food security. He said that currently drought management is mostly through relief measures rather than adaptation and risk reduction and pointed out that the use of local varieties of food crops like jowar and ragi will be helpful to secure food security in the drought prone areas of Karnataka.

B. V. Hemlatha (Assistant Director, Mid-Day Meal, Karnataka Education Service, Government of Karnataka) provided a brief outline to the participants on the statistics and schemes associated with the mid-day meal scheme in government and aided schools in Karnataka.

Y. Mariswamy (Coordinator, Samajik Parivartan Andolan) also shared his field level experiences dealing with public programs on food security among vulnerable and backward caste in Karnataka. Being a welfare state, it is the duty of government to take measures to reduce hunger and food insecurity of its people not a charity, he added

The event had participants from agricultural university, NGOs, policy makers and government officials. The event concluded with closing notes by Y. G. Muralidharan (Founder and Trustee, CREAT) and Veena Vidyadharan (Deputy Head-CITEE, Policy Analyst-CUTS International).

More details about the relevant project can be accessed here: <http://www.cuts-citee.org/FOODSEC/index.htm>

For more information, please contact:

Dr. Veena Vidyadharan ([vv@cuts.org](mailto:vv@cuts.org); +91 – 9829999986)