

We, the participants of a national workshop on “Green Revolution in Eastern India: Which way forward?” - farmers, activists, scientists and consumers from Orissa, West Bengal, Chattisgarh, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Delhi - have conducted in-depth analysis of the consequences of Green Revolution and noted that :

- The Green Revolution that has been undertaken in India in the past has proven itself ecologically unsustainable, environmentally hazardous, economically non-viable and is a threat to the existence of small/marginal farmers and sharecroppers. It has left its irreparable socio-cultural, environmental, health and economic impacts on the farming communities and consumers. Green Revolution only denotes negative implications for the Eastern region too and there is nothing to be rejoiced about the current proposals.
- Green Revolution will lead to violation of seed sovereignty of farming communities through bio-piracy and seed monopolies.
- Instead of the failed Green Revolution model, sustainable agriculture for the food and livelihood security in Eastern India, based on the inherent strengths/constraints of the region should be promoted.
- Green Revolution practices which have already made inroads in the Eastern states have also left their well-documented negative impacts in terms of creating economic and environmental unsustainability of farming in addition to increasing the vulnerability/risks of our farmers, including pushing many farmers towards suicides and greater indebtedness.
- Eastern India has invaluable genetic diversity of crops which farmers have evolved over centuries to suit various growing conditions and preferences and this is a heritage which is endangered by the promotion of Green Revolution seeds and technology.
- Food and livelihood security of the poor is subverted by the decision imposed by the Union Government on the peoples of the six Eastern Indian states to push for the new phase of Green Revolution with a thrust on hybrid seeds technology. We question the rationale of the government in bringing in this Green Revolution and strongly believe that techno-centric production models adopted so far do not address real food, nutrition and livelihood security.
- Hybrid rice experience from all over Asia shows that this is a failed technology increasingly rejected by farmers and consumers; importantly, the promotion of hybrid rice ignores the available diversity in the region. This is certainly not the answer to any problem of the farmers. Neither is GM Rice.
- Irrigation and agro-chemical requirements are going to increase with Green Revolution models, which cannot be sustained in the face of climate change, depleted water resources and existing agrarian distress.

- IAASTD (International Assessment on Agricultural Science & Technology for Development) report to which India and 58 other countries are signatories which has already pointed out that smallholder ecological farming is the only way forward, should be adopted by the governments. IAASTD report, released in April 2008 called for a fundamental change to reduce hunger and poverty, improve rural livelihoods and facilitate equitable environmentally, socially and economically sustainable development. GR model clearly contradicts this.

The workshop concludes that it would be a great irony and unpardonable if the RKVY or other funds meant for alleviation of agrarian distress actually end up pushing the small and marginal farmers in Eastern India towards greater distress through short sighted decisions on Green Revolution. Instead, many agro-ecological approaches to farming, along with institutional innovations that allow for farmer-centric sustainable agriculture should be immediately acknowledged and promoted by the government. Farmers practising sustainable agriculture should be incentivised, including by integration of NREGA with sustainable bio-diverse ecological agriculture.
