



Press Release

International Day of Rural Women

Peasant-Labour Women's Demands: Land, Food and Decision-Making Power

October 15, 2023

We Pakistan Kissan Mazdoor Tehreek (PKMT) and, Roots for Equity, mark the Rural Women's Day with grave concern! Though we are now in the 21st Century, and there seems to be high technological development, the world is facing rising hunger, with rural women being at the highest rung of being the most marginalized, suffering from not only hunger but also hunger wages, hunger for a piece of land of our own.

Women farmers, though almost all are landless are the backbone of the agriculture economy. Seeds cannot be sown, land cannot be looked after, livestock cannot be cared and bred, harvests cannot be cut without women. In Pakistan, all food crops, especially wheat is harvested by women's back breaking labor, almost all cotton is picked by women, and livestock is cared for by women but even after this hard labor, the rural women peasants are the most marginalized in society.

The imperialist world order dictates neoliberalism as a panacea for our misery, for our enforced poverty, but in fact, it is the actual base of our pauperization. Starting from colonization to the present day, we the real tillers of land have been forcefully pushed off our lands. Feudal lords retain control of our land, and with rise of imperialism, more and more corporate hegemony can be seen being imposed on food and agricultural systems.

It is the fossil fuel, profit-greedy production system that has now brought about climate crisis. But imperialist powers are unwilling to change the unsustainable production and consumption, and we are left to suffer the intense destruction and damage of our land, our homes, our livestock. Not only climate crisis, we also suffer the burden of an astronomical national debt which we never took! The austerity measures imposed by the IMF and World Bank are further crippling the food and agricultural production system.

Our government instead of leasing our land for export of food, should instead stand up to the capitalist nations demanding debt cancellation, ensuring just and equitable land distribution to the peasants, especially women, ensuring safe and nutrition food for all that is free not only from chemical and genetic pollution but also free from corporate control. In short we ask for a policy orientation that would fulfill our demands for food sovereignty, for climate justice, for economic and social justice, and accountability to the people.

Women Demand Food Sovereignty!

Women Demand Just and Equitable Land Distribution!

Women Demand Climate Justice!

Released by: Pakistan Kissan Mazdoor Tehreek (PKMT); 03105092395