

DDS Women at Food Secure Canada

October 14-19, 2016

Toronto & Ottawa, Canada



Food Secure Canada, a pan-Canadian alliance of organizations and individuals working together to advance food security and food sovereignty had invited a delegation of farmers and food activists from Deccan Development Society.

The delegation consisting of Sammamma, Lakshamma , Mayuri and Tejaswi which has returned yesterday has done extensive work in reporting food security issues in India. They have particularly focused on trying to locate their work as a futuristic model for Global Food Security.

They have met senior Canadian Parliamentarians' , food security activists , indigenous leaders and other civil society leaders during their week-long stay in Canada.

Mayuri the 15 year old child film maker of DDS showed her films to a large group of children in Le Da Salle Public Secondary School in Ottawa city. The children who were fascinated by the cinematic skills of Mayuri were full of questions. Another group of food activists who also saw the film at another venue found the film authentic and were very appreciative of the efforts to catch this authenticity by a young India child.

The DDS farmers spoke to Canadian parliaments and urged them to concentrate on food security and related issues in South Asia. They explained how their own efforts have been able to secure their communities in terms of Food and Seed Sovereignty and asked the parliamentarians to help countries in South Asia to replicate such models.

In a plenary organised by Food Secure Canada, the woman farmer of DDS Sammamma explained that the kind of agricultural model they were following was truly innovative and can find solutions to a number of food security problems.

Overall , the tour was a great success feels DDS, because it was led by a young woman Tejaswi and showcased the talent of Mayuri and unravelled the deep ecological knowledge of non-literate farmers from DDS.

An indigenous leader from Canada felt that their own women had not been able accomplish even half of what Sammamma had described as their work. The presentations by Sammamma and Lakshamma made them feel that big technology and use of machinery was not the real innovation but the kind of life and livelihood sustaining agriculture presented by DDS women farmers was a true innovation.