

# ***INTERNATIONAL SEED DAY***

## ***International Day for Patent-Free Seeds, Organic Food and Farmers' Rights***

**April 26, 2015**

*Coorganised by*

**Millet Network of India [MINI]**

*In Association with*

**Deccan Development Society, Pastapur**

On 26<sup>th</sup> April 2015, the Millet Network of India in association with Deccan Development Society had the opportunity to voice the concerns of millions of farmers across the country and give an expression to their angst about the way their seeds are being appropriated by big business interests.

Two successful events – one being in the state capital, Hyderabad and the second being in block headquarter, Sanga Reddy town, hundreds of farmers, women and men, marched in the heart of the city street (Khairathabad) and Sangareddy town respectively, held placards and banners, conducted a media meet to protest against the injustice being done to them. Partner organisations such as Peace (Telangana), Pilupu (Telangana), Jana Vignyna Vedika (Telangana), National Alliance for Peoples' Movement (India), SAGE – Samvada, took part in this event held on April 25<sup>th</sup>. This was the strongest mobilisation that the Deccan Development Society along with the Millet Network of India had undertaken this year in order to strengthen the great tradition of our seed conservation in this region and country. Our partners and acquaintances have put in great effort and firmly resolved that their local communities were going back to our traditional seed systems and strengthen farmers hands in retaining them and protested government laws and policies to be driven back which are pro-corporate.

Slogans in English such as “Say no to GE”, MILLETS are Future of Food & Farming”, SHUN GE, go for Millets”, Our Seeds, “Our Future”, etc including telugu slogans such as Seed exchange rights should remain with us, the farmers; Do not privatise agricultural research, agriculture should remain in the hands of women, food and farming should be in our hands, opposition to hunger deaths and globalisation, cultivate food crops to avoid migration, protest against the international companies, protest against contract based agriculture, company seeds; etc were the soul of their grave concerns on seed conservation and opposition to commercialisation. A press meet was therefore arranged in Hyderabad at Press Club, Khairathabad and Sangareddy. The participants including, farmers, activists, Civil Society members who expressed their strong objections to the creeping problem of privatisation of seed procurement, laws against seed conservation, dependence on company seeds, commercialisation of seed, etc which is evident in the following press clippings.

This was the Initial Call for Action, which give a heartwarming account of the Deccan Development Society's response to a national challenge.