

ACTRAV/ Norway Project: “Trade Unions for Social Justice”



International
Labour
Organization



AT A GLANCE

Partners

Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh (BMS); Indian National Trade Union Congress (INTUC); All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC); Hind Mazdoor Sabha (HMS); Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU); United Trades Union Congress (UTUC); Trade Union Coordination Committee (TUCC); All India Central Council of Trade Unions (AICCTU); Self Employed Women's Association of India (SEWA); Labour Progressive Federation (LPF); All India United Trade Union Centre (AIUTUC); National Front of Indian Trade Unions (NFITU)

Donors

Government of Norway

Duration

January 1, 2014- February 29, 2016

Target Beneficiaries

Workers in the formal and informal economy in India

Geographical Focus

India with targeted activities in Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Bihar, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal



PROJECT OBJECTIVE

The Mandate of ACTRAV, the Bureau for Workers' Activities, is to strengthen representative, independent and democratic trade unions in all countries, to enable them to play their role effectively in protecting workers' rights and interests and in providing effective services to their members at national and international levels, and to promote the ratification and implementation of ILO Conventions. In its mission, ACTRAV maintains close relations with the trade union movement throughout the various countries of the world, to provide trade unions with the support of the International Labour Office in endeavours to strengthen their influence by promoting activities which defend and advance the rights of workers. In line with its mandate and mission, ACTRAV implements the project Trade Unions for Social Justice in collaboration with National Trade Union Organisations (NTUOs) across India to equip trade unions to engage in tripartite dialogue at a national level. It also conducts targeted activities in Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Bihar, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal through the Joint Action Forums (JAFs) formed by NTUOs in these states.

Through capacity building and advocacy, the project-

- Promotes International Labour Standards and Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work in India,
- Supports the trade unions' campaign for ratification of Core Labour Standards (CLS), specifically C.87 and C.98,
- Enables trade unions to tackle labour market changes effectively with specific regard to informalisation and,
- Integrates gender specific labour issues into mainstream union agendas and promotes the ratification of ILO Convention 189.



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Main Activities

- 6 state-level and 5 zonal and district level training programmes were conducted in 2014 and 2015 for trade union leaders and activists at state, district and zonal level in the project focus states with Joint Action Forums to enable effective campaigning for the ratification of C.87 & C.98.
- Two national-level training programmes were conducted to address gender related issues in trade unions, mainstream them into union agenda and focus on vulnerable women workers especially domestic, construction and scheme workers.
- A national trade union consultative workshop was conducted on transitioning from informal to formal economy in India. 34 national trade unions leaders participated and shed light on major developments in the economy and its consequent impact on labour markets and focussed on ILO mechanisms and trade union strategies towards formalisation.
- Caravan campaigns have been conducted across the six states to generate awareness among workers and the public at large on CLS and build momentum towards their ratification. It has included rallies, demonstrations, press conferences, public meetings, signature drives, formation of human chains etc.
- A project review meeting was held with key partners and JAF Convenors in December 2014 to review project activities and to formulate its strategies for the year 2015.

Main Outcomes

- Significant gains have been made in building unification within the trade union movement in India. A joint trade union approach to all activities has led to the creation and formalisation of JAFs of trade unions in seven project states resulting in defending and securing workers' rights effectively. Similarly, 34 zone JAFs were also formed and joint activities were conducted in 121 out of 213 districts across the six project states.
- Training activities enhanced skills and increased the knowledge base across different sections within trade unions. Targeted programmes with specific modules have built capacity among 60 young women leaders, 202 state level and 212 district and zone level (male and female) leaders enabling them to meet the labour market changed efficiently. Training programmes for young women leaders focussed on the mainstreaming of issues faced by women workers specifically from vulnerable groups, while state and district level training were conducted to facilitate the campaign for ratification of core labour standards.
- Joint trade union social and economic policies linked to the labour law reform process were developed and through the trade union platform, used to influence Government policy. Through support for a six-state campaign for workers' rights, 150,000 signatures were collected for a petition to ratify the core conventions, and awareness has been generated among the public as well.
- Political will towards CLS ratification was strengthened by critically engaging political leaders, Members of Parliament, Member of Legislative Councils and State Labour Ministers in CLS ratification campaign in all the six states.

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