

SOME RESPONSES FROM MEMBERS ON SATHI AS A SECRETARIAT FOR CWLR

Name: Ms. Shilpa Vasavada, Ms. Geeta Oza, Ms. Sejal Dave

Organization: Working Group for Women & Land Ownership (GWLO), Gujarat

Sathi has taken up amazing responsibilities to build the network. Right from influencing different agencies to put the issue on board to identifying issues for advocacy, it has enabled member organizations to take the issue forward.

However, the national forum may not require full time, as the pace of work with member organizations be slower than the pace at which the issue is pushed (in terms of new ideas and events) by Sathi. Hence, the secretariat may feel little disheartened. The pace of work should be matched understanding multiple tasks that member NGOs take on.

Also, the style of functioning in a network may need to be changed, as it gives an impression to be of top-down. This could be changed to get more ownership among members.

Name: Shewli Kumar

Organization: Assistant Professor, TISS, Mumbai

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SATHI has worked overtime to ensure visibility to the issues and the results are there to see. There is however a critical need for it to locate the work within its organizational objectives and also devolve responsibility to others. It always happens that the secretariat is

burdened with all the work both logistical as well as organizational. Conceptual framing of the issues then cannot be worked upon with such time constraints. SATHI will have to decide then as to whether it will continue to work more at the logistic and organizational levels or would it prefer to conceptualise the issues, e.g., tribal women's access to land and other resources within a rights-based framework. Because each aspect needs concentrated attention and not the segmented approach which it has been able to do, so far.

Name: Soma K Parthasarathy

1. Very proactive, but needs to invest in more consultative processes to define the agenda forward as it has done recently in Gujarat and Bihar, and involve other network members in these dialogues
2. Need to take stock of existing experiences and status of womens land rights through intensive documentation as learning process for the network
3. Needs to work at two levels
 - to support land rights struggles of all the communities listed in the note through strengthening gender debates more actively within existing debates eg: tribal land rights debates, hill women's rights to land and resources,

- evolve an agenda for capacity building and empowerment of partners and members to actively engage with the state and other actors on gender and land rights issues

Name: Dr.Jyotsna Chatterji

Organization: Joint Women's Programme

Has been able to inform NGO'S in the network about the developments regarding the issue and built a stronger joint action.

Name: Sujata Madhok

Organization: None

SATHI Coordinator Shivani Bhatnagar has tremendous energy, works hard and is able to make contacts at all levels to carry forward the network's objectives. She has competently networked with organisations such as the National Commission for Women, UN agencies, various ministries and the Planning Commission and built up the network.

SATHI has proved to be an efficient secretariat that plies members with regular information and updates on the work of CWLR, organizes meetings and events and stimulates debate on issues related to women and land. I notice however that there has been staff turnover and I'm sure that has posed administrative and logistical problems for the organisation. This needs to be dealt with, possibly by offering higher paying jobs or other incentives.

Name: Joy Ngwakwe

Organization: CEADER

Association with CWLR: Executive Committee Member

So far, SATHI has done a great work as secretariat for CWLR. They may need to devise more strategies for gaining higher commitment from CWLR members

Name: Annie Serrano

Organization: Southeast Asia Women's Watch; formerly with Asia Pacific Women's Watch

The secretariat has been quite efficient in sharing information