

# MANIFESTO FOR LAND RIGHTS

*(on behalf of Land Rights Movements)*

1. Adopt and implement a **National Land Reforms Policy** for setting overall framework of “Land Redistribution to the Landless/ Shelter less Poor” and to prevent land alienation, land grabbing forceful land acquisition and displacement of the rural and urban poor.

2. Enact the “**National Homestead Rights Act**” and Model Act for “**Distribution of Agricultural Land to Rural Landless and Homeless Poor**” to alleviate poverty and promote social justice in India.

*Distribute/Assign/Allot available land to eligible homeless and landless poor, particularly the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other marginalised and deprived landless families, with a priority on landless and marginalised women, in a time-bound manner – both for agriculture and house sites. The allotment of land should be made in the name of adult women members of the eligible family. The list of beneficiaries should be prepared with the approval of the Gram Sabha. The list of beneficiaries should be made available to the public.*

3. Enact Minimum **Land Holding Act for all Landless** - Allot at least 5 acres of agricultural land and at least 10 cents of land for house site to all nomadic tribes and De-notified Nomadic Tribes who are willing to settle at a particular place.

4. Commit to human rights-based land reform and agrarian reform, as a priority for the next five years.

5. Establish a **Land Reforms Commission** at the national and state level to review, monitor and guide the implementation of all the pro-poor land laws and land reform laws with a clear focus on distribution and allotment of land to the landless/homeless poor.

6. Establish **Legal Support Systems** for the poor by creating community-based paralegal programmes and Fast Track Courts at the district level.

7. Review existing laws pertaining to alienation/transfer of land belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, and take necessary steps for removing the constraints in protecting and restoring the allotted and other lands belonging to SCs and STs and restore the land alienated till now to the eligible poor.
8. Enact a “(Prevention of) **Dalit Land Alienation Act**” in order to restore the agricultural and common property land specifically assigned/allotted to the dalit community.
9. Establish ‘**Common Property Land and Resources Conservation Board**’ at National and State level to carry out survey of Common Property Land and Resources with the direct involvement of the Gram Sabha and the Gram Panchayats and transfer the rights of protection and conservation to women-headed committees especially constituted for this purpose.
10. Amend the **Panchayat (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996** to give it an overriding effect over all other legislations and instead of ‘consultation by the Gram Panchayat’ ‘consent of the Gram Sabha’ should be made mandatory. The Rules under the Act should be framed and notified by the Government of India.
11. Enact revised **Provisions of the Municipalities (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Bill** in the Parliament at the earliest in such a manner that the interests of Scheduled Tribes, including their rights to housing, land and other natural resources, are not adversely affected.
12. Establish a “**Forest Rights Commission**” at the Central and State level in order to plan, execute and monitor the time-bound implementation of the Forest Rights Act (2006) in association with Ministry of Tribal Affairs and the department.
13. Develop and adopt a “**National Tribal Policy**” for providing overall framework of tribal development and protection of the human rights of all Scheduled Tribes in the country.
14. Enact a **Women Farmers’ Bill** that recognises the equal rights of women farmers and provides them with access to credit, agricultural inputs, and land rights.