



# CIVIL SOCIETY WORKSHOP PUNE, MAHARASHTRA, INDIA **LAND RIGHTS AND CARBON MARKETS IN INDIA** 20-22 FEBRUARY 2014



*Dear Friends and Colleagues,*

It's a pleasure to invite you to our upcoming civil society workshop to discuss the influence carbon markets may place upon land rights in India. An increasing focus of climate mitigation activities in sectors that are typically dependent on common lands, such as forests and agricultural areas, adds further pressure to this challenge. Countries around the world are currently discussing how to combat climate change with the aim to adopt an international agreement in 2015. Although the international carbon market does not allow projects in the agricultural and forestry sectors for a number of reasons, the voluntary carbon market is currently developing methodologies to account for

emission savings in these sectors. However, experience with climate mitigation activities in India has shown that it is getting increasingly difficult for local communities to defend their rights to use common lands for their everyday life.

This workshop will provide a platform to share information and discuss recent developments around the potential inclusion of these new sectors in carbon markets. It will also explore the political impacts of land based carbon market initiatives, including what effect the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) and other mechanisms can have on land rights for marginalised groups, especially women.

## The workshop programme will address the following topics:

### 1. Political developments on international and regional carbon markets;

#### Key challenges for land-based initiatives in :

- Sustainable forest management activities (REDD+)
- Agriculture and forest carbon markets projects
- Biodiversity offsetting mechanisms

### 2. Particular focus will be given to:

- Public participation procedures
- Environmental impacts
- Social safeguards (e.g. to protect human rights) and grievance mechanisms

### Who should attend ?

- CSO representatives from India, who have worked or are planning to work on land rights or carbon market related issues in South Asia.
- Academic and research institutions
- Journalists

### How much will it cost to participate ?

- Participation is free of charge
- Coffee and lunch is provided
- Representatives of NGOs can apply for travel expenses and accommodation costs.

