

The Ranikhet Declaration

April 2009

We, nineteen leaders from universities, non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations across south Asia, gathered at Ranikhet, India on April 14-16, 2009 to craft a strategy for food safety and security as a follow up to the meeting at Bellagio, Italy in December 2008. We, who met in Ranikhet, formed ourselves into a coalition to use our capabilities, energies and passion to improve food safety and security across our region.

We affirm our conviction that everyone in the world has the right to an adequate supply of safe, affordable and nutritious food. As food is a biological necessity and food systems are part of the global ecology, we agree that the food supply of the world can be produced and processed using environmentally sustainable methods, some of which are known while others are in development. We further acknowledge that agriculture and food systems contribute significantly to the economic viability, social stability, public health and security of all nations. Adequate nutrition, environmental sustainability, economic development and social stability all are components of global health for human society as a whole.

We add our support to the Bellagio Declaration that shared leadership, within global food systems, is one of the essential factors that will determine whether all people on this planet achieve food security. We conclude from our experiences that shared leadership must involve entire food systems, which includes farmers, processors, distributors, food service providers, retailers, regulators, and consumers.

We recognize the power of linking individuals and organizations committed to safe food. We commit to work together as the Asian Coalition for Safe Food Systems to:

- Create a knowledge network to promote food safety and security
- Undertake education and build awareness
- Advocate safe food policies and practices
- Foster and strengthen institutional linkages

The coalition will focus initially on safe food - that which nourishes life, is wholesome, free of harmful contaminants and environment friendly.