PARTNERS FOR FOOD SECURITY
The Role of Trade Unions, Rural Workers' Organizations, Agricultural Producers' and Farmers' Associations, Cooperatives, and Development/Advocacy Organizations in Contributing to the World Food Summit and its Follow-up

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Papers contributed by:
- The International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU)
- The International Union of Food, Agriculture, Hotels, Restaurant, Tobacco and Allied Workers Associations (IUF)
- The World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU)
- The Trade Unions International of Food, Tobacco, Hotel and Allied Workers (UIS)
- World Federation of Agricultural and Food Workers (WFAFW)
- Federation Latinoamericana de Trabajadores Campesinos y de la Alimentation (FELTACA)
- The General Agricultural Workers Union (GAWU) of Ghana
- Confederation National Agraria, Peru
- The International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP)
- The Via Campesina
- The International Cooperative Alliance
- Socio-Economic Development Organization of Cambodia (SEDOC)
- Project Development Institute (PDI), Philippines
- Asociacion de Investigacion y Estudios Sociales (ASIES), Guatemala
The views expressed in this paper reflect the position of the organizations which have contributed to it and do not represent the official position of FAO.
PREFACE

The international trade unions, rural workers', agricultural producers' and farmers' organizations and cooperatives which met together at the 13th FAO/ITU Consultation in December 1995, expressed a shared concern to make a substantive contribution to the preparatory and follow-up processes of the World Food Summit. In response to the growing impetus within nations and the international community to foster effective partnerships between governments and all sectors of civil society to achieve food security for all, these organizations undertook to prepare a joint document that would bring their views on and experiences in promoting food security to the World Food Summit process and would help identify potential ways in which they could contribute to the implementation of the World Food Summit Plan of Action.

This document is based on the individual papers submitted by the 14 contributing organizations. The Rural Development Division of FAO facilitated its preparation through the funding of a consultant, Marilee Karl, who edited the collection and prepared an "Overview" synthesizing the main issues raised in the papers. The views expressed in the document thus reflect entirely the mandates and positions of the 14 organizations which contributed papers to this collection.
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A. TRADE UNIONS AND RURAL WORKERS' ORGANIZATIONS
1. The International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU)
2. The International Union of Food, Agriculture, Hotels, Restaurant, Tobacco and Allied Workers Associations (IUF)
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PARTI – OVERVIEW

By Marilee Karl

1. INTRODUCTION
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1. INTRODUCTION

"If the World Food Summit serves to renew human solidarity, to increase political commitment, and to bring to a critical mass the numbers of individuals who actively care about finding solutions to the food security problem, then I believe that, together, we will find them."

Mr. Jacques Diouf
Director-General, FAO

"With a view to participating in the dialogue at the national, regional and global levels that has been launched on food security in preparation for the World Food Summit, international trade unions, rural workers' organizations and agricultural producers' associations were encouraged to provide information to their constituencies, to contribute feedback to the Plan of Action and technical papers which were prepared for the Summit, and to identify areas for cooperation in the implementation of the Plan of Action."

13th Consultation between
International Trade Unions and FAO
Rome, 11-13 December 1995

The World Food Summit (WFS) was convened by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations in Rome in November 1996 with the aim of renewing the commitment of world leaders at the highest levels to the eradication of hunger and malnutrition and the achievement of food security for all, through the adoption of concerted policies and actions at the global, regional, national and local levels. A Policy Statement and Plan of Action for this purpose have been drawn up for the Summit.

From the start, FAO called for the broad participation of civil society in preparing for the Summit, in debating the issues of food security, in contributing to the Policy Statement and Plan of Action, and in implementing the recommendations for concerted action between governments, international organizations and all concerned sectors of civil society to achieve the goal of food security for all.
The World Food Summit objectives will be achieved only if there is both the commitment and political will of governments to eradicate poverty and food insecurity and the active involvement of civil society in taking the action necessary to do so.

Among the sectors of civil society which are most involved in and concerned with achieving food security are the people who produce and process the food for their families, communities, countries and for the rest of the world's population. These are the rural men and women who are small, medium and large-scale farmers, tenant farmers and sharecroppers, landless peasants, agricultural labourers, subsistence food producers, plantation workers, seasonal and migrant workers, wage earners in agro-industries, fisherfolk, and foresters.

Paradoxically, these rural people who produce the food also make up the majority of the world's poor (ILO 1990) who are amongst the most vulnerable to food insecurity.

The World Food Summit can provide a vehicle to help them to improve both their own situations and their part in providing food security for the world. For this to be realized, however, the voices of these rural people must be heard at the World Food Summit. They must be actively involved in identifying the root causes of food insecurity and in finding the solutions to these problems. They must be among the first to be involved in carrying out the actions necessary to eradicate the food insecurity of the world.

The voices of the rural population can be brought to the Summit and their participation can be mobilized in the implementation of the WFS Plan of Action through their representative organizations. These include trade unions, rural workers' organizations, agricultural producers' and farmers' associations, and cooperatives. These organizations represent hundreds of millions of men and women rural workers, farmers of all kinds, fisherfolk, foresters, and indigenous peoples worldwide. They also work at local, national, regional and international levels and thus are in a position to bridge the communication gap between the grassroots and the highest policy-making levels. In addition, many Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) also play key advocacy roles in support of rural people, in helping them organize themselves for their empowerment, and in making their voices heard.

For these reasons, the international trade unions and the international federations of agricultural producers and cooperatives, meeting in Rome in December 1995, at the 13th FAO/International Trade Union Consultation recommended "participating in the dialogue at the national, regional and global levels that has been launched on food security in preparation for the World Food Summit" and to "provide information to their constituencies, to contribute feedback to the Plan of Action and technical papers which were prepared for the Summit, and to identify areas for cooperation in the Plan of Action." (FAO 1996)

In follow-up to this Consultation and as a response to its recommendations, FAO ha: taken steps to:
promote the participation of trade unions, rural workers' organizations, agricultural producers' and farmers' associations, cooperatives and other civil society organizations in the policy dialogue on food security, particularly in the World Food Summit and its preparatory process; and

facilitate the participation of these organizations in the implementation of the World Food Summit Plan of Action.

These efforts are taking place within the context of a review conducted by FAO's Unit for Cooperation with the Private Sector and NGOs aimed at strengthening FAO's overall framework for cooperation with different kinds of civil society organizations, including trade unions, rural workers' organizations, agricultural producers' and farmers' associations, and development/advocacy organizations, and furthering the consultative process for cooperation.

This paper, prepared in cooperation with 14 trade unions, rural workers' organizations, agricultural producers' and farmers' associations, cooperatives and development/advocacy organizations, is part of this effort to contribute to bringing the positions and views of a wide range of civil society organizations to the World Food Summit process, and to promote greater cooperation between FAO governments and these organizations.

The paper is divided into the following sections:

**Trade unions, rural workers' organizations, agricultural producers' and farmers' associations, cooperatives, and development/advocacy organizations: what are they?:** This section gives a brief definition of these different types of organizations, pointing out their commonalities and differences, and brief profiles of the organizations which have contributed to this paper.

**Their mandates, strategies and experiences in promoting food security:** This section gives a summary of the mandates, strategies and experiences of these organizations in promoting food security.

**Their positions and views on the key issues addressed by the World Food Summit and Plan of Action:** This section summarizes the positions and views of these organizations on the key issues addressed by the World Food Summit and the Plan of Action. It also points out some areas which these organizations consider to be inadequately covered in the Summit and its Plan of Action.

**Possible Areas for Cooperation in Implementing the World Food Summit and Plan of Action:** This section examines some of the ways in which these organizations could participate and cooperate in implementing the commitments of the World Food Summit Plan of Action.
Contributions

Paper have been contributed by 14 different organizations, including trade unions, rural workers' organizations, agricultural producers' and farmers' associations, cooperatives, and development/advocacy organizations. These papers describe the organizations, give a fuller view and description of their mandates, strategies, experiences in the field of food security and their positions on key food security issues and the World Food Summit and its Plan of Action. They are available in Part II of this document.
Trade unions, rural workers' organizations, agricultural producers' and farmers' associations, and cooperatives represent hundreds of millions of rural people worldwide. Their overall goals are to improve the lives and working conditions of rural people. In addition, hundreds of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) play advocacy and support roles in assisting rural people to organize themselves and improve their living and working conditions.

These organizations have a major stake and role to play in achieving food security, in making their positions and views known to the World Food Summit and in cooperating with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, governments and other civil society organizations in working towards the objectives of the Summit and the implementation of the World Food Summit Plan of Action.

This section attempts to give: 1) brief definition of these different types of organizations pointing out their commonalities and differences; and 2) brief profiles of organizations that have contributed to this paper.

Definitions

Although these various types of organizations have distinguishing features, there is also a certain amount of overlap among them. Many of the concepts presented here are still under discussion. The definitions presented below are, therefore, not meant to be rigid and immutable, but are rather working definitions drawn from the self-definitions of the organizations that have contributed to this paper and reflect the present state of the debate.

Civil Society

The draft Plan of Action of the World Food Summit calls upon governments to take action in cooperation with civil society to achieve the goal of food security and the specific objectives to reach this goal. Civil society has been described as "the space of
uncoerced human association and also tine set of relational networks - formed for the sake of family, faith, interest, and ideology - that fill this space.”¹ Understood in these terms, "civil society organization" can be used for all types of formal and informal associations, organizations and coalitions which are established on the direct initiative of individual members or groups of society, and which do not belong to the official governmental, political and administrative systems at any level. While civil society is complementary to the State, it can include associations of people to take political or development action. As a generic term, civil society includes trade unions, rural workers' organizations, agricultural producers' and farmers' associations, cooperatives and development/advocacy NGOs alike.


People’s Organizations and Development/Advocacy Organizations

"People's organizations" and "development/advocacy organizations" are also generic terms referring to two distinct sectors of civil society, both of which are represented in this paper.

The FAO Plan of Action on People's Participation in Rural Development defines people's organizations as:

"voluntary, autonomous and democratically controlled institutions including traditional community councils, informal groups, cooperatives, rural workers' organizations and peasant unions, women's associations, etc. Some local people's organizations may establish higher-level federations at provincial, national or international level in order to increase their self-help capacities and bargaining power, and to promote participatory development at local level."

Trade unions, rural workers organizations', agricultural producers' and farmers' associations and cooperatives are, thus, all people's organizations because they are all representative organizations, autonomous, and democratically controlled by and accountable to their membership, who freely associate themselves with the organization.

Development and advocacy organizations, on the other hand, are generally not representative organizations of people, but rather voluntary non-governmental organizations, also known as development or promotional NGOs. These organizations provide support and services to both organized and unorganized people, but are not directly controlled by or accountable to them. Their roles are thus different from those of people's organizations. In many cases, development/advocacy NGOs engage in capacity building to enable rural people to organize themselves and form their own representative organizations.
Particularly when they are composed of people from the countries and localities in which they work, development and advocacy organizations can be an effective vehicle for support to rural people in cooperation with development agencies, United Nations agencies, governments and civil society organizations, including as trade unions, rural workers' organizations, agricultural producers' and farmers' associations, and cooperatives.

**Trade Unions and Rural Workers' Organizations**

Millions of agricultural labourers and workers in the agro-processing industries are organized into trade unions at the local, national, regional and international levels.

A trade union is "a continuing, permanent and democratic organization created and run by the workers to:

- protect themselves at work;
- improve the conditions of their work through collective bargaining;
- seek to better the conditions of their lives; and
- provide a means of expression for the workers' views on problems of society." (IUF 1990)

Trade Unions are based on three important principles. These three pillars of trade unionism are:

- Unity, or solidarity among workers: depending on its basis of organization (trade, sector, general, common employer, etc.) a union should be open to and strive to include and unite all workers in its membership, irrespective of race, religion, creed, sex, skill, etc.

- Independence: a union should be controlled by the members themselves. It should not allow itself to be dominated or controlled by external interests, be it government, employers, political parties, religious, communal or fraternal organizations, or individuals persons.

- Democracy: a union should use democratic methods in its decision-making processes and in the election of its leadership and governing bodies. All members should be fairly and fully represented. (IUF 1990)

Rural Workers' Organizations are a special category of trade union. A rural worker, as defined by the ILO Rural Workers' Organizations Convention is: "any person engaged in agriculture, handicrafts or a related occupation in a rural area, whether as a wage earner or as a tenant, sharecropper or small owner-occupier...who work the land themselves with the help only of their family or with the help of occasional outside labour and who do not permanently employ workers; or employ a substantial number labour and who do not permanently employ workers; or employ a substantial number of seasonal workers; or have any land cultivated by sharecroppers or tenants." (Rural Workers' Organizations Convention, 1975, No. 141).
In this definition, organizations of waged agricultural workers and organizations of self-employed farmers are both considered rural workers’ organizations. While many rural workers’ organizations are affiliated with trade unions, others - particularly those of self-employed farmers - refer to themselves as farmers’ associations or agricultural producers’ associations. The membership of these organizations varies: from those mainly composed of plantation workers or agricultural labourers, to those of small family farmers or a mixture. Throughout this paper, the terms "rural workers", "farmers" and "agricultural producers" are used according to how the organizations represented in this paper define themselves and their membership.

According to the ILO, waged rural workers and self-employed farmers: "make up the largest single occupation group of workers in the world, in many countries they are estimated to account for well over half the total working population....In many countries (they) are also among the poorest and the most deprived, and generally they are less well-organized than their fellow workers in other occupations. But just as industrial workers have been able to improve their conditions by forming workers' organizations to protect and further their interests, there are many examples of how rural workers have been able to organize by forming their own workers' organizations whether they be wage earners' trade unions or small farmers' organizations or cooperative-type associations." (ILO 1993)

Among the poorest of the poor, women compose half of this rural workforce, and in many areas the percentage of women is much higher. In Africa, for instance, women produce 60 to 80 percent of the food. Their work is essential to the rural economy and household food security, yet it is often undervalued or unrecognized, particularly because it is very often unpaid family labour. Moreover, women farmers are under represented in the membership of most unions, farmers’ organizations and cooperatives, and compose only a small percentage of the leadership. Almost all of these organizations are now aware of this situation and are taking measures to remedy it, but efforts will have to continue if women are to be represented in the membership and leadership of these organizations in proportion to their numbers in the agricultural work force.

FAO supports the ILO conventions to protect the rights of rural workers to organize and has urged its member governments to ratify these conventions. Moreover, FAO has throughout its history promoted the participation of rural workers, small farmers and women in rural people's organizations. Among its landmark documents reflecting its policies and activities are: The Peasants' Charter: The Declaration of Principles and Programme of Action of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, People's Participation in Rural Development: The FAO Plan of Action; and The FAO Plan of Action for Women in Development 1996 to 2001.
Agricultural Producers’ and Farmers’ Associations

The terms "agricultural producers' associations" and "farmers' associations" are often used interchangeably. Agricultural producers and farmers include small, medium and large farmers, family farmers, landless peasants, subsistence farmers, tenant farmers, sharecroppers and indigenous and other people who work the land. The term "agricultural producers" is often used in the broad sense to include fishers and foresters.

The International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP) describes its member associations as "organizations owned and governed by farmers which work for farmers' interests. They are organizations by farmers for farmers. These include farmers' unions, agricultural cooperatives and chambers of agriculture. Regular election of officers is critical to the credibility and authenticity of representative farmers' organizations." (IFAP 1995)

Cooperatives

Cooperatives comprise a wide range of organizations, which may include agricultural producers' and farmers' associations, agricultural marketing and supply, consumer, transport and rural workers' cooperatives which contribute to ensuring food security worldwide.

Cooperatives can range from very large entrepreneurial and marketing cooperatives that rank along with big private corporations as some of the most profitable agricultural businesses, to small grassroots village associations that assist small farmers to obtain credit and inputs, market their goods and develop small village-based agricultural processing industries.

"A cooperative is an autonomous association of persons united voluntarily to meet their common economic, social, and cultural needs and aspirations through a jointly-owned and democratically-controlled enterprise", according to the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) in its Statement on the Co-operative Identity. The statement further identifies cooperative values as those of "self-help, self-responsibility, democracy, equality, equity and solidarity." The principles upon which cooperatives are based are:

- Voluntary and open membership: Cooperatives are voluntary organizations, open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without gender, social, racial, political or religious discrimination.

- Democratic member control: Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting their policies and making decisions. Men and women serving as elected representatives are accountable to membership.
• Member economic participation: Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of the cooperative. At least part of that capital is usually the common property of the cooperative. Members usually receive limited compensation, if any, on capital ascribed as a condition of membership. Members allocate surpluses for any or all of the following purposes: developing their cooperative, possibly by setting up reserves, part of which at least would be indivisible; benefiting members in proportion to their transactions with the cooperative; and supporting other activities approved by the membership.

• Autonomy and independence: Cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members. If they enter into agreements with other organizations, including governments, or raise capital from external sources, they do so on terms that ensure democratic control by their members and maintain their cooperative autonomy.

• Education, training and information: Cooperatives provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers, and employees so they can contribute effectively to the development of their cooperatives. They inform the general public -- particularly young people and opinion leaders - about the nature and benefits of cooperation.

• Cooperation among cooperatives: Cooperatives serve their members effectively and strengthen the cooperative movement by working together through local, national, regional and international structures.

• Concern for community: Cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies approved by their members.

Profiles of Contributors
The contributions from these organizations are found in Part II of this document, and give fuller descriptions of these organizations, their mandates, experiences, strategies and views. A brief summary is given below.

Trade Unions and Rural Workers' Organizations
There are three major international confederations of trade unions, each with agricultural and food workers among its members, and each enjoying a formal relationship with FAO:
The International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU)

The World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU)

The World Confederation of Labour (WCL)

These international trade unions group together national federations of trade unions and federations of sectoral trade unions, including federations of agricultural and food industry workers.

The International Confederation of Trade Unions (ICFTU) was founded in 1949 and has 194 affiliated organizations in 136 countries on all five continents, with a membership of 124 million. Closely associated with the ICFTU are International Trade Union Secretariats grouping unions from various sectors. The food and agricultural sectors are represented by the International Union of Food, Agriculture, Hotels, Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers' Associations (IUF), comprising 322 trade unions in 107 countries with a global membership of 2.6 million. The IUF also has consultative status with FAO. This paper includes contributions from the ICFTU, the IUF and one of the national unions affiliated with the IUF, the General Agricultural Workers Union (GAWU) of Ghana. Founded in 1979, GAWU began addressing the needs of unorganized self-employed rural workers in the late 1970s. Today this trade union includes both waged and self-employed rural workers and farmers, with a membership of 47,500 waged workers and 17,500 self-employed rural workers. About 30 percent of the waged workers are women.

The World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU), founded in 1945 has affiliated national trade unions and trade union federations in 120 countries with a membership of 130 million. Closely associated with the WFTU are the Trade Unions International of Agricultural, Plantation and Forestry Workers (TUIAPFW) and the Trade Unions International of Food, Tobacco, Hotel and Allied Industries (UIS) which are currently being amalgamated. The UIS brings together more than 100 national, regional and professional organizations in 70 countries and five regions, representing more than 10 million members. Both the WFTU and the UIS have contributed to this paper.

The World Confederation of Labour (WCL) was founded as the International Federation of Christian Trade Unions (IFCTU) in 1920 and changed its name to the World Confederation of Labour in 1968. Its affiliates represent 15 million members. The food and agricultural sectors are represented by the WCL affiliated World Federation of Agriculture, Food, Hotel and Allied Workers (WFAFW) with a membership of 875,000 in all five regions. Its Latin American regional affiliate, the Federation de Trabajadores Campesinos y de la Alimentacion (FELTACA), was formed in 1988 by the coming together of a regional federation of farmers and one of food, drink, hotel and tobacco workers. It has a membership of about 560,000 individuals in 43 national and sectoral organizations in 19 countries of the region. The WFAFW and FELTACA are represented in this paper.
The Confederation National Agraria (CNA) Peru, founded in 1974, is composed of 16 federations of peasant communities, agricultural cooperatives, small farmers and landless peasants in 3,203 organizations representing 1.9 million rural workers. It arose in the context of the Agrarian Reform of the seventies, as an expression of the interests of small farmers, community peasants and farm enterprises. Its role has evolved from pushing for the transfer of land to the peasants to promoting effective mechanisms for entrepreneurial management in peasant communities, agricultural cooperatives, and beneficiaries of agrarian reform.

**Agricultural Producers’ and Farmers’ Associations**

The International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP), founded in 1946, represents hundreds of millions of farmers worldwide who are members of its 82 affiliated organizations in 58 countries, including 28 developing countries. The producers’ associations represent a range of farmers from those running small family farms to large-scale ranches, from farms which produce very little for the commercial market to highly-capitalized farms. Their main objectives are to provide services, such as communication and advisory services, marketing services and organizational support services for cooperatives and farmer-owned business undertakings; to link at the operational level with governmental, private and non-governmental organizations; and to represent farmers and their views on economic policy and on agricultural and rural issues with governmental, private and non-governmental organizations which provide services to agricultural and rural areas.

The Via Campesina is a more recently formed (1993) network or movement of peasants, small and medium-sized producers, agricultural workers and indigenous communities. Its primary goal is to develop solidarity and unity within the diversity of rural organizations in order to promote equal and socially-just economic relations; the defense of land; food sovereignty; and sustainable and equitable agricultural production based on small and medium-sized producers. Still in the phase of initial expansion, its second conference in 1996 was attended by representatives of 69 organizations from 37 countries, mainly from developing countries.

**Cooperatives**

The International Co-operative Alliance (ICA), founded in 1895, is an independent, non-governmental organization which unites, represents and serves nearly 200 organizations representing over 760 million individuals in over 90 countries in all sectors of activity including agriculture, banking, energy, industry, insurance, fisheries, housing, tourism and consumers. Nearly 40 percent of its member organizations are active in the agricultural and fisheries sectors as producers and suppliers of agricultural/fishery inputs and another 25 percent are involved in consumer activities. Over 250 million individuals are members of the agricultural and consumers' movements.
Development/Advocacy Organizations

Of the thousands of development and advocacy organizations that exist, this paper looks at three of them. These represent only a very small sampling of those that have either cooperated with FAO and/or have participated in the preparatory processes of the World Food Summit:

The Socio-Economic Development Organization of Cambodia (SEDOC) is a local NGO which was initiated just before the peace agreement of 1991 was signed, in order to participate in the rebuilding of the country through supporting grassroots people in their efforts to attain food security. A significant part of this work includes helping small farmers to organize themselves and form their own representative associations, such as Village Development Committees and community rice banks. From April 1993 to May 1996, SEDOC assisted 7 408 families in eight provinces of the country.

The Project Development Institute (PDI) in the Philippines is an NGO working for agrarian reform and rural development through participatory methods since 1989. It aims to strengthen the human resource potentials and institutional capabilities of the small and landless farmers in several areas of the country and has taken initiatives to support indigenous peoples to obtain the redistribution of idle and abandoned agricultural lands, to strengthen agricultural cooperatives, and to build links between farmers and marketing cooperatives for the benefit of both. These activities directly benefit several thousand individuals and indirectly some tens of thousands.

The Asociacion de Investigacion y Estudios Sociales (ASIES), Guatemala is an NGO, created in 1979, that specializes in research and policy dialogue on the national level, on political, economic, social and cultural issues. Food security is one of its areas of concern, particularly strategies for attaining food security.
3. THEIR MANDATES, STRATEGIES AND EXPERIENCES IN PROMOTING FOOD SECURITY

The organizations that have contributed to this paper share the concern for promoting and achieving food security, eradicating rural poverty and promoting sustainable agricultural development. Their mandates, strategies and experiences in these areas can be grouped together under the following main categories.

2 These are selected examples. Fuller details of these and descriptions of other strategies and experiences can be found in the contributions of each organization in Part II.

• Increasing Food Production and Availability

All the organizations are involved, directly and indirectly, in increasing food production and availability. The trade unions, rural workers', agricultural producers' and farmers' organizations and cooperatives provide their members, who are food producers, with a wide-range of support services, including training, credit, inputs and marketing channels to help them increase their productivity and the availability of food. Development and advocacy NGOs do the same for the rural people they serve. In many countries agricultural cooperatives are contributing to national self-reliance with many of them producing the bulk of staple foods for domestic consumption, and a number are also active in exporting food, thus increasing the availability of food to other countries.

Some specific examples of their strategies and experiences in increasing food production and availability are:

• presenting the views of farmers and rural workers throughout the food chain in debates and policy-making in relation to the production, processing and distribution of food (all organizations);

• agricultural projects; e.g. provision of technologies, inputs and credit at affordable prices (agricultural producers' and farmers' organizations, cooperatives and development/advocacy NGOs);

• efforts to make agricultural extension and research more accountable to farmers (IFAP);
• developing trade alliances among cooperatives for improving agricultural production, supply and marketing (ICA);

• campaigning at the national level for the establishment of state trade in foodgrains and the maintenance of adequate buffer stocks, and campaigning for guaranteed prices for peasant producers (WFTU);

• research on the effects of agricultural and food transnational corporations (TNCs) on food production in Africa (UIS);

• promoting and providing training on organic and low external input farming, and the use of traditional seed varieties among small family farmers who cannot afford costly high-yield varieties and inputs (CNA, PDI);

• assisting farmers' organizations in the formulation of agricultural investment projects (CNA);

• creating farmer seed banks and promoting legal initiatives guaranteeing genetic patrimony (Via Campesina);

• campaigning against agricultural dumping practices that hurt local food producers (Via Campesina).

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**African Farmers and Agricultural Research**

Aware that most agricultural research results do not reach small farmers and women farmers and often do not address the real needs of producers, the IFAP African Regional Committee for Africa and the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture held a first-ever consultation between African farmers and agricultural researchers in 1991. The consultation questioned many current practices and called for the establishment of farmer representation and feedback mechanisms at all levels of agricultural research.

*International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP)*
Agrarian Reform and Land Tenure

Agricultural producers’ and farmers’ organizations consider agrarian reform to be a fundamental requirement to increase food production. However, there is much disappointment with past agrarian reform programmes.

IFAP stresses that the essential needs of farmers in this regard are for: a) clear property rights, particularly secure land tenure; and b) investment funds from governments to develop their farms, for education and training and for essential infrastructure.

Among the activities that the various organizations are taking in the area of agrarian reform and land tenure are:

- providing legal assistance regarding land titles (CNA);
- assisting in the establishment of model agrarian reform communities among resettled victims of natural disasters (PDI);
- assisting landless farmers in negotiating with the government to obtain title to abandoned land (PDI);
- formulating and presenting proposals on agrarian reform to governments (FELTACA).

Land Reform: Converting a Military Reservation to Agricultural Land

The indigenous Igorot people of Laur, Nueva Ecija in the Philippines are being assisted by the Project Development Institute (PDI), a local NGO, to obtain title to land of a former military reservation. After two years of negotiations with the government, the first batch of land ownership titles was awarded to 154 families and a second batch of farmers are now being assisted to obtain land rights. The PDI is also working with the local government to reforest 3100 hectares in the area.

Project Development Institute, the Philippines
• Promoting Access to Food

All of the organizations share the view of FAO that lack of access to adequate income at the household level is one of the major causes of hunger and malnutrition. Those who feed the world, particularly family farmers and small farmers are amongst the poorest sectors of society. Agricultural workers and workers in the food processing industries in the developing countries are often amongst the lowest paid and least able to feed themselves and their families adequately. Elimination of poverty is, therefore, a key issue in achieving world food security. All these organizations aim to raise the living standards of their members and to ensure them adequate incomes and purchasing power.

Among the strategies and experiences for promoting access to food are:

- negotiating with employers for adequate wages, and for benefits, such as the provision of social security, paid holidays, maternity leave, childcare facilities, etc., particularly in countries where these are not regulated by law (trade unions);
- lobbying governments to pass such legislation where it is lacking or inadequate to ensure living wages and basic benefits to workers (trade unions);
- promoting the development of the micro-economies of the rural areas, in order to increase the incomes of the rural people (IFAP);
- drawing up and adopting guidelines for fair trade and safe and healthy food (consumer cooperatives in membership with the ICA);
- campaigning at the national level for the supply of basic food articles at reasonable prices, including the establishment of a public distribution system through fair price shops (WFTU);
- campaigning at the national level for government stabilization of food prices (WFAFW);
- strengthening farmers’ organizations and assisting them in establishing enterprises in the upstream and downstream of agricultural production (IFAP, ICA, development/advocacy NGOs);
- a food for work project on communal lands for domestic food production (PDI);
- developing alternative marketing and trading channels to avoid loss of income through exploitative trading arrangements (development/advocacy NGOs, cooperatives, farmers’ organizations).
The Shakti Packet

The Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA) India, affiliated with the IUF, has developed a strategy to ensure access to adequate and appropriate food at the local level. This is a food packet scheme organized by rural women themselves in which they pool their money to purchase their basic needs in food in bulk directly from wholesalers or local markets. A related strategy has been to campaign for the public distribution of food through fair price shops.

Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA) India, affiliated with IUF

Community Rice Banks

Community Rice Banks are being developed in Cambodia through the efforts of NGOs and UN field units. From 1993 to 1996 about 270 rice banks with a membership of about 10,000 families have been set up in all 21 provinces of Cambodia. Built and managed by the people in the community, with the support of NGOs, the rice banks protect the people from outside exploitation from rice lenders, stabilize the food situation, promote mutual assistance and solidarity and help overcome impoverishment. After two or three years of support by NGOs, the people of the community are usually ready to take full responsibility for managing the rice banks themselves.

Socio-Economic Development Organization of Cambodia (SEDOC)

• Improving Nutrition

Many of the mandates and activities of the organizations are related to improving nutrition. Some of these are mentioned under other sections: e.g. improving incomes and access to food; promoting education, training and support services for rural people; and promoting environmentally-sound and sustainable development.
In addition, other examples of activities for improving nutrition are:

- adopting guidelines for safe and healthy food (ICA);
- providing training on nutrition and child health (ICA);
- delivery of social facilities such as water, sanitation, health and education facilities (GAWU);
- establishment of childcare centres for rural workers (trade unions).

**Promoting the Participation of Civil Society in Achieving Food Security**

All the organizations share with FAO strong mandates to promote the participation of civil society in achieving food security. For this, people’s organizations are needed to take effective action, contribute to policy-making and cooperate with governments, development agencies and other civil society organizations. A basic mandate of all organizations is, therefore, to promote the freedom of association of workers and farmers in democratic, representative organizations, free from any type of outside coercion or control.

Among the strategies and actions taken in pursuit of these goals are:

- collaborating with the International Labour Organization (ILO) to draw up conventions and establish international standards protecting the rights of workers in general as well as the rights of specific categories of workers, including rural workers and plantation workers (international federations of trade unions), and in urging governments to ratify and implement these conventions;
- defending the rights of workers to organize at the national and local levels, and protecting them against violations of their rights; giving direct assistance to workers whose rights have been violated, providing relief and legal aid to victims of anti-union repression (trade unions);
- organizing both rural wage earners and the self-employed farmers for mutual benefit, to prevent them from being pitted against each other by large agricultural enterprises. Improving the situation of the rural self-employed also slows the rural-urban migration which undermines the bargaining position of urban workers (GAWU);
- implementation of a Development Programme to assist farmers' organizations to serve and represent their members more effectively at all levels (IFAP);
• promoting the establishment of cooperatives as a means to increase the participation of rural people in achieving food security (ICA and development/advocacy NGOs);

• organizing rural people for self-reliance and empowerment and to build their own organizations where representative organizations do not yet exist (development/advocacy NGOs);

• institutional building and assisting rural workers to strengthen their organizations (all organizations);

• strengthening farmer-to-farmer contacts, exchange and solidarity (farmers' organizations);

• ICA is assisting its members in Africa and Latin America, in particular, in restructuring cooperatives, to make them more competitive. Components of the ICA programmes include access to credit, members education, training and collaboration with government to review cooperative policy and legal frameworks. These elements are essential in order to enable cooperatives to function efficiently.

• Promoting the Participation of Women in Civil Society at All Levels

All of the organizations are becoming increasingly aware of the crucial roles that women play in agricultural production, and that the equal participation of women at all levels of activities, decision and policy-making on agriculture is essential for the achievement of food security. Over the last two decades, all the organizations have begun to take steps to improve gender equity and the participation of women in their activities and in leadership and decision-making positions.

Among the strategies and actions they have taken to increase gender equity and participation of women in these organizations are:

• the establishment of Women's Committees to develop policies and activities to improve the situation of women workers and farmers and promote their full participation at all levels (trade unions, IFAP, Via Campesina, ICA);

• Women's Congresses which draw up policies and programmes for promoting the participation of women (trade unions);

• setting targets for the participation of women and affirmative action programmes (trade unions);
• gender-awareness training for both men and women as a tool to help win equality for women in the workplace (trade unions);
• campaigns for the abolition of discrimination in employment and remuneration which have already borne fruit in international conventions against discrimination of women workers; and action to ensure that such conventions are enforced and put into practice (trade unions);
• promoting and/or providing basic services such as training and childcare facilities so that women can participate in organizational activities and in the leadership structures (trade unions, rural workers¹ and farmers' organizations, cooperatives);
• the formation of cooperatives among women to increase their access to credit, inputs, training, markets and income (ICA);
• the launching, in follow-up to the Fourth United Nations World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995, of a proposal to establish a Rural Women's Day, to be celebrated worldwide on 15th October every year, just before World Food Day. A Rural Women's Day would draw attention to the important role of women in food production, and encourage rural women to take up more leadership positions in the farm and cooperative sector (Committee on Women in Agriculture of IFAP, along with the Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW) and other groups);
• gender programmes to promote the participation of women in cooperatives and contribute to the economic and social advancement of women (ICA).

Promoting Women’s Participation
Sixty-five leaders from 13 women's groups of the Cooperative Union of Senegal (UNCAS) who are involved in the production and marketing of horticultural products have been provided training, enabling them to form small savings and credit cooperatives. Approximately 380 rural women have benefited from the project. Access to credit has enabled rural women to buy agricultural inputs.

International Co-operative Alliance
• **Promoting Education, Training and Support Services for Rural People**

Education, training and support services for rural workers and farmers are high priorities of all the organizations in the food and agricultural sectors. Their activities in these fields aim both to strengthen their organizations, and to develop social and economic projects for the benefit of the poorest sections of society.

Examples of these include:

- provision of information to workers and farmers that enables them to understand the international issues and problems that affect them so that they can take more effective action (all organizations);
- educational and training programmes at all levels in response to the needs of farmers and other rural workers in a given country and situation, including training for organizational self-reliance and democracy and on specific issues such as health, safety and the environment (all organizations);
- building the capacity for collective bargaining (trade unions);
- technical training for the management of agricultural enterprises (IFAP and other farmers' associations, ICA, development/advocacy NGOs);
- provision of support services and training to rural workers and farmers in areas such as improved technology and assisting them to establish and run projects such as cooperatives and village industries (IFAP, ICA, development/advocacy NGOs);
- promoting social and community development activities in areas such as delivery of social services, water, sanitation, health and education facilities, and assisting the rural communities to develop strategies for self-reliance and/or to lobby governments to provide basic services to the community (GAWU, development/advocacy NGOs);
- strengthening organizations of farmers to enable them to facilitate the provision of rural services to the community (IFAP).

• **Promoting Environmentally-Sound and Sustainable Development**

Realizing that environmentally-sound and sustainable development is essential for achieving the long-term well being and conditions of workers, trade unions and farmers' organizations are promoting these objectives, as well as making efforts to ensure that working conditions do not damage the health and safety of workers. They are engaged in various efforts to ensure that both industrial and agricultural development are environmentally sustainable. These activities range from meetings of specialists to develop and promote safer, healthier and environmentally-sound development practices, to actions of unions within a given country, corporation or company to demand safer and healthier workplaces as well as practices which do not damage the surrounding environment.
A few examples are:

- lobbying for legally binding control instruments regarding the production and use of pesticides and fertilizers (ICFTU, IUF);
- urging the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Control to adopt binding reduction targets within a specified time frame for CO2 emissions and other climate-related pollutants (ICFTU);
- drawing up environmental action plans and programmes; e.g. the initiatives of IUF member unions: the Fish Industry Workers' Union (FIWU) of the CIS, the General Workers Union (SiD) and the Women Workers' Union (KAD) held a Conference on the Sea Environment in 1990 in which they drew up an International Trade Union Plan of Action for the Sea Environment with concrete measures to protect the sea, including more ecologically based agricultural to reduce the discharge of nutritive salts into the sea; the Swedish Agricultural Workers' Union has drawn up a Programme of Action on the External Environment; and the General Workers' Union in Denmark has produced a document on Ecological Farming with concrete proposals for converting the various agricultural sectors in the country to ecological farming in both the short and long term.
- responding to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), held in Rio De Janeiro in 1992, which specifically outlined responsibilities for major groups in civil society. Chapter 32 of Agenda 21, adopted by UNCED, concerns "The Role of Farmers". Following UNCED, IFAP drew up a series of commitments by farmers' organizations under the title "Farmers for a Sustainable Future: the Leadership Role of Agriculture". IFAP is seeking a similar result at the World Food Summit. In September 1995, the ICA membership adopted the "Cooperative Agenda 21" demonstrating the significant commitment of cooperatives in all sectors to promoting sustainable development.
Sustainability Through Trade Union Action at the Workplace

A Hotel and Restaurant Workers' Union in Finland participated with selected tourist enterprises in a pilot project that employed the "eco-audit" as an environmental management tool to achieve environmental and cost-saving objectives. In 1994, a cross-section of the Finnish tourist industry, including hotels, a highway service centre, a health resort, a tourist farm, an exercise centre, a spa, camp grounds and a ski resort developed and implemented an eco-audit process in collaboration with the Hotel and Restaurant Workers' Union, the Association of Nature Conservation and the Association of Finnish Travel Agents.

The process resulted in changes in purchasing practices, maintenance, energy and water consumption, human waste management, food preparation and coordination of related leisure activities. In addition to environmental goals, operators realized considerable cost saving due to change in waste management and consumption of energy and other inputs.

*International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU)*

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**Bringing the Voices of Civil Society to the Policy and Decision-Making Levels on Food and Related Issues**

A high priority of all the organizations is to bring the voices of rural workers and farmers to bear on the policy and decision-making levels, particularly on food, agricultural and related issues.

Some of the ways in which they are doing this are:

- organization of conferences, seminars, workshops and other fora for reflection and debate of food security and related issues and opportunities for rural workers and farmers to make statements and draw up declarations, strategic plans and platforms for action (all organizations);
- representing rural workers in the food and agricultural sectors and farmers at international policy-making bodies through their formal relations with the International Labour Organization, FAO and other United Nations and inter-governmental bodies (international trade unions, IFAP, ICA);
• presenting the views of rural workers and farmers at the regional, national and local levels, in dialogue with governments and other policy-making bodies at these levels (all organizations);

• strengthening cooperation among farmers and rural workers to increase their capacity to participate at the national and local levels (all organizations).

The Latin American and Caribbean Food Security Movement

In Latin America, trade unions have joined with other sectors of civil society to engage governments in dialogue on food security, through the formation of a Latin American and Caribbean Food Security Movement. Meeting in Managua, Nicaragua in October 1995, representatives of trade unions, farmers' associations, NGOs and government drew up the Managua Declaration, agreeing on concrete cooperation at the regional level in pursing the goal of food security.
These organizations have a range of views and positions on the key issues addressed by the World Food Summit and its Plan of Action, and on a number of issues that they consider to be inadequately addressed.

- **Food Production and Availability of Food**

There is a general consensus among the organizations that the availability of food through sufficient food production is not a technical problem but a political one; and that food production must be oriented to the satisfaction of human needs and not to the profit of a minority of owners who control the largest share of productive resources.

Factors cited as negatively affecting the production and availability of food include: over-emphasis on export-crop production; disincentives to agricultural production caused by structural adjustment programmes; lack of adequate land reform; and trade liberalization without a social clause and binding commitments to basic human rights. Trade unions and rural workers’ organizations cited the growing dominance of agricultural and food transnational corporations as negatively affecting small producers and domestic food production.

Recommendations for improving food production and availability, which should be considered at the World Food Summit and in its Plan of Action include:

- giving high priority to women, who comprise the majority of food producers in the world, in rural development strategies;
- increasing farmers’ access to appropriate technologies. Small farmers’ organizations and advocacy NGOs are calling for a mix of traditional and modern technologies. Trade unions stress that the monopoly of TNCs on the control of technology must be broken, so that their use can spread beyond that of a small minority;
- ensuring farmer control of seeds and access to plant genetic resources;
• promoting the organization of farmers and rural workers into cooperatives for the delivery of agricultural inputs and for storage, preservation, processing and marketing of crops;

• making agricultural research accountable to farmers. IFAP calls for consultation between research institutes and for the establishment of mechanisms for farmer representation and feedback at all levels of agricultural research.

• **Agrarian Reform**

Landlessness and lack of control over production are structural factors which cause food insecurity, in the view of many rural workers' and farmers' organizations and advocacy NGOs. These organizations consider agrarian reform to be a key to food security in many areas of the world; and that the lack of provision for the participation of the agrarian reform beneficiaries in planning and implementation underlies the failure or inadequacy of many attempted agrarian reform programmes. FELTACA points out not only the inadequacy of the timid attempts at agrarian reform undertaken in Latin America, but a de facto counter agrarian reform now taking place as a result of neo-liberal economic policies that benefit the large agribusiness corporations.

Recommendations include:

- recognizing the importance of agrarian reform in the Plan of Action and reaffirming the commitment to implement the agreements reached at the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (WCARRD);

- *giving the landless peasantry the highest priority in* rural development strategies;

- giving women legal guarantees to equal rights to own and inherit land;

- involving landless peasants in both the policy-making and implementation phases of agrarian reform, through their representative organizations and with the support of development and advocacy NGOs.

• **Increased Self-Reliance in Food Production**

Many organizations stress the need for building domestic food production for increased self-reliance, in order to ensure both the availability of and access to food. In their view, this is being undermined by SAPs; the over-emphasis on export crop production; the growing concentration of land in the hands of a few large landowners, especially transnational food cartels; and trade liberalization which is not balanced by measures to protect the most vulnerable.
Many organizations believe that agricultural policies should emphasize, to the extent possible and according to the natural resources of a given country, self-sufficiency in food. IFAP stresses "self-reliance" rather than "self-sufficiency" as the objective of national food policies. This means that each individual and nation should have the means to be able to feed themselves, either through their own production or through having enough income to purchase it. This concept allows for international trade in food, as well as for non-food rural income generating employment.

Recommendations thus include:

- recognition in the Plan of Action of the importance of self-sufficiency or self-reliance in domestic food production;
- measures to encourage food production for domestic consumption.

**Food Aid**

Differing views were expressed on food aid:

IFAP supports the actions of the World Food Programme (WFP) in seeking to purchase food aid for emergency and refugee problems from neighbouring developing countries. It also supports the supplying of project food aid by WFP.

Some farmers' organizations and development/advocacy NGOs stress that food aid must be limited to emergency situations and not used to dump surpluses which could destroy local food production structures. The WFAFW says that "We do not agree with.....handing out meals to the poor. We want work, and the distribution of land to the people who work on it as the sole form to guarantee food security".

**Access to Food**

All the organizations consider improved access to food as key to achieving food security. Measures to increase food production must be balanced with those to ensure access to food by all people at all times. Emphasis must, therefore, be given to the eradication of poverty. Globalization, trade liberalization and structural adjustment policies are cited as factors negatively affecting people's access to food. Recommendations to counter or overcome these negative effects are given under the sections on "Globalization and Trade Liberalization" and "Structural Adjustment Policies and Debt" below.

Other recommendations include:
• commitments by governments to take measures to ensure access to food, particularly for the most vulnerable sectors of society;
• adequate maintenance and distribution mechanisms for reserve stocks of staple grains.
• support to institution building of farmers' organizations and cooperatives.

Globalization and Trade Liberalization

Although the views of these organizations on globalization and trade liberalization vary, there is a general consensus that these have or could have negative effect on access to food by the rural poor, unless complemented by special measures.

In the view of trade unions, globalization of production, processing and industrialization has increased the concentration of the majority of the best agricultural lands, of financing, technology, marketing and benefits in the hands of the TNCs, to the exclusion of small producers and small and medium-sized enterprises. Moreover, globalization and the control of the market by TNCs results in food shortages in the developing countries of the very products that they are producing for export. While indigenous foods are becoming scarce, the poor find that only expensive imported brand name products, which they cannot afford, are available. According to the IUF, "it is impossible to deal effectively with food security without acknowledging [this] dominance". FELTACA strongly opposes the defense, put forward by some international development agencies, of the market as inherently beneficial. Market forces, which do not take into consideration human beings and social considerations, are detrimental to food security.

In response to the challenges of globalization and trade liberalization, the following recommendations have been made:

• measures should be taken to encourage decentralization and food self-sufficiency in order to offset globalization;
• according to the IUF, "the Plan of Action should include provisions to make TNCs accountable to the wider community";
• a study be undertaken on the negative effect of TNCs on the food situation in developing countries and measures taken to offset these, according to WFTU;
• the monopoly control of seeds and genetic resources by TNCs must be broken, in the view of several farmers' organizations and development/advocacy NGOs, through measures such as the creation of farmer seed banks, campaigning against genetic patenting, and legal initiatives guaranteeing genetic patrimony;
• according to FELTACA, a process of agrarian transformation that integrates landless peasants in specific programmes of basic production of high-quality subsistence food is one of the solutions to the problems created by globalization;

• international development policies must take into consideration the losses suffered by the primary producers in developing countries due to unjust terms of trade;

• trade liberalization should be accompanied by social clauses to protect the most vulnerable workers who may be negatively affected by trade liberalization. For instance, the ICFTU, in its 16 World Congress, Brussels, June 1996, states in its Resolution on International Labour Standards and Trade: "Congress emphasizes that a social clause is especially important for all developing countries which are genuinely trying to improve basic working and living conditions, because they are the most vulnerable to being forced out of world markets by countries which do not observe basic labour standards. Without a social clause the pressures for increased trade protection will be much harder to resist....

"The ICFTU proposals for a social clause are anti-protectionist, aimed at strengthening the political authority of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and thus the multilateral rule-driven framework for open world trade, creating a mechanism for solving disputes and so opening markets, promoting the access of developing countries' exports and increasing growth and employment. They simply aim to ensure that workers are protected from discrimination and gross exploitation at work and have the right to negotiate freely, through their trade unions, for a fair share of the growth and productivity improvement that trade that trade expansion would bring. Linking fundamental workers' rights to international trade would also make a fundamental contribution to the elimination of child labour."

• the World Food Summit should renew the commitments of the World Summit for Social Development in regard to trade agreements;

• IFAP stresses the need for commitment in the GATT Uruguay Round to increase technical assistance to developing countries, so that they can build institutions and infrastructure to benefit from liberalization. This is not being adequately implemented. On the contrary, Official Development Assistance (ODA) has fallen. As a percentage of GNP, ODA from OECD countries in 1995 was 0.27 percent, the lowest level recorded since, 1970 when the UN adopted a target of 0.7 percent of GNP for ODA;
• providing farmers with the necessary information, services and facilities to take advantage of trade liberalization. Measures include establishing of information systems, gathering and dissemination of data, market transparency, establishing of rules and regulations regarding competition, and establishing of panels among potential competitors as well as commodity-specific panels;

• supporting the formation of farmer-owned business enterprises and cooperatives for the provision of inputs, credit and marketing to allow farmers to increase their earnings and keep more of the fruits of their labour;

• forming strategic alliances between cooperatives and other enterprises and between agricultural cooperatives in both the North and the South to improve access to agricultural inputs such as seeds and fertilizers;

• the provision of increased training and education to allow cooperatives to respond to the new market conditions and the greater opportunities that liberalized markets have opened to cooperatives;

• ending all trade boycotts on humanitarian grounds and the interests of food security, according to WFTU and UIS.

• Structural Adjustment Programmes (SAPs) and Debt

There is general agreement among the organizations that structural adjustment policies and debt servicing have had negative effects on the rural poor, and have increased social inequalities by benefiting the better off at the expense of the poor. SAPs are a disincentive to agricultural development and have weakened the capacity of developing countries to achieve food self-sufficiency by the withdrawal of subsidies and the over-emphasis on export crops at the expense of food crops. This is in marked contrast to the policies of industrialized countries which have achieved food self-sufficiency through public support, incentives and subsidies from the State.

The ICFTU's view is that the debt burden should be ended through improved terms of debt write-offs and that SAPs must have a strong built-in social dimension if the populations of the poorest countries are not to continue to bear the brunt of debt reduction. The ICFTU shares the view of the IUF that "debt servicing is paralysing economic growth....Living standards for the poorer sections of the population have fallen to bare subsistence level. The consequences are hunger riots and political repression. When people of the indebted countries protest against the IMF programme which insists on structural adjustments, forcing these countries to cut food subsidies and reduce social welfare, but never military spending, they get shot down by the weapons purchased with the loan that was supposed to be used for development."
IFAP has been critical of structural adjustment programmes, because they have led governments to abandon agriculture without establishing anything in its place. Government marketing agencies were abolished, services to farmers cut, government facilities in agriculture were sold, and a vacuum was left which the private sector was supposed to fill. In practice, the private sector is unlikely to provide many of the services required by family farmers and small-holders. For example, it is difficult to see the development of a private extension serve for small-holders, or the private sector providing inputs or marketing services to isolated farm units.

The ICA notes that while SAPs have been detrimental to many cooperatives, they have also offered opportunities to cooperatives to become more competitive.

Recommendations to offset the negative effects of SAPs and the debt burden include:

- alleviation of the debt burden of the poorest countries, either by releasing them from their debt, writing it off as development assistance, or deferring debt servicing without interest. The ICFTU 16th World Congress in June 1996 called upon industrialized countries’ governments to "end the burden of debt placed on the long-suffering people of many democratic developing countries, especially in sub-Saharan Africa, by corrupt former military and one-party dictatorships, through improved terms for debt write-offs particularly to those least developed countries where basic human rights are now respected";

- IFAP calls for Structural Adjustment Programmes to be complemented with a parallel programme to actively encourage farmers to become organized, educated and involved in their own development. Governments should support and facilitate the efforts of farmers’ organizations, including farmers’ cooperatives, to take over some of the functions previously carried out by the State; e.g., marketing, banking and credit, input supply, processing, trading, extension. IFAP hopes that this will be one of the achievements of the World Food Summit.

- Participation of Civil Society

All the organizations are united in the view that the people who produce the food should be put at the centre of all policies for food security, and that this should be reflected in the World Food Summit and its Plan of Action.

The following recommendations have been put forth:
• references to the participation of civil society in achieving the goals of food security in cooperation with governments should recognize the centrality and importance of farmers and rural workers and their organizations. The Plan of Action needs to refer explicitly to the different types of representative organizations of farmers, cooperatives and other rural workers, and not place them in the general category of NGOs or civil society;

• in order to ensure the participation of rural workers and their organizations, governments should commit themselves to guarantee the rights to freedom of association, democratic institutions and collective bargaining, as well as the other basic rights of workers and rural workers’ organizations as defined in ILO conventions;

• commitments are needed for assistance to institution building of rural workers' and farmers' organizations. Governments should recognize and support farmers' organizations and cooperatives and provide assistance to rural food and marketing cooperatives and farmers' businesses, especially through building their capacity to take over agricultural services and marketing functions previously run by the State.

• Participation of Women
Most of the organizations emphasize the need for the Plan of Action to include specific commitments and investments for rural women to support their crucial roles as food producers, including access to land and credit, education and training, and access to leadership positions in rural peoples' organizations and government.

• Education, Training and Support Services for Rural People
The Plan of Action should include commitments to education, training and support services in food production, processing and marketing, primary health and nutrition education, and especially, in the view of some farmers' associations and development/advocacy NGOs, on balanced diets based on the consumption of indigenous foods.

• Sustainable and Environmentally-Sound Development
All organizations are concerned with environmentally-sound and sustainable development. The general view is that damage to the environment in the developing countries is mainly the result of poverty, as outlined in the report of the Bruntland Commission. It is also partly the result of the need of these countries to earn foreign currency to pay off their foreign debt. Export crop production has contributed to deforestation. Moreover, as a result of the control of the best agricultural lands by TNCS and large landowners, the rural poor have no choice but to encroach on forests to sustain themselves.
Trade unions and farmers stress that not only is there no contradiction between protection of the environment and the promotion of employment opportunities, but that environmental protection opens employment opportunities. Environmental protection is necessary for both the daily protection of agricultural workers and farmers in their places of work, and for the long-term preservation of their means of livelihood.

Several organizations are very concerned about the negative effect of the extensive use of chemicals in agriculture, including on the quality of food, and the health of workers.

Recommendations include:

- measures to counteract negative effects of the use of chemical in agriculture, such as: industrial research to develop and produce non-toxic and non-polluting products; the enforcement of legislation and international conventions on the controlled used of agro-chemicals; and the use of organic fertilizers;

- the IUF and ICFTU are demanding legally binding control instruments on the production and use of pesticides and fertilizers. They urge governments to support the negotiating process for an international Legally Binding Instrument for the Application of the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade.
5. POSSIBLE AREAS FOR COOPERATION IN IMPLEMENTING THE WORLD FOOD SUMMIT PLAN OF ACTION

The World Food Summit draft Rome Declaration and Plan of Action recognize the indispensable roles that civil society organizations play in food security and sustainable development and encourage collaboration among governments, FAO and other UN agencies, inter-governmental organizations and civil society at all levels.

The trade unions, rural workers', agricultural producers' and farmers' organizations, cooperatives and development and advocacy NGOs that have contributed to this paper are also prepared to commit themselves to cooperating with governments, FAO, other UN agencies, inter-governmental organizations, each other and other civil society organizations in pursuit of food security. They welcome the opportunity provided by the World Food Summit to strengthen this cooperation, and have expressed their readiness to provide assistance and support for the implementation of the Plan of Action on Food Security.

The following are some areas and ways in which the organizations that have contributed to this paper have indicated that they could cooperate in implementing the commitments of the World Food Summit Plan of Action. These organizations are also prepared to help identify concrete areas, ways and means of cooperation at local, national, regional and international levels in follow-up to the World Food Summit.

- Policy Making and Dialogue

As representative people's organizations, the trade unions, rural workers', agricultural producers' and farmers' organizations and cooperatives in this paper have indicated their capacity and readiness to bring the views and positions of their membership to policy-makers at country, regional and international levels. An example of this is the participation of trade unions and farmers' organizations in the Latin American and Caribbean Movement for Food Security and in drawing up the Managua Declaration of 1995 in which governments, people's organizations and NGOs pledged to work together on strategies for achieving food security in the region. Moreover, the international trade unions, IFAP and ICA maintain formal relationships with various UN agencies, inter-governmental organizations and international financial institutions and are able both to present the views of their members to these organizations and keep their membership informed on the views and activities of these international organizations.
The development/advocacy NGOs in this paper have also indicated their ability to act as intermediaries in bringing the voices of rural people, who are not organized into representative organizations, to policy makers and to keep the rural people with whom they work informed of policies which affect their lives.

• Research and Information

Several organizations indicated their capacity to engage in research in their fields of competence and their willingness to cooperate in research endeavours at all levels in both normative and technical areas. These organizations can also serve as significant channels for the dissemination of research and information emanating from governments, UN agencies and inter-governmental organizations and international research institutes. Among the information activities that these organizations conduct or support at the local and national levels is the annual observance of World Food Day, on 16 October. World Food Day provides the opportunity to focus public awareness on the problems of hunger, malnutrition and poverty and the issue of universal food security; and for dialogue with advocacy groups on issues linked to the annual World Food Day theme.

• Field-Level Activities

The rural people's organizations and NGOs represented in this paper have all supported and/or participated in field-level projects and programmes in cooperation with governments, UN agencies, and inter-governmental organizations. These organizations are prepared to continue, strengthen and expand this type of cooperation in follow-up to the World Food Summit in areas ranging from identification and formulation to implementation, monitoring and evaluation of projects; the provision of training and other services; identifying appropriate partners at the national and local levels; and helping to sustain activities at the country and community levels after the completion of development projects and programmes.

These organizations noted, in particular, that at the national and local levels provision of social welfare and nutrition safety nets to meet the needs of the food insecure could be best ensured by cooperation between governments, cooperatives, trade unions and NGOs. They also identified another key area for cooperation as integrated programmes for the rural areas of the developing world, such as employment guarantee programmes for the agricultural off-season, community-based agricultural training schemes, infrastructure investments in water, communications and storage facilities and the promotion of small-scale non-farming employment.
Cooperation is also needed with the private sector and other civil society organizations: for example, with agri-business to improve environmental health and safety and to promote sustainable development practices; and with the environmental movement to promote environmentally-sound and sustainable development.

• Institutional Building

The contributors to this paper cited the need to strengthen the organizational efforts and technical capabilities of small and medium-sized farmers, in order to promote and implement strategies for food security and sustainable development. They are prepared to cooperate with governments, UN agencies, inter-governmental organizations and other civil society organizations in building and strengthening the self-help capacities of rural people's organizations in both technical areas and in participation in dialogue and policy making.

• Building Partnerships

Trade unions, rural workers', agricultural producers' and farmers' associations, and cooperatives stressed the need for promoting cooperation among themselves, as well as with governments, UN agencies, inter-governmental organizations and other civil society organizations. Joint meetings with each other as, for example, the FAO/ITU consultations, as well as seminars and joint educational activities at different levels would enable greater collaboration among these organizations in implementing aspects of the Plan of Action.
References


International Labour Office (ILO) (1990) *Special Services of Rural Workers' organizations*, Geneva, ILO.

PART II - PAPERS CONTRIBUTED BY:

A. TRADE UNIONS AND RURAL WORKERS' ORGANIZATIONS
B. AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS' AND FARMERS' ORGANIZATIONS
C. COOPERATIVES
D. RURAL DEVELOPMENT/ADVOCACY ORGANIZATIONS
A: TRADE UNIONS AND RURAL WORKERS' ORGANIZATIONS

1. The International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU)
2. The International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotels, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers' Associations (IUF)
3. The World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU)
4. The Trade Unions International of Food, Tobacco, Hotel and Allied Workers (UIS)
5. World Federation of Agricultural and Food Workers (WFAFW)
6. Federation Latinoamericana de Trabajadores Campesinos y de la Alimentación (FELTACA)
7. The General Agricultural Workers' Union (GAWU) of Ghana
8. Confederation Nacional Agraria, Peru
THE INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF FREE TRADE UNIONS (ICFTU)

The International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU) is a confederation of national trade union centres, each of which groups together the trade unions of that particular country. In some countries, more than one centre may be affiliated, in special cases, the ICFTU can also accept membership of individual trade unions.

Membership is open to bona fide trade union organizations that are independent of any outside dominating influence; derive their authority only from their members; have a freely and democratically elected leadership; and voluntarily accept the aims and Constitution of the ICFTU.

The ICFTU's inaugural Congress in 1949 was attended by delegates from 53 countries. Whereas previously, the international trade union movement had been limited to Western Europe and North America, the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions was able for the first time to bring into its fold the major part of the trade union organizations of developing countries and to give them a say in policy-making.

Today, the ICFTU has 196 affiliated organizations in 136 countries in all five continents, with a membership of some 124 million, of whom approximately 34 percent are women.

Structure

The supreme authority rests with Congress which meets every four years with all the affiliated organizations represented within it. Congress elects the Executive Board and the General Secretary. The Executive Board meets not less than once a year and directs the activities of the Confederation between Congresses. The headquarters of the ICFTU secretariat is in Brussels and is run by the General Secretary, who is responsible for administration and for maintaining contacts with affiliated organizations. The secretariat staff is truly international.

There are permanent ICFTU offices in Geneva, Washington and New York, and special representatives are based in various parts of the world.

To carry out its various tasks, particularly that of giving active assistance to the development of trade unions in the Third World, the ICFTU has established regional organizations, each formed by the affiliates from that region. They enjoy a wide measure of autonomy and have their own Executives, Presidents, Secretaries and Offices. These organizations are:
• **APRO**, the Asian and Pacific Regional Organization, with headquarters in Singapore.
• **AFRO**, the African Regional Organization, with headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya.
• **ORIT**, the Inter-American Regional Organization of Workers, with headquarters in Caracas, Venezuela.

The International Trade Secretariats (ITS) group together national unions from a particular trade or industry at international level. The ICFTU maintains close relations with ITSs and often speaks on their behalf in international bodies. It cooperates with them in all fields of activities. The ITSs are associated with the ICFTU and their representatives attend ICFTU Executive Board meetings.

The activities of the ICFTU are financed basically by the fees paid by member organizations. These fees are set by Congress. Some organizations also contribute voluntarily to the International Solidarity Fund, which provides help for affiliates in need of special assistance and aid for the victims of persecution and oppression. In addition, a number of affiliates that have access to public development aid funds contribute financially to ICFTU projects for trade union education and training and the improvement of the socio-economic environment.

**Objectives**

The objectives of ICFTU are to:

• promote the interests of working people throughout the world;
• help workers everywhere to organize themselves and secure recognition of their organizations as free bargaining agents;
• work for constantly raising living standards, full employment and social security;
• reduce the gap between rich and poor, both within and between nations;
• work for international understanding, disarmament and the establishment of peace;
• fight against oppression and dictatorship everywhere and against discrimination of any kind on the grounds of race, colour, creed or sex;
• defend fundamental human and trade union rights;
• campaign to eradicate child labour;
• promote equity of opportunity and ensure the integration of women into trade union organizations at all levels;
• disseminate information to increase the knowledge and understanding of national and international problems confronting the workers, so as to enable them to make their struggle more effective.

These aims, which are set out in more detail in the ICFTU Constitution, are summed up in its motto: BREAD, FREEDOM AND PEACE.

Activities

The main categories of ICFTU activities are as follows:

1. Defending Workers' Rights

The ICFTU gives expression to workers' international solidarity, working to establish social justice throughout the world. It organizes and directs campaigns on issues such as the abolition of dictatorships, the respect of trade union and workers' rights, the eradication of forced and child labour and the promotion of equal rights for women workers.

In 1993, the Executive Board established a Human and Trade Union Rights Committee, composed of leaders of affiliated national centres, representatives of International Trade Secretariats and the ICFTU regional organizations, to advise the Board on matters concerning trade union rights worldwide and to coordinate campaigns. A network of trade union rights correspondents has been established who liaise between the ICFTU and national centres.

Where possible, the ICFTU helps to defend trade union rights on the spot. It sends missions, investigates the facts, visits detained trade unionists, attends their trials, and provides relief and legal assistance to victims of anti-union repression. The findings of ICFTU trade union rights work are contained in its annual Survey on the Violations of Trade Union Rights. The ICFTU also has very close relations with the International Labour Organization (ILO) which in fact owes its existence to the initiative taken by the international free trade union movement. The ILO is, to date, the only UN agency with a tripartite structure, made up of representatives of governments, workers and employers. Almost all of the members of the Workers' Group elected to the Governing Body of the ILO are leaders of ICFTU-affiliated organizations. Thanks to their endeavours, the ILO has been able to establish many international standards to protect workers and the ICFTU makes effective use of the ILO to denounce and criticize any violations of trade union rights. The ICFTU insists that all countries, whatever their situation and their economic and political system, should respect basic trade union rights. These include freedom of association, free collective bargaining and the right to strike.

Moreover, the ICFTU represents the international free trade union movement at international conferences, in the United Nations, its various specialized agencies, such as UNESCO, UNIDO and the FAO, and at the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the World Trade Organization (WTO).
In these fora, and also in its frequent meetings with national governments and leaders, the ICFTU presses for the economic and social policies that trade unions around the world are advocating. The ICFTU has worked out detailed proposals for a Global Solidarity Pact, an international programme of coordinated action to promote growth, tackle the debt crisis, reform international finances and eliminate unemployment and poverty.

The ICFTU is campaigning for the inclusion of social clauses into international trade agreements linking trade to the respect of basic trade union rights, the abolition of child labour, and the elimination of discrimination in employment and remuneration.

2. Help for Self-help

In its efforts to fight poverty and reduce the gap between rich and poor, the ICFTU devotes a large part of its activity to developing countries. It is involved in a range of educational, social and economic projects whose aim is to improve the position of the workers and the poorest sections of society. Convinced that the best chance of achieving this is by strengthening trade unions, the ICFTU cooperates with trade unions and organizations of rural workers so that they can decide for themselves the best way of solving their own particular problems. The projects may take the form of cooperatives or village industries, community schemes or practical training for organizers. ICFTU assistance is designed to avoid creating new forms of dependence. It is help for self-help.

3. Education

Education plays an important role in this respect, hence the high priority given to it within the trade union movement. The ICFTU's team of roving educators helps both its regional organizations and the national trade unions. Courses for leaders and general or specialized education are provided all over the world.

Education remains a cornerstone on which the trade union movement is built. Through a campaign-based approach to labour education, the ICFTU concentrates on providing educational programmes which, while responding to the training priorities of trade unions throughout the world, stress organizational self-reliance and democracy. The ICFTU Education Policy and Programme of Action encourage better coordination and cooperation among trade unions in both developing and industrialized countries.
4. **Health, Safety and Environment**

Recognizing that future industrial development must be sustainable development, the ICFTU health, safety and environmental work is now an integral part of the overall work and policy development at the ICFTU. The meetings of the ICFTU/ITS Occupational Health, Safety and Environment Working Party bring together trade union specialists from all over the world in order to exchange ideas and develop and promote safer, healthier and environmentally sound industrial development upon which the world so much depends.

5. **Peace, Security and Disarmament**

The ICFTU supports efforts to reduce tensions, avoid conflicts, encourage disarmament, achieve the security that all nations need and thus secure and broaden the foundations of a peaceful world. It also stresses that the free trade unions want to contribute to this process wherever possible.

6. **Women Workers**

The ICFTU is committed to promoting equality of opportunity and treatment for women, in employment, pay, working conditions, education and training. The Women's Committee plays a crucial role in developing policies and activities to improve the situation of women workers worldwide and to promote the full integration of women into the trade union movement and decision-making positions at all levels. The ICFTU is also committed to incorporating gender perspectives in all aspects of its work and to reaching the minimum target of 30 per cent for participation of women in activities through the Positive Action Programme for Women in Development Cooperation.

7. **Young Workers**

The ICFTU, through its youth programme, encourages the organization of young people in trade unions, while campaigning to increase the protection given to young workers and improve their education, training and employment conditions. It promotes contacts between the trade union movement and young people, showing them the value of international solidarity.
Trade Union Vision: Changing the World Through Equality

The ICFTU 6th World Women's Conference took place in the Hague in October 1994 and adopted the Trade Union Vision: Changing the World through Equality:

"We see a world where women's work is valued as much as men's, where women are not segregated into low-paying jobs or routinely discriminated against - a world where they have equal access to good quality jobs, where they do not risk their safety and health, where decent working conditions are the norm and not the exception. We see a world where women's right to work is not questioned, where both paid and unpaid work are organized in such a way as to allow women and men the opportunity of having a professional career and family responsibilities. We envisage a world with family-friendly work practices, the choice of reduced and flexible working hours and career breaks to raise a family ...

"We envisage a world where government policies promote growth, development, job creation, equality of opportunities and equal distribution of wealth. We see a world that does not exploit its most vulnerable: the invisible workforce of migrant, home-based, informal sector and rural workers who are compelled to accept unbearable working conditions with no legal protection ...

"We see a world where women can exercise their personal freedom and dignity devoid of threats of violence, debasement and sexual harassment...

"We see a world where trade union rights are guaranteed, where no trade unionists -women or men - need to risk their lives or those of their families when they struggle to improve their lot...

"And, finally, our vision demands a firm and genuine commitment by all of us women and men - to create a transformed global community where economic and social solidarity will prevail over human degradation, exploitation and repression."

Positions and Views on the Key Issues Addressed by the World Food Summit and its Plan of Action

Despite a long-standing freedom-from-hunger campaign and undeniable advances regarding the objectives of FAO, 800 million people continue to suffer from chronic undernutrition. Instead of being able to give full attention to increasing development, creating productive employment and achieving social progress, governments are compelled to try to simply reverse costly errors of the past and to concentrate on the alleviation rather than the eradication of poverty. At the same time we witness shrinking food surpluses and accelerating structural change in the agricultural sector. The ICFTU therefore welcome the holding of a World Food Summit which in fact could be considered a launching of a new war on want.
Some of the key concerns of the ICFTU on issues related to food security are:

- Participation of Civil Society

Earlier International Conferences and World Summits have recognized that the participation of civil society, including employers and trade unions, is essential for development.

Priorities were expressed rightly by the World Summit for Social Development in 1995, calling for people-centred sustainable development. The governments of the world thereby recognized that economic progress has to be socially beneficial.

In line with the World Summit for Social Development, the World Food Summit should put at the centre of all policies for food security the people that produce food. Workers are involved in all sectors of the food chain and many belong to the "working poor". The vast majority of agricultural and plantation workers are at the bottom: they feed the world but are least able to afford to feed themselves.

Focus must also be given to the consumers who need access to food. They are for the greater part working people and their families. Poverty in many countries can be traced to low wages. The people have to be able to rely on safe employment and decent wages if they are to have access to food through purchasing power. This implies that they must be free to form and join unions that conduct collective bargaining on their behalf.

The partnership called for by the FAO and underpinned by the two action plans for the integration of women and for people's participation, must therefore be founded on the governments' respect for freedom of association. This is the basic precondition for representative and effective organizations, capable of contributing to development.

ICFTU trusts that governments at the World Food Summit, just as at the Social Summit, will commit themselves again to the basic rights and interests of workers according to relevant ILO Conventions. These would include Convention no. 87 concerning freedom of association, Convention no. 98 on free collective bargaining, and in particular Convention no. 141 (1975), the Rural Workers' Organizations Convention.

This Convention specifically includes cooperatives, women's organizations and the self-employed. The Convention states that all categories of rural workers, whether wage earners or self-employed, shall have the right to establish and to join organizations of their own choosing; that the organizations "shall be independent and voluntary in character and shall remain free from all interference, coercion or repression"; and that the law of the land shall not be such as to impair these guarantees. It also requires that national policy shall aim to facilitate the establishment and growth of voluntary independent rural workers' organizations.
Many agricultural and plantation workers and their union representatives continue to have their rights denied, are frequently persecuted and even killed. Food security cannot exist as long as the security of the workers and small producers is not guaranteed and enforced by governments.

The extremes of poverty in the rural areas of the developing world call for integrated programmes led by government in partnership with rural workers’ organizations, trade unions and other groups. Employment guarantee programmes for the agricultural off-season have proved to be effective ways of diminishing hunger and poverty. Community-based agricultural training schemes, infrastructure investments for clean water, communications, storage facilities and the promotion of small-scale non-farming employment are other elements of a people-oriented development. Such programmes must also protect rural workers from exploitation.

• Women

FAO has long recognized the significant role of women in development and that food security depends to a large extent on women. Without land reform there will be no generation and equitable distribution of income in the rural sector. Women in particular continue to have vastly unequal access to land and credit. Land reforms should therefore emphasize the legal guarantee of women’s equal rights to own and inherit land. The Summit should explicitly recommend investing proportionately more in women than in men.

• Child Labour and Migration

Even energetic efforts to alleviate poverty and to achieve food security will generate only slow results while two major problems persist and grow: child labour and migration of people.

Special attention must be given to devising policies that would help eradicate the exploitation of child labour which is alarmingly wide-spread in agriculture. The Summit should advocate the ratification and application of the ILO Minimum Age Convention 138 (1973).

Legislation must guarantee migrant workers and their families equal rights. Relevant ILO conventions should be ratified and implemented for their protection as well as the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.
• Education and Training
The Summit should also commit itself to the fulfillment of the basic right to education and training, in particular for the benefit of women and girls. A reference to the conclusions of the World Conference on Education for All (Thailand, 1990) would be useful.

• Health, Safety and Environmental Policies
Food Security must go hand in hand with sound health, safety and environmental policies. The absence of any one of these would defeat the purpose of the others. Workers employed in food production and processing as well as in outlets often carry out dangerous jobs. Governments, in cooperation with employers and workers' representatives, must adopt policies to prevent accidents, injuries and illnesses. International control must be exercised regarding the production and use of pesticides and fertilizers. Governments should fully support the negotiating process for an International Legally Binding Instrument for the Application of the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade.

The food system's workplaces are where fundamental changes will take place for sustainable development. At the workplace, problems can be approached in an integrated way. Employers and workers can cooperate to improve production and production processes and to help eliminate waste.

• Structural Adjustment Programmes (SAPs) and Trade
Structural Adjustment Programmes have produced very poor results in the food sector owing to their over-reliance on market liberalization. As in other areas of basic rights and needs, the complexity of food production and trade must be matched by responsible national and international policies. The implementation of the Uruguay Round Agreement through the World Trade Organization is expected to push up food prices - a welcome result for producers but meaning in the short-term that food import bills will increase. This is a very serious problem particularly for countries which are net food importers.
• Debt Reduction

Debt reduction remains of key significance to many of the poorest countries and needs to be linked to structural adjustment programmes that have a strong built-in social dimension. Simply balancing the budget and liberalizing the market will not reduce social inequality and in many cases will widen divisions between a fortunate few who are able to exploit new opportunities and the mass of people who, because of inadequate education, health services and other disadvantages, are locked into a cycle of poverty. What they want and need is the chance to work themselves out of poverty. The burden of debt, particularly of those least developed countries where basic human rights are respected, should be ended through improved terms of debt write-offs.

• Increased Self-reliance in Domestic Food Supply

The Food Summit should emphasize - as FAO already has by introducing the special programme for low-income food-deficit countries (LIFDCS) that equal priority must be given to domestic supply and international trade in agriculture. In particular, on the occasion of the Summit, the Heads of State and Government should renew their pledge to solidarity action in cases of catastrophe and famine, including war and civil strife. Such solidarity must be pledged for the time required to build up domestic food production for increased self-reliance.

The development of rural areas must be given priority. An infrastructure of education, water, transport systems, etc. should promote agricultural and industrial development.

The success of the World Food Summit must be ensured by the Heads of State and Government expressing the political will:

• to implement the decisions within the framework of national consensus and with the participation of the working people and their organizations through democratic structures; and

• to bring about the indispensable cooperation between the FAO, the ILO, the UN development agencies, the WTO and the financial institutions, IMF and the World Bank.
Some Proposals for the Draft Policy Statement and Plan of Action of the World Food Summit

Draft Policy Statement:

para. 7.
Add a specific reference to workers in the second sentence - "Cooperation and partnership, between governments and representative organizations of all concerned groups, including unions of rural workers, through regular dialogue……"

Draft Plan of Action to Achieve Universal Food Security:

para. 10.
To complete the list, add two more - relevant - world conferences:
World Conference on Education for All, 1990, and
World Conference on Human Rights, 1993

para. 11.
Add after "....and the private sector, workers' representatives...."

para. 13.
Second sentence: Add after "....and lack of participation and of democratic institutions…"

para. 14. Objective 1.4
Add a sentence: "To this end freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining will be guaranteed."

para. 15. (f)
Add after "....promote sustainable, income-generating and employment-intensive activities......;"

para. 24. (c)
Add after ".....work; and guarantee free collective bargaining."

para. 41. (b)
Add after "....in particular small farmers, and with workers and their organizations, in food production technology ....

para. 45. Objective 5.1
Add after "...from trade; trade agreements should contain minimum standards as stipulated by Commitment number 3. i. of the World Summit for Social Development." (*)

(*) Commitment 3: " To this end, at the national level, we (i.e. the Heads of State and Government) will. i. Pursue the goal of ensuring quality jobs, and safeguard the basic rights and interests of workers and to this end, freely promote respect for relevant International Labour Organization conventions, including those on the prohibition of forced and child labour, the freedom of association, the right to organize and bargain collectively, and the principle of non-discrimination."
para. 45. Objective 5.3
Environmental protection should not be superseded by market concerns: therefore delete.
para. 48. (a) To achieve Objective 5.3:
This paragraph is not clear. What are the "legitimate differences"?
para. 52. To achieve Objective 6.1
Add after (a) "in cooperation with the private sector, rural workers' and trade union organizations and NGOs,..."
para. 53. (b) To achieve Objective 6.2
Add to ".....foreign sources; and, in order to maximize the beneficial effects of foreign investment, respect the ILO Tripartite Declaration of Principles concerning Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy.
para. 58. (e) To achieve Objective 7.1
Add to ".....seek alliances for action which include them, in particular workers and their trade unions as they represent the greater part of producers and consumers of any country;"
para. 58. (h)
Add to ".....countries, institutions and NGOs including trade unions to facilitate...."
para. 59. (f) To achieve Objective 7.2
Add ".....NGOs, farmers and workers and their organizations...."
para. 65
Add after "Non-governmental organizations, trade unions and rural workers' organizations offer "
para. 66
Add after " ......the media, NGOs, in particular trade unions, can also play an important Role...."
Following para. 67. on the private sector add a new paragraph on the role of workers and trade unions:
   a) Workplaces are at the centre of the food cycle and therefore fundamental for food production and consumption patterns. At the workplace problems of resources, sustainability, waste, health and safety in agriculture and food processing can be approached in an integrated way. Employers and workers' representatives should cooperate in food production.
   b) In negotiating decent wages employers' organizations and trade unions provide the means to access food for consumption.
   c) An effective contribution to food security by employers and workers and their organizations is only possible where fundamental human and trade union rights, including freedom of association - in particular for rural workers -, the right to collective bargaining, and women's and children's rights are respected.
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Regular Publications

* Free Labour World (which includes a quarterly supplement FLWWOMEN)
* Trade Union Rights - Survey of Violations (annual)
THE INTERNATIONAL UNION OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL, HOTELS, RESTAURANT, CATERING, TOBACCO AND ALLIED WORKERS ASSOCIATIONS (IUF)

The International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotels, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers Associations (IUF) is an international trade union, representing workers in agriculture and plantations; the preparation and manufacture of food and beverages; hotels, restaurants and catering services; and all stages of tobacco processing.

IUF membership currently comprises 322 trade unions in 107 countries with a global membership of 2.6 million.

The headquarters of the organization are in Geneva, Switzerland with regional offices in:
- Brussels, Belgium (Europe)
- Montevideo, Uruguay (Latin America)
- Nairobi, Kenya (Africa)
- Sydney, Australia (Asia/Pacific)
- Washington, USA (North America)

The IUF is one of 15 international trade secretariats, which unite workers on the basis of their industry, craft or occupation. Founded in 1920 through the merger of international federations of bakery, brewery and meat workers, it was first known as the International Union of Food and Drink Workers. Its headquarters were located in Zurich and membership was almost entirely European until the Second World War - although unions from both the United States and the USSR were for a time affiliated. After the war, the IUF gradually extended its membership to include unions from North America, starting in 1950, Latin America (1953), Africa (1959) and Eastern Asia (1961). The present form and name were adopted following mergers with the International Federation of Tobacco Workers (1958), the International Union of Hotel, Restaurant and Bar Workers (1961), and the International Federation of Plantation, Agricultural and Allied Workers (1994). Since 1956, the IUF secretariat has been in Geneva.

Women's participation in the Governing Body (Executive Committee) is ensured by reserved seats (7 out 46 seats) but women make up 22% of the Committee.

Objectives

The guiding principle of the IUF is international labour solidarity. Our purpose is to strengthen member unions through mutual support. We are committed to promoting and defending trade union rights and human rights in general, as well as the right of workers to control decisions affecting their lives at work and in society. We oppose all forms of exploitation and oppression.
Activities
Through its secretariat (international office) and regional offices, the IUF services the needs of its member unions by:

- mobilizing and coordinating assistance during industrial disputes or political conflicts;
- intervening with governments, international organizations and/or employers in defense of human, democratic, and trade union rights;
- convening meetings of affiliated unions to exchange experiences and ideas and to plan common programmes;
- monitoring the activities of companies in the food and allied industries and the political and economic developments which affect workers;
- promoting women's equality at work and in society and enhancing trade union democracy through increased women's participation in union activities and structures;
- distributing information on such matters as developments in collective bargaining, occupational health and safety, employment, trade and technology;
- carrying out trade union education programmes.

Mandates of the IUF on Food Security

- The production, processing and distribution of food and associated commodities are a basic social service to the community. It is the responsibility of the labour movement and, in the first place, of the workers in the food and allied industries, to ensure that the world's resources in food be utilized so as to serve the general interest rather than private or public minority interests (IUF Rules, Article 1).
- Within its specific sphere of activity, the IUF shall actively promote the organization of the world's resources in food for the common good of the population as a whole, and it shall seek adequate participation of labour and consumer interests at all stages of national or international policy-making relating to the production, processing and distribution of food and associated commodities (IUF Rules, Article 2).
• Practical day to day work aims to strengthen the capacity of our affiliates to deal with companies and governments on food issues at all levels. In addition, the IUF coordinates with international organizations (e.g. ILO and FAO) and seeks to ensure that the views of workers throughout the food chain are represented in debates and policies.

• Occupational health and safety, especially the use of pesticides, have long been a concern of the IUF. Occupational health and safety of workers are closely linked to, and in the case of pesticides use, inseparable from, concerns about the general environment.

• The IUF has an active trade union development programme which enables affiliates to undertake training in building and running democratic, independent trade unions; to tackle health, safety and environmental issues; and to improve their abilities to represent their members in collective bargaining, with the potential to increase the food security of workers and their families.

Positions and Views on Key Issues Addressed by the World Food Summit and Plan of Action

"The goal of development policy must be to improve living conditions for the majority of the world’s population in the developing countries in the medium and the long term. This involves, in particular, creating employment, providing adequate food, housing and clothing, as well as other essential community services, such as clean water, sanitary installations, public transport, educational opportunities and health care. At the same time, developing countries must be supported in the careful treatment of their natural resources." (IUF 21st Congress 1989)

Issues addressed by the 21st IUF Congress (1989^)

At its Congress, held once every four years, the IUF has made statements on many of the key food security issues. These include:

• Participation of Civil Society

"An indispensable condition for social progress in developing countries is the existence and effective action of free and independent trade unions. Employers and governments in developing countries must therefore not obstruct the formation and the activities of the free trade union organizations."

• Structural Adjustment Programmes (SAPs) and Debt

"During the eighties, the best efforts of development policy were more than offset by the negative effects of the debt crisis. Debt servicing is paralyzing economic growth Living standards for the poorer sections of the population have fallen to bare subsistence level. The consequences are hunger riots and political repression. When the people of the indebted countries protest against the IMF programme which insists on structural adjustments, forcing these countries to cut food subsidies and reduce social welfare, but never military spending, they get shot down by the weapons purchased with the loan that was supposed to be used for development."
"Extensive damage to the environment in the Southern Hemisphere with its dangerous effects on the world climate is partly the result of the attempts to earn foreign currency to meet the demands of the Western banks....

"Countries where large sections of the population suffer from malnutrition problems should be released from their debt, or the debt servicing should be deferred without interest for at least ten years."

• Trade

"World trade and development policy must evolve in a new framework, which will bring market improvements to the people of the developing countries."

• Food Aid

"Food aid from the industrialized nations must remain limited to emergency aid in order not to be used to dump surpluses and destroy local food production structures. Food aid is not to be equated with development aid."

• Development Policy

"Development policy must be increasingly oriented to the goal of 'help towards self-help'. Development must not be seen solely as technical progress, but as a social evolution and a distribution of wealth and rights, in conformity with the fundamental goals of meaningful development policy."

• Environment

"Pollution at the workplace and the destruction of the environment constitute an ever-increasing threat to human life and health. Those who work in the food and allied industries and in the hotel and catering trades have economic as well as health reasons to be concerned with environmental protection. More than any other industrial sector, the food industry, as a processor of agricultural products, is dependent on an intact environment."
To address these issues, trade unions should:

- take the initiative to put the right to work in fair and equal conditions back on the political agenda. This would include ensuring governments consult fully with trade unions on structural adjustment policies;
- use education as a tool to win equality for women in the workplace and within trade unions. This education can be either women-only or mixed, depending on the needs of the target group but there should also be gender-awareness training to ensure men understand and support the role of women in trade unions.

The meeting called on the IUF to:

- continue organizing women to work for equality, irrespective of sex, race or creed;
- develop strategies to improve the organization of women within transnationals in the food chain;
- ensure women's representation within trade unions;
- further ensure that trade union education should continue to emphasize the importance of equality and that women should have equal access to training. The provision of good quality childcare would encourage women's participation.

**Issues addressed by the International Trade Union Plan of Action for the Sea Environment**

"The sea is a vast resource of the greatest importance for human nutrition, health and recreational pursuits. Millions of people also depend on the sea for their living - including fishermen, the fishing industry, allied industries, and tourism, all of which will suffer, if we fail to protect the marine environment.

"Our objective is to preserve and protect the marine environment and coastal territories for the present generation and for future generations.

"For the trade union movement environmental issues are of vital importance. In our capacity as trade unions we traditionally make demands with relation to employment, wages and working conditions - but also demands on the working environment and the social welfare of our members.

"All our demands for improved general conditions for our members and their families will lose their importance, if the entire basis of our existence is destroyed by pollution or other damage to the environment caused by a mistaken agricultural and industrial production, transport, oil extraction and energy policies, etc."
"The destruction of the sea environment also constitutes a direct threat against our members' places of work.

"The trade union movement therefore does not regard the questions of employment and a clean environment as opposites. Through a purposeful plan of action which includes development of production processes that utilize "cleaner" technologies we are convinced that the environment and the place of work can be safeguarded at the same time, and that a better quality of life can be created for mankind and nature.

"Locally, nationally and internationally, the trade union movement will therefore place the environment on top of the agenda, and engage our members and their families in all efforts designed to save the environment."

Conference recommendations related specifically to agriculture and fisheries included:

"Agricultural production must in all countries be converted to a more ecologically based production, so that the discharge of nutritive salts into the sea can be reduced considerably. Non-cultivated strips of land along marshlands must be established in order to protect the natural fauna in the vicinity of such water environments.

"An environmental tax must be imposed on fertilizers and pesticides in all countries to encourage a reduction of the consumption of same and to expedite the conversion of the agricultural production. We call upon the EEC to support this conversion process...

"For the sake of the working environment in both fishing operations and fishing industry and for the sake of the health of mankind, there must be some control over the quality of landed fish.

"For all employees in the fishing fleet and merchant fleet as well as in the naval defence, resources must be provided for training and education in matters pertaining to the sea environment. In addition, vocational training must be offered in these trade sectors. Furthermore, the best efforts must be used to give the countries' populations a broad, general environmental education."

Conference recommendations on trade union initiatives, in cooperation with other sectors of civil society included:

"In our capacity as trade union organizations we assume our part of the responsibility to save the marine environment by means of the following initiatives:

"We shall start a debate in all international trade union organizations about the destruction of the marine environment. The result of it shall be international trade union plans of action for the environment."
The destruction of the sea environment also constitutes a direct threat against our members' places of work.

"The trade union movement therefore does not regard the questions of employment and a Clean environment as opposites. Through a purposeful plan of action which includes development of production processes that utilize "cleaner" technologies we are convinced that the environment and the place of work can be safeguarded at the same time, and that a better quality of life can be created for mankind and nature.

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"We shall start a debate in all international trade union organizations about the destruction of the marine environment. The result of it shall be international trade union plans of action for the environment."
"The trade union movement must in future cooperate closely with environmental organizations to change industrial development into an ecologically more viable development, and use the populations' generally positive attitude to the environment to involve them actively in the solving of environmental problems nationally and globally."

• **Food Quality and Environmental Pollution**

The IUF is also concerned with environmental degradation of the soil and its effects on food. According to the following excerpts from the IUF News Bulletin: "The food industry, which processes agricultural products, depends even more than other sectors on an intact environment.

"The food and allied industries process between 70 and 80% of all agricultural products: above all, milk, meat and grain. The soil, water and air, in which these natural products grow and develop must be free from pollution, as they are the basis for the production of nutritive foods. The quality of our food, and increasingly in the future, the recreative value of our holiday resorts will depend on the quality of our environment....

"Health hazards threaten us from:

• environmental factors, such as air and water pollution, damage to the soil from heavy metals, nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide, sulphur etc.;

• agricultural production factors, such as fertilizers, pesticides, animal feedstuffs and veterinary medicines;

• factors involved in the processing of agricultural products, such as additives, processing methods, hygiene problems.

"If things remain as they are, health hazards cannot be eliminated. Air pollution due to heavy metals is constantly increasing. Since these metals are not biodegradable, they accumulate throughout the food chain....

"Slowly but surely we are poisoning our environment and at the same time the basic conditions necessary for the production of wholesome food.

• The use of nitrogenous fertilizer and pesticide has increased five-fold since 1950. However, it is sheer economic madness and irresponsibility towards the Third World. While surpluses are being produced here, either to be destroyed or, after being heavily subsidized, to be disposed of at low prices on the world market, we are ruining the Third World's export potential and their prices, changing their dietary habits, aggravating their debts and exacerbating world hunger."
Drugs (tranquillizers and Beta blockers) as well as hormones are no novelty now in large-scale animal husbandry....

"The use of chemical pesticides and fertilizers cannot be completely avoided for the moment. It is, however, up to industrial research to develop and produce non-toxic and non-polluting products.

"The application of various forms of plant therapy, on the other hand, may increase susceptibility to plant diseases and thus create renewed need for agro-chemicals (which could lead to higher levels of chemical residue). The only way out of this vicious circle is a type of agriculture in which organic fertilizers and pesticides are given equal value....

"Environment-oriented husbandry, the protection and safe-guarding of the natural basic conditions of life and production, intelligent and prudent treatment of the environment should therefore be the guiding precepts of agriculture, and the other sectors should insist on the implementation of these precepts.

"The quality of food must take priority over all other considerations. High standards of quality will not only protect the health of the consumer but also safeguard employment and create new jobs.

"To eliminate health hazards caused by pollutants, the use of agro-chemicals and food additives, as well as the pollution due to environmental factors must be reduced to a minimum. To this end, the following demands should be made concerning the production of wholesome food:

- Residues from the controlled use of agro-chemicals, veterinary medicines, etc., are to be restricted by means of the appropriate laws, i.e., laws governing the treatment of plants, the Veterinary Medicines Act, and the Food Laws. The enforcement of these laws must be made subject to stricter controls and inspection.

- Food contamination resulting from environmental pollution should be prevented by suitable environment laws - measures to reduce emissions from factories, stricter enforcement of such laws by means of controls and inspection, international coordination in food control and the work of research laboratories.

- Additives must not be permitted unless they are technically indispensable and not injurious to health.

- The quality of food must not be impaired through packaging and preservation processes.

- In principle, all residues and contaminants contained in our food must be reduced, even if they have been adequately tested for toxins and found harmless."

Issues highlighted by the IUF Agricultural Workers Trade Group December 1994

- The Challenges of Globalization: Forging New Links in the Food

In a world of potential abundance, the vast majority of agricultural and plantation workers are amongst those least able to afford to feed themselves. Far too many of the rural workers who feed the world are condemned to lives of poverty and degradation.

The working and living conditions of agricultural, plantation and rural workers remain amongst the poorest on the planet. Pay, working conditions, social security, health and safety standards lag significantly behind those in the industrial sector. Housing conditions are deplorable, health care and education frequently non-existent. A vicious cycle of poverty fuels the massive use of child labour.

Millions of agricultural workers are denied the basic right to freedom of association. All too often, they confront the organized, violent repression of employers and governments in attempting to claim this right. The denial of freedom of association forms the basis of the wider disenfranchisement which sustains rural poverty, violence, and political dictatorship. Development remains a distant dream for those who feel their children deprived of the possibility of a better future.

Indiscriminate use of pesticides and herbicides exposes workers, their families and the world's consumers to serious, often life-threatening dangers. Desertification, deforestation, and the destruction of water and soil resources are the poisonous legacy of a system of food production based on profit rather than human needs. The same forces which promote environmental degradation are helping to bring about the destruction of the world's indigenous peoples, whose way of life is inseparable from their relationship with the natural environment.

Justice, democracy, sustainable development and the defense of the environment require strong trade unions for rural workers, mobilized in a framework which unites them with their industrial and urban counterparts at national and international level.

The growing concentration of the world's agricultural resources into fewer and fewer hands, the proliferation of destructive farming methods, and the substitution of activities such as export-based floriculture for food crops pose a clear threat to world food security. Fxonomic globalization and increased activity by transnational companies in the agricultural and plantation sectors leads to growing reliance on contract labour and seasonal workers, the development of rural export processing zones, and a further undermining of trade union organization.

TNC-backed structural adjustment policies and the consequences of the GATT Uruguay-Round settlement have left agricultural and plantation workers more than ever at the whim of world commodity markets. The European Union's Common Agricultural Policy pays farmers not to grow food and throws their skilled workers on the scrap heap.
Strong unions for rural workers, nationally and internationally, are required to oppose the influence of the transnational in the sector and to defend the rights of all workers within international trade agreements.

The struggle of rural workers for a life of dignity and democracy is inseparable from the struggle for a democratic land reform which would eliminate the influence of rural elites who historically have preferred death squads to democracy. The power derived from concentrated ownership of land, strengthened today through a strategic alliance with TNCs, forms a major barrier to democracy and development.

The principles of the IUF (laid down in Article 1 of the Rules) state our commitment to promoting "institutions through which people may democratically determine their own economic and social destinies, and secure freedom, abundance, security and peace."

Article 1 e) adds: "The production, processing and distribution of food and associated commodities are a basic social service to the community. It is the responsibility of the labour movement and, in the first place, of the workers in the food and allied industries, to ensure that the world's resources in food be utilized so as to serve the general interest rather than private or public minority interests".

The global struggle for democracy requires strong trade unions, capable of acting in an alliance with other democratic groups and forces in civil society.

Objectives

Article 2 of the IUF Rules states:

"..The IUF shall oppose to the full extent of its abilities and resources, all forms of exploitation and oppression. It shall actively promote measures extending the control of the Working population over all aspects of economic, social and political life, and shall seek to extend the basic freedoms of association, expression and industrial action. It shall support all peoples in their efforts to secure self-determination and the free expression of their natural culture. It shall undertake every effort to eradicate discrimination based on race, ethnic origin, creed or sex. It shall likewise support all efforts aimed at securing a lasting peace based on freedom for all."

These objectives apply equally to the agricultural, plantation and rural sector as they do to other sectors in the IUF field of activities.

Workers in the agricultural and plantation sectors exist in a variety of dependent relationships with their employers including share-croppers, day labourers, seasonal workers, even bonded labourers.
The IUF is committed to the task of organizing all these workers and defending their interests at international level.

**Our Strategy**

We will work to build strong national unions capable of bringing about real improvements in working conditions. The development of trade union education forms a major part of this organizing drive.

We will build effective solidarity between our affiliated unions through our sectoral activities, through work on TNCs and through our human and trade union rights actions.

We will strengthen trade union organization by linking together workers at every stage of production, on a sector-wide basis. The target sectors for the next four years are sugar, cocoa, coffee, tea and bananas.

We will build a counterweight to the influence of the transnational corporations by enhancing union organization within those companies through sharing information and resources, through coordinating collective bargaining, and through fighting for company-wide agreements.

We will work to promote women's equality at work and in society and promote trade union democracy through increased women's participation in union activities and structures at every level. Effective trade union organization requires equal representation of women and men and an end to discrimination based on sex, or race or creed.

We will campaign for the universal application of international labour standards to guarantee freedom of association, the right to collective bargaining and the right to strike for all agricultural workers.

We will work to ensure that the needs of plantation and agricultural workers are written into international trade agreements by campaigning for the inclusion of a social clause.

We will campaign for the universal achievement of decent working conditions, an end to the indiscriminate use of pesticides and for international policies to ensure strict control of these chemicals by the agricultural workforce, and for the abolition of child labour.

This will require coordinated campaigns for the ratification and implementation of ILO Conventions on Plantations (No. 110), the Chemicals Convention (No. 170) and the Minimum Age Convention (No 138).

We will strengthen our links with human rights, environmental, women's and consumer groups and other democratic organizations and forces within international civil society to better conditions for plantation and agricultural workers.
We will develop and campaign for the implementation of a code of conduct for plantations.

We recognize freedom from hunger as a basic human right and we will campaign for food security and a more equal distribution of the world's food supply.

Where appropriate, we will work with international agencies like the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Health Organization (WHO), the European Union and others to tackle issues of common concern such as pesticides, food security, and AIDS.

Manifesto adopted by the 1st AWTG Conference, Denmark, Nov 30 - Dec 2, 1994

Action at the National and Local Levels

The objectives and strategies of the IUF and its working groups have been translated into action in different ways by its hundred of affiliated unions in different countries. Two examples of this action, one from the North and one from the South, follow.

• Promoting Ecologically-Sound Agriculture in Sweden and Denmark

Both the Swedish Agricultural Workers' Union and the General Workers' Union in Denmark have called for more ecologically-sound agricultural practices in their countries and have made concrete proposals for gradual conversion of farming practices to reduce the use of commercial fertilizers, pesticides, and antibiotics; to create greater harmony between areas and animal population; to reduce consumption of fossil fuel and promote use of renewable energy. Proposals have also been made that agricultural research and training facilities change their priorities and methods in an ecological direction.

• Promoting Food Security at the Village Level in India

SEWA is a trade union of self-employed women in the rural and urban areas. At present SEWA has a paid-up membership of 150,000 members of which more than 60% are rural. SEWA has been sponsoring membership-based economic organizations of self-employed women in the form of cooperatives and village-level producer groups. Increasing working and low income women's access to and control over food that they feed themselves and their families is one of the main goals of SEWA. Over more than two decades, SEWA has provided self-employment to bridge the gap between the available food in the market and hungry women.

Under SEWA's Banaskantha Rural Women's Programme, more than 14,000 women in 64 villages have found sustained and gainful work through artisan production; salt farming; dairy cooperatives; nursery plantation; water management; and savings groups. In addition, the Shakti Packet programme aims at providing direct food security and nutrition to the local women, through their own groups, in the normal and drought periods.
The shocks caused by drought to local food security are generally more pronounced and differentiated between income groups. For example, failure of last few rains in a monsoon season does not damage crop production in better-off areas as much as it does in Banaskantha. The impact of drought, such as lack of fodder or food, falls more heavily on the poor landless women than on owners of irrigated land.

Food insecurity in Banaskantha is caused by a combination of factors such as inadequate rains; insufficient development of irrigation; and widespread poverty. As starvation deaths are rare, the near-starvation situation does not attract the attention of food policy-makers. The impact of such a near starvation situation and the benefits of Shakti Packet are spread unevenly even among poor women. Landless labour women with cattle and landless labour women who are artisans suffer from drought and benefit from Shakti Packet differently.

SEWA's Approach

Food security can be created by direct provision of food and by creating access to food. SEWA's approach includes both. Through the Shakti Packet SEWA tries to increase food security and nutrition. Through its income generating activities, including artisan support, nursery plantation, dairy cooperatives, salt farming, minor forest produce collection, and savings groups, SEWA tries to reduce its members' vulnerability in the long run. The rural development activities enable women to earn more, and become more self or group reliant. Such economic activities create and maintain access to food.

The objectives of Shakti Packet are to reduce food insecurity and malnutrition by empowering Banaskantha women to help themselves. It combines a mixture of three interlinked approaches to achieving these objectives, including: income generating activities that regenerate local land and water; nutrition programmes; and institutional development to increase local awareness and capacity to combat poverty, food insecurity, and malnutrition.

Operational in five villages since 1993, Shakti Packet covers 3 000 of the poorest women and their households in the remote drought-prone villages of arid areas of Banaskantha, India. With the help of the Disaster Mitigation Institute, an assessment was carried out of the monthly food needs of these women and this amount was deposited by SEWA with the local income-generating group. The group leader and other members decide the food needs each month and purchase the same in wholesale from the nearest agriculture produce market yards or from the local farmers if the items are available. To the wholesale price, the cost of transport, 1 % for overheads and 1 % for the woman who runs the scheme are added before distribution. Each month the cost is recovered from the members who are also now covered under the income generating programmes of SEWA where in-cash, sustained, spot-payment is made.
The packet contains coarse food grains that the poor prefer, such as millet and coarse rice, mung or pulses. The other items include sugar, brown sugar, edible oil, red chilly, tea, soap, iodised salt, turmeric, and green vegetables. A supply of contraceptives is also noticed in the purchased goods as the whole scheme is run by women.

These are the villages where even now the Government's Public Distribution System (PDS) has not reached or has reached but without effective or timely distribution of food items appropriate to the needs of the poor. Shakti Packet provides an alternative which is controlled by women, and offers food when and where they want. The credit-trap common among the PDS shopkeepers does not exist in the Shakti Packet scheme. Two of the most heartening changes include twice-a-week use of green vegetables in the meals of the children of the poorest of the poor families and no indebtedness due to food.

Such a food security system reduces the frequency, intensity, or impact of droughts; initiates measures that reinforce local development of food and related sectors; and allows experiments with developing local approaches to food security.

By and large, institutional alternatives available are few in the case of developing food security. The Banaskantha example provides one of the possible institutional alternatives.

Some of the major limitations faced in planning the expansion of Shakti Packet include rising prices of food commodities; limited working capital available for the Shakti Packet at village level; and difficulties in linking the Shakti Packet with the Government's PDS.

Some notable points of the Shakti Packet scheme are:

• there are no beneficiaries because it is the women's own scheme;
• the project was launched by the women on their own without involving local administration or political leaders;
• there was no devolution of power, because the power came from the bottom, from the women who initiated and decided the details of the scheme;
• such power was generated by making the Shakti Packet viable and sustainable; and
• collaboration with PDS and other agencies such as UNICEF, ILO, or WFP is contemplated only after the scheme is working on its own.
Some Proposals for the Draft Policy Statement and the Plan of Action of the World Food Summit

We welcome the initiative to put food security on the international agenda. However, the Plan of Action must recognize the contribution of agricultural workers, not just farmers, to food security and the importance of their inclusion in all aspects of the Plan of Action. Likewise for workers in the food industry.

It is impossible to deal effectively with food security without acknowledging the dominance of transnational corporations at all levels of food production, distribution and consumption. The Plan of Action must include provisions to make TNCs accountable to the wider community.

The Plan of Action should also acknowledge the importance of International Standards set in other UN agencies, specifically the International Labour Organization, and the need to ensure at least the basic core Conventions concerning freedom of association, the right to collective bargaining, freedom from forced labour and freedom from discrimination on the grounds of race or gender. Convention No. 141 on the specific rights of rural workers’ organizations should also be acknowledged.

We support the proposed amendments made by the ICFTU in their submission “Some Proposals for the Draft of a Policy Statement and Plan of Action”.

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The World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU) is an international trade union organization and an international non-governmental organization (INGO) having consultative status -Category I - with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC), and with the FAO, ILO, UNESCO and other specialized agencies. Established in 1945, the WFTU celebrated its 50th anniversary in 1995. Its headquarters are in Prague, and it has regional offices covering Asia-Pacific, Africa, the Middle-East and the Americas. Affiliated and associated national trade union centres and trade federations in 120 countries have a membership of 130 million. Closely associated with the WFTU are the Trade Unions International of Agricultural, Plantation and Forestry Workers (TUIAPFW) and the Trade Unions International of Food, Tobacco, Hotel and Allied Industries (UIS), which also have consultative status with the FAO. (These two Trade Unions Internationals are now being amalgamated).

**Mandates of the Organization in regard to Food Security**

The Conference on Trade Unions, Rural Population and Food Self-Sufficiency in Africa, jointly sponsored by the WFTU and the Organization of African Trade Union Unity (OATUU), with the cooperation of OAU, FAO and ILO, in Accra in December 1989, clearly formulated the basic approach of the WFTU and OATUU to food security. This can be summed up as follows:

- A large majority of the rural population - the people who have always sustained agriculture and fed the peoples of the world - have been marginalized, over-exploited and deprived of resources to develop its productive capacities. This has led to the extremely serious crisis in food production, the shortfalls, growing hunger and malnutrition.

- Attention should be focused on the working peasantry and the landless agricultural workers. Their interest and needs, and particularly the interests and needs of the working women in the rural areas, should have the highest priority in rural development strategies.

- The present structural adjustment programmes of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank act as disincentives to agricultural development and have weakened the capacity of countries to achieve food self-sufficiency, through the withdrawal of subsidies, and over-emphasis on export crops at the expense of food crops. Industrialized countries have achieved agricultural development and self-sufficiency through public support, incentives and subsidies from the State budget to the agricultural population - a policy which is at odds with IMF and World Bank prescriptions. What is needed is greater multiform financial and other support to agricultural and rural development by public authorities through policies oriented to the working peasants.
The neglect of rural areas has been responsible for environmental degradation. Moreover, export-crop orientation encouraged by transnational food cartels and inappropriate government policies in many countries have undermined the productive potential of agriculture in several developing countries and the livelihood of millions of working women and men living in rural areas. Stagnation and decline are accentuated by the low level of development of productive forces and the lack of improvement of indigenous technologies. To reduce reliance on imported food, people should be encouraged to consume what their farmers produce and steps should be taken to enrich diets through balanced nutrition.

The influence exercised on governments by the export-oriented large-scale farmers, agribusiness transnational corporations and their agents undermine national interests and efforts to achieve food self-sufficiency.

The key to food security, therefore, lies in the organization and struggle of the rural population for their rights, for a just redistribution of land and other agricultural inputs and to be responsible for their own development. As agreed at the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (WCARRD), convened by the FAO in Rome in 1979, representatives of trade unions and peasants' organizations should be fully involved in the planning, implementation and monitoring of agricultural and rural development programmes at all levels. The organizational activities of rural working women should be supported in particular, given their crucial role in food production. The participation of working women and youth in the leading bodies of trade union and peasants' organizations should be promoted.

Trade unions at national level should assist in organizing peasants and rural working women into cooperatives for the delivery of agricultural inputs and for marketing agricultural produce as well as for storage, preservation and processing. More intensive efforts towards rural industrialization should be undertaken in order to create jobs in rural areas and eliminate the current high levels of unemployment and underemployment.

Effective measures should be taken to promote democratic self-governing institutions in rural areas and development projects entrusted to them, providing necessary financial and technical assistance. Legislative and administrative reforms to facilitate this should be enacted and enforced.

Trade unions at national level should launch educational campaigns in cooperation with peasant organizations and mobilize the working people in rural and urban areas in taking measures to achieve food self-sufficiency. Institutional support should be provided to trade unions and peasants' organizations to carry out this task. Primary health education should be promoted calling for a balanced diet based on consumption of indigenous foods.
• Concrete steps should be taken by governments to deal with the fall in real wages of rural workers and serious decline in real incomes of working peasants, which have accentuated rural poverty. Trade unions should demand official action to fix statutory minimum wages for rural workers as well as remunerative prices for peasant producers. Measures to safeguard environmental security, including replanting of trees, should also create a large number of jobs in the rural areas.

• Trade unions should actively support the demand of working people in rural areas for their basic needs including potable water supplies, electricity, primary health care, and educational and social services.

• Trade union solidarity should also concentrate on external factors affecting agrarian reform and rural development such as the role of international financial institutions, the exploitative activities of the transnational corporations, and the generally unjust international economic order which perpetuates unequal terms of trade. These problems are intimately linked with broader problems of human survival such as global security and protection of the environment.

• The growing interdependence in the world and the inter-linking of many global issues underline the need for greater international solidarity. No country can develop by imposing an unjust burden on the working people in the rural areas, just as the problems of transition to higher forms of development in the world economy cannot be resolved by driving down the purchasing power and living standards of two-thirds of the world population.

• Social justice in terms of equitable distribution of wealth and fruits of development must become the basis of economic and social progress. On the basis of this principle, the international community must access the losses in terms of trade suffered by the primary producers in the developing countries and devise measures to provide compensatory financing.

• Structural adjustment measures which result in a reduction in resources for agricultural and rural development, and to increased outflows of resources, must be stopped immediately. The outstanding foreign debt of developing countries should be written off as development assistance and additional resources should be provided, earmarked for rural development.

• In the context of the Declaration of the UN General Assembly for the establishment of a New International Economic Order, an international study should be undertaken on the negative effects of agribusiness transnational corporations on the food situation in many developing countries, and international action should be undertaken to deal with these negative consequences.
The new emerging technologies provide a favourable environment to shift to more decentralized economic and social organization. For these trends to develop, the monopoly of transnational corporations must be eliminated by appropriate measures. Appropriate technologies should be developed to promote rural industrialization and especially for the storage, preservation and processing of food items. New technologies which are size-neutral can be adapted and used in rural areas, preventing excessive urbanization and overcrowding in cities. Decentralized development is now seen as eminently democratic and human. This is necessary for real, sustainable development, advancing human civilization and ecological security. Such a reorientation of development strategy can and must form the basis of revitalization of the rural world which has been and still remains, in a greater part of the world, the cradle of human civilization.

Main Activities Undertaken by WFTU Between 1985 and 1996 in the Area of Food Security

- The World Congress of the WFTU held in 1986, 1990 and 1994 discussed the issues of agricultural and rural development.
- In cooperation with the Trade Unions International of Agricultural, Plantation and Forestry Workers (TUIAPFW) and the Trade Unions International of Food Tobacco, Hotel and Allied Industries (UIS), a number of seminars and conferences have been held in different regions to coordinate activities of trade unions in the agriculture and food sectors in the sphere of agrarian reform and rural development, people's participation in development, food security and related issues.
- Affiliated trade union organizations are actively campaigning at the national level for the supply of basic food articles at reasonable prices. In some countries, these efforts have led to action by governments to establish a public distribution system through fair price shops. Governments have also agreed to the demands in some countries for guaranteed prices for peasant producers and for the establishment of state trade in foodgrains and the maintenance of adequate buffer stocks. These measures have helped considerably to maintain an adequate level of food supplies to consumers and to overcome seasonal shortages.
- WFTU and its affiliates have actively supported the observance of World Food Day and other FAO initiatives and campaigns for food security.

Analysis of the Outcomes of These Activities and Lessons Learned

Sustained campaigns by the FAO, trade unions and other NGOs and all those concerned with food security have led to greater public awareness and, in some cases, greater attention from policy-makers. However, financial and organizational resources for concrete action programmes are difficult to obtain.
Despite the commitment to implement people's participation in development, the basic human right of association is not allowed in many countries. This greatly hampers the organizational work of the trade unions.

In several countries, physical attacks on agricultural workers and peasants seeking to exercise the right of association and to achieve their legitimate demands are common. Such obstacles to the implementation of the concept of people's participation in development should be constantly monitored and effective action taken by the authorities to enable people to exercise their rights.

Challenges and Responses to the Globalization of Food Production and Processing and to Food and Agricultural Trade Liberalization

The current discussion on globalization of food production often overlooks both current realities and consequences of market dominance by agribusiness transnational corporations, on the one side, and the need for international cooperation to promote agricultural development and food security, on the other. The global dominance of the transnational corporations and their efforts to enhance their market share work against the interests of peasant producers and workers in the plantations owned by these corporations.

The current globalization efforts by TNCs are no more necessary or desirable than globalization of food habits of peoples and nations. There is no reason why brand name foods should dominate world markets, based on franchises administered by transnational corporations. On the contrary, food security should imply that each state and each of its territorial administrative units could achieve a degree of self-sufficiency as far as food is concerned. This could be easily managed by self-governing communities on a decentralized basis.

This does not mean that there should be no international cooperation in promoting food production and food security. Fruits of agricultural research should be freely exchanged and there is also scope for trade in food articles as supplements to local production, and to service communities living in areas not well-suited to food production. This should be based on fair exchange and equal benefits for trading partners.

Only a small part of the value realized of agricultural commodities such as tea, coffee and cacao in the developed countries reaches the primary producers in the developing countries. The market mechanism has not and cannot solve this problem, as the monopolies dictate terms to the primary producer. The WFTU appreciates the efforts of progressive individuals and groups in the developed countries who are making efforts to find ways in which primary producers can fetch a fair price for their products. Such positive efforts could be taken by all member States of the United Nations and the international community as a whole.
There are other reasons for which trade unions do not favour the kind of liberalization demanded by the transnational corporations to secure a greater market share for their brand name foods and other products. The way of life of traditional communities deserves protection, since this is based on locally available raw materials and other inputs, and the appropriate technology used can create jobs and thus feed millions of homes. This is a better way to deal with the present high levels of unemployment and underemployment in the rural areas.

Positions and Views of WFTU on the Key Issues Being Addressed by the World Food Summit and the Plan of Action

The WFTU considers the draft Policy Statement "Towards Universal Food Security" and the Plan of Action comprehensive enough to provide a good basis for discussion at the Summit. From the WFTU standpoint, the following points need to be further elaborated and highlighted in the draft documents:

• The central issue of agrarian reform and implementation of the agreements reached at the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (WCARRD) convened by the FAO (Rome, 1979) should be adequately stressed in the drafts. Agricultural development and food production are seriously affected in many countries by the continued prevalence of semi-feudal and colonial agrarian relations and the denial of the rights of tenant farmers, sharecroppers and agricultural workers. The Summit should therefore re-emphasize the importance of agrarian reform in its concluding documents.

• Similarly, the role of cooperatives and state assistance to agricultural and rural cooperatives in food production and marketing need to be more adequately addressed. Experience in several countries demonstrates the immense contribution of the cooperative movement in regenerating the rural economy, raising productivity and living conditions of farming communities.

• The drafts should also deal with the consequences of the "shock-therapy" type of reforms introduced in former centrally-planned economies, and, in particular, how such reforms have seriously undermined food security and living standards of agricultural and rural households in several countries. There is need for an objective assessment of these policies which have had severe social consequences. Such assessments should be made in consultation with trade unions and rural workers' organizations.

• The draft Plan of Action speaks of the need to ensure that comprehensive and well-targeted social welfare and nutrition safety nets are available to meet the needs of the food insecure. This is to be welcomed. It would, however, be more effective to specify what types of safety nets are envisaged. Based on the experience of several countries, the development of a Public Distribution System of essential commodities through fair price shops, involving governmental agencies, cooperatives, trade unions and NGOs and the private sector could be a useful form of safety net, and an instrument to provide food security.
• All attempts to use "food as a weapon" should be denounced, and an appeal made for an end to all forms of trade boycotts on humanitarian grounds and in the interest of global food security.

**Areas of the Plan of Action that the WFTU Could Implement**

The WFTU, its regional offices, the Trade Unions Internationals and affiliated organizations will take steps to inform and educate their members and general public on the Policy Statement and Plan of Action for Universal Food Security, adopted by the Summit. Along with other NGOs, the WFTU will actively campaign for the implementation of the Plan of Action. Specific projects for these activities will be proposed to the FAO, in consultation with affiliated organizations and approval of the leading bodies of the WFTU.

**Modalities for Cooperation at Various Levels**

Development of cooperation at various levels is envisaged through joint meetings with other international trade unions and other organizations concerned, organization of joint seminars and educational activities at different levels.

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The Trade Unions International of Food, Tobacco and Allied Workers (UIS) brings together more than one hundred national, regional and professional organizations representing more than 10 million members worldwide. These organizations work in 70 countries in five regions.

The organization’s fields of activity cover agricultural production, rural development, food processing, and marketing of food products. The members of our affiliated national organizations are workers in agriculture, processing and marketing; small and medium-sized farmers in different regions of the world; and organizations representing indigenous peoples.

The UIS is associated with the World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU) and is being amalgamated with the Trade Unions International of Agricultural, Plantation and Forestry Workers (TUIAPFW).

The organization has carried out significant activities on the issues under discussion in the preparation of the World Food Summit. Our orientation is closely linked to the objectives and demands of our union.

**Positions and Views of the UIS on the Key Issues Being Addressed by the World Food Summit and the Plan of Action**

Hunger is the manifestation of people's inability to satisfy their most basic need: the food required for survival. Whether they live in developing countries or the so-called developed countries, the victims of hunger form part of the most disadvantaged groups of people. Leaving cultivable land fallow, the massive destruction of agricultural produce to satisfy the profit motive of certain dominant transnational corporations, the use of food as a weapon are characteristics of inadmissible and revolting injustice.

The contradiction between the accumulation of resources and wealth and the enormous progress of civilization brought about by technology and science, on the one hand, and the limited resources for existence available to a great mass of people, on the other, is becoming increasingly acute. It is in this context that the problem of hunger develops.

We consider, therefore, that the priority issues to be dealt with are:
• access to food for every human being;
• new development policies;
• support for the activities of people's participation and trade union organizations.

The World Food Summit, should devote some of its attention and planning for the future to these issues.

Access to Food for Every Human Being

As with other global problems, such as underdevelopment and environmental protection, the fight against hunger poses the problem of the eradication of poverty in the world. The demands of union organizations for improved living standards, increased purchasing power, stable employment for everyone, etc., which imply a need for radical change in relations between people, are, in essence, demands for the eradication of poverty.

An essential question remains on the table: When will Article 25 of the Declaration of Human Rights, adopted by the United Nations, be applied: "Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing...."

To realize this objective would require a revolution in the current economic theories which aim - in particular in regard to agricultural production -- not at the satisfaction of human needs but at profit for the benefit of a minority of owners who control the largest share of the means of production.

An analysis of the real and underlying causes of hunger and an examination of those really responsible for this is needed if the problem is to be effectively resolved.

The second component of the "right to access to food" is the increase in production, in particular of food, with the aim of achieving, as far as possible, self-sufficiency in food production.

New technologies, and particularly bio-technologies, allow humanity to achieve this goal. However, as broad as possible a mastery of these must be ensured so that their use spreads beyond a small minority of people who use them to capture the fruits of the labour of rural workers.

New Development Policies

Rural Development

The development of food crops and the agricultural production needed for self-sufficiency would have an affect on the policy of the expansion of cash crops for export in order to pay the foreign debt and to buy the goods and equipment needed for the life of the country. This policy has become of such great importance that sometimes these export crops become monocultures which are:
• vulnerable to the changes in the world agricultural markets (e.g., coffee, cotton, cacao);
• produced at the price of the super exploitation of agricultural workers (e.g., intolerable living and working conditions on the plantations);
• leading to savage deforestation and the massacre of peasant and indigenous populations.

It has also been recognized, however, that rural development comes about through putting into practice democratic and radical agrarian reforms. The World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (WCARRD) in 1979 adopted its Declaration of Principles and Action Programme which established as its objectives "...the elimination of misery, particularly through improving nutrition...." This Conference was preceded in 1978, in Algiers, by an International Trade Union Conference on the radical transformation of the rural world by means of true agrarian reform. This Conference brought together national unions with different international affiliations, regional, continental and international trade unions, including the World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU) and the World Confederation of Labour (WCL). Nearly 20 years later, the urgency, needs and effective measures to achieve food security still require the application of these agrarian reforms. It is regrettable, even criminal, when one counts the victims of famine, that the governments which adopted the "Peasants' Charter" have shown so little will to put this into practice, while at the same time, the rural workers through their union organizations have been constantly demanding its application.

Rural development brings about not only an increase in productivity, but also creates employment both directly and indirectly, particularly upstream and downstream in agricultural production. It is part of the process of general growth and development.

**Promotion of Economic Development**

The promotion of economic development in all its dimensions and on a new basis of cooperation requires a struggle against the harmful policies of the transnational corporations (TNCs), i.e.: their direct involvement in production; their control of trade and thus of prices and technology; their impact on food consumption habits of peoples, etc.

In our efforts to promote development, we have for several years organized conferences, seminars and various meetings with unions on the issues such as the participation of the rural population and food self-sufficiency in Africa. These meetings enabled us to define, in particular, an objective which should lead to an international enquiry on the responsibility of agricultural and food TNCs in the deterioration of the food situation in Africa, and international action to be undertaken to put an end to these harmful practices.
The Debt Burden

Another constraint burdening or hampering economic development in the world is the debt burden. Attacking this deadly system of debt requires simultaneous action to promote international agreements on the prices of basic food products in order to short circuit the speculative markets which organize their collapse; to assist the economies to the Third World to diversify, notably through the local processing of their agricultural products; and to develop new forms of cooperation which promote new relationships without domination or pillage, that begin with the annulment of the debt in order to free these countries of this burden.

Military Expenditures

Another handicap for international economic development is the cost of military budgets and arms, which calls for action for general disarmament and the transfer of the savings from this to economic development and to rural development in particular.

In an FAO document, written some ten years ago, it was stated: "...the needs of foreign aid for agriculture amount to 10 billion dollars, an amount which appears minimal in relationship to military expenditures..." While these figures will have changed in the meantime, the relationship between military and development spending is still disproportionate. There should be a reduction in military expenses with the reallocation of these funds to development.

Once again the countries concerned, in particular those in the "developed" world, have not listened to this appeal. Even though some progress is underway in the area of nuclear disarmament in particular, military budgets have been scarcely reduced at all, wars are developing and the enormous investments in arms continue. The politics of force and recourse to war remain dominant.

We consider that in this situation too, it is the action of the workers with their unions and the people which will achieve advances in the areas peace and disarmament. Here too, FAO should redouble its activities in relying on the strength of trade union action.

Increased Support for People's Participation and Trade Union Action

The UIS as well as other national, regional and international trade union organizations have already formulated proposals for the eradication of the scourge of famine and malnutrition. In essence, these focus on:
Improved living standards and working conditions

Improvements in living standards and working conditions are required in the areas of purchasing power, permanent employment, health, education-professional training, housing, and the rights of women and youth. Trade union demands converge with some of FAO's assessments, as confirmed during the 13th Consultation between International Trade Unions and FAO, held in Rome, 11-13 December 1995.

Fundamental and Radical Changes in Economic Matters

This changes include:

• a cessation of the politics of domination and the establishment of a New International Economic Order (NIEO), as proposed by the United Nations with, at the same time, annulment of the foreign debt;

• the development of true mutually advantageous collaboration, respecting each partner, both from the bilateral point of view (between countries) and on the regional and international levels;

• the development of cooperation between developing countries, especially within the same region or continent, since food needs are often the same in these countries. Encouraging exchange on this level would be preferable to exporting products to the "North". Such cooperation would also encourage the development of food crops rather than those which are intended only for export.

• the transformation of the structures of production by placing them under the control of the workers and adapting them to the national realities of the countries concerned; by promoting the development of the cooperative sector, which is recognized by numerous experts and UN bodies as a way to make agricultural production more dynamic; and by carrying out democratic and radical agrarian reform.

• the establishment of a new economic goal which aims at satisfying human needs, instead of promoting financial profit.

Democratization of Participation and Training

Rural workers with their union organizations must participate concretely at all levels. During the 13th Consultation between International Trade Union Organizations and FAO, specific proposals were formulated which would be useful to concretize in the context of the World Food Summit. In addition to taking into consideration the written reflections of the trade union organizations in the Summit documents, the follow-up to the Summit should strongly integrate these concerns and promote a more fruitful and more concrete exchange with trade union organizations, making available sufficient resources to achieve this. The chapters of the World Food Summit Plan of Action devoted to these guidelines are too general, largely insufficient and greatly minimize the possible contribution of the unions, particularly in view of their independence and their social and economic responsibility.
New Technologies

New technologies in the fields of: irrigation, fertilizers, biotechnologies, storage, transportation, conservation, distribution, etc. should be made available without reservations to the countries which need them (and obviously to the agricultural workers as well).

The unions demand that economic policies not only deal with economics but that the policies themselves be determined in consultation with the people concerned and put into practice with their cooperation. In this perspective, we advance the demand that expanded union rights be assured to workers to enable them to participate in the decision-making on all the issues concerning them both as citizens and as workers. In this perspective, we also advance the demand for control mechanisms to prevent the arbitrary exercise of power by the TNCs.

The UIS proposes an alternative, democratic economic strategy oriented towards people. In its essence, this union alternative reflects the concerns of the United Nations and its international development strategy for the 1990s which is supported by the international trade union movement. It also corresponds to the essential objectives defended by FAO. The UIS congratulates the FAO in this matter.

The World Food Summit in November 1996 must outline the perspectives for building international cooperation in order to liberate the inhabitants of this planet from hunger and malnutrition. However, as in the case of other large conferences organized by the UN, political will is needed in order to achieve the goals defined.

This is the spirit in which we put forward our proposals to eliminate hunger in the world. The improvement of nutrition requires that every person on the earth is given access to food. Guaranteeing this basic right requires effective and specific interventions to attain the objectives set forth in the Plan of Action. To proceed otherwise would mean hiding the root of the problem and burying it in discourse rather than dealing with the priority concerns of those who suffer from hunger and malnutrition in the developing countries as well as in the so-called developed countries.

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THE WORLD FEDERATION OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD, HOTEL AND ALLIED WORKERS (WFAFW)

The World Federation of Agriculture, Food, Hotel and Allied Workers (WFAFW) is an international trade union with the status of permanent observer at the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations.

An a union organization, the WFAFW has a special interest in food security because thousands of its members suffer hunger and misery, not only as passive victims but as those who produce and process the food. We are committed to defend and represent the men and women in the agricultural sector in all areas related to food.

For this reason, we share, together with other union organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other civil society organizations, the view that the World Food Summit should be not only the voice of governments, technical experts and professionals, but also the voice of the workers in the field and their organizations to express their true feelings about the problems of food insecurity.

The WFAFW's affiliates include regional federations in Africa, Latin America, and Asia; sectoral federations of hotel and tourism workers; and national federations in the agricultural, food and hotel sectors.

Affiliated with the World Confederation of Labour (WCL), the WFAFW shares the same principles and values and works in a coordinated way with the WCL. The WFAFW and the WCL headquarters are in the same building in Brussels.

The regional headquarters for Africa are in Togo, for Latin America in Venezuela, for Asia in the Philippines. In addition, WFAFW works in Europe through the Union Central of Food and Agricultural Workers (CERES), with headquarters in Rumania. For the hotel and allied sectors, it works with the Commision Pro-Federacion Latinoamericana y del Caribe de Hoteleria, Recreation y Turismo with headquarters in Aruba.

The Asian Federation works with other international federations of the WCL, which group seven professional sectors including agriculture, food and hotel workers. The WCL does not have any federation in Europe as its organizations are integrated in the European Confederation of Unions (CES).
The number of affiliated members total 875,000, distributed by region as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Members</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Latin America and the Caribbean</td>
<td>560,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia</td>
<td>95,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>168,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern Europe (Romania)</td>
<td>35,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Europe (France - Spain)</td>
<td>2,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hotel Sector</td>
<td>4,500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Women comprise 35 percent of those affiliated with WFAFW and are represented at all levels, including at the level of Vice President of WFAFW and President of the Asian Federation.

The history of the WFAFW can be traced back to the formation of several different Christian unions in the 1920s and 1930s, including European federations of Christian tobacco workers, food workers, farmers and hotel workers.

In 1948, the federations of food workers, tobacco workers and hotel workers united to form the International Federation of Christian Food, Tobacco and Hotel Workers.

In 1967, two simultaneous congresses of the Federation of Agricultural Workers and the Federation of Food and Hotel workers were held in which it was decided to change their names to the World Federation of Agricultural Workers and the World Federation of Hotel and Food Workers.

In 1982 these two unions united to form the World Federation of Agricultural and Food Workers (WFAFW).

At the last WFAFW Congress in March 1995 in Venezuela, the words "Hotel and Allied" were added to the name, while still maintaining the acronym WFAFW.

The main decision-making body of the WFAFW is its Congress, which draws up the general policy and strategy, defines the main lines of the work plan, adopts the principles, approves and modifies the statutes, defines the budget categories, and elects the members of the Executive Committee and the Bureau. The Congress meets every five years; all the affiliated organizations participate with the right to speak and vote, on the condition that they have fulfilled the established requirements.
The Executive Committee is the management body, and is entrusted with the political direction of WFAFW. It applies the tactics in accordance with the strategies drawn up by the Congress, adjusted to operate with the available economic and human (management and activists) resources. The Executive Committee evaluates the decisions of the Congress, applies the budget, draws up the work plan and the programme of activities. The Executive Committee meets once a year and is composed of the following seven members: President, Secretary General, four Vice Presidents by region (Africa, Asia, Latin America and Europe), plus one Vice President for the Hotel sector.

The Bureau is the administrative and coordinating body. It meets every six months and is composed of the President, the Secretary General and one Vice President.

**Mandates in regard to Food Security**

The WFAFW considers that food security is vital to human beings. Food security is a fundamental principle of our organization.

In WFAFW's last Congress, held in March 1995 in Caracas, Venezuela, we defined as one of the priorities of our activities at the national, regional and international level, the fight to eradicate or alleviate hunger among the poorest sectors. The means to achieve this objective is food security.

This is a mandate of the highest decision-making body of our organization and commits all the affiliated organizations in all regions and at all levels to promote food security.

We are part of civil society, with an active presence in the poorest countries of the Third World. We know and suffer the hunger and misery of this world and thus we consider ourselves actors in this drama.

**Main Activities in the Area of Food Security**

The WFAFW is carrying out ongoing and continuous work at the international level for the promotion of food security. It has placed this issue as an objective to be achieved in all its activities. Our regional federations in Africa, Latin America, Asia and Eastern Europe have all participated in activities promoting food security. WFAFW has also participated in meetings, conferences and seminars organized by the FAO, ILO, IFAD and other organizations interested in the issue of food security.

Among the various activities on food security that we have promoted and participated in are:

- The Seminar and Congress of the Agricultural Workers in Africa, organized by the Pan-African Federation of Food and Agricultural Workers, held in Benin in 1992.
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- Latin American Seminar and Congress, organized by the Federation Latinoamericana de Trabajadores Campesinos y de la Alimentacion (FELTACA), held in Caracas, Venezuela in May 1993.
- The Congress of the Asia Trade Federation of Mixed Industries, held in the Philippines in 1993.
- Seminar of the Agricultural Workers of Eastern Europe, promoted by CERES, held in Rumania in 1993.
- Seminar of the Andean Community, organized by FELTACA, and held in Quito, Ecuador in 1994.
- Seminar of Farmers’ Organizations of Africa, organized by the Pan-African Federation of Food and Agricultural Workers and WFAFW, in Lome, Togo in December 1995.
- Asian Seminar of Farm Organizations, organized by the Asian Trade Federation of Mixed Industries and WFAFW, held in Bangkok, Thailand in December 1995.

The above events include only those of a regional nature. They do not include the activities of the national organizations which have held meetings, courses and seminars, with the participation of about 30,000 workers, of which 37 percent are women.

The WFAFW has also participated in the following activities of the FAO, held in the past four years, which have dealt with the issue of food security.
- Session of the FAO Committee on Agriculture, 1993.
- Meeting of the Committee on World Food Security, 1996.
- Regional FAO Conferences in Morocco and Burkina Faso, 1996.

In addition, the WFAFW has participated in the meetings of ILO on Plantations, and the Conference on Hunger and Poverty, organized by IFAD in November 1995.
Positions and Views of the WFAFW on the Key Issues Being Addressed by the World Food Summit and Plan of Action

The main theme of the World Congress of Agricultural and Food Workers, organized by WFAFW, in March 1995 in Caracas, Venezuela was food security. This Congress was preceded by an International Seminar with the participation of delegates from the FAO. At these meetings, the WFAFW analyzed the factors that affect food security, and concluded that poverty, rapid population growth, unemployment, and the low income and buying power of the poorest and most marginalized sectors, together with the skewed distribution of wealth and unhealthy environmental conditions are factors that cause food insecurity to be a constant factor in all the countries of the Third World and a calamity for workers.

For these reasons, we consider that food distribution should be in accordance with human needs, both individual and collective. To attain this objective, food for human consumption must be sufficient, varied, of good quality, hygienic and reasonably priced.

The WFAFW has demanded that each country guarantee the availability of food for its population; stabilize prices and the food market; increase employment opportunities and income so that the people have the buying power to guarantee food security in the most vulnerable sectors.

The WFAFW, its regional federations in Africa, Latin America, Asia and Eastern Europe, as well as our national organizations, are promoting the participation of organized farmers in all the preparatory processes of the World Food Summit organized by FAO in November 1996 in Rome. Our Federation is an International Non-governmental Organization (INGO) with observer status in FAO, which is preparing the Summit.

Nevertheless, we do not believe that the Summit alone will eradicate poverty, achieve food security and resolve the problems of food and misery that exist at present and which are increasing continually. Conferences, Meetings and Summits will not resolve the problems. However, they serve to awaken consciousness about the issues that they deal with. Our philosophy is that the issue of food security must become known at a worldwide level.

In 1974, representatives of the majority of the countries of the world decided to eliminate hunger in 20 years. In spite of this, time has passed and we are worse off than ever.

We believe more in a Plan of Action which involves civil society, especially the sectors which lack food security, that makes their voices heard, that accepts their presence and that involves everyone working together to ensure in the present our daily bread, and that future generations do not suffer the hunger and misery that we have had to endure.

The Plan of Action must have people at its centre, the human beings, who are the ones who lack food security.
We do not agree with, nor are we happy about, the photographs, films and propaganda of institutions which are handing out meals to the poor. We want work, the distribution of land to the people who work on it as the sole form to guarantee food security.

**Cooperation in the Follow-up to the World Food Summit and in the Implementation of the Plan of Action**

We reaffirm that the WFAFW is committed with the agricultural workers and their organizations to the promotion of food security. In spite of being a poor organization, with limited economic resources, we have organized seminars, courses, conferences and congresses on food security and have made every effort to draw up a strategy on food security. We have also participated in the events of other institutions such as the FAO, both in order to learn their positions and at the same time to contribute our inputs to the serious problem of hunger in the poor countries and in the agricultural sector, which suffer most directly food insecurity.

The WFAFW is very open to broadening its approaches to food security.

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FELTACA is a Latin American and Caribbean sectoral federation of representative national organizations composed of:

- different types and categories of farmers, indigenous peoples, landless peasants, various categories of small producers, and beneficiaries of agrarian reform;
- workers in agricultural enterprises and agro-industries in different branches of production;
- workers in the food processing industries.

It is affiliated with the Central Latinoamericana de Trabajadores (CLAT), with the World Federation of Agriculture, Food, Hotel and Allied Workers (WFAFW) and the World Confederation of Labour (WCL).

The following principles form the basis of the Federation's orientation and activities:

- The freedom of the workers as the only means to sustain their dignity, principles, rights and aspirations.
- The principles, values, rights and demands of the person as a human being.
- The conception of real democracy, in which people participate in an organized way, as part of Civil Society and the promotion and defense of their rights and in personal, family and community development in general.
- The autonomy of civil society organizations in regard to political parties and movements, religious and spiritual beliefs, economic patronage, and state governments.
- The values of fraternity and solidarity of the working class, among the peoples and the Latin American and Caribbean union of nations, as part of the Workers Movement.

FELTACA is established in all the countries of Latin America and in part of the Caribbean, operating as a coordinating body of common initiatives and actions of the sector, and acting in its defense and as its representative.
Membership in 1993 totalled 560,000 members in 43 national and sectoral union organizations in 19 countries of the region. A new count of membership is currently being carried out. Its headquarters are in Caracas, Venezuela.

History

FELTACA was established on 25 March 1988 in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic and was constituted by the union of the former Federacion Campesina Latinoamericana (FCL), created in December 1961 in Santiago, Chile and the Federacion Latinoamericana de Trabajadores de la Industria de la Alimentacion, Bebidas, Hotels y Tabaco (FETLA), created in 1971 in Venezuela, as the culmination of a process of relationships at various levels and mutual agreements, coordinated by a working commission for two years prior to the preparation and organization of the Constitutional Congress.

Prior to the Constitutional Congress of FELTACA, a seminar was held to analyze the global situation of the sector and its different areas and to draw up conclusions and draft resolutions, which were discussed, approved and implemented by the new federation.

At the end of the Seminar, the federations of the FCL and FETLA held simultaneous congresses, convoked expressly to approve their own dissolution and agree on their unification in the new federation, so that the participating national federations would have mandates to form an integral part of the new federation (FELTACA), thus ensuring that it would continue the struggles initiated by the FCL and FETLA.

A number of significant occurrences that justify the process of the organic fusion of FCL and FETLA into FELTACA are:

• The acceleration of the process of weakening the timid Agrarian Reform programmes and their deviation to a programme of directed settlement, oriented to the convenience of the governments, which lead to limiting the freedom of activities and the actions of the grassroots organizations.

• Increase in the installation of mechanized agriculture through agro-industrial and agro-exporting companies, which today control the best agricultural lands, provoking a counter agrarian reform.

• The increasing impoverishment of the small and medium-sized producers who, owing to their lack of capital, are losing the capacity to produce for their self-consumption and to supply the national, regional and local markets. It is now the big companies, with the blessing of the national governments, which are pushing the policies of Commercial Agricultural Reforms and generalizing the uncontrolled importation of food, to the detriment of the national agriculture, and increasing our food dependency.
• The effects and consequences of the structural adjustment policies, which has made the system of work more flexible to the advantage of the big companies, the circular operation of the transnational corporations which simultaneously involves the waged workers and the small and medium-sized producers dependent on the same interests.

• The problem of the limitation of production of the national producers by the international market and the new disgraceful conditions of the workers in the agro-export companies permitted by the government, including the lowering of working conditions, wages and prices of the small and medium-sized producers.

These factors, together with the accelerating growth of the agro-food crisis, the state of generalized hunger and the misery of our sector, convinced us of the need to unite in order to, together, achieve a degree of capacity for confrontation and developing alternative proposals in the face of these new realities.

Objectives

By virtue of and in accordance with our Principles and Programmes, FELTACA's objectives are as follows:

• To struggle for the realization of a mental revolution and change towards liberation, for the benefit of the personal, collective and integral promotion of the workers in its sectors and for the whole Latin American working class.

• To promote cooperation and mutual assistance at the level of Latin America and the Caribbean, between the workers and the areas that form part of the federation, in all the countries and territories of our continent.

• To study the situation and the problems of the workers in the sector in their different areas and branches. FELTACA promotes, defends and represents the rights and interests of the workers in its sectors in the regional and international governmental and private bodies and institutions, which are directly or indirectly related to the problems we are facing. FELTACA also promotes the federation's action and participation in social, economic, political, cultural, civic, scientific and technical life.

• To support the struggles for the aspirations and demands of the workers in the different branches, particularly those that promote its affiliated and fraternal organizations.

• To developed united action and solidarity among the workers which it represents and with the other sectors of the working class, in order to attain social justice as the first requirement for the dignity and nature of the worker, for our personal and collective development.
• To defend the right to the freedom of association of workers, for their representation and defense of our legitimate interests and aspirations.

• To assume the integral defense of the human rights and freedom of workers and peoples.

• To defend and develop our own cultural values.

• To promote the integration of the workers, the peoples and the Latin American community of nations for our genuine liberation.

• To give rise to the unity of the workers of the sectors we represent, preparing common activities and programmes for united action, including organizational unity, as conditions and opportunities arise.

• To stimulate self-management processes at the level of all the production centres of goods and services for the sector which allow the workers to participate in the management of property and benefits.

Activities

The most significant activities of our organization are:

• Supporting the work of promoting, establishing and affiliating new organizations at the national levels through the affiliated organizations and in coordination with the national central, member of the Latin American Central of Workers (CLAT).

• An ongoing effort in the areas of information, motivation and ideological orientation directed to the base of the workers of the sector, in order to create a critical and political conscience in regard to civic-social participation and to promote strengthening the organization's numerical participation in civil society in its different manifestations.

• Promoting relations with fraternal organizations in civil society and especially of our sector at the different levels, to facilitate the establishment of cooperation agreements through the affiliates as a method to achieve institutional integration.

• Relations and follow-up with international bodies and institutions involved in and related to the issues of our sector, in order to contribute concrete proposals which help the organizations in the sector to participate effectively in the programmes and projects which benefit their legitimate interests.

• Stimulating and supporting the constitution and the operation of unitary national coordination mechanisms, uniting forces to draw up alternative responses and proposals on the general and concrete problems of the workers in the sector, taking into account the national situations.
• A policy of decentralization, carrying out the work as a team at the sub-regional level, delegating tasks to members of the Executive Committee of FELTACA and other leaders who are able to take action beyond their local environments, as part of the process of training a new generation, in accordance with their needs.

• Offering support to the training efforts of the affiliated organizations, so that they can respond to their specific needs by promoting and carrying out special events that deal with issues of the sector and its organizational development at the Latin American, sub-regional and national levels, so that it can better respond in a timely fashion to important political events, including the processes of integrated economic markets.

Participation of Women in FELTACA

In our conception of the Workers' Movement, women and youth participate on the basis of equal conditions and responsibilities, sharing in the family, the community and the organizations to which they belong. Women and youth participate at all levels, including the exercise of leadership positions.

Recognizing that there still persist some aspects of sexist, as well as feminist, mentalities and behaviour, we continually support the conscious participation of women and youth, maintaining that, in the general structure of society, families play the central role in building the society to which we aspire, without neglecting consideration of the specific problems of women and youth.

On the basis of our conception and policy, the majority of our organizations support women and youth in carrying out specific activities to respond to their problems and aspirations, executing diverse micro-projects, the majority of which serve to complement the family economy. In order to ensure better follow-up to this activity, FELTACA has recently created a Women's Action Secretariat to facilitate improved coordination in the future.

Activities to Promote Food Security

The central objective of the FCL and FETLA federations which comprise FELTACA, from the time of their establishment, was to respond to the basic food needs of the peasants, the workers and the people in general. Struggles for the right to land and better wages to improve purchasing power were always parts of their action.

For many years, we have made critical contributions, even though limited, to international bodies, including operative bodies created in the sub-regional economic integration processes, in defense of the right to food for our peoples. For this purpose, we have participated in the International Labour Organization's Commission on Plantation Work and the International Commission on Rural Development, as well as in conferences of the FAO, the most recent held in El Salvador in 1994.
The ongoing struggles for effective implementation of the timid agrarian reform programmes cost the FCL more than 200 dead comrades, and hundreds of members who were arrested and persecuted, mainly during the regimes of the military governments. Nevertheless, persistence in the struggle and the diverse actions carried out on different levels permitted the federation to keep its affiliated organizations operating and to increase their membership.

The paralysis and the elimination of the timid agrarian reform programmes, as a result of implementation of a neo-liberal programme which boosted commercial agricultural reform (agro-food importation), decapitalization, and impoverishment of the small and medium-sized producers and the proletarization of the waged workers, induced us to accelerate and stimulate the policy of relationship at the level of fraternal organizations of the sector and with other organizations and institutions of civil society. Mechanisms of unitary coordination have been established in Honduras, in the National Peasants Council (CNC); in Paraguay, in the Peasants' Coordinating Committee; in the Dominican Republic, in the National Front of Peasant Organizations (FRENOC); in Colombia, in the Coordinating Committee for Food Security; and in Costa Rica, Ecuador, Venezuela and other countries, so as to unify our forces to face the common challenges.

Faced with the growing agro-food crisis, the FCL as far back as 1985, during its VIth Latin American Peasant Council, approved the central lines for a proposal to national governments and international bodies to solve the problem of poverty of the peasantry. This was sent to all the governments, political parties, the bodies of the sub-regional economic integration processes, church bodies, fraternal organizations, international bodies, etc. who responded in differing ways.

In the Seminar prior to the Constitutional Congress of FELTACA, the issues of food and agriculture and workers in the global sector of the food industry were analyzed in greater depth on the basis of a document entitled "Latin America, Food and the Workers", in which the above proposals were supplemented and updated in view of the new situations, needs and aspirations of the sector.

In October 1988, we sent the reformulated proposals to all parties and from thence onward we have continuously worked on updating information and on our orientation to united work through affiliated organizations. This has greatly contributed to the promotion and creation of coordinating mechanisms in a significant number of countries in order to create conditions that facilitate common tasks and activities in response to the crisis.

Given the radical transformations in agrarian structure and production accompanied by a process of a dramatic increase in food dependency and generalized poverty, we continue to alert the international bodies involved in the food and agricultural issues to the dangers of continuing to defend the market and its expected beneficence, which does not take into account social conditions, and excludes us as human beings. Only very recently some of the contradictions of the application of the neo-liberal policies have begun to be recognized. However, we are already experiencing irreversible situations, lamentably such as the mental incapacity and limitation of 3/4 of the children who are the ones who must contribute to the future development of our peoples.
Because of our denunciations and statements on the policies and activities of the transnational corporations, which are carried out with the complicity of the administrators of the governments of our countries and the institutions of the sub-regional economic integration processes, these bodies have rejected cooperation with our organization. Only the main headquarters of FAO has agreed to continue its cooperation in the implementation of a micro Agroforestry project, carried out by the National Peasants' Union of Honduras in 1994; in covering some of the costs of the Subregional Seminar of the Andes held in July 1995; and in a micro-project on Livestock Raising, backed by the ILO and executed by the Dominican Federation of Christian Agrarian Leagues (FEDELAC), in support of the women in the Dominican Republic.

In spite of our limitations, we have supported 170 Seminars at the national and district level, dealing with the problems of the sector in order to facilitate the understanding of the root causes of these problems and to draw up common responses and proposals with fraternal organizations, regardless of their relationships or adherence to existing union currents. The main objective is to make proposals to official national bodies, as part of our contribution to the solution of the generalized problem of food insecurity that we are experiencing.

Our continuous monitoring of the global sector allowed us to discuss a wider platform of action at our End Congress in May 1993, the central theme of which was "Food Security as a People's Right", an affirmation that we have adopted to continue to motivate the activities of affiliated and fraternal organizations. At this stage we are providing continuously updated information.

Our efforts to build relationships have resulted in our participation in other initiatives on food security such as the creation of the Latin American and Caribbean Food Security Movement. The initiative for its creation came in August 1994 and was pursued at a meeting in March 1995 in Bolivia, culminating in its establishment at a High Level Regional Meeting in October 1995 in Managua, Nicaragua. FELTAC A participated in this, contributing a document with analyses and concrete proposals which were taken into consideration in the concluding document that was presented at the Global Assembly on Food Security held in Quebec, Canada in October 1995 and the FAO Conference in November 1995 in Rome.

The meeting in which the Food Security Movement was created initiated an immediate process of working out the details in which the various participating institutions committed themselves to carrying out specific tasks until January 1996, arranging for the Latin American and Caribbean Associations of Christian Youth (CLAJS) to convocate the first meeting of the Coordinating Group in January 1996. This meeting took place in Venezuela, in which FELTACA participated along with the Christian Children's Fund; the CCF, Bolivia; the National Federation of Councils of Colombia (FENACOM); the CLAJS; the South American NGO Coordination, with headquarters in Peru; the Polar Foundation of Venezuela; the International Institute for National Environmental and Cultural Resources Management (IIRM) of the State University of New Mexico; and a representative of FAO.
This meeting evaluated the events prior to the creation of the movement; analyzed the current moment and began to think about a future scenario. It also established a short-term six-month workplan, which included specific tasks of organization; of relationships at national level; the setting up of a database, using e-mail; priority action in efforts to promote and hold meetings among the affiliated organizations within each country; the creation of coordination groups; and the collective monitoring of the agricultural and food conflict in order to draw up proposals to be channelled to official bodies dealing with these issues and related institutions, as a contribution to the solution of the problem of food insecurity before and after the events being prepared by FAO in relation to the World Food Summit.

**Outcomes of these Activities**

- We have succeeded in making ourselves better and more widely known, as a part of civil society, to the United Nations bodies and other institutions.

- The contributions to the vision of the reality of the sector and the alternative proposals in the face of the agricultural and food crisis have succeeded in creating much agreement and support for the perspectives of FELT ACA.

- Civil society is beginning to carry out significant organizational efforts, in different forms, which forecast the strengthening of these organizations to play important roles in the medium term in the promotion and carrying out of the global development of our peoples, in which we are intensifying our conscious and pro-active participation, as a party experiencing this crisis.

**Challenges of Globalization**

The globalization of production, processing and industrialization of food has resulted in the concentration of the majority of the best agricultural lands, of financing, technology, marketing and benefits in the hands of the transnational corporations as the only ones which participate in and control the current market. These TNCs answer only to the neo-liberal economy, excluding civil society, and effectively eliminating the small producers and the small and medium-sized enterprises which have historically represented the national agricultural sector and employ the major part of the labour force.

One of the most important solutions to this is a process of agrarian transformation which integrates the landless peasants in specific programmes of basic production of high-quality subsistence food, in order to participate effectively together with small producers and small and medium-sized enterprises in a new economic scheme of production which is based on the nation's food needs, with long-term programmes for Food Security, including the exportation of finished products which would assure the improvement of benefits and investment in the production zones, and an increase of secure jobs.
Implementation of the World Food Summit Plan of Action

FEATACA is prepared to participate in the implementation of the World Food Summit Plan of Action in coordination with governments and other civil society organizations at various levels.

Modalities for Cooperation

FEATACA cooperates with other organizations at various levels in the following ways:

• At the international level, through continuing to coordinate activities and tasks within the Latin American and Caribbean Food Security Movement, and other coalitions that can participate in supporting the implementation of the World Food Summit Plan of Action.

• With fraternal national organizations through our affiliates at different levels (for example, in analyzing common problems, drawing conclusions, taking positions, and publicizing these, as well as in developing responses and alternative proposals and solutions to various problems.

• Cooperation with NGOs which are working in related areas with the general issues of our sector and at the community level for the benefit of the families and their communities.

• With the governments at various levels, promoting relationships with grassroots organizations of various kinds in order to promote their active participation in the formulation, implementation and control of government programmes.

• With FAO and other bodies through the provision of assistance and support services in the formulation and implementation of programmes promoting the general development of the communities, for the presentation of proposals to the bodies for sub-regional economic integration, and in organizing events and carrying out research on our sector.

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The Union of General Agricultural Workers was formed on 5 February 1959 and subsequently renamed General Agricultural Workers' Union (GAWU). The combined effect of the high rise in agricultural employment resulting from the Government's direct intervention in the sector and the favourable industrial relations environment underlie the growth in membership up to 1966.

GAWU was, however, hard hit by developments following the military take-over of 1966. The 1965 membership of 50,000 had by 1972 dropped to 26,000. The effect in financial terms was such that GAWU could not meet the most basic obligations for some time. It took strenuous efforts in campaign and membership drives, using full-time field organizers and educators to rebuild the Union. The efforts were well rewarded in terms of membership growth and consolidation and a steeling of the organization to withstand the test of subsequent political convulsions. It was during the efforts of this period that GAWU's institutional capacity was strengthened and prepared to address the needs of the unorganized self-employed rural workers in the late 1970s.

GAWU's membership grew to a peak of 135,000 in 1982 and began to decline again in subsequent years. This decline is largely attributable to labour retrenchment within the framework of the World Bank/International Monetary Fund-sponsored Structural Adjustment Programme which was initiated in 1983.

The self-employed rural worker membership went through a rapid growth to 1986 and started stalling in 1987. The low level of growth in more recent years may be attributed to the decline in financial proceeds consequent upon the retrenchment of tens of thousands of wage-earning dues paying members.

In 1993, the total membership of GAWU was 65,000, including 47,500 waged workers and 17,500 self-employed rural workers. Currently about 30 percent of the members in the wage earning category are women, and over 70 percent are in the 25-45 age bracket.

The GAWU headquarters are based in Accra. The union is a national member of the International Union of Food, Agriculture, Hotel, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers Associations (IUF).

The wage earners include employees in: the cocoa industry, excluding those involved in the post-harvest aspect; the plantations producing oil palm, rubber and to some extent citrus; a host of other commercial farms producing avocado, mangoes and pineapples; commercial poultry and livestock ventures; agricultural research institutions; and a host of state and parastatal agricultural institutions.
As far back as the mid-1960s the GAWU leadership recognized that it had responsibilities beyond just the wage earners in the rural sector. Attempts to organize peasant cocoa farm labourers, however, were fiercely resisted and crushed by some powerful traditional rulers, supported by local police chiefs.

The adoption of ILO Convention No. 141 and Recommendation No. 149 in 1975 on "The Organization of Rural Workers and their Role in Economic and Social Development" marked the essential threshold for pursuing the wider responsibilities of organizing the self-employed rural workers. These instruments define the term "rural workers", affirm their right (both employed and self-employed) to freedom of association; set out conditions which would be necessary for the development of their organization; outline the role that they might undertake; and suggest ways and means by which their development might be furthered or promoted.

The 1976 Delegates Conference accepted in principle the recruitment of self-employed rural workers as members of GAWU. The preparations that ensued culminated in a public declaration in 1979 of the Union's decision to create the Rural Workers' Organization Division (RWOD) within GAWU to cater solely for the organization of the rural self-employed. The Constitution of GAWU, therefore, provides well-defined structures solely for the self-employed rural worker members while at the same time providing structures which constitute die meeting grounds for both wage earners and self-employed rural workers.

**Objectives**

The aims and objectives of GAWU enshrined in its Constitution have generally remained unaltered. The focal point is the enhanced social, economic and cultural well-being of the agricultural workers and efforts by the Union itself to pursue welfare and human development activities among the members.

GAWU aims at establishing an organization of rural workers, both wage earners and self-employed, on a continuing and democratic basis, dependent on its own resources and independent of patronage, for the purpose of furthering and defending its members. The defence and furtherance of the interests is pursued through representation, negotiation and pressure group activity not only in relation to employers but also within the economic, political and social life of the country as a whole. The world has extended the traditional role of trade unions beyond the immediate worker-employer relations. The furtherance of the interests of the self-employed rural workers is, therefore, an undeniable trade union role, a role that variously promotes the interests of wage-earning rural and urban workers.
The marginalization and privation of the self-employed rural workers underlies the rural-urban drift which swells the supply side of the labour market equation and weakens the ability of the trade unions in negotiating for better conditions for wage earners. The poverty and lack of opportunities in the rural areas, compels the rural poor to search for non-existent employment opportunities and in the process strengthens the position of employers who yearn for cheaper labour to reduce their costs of production and increase their profit. It is, therefore, in the interest of trade unions to address the poverty, ignorance and disease of the rural areas so as to stem the tide of rural-urban influx. From this standpoint, the organization of the rural poor within trade unions serves the interests of the wage-earning members. The point is even stronger in relation to wage-earning rural workers, i.e., workers in agricultural establishments: the small farmer is easily employed as a farm hand, without having to go through any specialized training or orientation.

**Activities**

In pursuit of its objectives GAWU undertakes a number of activities in relation to the wage-earning members; including:

- negotiating agreements with employers for improved conditions of work through collective bargaining processes;
- handling grievances of members in accordance with legally-backed grievance procedures;
- making representations to Government through the Trades Union Congress on issues such as prices and incomes policy, labour legislation, international labour conventions and specific grievances that cut across a number of the seventeen national unions affiliated to the national trades union centre;
- education and information delivery services;
- legal services; and
- welfare schemes such as credit unions and consumers' cooperatives.

With regard to self-employed rural workers GAWU's activities may be summarized as interventions for poverty alleviation, employment creation, advocacy and campaigns for agrarian reform and rural development. These activities have included:

**Provision of Services to the Rural Poor**

GAWU does not provide special services as an end in themselves, but as an essential mode of strengthening the organization of the rural poor so as to make it capable of realizing, consolidating and defending reforms. GAWU therefore pursues its rural development role in such a way as to harness the creative potential of the members, raise their awareness and confidence in themselves and their organization, build their capacity to initiate and manage their own projects, draw the right lessons from their experiences and enrich their struggle towards reform and development.
Using popular and participatory rural appraisal techniques, GAWU enables the members to identify their problems and needs, appraise their own resource base and resource mobilization capacity and formulate strategies for addressing their needs. It is also through this participatory bottom-up approach that the rural poor consciously articulate their interests based on their collective assessment of their reality. It is, by and large, on the basis of their conscious articulation that GAWU campaigns and advocates on their behalf.

GAWU has, over the years, played its rural development role through a number of specific rural development interventions, including: training and education; group enterprise promotion; transfer of improved technology; and economic support services.

Social and Community Development Activities

The promotion of social and community development activities are generally not considered as a strategic rural development intervention for the purpose of mobilizing the rural poor for trade union organization and activity. Such activities usually take the form of the delivery of social facilities like water, sanitation, health and education facilities.

GAWU, nevertheless, responds to the establishment of social and community development facilities first and foremost through representation to the appropriate governmental agency. GAWU also encourages local groupings to formulate clear strategies based on locally-mobilized resources. For example, GAWU’s membership at AmankwaaKrom in the Afram Plains of the Eastern Region established a child-care centre in the early 1980s, using local resources.

Some two years later, through representation to the then Ministry of Social Welfare, the centre got absorbed into the governmental child-care centre programme. The result was the ability of women to find more time for individual and group-based income-generating activities which affords them enhanced participation and facilitates their empowerment not only within the organization of rural workers but also in the wider socio-economic setting.

Promotion of Rural Women’s Participation in Trade Unions

GAWU aims to promote the full participation of rural women in the affairs of their self-chosen workers’ organization; their capacity to further and protect their interests as women workers; and to facilitate the effective participation of rural women in their own rural and national development.

In pursuance of this objective and targeting both wage-earning and self-employed rural workers, GAWU, with the financial and technical assistance of the ILO and IFPAAW, has trained a core of activists into specialists in rural women’s activities and trade unionism, and through them extended training to the larger membership of women in the organization. Again, as a strategy of mobilization and membership consolidation, the project promoted the initiation of group income-generating activities like basket and hat weaving, rabbitry, bakery, crops production and woodlots development. Some have also established child-care centres and literacy clubs.
The effect in terms of enhanced women's participation has been significant. Indicators pointing to this fact include:
- increased attendance of meetings by women;
- growing selection of women for training programmes;
- increased inclusion of women's issues in the agenda of meetings;
- election of women into leadership structures at the local, regional and national levels; and
- promotion of women's income-generating and welfare activities.

It is significant to note that self-sustaining dynamism was injected into the project, enabling the continuation of activities after the off-shore financial assistance ceased.

**Project for the Promotion of Rural Workers Participation in Rural Development**

Collaborative relations between FAO and GAWU date as far back as the early 1980s when FAO assisted GAWU in training for specific skills development.

In 1984, FAO supported a regional consultation in Arusha, for national rural workers' organizations of Africa to exchange experiences in rural development activities servicing rural workers at grassroots level. A Dutch development agency assisted in this mission and financed a follow-up project: the Rural Workers Development Centre. Further, FAO in 1987 supported the Pan African Federation of Agricultural Trade Unions (PAFATU) in organizing a national-level Training Workshop on the development of educational curricula for rural workers.

At the 10th Biennial ITU/FAO Consultation, the International Federation of Plantation, Agriculture and Allied Workers (IFPAAW), to which GAWU is affiliated, and other ITUs presented recommendations for FAO technical support to national rural workers' organizations aimed at strengthening their operational capacity to design and implement rural development actions plans. Following consultations with GAWU, a GCP Project for the Promotion of Rural Workers' Participation was designed and implemented.
Positions and Views on Key Issues Being Addressed by the World Food Summit

Social and Economic Conditions of the Self-Employed Rural Workers

About 70% of the self-employed rural worker membership derive more than 60% of their annual incomes from cropping land. They are owner-occupiers tilling less than five acres of land, tenant farmers whose tenancy is based on cash payments while others maintain access to tenanted land through some form of share-cropping arrangements.

It is with much difficulty that these self-employed rural workers mobilize lean resources to go through the tedium of preparing land, sowing crops, weeding and controlling pests and harvesting. Depending on rainfall for their production, these farmers are extremely vulnerable to rainfall variability and find themselves overstretched in labour terms during the major farming season of March to September.

Most farmers are compelled to sell soon after harvest when there is in fact a glut on the market. They sell a part of their meagre harvest when the price of the produce is at its lowest because they need money. It is in such desperate conditions that the rural poor sell off food that they need for their own household consumption only to go back to the market some three to six months later to purchase food at high lean-season prices. Even those who manage to store some significant quantity of grains lose 15 to 25 percent through pest infestation. At the same time the middle level commercial farmers enjoying higher productivity are capable of taking advantage of the higher lean-season prices because they have reliable storage facilities, as well as personal savings or credit facilities to cater for their financial needs until they market their produce.

It is significant to note that even though 68.6% of farm holdings in the country is less than 2 acres, land is, generally speaking, not the major constraint in a situation where only 12% of the land area is cultivated, and more so when the small-holders have much difficulty maximizing their small-holdings through the engagement of needed labour or appropriate labour-augmenting technologies and agricultural chemicals.

The Conditions of Women

For the country as a whole, with the exception of the Greater Accra and the three Northern Regions, the proportion of females in agriculture is equal to or greater than that of males. In some areas, such as the Eastern Region, women and their husbands produce from the same plot of land. In many such cases the major contribution of the male partner is at the level of clearing and preparing the land while leaving most of the farm maintenance work throughout the season to the woman, and children. In other areas such as the Central Volta Region, the man and his wife may crop separate farms as individuals. But here too the woman is found contributing labour-hours to the maintenance of her husband's farm without a reciprocal contribution from the man.
Moreover, the man usually sells off his produce and decides on the use of the proceeds while the woman keeps her produce for household consumption. The predicament of rural women is even more pronounced in woman-headed households.

As many as 30 percent of the self-employed rural worker membership of GAWU are women heads of households. The general trend of the economy tends to influence the age and gender of those who remain in agriculture. The emergence of non-agricultural opportunities in conditions of poor returns on agriculture as well as the increasing cash requirements of households has entailed/compelled the temporary or permanent migration of men, leaving women and children and the aged to do most of the farm work.

The burden of the rural woman goes beyond farm work. Age-old traditions assigning domestic chores to women continue to weigh down the rural women: fetching firewood from further afield as nearby sources are exhausted, providing water for the household, washing clothing and children, preparing meals and nursing and attending to three, four or even more children.

The Conditions of Fisherfolk

Another category of self-employed rural workers being organized by GAWU are the inland canoe fishermen. Most of the people living around the Volta Lake - the biggest man-made lake in the world - depend on fisheries for their livelihood. Depending on canoes and boats, some of which are motor driven, the artisanal fishermen use fishing nets of varying types and sizes as may be dictated by the fishing grounds, the season and the targeted fish. Even the most rudimentary inputs call for a certain amount of capital. Consequently, fishermen often times secure loans from urban-based fishmongers with a pledge to sell almost all catch to the creditor. Many of the fishermen, therefore, even though they are self-employed, are labouring under conditions of perpetual indebtedness. At the same time their wives spend hours processing fish - mostly by smoking - to sell to fishmongers on market days that come up about once in five days.

The conditions of the artisanal fishermen and their households are no better than that of the small farmers. They also have their seasonal limitations and storage, preservation, processing and marketing constraints. Contrary to popular notion, the households of many artisanal fishermen are very prone to malnutrition, due to the absence of a balanced diet based on home-grown vegetables and grains, and dependence on fish for food.

The neglect and marginalization of the rural areas are clearly manifest in the poor state of socio-economic infrastructure and basic amenities: childcare and educational facilities, safe water, electricity, health facilities, etc. Only 15 to 20 percent of the rural population have access to safe water, less than 5 percent have electric light, and only about 20 percent of the country's health facilities are located in the rural areas.
Structural Adjustment Programmes (SAPs) and the Rural Poor

An unprecedented decline in the economy, leading to overall stagnation in production, imports and exports as manifested in huge budget deficits, balance of payment discrepancies, and an uncontrollable inflation in the early 1980s led to the initiation of a structural adjustment programme in 1984 with four main aims:

- removing deficits in the fiscal budget and the balance of payments;
- reallocating domestic resources to more productive areas;
- reducing the role of the state in commercial and productive activities; and
- promoting the private sector and the role of market forces.

A range of instruments have been used to achieve these aims, particularly liberalization of foreign trade and provision of incentives for exports; controlling the supply of money, including raising interest rates and controlling wage increases; reducing reliance on administered (controlled) prices; removal of subsidies; and the reform and divestment of public and state-owned enterprises. All these have variously affected the agricultural sector and the rural population.

The self-employed rural worker members of GAWU have been adversely affected in various ways. The liberalization of domestic agricultural markets has not gone far in propping up farm produce prices because prior to the reform most farm produce prices were already determined by market forces. As part of the reform programme, the Government sought to promote the production of strategic staples and industrial crops through guaranteed minimum prices for maize, rice, oil, palm, cotton and tobacco. Price guarantees have, however, been woefully ineffective for maize and rice, the main crops produced by our farmers. In a situation where these two crops are not sold in controlled markets like the three other industrial crops, and in a situation where there is bountiful imported rice in the country, the prices of maize and rice have been severely depressed.

The depressed prices of products is even more telling on the income levels of members because they have to pay even higher prices for inputs like fertilizers and agro-chemicals when they are available. Their availability to the small farmer is not that ready because institutional reforms have included the privatization of the distribution of these inputs and their removal from the Extension Services Department of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture. When fertilizers are available, their prices are very high as a result of the adjustment in exchange rate, the reduction in foreign exchange allocation and the virtual removal of subsidies.

Moreover, the wages in the formal sector are in part held down statutorily, as part of the process of reducing government current expenditure. Thus, the low wages of workers who spend about 70 percent of their earnings on food is also impeding the growth of effective demand for food. Adjustment reform of cutting down on government current expenditure has also led to retrenchment of staff and facilities like transport in extension services which are crucial to the small farmer. The gradual removal of subsidies from educational and health facilities have made these social services even more inaccessible to the rural poor, even when they are available.
Even though adjustment policy reforms have raised the earning of a small category of farmers in the production of cocoa, the majority of the self-employed rural workers are adversely affected and rendered quite desperate in their quest for survival. They are constantly overstretching themselves to raise alternative sources of income, sometimes through a strict exploitation of labour. Other times they may encroach on forest and game reserves exploiting the trees for marketable and domestic fuelwood and charcoal, overfishing fingerlings and undermining the diversity of fish stock - all to the detriment of the environment whose fragility they know but cannot resist plundering to meet present pressing needs.

**Land Reform**

In creating the Rural Workers Organization Division (RWOD) within GAWU to cater for the specific interests of the rural poor, GAWU is seeking to build a vehicle to secure a comprehensive transformation of the structures and relations which impinge on the people who are seeking a living from agriculture and related occupations in the rural areas. Such transformation should include land reforms which remove all forms of waste, and ensure the rural poor access to consolidated land holdings on secure and affordable terms. Such transformation also includes institutional changes and re-arrangements ensuring optimal utilization of land through reliable and adequate access to capital investments, technical assistance, inputs, as well as post-harvest management facilities (storage, markets, good prices, and transport) so as to increase their productivity and production, and raise earnings from the sale of their produce.

Thus, the organization of the rural poor, from a trade union perspective, is to campaign for agrarian reform, as in GAWU's conception of necessary transformations in the social and economic life of the country.

**Participation of the Rural Poor in Agrarian Reform**

The participation of the rural poor is an intrinsic part of and the basic step in agrarian reform. The self-employed rural workers are in the majority and seeking economic and social justice for themselves. Over the years, much has been pursued that was purported to advance their interests. Yet, they still find an even more pressing need for reform today. Their participation in the reform is necessary to ensure that conceived development actions are actually in their interests. Besides, given the entrenched social and economic interests opposed to such reform, the participation of the rural poor is necessary in carrying through the implementation as this would ensure the highest level of commitment and efficiency on the part of the beneficiaries themselves and contribute to eliminating dependence and to promoting a sense of belonging and self-reliance. In this respect, participation is a means to an end.
Participation is also an end in itself because it is deemed a fundamental human right, a right which underscores the Right to Development. The realization, defence and consolidation of agrarian reform is largely dependent on the organized strength of the rural poor. It is also through their organization that the rural poor participate in the reform, noting that peasants’ representation does not necessarily ensure participation. GAWU, therefore, seeks to represent the interests of the rural poor on the basis of their voluntary organization within the RWOD and participation in the activities of the Union as a whole.

**Challenges and Prospects**

The General Agricultural Workers Union of Ghana is the only national organization of rural workers embracing both wage earners and self-employed rural workers.

The pursuit of trade union objectives in relation to the rural poor has entailed the strengthening of their organization to make it viable in campaigning and advocating for agrarian reform.

The challenges present themselves first and foremost at the level of strategy formulation. Even though some broad strategies have emerged, GAWU will have to sharpen them and forge new ones so as to become more versatile in mobilizing and organizing the rural poor of diverse backgrounds.

Challenges also abound in the area of operationalization of strategies and programmes, given the immense organizational and logistical requirements entailed in organizing and servicing a membership that is poor and scattered all over the country.

Finally, and even more challenging, is the task of furthering and defending the interests of the rural poor through representation and pressure group activity.

These challenges notwithstanding, the need for securing agrarian reform development through the participation of the rural poor themselves is indeed the crucial indicator of the prospects for GAWU's mission.

**Cooperation with other Organizations**

GAWU has not stood alone in addressing the interests of the rural poor. Both at the national and international level, GAWU has collaborated with other change agents and organizations to service the rural workers, particularly the self-employed.
At the national level, GAWU has enjoyed support from governmental and non-governmental organizations. More significant is the collaboration between GAWU and other organizations like the International Federation of Plantations, Agricultural and Allied Workers (IFPAAW), the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations. On the basis of such partnership and collaboration, GAWU implements a number of rural development projects for the benefit of members.

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Contact person: Mr. Samuel Kengah
General Secretary
The Confederation National Agraria (CNA) is a representative union of Peruvian peasants, founded in 1974, comprising 16 agrarian federations in different parts of the country. It arose in the context of the Agrarian Reform of the seventies, as an expression of the interests of the small farmers, community peasants and related farm enterprises. In accordance with Peruvian legislation, CNA is a not-for-profit civil association, registered and officially recognized under Peruvian law.

In its first stage, the CNA's main activity was to vigorously push for the transfer of the land to the peasants. Later its role became one of promoting the generation of services to increase farm production, alternating this with conducting a constructive opposition to the anti-agrarian policies of successive governments.

The organization's work is based on the principles of: land to the peasants; and favourable conditions for the modernization of production. In the light of these two fundamental ideas, its has consolidated its geographic and social positions, in spite of difficulties resulting from political violence.

The new organizational role of the CNA is oriented to promoting effective mechanisms for entrepreneurial management in peasant communities, agrarian cooperatives, and among the beneficiaries of agrarian reform and farmers. For this purpose, the CNA promotes the appropriate use of both traditional agricultural customs and usages together with modern technology. This allows appropriate agricultural and ecological management of the land, using our own productive resources and reducing the cost of production so that agriculture can be both profitable and sustainable.

This has been facilitated by CNA's mechanisms of consolidation of technical-organizational practices for peasants and its initiation of resource generation for self-financing. Through its promotion of inter-institutional cooperation for the organization of peasants, the CNA aims to establish an agrarian front with sufficient negotiating capacity in relation to the Government and society in general, to make the agrarian sector the basis of economic and social development.

The CNA was constituted primarily by the peasant beneficiaries of Agrarian Reform, who organized themselves in agrarian cooperatives, peasant communities and indigenous communities, agricultural and entrepreneurial associations such as the Sociedades Agrícolas de Interés Social (SAIS), Empresas de Propiedad Social (EPS), individual farmers, peasant groups and others.
The highest body of the CNA is its National Congress, which is comprised of delegates of the district and/or regional agrarian federations. The General Assembly of the Federations and Agrarian Leagues meets every year. The National Governing Council is the management body responsible for the institutional programme, in agreement with an Executive Committee, and is responsible for the administration and implementation of activities. The Council of Federation Presidents is responsible for analyzing and drawing up proposals for the national agricultural policy.

**Table I: Organizations Affiliated with CNA**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Affiliates</th>
<th>No. of Organizations</th>
<th>Heads of Families</th>
<th>Rural Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Peasant Communities</td>
<td>2860</td>
<td>343 200</td>
<td>1 716 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. EPS</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1,500</td>
<td>7 500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Agrarian Cooperatives</td>
<td>280</td>
<td>28 000</td>
<td>140 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Small Farmers' Associations</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>6 300</td>
<td>31500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. SAIS</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1200</td>
<td>6000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Landless Peasants' Associations</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>1800</td>
<td>9 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>3203</td>
<td>382 000</td>
<td>1 910 000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Objectives**

- To develop CNA's capacity to make proposals and to negotiate on agricultural development policies and the democratic life of the country from a peasant's perspective; and to take effective lobbying action on particular aspects that need implementation.

- To achieve a solid institutionalization, maintaining the CNA as the pillar organization.

- To improve the capacity and consolidate the regional agrarian organizations, as a dynamic organic support to the CNA, linked to a vision of sustainable agricultural production.
• To achieve the participation of women peasants in the organizational structure of the CNA, at the local, regional and national levels, in order to guarantee their active involvement in agricultural development with a gender perspective.

• To provide effective services for its affiliates and promote their active participation in the agrarian federation.

• To institutionalize a process of management renewal at the grassroots, local, regional and national levels, while ensuring the continuation of the CNA's strategic objectives.

• To consolidate the participation of farmers and peasants in local and regional governments in order to strengthen the political management of rural development.

Main Activities
At present, the CNA is implementing the following activities in a framework of a sustainable, participatory and gender focus:

• Technical training in:
  - management of agricultural enterprises (bookkeeping, costs, budgets, etc.);
  - appropriate technology transfer (seed production, crop and/or breeding management) in 36 demonstration plots located in 12 peasant communities in 6 districts of the country.

• Information for peasants on the subjects of:
  - advances in sowing and harvesting of agricultural production of the main produce;
  - demand, prices and markets of the principle agricultural products;
  - technology and the management of Andean cultivars.

• Legal assistance, mainly in:
  - analysis of tax regulations in relation to agriculture;
  - land titles and communal boundaries.

• Financial assistance, particularly in:
  - information on sources of financing for small and medium-sized agricultural and peasant enterprises;
  - the formulation of agricultural investment projects.

• Agricultural marketing:
  - establishment of marketing channels, fairs and businesses circles with the producers.
• Cooperation, representation and proposals:
  - cooperation with public and private bodies on plans, programmes, projects
    and legislative proposals on agricultural policy.

**Participation of Women**

Among the 3,203 grassroots organizations, women peasants comprise about 12 percent of the active leadership. Their participation in leadership at the level of the Federation and the Agrarian Leagues is on average 10 percent, which is the same for their participation in the national management.

**Mandates of the Organization in Promoting Food Security**

- To promote programmes for the transfer of appropriate technology, in order to increase the productivity of small farmers and the peasant communities, thereby improving incomes and quality of life.
- To promote the implementation of education on agricultural rural production, and training on preventative public health and communication services (viability, broadcasts, etc.).
- To propose draft laws favourable to the development of agriculture and livestock raising among small holders, peasant communities and business associations.
- To promote the development of sustainable development and the preservation of the environment.

**Main Activities in the Area of Food Security**

The CNA is carrying out and developing the following activities in the area of food security:

- Technical training on agricultural enterprise management. This has been carried out in collaboration with NGOs such as the Centro Bartolome de las Casas in Cuzco, the Development and Environmental Institute in Huanuco, the Alternative Action Network in Uso and the Ecological Agricultural Network at the international level. About 4,590 grassroots peasant leaders have been trained in the areas of bookkeeping, production costs, budgets, etc.
- Appropriate technology transfer (seed production, crop and/or breeding management) in 36 demonstration plots located in 12 peasant communities in 6 districts of the country.
- Dissemination of agricultural information to assist peasants in making well-founded decisions in sowing and on the selection of crops (advances in sowing and harvesting of the agricultural production of the principle produce); in crop management (pamphlets on the technology and the management of Andean crops); and marketing (demand, prices and markets of the main agricultural products); and other issues.
• Legal aid on analysis of tax regulations related to agriculture, land titles and communal boundaries.

• Financial assistance through the provision of information on sources of financing for small and medium-sized agriculture and peasant enterprises; and the formulation of agricultural investment projects.

• Assistance to small producers in the area of agricultural marketing through the establishment of marketing channels, fairs and businesses circles.

• Cooperation with public and private bodies on plans, programmes, projects and legislative proposals on agricultural policy.

Analysis of the Results of the Activities and the Lessons Learned

The production and training activities carried out through the CNA's federations has taught us more about these issues and at the same time allowed us to learn about and recover grassroots approaches to solutions.

The transfer of ecological technologies and training has been well accepted and has been applied by about 80 percent of the participants. In spite of these results, the extent of our activities has been limited by the lack of economic resources.

The framework of the training is based on motivating and changing attitudes of the peasants so as to overcome the internal factors which condition low productivity, and to improve the tilling of the soil, the selection of better seeds, the rational use of available resources, etc. The emphasis is that everything will benefit better production and, in the end, improve their incomes and living conditions.

At the same time, the CNA is aware that the external factors that condition production can be overcome if, and only if, the peasants participate in a united and organized way in the local, regional and national governments to make their voices and their proposals heard.

In the training and transfer of technology, new aspects have been included related to the entrepreneurial vision that our peasants must learn. In this sense, emphasis is put on the exercise of working out the costs of production and calculating net income, including the labour of the peasants and their families.
From this experience, we can deduce that the peasants have accumulated much experience. Nevertheless, they have been treated with over-protective paternalism, which has not allowed them to develop.

In order for them to develop, they must be motivated and valued as persons and producers and trained in new technologies which will strengthen their development and not make them dependent on inputs of the external market. This means developing their abilities, skills and knowledge through participatory and creative training and the renewal of their knowledge.

**Challenges of and Responses to Globalization**

The globalization of food production and processing, and food and agricultural trade liberalization has created the need for:

- the establishment of equitable norms for the developing countries which are producers of raw material and biodiversity and the developed countries which produced finished products;
- norms for the intervention of the big monopolies and the oligopolies in the marketing of agricultural production;
- effective mechanisms for the equitable redistribution of the surpluses.

**Positions and Views on the Key Issues Being Addressed by World Food Summit and the Plan of Action**

- Participation of women: women have had and continue to have a crucial role together with men in agricultural production. The CNA is, therefore, integrating women in all the activities it undertakes, in the areas of production, training, marketing and organizations for ensuring food security.

- Agricultural policies: one of the main activities of the CNA is to monitor and propose agricultural policies which assist the development of agriculture, guaranteeing that rural families have access to adequate and healthy food and are able to improve their living conditions in general.

- Agricultural policies must be designed not to protect, but to defend our agriculture in relation to that of other countries where it is subsidized.

- Developing the self-reliance of the poor: in our country there are people categorized by the Ministry of the President as in situations of extreme poverty. This situation has been created by various factors: natural disasters, climatic conditions, and displacement due to terrorism, among other things. These persons must be assisted to cover their urgent needs for food through the support of the Government. However, at the same time, these people must foster the development of their capacities so that in the future they can satisfy their own needs.
• The importance of sustainable rural development: the agricultural sector of our country comprises 40 percent of our population. Thus, promoting sustainable rural development means not only improving the quality of life of the agricultural sector but also producing food to improve the living conditions of the country in general.

**Implementation of the Plan of Action**

The Confederation Nacional Agraria in Peru can contribute to the following measures outlined in the Plan of Action:

• Propose policies that guarantee the efficient and equitable sharing of costs and benefits.

• Propose policies that avoid distortions, controls and restrictions that depress agriculture, food production and rural development.

• Propose the integration of the interests of the rural population in the strategies, plans and processes of development decision making.

• Support the development of infrastructure and technologies that facilitate the work of women and men.

• Promote the full participation of rural women in community organizations, producers' groups and NGOs and promote the awareness of the public sector on the roles and contributions of rural women.

• Improve the collection, distribution and use of gender disaggregated data in agriculture and rural development.

**Modalities of Cooperation at Various Levels**

At the national level, the CNA is working in a coordinated way with 26 NGOs with which we have signed agreements of mutual assistance in the areas of training, transfer of technology, and technical and legal assistance.
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B: AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS AND FARMERS’ ASSOCIATIONS

1. The International Federation of Agricultural Producers
2. The Via Campesina
The International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP), founded in 1946, is the international organization of the world's farmers. It is the only worldwide body grouping together nationally representative general farmers' organizations. The Federation is financed and governed by its member organizations. IFAP has category I consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations.

Farmers' organizations are organizations governed by farmers, who work for farmers' interests. They are organizations by farmers for farmers, including farmers' associations, farmers' unions, agricultural cooperatives and chambers of agriculture. Regular elections of farm leadership are a key element in this definition. To qualify for membership in IFAP, an organization must be substantially representative of farmers at the national level.

In 1996, the membership of IFAP included 80 organizations from 55 countries, including 27 developing countries. IFAP also maintains a working relationship with a number of farmers' organizations at various stages of development throughout the world which are not yet members of the Federation. Its headquarters are in Paris, France.

Many different types of farmers are represented by member organizations, ranging from small-scale farms intensively-cropped in Japan to large-scale extensive ranches in Argentina and Australia, and from farms producing very little for the commercial market in India and Africa to highly-capitalized farms in the European Community and the USA.

The one link which is common to the vast majority of IFAP's members, large or small, is their attachment to the family farm, the unit which is managed and run by a farmer and his family, with possibly some hired help. IFAP represents virtually all the agricultural producers in the industrialized countries, and several hundred million farmers in the developing countries.

**Objectives**

The Federation was established to "secure the fullest cooperation between organizations of agricultural primary producers in meeting the optimum nutritional and consumptive requirements of the peoples of the world and in improving the economic and social status of all who live by and on the land".

IFAP's development objectives, as stated in its Constitution, are:
to take active steps to encourage the formation and support of independent farmers' organizations throughout the world, who would be eligible for membership in the Federation;

to promote their admission into such membership so that the world-wide opinion of agricultural producers may be represented on the broadest possible basis.

IFAP aims to make active and constructive contributions to the search for solutions to problems affecting farmers. Specifically, the role of the Federation is to:

- provide a forum in which world farm leaders can meet and exchange views in order to make recommendations for action to improve the farmers' overall situation;
- serve as the centre of a network for information exchange;
- act as a spokesman for the farmer at the international level; and
- promote the creation and strengthening of farmers' organizations throughout the world.

Activities

To fulfil these objectives, IFAP carries out the following activities:

Provision of a Forum for Farm Leaders of the World

Every two years the World Farmers' Congress, the General Conference of IFAP, brings together the farmers of the world to: examine the major problems facing agriculture worldwide, and jointly seek solutions to these problems; establish ties of friendship and solidarity among the farmers' organizations of the world; identify the priority actions of the Federation over the next two years; deal with constitution and membership questions; and elect the office-holders.

In addition, IFAP holds meetings on major issues, usually every six months, where members come together to work on a major issue; and specialized meetings of commodity groups, regional committees and other specialized committees.

Information Exchange

The IFAP Documentation and Information Service currently receives and analyzes more than 300 international periodicals from member organizations and other sources, covering such subjects as: agricultural policy, trade issues, commodity market trends and statistics, rural economy and sociology, farming systems, cooperatives, and other rural development issues. It also maintains and up-to-date collection of directories of agricultural information sources. A documentalist handles requests from member organizations and headquarters staff.
IFAP disseminates information to its members and others through several periodical publications including:

- **IFAP Monitoring**: regular short summaries of the conclusions of important international meetings, e.g. the meetings of the GATT Uruguay Round of multinational trade negotiations. For members only.

- **IFAP Newsletter**: a bi-monthly update on the activities of IFAP and its member organizations.

- **World Agriculture**: a magazine, issued at least three times a year, which focuses on the particular debates at a major IFAP event.

- **World Farmers’ Times**: bi-monthly magazine of the World Farmers’ Times Foundation in Zurich, Switzerland, edited by IFAP. It reviews and discusses agricultural issues worldwide.

- **Farming for Development**: specialized magazine serving farmers’ organizations in developing countries.

- **World Sugar Farmers’ News**: specialized newsletter of the World Association of Sugar Beet and Cane Growers.

In addition, IFAP publishes the proceedings of its General Conference and of specialized meetings and conferences, as well as Development Seminar Reports, which are reference bulletins outlining basic strategies for farmers' organizations based on papers and discussions at IFAP Seminars for farmers' organizations from developing countries. Themes covered include guidelines for: development projects, national agricultural pricing policies, commodity marketing, sustainable farming systems, and services of farmers organizations.

**Representation of Farmers**

IFAP maintains consultative relations and close working contact with the major intergovernmental organizations active in the field of agriculture and rural development. These contacts take the form of: regular high-level consultations; and collaboration at Secretariat level.

In addition to ECOSOC, the international governmental organizations with which IFAP works regularly include:

- World Bank
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
- International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
- World Food Programme (WFP)
- Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)
- FAO Economic Commission for Europe (ECE)
- General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT)
- International Labour Organization (ILO)
- UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED)
- Union for the Protection of Plant Variety Rights (UPOV)
- World Health Organization (WHO)
- World Meteorological Organization (WMO)
Strengthening Farmers’ Organizations

IFAP carries out a Development Programme to assist farmers' organizations to serve and represent their members more effectively at all levels, with a special emphasis on small farmers and women producers in developing countries. This is carried out through the regular sessions of committees specializing in development, workshops, consultative and training seminars, action research, secondment schemes, regional and country projects, international coordination of farmers' development efforts, and publications.

The specific approach of the programme is:

- Accountability to developing country farmers' organizations: Developing country farmers' organizations constitute approximately half of the IFAP membership. This means that the programme is accountable to them, in terms of its conception, policy and execution.

- Encouraging and facilitating initiatives: The main strength of the programme is the resources, skills and know-how present within the farmers' own international network, both in the north and the south. Its mobilization necessitates encouraging at all levels activities such as movement-to-movement cooperation, regional cooperation, and action research, while providing the necessary international coordination for their success.

- Emphasis on small farmers and women farmers: The main emphasis of the programme is on small farmers, men and women, who constitute the majority of farmers in the developing countries. Grassroots orientation of the programme is achieved through accountability of the programme to developing country farmers' organizations, its effective advocacy role for farmers' voice at all levels, and through its promotion of innovative grassroots projects.

- Complementarity and cooperation: The programme encourages complementarity and cooperation between farmers' organizations and other sectors and institutions, including other non-governmental organizations, technical bodies, and governmental/ intergovernmental institutions at all levels. This is with the understanding that the source of multiple interventions in the rural areas is in fact the multiplicity of needs and demands. Farmers' organizations must, therefore, act as a facilitator for the provision of effective rural services.
• Emphasis on farmers’ organizations in the development process: The programme advocates that agricultural and rural development in the developing countries can only take place when farmers are able to voice their opinions and take initiatives at all levels, through their representative organizations.

The programme uses a variety of activities to achieve its goals:

• Workshops and seminars: Organized at the regional and international levels, workshops and seminars aim to clarify farmers’ positions and views with respect to current agricultural developments. While they provide unique opportunities for exchange of ideas and experiences, they are also farmer decision-making forums.

• Consultation with regional and international organizations: Consultative meetings are organized between farmers’ and regional/international organizations, with the objective of conveying farmers’ stances and exploring possibilities for practical action. Farmers’ positions emerging from regular committee sessions, workshops and seminars are also regularly conveyed to appropriate international organizations.

• International coordination of farmers' development cooperation: IFAP has an important role in the further strengthening of farmers' movement-to-movement cooperation. This role involves the provision of international coordination, methodology and communication, as well as promoting and fostering healthy partnerships among farmers' organizations.

• Project support services: The programme undertakes project support work, at the regional or national levels, based on requests coming from IFAP members, and in collaboration with them. This includes launching of innovative pilot micro-projects.

• Enabling research by members for members: In order to make active and constructive contributions to the search for solutions to problems affecting farmers, the programme favours action research by members, mostly in the form of south-south study visits.

• Secondment schemes: The programme carries out secondment of young professionals from developing country farmers' organizations to the IFAP Secretariat for short periods for the purpose of training and international exposure.

• Analysis, policy guidelines and methodologies: An important part of the programme, these are regularly disseminated through background documents and publications.

**African Farmers and Agricultural Research**

At present, small farmers and women farmers get very little out of the significant investments that are being made in agricultural research. Most research results do not reach farmers, and research agendas often do not address the real needs of producers. Furthermore, farmers are excluded from the decision-making process in agricultural research and cannot provide the much needed constructive feedback within the present institutional arrangements.
The first-ever regional consultation between African farmers and agricultural researchers to tackle these issues was held in November 1991, in Ibadan, Nigeria, as a consultation between the IFAP African Regional Committee and the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture.

This event, which has already been termed as a "landmark in the history of agriculture in Africa" by the participating farmers' organizations, constituted a first step in a process of fundamental change in the agricultural research systems. Establishment of farmer representation and feedback mechanisms at all levels, is the key element for this change.

The consultation, called in to question many of the current practices, which are at present widely accepted and not questioned. African farmers did not support the idea of farmer-researcher relationship being confined to random contacts at grassroots level. According to the consultation: "Client orientation in agricultural research can only be achieved by the effective representation of farmers through farmers' organization structures at all levels".

One of the results of this extremely strategic meeting was the emergence of African farmers as an effective force in the agricultural research systems, enabling them to enter the policy debate for the first time, as an important group.

Developing country farmers' organizations have the potential for changing the present agricultural research and extension, and making it more accountable to farmers. The dynamism created by this event will be maintained until fundamental changes have occurred within the agricultural research and extension systems.

**Challenges of and Responses to Globalization and Trade Liberalization**

The challenges of trade liberalization were examined in an IFAP Development Seminar on "Diversification and Product Development: Challenge for Farmers' Organizations", held in April 1996. The following excerpts from the Seminar Report summarize IFAP's views on the challenges of globalization and trade liberalization:

The retreat of governments from their central role in agriculture has implied important changes in the day-to-day operations of farmers and farmers' organizations.

In the past, governments aimed to provide an environment of relative certainty, by announcing and often guaranteeing farm gate prices, by specifying conditions of the product they wanted to buy from farmers, and sometimes by imposing crops on them. In these circumstances, farmers' organizations depended on price and policy negotiations with governments as the principal instrument to increase farm incomes.

Circumstances faced by farmers in a liberalized market situation often imply the following:
• lack of reliable and timely information on prices and markets, which puts farmers in a weak bargaining situation vis-a-vis traders;

• price fluctuations with full impact going directly to farmers, without any intermediate "cushioning" mechanism;

• relatively low farm incomes, in comparison to substantial profits made by private sector companies in the upstream and downstream of agricultural production;

• necessity to extend operations beyond the farm gate, through farmer-owned business enterprises and cooperatives;

• vacuum left behind by retreat of governments, with a result that many essential economic services, e.g. marketing, may be missing in small-scale farming areas with poor infrastructure; and,

• difficulties of diversification as there may be no obvious alternatives to previous crops which may no longer be economically viable.

• In response to these challenges, the IFAP Seminar put forward the following policy recommendations:

Market transparency and access to markets needs to be achieved through:

• establishment of systems enabling circulation of reliable, accurate, timely market information, including briefing meetings, radio, newsletters, handbooks and electronic media by farmers' organizations themselves;

• relevant, adequate and timely gathering of data by governments and their appropriate diffusion;

• establishment of mechanisms which favour market transparency, e.g. commodity exchanges;

• establishment of competition rules and procedures coupled with access to affordable legal, financial and training services, including legal instruments in case of a breach of contract;

• possibility of independent recourse to checking of quality and quantity standards;

• establishment of coordination panels among potential competitors, e.g. with exporters; and

• establishment of commodity-specific coordination panels, bringing together all the actors involved in the totality of the commodity chain.
Relative protection of farmers from the full impact of price fluctuations can be achieved by governments by assisting farmers' organizations to devise systems of risk management while promoting a favourable macro-economic framework and stable exchange rate policies. Farm revenue can be increased by capturing more of the value-added beyond the farm gate through operations in the upstream and downstream of production, through farmer-owned business enterprises, such as farmers' cooperatives, farmers' business enterprises or specialized bodies and institutions. These activities and operations may include provision of agricultural and financial services, marketing, processing, distribution and exports, at times in partnership and cooperation with other sectors and institutions.

Whenever there is a vacuum, farmers and farmers' organizations can act directly, by making best use of available business opportunities both at the individual and organizational levels, as farmer enterprises and cooperatives. Farmers can also explore favourable financial arrangements which may enable the undertaking of such business initiatives, through the creation of their own banking institutions, better use of savings and collateral in credit arrangements.

Farmers need strong and viable organizations for economic success in the present environment.

**Positions and Views of IFAP on Key Issues Being Addressed by the World Food Summit**

At IFAP's 50th Anniversary World Farmers Congress in April 1996, a Farmers' Strategy for Agricultural Development and World Food Security was elaborated. The following excerpts from this statement present some of the positions and views of IFAP on key issues being addressed by the World Food Summit.

**Participation of Civil Society**

Today's challenges in food and agriculture can only be met through the involvement of farmers, fisherfolk and foresters in initiatives and decisions affecting their lives. Full and formal recognition needs to be accorded to farmers' representative organizations, from grassroots to the global level. They must be involved in decisions in the future shape of societies and their integration in the market systems in a fair and beneficial manner.

In the new strategy for agricultural development and food security, farmers and farmers' organizations must constitute a central component, linked to other sectors and institutions, acting in coordination with other farmers' organizations and institutions. Farmers must be able to master modern technology and institutional arrangements, operate in a favourable policy environment, and be endowed with adequate infrastructure.
Importance of Family Farming

Only through family farming and development of the micro-economy can agricultural and food production take on a human size, and be both a provider of food as well as of revenue, thereby providing a solution for the eradication of poverty and hunger. Family farming and small-scale agriculture needs to be enabled and encouraged, because of the following reasons:

- When family farming and small-scale agriculture is used as an engine of growth, increases in rural incomes enhance the effective demand for locally produced goods and services, thereby stimulating development in industry and the services sector.

- Increases in rural incomes are usually beneficial also for farmers worldwide as food imports usually increase in line with increases in purchasing power.

Only through family farming can the social tissue of rural communities be kept alive, and provide a natural alternative to the cities, thereby contributing towards the well-being of both urban and rural areas.

Structural Adjustment Programmes and Debt

The debt problem in developing countries has given rise to the application of structural adjustment programmes with its often devastating impact on family farming especially in resource poor areas and to the subsequent retreat of governments from agriculture.

Retreat of governmental involvement and of resources from agriculture since the 1980s was on a massive scale, provoking substantial qualitative and quantitative changes in this sector....

Today, within the context of economic liberalization and democratization, farmers' organizations including farmers' cooperatives are expected to take a much greater responsibility in farming activities, in the upstream and downstream of agricultural operations and in agricultural and rural development in general.

Important problems remain in this period of transition, especially in the small-scale sector. Many agricultural institutions serving the small-scale sector have been dismantled. Thus, small-scale farmers are faced with a vacuum, which they can only fill if they are able to organize themselves. Important resource and know-how issues also remain, especially in terms of availability of appropriate infrastructures and technologies....

Linkages with other Institutions and Sectors

In decentralized and democratic structures, effective working links, cooperation and coordination between different actors, sectors and institutions form the basis of sustainable development. This contrasts sharply with centralized decision-making systems and structures, where there is little need for such linkages.
Farmers' organizations including farmers' cooperatives need to establish intersectoral and inter-institutional linkages due to changes in the centralized models of government. These include linkages with other sectors such as finance, trade, industry and commerce, linkages with institutions servicing agriculture such as development institutions, research and extension as well as linkages with other civil society institutions such as trade unions, employers' associations as well as non-governmental organizations...

**Transfers of Technology and Institutional Know-How**

Structural adjustment and liberalization necessitate more than ever transfer of technology and institutional know-how to farmers. Farmers need to master the functioning of market economies. They need the most appropriate knowledge and know-how, including for instance, how to set up companies, how to market one's produce, how to establish credit systems. Farmers also need services and facilities for veterinary inspection, standards and quality control, patenting rights, effective customs and policing of trade rules, without which they cannot use the opportunities opened by GATT.

Farmers’ organizations and farmer-to-farmer cooperation can play a vital role in facilitating transfers of technology and know-how through exchange of information and ideas among farmers and farmers' organizations. Farmers' development cooperation is one of the most effective forms of development assistance for farmers, as farmers' organizations share similar working procedures and objectives. Such exchange and dialogue should also include economic cooperation, including direct marketing and encouragement of foreign investment by farmer enterprises...

**Infrastructural Issues**

Farmers cannot operate effectively in the absence of an adequate and appropriate infrastructural and regulatory framework. This problem is most visible in small-scale resource-poor areas, where the absence of basic infrastructure is a major impediment for economic survival of family farms and for food self-reliance.

**Favourable Policy Environment**

A favourable policy environment and good governance is essential for agricultural and rural development - in particular, a stable macro-economic environment at national, regional and global levels... For this purpose, promotion of peace and economic cooperation among nations, resolution of the debt problem, and fair trading practices as described in trade agreements must be considered high priorities.
Modalities for Cooperation at Various Levels

Coordination of the efforts of all actors in agricultural and rural development is essential for the achievement of world food self-reliance and for the eradication of poverty and hunger.

Partnership of farmers' organizations including farmers' cooperatives with governmental and intergovernmental organizations, as currently being carried out under IFAP's Worldwide Action for Strengthening Farmers' Organizations, is a vital component in the coordination of efforts. Many intergovernmental organizations and agencies, within the framework of their current activities, command relatively important resources and know-how. Many do not normally associate farmers' organizations with their activities, and do not yet possess a mechanism of consultation with small-scale farmers. Activities of intergovernmental organizations, in the field of agricultural and rural development, would be further strengthened if such linkages were established between intergovernmental institutions and farmers' organizations especially at the field level.

Proposals for the World Food Summit Policy Statement and Plan of Action

The International Federation of Agricultural Producers supports fully the initiative by FAO for a World Food Summit and wishes it every success. IFAP sees this Summit as a unique opportunity to redress the balance in favour of food and agriculture.

The draft declaration and plan of action is a good basic document. It captures many of the essential elements, especially in terms of infrastructure, technology and investment. However, it has one great weakness. It adopts a top-down approach in relation to farmers and ignores the contribution they can make through farmers' professional organizations and farmers' cooperatives.

With the World Food Summit, civil society is being called upon to take far greater responsibilities than they have done in the past. In agriculture, this means farmers and farmers' organizations relying on themselves and their own initiatives to produce and to market, to diversify and to store, to process and to apply new technologies. Governments are called upon to play an enabling role providing infrastructure, technology and investment especially for the small-scale sector which needs it the most.

Draft Policy Statement

IFAP is pleased to note that the revised text includes an acknowledgement of the role of farmers and farmers' organizations (Policy Statement Para. 7) and a number of references to farmers and agricultural producers in the draft Plan of Action.

However, there is an absence of specific and practical measures for encouraging and enabling farmers and farmers' organizations in their tasks. Today, small-scale farmers are often in difficulty, especially as vital agricultural and rural services were removed due to liberalization programmes. Farmer and farmers' organizations have to take up greater responsibilities in an innovative and productive manner, and Governments can encourage and enable them to do so.
An explicit and full commitment for farmers and farmers' organizations is, therefore, essential for making the World Food Summit text both meaningful, useful and complete. We therefore propose the following:

Para. 12. new point (v):

(v) We shall encourage and enable farmers and farmers' organizations, particularly family farmers and small holders, to take up greater responsibilities in food and agriculture.

Draft Plan of Action

Additions in line with the above commitment 12 new (v):

New Para, after Para 64.

Farmers, through their representative organizations, contribute significantly to the achievement of food security by making policy representation to Government on issues of food and agricultural development, by taking up greater self-help initiatives and entrepreneurial responsibilities including upstream and downstream of agricultural production, by establishing farmers' advisory, business and cooperative services, by establishing linkages at the operational level with governmental institutions and sectors which provide services to agriculture and rural areas and by strengthening farmers' development cooperation and solidarity at all levels.

Proposed draft for Commitment (New Five)

Commitment (New Five): We shall encourage and enable farmers and farmers' organizations, particularly family farmers and small holders, to take up greater responsibilities in food and agriculture

Objective new 5.1: We shall promote farmers' organizations within the framework of farmer-centred agricultural development.

Objective new 5.2: We shall encourage and enable farmers and farmers' organizations to take up greater responsibilities in the economic field.

Objective new 5.3: We shall promote farmers' development cooperation.
To achieve objective new 5.1

Governments and intergovernmental organizations will:
- accord formal recognition to farmers' organizations in all appropriate institutions and fora, at local, national, regional and international levels;
- promote a partnership of farmers' organizations with their respective governments and their linkage with institutions of trade and commerce, banking and credit, agricultural research and extension through regular consultations, representation of farmers' organizations on boards, exchanges of information, joint projects and undertakings.

To achieve objective new 5.2

Governments and intergovernmental organizations will:
- promote farmers' cooperatives and business undertakings as well as farmers' financial and mutual institutions;
- whenever appropriate and desirable, encourage and enable farmers' organizations to take over agricultural services and marketing functions previously run by the state.

To achieve objective new 5.3

Governments and intergovernmental organizations will:
- encourage greater cooperation and exchange among farmers and farmers' organizations of industrialized and developing countries and economies in transition;
- aim to channel at least 0.5 percent of official development assistance funds through farmers' organizations and farmers' development cooperation initiatives;
- promote transfer of technology, organizational skills and know-how through farmer-to-farmer cooperation.

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Fax 48 74 72 12
IFAP Member Organizations by Country

Algeria Union Nationale des Paysans Algeriens
Argentina Sociedad Rural Argentina
Australia National Farmers' Federation
Austria Austrian Committee for Agriculture and Forestry
Bangladesh Bangladesh Krishok Federation
Belgium Boerenbond Beige
Belize Belize Federation of Agricultural Cooperative Society
Brazil Confederacao Nacional de Agricultura
Bulgaria Bulgarian Confederation of Agriculture
Burkina Faso Comite de Gestion de l'UCOBAM
Canada Canadian Federation of Agriculture
Cote d'Ivoire Chambre d' Agriculture
Denmark Landbrugsraadet
Egypt Central Agricultural Co-operative Union
Egypt IFAP Egyptian National Committee
Fiji National Farmers' Union
Finland MTK
Finland Pellervo-Seura
France Assemblee Permanente des Chambres d'Agriculture
France Centre National des Jeunes Agriculteurs
France Confederation Francaise de la Cooperation Agricole
France Confederation Nationale de la Mutualite de la Cooperation et du C.A.
France Federation Nationale de la Mutualite Agricole
France Federation Nationale des Syndicats d'Exploitants Agricoles
France Federation Nationale du Credit Agricole
Germany Deutscher Bauernverband
Greece Panhellenic Confederation of Unions of Agricultural Cooperatives
Iceland Baendasamtok Islands
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THE VIA CAMPESINA

The Via Campesina is an international movement that coordinates organizations of peasants, small and medium-sized producers, agricultural workers and indigenous communities, and defends the basic interests of these sectors. It is an autonomous, pluralist movement, independent of any political, economic, or other type of attribution. It is composed of national, representative organizations, whose autonomy is deeply respected.

The Via Campesina was founded in Mons, Belgium in May 1993 and had its second conference in Tlaxcala, Mexico in April 1996. At this meeting, attended by representatives of 69 organizations from 37 countries, representing national and regional unions and federation of farmers and peasants, the Via Campesina adopted its internal regulations and established its operative secretariat in Honduras, which is also the coordinating point for Central America. The other Coordinating Committee members are located in Cuba (Caribbean Region), Belgium (Western Europe), Thailand (North East and South East Asia), India (South Asia), Brazil (South America), Canada (North America) and Poland (Eastern Europe).

The Via Campesina Conference is the highest-level decision-making body which will be convened once every three years. Participants are delegates from member organizations, forming the regional representations (called "the region"). Every region within the Via Campesina elects an organization to be represented in the international Coordinating Committee (CC) which consists at the moment of eight organizations.

Objectives

The primary goal of the Via Campesina is to develop solidarity and unity within the diversity of rural organizations, in order to promote:

- economic relationships that are equal and socially just;
- the defense of land;
- food sovereignty; and
- a sustainable and equitable agricultural production based on small and medium-sized producers.

Specifically, the Via Campesina calls for:
• The establishment of a framework for rural development, socially and ecologically sustainable, whereby ethics prevail over technology and human beings are in the centre of the process.

• Access to land and to credit for everybody; genuine agrarian reform that responds to the clamour for social justice and to the needs concerning food, the environment and the culture of each country.

• Improvement of services for health and education in rural areas, and a stop to the destruction of basic services on the land through the application of Structural Adjustment Programmes.

• Respect for the food sovereignty of every country or group of countries and the defense of production in every region, concerning the diversity of production as well as correct management of the land.
  • Free access to all genetic resources; a stop to patents on living beings.

• Respect for human rights: the right to organize and express oneself for popular movements. A stop to the repression against the farmers' movement. In many countries the influence of military forces and its costs should be decreased.
  • Fair international trade without dumping and fair payment for farmers' work.

• The incorporation in the price of commodities of all costs of production, that is to say the social, ecological and economic costs.

• Guaranteeing a level of public services in the rural areas that allow for adequate living conditions (health, education, transport, etc.).

• Guaranteeing access to credit under non-discriminatory conditions, favourable to small and medium-sized farmers, which is destined to food production and not exclusively to export crops.

• Democratization of information and the guarantee of direct and full participation of farmers' organizations in the process of policy formulation for the rural areas at national and international levels.

Activities
At its meeting in Tlaxcala in April 1996, the Via Campesina approved the following programme of activities:
• Articulate and strengthen regional organization, particularly in Asia and Africa.
• Develop appropriate regional responses to bilateral and regional trade agreements such as MERCOSUR, NAFTA, South East Asia, etc.
• Bring the Via Campesina objectives to the international arena of the Food and Agriculture Organizations (FAO) of the United Nations, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank, the World Trade Organization (WTO) and other international fora of the United Nations and the International Labour Organization (ILO).
• Build relationships of solidarity between Via Campesina member organizations.
• Promote women's networking within Via Campesina and its organizations.
• Build operational secretariats at the regional level.
• Implement mechanisms for internal and external communication that would facilitate the Via Campesina's ability to efficiently address emerging issues. These mechanisms will include a bimonthly newsletter and a press release process via the Internet.
• The coordinating committee will promote networking between different production sectors at the regional level and between regions.
• Promote initiatives which will contribute to the development of fair trade with direct participation of producers and consumers, beginning with an international anti-dumping campaign.
• Facilitate a "solidarity and response" network against violent acts against peasants and farmers, broadening the movement with the participation of diverse social actors.
• Campaign against the genetic patenting privatization process through the creation of farmer seed banks, legal initiatives guaranteeing genetic patrimony, and education on the dangers of bioprospecting.

Women's Participation in the Via Campesina

From its formation in 1993, the Via Campesina has been actively promoting the increased participation and representation of rural women and the further integration of indigenous peasant organizations, rural women's organizations as well as mixed (men and women) organizations within the Via Campesina. There have been some substantial achievements in this area which are reflected in the greater number of women leaders currently involved in this global peasant movement. However, clearly there is still much more work to be done to ensure the equal participation and representation of women at all levels of the Via Campesina.
During the second International Conference of the Via Campesina which was held in Tlaxcala, Mexico (April 1996), conference delegates spent a considerable amount of time investigating different structures, mechanisms, actions and policies aimed at increasing women's presence and profile within the Via Campesina. Delegates from different regions emphasized the differences in women's position and condition relative to men and examined the barriers to women's equal participation in farm organizations and their involvement in policy development.

In examining women's participation in peasant organizations, women appear to be very active at the local levels of peasant and farm organizations. As one moves beyond the community to the national and international arenas, women are less likely to be involved. The Via Campesina aims to alter this pattern and is taking concrete actions to integrate more women into the global peasant movement.

In Tlaxcala, Mexico, conference delegates approved the formation of a special committee, the Via Campesina Women's Working Group to:

• further examine the specific needs and concerns of women;
• ensure greater communication and coordination among women of the Via Campesina; and
• develop effective mechanisms to ensure greater participation and representation of women within the Via Campesina.

The first meeting of the Via Campesina Women's Working Group in August 1996 in El Salvador brought together representatives from Asia, Europe, the Caribbean, North America, Central America and South America to:

• establish the structure and nature of the Via Campesina Women's Working Group;
• develop a draft plan of action for the Via Campesina Women's Working Group that will be discussed within all eight regions of the Via Campesina;
• develop strategies and a plan of action to ensure the participation, representation and contribution of the Via Campesina women at the World Food Summit and its preparatory activities.

**Challenges of and Responses to Globalization and Trade Liberalization**

In regard to the GATT Agreement, the Via Campesina asked governments to not sign this agreement and, instead, to include in the Declaration of Marrakesh concrete measures to achieve the following goals:
Establish national or regional agricultural prices that cover all production costs and guarantee a fair remuneration for farm work.

Discontinue all economic, social and environmental dumping. All export subsidies should be abolished, wages and social conditions should be improved, and environmentally harmful production methods, especially practised by transnational corporations, should be forbidden.

Discontinue the patenting, granting of product or process rights on any living thing, genetic material, or any product derived from same.

Cease the liberalization of restrictions on foreign capital investment. Control of land and agricultural production by foreign corporations rather than farmers will have severe negative impacts on food security, and will increase the number of landless farmers by millions.

Stop the implementation of IMF-sponsored Structural Adjustment Programmes that destroy food production in many countries. Such programmes should be abolished and replaced by policies that support local development and food production.

Democratize world trade talks to include representation from farmers' organizations, in order to give farmers the possibility to be heard. The enormous and exclusive influence of the transnational corporations must be stopped.

Positions and Views on the Key Issues Being Addressed by the World Food Summit

The Tlaxcala Declaration (April 1996) of the Via Campesina expresses the movement's positions and views in regard to food security and related issues:

"Our response to the increasingly hostile environment for peasants and small farmers the world over is to collectively challenge those conditions. We are united in our rejection of the economic and political conditions which destroy our livelihoods, our communities, our cultures and our national environment. We are determined to create a rural economy which is based on respect for ourselves and the earth, on food sovereignty, and on fair trade.

"We are committed to ensuring rural development which recognizes and includes the important contribution women make in food production. We demand genuine agrarian reform which returns their territories to indigenous peoples and gives landless and farming people ownership and control of the land they work.

"Worldwide, the prevailing neo-liberal economic system has been the main cause for the increasing impoverishment of farmers and rural peoples in general. It is responsible for the increasing degradation of nature, land, water, plants, animals and natural resources, having put all these vital resources under the centralized systems of production, procurement and distribution of agricultural products within the frame of a global market oriented system."
"The economic system treats both nature and people as a means to an end with the sole aim of generating profits. The concentration of all this wealth in the hands of a small minority has created dramatic constraints on farmers throughout the world, pushing them to the brink of irredeemable extinction.

"Land, wealth and power in the hands of large land owners and transnational corporations unjustly denies peasants and farmers the possibility of controlling their own destinies.

"The policies of dumping, the endemic situation of poverty and marginalization, increased in the third world by foreign debt, are destroying the hope of millions. Serious social deficiencies and lack of basic services together with the oppression of ethnic minorities and indigenous populations aggravate situations of injustice and frustration. The prevalent and increasing incidence of racism in the rural world is unacceptable....

"We denounce the neo-liberal activities of the World Bank and the IMF whose Structural Adjustment policies continue to exact an unacceptably high price on the poor and rural people in many of our countries. These policies reduce the capacity of governments in developing nations to provide basic services. Instead of finding a lasting solution to the debt crisis those policies have only worsened the situation. Many of these debts are unpayable. The conference demands that these debts be written off and the destructive structural adjustment programmes be discontinued in favour of domestic self-sufficiency in rural development. International financial institutions must be democratized and made to serve the real needs of the majority of people.

"The conference deplores arrangements by multinational corporations to gain ownership of genetic material. The Via Campesina vigorously opposes this process....

"The Via Campesina is determined to influence the World Trade Organization in order to promote changes in the existing trade agreement. International trade agreements must take the interests of peasants and small farmers into full account."

**The World Food Summit**

The Tlaxcala Conference noted "that the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) is holding a World Food summit in November 1996... to solve the problem of millions of people who face the crisis of food shortages and malnutrition. No solution will be found for this without the active intervention of those who grow food...."

The Via Campesina intends to help bring the voices of peasants and small farmers to the World Food Summit and to participate in whatever ways possible, in cooperation with other civil society organizations, to working towards achieving the Via Campesina objectives.
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Fax: 91-80-3303271
C: COOPERATIVES

1. International Cooperative Alliance
Introduction

People's organizations play a crucial role in contributing to food security, sustainable agriculture and rural development. Agricultural producers (farmers, agricultural cooperatives and other farmer organizations) are the key to ensuring food availability. Consumer and workers' organizations are needed to ensure food distribution, and enterprises are needed to provide employment so as to allow the purchasing of food. The multifaceted character of food security requires actions at various levels, carried out in cooperation and partnership between governments and representative organizations such as cooperatives and other farmers' organizations.

Agricultural cooperatives constitute an important and significant force within the agricultural sector, responsible for an estimated US$ 452 billion worth of production in 1994. Agricultural cooperatives contribute to national self-reliance, with many producing the bulk of traditional and staple foods for domestic consumption. For example, farmers' cooperatives are responsible for 100 percent of the potato production in Panama, and 78 percent of maize and 59 percent of bean production in Nicaragua. Domestic rice production in Japan is predominately from agricultural cooperatives. In Burkina Faso, ten agricultural cooperatives produced 12 to 15 percent of the national rice requirement representing a savings on agricultural imports of nearly US$ 4 million. Agricultural cooperatives are also important providers of export crops: for example, the Danish Cooperative Movement exports 66 percent of its agricultural production; in Cote d'Ivoire, Cooperative Village Groups and cooperatives market 82 percent of the total cotton production, nearly 30 percent of cocoa and 20 percent of the coffee production for export. Agricultural supply and marketing cooperatives are also of major importance to a variety of countries: for example, in Niger, the Centre d'approvisionnement, a cooperative society, managed agricultural inputs amounting to US$ 1.6 million (1991); in Indonesia, 77 percent of fertilizer is marketed by cooperatives; in India milk cooperatives marketed agricultural produce worth almost US$ 2 million; and in Tunisia 60 percent of the milk production was marketed by cooperatives.

Consumer cooperatives also contribute to food security by making food available in urban as well as rural areas - food that is safe, high quality and also reasonably priced to ensure access by as many members of the society as possible.

Cooperatives in all sectors of economic activity contribute to one important factor in ensuring food security: income. As noted in the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development, cooperatives generate productive employment. One example comes from Cote d'Ivoire where it is estimated that cooperatives, especially agricultural cooperatives, have paid over US$ 1 million in salaries to employees.
Finally, cooperatives have, on their own initiative, recognized the importance of the food security issue. The Asian Agricultural Cooperative Top Leaders’ Conference organized by the Japanese agricultural movement held in November 1995 brought together Cooperative leaders in Asia to discuss the role of agricultural cooperatives and food security with particular attention to the Asia region. The Conference presented an appeal to the APEC Forum Meeting which notes that the cooperative form of business organization is widely used as a vehicle for small and medium-sized enterprise development, particularly in the agricultural sector. It further notes that agricultural cooperatives have played a vital role in generating food supplies for the increasing population. It calls on APEC members to "...encourage the development of cooperatives where appropriate, particularly in the agricultural sector".

Given the important role that the cooperative movement is playing in contributing to food security, the ICA has been present in the process leading up to the World Summit. Its membership is ideally placed to identify areas which require attention by governments in partnership with farmers and their organizations. If agricultural producers are to continue to increase yields and availability of food stuffs, issues such as infrastructure, including land tenure, access to credit, legislation, transport, energy, etc.; macroeconomic policies, such as structural adjustment and trade issues; and policy environments including political and economic stability, fair prices for agricultural products etc. must be addressed through regular dialogue and consultation at all levels, but most importantly between government and farmers and their organizations. People's organizations such as cooperatives and farmers' organizations must be included as an integral part of decision-making on the issues that effect their livelihoods, and global food security.

The International Cooperative Alliance (ICA)

The International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) is an independent, non-governmental organization (NGO) which unites, represents and serves cooperatives worldwide, in all sectors of activity. Nearly forty percent of its member organizations are active in the agricultural and fisheries sector as producers and suppliers of agricultural/fishery inputs and another 25 percent are involved in consumer activities. The ICA membership and indeed the cooperative movement as a whole has a vital role to play in contributing to food security.

A cooperative is an autonomous association of persons united voluntarily to meet their common economic, social, and cultural needs and aspirations through a jointly-owned and democratically-controlled enterprise. Cooperatives are based on the values of self-help, self-responsibility, democracy, equality, equity, and solidarity. In the tradition of their founders, cooperative members believe in the ethical values of honesty, openness, social responsibility, and caring for others. In addition, they also adhere to principles which are guidelines by which cooperatives put their values into practice. These include the principles of voluntary and open membership; democratic member control; member economic participation; autonomy and independence; education, training and information; cooperation among cooperatives; and concern for community.
The ICA was founded in London in 1895 and is presently headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland. Its members are national and international cooperative organizations in all sectors of activity including agriculture, banking, energy, industry, insurance, fisheries, housing, tourism and consumers. ICA has more than 220 member organizations from over 90 countries in Africa, the Americas, Asia/Pacific and Europe, representing more than 760 million individuals worldwide (see Table 1).
Table 1: Individual Membership by Region, September 1995

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<th>Region</th>
<th>Organizations</th>
<th>Countries</th>
<th>Individuals</th>
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<td>753 819 715</td>
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<td>Asia and the Pacific</td>
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International Organizations (February 1995)

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<td>Consuminter</td>
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<tr>
<td>Confederacion Latinoamericana de Cooperativas y Mutuales de Trabajadores (COLACOT)</td>
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<td>Organization de Cooperativas de America</td>
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<td>International Cooperative Petroleum Association</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Council of Credit Unions</td>
<td>95 295 737</td>
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</table>

Note that in 1996, ICA requested its membership to provide gender disaggregated statistics on membership and employees.

1996 Statistics in Preparation
Objectives

The major objective of the ICA is to promote and strengthen autonomous cooperatives throughout the world. Through actions taken at the international, regional and national levels, the ICA also seeks to promote and protect cooperative values and principles; facilitate the development of economic and other mutually beneficial relations between its member organizations; and further the economic and social progress of its members and their communities.

Activities

In order to achieve its aims, the ICA organizes international, regional and sectorial meetings, thus serving as a forum for the exchange of experience and information among its vast membership. Its collection of information on all facets of cooperative development are provided to members and other organizations involved with cooperatives. The ICA has a documentation centre and produces publications on specialized topics, as well as periodicals, including the ICA's official journals, *Review of International Cooperation* and *ICA News*. It also disseminates information via the Internet. ICA has a gopher server on cooperatives jointly with the University of Wisconsin as its own Web site which can be accessed on the World Wide Web.

Through its Headquarters and Regional Offices, the ICA provides technical assistance for cooperative development in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and Eastern and Central Europe. The focus of the ICA cooperative development programmes, based on the expressed priorities of its members, is:

- institution building, human resource development, women's integration, strategic planning;
- influencing Governments in order to create favourable environments for cooperative development, including organizing regional-level ministerial conferences to sensitize government leaders on the role of cooperatives;
- networking and promoting the exchange of experience and movement-to-movement assistance; and
- mobilizing financial resources for cooperative development.

ICA also creates specialized bodies to address technical issues in specific economic and social sectors. For example, the International Agricultural Cooperative Organization brings together agricultural cooperatives to exchange experience on technical issues and also promote the establishment of agricultural cooperatives in developing countries in order to meet food production requirements, to improve the distribution of agricultural products, and to promote sustainable agricultural development.
The ICA collaborates with the United Nations, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and other specialized agencies, and non-governmental organizations with similar aims, such as the International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP).

**ICA Mandates on Food Security**

In 1995, at the ICA Centennial Congress in Manchester, ICA member organizations committed themselves to promoting sustainable development and adopted guidelines for action. Cooperative Agenda 21 identifies on a sectoral basis objectives and methods for promoting sustainable development; assuring food security; promoting the conservation of plant and animal genetic resources; and promoting land and water conservation by:

- promoting agricultural cooperatives which are attentive to environmental necessities;
- Increasing on-farm inputs and promoting integrated farm management technologies including crop rotation, organic fertilizers, etc.;
- reducing and/or rationalizing external inputs such as fertilizers, pesticides, energy consumption by undertaking research to develop pest resistant crops; and ascertaining and evaluating application of indigenous methods to pest/disease control;
- evaluating harvesting, storage and distribution methods to reduce waste;
- providing education and training to cooperative members through the organization of seminars, symposia and other meetings in areas such as: general environment education; soil conservation, erosion control; and appropriate use of pesticides and chemical fertilizers;
- influencing government in such areas as: trade liberalization including GATT/WTO; pricing policies for agricultural produce; access and provision of agricultural credit, especially as regards women farmers;
- strengthening ties with other agricultural producer organizations such as the International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP) which have technical committees examining environmental questions and international multinational organizations dealing with agricultural questions, such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

**Examples of ICA Activities to Promote Food Security**

**Global**

The ICA Fisheries Committee implements a global Training Project for Leaders of Fisheries Cooperatives with the financial support of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry of the Government of Japan. The programme trains fishery cooperative leaders to improve the efficiency of their cooperatives through technical training on fish capture techniques, to prevent waste and spoilage, processing and marketing, and awareness building on issues such as appropriate technology, sustainable fisheries, and export trade.
Two seminars are held yearly and have addressed issues such as:

- **Czech Republic**: Development of Fish Farming
- **Chile**: Improvement of the Standard of Living of Artisanal Fishermen (Sustainable Fishery Development)
- **Costa Rica**: Restructuring Fishery Cooperatives in Central America
- **Hungary**: Development of Cooperation, Production and Marketing in Fisheries and Fish Production Related Cooperatives
- **India**: Empowering Women through Fishery Cooperatives
- **Malaysia**: Promotion of the Development of Fishery Cooperatives: Prawn Breeding and Technology
- **Vietnam**: Sustainable Development and Conservation of Fishery Resources

Seminars have also been held in Bangladesh, Colombia, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Philippines and Thailand.

Each of these seminars contributed to improving the food security of communities. Some have focused on increasing domestic availability of fishery products while others have focused on export.

**Africa**

The ICA Regional Office for West Africa (ROWA) located in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire, has been the most active within the ICA structure in implementing activities contributing to food security at the local and national level. Membership in the region is primarily agricultural with eleven of the fourteen member organizations being agricultural unions or federations. Other sectors include savings and credit, health, and training and education.

The support provided by ROWA to the emergence of new apex cooperative organizations is one important contribution to food security. Two examples are:

- **Cape Verde**: Since 1990, ROWA has been assisting the Federation of Consumer Cooperatives FENACOOP in Cape Verde. The services provided by FENACOOP benefit nearly 30 percent of the population with the majority located in rural areas. FENACOOP makes agricultural inputs available (fertilizer and seeds) in rural areas and during famine and natural disasters has been used to channel food aid.

- **Cote d'Ivoire**: The two regional agricultural unions have been provided assistance to establish an apex organization. Together they group 827,395 small farmers and have been active and significant actors in the negotiation of fertilizer purchasing and sale.
ROWA also provides assistance for the consolidation of cooperative organizations through the development of human resources. All fourteen member organizations have benefited from the programmes. Since 1990, over 5,300 cooperators have participated in the training programmes and study trips organized with the support of ROWA which have had positive impacts on trade, improved management capacity and efficiency, reduction of agricultural losses, and higher levels of revenue for the cooperatives and their individual members. Training programmes focused on issues such as food production and processing, agricultural liberalization and the resulting challenges and risks to cooperatives.

The participation of women in cooperatives has also been addressed by ROWA as a means to improve their economic situation and contribution to food security. The programme undertaken supports and facilitates the participation of women in cooperatives through the funding of training (management, organization, equipment maintenance) and income-generating activities through micro-investments; savings and guarantee funds for credit, etc. Examples of the activities implemented include:

- **Senegal**: Sixty-five leaders from 13 women's groups of the Cooperative Union of Senegal (UNCAS) who are involved in the production and marketing of horticultural products have been provided training, enabling them to form small savings and credit cooperatives. Approximately 380 rural women have benefited from the project. Access to credit has enabled rural women to buy agricultural inputs. Training provided by ROWA assistance has also included information on nutrition and child health.

- **Benin**: The programme in Benin consists of providing access to small credit for village market women (US$ 20) through the Federation des Caisses de Credit Agricole FECECAM. The revolving fund began in 1994 with US$ 4,000 to assist 200 women. Today the revolving loan fund stands at US$ 95,800 and is providing access to credit to nearly 1,700 women. Approximately 90 percent of the women use the credit to buy and sell food crops at village level.

- **Burkina Faso**: The ROWA programme provided the Tanlili women's group with a cereal mill and training. Not only did the mill alleviate their work burden, it allowed them to sell their production and build up savings which were deposited in the Caisse Populaire of Cissin. The Caisse then provided small loans to women for small-scale trade of food crops. Similar initiatives have also been taken in Niger and Senegal.

In addition, ROWA has collaborated regularly with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) on a number of initiatives which have had impacts on improving food security. These include:

- **1990**: ROWA/FAO Study to identify and analyze the production, processing and marketing potential of women’s groups in the foodstuff sector in Cote d'Ivoire.

- **1991**: ROWA/FAO/DSE Case studies in Guinea (Conakry), Cote d'Ivoire, Benin and Niger to assess the cooperative movement and other rural organizations in order to determine whether the Appropriate System of Management for Small Farmers’ Cooperatives (AMSAC) could be applicable.
• 1992: Follow-up to 1991 case studies. ROWA/FAO Regional Workshop on Prospects of Assistance to Cooperatives and Other Rural Organizations in West Africa based on the AMSAC Approach (Abidjan).

• ROWA/FAO Study to analyze and identify appropriate strategy to promote rural cooperatives for small farmers in West Africa.

• 1994: FAO contracted ROWA as consultant to analyze the situation of farmers' organizations in Guinea (Conakry) and identify a possible government support strategy. This led to the elaboration of a policy document, training programmes and the drafting of terms of reference for new cooperative legislation.


**Americas**

The ICA Regional Office for the Americas (ROAM) has focused on the following priority areas as identified by their membership: business opportunities including trade facilitation and the formation of strategic alliances between cooperatives; human resource development including gender; and cooperative values and principles.

The activities under the business component of the programme contribute to improving the managerial and operational efficiency of cooperatives and thus to their ability to produce, process and market their products. The effects of structural adjustment programmes and liberalization policies are presented as opportunities for cooperatives, underlining the need for increased performance and new productive capacities (the "reconversion programme"). Under the strategic planning component of the programme, cooperatives are trained to analyze their internal operations and are familiarized with a variety of innovative management and marketing techniques. Seminars were held for cooperatives in all sectors of activity with emphasis on agricultural, fisheries and industrial cooperatives.

A series of publications "Doing Business with Cooperatives" are being prepared by ROAM. These provide information by country on the status of cooperatives and the opportunities for trade and mutual collaboration. Each of the publications includes a review of the agricultural cooperative sector highlighting both strengths and weaknesses, with examples of how agricultural cooperatives have responded to new challenges. One example is the building of "strategic alliances" between agricultural cooperatives:

• El Salvador: Sixty-seven coffee growing cooperatives in El Salvador and thirty-one Honduran palm oil processing cooperatives joined together to form a cooperative association to energize regional trade. The organic coffee produced by the Salvadorean cooperatives and the other agro-industrial products will be marketed by the Honduran cooperative structures and vice-versa, lard, margarine, oil and by-products for industrial use will be marketed in El Salvador.
Studies have been completed for Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua, and Uruguay with the financial assistance of the Swedish Cooperative Centre (SCC) and the Societe de Developpement International Desjardins (DID). It is expected that further studies will be prepared for Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador, Honduras, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, and Venezuela.

Collaboration with FAO in 1990 and 1992 included an ICA/FAO survey of agricultural cooperatives in Central America on which the present programme for agricultural cooperative competitiveness has been built and expanded.

ROAM has also implemented a gender programme which today is incorporated with the Human Resource Development (HRD) Programme. In the early nineties, the Gender Programme worked to integrate women into existing cooperatives and promote new cooperatives which would better serve the needs of rural women. Revolving loans were established to assist rural women establish income-generating activities. One example of the activities supported by the project was in a rural indigenous community in Guatemala. Women were able to obtain access to credit to allow them to start up a cooperative producing poultry which are marketed at a nearby local market. The programme has also focused on the need to integrate women in cooperatives in order to make them more competitive, i.e. to fully use the expertise that women can bring to agricultural, fisheries and consumer cooperatives, in particular.

Today the HRD programme assists cooperatives in the region take advantage of the opportunities presented by the liberalized economy. Emphasis is placed on information and training, especially market information and such tools as the Internet which can assist cooperatives to become more competitive and meet local, national and international needs.

Asia/Pacific

The ICA Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP) located in New Delhi, India, implements an Agricultural Cooperative Development Project which aims to promote new and strengthen existing agricultural cooperatives through management training, development of agro-processing and marketing systems; to facilitate exchange of experience especially appropriate technology; and to strengthen trade and information systems. The project is funded by ICA member organizations in the region with the assistance of the Swedish Cooperative Centre (SCC).

Project activities include regional seminars targeted at cooperative leaders and managers and aimed at improving the performance of agricultural cooperatives in the region. The regional seminars have addressed issues of development strategies, farm inputs, credit and banking, agricultural cooperative marketing, agro-processing, livestock marketing, and trade facilitation.
Other training initiatives in which ROAP is involved include the joint ICA ROAP/IDACA training programmes for cooperative leaders and managers, held at the Institute for the Development of Agricultural Cooperatives in Asia established in 1974 by the Central Union of Agricultural Cooperatives of Japan (JA ZENCHU).

The ICA ROAP has also implemented a training programme for agricultural cooperative leaders with the financial assistance of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry of the Government of Japan. The programme which began in 1986 has trained 15 cooperative leaders yearly in intensive six month courses. The Training Programme for Rural Women Leaders was initiated in 1991 and trains six women leaders from agricultural cooperatives on a yearly basis. Both programmes focus on management skills to improve efficiency and include study visits to agricultural cooperatives in the region.

**Positions and Views of the ICA on the Key Issues Being Addressed by the World Food Summit**

The Plan of Action focuses on the variety and multi-faceted character of food security. It identifies actions that governments, international organizations and civil society must take in order to ensure food security. However, it fails to adequately recognize the advances made by the agricultural sector in the past twenty years. According to the FAO publication, *World Agriculture: Towards 2010*, in the 1960s the world's hungry was estimated at 950 million people. Today, despite the doubling of the world's population, we are faced with 800 million people who are suffering from hunger. Agricultural producers have responded to the challenge and will continue to do so to continue to reduce the intolerably high number of people still faced with insufficient food. Production must increase but, more importantly, distribution systems, policies controlling trade and agricultural development must also meet the demands of increased production.

For this reason the cooperative movement must stress that all actions taken to combat food insecurity and undernutrition require the participation of farmers, cooperatives and other farmers' organizations. Given their fundamental role in food security, farmers, cooperatives and other farmers' organizations must be mentioned in the text of the Draft Plan of Action to Achieve Universal Food Security.

**Proposals for the World Food Summit Policy Statement and Plan of Action**

In order for the Draft Policy Statement and Plan of Action (revision 1) to recognize more clearly the role of cooperatives, the following specific references should be included:
Draft Policy Statement

para 7 We acknowledge the fundamental role of farmers and farmers' organizations including cooperatives in the attainment of food security...

Draft Plan of Action

para 39...governments, food producers' associations including cooperatives, and international organizations...

para 41 Governments, in cooperation with rural institutions, cooperatives, and the private sector and with the support of international organizations will:

para 51... in cooperation with the private sector and NGOs, producers, their representatives including cooperatives and processors:

Too often specific mention to cooperatives is not made, although they are understood to fall under references made to NGOs, private sector, farmers' organizations, or food producers. This makes implementation and follow-up more difficult as interpretation by governments and international organizations can differ. It is for this reason that the ICA proposes the above mentioned references.

Modalities for Cooperation in the Implementation of the World Food Summit

The international cooperative movement is committed to contributing to food security and combating undernutrition. It can contribute at the policy level by increasing the understanding of food security issues within the context of cooperative development. Topics on food security issues can, for example, be included in the Ministerial Conferences which the ICA organizes in Africa and Asia/Pacific.

At the technical level, the ICA through its regional offices can increase its activities in strengthening the cooperative movement so as to provide not only increased production and better distribution of food stuffs, but also increase the income of rural communities through the participation in cooperatives. It is open to expanding collaboration with the FAO as well as other partners to increase its scope and level of activity in all regions.

As a network of cooperative organizations worldwide, it can assist in identifying partners for national and local-level implementation of the recommendations adopted at the World Food Summit. Since governments will likely commit themselves to cooperating in partnerships with farmers, and their representative organizations which include cooperatives, the ICA can facilitate this contact and collaboration.
Conclusion

Food security must be part of a global process involving both political and financial initiatives. It requires technical and educational actions and must be integrated into operational, coherent and innovative strategies. Food security can only be achieved if governments work with people's organizations – farmers, cooperatives and other farmer organizations. The cooperative movement is willing to form partnerships in order to better ensure food availability for all.

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D: RURAL DEVELOPMENT /ADVOCACY ORGANIZATIONS

1. Socio-Economic Development Organization of Cambodia (SEDOC)
2. Project Development Institute (PDI), Philippines
3. Asociacion de Investigation y Estudios Sociales (ASIES), Guatemala
SEDOC was initiated on 12 August 1991 at Site 2-Sanro Camp at the Cambodian-Thailand border. The temporary committee, formed on 25 April 1992 in the capital city of Phnom Penh, elected the Permanent Executive Committee on 24 October 1992. SEDOC was officially recognized and permitted by King Norodom Sihanouk on 23 March 1993. It was registered as an NGO with the office of associations of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) on 3 June 1993 and registered with the Ministry of Interior in November 1994.

SEDOC is a local non-governmental organization (NGO), serving people at the grassroot level throughout the country in cooperation with national and international agencies, UN agencies, embassies, religious agencies and community people. SEDOC also works in partnership with ministries, such as the Ministries of Environment, Agriculture and Rural Development.

Our main purpose is to serve poor people living in rural areas and the urban poor in the whole country. We are trying to enable these people to overcome their impoverished situation, to reach self-reliance, self-management and especially self-sufficiency in food security all of the time. A significant part of this work includes helping small farmers to organize themselves and form their own representative associations.

From 1 April 1993 to 31 May 1996, SEDOC has assisted 7 408 families in eight provinces with development projects especially in the field of agriculture and food security.

Present Situation of Cambodia

Cambodia was a rice exporting country before 1970. From 18 March 1970 to the peace agreement dated 23 October 1991, Cambodia was in a state of war. From the time of the peace agreement until the general elections on 23-24 October 1993, there was a stop to the fighting, but in early 1994, the Khmer Rouge guerillas resumed fighting. The fighting is still going on, but with the recent cessation of hostilities on the part of half of the Khmer Rouge, there is hope that the problem can be solved in the near future. However, due to the presence of 3 000 to 5 000 guerrilla fighters on the border with Thailand and the large number of land mines remaining from the war, many places in the country are still not 100 percent safe.

In 1995, the total population was officially estimated to be 10.2 million with a population growth rate of 2.8%. The total rice cultivation area was 2 million ha and total rice production was 3.3 million tons. At present, the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) plans to export 120 000 tons of rice.
The economy has stabilized and the GDP is growing at 7% per year, a major improvement from 2.8% in 1990. Per capita income is still low, making Cambodia one of the very lowest income countries in the region and in the world. However, per capita income increased from USD 119 in 1990 to USD 286 in 1995, while the inflation rate decreased from 151% in 1990 to 3.5% in 1995.

In the four year period, 1992-96, only 10.7% of total aid, or USD 147 million, was allocated to rural development by the Government. However, many NGOs are trying to participate in the rehabilitation and development of our war torn country.

**Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)**

There are about 180 international agencies including NGOs, UN agencies, international organizations and religious organizations working in Cambodia in the different fields of urban and rural development: environment, health, education, irrigation, agriculture, credit, religion, elderly, etc.

Many of them are implementing agencies and some of them are both implementing and funding agencies. Very few of them work through local NGOs, and when they do fund them the amounts are usually small (less than ten thousand dollars per project). These international agencies prefer to work in or close to cities.

There are about 151 local NGOs, the majority of which are working in the countryside. Of these, about 10 are big organizations, 30-40 medium-sized and the rest are small. The small NGOs do not receive outside financial support and thus some do not have the capacity to run large-scale projects at the provincial, district and commune levels. The small NGOs usually work at the village level, although the big and medium NGOs also serve at village level.

**Factors Affecting Food Security**

In order to solve the problems of food insecurity and plan ways to improve food security, we must identify the roots causes of food shortages.

SEDOC has identified the following factors contributing to both community and household food insecurity:

- Natural disasters such as cyclones, typhoons, earthquakes and flooding.
- Limitations of infrastructure which isolate one country from another and hamper assistance and relief in cases of food insecurity and other problems.
• Lack of education and skilled human resources. Poverty reduction is directly related to human resources. Therefore, education and skills training have an important role to play.

• Other factors which affect the food situation are trade, human health, access to services, natural resources management, armed conflict, soil fertility, lack of land ownership, poor skills, outside pressure and intervention, and political policy in the area of the economy.

These are only examples. The key point is that the achievement of food security requires the identification of the root causes of food insecurity.

**Objectives: Sustainable Ways to Food Security**

SEDOC aims to create sustainable paths to solve the problems of food insecurity. Its projects and activities, therefore, are based on the empowerment and organization of people for self-reliance. This includes projects which deal directly with food such as the formation of rice banks and agricultural cooperatives, and interventions in the areas of extension, food processing, storage, food distribution, and credit.

Projects indirectly related to improving food security include: repairing infrastructure, irrigation, construction of secondary roads and ponds, digging canals, repairing water reservoirs, reforestation, natural resource conservation, agribusiness, and lobby and advocacy work.

**Activities**

**Agricultural Intervention**

SEDOC is implementing an Agricultural Intervention Project in Takeo Province. This project provides for the use of tractors, rice threshing machines, water pump machines, and a rice mill by 2,203 families in one commune. The people pay only for the fuel or gasoline during their use of these machines.

Before this project was started, the people had to hire the machines from the rich families or traders who charged excessively high prices. Moreover, the farmers had to sell their produce at low prices to the traders, causing a cycle of poverty.

**Rice Banks**

From 1993 to 1996 about 270 rice banks have been established in all 21 provinces of Cambodia through the efforts of NGOs and UN field units. About 10,000 families are members of the rice banks. Participation is high because it does not require a high level of skills or technology.
Rice banks are key to protecting poor people from the exploitation of rice lenders, because village rice banks charge only 30% interest per season, whereas traders and rice lenders charge 100 to 300% per season. Rice banks are built by the people in the community, especially the poor, with support from NGOs.

Rice banks promote mutual assistance and solidarity, especially since they are managed by the people themselves to protect themselves from outside exploitation and overcome their impoverishment. Rice banks also stabilize the food situation.

Difficulties are usually faced in the first year which involves the forming of the community, defining the role of the community, and building the rice capital. Once the people have understood the roles and have become well involved, rice banks usually become easy to manage, and successful from the second or third year.

**Agricultural Cooperatives**

As part of promoting food security, SEDOC is encouraging the formation of cooperatives among marginal and small cultivators. The utility and feasibility of this institutional form, the process of its formation and the method of its multiplication, slowly emerge out of the rice banks.

The approach is simple: in a village with a population of about 1,000 people or 200 families, the cooperative will try to reach and organize the poor into small activity groups, linked together in an assembly of all the participants, and coordinate supplies, services, marketing and credit.

In this field, SEDOC provides two services: 1) loans to poor families; 2) agribusiness.

Money lenders or traders charge 10 to 30% interest on loans, which has pushed poor people deeper into poverty. SEDOC charges 3 to 5% interest which relieves them from exploitation by money lenders.

In the area of agribusiness, SEDOC buys agricultural products from the farmers at a higher price compared to traders, and sells products at a lower price than traders, thus relieving poor families from the great exploitation they have experienced at the hands of traders who make a profit of 50 to 200% on the original price of goods. In contrast, SEDOC makes a profit of 10 to 20% on the original price of goods. Moreover, before selling inputs, such as fertilizers and pesticides to the farmers, SEDOC trains them in their proper use and in how to avoid negative effects.

The cooperatives thus also help the farmers to save their income for food consumption, encourage solidarity among the members, strengthen the community so that it can protect itself from outside domination, build cohesion and maintain security.
Agricultural Mobilization

This is a new aspect of the work which involves basic agricultural techniques training, food processing and storage, construction and repair of infrastructure, and food distribution including food markets. Lack of funding is still an obstacle to carrying out this project.

Human Resource Development and Empowering People and Communities

Before developing economic resources, it is necessary to develop human resources. Without this, the people do not understand how to develop their economy, how to participate in economic activities or what development is. Because of the recent history of Cambodia, people think that development is humanitarian organizations giving them money and free aid and that organizations such as NGOs will solve all their problems.

SEDOC has tried to run its sustainable development projects for a little more than one year and then delegate the projects to the people and empower them to manage it themselves. However, we have found that it takes at least three to five years to train the village development committee to manage the projects well by themselves.

It is necessary to empower the people, because we cannot assist them forever. We can only run projects for a limited time. For example, if we dig a pond for the villagers, the villagers themselves have to form the village committee to take care of the pond for their present needs and for the future needs of their children. If we run a credit or rice bank project, we have to mobilize people to join with us so that, through their participation, we will learn their needs, the general situation and how to solve the problem successfully.

Participation by all the various groups and community people in any country is necessary for the establishment of priorities, especially to meet their own needs. This will ensure that the priorities selected are really relevant and the programmes are sustainable. Recent experiences have shown that only programmes in which the communities feel involved are likely to be successful.

A good approach to this would be to work with communities through local NGOs. The experiences of SEDOC in Cambodia over the last four years give clear evidence that Village Development Committees (VDCs), when properly trained, motivated and encouraged, can make a positive contribution to multi-sectoral activities at the grassroots level.

Modalities for Future Cooperation

FAO-NGO Cooperation

FAO should have strong cooperative relations with NGOs all over the world. FAO often carries out its projects in many countries by itself. A better way would be for FAO to cooperate with or run projects through local NGOs, because local NGOs stay in their countries forever, and they know the whole situation in these countries.
FAO could also fund NGO projects or at least advise NGOs on how to get funds for their projects and recommend active NGOs to donors.

**FAQ-GO Cooperation**

FAO has been cooperating with Government Organizations (GOs) in implementing projects for a long time. It is necessary to deal with governments in regard to big projects at the national level. However, medium-sized and small projects could be carried out with local NGOs. In some countries, governments work slowly, waste time, have problems with corruption and many layers of bureaucracy which negatively affect the cooperation. In such situations, FAO should look to NGOs for cooperation.

**FAO-NGO-GO Cooperation**

In certain cases, FAO should consider projects that are implemented in a multilateral form by FAO, GOs and NGOs. In some countries, governments strictly and directly control NGOs. FAO-NGO-GO cooperation can assist in relieving outside pressure on NGOs and encourage GOs and NGOs to work together.

**NGO-GO and NGO-NGO Cooperation**

FAO can play a key role as an intermediary in encouraging NGO-GO and NGO-NGO cooperation. Since FAO has a very good relationship with governments, it can advise governments to work with local NGOs through funding or technical training. FAO can also advise international NGOs to cooperate with local NGOs in food security projects. Many local NGOs do not know how to contact the outside donor or international institutions that FAO is in contact with. Therefore, FAO can play a role in enabling all agencies to work together to solve the problems of food security and food stabilization in the world.

**Implementation of the World Food Summit Plan of Action**

NGOs, such as SEDOC, have much to contribute to finding sustainable ways to food security through activities such as the rice banks, agricultural cooperatives, agricultural mobilization, multi-sectoral cooperation and intervention, and especially through the empowerment of people and communities and human resource development which can help people to increase their rice and other food production and thus relieve food shortages.
FAO needs to look beyond cooperation with governments only and increase its cooperation with NGOs which are working to solve the problems of food insecurity.

SEDOC would like to cooperate in implementing the World Food Summit Plan of Action through the type of activities described above and through closer relationships with FAO. Divisions, such as the Rural Development Division, which are involved in rural development planning in different countries should be encouraged to cooperate with and delegate some activities to NGOs in implementing these plans.

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THE PROJECT DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE (PDI)

The Project Development Institute (PDI) is a non-governmental development organization in the Philippines, working for genuine agrarian reform and alternative rural development strategies through participatory methods. Its vision is the establishment of viable, sustainable and self-reliant communities through people empowerment. PDI has been working at the grassroots level since 1989 but was formally established in April 1991. At present, PDI is working with farmers' groups in Central Luzon and doing advocacy work at the national level. It is currently initiating an alternative marketing and trading scheme that directly links the rural cooperatives of Central Luzon to the urban cooperatives.

Objectives

1. To strengthen the capabilities of people's organizations in agrarian reform and rural development initiatives.

2. To provide a package of services in project development and related areas to NGOs, people's organizations (POs) and other institutions to further strengthen their organizations, upgrade skills and broaden service packages.

3. To develop community-based comprehensive development programmes using participatory methods in pursuit of genuine agrarian reform.

4. To undertake programme implementation and management in selected areas.

5. To conscientize other sectors of society, specifically intellectuals and professionals in the process of realizing genuine agrarian reform and rural development.

Mandates of the Project Development Institute on Food Security

PDI is mandated to help agrarian communities be self-reliant through participatory processes. The rural poor can only be self-reliant if they are food secure at the household level. Food security is the product of an adequate supply of food (food production) and free access to it (food distribution).

In the Philippines, food insecurity is brought about by two structural factors: landlessness and very weak control over production. Agribusiness capitalists control decision-making in food production and thereby wield economic power, while our farmers work only as food producers. In this situation, agrarian reform becomes the fundamental ingredient in making rural communities self-reliant. It is the center of PDI's work.
Food security can only be achieved if the very producers of food are themselves food secure. This can be achieved if the farmers control the means of production. Support for small farmers, sustainable agriculture and land reform are therefore the essential elements in realizing food security. Only sustainable agriculture has the potential to feed the country's poor in the long term. PDI concentrates on supporting the rural poor achieve food security.

**Integrated Approach to Participatory Development: Approach Used by PDI in Responding to the Food Security Problem**

A. **ENVIRONMENTAL SCANNING AND ANALYSIS.** Realizing the gravity of the problem, PDI did not focus on a piecemeal approach. Rather, it conducted a thorough environmental scanning and analysis, examining the needs and problems of the majority of the rural poor in the Philippines, where farmers comprise more than 70 percent of the population. The government says 60 percent of poor peasants rely on subsistence farming.

1. Majority of the farmers and farm workers in the Philippines do not own the land they till or do not have titles to the land they occupy. Land is the property of whoever possesses the title.

Tens of thousands of hectares of prime agricultural lands in the provinces of Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon have been converted for "industrial" uses.

2. About 48 percent of the rural labor force have no jobs or are underemployed. About half of rural families remain poor, and 85 percent of the farmers and farm workers do not own the land they till or do not have titles to the lands they occupy. (Ibon Facts and Figures, Oct. 15, 1994)

3. HYV (high yield rice varieties) introduced by the government were heavily dependent on fertilizers and pesticides, which were mainly imported. Production rose but the farmer’s income did not rise commensurately. The farmer became more indebted as the cost of production increased due to rising price of farming inputs. New problems surfaced farmers became dependent on fertilizers and pesticides, the soil became acidic, and traditional farming practices vanished.

4. Control of seeds denotes power and farmers are powerless if they do not own and control the seeds. Seed production is controlled by the government.

The newly approved National Seed Act discourages the use of inferior rice varieties commonly associated with "traditional" rice varieties.
Farmers cultivate the land to have food regularly on their tables. For them, agricultural work has turned into a daily struggle for subsistence.

5. Agricultural production is generally anchored on landlord-tenant relationship. Modernization in rice farming created a new character in the agrarian setting, the middlemen. In many areas, the landlords are themselves the middlemen. Unlike before, the rural elite is now composed not only of landlords and usurers, but also of dealers of farm inputs, commodity traders, and agri-businessmen.

6. From 1990 to 1992, there was a decreasing trend in food production. In 1990, the recorded food production volume was 44 million metric tons (mmt). Production went down to 42.6 mmt the following year and 41.9 mmt in 1992. The growth rate from 1990 to 1991 declined by 3.68 percent and by 1.51 percent from 1991 to 1992. (Philippine Food Balance Sheet, 1990-1992)

7. Agricultural production reveals that food production has not increased much from 1982 to 1992. Food production hardly increased from 36 mmt to 44 mmt in 10 years despite a 2.3 percent annual rise in population. Consumption, meanwhile, has been growing by 3 percent annually. (Philippine Daily Inquirer, Aug. 18, 1995 and Ibon Facts and Figures, Nov. 15, 1995). In short, food production has not kept pace with population growth.

The Philippines, after 122 years, exported rice in 1977 only to import again in 1984. (Ibon, Oct. 31, 1995). For a time, it was cheaper to import rice than to produce it locally.

8. The government's National Food Authority (NFA), which aimed to buy a minimum of 600,000 tons of rice per year, never met its target in the recent years except in 1990, according to the Department of Budget and Management. To assure rice supply for all, NFA should buy at least 25 percent of the yearly grain harvest.

Although NFA cites the lack of government funds to buy the farmers' produce at a higher price competitive to rice traders, the government is importing rice at a higher price.

Aside from this, the government policy discourages the purchase of traditional rice varieties by the NFA and sets a fixed price ceiling in purchasing palay (rice grains) from the farmers. This pricing mechanism cannot cope with the competing rice cartel that can set higher prices. Thus, the cartel accumulates, hoards and dictates the final market price of rice.

9. Food producers then are the first to go hungry and the consumers bear the brunt of the skyrocketing prices caused by the artificial low rice supply that presumably cannot meet the demand of the population.

Food is power. However, production of food is correlated with the control of land. The land issue is locked on the two basic questions of land ownership and the control of the means of production. It is a basic contradiction between dominance in ownership versus the flow of the productive process.
Agribusiness capitalists (traders, multinational corporations) control the decision making and thereby wield economic power, while the farmers serve only as implementors, producing food. The farmers do not have control over the production process even if they carry the biggest burden. Farmers are spending all their working hours tilling the land and contributing to the country's food production, yet many of them do not own a single tract of land.

10. The Central Luzon Region. Central Luzon is located north of Manila and is considered the rice granary of the Philippines, accounting for 20 percent of national rice production — the single largest share by any region. It is here where PDI operates.

The eruption of the Mount Pinatubo in 1991 was one of the worst volcanic eruptions in the world this century and the disaster wrought by it is a recurring tragedy. Agricultural production dropped drastically as a result of massive destruction of agricultural and forest lands.

Five years after the eruption, lahars or volcanic avalanches still threaten many areas in the provinces of Zambales, Pampanga and Tarlac in the Central Luzon region.

B. STRATEGIC INTERVENTION OF PDI. An integrated framework for food self-sufficiency at the household level in the rural areas has been the basic strategic intervention of the PDI this past six years in Central Luzon, using agrarian reform as a first step process for the people to move towards self-sufficiency. This is coupled with social infrastructure building and the necessary support services (from production to marketing).

The Project Development Institute operates in three provinces in the Central Luzon region, namely: Zambales, Pampanga, and Nueva Ecija. In Metro Manila, it has a direct link with the Metro Manila Chamber of Cooperatives for the marketing and distribution of the produce of the rural cooperatives in the service areas.

The rural cooperatives in Zambales are the Sibol Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Multipurpose Cooperative, the Samahan ng Kababaihan ng Sibol (Sibol Women's Consumer Cooperative), Palauig Multipurpose Cooperative, Bulawen Multipurpose Cooperative, Banlog Multipurpose Cooperative, Samahan ng Katutubong Aeta sa Santa Martha, Pangolingan (Organization of Indigenous Aetas - tribal people of Zambales - of Santa Martha, Pangolingan).

In Nueva Ecija, it is directly working with the Tribal Union for Agricultural Development (TUNAD), a people's organization composed of Igorot tribal minority who have been displaced because of the armed conflict in the Cordillera mountains and also by a major earthquake in July 1990.
The PDI has worked with the Floridablanca Federation of Agricultural Cooperatives in Floridablanca, Pampanga. The federation is composed of 19 cooperatives. It has a combined membership of 2,197 farmers. The 19 primary cooperatives represent 19 barangays or villages in Floridablanca.

The Zambales Experience

The Zambales programme started in the permanent resettlement of farmer-victims of the Mount Pinatubo eruption. The beneficiaries received land (a 240-square meter homelot and a 1.3 hectare farmlot per family), food relief supplies, housing and water.

Food production was immediately undertaken for home consumption. A communal farm was established using organic farming methods. The relocation site provided by the Department of Agrarian Reform through close coordination with PDI was severely eroded and was thickly covered with tall cogon grasses or weeds after being idle for more than 20 years. PDI introduced a food-for-work programme whereby each family received a minimum of one cavan or 50-kilo sack of rice, five kilos of mungbeans and about 45 pieces of dried fish in return for their one-day-a-week community service, specifically in clearing the land and planting rice. For the rest of the week they could work on their houses or farmlots or they could work on a daily wage basis outside their new community to augment their income. The farmers continued to receive food while they were building their homes and making their land ready for planting. The farmers also established an orchard for mangoes and cashews, started backyard vegetable gardening for their home consumption and a nursery.

A production assistance package was provided, with recommendation to use LEISA (Low External Input Sustainable Agriculture) for rice production. LEISA was recommended to rehabilitate the already eroded soil in their new farms. This production assistance included one ton or 20 bags of organic fertilizers, a carabao (water buffalo) dispersal programme, and financing for land preparation. Each farmer also received two bags of seeds for traditional rice varieties to be broadcasted on their 1.3 hectare farms. By 1993, the individual farmlots and the communal farm have been planted to the traditional varieties. As the settlers began the slow process of rehabilitation, production assistance was provided to the various cooperatives surrounding the resettlement to assist in their rice production. Vegetables and fruits were also planted in their areas.

Unscrupulous traders and middlemen later on became the problem as production level increased and the farmers began to look for markets for their produce. It became apparent that there was a need to set up alternative channels of marketing and trading that directly link the producers to the consumers through viable urban cooperatives of the various unions in Metro Manila to the rural cooperatives being serviced by the PDI in the rural areas. In this way, consumers are linked directly to producers. (Please see Diagram I.)
Diagram I. Central Luzon Alternative Marketing Scheme

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Structure</th>
<th>Source of Food Production: Rice, Fruits, Vegetables</th>
<th>Storage</th>
<th>Marketing &amp; Distribution</th>
<th>Channels: URBAN Cooperatives</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rural Cooperatives</td>
<td>Zambales&lt;br&gt;5 Rural Cooperatives</td>
<td>Manila</td>
<td>Metro Manila Chamber of Cooperatives</td>
<td>URBAN Cooperative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pampanga&lt;br&gt;19 Cooperatives</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>URBAN Cooperative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nueva Ecija&lt;br&gt;(Cooperatives and Tribal POs)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>URBAN Cooperative</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

URBAN Cooperative
At present, several other resettlement areas established by other groups and even the government have been patterned after the PDI resettlement area while the overall framework of establishing model agrarian reform communities is being applied in different areas nationwide.

The Pampanga Experience

PDI helped in winning approval of the multi-million peso loan of the Floridablanca Federation of Multipurpose Cooperatives, Inc. (FFMPCI). It established an integrated post harvest facility. PDI also oversees the social preparation of the farmers for the management and ownership of the facilities. Social preparation or social infrastructure building involves organizing and consolidation of the farmers to prepare them to be both owner-cultivators and managers of the agro-industrial project. Economic support services through production assistance were extended to some cooperatives for the production of organically grown traditional rice varieties.

Intensive lowland farming has been a tradition in Central Luzon. But the devastation of large areas of the region due to the Mount Pinatubo eruption in 1991 combined with continuous use of intensive cultivation practices using large amounts of chemical inputs have endangered the long-term productivity of the farmlands in Pampanga. PDI has also introduced a production assistance programme covering alternative farm inputs, credit and training.

In Pampanga, PDI assisted a federation of farmers who were not affected by the eruption of Mount Pinatubo to help boost rice production. The areas in Pampanga were mostly irrigated so that yield was very high and the TRV (traditional rice varieties) seeds performed very well.

At this time, PDI has already cut a marketing path from Central Luzon to Manila to market the produce of the farmers.

The Experience in Laur, Nueva Ecija

The programme started with the resettlement of the Igorot earthquake victims in a former military reservation in Laur, Nueva Ecija. This is the first programme that advocated and actually implemented the conversion of land inside a military reservation for agrarian reform. The main objective is to achieve food self-sufficiency at the household level. Production assistance patterned after the Zambales example has been extended to the Igorot farmers who are members of the TUN AD. The Igorots in Laur are producing more vegetables and rice than previously but they have difficulty in marketing their produce due to lack of storage facilities, transportation and the bad condition of the road. The middlemen feast on their produce, which the Igorots are forced to sell at very low prices. A marketing path is also being established so they would not be at the mercy of the traders and middlemen.
Commonalities and Integration of the Three Service Areas

Resource and institutional development are being undertaken to ensure the farmer-beneficiaries’ inherent skills and capabilities so that they can sustain their socio-economic advances.

The Alternative Production Assistance Programme aims to destroy the near monopoly of informal lenders or usurers and at the same time improve the credit worthiness and bankability of the farmer-beneficiaries. The farmers can form the core of a credit and savings union, which shall serve as one of the foundations of a self-sufficient economy.

The Alternative Marketing Scheme envisions the marketing of traditional rice varieties and organically produced vegetables from the service areas.

The Health and Sanitation Programme aims to institute preventive and people-led health care that is inexpensive and promotes indigenous medicines.

The Legal Assistance Programme and coordination work with local government units, other NGO's and GO's will bring the services of the government to the people.

Coordination work with agrarian reform advocates, sustainable agriculture advocates and the academe ensures continued advocacy work at the national and international level. The coordination with the academe brings the latest developments in technology to the people.

The Alternative Production Assistance Programme

Acquiring land for the peasants has been achieved by PDI in some areas of Central Luzon. However, peasants still have to be supported to help them keep the land they till.

For generations, farmers have managed to support the needs of their families through usurious loans from landlords and local traders. Seldom do they go to formal lending institutions such as banks. The provision of production assistance in the three areas aims to destroy the near monopoly of informal lenders and at the same time boost the credit worthiness and bankability of the farmers. Later they can form the core of a credit and savings union, which shall serve as one of the foundations of a self-sufficient community.

The loans provided through the Production Assistance Programme for the various cooperatives in Zambales, Pampanga and Nueva Ecija address the funding requirements of the farmers for their on-farm activities. The Programme also aims to promote environment-friendly organic farming techniques and increase farm production by providing technical, financial and material inputs to the farmers.
The loans were used to promote organic farming and low external input agriculture. Farmers undergo training on credit, financial management and sustainable agriculture before they receive the assistance. The training has been required for all who avail of the production loan.

The production assistance covered traditional rice varieties, organic fertilizers and provisions for land preparation. This is imperative because the farmers, after decades of growing HYVs, are beginning to realize that the use of TRVs and organic fertilizers will help them acquire control of the seeds. Seed production is the central focus of agriculture and the control of seeds denotes food security. And food is power. Farmers would be powerless if they do not own and control the seeds.

The advent of the "green revolution" technology which utilizes HYVs and petrochemical inputs has made them vulnerable to the vagaries of farming. The farmers have realized that their problems in farming have been brought about by the continued use of hybrid varieties, which have weak resistance to pest and diseases, and require sustained and generous application of fertilizers and pesticides. The needed inputs are not only exorbitantly priced, but even worse, they have damaged the soil, making it porous and reducing its capacity to retain water, consequently becoming less productive.

The TRVs have the strength, height, long growth duration, and photoperiod sensitivity which are erased in the development of the high yielding varieties. The TRVs could be advantageous under certain unfavorable conditions such as low temperature, high altitude, drought, and flooding, which characterize the Philippine condition. Aside from tolerance to more adverse conditions, superior grain quality and good taste is another important attribute of traditional varieties. (Please refer to Diagram II.)

The Alternative Marketing and Trading Scheme

The Alternative Marketing and Trading (AMT) scheme shall market three products - the traditional rice varieties and organically grown fruits and vegetables.

There is an existing palay (grain) marketing system in Central Luzon, but it involves only white polished rice of the high yield variety. The programme has tested the market for the traditional rice varieties and the response has been positive. The AMT is cutting a marketing path from Central Luzon to Manila for the traditional rice varieties and other products.

The PDI now has a working relation with the Metro Manila Chamber of Cooperatives (MMCC). The group is composed of 48 urban cooperatives in Metro Manila that directly require rice and other commodities for the needs of their cooperative members.

The importance of the alternative marketing and trading scheme cannot be overemphasized: it promotes sustainable agriculture and encourages the farmers to produce TRVs and practice LEISA.
Diagram II. Alternative Production Assistance Program (PAP)

Program Component: 

- Production Loan

Area:

- Zambales
- Pampanga
- Nueva Ecija

Effects of PAP:

- Farmers have easy access to production loan
- Raise level of farmers' credit and savings consciousness
- Farmers are being transformed from non-bankable to bankable farmers
- POs and Cooperatives are now being linked with other organizations and financial institutions to fulfill their other needs
The scheme aims to shatter the dominance of HYVs in the market and to cut a marketing path for the TRVs which are not competitive when sold at ordinary palay buying stations, including those of the National Food Authority. The TRVs shall penetrate the high yield palay marketing arena as a highly competitive product. The urban cooperatives, the consumers, shall enjoy chemical-free, organically-grown traditional rice varieties, vegetables and fruits. But most importantly, the AMT directly links the producers to the consumers, eliminating unscrupulous traders and middlemen in the process and ensuring food security to the farmers and the urban poor in Metro Manila. (Please see Diagram LA.)

This alternative marketing and trading of the rice produced by the farmers can open an alternative rice market from Central Luzon to Manila that is based on free trade. In this manner, rice is made available to ordinary consumers, mostly members of labor unions and urban cooperatives at a fair price based on the quality of rice and actual value. By doing this, food production and distribution are firmly in the hands of the farmers and consumer groups thus, ensuring food security.

**Challenge and Response to Globalization of Food Production and Processing and Food and Agricultural Trade Liberalization**

Food security is a country-specific challenge and food production is the task of every nation. Each country should develop or must have the capacity to feed its population. A nation's food security should be its primary concern and the principal responsibility of the state. Trade should be based on the needs of one nation rather than the surplus of other countries. The gaps between the poor and rich nations are so wide that world trade system cannot be equal among them. There can be no equal trading between developed and developing nations. Thus, food security should be the primary goal of each nation. Only then can globalization of food production materialize and agricultural trade liberalization can be effective.

The linkages between the rural farmers' organizations and cooperatives and the urban cooperatives and workers' organization should be strengthened. New avenues as well as new possibilities should be studied to create a mutual relationship between the two. This way, food security will be assured as the farmers are guaranteed a fair price and a sure market for their produce, without the intervention of middlemen and profiteers. The farmers will therefore have the incentive to systematize their farming systems in order to produce more. Food security can be achieved, if this can be replicated in other parts of the country.
Diagram I.A. Alternative Marketing and Trading (AMT)

- Ensures quality control of farm produce
- Assures continuous supply of food products
- Helps in sourcing food products for MMCC

Committee for Rice Marketing
- Decides on palay pricing
- Responsible for handling production assistance/loan and repayment of loan

Project Development Institute
- Composed of Coop. Chairmen & 2 PDI personnel

Metro Manila Chamber of Cooperatives
- Buying of FOB Manila
- Storage
- Repacking & labelling
- Bulk selling and delivery to coop. members
- Assurance of payment according to the terms of agreement
Some Proposals for the Draft Policy Statement and Plan of Action of the World Food Summit Papers

1. Agrarian reform and land ownership should be given emphasis in the papers. Agrarian reform is the key to food security in many areas of the world. It will also contribute to the capability of a nation to secure its own food needs. The statements are vague. (No.24.e)

2. A special section of the paper should be devoted to protect and prioritize children in terms of emergencies and food crises. Being the first victim of any food crises, the welfare of children should be elaborated as one of the key items in any food security agenda.

3. Strong emphasis is given to the GATT and the world trade as opposed to the development of internal capacities of countries to develop its own capacity to food security.

   The conference should focus on encouraging and developing self-reliance rather than dependence. (Commitment 5)

4. The role of genetics and current technologies should be carefully studied so as not to repeat the mistakes of past experiments, which proved destructive both to people and environment. (No.40.a.)

PDI'S Contribution to the Plan of Action

PDI is already replicating its work in other parts of the Philippines. This will help in achieving self-reliance at the local level. This initiative is centered on improving the tenurial relationship of farmers and landowners in the rural areas, a key element in achieving food security.

PDI is also expanding its market base for organically grown products with preference given to ordinary wage earners. This initiative will ensure access and availability of safe and healthy food for the people in the urban areas. It definitely ensures environmental sustainability.

PDI is also involved in reforestation and resettlement of disaster victims, sharing in the effort to address two of the most pressing problems of the country today — environmental degradation and disaster preparedness.

Modalities of Cooperation

PDI works at two levels. First of all, PDI is a consultancy group that primarily undertakes project development, research and provides technical assistance to and establishes partnership with other governmental, non-governmental and people's organizations. PDI also works with NGOs in Europe and Asia. PDI has also worked with FAO in conducting training in agrarian reform communities on development management and project implementation for development facilitators. PDI conducts advocacy work at the national level and networks with advocates of sustainable agriculture and agrarian reform.
It also facilitates linkages between organizations in the urban and rural areas for production and marketing of agricultural products.

At another level, PDI implements community-based programmes, where food security is a requirement to achieve full self-sufficiency.

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The issue of food security has been a constant concern of the political agenda of Central America. Private organizations as well as governments have become aware of the dimensions of no longer being able to satisfy the food and nutritional needs of the people in their countries. The meetings of the Presidents of the area have shown special interest in this aspect since 1990 when the issue was discussed at the high political level.

In the VIIth Summit of the Central American Presidents, held in the city of Antigua, Guatemala in 1990, a commitment was made to stimulate programmes of Food Security and Self-Sufficiency in basic grains. Later, in the Xth Summit in El Salvador, an Action Plan for Central American Agriculture was adopted, which included proposals to give incentives to agricultural production, consolidating inter-regional trade in agricultural products, guaranteeing food security, and increasing and diversifying exports. It was also agreed to receive the ideas of the Regional Commission of Small and Medium-Sized Producers for Central American Food Security.

Added to these regional efforts are the contributions that various institutions, such as ASIES, have made to conscientize society on the food situation in our country, through studies, seminars and concrete proposals in this field.

The Asociacion de Investigacion y Estudios Sociales (ASIES) was created in 1979, but was only officially established in 1982. ASIES is a not-for-profit private service organization, composed of people interested in the reflection, analysis and scientific study of the national situation for the purpose of stimulating general interest in the search for and implementation of concrete solutions to the problems which affect the country, inspired by the principle of the participation of civil society. ASIES was legally recognized by the government in 1986.

Objectives
• To carry out research and analysis on the political, economic, social and cultural situation of the country.
• To promote study, discussion and reflection on national problems and on those on the international level which affect the country.
• To enrich reciprocal personal relations and the flow of scientific knowledge among its associates.
Activities

- Provision of a national forum of reflection and discussion on the socio-political phenomena that make up the Guatemalan reality, through the organization of a variety of public and private events.
- Relationships, service and cooperation with public and private cultural and scientific bodies.
- Information and training through the distribution of the results of its research and analysis.

Activities for the Promotion of Food Security

Together with the Action Committee in Support of the Economic and Social Development of Central America (CADESCA), ASIES organized a seminar in 1990 entitled: "Guatemala: Macro-Economic Policies and their Impact on Agriculture and Food Security", taking into account the importance of these for the economic and social development of the country. The purpose of examining the main effects of these policies on the agricultural sector and food security was to be able to develop strategies in this area.

ASIES also published an essay on the issue of food and nutrition which analyzed the different concepts and experiences of food security, trying to determine to which extent these could be used to design policies and take actions adapted to the Guatemalan situation.

These contributions to learning about and identifying our own problems are important for the development of policy proposals that can be applied at both the macro-economic and micro-economic levels, in order to both reactivate the economy and to decrease the negative impact on family malnutrition.

Positions and Views on the Key Issues Being Addressed by the World Food Summit

ASIES shares the spirit of the Policy Statement on Food Security developed by FAO, in particular the principles of economic viability, equity, broad participation and sustainability of natural resources. Regional initiatives such as the Alliance for Sustainable Development (ALIDES) are based on these same principles and form part of the national norms of the Central American countries.

The policy of making availability and access of all people to the food they need compatible with general economic and social development policies is a first step towards a solution to food insecurity, as in many countries (and this is the case in Guatemala) there has been divorce between the development model followed and the distribution of the economic benefits of this model. This is reflected in the wide margins of poverty and human abandonment.
The availability of food as well as adequate nutrition are basic problems in many developing countries, affecting large sectors of the population. In Guatemala where the index of poverty reaches 85 percent of the total population, the political commitments of the Government and the support of civil society organizations are especially relevant, as it is necessary to unite forces, which are often not adequately coordinated, for the development of the society.

In the VIth Summit of the Central American Presidents in 1990, it was stated: "War and violence are acts of human cruelty, but poverty is an act of human abandonment that we must face." In the Xth Summit in 1991, an agreement was made to design and implement a Regional Programme for the Reduction of Poverty, increasing the productive capacity and the incomes of the most vulnerable groups.

Since there exists a direct relationship between socio-economic development and access to food, one aspect which is important to maintain in the World Food Summit policy statement at the level of commitments is the reduction of poverty.

The efforts and the resources destined to solve the problem of hunger and malnutrition must not be conceived as acts of charity, but rather as a national investment in human resources.

The basic orientation of increasing production as the means to solve the problem of food security is not sufficient. The importance of demand and the social aspects which determine food consumption must be emphasized.

Thus, the design of a food policy must recognize the need to coordinate an integrated system between production, distribution and consumption. Only a balanced development of these three areas will ensure a gradual reduction in the indicators of malnutrition.

Another basic aspect is training and investment in educational programmes for the most vulnerable sectors of society. In improving productivity, there must be guarantees that the benefits of the economic processes do not go only to a minority. The participation of groups and sectors traditionally excluded and marginalized must be activated and they must be given the capacity and technical instruments for effective integration.

For sustainability of resources, global policies must be oriented to education, applied research, mobilization of the local population and orientation of technical assistance to the rural poor.

**Cooperation in the Implementation of the World Food Summit Plan of Action**

The contribution that ASIES can offer on the occasion of the World Food Summit goes beyond reflection, as food security issues have been dealt with by ASIES as a concern within its strategic objectives, with proposals for specific areas of action.
ASIES hopes to be able to collaborate with the efforts of FAO and the national and international organizations which participate in the World Food Summit. Only in the measure that more sectors of society become involved in this issue and contribute to bringing solutions, can one of the greatest problems facing humanity in the century to come be resolved: that of food insecurity.

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