

Thursday, 15 October 13:30– 15:00

Iraq Room

**What trade policies to increase food security and food sovereignty, strengthen local food systems and protect and strengthen small food producers** #13

**ORGANIZERS**

IPC network (including La Via Campesina, ROPPA, WFF, WFFP, MAELA, IITC, WAMIP, IUF, URGENCI) with support of Terra Nuova And Crocevia , Quaker United Nations Office ( QUNO)

**Abstract:** The side event will include an open exchange on the kind of trade policies needed to increase food security and food sovereignty, strengthen small holder based food production, and promote agricultural local food systems, Community Support agriculture (CSA), local markets and Food Policy Councils. The results of CFS High Level Forum of the 25th of June on “Connecting smallholders to Markets” will be taken into account as well as specific contributions from organizations of small producers. The event will also include the human rights perspective as well as the perspective of youth, women and indigenous people. Also the expectations regarding CFS and the Rome-based agencies will be discussed. FAO, governmental representatives and academia will be invited to participate.

**KEYWORDS:** Food Security and nutrition, Small food productions, Food Sovereignty, Trade Policies and Local Markets, alternative food systems.

**Languages:** EN, FR, SP

**Summary:** This side event presented a range of positive experiences and discussed the impact of global trade rules on smallholders and the possible role of the CFS.

As the Basque region in Europe was industrialized, agriculture came to occupy less than 1% of the population and of the agricultural land was cemented. Thanks to solidarity among consumer and producer groups the agroecological model of production was restored making it possible to preserve territory and biodiversity while creating economically viable activities for producers. Agriculture represented the only sector that was able to create employment in a time of economic crisis.

In Kenya, “invisible”, local urban markets are making local products available on the streets, bringing products from neighbouring countries, contributing to the food security and nutrition of the poor.

The public procurement scheme applied in India, where 75% of the rural and urban people are food insecure, was quoted as a good example of a mechanism that ensures food security of the poor and revenue for smallholders. This positive public process is being challenged by the US in the WTO. The presenter questioned global and bilateral trade and investment rules, which damage small-scale farmers by failing to protect them from cheap imports. Transnational corporations are enabled to patent seeds through TRIPS. Voluntary schemes are not sufficient to ensure correct behaviour by corporations and most smallholders are given no other option than adverse incorporation into markets through global value chains.

Testimony from an export country such as Canada was also presented, explaining why global “free” trade does not work for local farmers. Farmers’ power increases when marketing decisions are taken locally since they have more control over products and prices.

Indigenous people representative underlined the expectations for the CFS defending the right to food and nutrition, giving value to indigenous peasants, fisherfolks and dwellers and their productions.