



Friday, 15 October 2008
13:00 - 14:30
Green Room: Building A, Room 122

RURAL PRODUCERS
SIDE EVENT

How food producers
should address the
ongoing food crisis

Background

The surge in food prices – doubling over the last three years – is pushing the poorest people into deeper poverty. Millions of small farmers and landless workers who are the world's food producers are greatly affected by the soaring food prices. The soaring food prices have already fueled political and social unrest in various parts of the world, including hunger riots.

In order to cope with the soaring food price crisis, the world's food producers have an important role in addressing the short, medium and long-term issues and seeking solutions at the local level, national and global levels. At a critical moment when various actions of boosting food production needs to be urgently implemented, the Rural Producers Event that will be held during the 34th Session of the FAO Committee on World Food Security will focus on effective solutions based on the experiences and the proposals of those most directly affected, in particular small-holder producers, family farmers, indigenous peoples, pastoralists, etc.

Civil society organizations have been critical of the structural and regulatory measures and policies that have contributed to the soaring food price crisis.

At the same time, they also have practical ways to address this matter formulating alternative mechanism and policy suggestions resulting from recent fora such as the Terra Preta Forum held in parallel to the FAO High Level Conference last June in Rome and at the 38th World Farmers Congress in June in Warsaw.

In this regard, it is worthwhile discussing "how food producers should address the ongoing food crisis" with the participation of the representatives of various types of producers and rural groups.

Objectives of the Event:

- To present and discuss producer organizations' analysis in addressing problems to the soaring food prices crisis;
- To propose some lessons learned regarding sustainable agriculture and food production policies in order to address soaring food prices crisis;
- To increase participants' awareness of the roles and responsibilities of stakeholders that are charged to address the short, medium and long-term measures in addressing the soaring food prices.

RURAL PRODUCERS
SIDE EVENT

How food producers should address the ongoing food crisis