

Family Farmers' Demands

Event: Eastern Africa Sub-Regional Consultation on Coherence on Food and Nutrition Global Policy in the International Year of Family Farming (IYFF) 2014.

Date: 24th and 25th September 2014.

Venue: Hotel Africana, Kampala, Uganda.

Preamble

Whereas it is true that food security still remains Africa's greatest challenge

Aware that the soaring food prices that are hitting the fragile economies of African countries hard are not likely to return to their former levels, unless drastic measures are taken,

Aggrieved that there have been and will continue to be wide spread food riots across the continent unless there are interventions to save people of the disaster prone continent from hunger, we the 60 leaders and Family Farmer Organizations and Social Movements gathered at Hotel Africana in Kampala on this day of 25th September 2014 make the following Policy and Action Demands;

Policy Demands:

1. Stop multi-lateral and bi-lateral trade agreements from making legally binding decrees on any and all seeds, water, and natural resources.
2. Out-law the ability of international trade agreements to determine seed "ownership" and "use" and outlaw the patenting of seeds.
3. Declare all such agreements illegal.

4. Out-law the subjection of seeds to intellectual property rights laws and limits, which compromise communities' capacities to save, grow, and trade their own indigenous seeds.
5. End all governmental subsidies for industrial farming beyond a human scale. Channel the funds towards encouraging local and agro-ecological production (including urban farming and community gardens) for local and regional markets.
6. Uphold the principle of Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) and recognize and acknowledge Family Farmers particularly women and indigenous communities, for their services to nature and society, and for their roles as "mitigators" of climate change. They are powerful knowledge holders on best practices and climate change and, as such, are key actors for developing policy on sustainable land use and mitigating and coping with the effects of climate change.
7. Mobilize Family Farmers particularly women and indigenous communities, to engage actively in the climate change processes so that their voices and recommendations should shape laws pertaining to agriculture, food, seeds and water.
8. Support Family Farmers in adapting to climate change.
9. Stop the practice of land-grabbing and deforestation for large-scale plantations, or by large-scale farmers producing for transnational corporations as a measure to bring about substantial reduction in total greenhouse gas emissions.
10. Orient local agricultural production through local distribution to local markets, thereby encouraging local consumption. This decentralization of the food system is extremely important because the present food system (with its chemically intensive industrialized production and processing, fossil-fuel-dependent transportation and distribution

through supermarket chains) has turned out to be a major contributor to greenhouse gas emissions.

11. Integrate agricultural practices to ensure sustainability and encourage farming practices and systems that harness the symbiotic relationships of seeds, water, crops, soils, livestock, and forests
12. Promote localized systems of agricultural production that support decentralized, “people-run” economies; natural, non-genetically modified foods; and cyclical and sustainable agro-ecological farming practices.
13. Organize campaigns and trainings to empower communities to take increasing ownership and direction of their local agricultural cultivation and nutrition; support such agro-economies.
14. Distinctively recognize waged agriculture workers in agriculture policy.
15. Protect and defend the rights of Indigenous Peoples to their land and other natural resources against Extractive Industries.
16. Respect all governmental treaties with indigenous peoples and defend their right to continue to inhabit traditional lands, undisturbed by industrial projects and extractive industries.
17. Recognize, utilize and document Indigenous Knowledge and prioritize the conservation and veneration of indigenous peoples’ decision-making power at the national and international level.
18. Invest in appropriate Information Communication and Technology (ICT) tools for improving market access for family farmers.

Action Recommendations:

1. Create a global database of laws, policies, and agreements that impact small-scale farmers’ access to seeds, water, and land.

2. Create a widely-accessible database on ecological farming, fishing, pastoralism, and food preservation for women and small-scale producers and food processors.
3. Document success stories and case studies showcasing initiatives with holistic integrated approaches to agriculture and environmental sustainability and demonstrating best practices, activities for climate change mitigation, successful adaptation, sustainable development, and food security.
4. Create a database of training modules to empower women regarding local and international food security. This must include workshops and trainings on local and international acts and laws pertaining to the production and marketing of food and the creation of food chains, tools to build women's capacity to ensure food security for their families, and modules on seeds, biodiversity, and resource management.
5. Urgently embark on a deliberate and vigorous campaign to change the image of agriculture from being an economic activity for poor people who have failed elsewhere to a profitable economic activity of choice.

This should involve;

- Not giving agricultural activity as a punishment to errant pupils in school but as a reward to those who perform well.
- Making agriculture a priority in national budget allocation.
- Giving incentives to family farmers.