

A  
handbook  
to  
facilitate  
the work  
&  
activities  
taking  
place to  
end  
hunger &  
poverty .

.. How to.Series. no.1

How to  
end  
hunger  
now!

**Bettina Corke**

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### Notes about the author

**Bettina Corke is a working artist in applied communications, film, radio and print. The focus of her work has been on social and development issues. Peace and the Non Violent Protest Movement. Her film work includes-----**  
**"Outside G.N.P" (UNDP). "Into the Mainstream",(ECA/UNIFEM): "Another Dimension in Development - Women",(INJSTRAW): " INSTRAW -Policies and Programmes ((INSTRAW) and a recent documentary " Together We Lit up the Sky - Gandhi and Mandela in South Africa" - (google video).**

## **PREFACE**

When I followed Bettina's invitation to attend the 37<sup>th</sup> session of the 2011 General Assembly of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization I did so in my capacity as Past-President of International Alliance of Women (IAW) I did it for the purpose of supporting her work and strengthening IAW's representation at FAO.

I was certainly not aware of the consequences of my short appearance there.

My presence triggered increased attention for the government/NGO relations at FAO. and it provided IAW with a surplus of visibility. Bettina's statement (see annex II) was received with great attention. This focused concern by IAW on the whole question of hunger and poverty and its impact on the empowerment of women was then followed up, by a letter from IAW President Lyda Verstegen, with a request from IAW to work on hunger and poverty programmes, together with FAO in countries where both FAO and IAW have representatives.

To take advantage of these opportunities and to start these projects together with interested member organizations is the reason for the publication of this training "How To" Booklet.

This contribution to end hunger and poverty builds upon our firm belief that only the enjoyment of Human Rights under the conditions of Peace and Security and good governance will bring about the necessary change.

Rosy Weiss. Hon. President - International alliance of Women.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

My work in writing this Handbook was greatly helped by my discovery of a small book published in 2013. "How to End Hunger in Times of Crises" co-authored by Ignacio Trueba /Andrew MacMillan. Its scholarship is apparent but in addition, their analysis of the present day situation of hunger and poverty and the solutions that they bring into the debate are presented in such a way, that everyone can understand and be convinced that hunger and poverty can be eradicated. So first and foremost my sincere thanks must go to them , **I wish also to thank them for their** kind permission to use extracts from their book for this " end to hunger" training and sharing of information booklet.

I would like to thank Roberta MacMillan for her encouragement and my friends and colleagues of the AD HOC GROUP of the International Non Governmental Organizations in Rome; Tish Collins, Sam Page, Cristina Visconti, feminist economists and my colleagues in various Non government Organizations and to the UN staff members, particularly so at the Food and Agriculture Organization, (FAO) who have so patiently dealt with my numerous questions.

Last but not least I want to thank Tiziana Urbani and Francesca Romana Fiore Donati for their computer, research and translation support and assistance.

## PART I Introduction

The abolition of hunger & poverty  
needs to be the first commitment

The second commitment is the  
recognition that the poor & hungry  
should enjoy  
full & operational Human Rights  
in accordance with the UN Charter of Rights and Responsibilities.

The third commitment is for everyone concerned to insist upon the implementation  
of the agreed upon positions without any further delay and that all future  
agreements be based upon the notion  
that the poor and the hungry and women  
have the right to be full and equal citizens without the fear of hunger, poverty and  
discrimination

This training and sharing of information booklet has been written to offer the  
general public the information necessary to campaign and to begin to influence  
their governments to review, monitor and call into accountability all their policies  
and programmes on the eradication of hunger, malnutrition and poverty.

It is now possible, technically and financially for governments to begin to set in  
place better governance policies in regard to social, economic and ecological  
justice issues and concerns. All that is needed is the political will and conviction  
to do so

The actions being taken by the UN on **the eradication of hunger, malnutrition  
under the banner of the Right to food , Sustainable Development, Human  
Rights and Reform of the UN are steps in the right direction.**

### The Challenge and the Context

*"But in this very world which is  
of all of us, - the place in which -in the  
end we find our happiness, - or not at all"*

William Wordsworth.-The Prelude- 1850.

The Member States of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) agreed in 2013 to  
eradicate hunger rather than to reduce it, as stated in their previous statements, Declarations  
and in their Plans of Action. There is a concerted call all around the world, for action,  
internationally, regionally and nationally to end hunger and poverty:( UN Millennium Goal  
1.) The research on how best to do this, has been done and solutions and alternative  
approaches have been put forward.

Certain countries have started to reduce hunger. It is now being accepted... *"that while the two problems of hunger and unsustainable food system are very big in scale and far-reaching in their consequences for human welfare and the security of future world food supply, the solutions that we can bring to the problems of hunger and poverty are surprisingly simple and well within our reach technically and financially."*<sup>1\*</sup>

..

There are three challenges to be addressed :-

- The first is the need to eradicate hunger in the shortest possible period.
- The second is to make the shift towards truly sustainable food consumption and food production systems.
- The third is to do this within the context of sustainable development

To answer the first challenge, which is to end hunger and poverty in the shortest possible time... there is a urgent need to bring about a shift in the policy and the policy management of hunger and poverty.

A shift from one based upon crisis management in time of famine and disaster, to another approach which includes the possibility of medium and long term planning strategies and programmes. Programmes that set out to provide and sustain a more reliable and dependable form of agriculture, for domestic food consumption and food production. This is the second challenge . The third is to eradicate hunger and poverty under the banner of sustainable development; because sustainable development is *"development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs"* (Brundtland Commission 1987).

Sha Zukang, the Secretary General of the UN 2012 Conference on Sustainable Development,, said: *..."Sustainable Development is not an option. It is the only path that allows all of humanity to share a decent life on this one planet"*.

### **Legal framework: Some Facts and the Figures**

The idea that all people should be guaranteed access to adequate food is embodied in international law, especially in the United Nations Charter and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. Under the latter, governments that are parties to the Covenant recognize “the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger”. They undertake also to “respect, promote and protect and to take appropriate steps to achieve progressively the full right to adequate food”. To further this need to "achieve progressively " the right of everyone to achieve the full right of adequate food" as stated in the UN Covenant of Economic, Social and Culture Rights and the U.N Charter, a number of legal steps have been taken at the international level. For example, the UN appointed a Special Rapporteur on The

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1.<sup>1</sup>How to End Hunger in Times of Crisis-Let's start now! (2<sup>nd</sup> edition).Ignacio Trueba and Andrew MacMillan. Available from [www.fast-print.net/bookshop](http://www.fast-print.net/bookshop) and Amazon.ISBN9781780365962  
French version Available from L'Harmattan &Amazon.

Right to Food. The Special Rapporteur has wide-ranging responsibilities for promoting the realization of the human right to food - with the following set of actions: (i) for its adoption at national, regional and international levels, (ii) for identifying and overcoming obstacles, and to make proposals for specification. The Special Rapporteur reports to the UN Human Rights Council and to the UN General Assembly.

In 2004, the FAO Council approved the text of “Voluntary Guidelines” to support the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national Food Security”. These guidelines suggest practical steps that countries can take to ensure that their people can eat adequately. States may report to the Committee on World Food Security on a voluntary basis on progress in implementing these Guidelines.

The Convention on The Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, (CEDAW 1979), article 14 deals with " the particular problems faced by rural women and the significant roles which rural women play in the economic survival of their families, including their work in the non-monetized sectors of the economy. State parties shall take all appropriate measures to ensure the application of the provisions of this Convention to women in rural areas".

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) plays a leading role at the UN in attempting to promote and advance the role and condition of women worldwide. The CSW submits its recommendations to the General Assembly through the UN Economic and Social Council and its mandate requires the Commission to set global standards to enable the full and equal advancement of women.

In 2014, at the CSW 58th session an agreed upon conclusion in support of food security for all and support for the eradication of hunger and poverty was put forward.

In 2013, the UN Secretary General showed his support regarding the urgent need to achieve Millennium Development Goal 1. He issued his UN ZERO HUNGER CHALLENGE which calls for the implementation of Millennium Goal 1

The UN needs to back up this advocacy approach with a UN eradication of hunger plan. A plan which would encourage the implementation of programmes and projects to eradicate hunger and poverty, in a multilateral manner and process. This approach would help to avoid the drift, on the part of the UN and UN agencies, to rely on bilateral aid and external private sector funding sources for UN development projects.

### **Definitions of Hunger: Malnutrition**

Long term lack of adequate food intake severely stunts both the physical and mental growth of children and diminishes the working ability and intellectual

capacity of adults. People who are hungry suffer not only from a shortage of energy but also of protein

Chronic hunger is a condition of life in which people are habitually undernourished. Long, essential minerals and vitamins. Such deficiencies raise their susceptibility to disease and to premature death.

Many of the people affected will run into learning difficulties, so much so, that their productivity – and hence their earnings potential – will be greatly reduced, and most will die prematurely, as a result of prolonged exposure to under-or over-eating. Chronically hungry malnourished women are unable to give breast milk to their new born babies. If they are able to produce a little breast milk it is of very low quality. The figures for maternal and infant mortality are horrendous and totally unacceptable. Needless to say, the negative impact of bad nutrition on global and national prosperity is enormous. More people suffer from chronic hunger than from acute hunger, so resolving the question of halting the rise of chronically hungry people is crucial. Hunger may be acute, as in times of seasonal shortage, drought or war. Famine is the most extreme manifestation of acute hunger: it results in people starving to death

## **PART II**

### **Rural life: Rural realities**

In the rural areas, where land has been consolidated and modern large scale farming has emerged, labour needs have contracted and unemployment levels have risen, leading to depopulation. If one looks at the female face of hunger and poverty one discovers that women peasant and subsistence farmers produce 70% of all the food eaten by poor families in Africa; but their labour and their farming, food processing and management skills and talents are discounted, overlooked and ignored in national development plans for the rural areas, in most African countries.

A terrible consequence of this "benign neglect" is that women not only have to endure the hardships of daily hard physical labour under appalling conditions, but they are denied any possibility of getting out of poverty. So their destiny is to continue to be burdened by the mental worry about how they are going to continue to feed themselves, their children and other family members in the days and months to come.



In addition, to this terrible mental stress on how to feed themselves and their children women, are left alone in the countryside to fend for themselves because the men have migrated to the towns and to other countries to seek work. Without a shadow of a doubt, bad land use and ruthless “land grabbing” have contributed to mass displacement of rural communities, separating them from their sources of livelihood, subsistence or small scale farming activities

Policy makers and economists need to study in a more concentrated way why there is a lack of social and economic cohesion between the formal and informal sectors in order to find the ways and means to adjust and reorganise the inputs of these two sectors into the national accounting and budget management processes.

### Two different models of agriculture

The first model is that of large scale commercial farming, largely dependent upon fertilizers, pesticides, intensive farming procedures. The former UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, Olivier de Schutter questions “the viability of an approach based on the Green Revolution model of the 1970s, of improved seeds, chemical fertilisers and pesticides, in a world that is running out of fossil energies, and in which control over these inputs is in the hands of a limited number of very large corporations”.

The second method is small-scale farming and subsistence type of farming. These small scale farming activities are considered to have little or nothing to do with trade or commerce domestically or internationally. So the question of how to improve domestic food production for national food consumption remains unanswered. On this second method of small scale farming Olivier de Schutter believes that “the questions of empowerment and participation are key”.

It is quite clear that these two farming systems are worlds apart. One exists for people with money to buy food and for governments to acquire money from their intensive large scale "crops for export" and the other functions for people at the survival level without money to buy the extra food they need to be strong and healthy.

When governments accept the first method of large scale commercial intensive schemes they must also accept the responsibility for making their country food insecure .because where intensive commercial farming exists hunger and poverty have been the direct result of this model of development.

### **One Success Story**

Brazil's Zero Hunger Programme is a success story It has taken a multidimensional development approach,. The Zero Hunger, launched by President Lula of Brazil in 2003 has confirmed that, with political commitment, popular support and visionary

leadership, fast and lasting progress can be made in cutting hunger through programmes that simultaneously broaden access to food and stimulate small-scale farm production. A main lesson is that the use of targeted social protection programmes that provide quite small but regular cash grants to poorest families, combined with school meals, can bring about rapid hunger reduction and, at the same time, trigger a range of other good social and economic outcomes. Since 2003 income distribution has improved, with incomes of low earners rising over 5 times as fast as top earners; the number of people living in poverty fell by 24 million; labour force participation rose faster amongst programme participants than non-participants; the mortality and stunting rates amongst under-5 year old children dropped dramatically; and school attendance and learning performance has improved. In addition, with over 90% of the monthly cash transfers, paid to over 12 million poor families, **being allocated through adult women**, the status of women in the home and in society rose sharply. The programme also protected poor people from the impact of the recent global crises, especially from high food prices. Finally, much of the funding for the programme's social protection components has ended up as increased income for small-scale farmers who have supplied much of the extra demand for food. All this has been achieved at a cost of around 0,5% of GDP.

## PART III

### Changes being called for: internationally and regionally

Three civil society organisations (CSOs) non-governmental organisations (NGOs) statements on the need for change, along with their guidelines and recommendations

#### **\*CONCORD - European Food Security Group Reform of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS)**

The current crisis of the food system is the product of decades of wrong policies, neglect of agriculture and rural development, of faith that markets would suffice to guarantee the right to food of the world's population. The food crisis - interlinked with the financial, climatic and energy crises - has worsened the intolerable situation of the over one billion persons in the world who suffer from chronic hunger. At the same time, however, it has opened a window of opportunity by highlighting the urgency of deep changes in both the paradigms and the governance we adopt while seeking to attain food and nutrition security:

The European NGO members of Concord have been heartened by the steps towards more effective cooperation and coordination that have been taken by international institutions over the past months. Now the reform of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) provides a decisive opportunity to set the global governance of food, agriculture and nutrition on a firm basis. As we move toward the final negotiations of the reform in the coming session of the CFS in Rome on 14-17 October 2014 the position of the European Union is crucial since its stance thus far has been generally supportive of the effort to transform the CFS into a strong and authoritative global policy forum.

#### **Basic principles underlying Concord's vision for a global policy forum on food and nutrition security:**

Establishing an authoritative, democratic and legitimate system of global governance, in our view, requires attention to the following elements

- Support national policy space and action plans and build from the local to the global level!

Effective national policies and programmes formulated with the participation of stakeholders are the foundation of food and nutrition security. Global decision making on food systems has to be rooted in local realities. The responsibility of

national governments and regional bodies to take decisions which defend the right to food of their citizens and the health of their environments and economies has to be recognized, respecting the principle of subsidiary.

➤ Locate the global policy forum in the UN system

All countries of the world are represented in the UN system and the rule of "one country -one vote" prevails. This is not the case in the other multilateral institutions or groups which have occupied policy space over the past decades.

➤ Within the UN system, the Rome-based food agencies are the legitimate foundation for an authoritative, democratic and legitimate global forum.

Base decision-making on the right to food and take a holistic approach to hunger.

In the absence of an effective dedicated global policy forum and rules, policy decisions affecting food and nutrition security have been taken, by default, by organizations such as the WTO in function of its mission of promoting trade liberalization. The new global forum needs to place the right to food and the food and nutrition security of the world's citizens at the centre of its mission and vision and to take a holistic approach in pursuing this goal.

Promote the accountability of governments, multilateral institutions and other actors The gap between the rhetoric of global declarations and the reality of actions - or failure to act - has characterized the past decades. The new global policy forum has to be empowered to develop a global strategic framework for attaining food and nutrition security, against which the actions of governments and other actors will be measured.

➤ Ensure effective participation by social actors.

The voices of civil society actors in policy dialogue regarding food systems have been muted up to now. It is essential that CSOs be empowered to autonomously organize their effective participation in policy dialogue and negotiation at all levels, from the national up to the global. Particular space has to be given to organizations representing those sectors of society most affected by food insecurity and malnutrition, including small food producers and poor urban consumers without whose convinced engagement no policy decisions can be effectively implemented.

**\*Charting a New Path to Food Security:  
Food for the Hungry - our Global Responsibility**

APRODEV and CIDS

: Briefing Paper and recommendations to the EU for the WorldFood Summit

16-18th November 2009

Today close to one in seven human beings, 1.02 billion people around the world, are suffering from chronic hunger. While the numbers are staggering, they have been lost in reporting on the global economic downturn. Yet, the food crisis is still here. Although prices have fallen from their peak in 2008 they remain higher than

the 2006 average, and the underlying trends indicate that global agricultural production, under current prevalent production and consumption patterns, cannot keep up with rising demand. The international community is thus far off track on meeting its commitments to securing the Right of all persons to Food, and achievement of MDG 1 of eradicating extreme poverty and hunger by 2015.

There have been numerous political declarations as well as institutional and financial initiatives since the explosion of food prices in 2008, all professing commitment to alleviating the immediate impacts on affected communities, and to finding long-term solutions to the crisis. A number of positive developments can be identified over the course of the political debate, for example, (re)recognition of the importance of investment in agriculture in developing countries, an increasing focus on small-scale farmers and recognition that changes in global food governance are needed to advance global food security.

However, there is as yet a lack of recognition of the fact that the food price crisis was not the result of one or two isolated policy failures, but of the promotion over the past two decades of a broad set of policies inspired by a market based approach to food and agriculture that did not and could never ensure global food security. This approach had left millions of rural poor in developing countries in a state of chronic hunger for years, long before the effects of the price hike of 2008 hit; and has contributed to severe environmental degradation which has been undermining the long-term agricultural productive capacity.

### **\*AFRICA CAN FEED ITSELF**

**Through increased investments in agriculture and conducive policy frameworks. A dialogue between African governments and African family farmers.**

#### **Context**

Food insecurity in Africa is a legacy of three decades of policies that have cut back public support to agriculture while opening African markets to unfair competition from under-priced food products from abroad. Investment in agriculture, drastically reduced, has been oriented towards export crops targeting the global market rather than food crops for domestic consumption. It has promoted the growth of industrial models of agriculture that damage the environment and threaten the access of peasants, pastoralists and artisanal fisher folk - the majority of Africa's population - to the resources from which they draw their livelihoods. The food crisis has sounded a wake-up call. Investment in agriculture for food security is at the top of the agenda. But will attention and resources be applied to solving long-term structural problems into short-term emergency responses? Although many governments and development partners are committed to investments that target food security and smallholder producers, a number

of questions need to be explored in depth in order to ensure that the support proposed is indeed beneficial to Africa's family farmers and sustainable food systems.

### Issues

Major premises for directing agricultural policies and investments towards the attainment of food security in Africa are in place:

It is recognized that Africa's smallholder family farmers produce up to 80% of the food consumed in the continent even though little or no support<sup>2</sup>. It is evident that agricultural policies and investment should seek to improve smallholder productivity and strengthen domestic food systems. A growing body of evidence - both from the fields and from research - demonstrates that this can be done in a sustainable fashion while addressing climate and poverty reduction challenges as well.

Africa's smallholder producers are also known to be the biggest investors in agriculture<sup>3</sup>. It follows that priority should be given to ensuring an enabling policy and regulatory environment and public investments in key public goods designed to encourage and enhance the effectiveness of the investments made by smallholder producers themselves.

There is broad consensus by all parties that regional integration and the construction of domestic markets is the key strategy to fighting food insecurity and poverty in Africa.

At continental level African governments have adopted policy instruments to fight food insecurity and support smallholder food production for domestic consumption, including the African Union's Maputo Declaration of 2003, which saw African governments pledging to dedicate at least 10% of national budgets to agriculture, the CAADP with its emphasis on food security, the AU Framework and Guidelines on Land Policy in Africa.

African farmers' organizations have built up their capacity to be meaningfully involved in policy and programmer design and implementation by establishing national platforms, regional networks (EAFF, PROPAC, ROPPA SACAU and UMAGRI) and, most recently, the Pan African Farmers' Organization (PAFO) recognized by the AU.



<sup>2</sup> See, for example, Memorandum of the producer organization members of the Conseil National de Concertation et de Coopération des Ruraux of Senegal adopted at the Interactional Forum on "How can family farmers feed Senegal", Dakar, 29 November -1 December 2010 ([www\\_cncr.org](http://www_cncr.org)) and Agricultural investment strengthening family farming and sustainable food systems in Africa, Synthesis Report of workshop organized by the regional Africa farmer networks PROPAC, ROPPA and FAFF in Mfou, Cameroun 4-5 May 2011.

<sup>3</sup> See, for example, FAO (2011), Save and Grow, and Olivier De Schutter Agro ecology and the Right to Food.

## ALKING POINT

The **human right to food** is a central and coherent element of economic, social and cultural human rights that are an integral part of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and enshrined in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights from 1966, ratified by 155 State parties to the UN.

The human right to food is quite different to food security – something which only provides the ‘context’ for full realisation. **The right to food is not realised if people simply have enough to eat.** It is realised if these people command a certain range of states obligations which make the states respect and protect peoples access to adequate food and resources – and to fulfil this access where it does not exist.

## TALKING POINT: Millennium Development Goals

### **MDG 1:**

Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

Target: Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all, including women.

**MDG 3:** Promote gender equality and empower women.

Target: Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, by 2015.

**MDG 5:** Improve maternal health.

Target: Reduce by three quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio.

Target: Achieve, by 2015, universal access to reproductive health.

Annex 1 draws out various aspects about women living in poverty and some of the reasons why the huge majority of the world's poor are women. Women in all countries. Annex VI gives you a more in-depth look at some other factors to be considered.

Please use these Talking Points to inform more people and lead to further positive action.

## **PART IV**

### **Why take action now?**

There is a lot of talk about empowerment of the poor, about the eradication of hunger and poverty (UN Millennium Development Goal, MDG 1) and the empowerment of women (MDG 3).

A unique opportunity is being offered to the international community, to the international women's movement and to other NGOs to transform the theories of empowerment and the eradication of hunger and poverty into policies and actions. Now is the time to build up from the vast knowledge and past experiences that CSOs and NGOs have acquired over the last seventy years during their interactions and involvement with the UN. I would like to give you one example of this :-

Marianne Moore, a North American poet said "What we call good fortune is merely the coming together of experience, confidence and opportunity". I quote Marianne Moore because I am convinced that the Women's Movement has reached a point in its history where it has the experience, the confidence and the negotiating skills, to place women's issues, issues that are so deeply involved with social, economic and ecological justice issues and concerns "centre stage" in matters of State and governance.

- Women International Non-Governmental Organisations (WINGOs) have the experience of working with the UN and national governments.
- WINGOs have the additional experience of collaborating and participating in the preparation and in the outcomes of 4 UN World Conferences on Women. Mexico City, 1975, Copenhagen, 1980, Nairobi, 1985 and Beijing, 1996.
- Between 1975 -1986, during the UN Decade for Women, under the themes of Equality, Peace and Development, WINGOs contributed to the research on the role and condition of women.
- During those ten years national coalitions of women submitted reports to their governments and to the UN on the work and activities of women in their communities and in society.
- WINGOs with other national women's groups and associations have the experience and the confidence of working with the other organisations at the country level, For example on the question of accountability and the implementation of CEDAW. This done through the production of National Shadow Reports.

So here comes the opportunity. If we help to eradicate hunger and poverty we will be able to better the lives of millions of the poor The Zero Hunger Programme of



Brazil shows us and our governments that that with better governance a solution to the problem of hunger and poverty can be found.

It is quite evident that the empowerment of the poor and the closing of the ever widening inequality gaps cannot happen, if we do not recognise that poverty , hunger and malnutrition and inequality are interlinked. One cannot be achieved without the other.

### **Networks: Participation.**

The end to hunger and poverty campaigns are linked to the campaigns to promote a Culture for Peace. The international community of "We The Peoples" of the UN Charter along with others interested in national social and economic development are being asked by the UN to come up with some specific answers on how to proceed-

Let's begin...meet...discuss...where ever and however we can to push forward our hopes and aspirations for the future, our future and the future of our world which as the poet William Wordsworth says "is the only world in which we find our happiness or not at all."

### **CONCLUSION**

There is a desperate need to move forward and advance the cause of economic, social progress for all of humanity The international community wishes to move forward into a future based upon sound democratic practices and principles-

- Let us continue to work together, expand and seek out old and new partners in this great moment of history i.e. the abolition of hunger and poverty and the empowerment of the poor. This is the great challenge of the 21st. century. It is equal to the. challenge of the 19th century: the Abolition of Slavery.

## **ANNEX I Feminisation of Poverty**

### **and the Financial/Economic Crisis**

#### **Statement submitted by INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF WOMEN**

in consultative status with ECOSOC

to the 50th Session of the Commission for Social Development

New York 1-12 February 2012

It is generally accepted that the majority of poor people across the world are women. Of the estimated that 1.1 billion poor people in the world 60-70% are women. Poverty means ill- health and premature death, social exclusion, lack of access to basic services, having no say to basic decisions that affect them and vulnerability to violence. Poor people have no choices with what they can do with their lives. But on top of all that women have to contend with systematic discrimination against them. Discrimination against women causes vast poverty and perpetuates it.

For example in many countries women are prevented by traditional custom and law from owning land which deprives them of applying for loans using the land as collateral. This makes it harder for them to climb out of the poverty trap.

Poor women are particularly disadvantaged even in relation to poor men in their own societies. But why is this so? Inequalities in power between women and men help create and perpetuate women's poverty. If poor women's deprivation is a matter of grossly unequal power relations then the process of empowerment of women is part of the solution to the problem. How can empowerment take place? By enabling poor women to exercise their human rights as a legal and political tool to bring it about social justice. As an example we can refer to poor black women in South Africa who marched against the pass laws in place during the struggle against apartheid and racism. In the US black women were very active in poor urban areas and played a role and continue to do so in advocacy for social development policies.

Taking a rights perspective on women's poverty we see poor women claimants of justice, as economic agents, agents of positive change and not helpless charity cases. However the problem is that very often women's rights are invisible. They may exist on paper but they mean little if the behaviour and attitudes that so often underlie women's human rights abuses are ignored. We have to work hard to change gender stereotypes within the family, in schools, in work, in politics, in the economy.

Unfortunately, women, particularly poor women, are experiencing further violations of their human rights as a result of the current crisis which itself combines multiple crises, that is a global economy recession, the devastating effects of climate change and an ongoing food and energy crisis.

Because of ingrained discrimination and structural disadvantage women have restricted access to services and social protection which help to deal with the shocks of sudden crises and are thus exposed to increased risk with the result that they fall further into disadvantage, exclusion and non-respect of their human rights.

Economic recession in many developed and developing countries has a disproportionate negative effect on women's right to work. In the formal sector women were already facing discrimination with greater job insecurity and lower wages than men and as a result were the first to lose their jobs when the crisis hit.

Increasing unemployment and decreasing household incomes increases unpaid work, including care giving mostly done by women and girls, and forces women to turn to vulnerable and informal employment. This over-presentation of women in insecure forms of work undermines women's rights, perpetuates gender inequalities in societies and limits the prospects for sustainable economic progress. Moreover, economic recession is putting pressure on families and creates conditions associated with increased domestic/intimate relationship violence. Migrant women also face a heightening sense of job insecurity thus making them more vulnerable to abuse.

Women need to participate fully in the decision making processes in order to ensure attention to gender perspectives in policy responses to the financial crisis. States should take measures to ensure a gender approach in the design and implementation of recovery measures. There is a need to support women's right to work by recognizing and making, more visible unpaid work performed by women. We should reduce its burden on them by promoting equal sharing between men and women in care-giving.

Recovery measures should promote women's economic and social rights by prioritizing investments in education and skills development for women, enhancing women's productive activity, ensuring that microfinance goes to them, providing investments in sectors where women make up a considerable proportion of the labour force and undertaking gender budgeting to ensure that women benefit equally from public investments.

The crisis is an opportunity to rethink the economic order. We need to fulfil the needs + of humanity in a human way. A solidarity based (upon) a justice oriented economic order that would promote gender equality and human rights for women and for men, and that would give preference to provision for all and cooperation over unlimited growth and (the) maximizing of profit.

## **ANNEX II IAW Statement**

**presented to the Food and Agricultural Organization Conference 37th session 25 June -- 2 July 2011**

We would like to thank the organisers of this Conference for this kind invitation to address this distinguished audience. We do so with humility but also with a sense of confidence and responsibility of the great role that organisations, such as ours, have played and will continue to play in this great struggle to alleviate hunger and poverty. The membership of INTERNATIONAL, ALLIANCE OF WOMEN is vast and varied. We are an International Women's non-governmental organisation and we have Observer Status throughout the entire UN system.

International Alliance of Women welcomes FAO's excellent, comprehensive 2010-2011 THE STATE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE REPORT prepared for this Conference with its special emphasis on "Women in Agriculture - Closing the Gender Gap". FAO in its commitment towards the implementation of its own programme and the MDGs, in particular Goal 3 recognises the importance of promoting the full and equal participation of rural women and men in all its efforts to improve food security and to ensure a reduction of poverty. Furthermore, the Organisation states that it champions the elimination of all obstacles that prevent the equal participation of rural women in decision-making processes, in the obtaining of decent employment opportunities; access to, and control of resources such as land, water, training, credit, and technology.

The key factors to be noted of the worth and value of women's activities in Agriculture and Rural Development are provided in FAO's fact sheet on its commitment to the implementation of Millennium Development Goal 3. There is no need to repeat this. But, what does need to be stated is that this "theoretical" acceptance of the worth and value of women in Agriculture and Rural Development, receives very little practical programme support by FAO. Whenever help and assistance is offered to this poor women's farming and rural development sector, it often takes the form of short-lived, experimental, or pilot projects. These limited in scope kinds of projects do not have the capability of moving into medium term and long term planning national schemes to alleviate hunger and poverty. We note that any help given to this, up to now, poorly served agricultural sector of the society will improve the gross domestic economic growth figures in most societies.

In fact, what women do not see happening, in any substantive manner, are the ways and means to implement that commitment in any of the proposed FAO's Action Plans for Food Security, although this firm and stated commitment by FAO

to implement MDG 3 is in line with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), article 14 on Rural Women.

On the basis of the above and in the light of FAO's commitment to women's full participation in agriculture and rural sustainable development IAW would like to propose the following:

- That relevant FAO Committees set up a special working group to design a priority programme on the basis and experience of the Brazilian Zero Hunger Programme to ensure the best involvement and use of women's farming and rural development activities in its food security programme
- That the division for Gender equality be included in this process.

Why are we making this suggestion to the Conference?

The need for decisive progress on the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger as addressed in Goal 1 of the MDGs is critical for the achievement of progress in other MDGs.

We must all face the stark reality that very little progress to alleviate hunger and poverty has been achieved since the World Food Summit and the fact that since that World Food Summit, the absolute number of people living in extreme poverty has increased worldwide future strategies must incorporate alternative development thinking. A type of agriculture which would encourage small farmers - women and men - and farming communities - to become independent and self-reliant in the production of stable foods for themselves and for their local and regional markets.

In any strategies produced by FAO there has to be recognition of the fact that the majority of people living in extreme poverty in the rural areas are women and their families. As stated in UNIDO's publication *Agribusiness for Africa's Prosperity* "a key first step (maybe) in exploiting and recognizing small holder farms as agribusinesses regardless of their site and scale" so they may no longer remain trapped in a cycle of subsistence".

Therefore, any attempt by FAO to alleviate poverty and hunger must address gender discrimination and violence against women. This attempt must be geared towards poor women living in the rural areas to have full participation in sustainable rural development in the exercise of their Human Rights.

In conclusion, the rising cost of food will inevitably increase the number of hungry people- and people living in extreme poverty. IAW would like to see FAO approaching this problem of hunger and poverty and raising food prices with a sense of urgency and responsibility.

## ANNEX III

### CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN:

#### ARTICLE 14.

1. States Parties shall take into account the particular problems faced by rural women and the significant roles which rural women play in the economic survival of their families, including their work in the non-monetized sectors of the economy, and shall take all appropriate measures to ensure the application of the provisions of this Convention women in rural areas.

2. States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in rural areas in order to ensure, on a basis of equality of men and women, that they participate in and benefit from rural development and, in particular, shall ensure to such women the right:

- (a) To participate in the elaboration and implementation of development planning at all levels;
- (b) To have access to adequate health care facilities, including information, counselling and services in family planning;
- (c) To benefit directly from social security programmes;
- (d) To obtain all types of training and education, formal and non-formal, including that relating to functional literacy, as well as, inter alia, the benefit of all community and extension services, in order to increase their technical proficiency;
- (e) To organize self-help groups and co-operatives in order to obtain equal access to economic opportunities through employ-ment or self-employment;
- (f) To participate in all community activities;
- (g) To have access to agricultural credit and loans, marketing facilities, appropriate technology and equal treatment in land and agrarian reform as well as in land resettlement schemes;
- (h) To enjoy adequate living conditions, particularly in relation to housing, sanitation, electricity and water supply, transport and communications.

## ANNEX IV

### SOME POTENTIAL PARTNERS AND COLLEAGUES

Brot fair die Welt (Bread for the World) Stafflenbergstrasse 76, 70184 Stuttgart, Germany [www.brot-fuer-die-welt.de](http://www.brot-fuer-die-welt.de)

FIAN International

Willy-Brandt-Platz 5, 69115 Heidelberg, Germany [www.fian.org](http://www.fian.org)

Interchurch Organisation for Development Cooperation (ICCO) Joseph Haydnlaan 2a, 3533 AE Utrecht, The Netherlands [www.icco.nl](http://www.icco.nl)

### **MEMBERS OF THE RIGHT TO FOOD AND NUTRITION WATCH CONSORTIUM 2012**

African Network on the Right to Food (ANoRF)

C1487 J richo, Von de la Station Dovonou, Cotonou, Benin [www.rapda.org](http://www.rapda.org)

Centro InternazionaleCrocevia

Via Tuscolana n. 1111, 00173 Rome, Italy [www.croceviaterra.it](http://www.croceviaterra.it)

DanChurchAid (DCA)

Nerregade 15, DK-1165 Copenhagen K, Denmark [www.danchurchaid.org](http://www.danchurchaid.org)

Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance (EAA)

150 route de Ferney, PO Box 2100, CH-1211 Geneva 2, Switzerland [www.e-alliance.ch](http://www.e-alliance.ch)

Habitat International Coalition (HIC)

Housing and Land Rights Network (HLRN)

11 Tiba Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Muhandisin, Cairo, Egypt [www.hlrn.org](http://www.hlrn.org)

International Indian Treaty Council (IITC)

The Redstone Building, 2940 16<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 305 San Francisco, CA 94103-3664, USA

[www.treatycouncil.org](http://www.treatycouncil.org)

Observatory DESC-Economic, Social and Cultural Rights CarrerCasp, 43 baixos 08010 Barcelona, Spain [www.observatoridesc.org](http://www.observatoridesc.org)

People's Health Movement (PHM)

Global Secretariat, PO Box 13698

St Peter's Square, Mowbray 7705, Cape Town, South Africa  
[www.phmovement.org](http://www.phmovement.org)

Plataforma Interamericana de Derechos Humanos Democracia y Desarrollo  
(PIDHDD) Secretariat  
F.R. Moreno 509, 7° Piso, Asunción, Paraguay  
[www.pidhdd.org](http://www.pidhdd.org)

US Food Sovereignty Alliance (USFSA)  
c/o WhyHunger  
505 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 2100, New York, NY 10018, USA [www.usfoodsovereigntyalliance.org](http://www.usfoodsovereigntyalliance.org)

World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action (WABA) Secretariat  
PO Box 1200, 10850 Penang, Malaysia  
[www.waba.org.my](http://www.waba.org.my)

World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT)  
International Secretariat  
PO Box 21, 8, rue du Vieux-Billard, CH-1211 Geneva Switzerland [www.omct.org](http://www.omct.org)

International Alliance of Women (IAW) [www.womenalliance.org](http://www.womenalliance.org)

Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW) [www.acww.org.uk](http://www.acww.org.uk)

AD GROUP of INGOs at FAO Rome. [www.ahgingos.org](http://www.ahgingos.org)



## **Annex V Creating a Country network:to end hunger and poverty.**

### **ALLIANCE AGAINST HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION-ITALY.**

The Alliance Against Hunger and Malnutrition (AAHM) is a voluntary association whose members share a common commitment to the rapid eradication of global hunger and malnutrition.

Its core work is building partnership between civil society and government in order to adapt and set strategies, policies and programmes that:

- are the most effective measures to reduce hunger and malnutrition
- Contribute to meeting the Millennium Development Goals
- Promote mutually supportive action involving governments and other stakeholders in the fight against hunger and malnutrition
- Engage and empower grassroots organization and individual beneficiaries as full partners in national alliances, to participate in finding and implementing solutions that will make a difference to their lives and the lives of generations to come

The Italian Alliance Against Hunger and Malnutrition became active in September 2012. The Ad Hoc Group of INGO's. and other national Associations and organisations have joined the Alliance.

They include: the Fondazione Banco Alimentare, Coldiretti, the Federazione Nazionale Insegnanti, the Centro Letizia, ONLUS, the Comitato Nazionale Donne Italiane (CNDI), the Comitato,di collegamento di cattolici per una Civiltà dell'amore, Associazione per la Cooperazione internazionale allo sviluppo: Coopemondo, the Associazione Donne Giuriste Italiane (ADGI), as well as the Italian branch of the Women's International League for the Peace and Freedom (WILPF).

## **Annex VI**

### **Some other factors to be considered.**

#### **Reprint of article: Tropical Agriculture Association " Perhaps we all should pay more for our food" by Andrew Mac Millan and Peter Beeden.**

Most tropical Agriculture association members have, like us, worked to increase food production. We have been party to one of the modern world's great successes – to have almost quadrupled food production since the end of World War II, enabling global average food availability per person to rise by 40 percent while the population has grown from 2.5 to over 7 billion.

However this amazing rise in food availability – which, strangely, attracts little comment – has not been translated as much as might have been expected into better human nutrition and health. It has also inflicted huge damage on the world's natural resources and, in many countries, undermined the fabric of rural society.

We suggest that many of the negative effects of the growth in food production stem from the view, widely held by governments, that low retail food prices are a “good thing”. In the UK, for example, food is cheap, with the proportion of disposable income of the average person spent on food having fallen from about 55 percent in the early 1960s to 12 percent now. We think that it is time to propose fundamental shifts in food pricing, taxation and subsidy policies, centred on the principle that consumers should meet the full costs of producing their food, thereby assuring decent incomes for those involved in food production as well as covering the costs of collateral environmental damage. Low-income families, exposed to hunger and malnutrition, would receive income supplements to enable them to access adequate food under these new market conditions. To the extent that farm subsidies continue, these would be redirected at accelerating the necessary shift to more sustainable food production and consumption system.

### **The consequences of conventional food management policies.**

In spite of ample food availability, the health, lifespan and productivity of more than half the world's people are still being damaged by bad nutrition. About 800 million people face chronic hunger (FAO et al, 2014) . and 250,000 died of famine in Somalia just a few years ago (FAO, 2013); perhaps 2 billion suffer from malnutrition induced by nutrient and vitamin deficiencies (often due to a non-diversified diet); and at least 1.5 billion are overweight or obese. Hunger and obesity often coexist in the same countries, communities and even families.

Despite its obvious benefits, the rapid growth in food output has contributed to massive damage to soil, water, forest, biodiversity, and marine resources, and many be exhausting phosphate supplies. Farming, conversion of forest to

agriculture and food wastage (accounting for about 30 percent of food output worldwide) generate 25-30 percent of the greenhouse gas emissions that drive the processes of global warming and climate change, posing great risks for future food production (Vermeulin et al, 2012). We are leaving it to future generations to clean up most the damage we are causing.

Because of downward pressures on producer prices and generally low wages in the food sector, the current food management system also perpetuates poverty and hunger in farming communities (often only relieved through rural-urban migration) and amongst people involved in food production, handling, processing and distribution. Some 70 percent of the hungry in developing countries live in rural areas. It is paradoxical that those who work hard to produce our food are, themselves, likely to suffer from hunger, especially where farming depend on low-priced manual labour (UNCTAD, 2013).

At the other extreme, the obesity epidemic is driving a surge in non-communicable diseases (NCDs), including diabetes, cardio-vascular problems, some cancers and dementia, which will have huge future health costs, especially in those countries in which affordable food is taken for granted and seen as an inalienable right (IASO,) 2014.

It is probably no exaggeration to claim that the combination of the negative impacts of so many aspects of food management poses a fundamental threat to the very existence of society as we know it. If current policies are continued, they will increasingly contribute to social exclusion and profound misery, retard economic progress, destroy more natural resources, accelerate climate change, escalate migration, and spawn instability and conflicts.

With current policies, FAO forecasts a 60 percent increase in food demand by 2050, when there would be possibly 9.6 billion people (Alexandratos&Bruinsmana, 2012). Population growth, of which part is due to people living longer thanks largely to better medicine, safe water and sanitation, account for about half the rise in demand. The rest comes mainly from growing consumption by people who, as their personal incomes rise, are expected to make a “nutrition transition” towards more food with higher animal protein, sugar, salt and fat contents than are good for their health, emulating “western” diets. The number of overweight an obese people in the UK, for instance, is forecast at 60 percent of adult men and 50 percent of women in 2050 (Foresight, 2007). With business-as-usual, over 300 million people would still be chronically hungry worldwide in 2050 because of their poverty (Alexandratos & Bruinsmana, 2012).

Such forecasts are a wake-up call for decisive moves away from current food policies. Instead, we should ideally now be laying the foundation for a new food management system that ensures the early elimination of hunger and that enables all people to eat healthily while reducing the negative impact of food production and waste on the environment. This would not only generate massive and enduring

health, economic and peace benefits but also reduce the rate of growth in future food demand below forecast levels. This, in turn, would cut the pressure of warming on natural resources and on the processes of climate change. The needed transition to truly sustainable food production system would be more easily attainable.

There is every to aim in these directions, but only a few countries, including Ireland, have developed the kind of food strategy that is needed. In 2010, the UK published “food 2030” with priorities of enabling and encouraging people to eat a healthy diet, ensuring a resilient, profitable and competitive food system’s greenhouse gas emission (UK, 2010). They abandoned it in 2011!

### Ending hunger while cutting future growth in food demand.

Country to public perceptions, eradicating hunger will generate only a small increase in future food demand. The main sources of rising demand are population growth and excessive food consumption and wastage.

The average depth of chronic hunger amounts to an energy deficit of about 300 kcal per day (or the equivalent of about 75 grams of wheat or rice) (FAO, 2000). To bring 1 billion people above the hunger threshold would require less than 30 million tons of cereals per year or well below 2 percent of global output, equivalent to about 15 percent of the food wasted in European countries (Trueba&MacMillam, 2013). Even if the amount were to be doubled or tripled, it would represent a small part of future demand, and cost a fraction of the US\$415 billion spent by OECD countries on farm subsidies in 2012 (OECD, 2013).

Population growth is slowing down rapidly in most countries, However, it will still be the main driver of food demand in about 10 African high-fertility countries, such as Niger, Uganda and Zambia, and also I Yemen (UN, 2012). Here the focus should be on broadening the reach of primary health care, including reproductive health services, and enabling girls to stay longer in school as effective means of cutting birth rates. Hopefully, the growing recognition that high population growth inhibits improvements in living standards will encourage the concerned governments to address the population issue even where it is now politically taboo. Globally, however, the biggest potential for curtailing growth in future food demand while delivering huge health, economic, social, environmental and climate change benefits lies in altering how people who can afford to eat adequately behave as food consumption and waste in less strenuous work, with lower demands on food energy, but their natural tendency is to eat more food, widening the gap between physiological needs and demand: hence the obesity epidemic.

The justification for public action to narrow the demand/need gap is strong. At the domestic level, there is a case for curbing excess food consumption to cut the future burden of Non – Communicable Diseases (NCDs): in the UK, for instance, the costs of elevated Body Mass Index (BMI) in 2015 are estimated at £6.4 billion for the national Health service plus £27 billion for the wider economy (IASO,

2014). Internationally, a reduce the need for more forest conversion to farming and help to achieve greenhouse gas emission reduction targets.

Historical data from industrialised countries indicate that at an average apparent consumption level of around 3,000 kcal per person per day, obesity is at a tolerable 7.5 percent (Alexandratos, 2006). FAO estimates that by 2050 the number of people living in countries consuming an average of over 3,000 kcal per day would have risen from 1,9 billion (2005/07) to 4,7 billion of whom 3,4 billion would be in developing countries (Alexandratos&Bruinsma, 2012). By 2050, consumption in the developed countries would average 3,490 kcal per day, implying an average adult obesity incidence of at least 25 percent.

Rather than accept the FAO forecasts of future hunger and over- nutrition as inevitable, surely we should try to steer food consumption toward better health, social and environmental outcomes?

First, this means taking direct action to end hunger through broadening access to food,. In the short-term, the main focus must be on establishing or expanding social protection programmes, targeted on the poorest families. These would provide them regularly with food inflation-adjusted cash grants or vouchers with which to cover their food deficits to the point where they could live healthily.

Secondly, it could imply adopting a national average food consumption goal for all countries of around 3,000 kcal per person/day. Achieving this in over-consuming countries would involve inducing changes in consumer behaviour to achieve health benefits (lower intake of fats, sugar, salt and red meat, combined with more fruits and vegetables) and to reduce environmental damage (cutting food waste and restraining grain-fed meat consumption).

Once a reliable social protection programme is in place to enable poor families to meet their needs even when prices rise, the way is open for governments to adopt policies that lead to higher food prices. The choice of instruments will vary between countries, and should be sensitive to local cultural and social conditions. As governments explore policy options, we urge them to look to adjustments in food pricing, subsidies, taxes and social security programmes as ways of inducing not only lower food demand but also other desirable awareness, among all sectors of the population, of the implication of poor choice of food stuffs on future health prospects.

Adjustments will have to be carefully orchestrated between institutions that hitherto have seldom worked together in order to assure coherent signals for consumers and producers.

Thus, as retail food prices rise, simultaneous measures must ensure that this increase is reflected in higher farm-gate prices, thereby leaving space to reduce farm subsidies where these exist. Part of any savings in farm subsidies and the added income from punitive taxation on “high environmental footprint foods” can

be redirected towards social protection, especially in the countries from which they are imported, to ensure that the hungry can access adequate food. Another part could subsidise the shift to sustainable farming. At the international level, measures would be required to ensure balanced competition between countries especially through favouring fair trade principles.

Countries often defend low food prices on the grounds that they make food affordable to the poor. However, recent research by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) on the food prices of 2007-08, shows that, at least in the long-run, higher food prices actually reduce poverty and, by implication, hunger (Headey, 2014). This is because, when passed up the value chain, they pour extra resources into rural economies, triggering investment and creating employment and ultimately cutting the need for social protection.

### **Box 1: Brazil's zero Hunger Programme**

For president Lula, it was absurd that any Brazilian should be hungry in a major food exporting nation. In 2003, he set the goal the all Brazilians should have three meals a day by the end of his presidency. Zero Hunger's biggest component is the *BolsaFamilia*, a monthly income supplement for over 12 million poor families, with 90 percent being transferred electronically to adult women family members. Others measures to improve food access included extending the school meals programme to all school-age children, offering tax breaks for workers' canteen and providing mother and child nutritional support. Zero Hunger also supported small-scale farming by expanding public procurement of food for state institutions (hospital, prisons, schools) from then at guaranteed prices, and by accelerating land reform.

Zero Hunger has contributed to major improvements in nutrition with dramatic reductions in child mortality and stunting rates, falls in income inequality, enhanced workforce participation amongst income transfer beneficiaries, and increases in small-scale farmer earnings.

Programme costs are about 0.5 percent of Brazil's GDP-

**Source: (MacMillian, 2010).**

## **Conclusions**

Adjustments in prices, taxes, subsidies and social security should be used amongst other instruments more deliberately in influence food consumption and production behaviour and thereby improve human nutrition and health while also contributing to greater rural prosperity and more sustainable food production.

Given the multiple objectives and instruments for better food management, inputs into policy reform must emerge from consultations between institutions concerned with agriculture, health, nutrition, the food industry, the environment, climate change, rural development, social protection and public finance. Civil society can contribute to policy design and building public commitment to the new approaches.

At national level, new food management policies might involve an orchestrated combination of:

- Introduction of standards of conduct in the food trade to align all food purchase and sales practices with concepts of ethical food management, fair trade, and socially and environmentally sustainable production, processing and distribution, based on the principle that consumers should meet the “full and fair” costs of bringing their food to the table.
- Progressively higher taxation of foods with high environmental footprints and health risks.
- Higher taxation on farm inputs used excessively in non-sustainable farming system (nitrogenous fertilisers, pesticides, fuels).
- As farm-gate prices for food increase, a proportional redirection of any subsidies from general farm income support towards inducing the accelerated uptake of truly sustainable land management and production system and expanding the local availability and consumption of fruits and vegetables : part of the resources and development on sustainable farming and on promoting better nutrition and healthier lifestyles.
- Exposure of children and adults to the need for, and benefits of, a healthy diet, and engagement of food industries and supermarkets in promoting healthy eating. Such awareness creation is essential because regulations and policies can be adjusted but, if the attitude of people is not changed, then other, positive, changes are unlikely to occur.
- Introduction of social protection grants for the poorest families and adjustment of existing allowances and pensions, indexed to food prices in real time, combined with expanding support for food consumption of people facing acute short-term food shortages (e.g. food banks, school meals, “meals on wheels” etc).
- Expanding inter-country technical cooperation in food system management, social protection programme design, and research and knowledge sharing in sustainable food production and marketing system.

At the international level, there is a need to promote the adoption of fair trade principles throughout the food trade and to hold countries accountable for reducing greenhouse gas emissions from the food system. To the extent to which they fail to meet agreed demand reduction targets, they could be required to pay penalties into the Clean Development Mechanism, set up under the Kyoto protocol (UNFCCC-CDM). The funds could be used to support hunger eradication and sustainable food system in food-deficit countries.

Though politicians may fear to tread in these directions, the extraordinary success of the Jubilee 2000 debt relief campaign and the growing power of internet-based campaigning for social justice, suggest that the necessary popular support can be built for changes in food management policy that generate benefits not just for all people now but also for future generations.

Hence our optimism!

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