

WORLD FOOD DAY 2018

# DEFENDING FOOD SOVEREIGNTY

Confronting the Challenges of Small Food Providers in the Philippines

16 OCTOBER 2018 | UP BALAY KALINAW  
09:00 AM – 06:00 PM

**Brot**  
für die Welt

FOCUS  
**GLOBAL  
SOUTH**

**CO-ORGANIZED BY:** Alyansa Tigil Mina (ATM) | Centro Saka Inc. | Food First Information and Action Network (FIAN – Philippines) | Freedom from Debt Coalition (FDC) | I-Defend | Integrated Rural Development Foundation (IRDF) | Kaisahan | Katipunan ng Bagong Pilipina (KaBaPa) | Legal Rights and Natural Resources Center/Kasama sa Kalikasan (Friends of the Earth Philippines) | LILAK - Purple Action for Indigenous Women's Rights | Pambansang Kaisahan ng mga Magbubukid sa Pilipinas (PKMP) | Pambansang Katipunan ng Makabayang Magbubukid (PKMM) | Pambansang Kilusan ng mga Samahan sa Kanayunan (PKSK) | Pambansang Koalisyon ng Kababaihan sa Kanayunan (PKKK) | Paragos-Pilipinas | Progressive Alliance of Fisherfolks (Pangisda) | Rice Watch and Action Network (R1) | Rights! Network | Save Agrarian Reform Alliance | Tambuyog | Timuay Justice and Governance (TJG) | Ugnayan ng Magsasaka at Magbubukid sa Nueva Ecija (UMMANE) | UP-Center for Integrative and Development Studies (UP-CIDS)



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# FORUM CONCEPT



## Protecting the hands that feed us

The World Food Day (WFD) is commemorated every 16th of October to mark the initiation of a global step towards the eradication of hunger. Though often viewed as a festive event, the WFD aims to remind both people and governments about the severity of worldwide hunger and malnutrition, the challenges on addressing poverty and climate change, and the need to push forward policy and programmatic reforms to ensure food security.

For this year, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) announced the theme “Zero Hunger World by 2030 is Possible”, linked with the aim of achieving the second Sustainable Development Goal (SDG-2) on ending hunger, achieving food security, improving nutrition and promoting sustainable agriculture by 2030. Among the targets under SDG-2 is to “double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers”.

Local food systems however are under threat from a system that is dominated and controlled by Transnational Corporations (TNCs), aided by government policies as well as international trade and investment agreements that are biased in favor of corporate agriculture. Contrary to claims by proponents of economic growth and the

industrial agriculture-food system, corporate food production continues to fail in both: reducing hunger as well as providing safe and nutritious food. The World Food Programme (WFP) estimated in 2015 that there are about 795 million in the world are hungry, 98% of which live in developing countries. Moreover, around 75% of the world's hungry live in rural areas and depend almost completely on agriculture for food, employment and income. The FAO has also estimated that half of the world's hungry are from small-hold farming communities; another 20% are from landless farming communities; about 10% depend on fishing, herding and forest resources, and 20% live in slums in and around cities, many of whom are migrants from rural areas. Though telling, these statistics do not include the swelling numbers of peoples displaced by natural disasters, mega infrastructure investment, industrial agriculture, and those fleeing armed conflicts.

With the growing protests against corporate and trade driven agriculture as well as neoliberal policies that have affected the sustainability of local food production, Food Sovereignty is gaining traction as an alternative paradigm that outlines the people's right to define their agriculture and food production policies. Since its introduction at the World Food Summit in 1996 by La Via Campesina, Food Sovereignty has evolved into a holistic campaign that includes redistributive agrarian reform, the defense of land and territories privatization and financialization, agroecology, saving and exchange of native seeds, cooperative marketing, and upholding the rights of peasants and small-scale food producers. Conversely in 2007, more than 500 representatives from key land-based social movements around the world adopted the “Nyeleni Declaration”; to promote Food Sovereignty as the right of peoples to healthy and culturally appropriate food produced through ecologically sound and sustainable methods.



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## World Food Day amidst a food crisis

The goal is to feed an entire nation. With a population of more than 103 Million, and with the agriculture and fisheries sector incurring the highest poverty incidences, government programs aimed at improving food production has dwelled on improving the economic capacities of farmers and fisherfolk. For 2019, the Department of Agriculture has requested a P123.7 Billion budget (more than double its P53.4 Billion budget for 2018) to achieve the goal of “self sufficiency by 2022” – the government’s flagship program for agriculture.

On the other hand, economic advisors from the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) have pronounced that the Philippines would be better off importing from neighboring Southeast Asian countries than implementing expensive self-sufficiency programs—justifying its strategy to expand importation towards food security. In the context of rice production (with rice as the staple food for most Filipinos) filling production gaps with imports have resulted in a trade deficit in agriculture amounting to P275.6 Trillion as of 2017, from only P63.6 Trillion 5 years ago according to a study by the World Bank.

While the food security vs food self-sufficiency debate endures in cabinet meetings, the prices of rice in local markets have increased at an alarming rate in the past 8 months. This, coupled with news reports of the National Food Authority (NFA) importing weevil-infested rice from Thailand and the unabated price-hikes of other agricultural commodities such as vegetables and fruits, triggered a public outcry on the government’s ineffectiveness to ensure the adequacy and accessibility of food for the nation.

While the Department of Agriculture stresses that the rice crisis was caused by the delayed arrival of rice imported by the private sector, hoarding by traders, and kindled by the speculative effect of the Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion (TRAIN), it is also exacerbated by other factors including (a) inflation rates reaching an all-time high in the past 12 years at 4.7% average at the national level, with reports reaching 12% in other regions; (b) the lifting of the Quantitative Restrictions on Rice and the government’s push for Rice Tariffication; (c) the dwindling number of farmlands, due to land-use conversion and land grabbing; (d) increasing rural poverty and the lackluster growth in agriculture output from 5.73% in 2017 to a meager 0.53% during the first half of 2018; (e) high local production costs and generally low yields per cropping season compared to other South East Asian countries; and (f) the lack of critical support systems such as production subsidies, crop insurances and irrigation coverage to decrease risks brought by Climate Change and increase overall productivity. Several policymakers have also argued that rice crisis highlighted the recklessness of placing importation as the go-to solution for the perennial issue of securing adequate rice supplies for the entire country.



# FORUM CONCEPT



## Food Sovereignty as an Alternative

Addressing systemic problems require equally systemic and radical reforms. Various social movements have been pushing for food sovereignty as the alternative to market-oriented and neoliberal models of food production, but it has yet to win the societal support need to influence policy making. One reason for this is the continuing contestation between the concepts of food security and food sovereignty, and that policies and socio-economic structures needed to make food sovereignty a reality have not been fleshed out sufficiently. There is thus a gap between policy and practice which is important to bridge, especially in the present context of deepening neoliberalism and agrarian distress.

But what alternative exactly does food sovereignty offer? The International Food Sovereignty movement has developed six defining principles:

1. **Focuses on food for people:** The right to food which is healthy and culturally appropriate is the basic legal demand underpinning food sovereignty.
2. **Values food providers:** Many smallholder producers suffer violence, marginalization and racism from corporate landowners and governments. People are often pushed off their

land by mining concerns or agribusiness. Food sovereignty asserts food providers' right to live and work in dignity.

3. **Localizes food systems:** Food must be seen primarily as sustenance for the community and only secondarily as something to be traded. Under food sovereignty, local and regional provision takes precedence over supplying distant markets, and export-orientated agriculture is rejected.
4. **Puts control locally:** Food sovereignty places control over territory, land, grazing, water, seeds, livestock and fish populations on local food providers and respects their rights. Privatisation of such resources, for example through intellectual property rights regimes or commercial contracts, is explicitly rejected.
5. **Builds knowledge and skills:** Technologies, such as genetic engineering, that undermine food providers' ability to develop and pass on knowledge and skills needed for localised food systems are rejected. Instead, food sovereignty calls for appropriate research systems to support the development of agricultural knowledge and skills.
6. **Works with nature:** Food sovereignty requires production and distribution systems that protect natural resources and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, avoiding energy-intensive industrial methods that damage the environment and the health of those that inhabit it.

In the Philippines, the push towards Food Sovereignty highlights the need to re-prioritize small-holder food production and challenge dominant, market-oriented food systems. This can be done through the passage/implementation of critical policies that address the systemic problems faced by food providing sectors. Equally important is the need to re-emerge traditional, cultural and even indigenous models that uplifts, and gives the reins of food production back to the communities behind it.



# OBJECTIVES

With the current need for systemic changes in food production, what alternative does Food Sovereignty present? Thus, the forum aims to:

1. Discuss the various concepts around Food Sovereignty, drawing experiences from various local, regional and international campaigns;
2. Unpack the political economy of food production – identifying issues, gaps and constraints in terms policies and programs in a “Farm to the Table” approach;
3. Highlight alternative models and/or practices in food production from different sectors and campaigners; and,
4. Identify strategies, common grounds and spaces to broaden societal support and effectively push sectoral and peoples’ campaigns forward.

# PROGRAM

TIME	ACTIVITY	SPEAKER/FACILITATOR
08:30AM – 09:00AM	Arrival of Participants and Registration.	
09:00AM – 09:10AM	National Anthem and Opening Ritual	
09:10AM – 09:20AM	Introduction of Co-organizers and Participants	
09:20AM – 09:30AM	Opening Remarks	RICARDO REYES <i>Rights! Network   Food First International Action Network (FIAN)</i>
MORNING SESSION - FEEDING THE NATION: Context, Issues and Challenges		
09:30AM – 10:45AM	PANEL 1: <i>The Food Crisis in the Philippines: Context, Causes, and Consequences</i>	ROMEO ROYANDOYAN <i>Alyansa Agrikultura   Centro Saka</i>  HAZEL TANCHULING <i>Rice Watch and Action Network</i>  ROSE TRAJANO <i>I-Defend</i>
<i>Continued →</i>		

# PROGRAM

TIME	ACTIVITY	SPEAKER/FACILITATOR
09:30AM – 10:45AM	PANEL 1: (contd.) <i>Perspectives from Social Movements</i>	TRINIDAD DOMINGO KABAPA   PKKK  ELVIRA BALADAD <i>Paragos Pilipinas</i>  PABLO ROSALES <i>Progressive Alliance of Fisherfolk (Pangisda Pilipinas)</i>  TERESA DELACRUZ Aeta Zambales   Lilak
10:45AM – 12:00PM	WORKSHOP 1: GALLERY WALK 1. Mapping Exercise – <i>From Small Producers to Consumers: Identifying issues constraints in current food supply chains (e.g. policies, intermediaries, resources, support services).</i> [Interactive Mapping with Artists]  2. Reporting – <i>Results of Sectoral Caucuses and Mapping Exercises</i>	Facilitate by: - <i>Pambansang Koalisyon ng Kababaihan sa Kanayunan (PKKK)</i> - <i>Progressive Alliance of Fisherfolks</i> - <i>Legal Rights and Natural Resources Center (LRC)</i> - <i>Focus on the Global South</i>
12:00PM – 12:10PM	Introduction to the World Food Sovereignty Exhibit – Concept and the World Campaign in Brief.	GALILEO CASTILLO <i>Focus on the Global South</i>
12:10PM – 01:00PM	LUNCH BREAK	
<b>AFTERNOON SESSION A - THE POLICY ARENA: Defending Small Food Producers</b>		
01:00PM – 01:05PM	Energizer: Performances from Artists	
01:10PM – 01:30PM	The Global/Regional Policy Arena on Food	SHALMALI GUTTAL <i>Executive Director</i> Focus on the Global South
01:30PM – 01:40PM	Brief overview of Key Policies on Food + Introduction to Workshop 2	RAPHAEL BALADAD <i>Focus on the Global South</i>
01:40PM – 02:40PM	WORKSHOP 2: BUILDING KNOWLEDGE ON CAMPAIGNS AND POLICIES  1. <i>The National Land Use Act</i> 2. <i>Zero Hunger Bill</i> 3. <i>Quantitative Restrictions and Rice Tariffication</i> 4. <i>The Coco Levy Bill</i>  ----- [simultaneous] -----  1. <i>Fisheries Code</i> 2. <i>Critical Bills on Water</i> 3. <i>Alternative Minerals Management Bill</i> 4. <i>E-NIPAS</i>	<i>KAISAHAN/CLUP NOW!</i> <i>FIAN - Philippines</i> <i>CSI</i> <i>PKMM</i>   <i>Tambuyog</i> <i>Freedom from Debt Coalition</i> <i>Alyana Tigil Mina</i> <i>LRC</i>
02:40PM – 03:00PM	OPEN FORUM: harnessing the energies of social movements for key policy campaigns	

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# PROGRAM

TIME	ACTIVITY	SPEAKER/FACILITATOR
AFTERNOON SESSION B - ALTERNATIVES: Strengthening Small Holder Food Production		
03:00PM – 03:15PM	SNACKS	
03:15PM – 04:45PM	<p>PANEL A: Systemic Alternatives on Food</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Overview on Agroecology as an expression of Food Sovereignty</i></li> <li><i>The Advocacy on People’s Economy and some local realizations</i></li> <li><i>Resistance of Peasants Movements as an Alternative</i></li> </ol> <p>PANEL B: Community Perspectives and Practices</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Bayanihan (Pre-Green Revolution Practices)</i></li> <li><i>Community Based Aquatic Resource Management</i></li> <li><i>Sulagad – (Highlighting Indigenous Culture and Tradition in food)</i></li> </ol>	<p>ARZE GLIPO <i>Integrated Rural Development Foundation</i></p> <p>Dr. RENE OFRENEO <i>Freedom from Debt Coalition</i></p> <p>Dr. EDUARDO TADEM <i>UP-CIDS</i></p> <p>PKSK/PKMP PANGISDA</p> <p><i>Timuay Justice and Governance (TJG)</i></p>
04:45PM – 05:30PM	<p>MOVING FORWARD: <i>building synergies toward common goals</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Support for Sectoral and National Campaigns</i></li> <li><i>Advancing Policy Reforms and Advocacies</i></li> <li><i>Education and Awareness Building</i></li> <li><i>Key Coalitions/Organizations and Point Persons</i></li> </ul>	JOSEPH PURUGGANAN AND TEAM <i>Focus on the Global South</i>
05:30PM – 06:00PM	Closing Ritual and Photo Ops	
6:00PM onwards – Solidarity Night @ UP HOTEL		