



# **Small holder family agriculture and investments**

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# Introduction

## Some figures

The rising of the prices of food products in 2007 and 2008 shows that 173 million persons more are suffering from hunger and much more are under nourished;

The FAO observes that the explosion of agricultural prices in 2007 and after wards in 2008 has brought the number of under nourished persons pass from 850 million in 2007 to 1, 23 billion in 2009 and to 870 million during the period 2010-2012.

Amongst the reasons of this situation, we can notice:

- The volatility of food prices
- The climatic change
- The impoverishment of land and ground water
- The disappearance of the biodiversity
- The raw materials market which is more and more attractive for the financial speculators
- Fatal agricultural policies and practices

Developing countries are the one most affected, as the food expenses can represent up to 70% of the families budgets, compare with 10 to 20% in rich countries.

The populations more affected by the instability of the prices are those who already live in precarious situation, this means, those who are most under nourished and not benefiting at all any social protection. Generally these are poor populations, farmers where the capacity of production and where the quality of life are threatened by a unsecured climate , workers (whether in the urban zone or in rural areas), farmers without land, breeders, fishermen or producers of raw materials who face with the worst terms of exchanges due to the effects of the rising prices.

Women, more directly confronted to the child hunger, are the first testimonies of these consequences in the households. As they are the ones to feed the family, they are suffering from a high pressure, often at the detriment of their own food

On the one hand, these rising of prices are fatal for the consumers, and on the other hand, a sudden collapse of the prices also affects the producers. The poorest farmers usually don't have a sufficient investment-capital to face those difficulties, what can lead them to take wrong investment measures that can affect their production in the long run.

Producers who doesn't have the sufficient margin to diversify and to protect themselves from the risks get a limited profit from the selling of their products" (OXFAM)\*.

In this document we will see:

### **1. How the investors – speculators destroy the small holder family agriculture**

Why and how the investors/speculators are interested in agricultural products and in which field they are acting: production, agro fuels, agricultural markets, agricultural and trade policies, food stocks and reserves...

### **2. Investments for a small holder and family agriculture**

What is actually the small holder family agriculture, its needs, the investments needed for a future, in reference to Human Rights and to food sovereignty?

### **3. Orientations for action**

Referring to food sovereignty and to Human Rights, some proposals of action towards farmers and breeders and to call public institutions and States.

Have a nice reading

George Dixon Fernandez  
Secretary General





## **1 – How the investors – speculators destroy the small holder family agriculture**

Whether it is question of agricultural land, urban spaces or special investment zones, everything is good to attract the foreign investors, at the detriment of the small farmers and the food sovereignty of the countries, even if malnutrition always affecting the poorest.

### **Who are the investors ?**

- The small farmers: We should not forget that the most important group of investors in agriculture, are the small farmers: 70% of the world population is feed by them. They are working to live or survive, to feed themselves and the local populations. They are despised, non recognized, non supported, not taken into account in the GDP\*. They have few means and financial resources, rents and bank credits are strangled them: facing the impossibility to reimburse their debts, they are selling their land and are condemned to disappear and sometimes they are committing suicides...
- The investors/speculators: This is the Transnational Companies (STN)\*, private companies, mining or oil companies, States, local public powers, financial sectors with speculative investments funds... All those investors always benefit from local allies (government, rich business men in the country...)

### **What are the objectives of those investors/speculators?**

The aim is clear: to get money, to speculate on food products. They impose mono cultures for export (sugar cane, banana, cotton, soya...) with a strong mechanization (and thus suppression of employment in agriculture) and agro industry utilizing chemical products, GMO and other technologies. They grab the land for their needs, for the agro fuels...

Those investors speculate mainly in 5 fields:

- > Production
- > Agrofuels
- > Agricultural markets
- > Agriculture and trade policies
- > Food stocks and reserves.

In this first part we will see how each of these factors contribute to the food prices volatility and what are the consequences on the poorest populations in the developing countries.

## **1-1 – The production**

### **Reports**

- 1- Reduction in agricultural investments due to the Structural Adjustments Policies implemented since the years 1970. During those last years, the public expenses dedicated to agriculture have been reduced to 7% in developing countries and even less in Africa. The part of Public Support to Development (PSD)\* dedicated to agriculture has seen net recoil, passing from 18% in 1979 to 3% in last years. (CNUCED 2010)\*.
- 2- The growth rate of world agricultural production per capita has reached nowadays its highest level since 50 years\*

If this seems paradox, we have to underline that productivity benefits are fully grabbed by the agro industrial systems, mining societies... operating on the world market,

- Depending on external incomes
- Practicing monoculture at the detriment of the food producers
- Grabbing the land
- Controlling seeds and making small farmers more dependent to the TNC\*
- Having a colossal foot print

And more over, the impacts of climatic change are nowadays evident and should have catastrophic consequences on the food production.

Thus, an increase in rendering does not automatically means food security.

In spite of a global record increase of 3, 2% in the world grain production in 2012 planned by the FAO\*, “Countries of the region of Sahel continue to face serious problems of food insecurity due to the high prices of food products at the local level and civil conflicts”

### **To realize food sovereignty:**

- Importance of access and distribution of the resources to food security at the long term,
- Importance to increase:
  - > Investments for the benefit of small farmers who are the key actors of agricultural development
  - > Agro ecological investments to face the climate change
  - > Socio-agro ecological investments in regards to the regions and the countries,
- Importance to reinforce the control, by the States with regard to foreign investments in the agricultural sector in order to:
  - > Ensure the interest of the local producers,
  - > Protect the natural resources
  - > Guarantee the right to food while supporting sustainable investments
- Moreover the question of production, the challenge is also to facilitate the access to the poorest farmers to the market. It is urgent to re centralise the food markets at the local level and to end the concentration of the food chain and distribution of food products.
- A better consideration of the real costs in agricultural production must also be ensured to allow the absorption of external shocks and thus to guarantee a fair retribution to the small holder family agriculture as per its ecological and economical contribution.

## **1-2 - The agro fuels, the other play ground of the speculators**

**A situation amongst others :** In Philippines, Green Future Innovation Inc (GFII), enterprise comprehending a Japanese company and groups of Taiwanese and Philipino investors, seeks to produce 54 billion liters of ethanol and 19 megawatts of electricity from the recycling of the waste of sugar cane. To feed its enterprise under construction in the municipality of San Mariano, on the Luzon Island, GFII wants to rent 11.000 hectares to plant sugar cane. *“Substantial parts of the land of the municipality are unexploited and 15 thousand of employment will be created...”, affirms the local administrator of the project* *“The land of San Marino unexploited? This is false, because: “The province of Isabela, part of the San Marino Municipality, is the first corn producer of the county and the second in regards of rice production !affirms Rosendo Ignacio, militant of the farmer organization Dagami. Actually, the sugar cane plantations invade not only land dedicated to food production but also those farmers who don’t usually have title of properties – They are also affecting natural protected zones and the “ancestor land” of the indigenous communities.”»*

**The consequences :** expulsion of small farmers, threat for the food security, environmental impact of a monoculture, great consumer of chemicals, deforestation, conflicts, insecurity, land grabbing, fiscal advantages for the investors... these are some of the consequences of the culture of agrofuels (see the FIMARC\* document: *“Agrofuels”*, September 2008)

Moreover, agrofuels are one of the causes of the rising prices and food crises of those last years. According to the High Level Experts Group, convened by the World Committee on Food Security of the United Nations (CFS)\* *“the supporting policies to agrofuels, implemented by the United States and the European Union have caused a shock in the demand, broadly identify as a catalyst of the rising prices observed in 2007 and 2008.”*

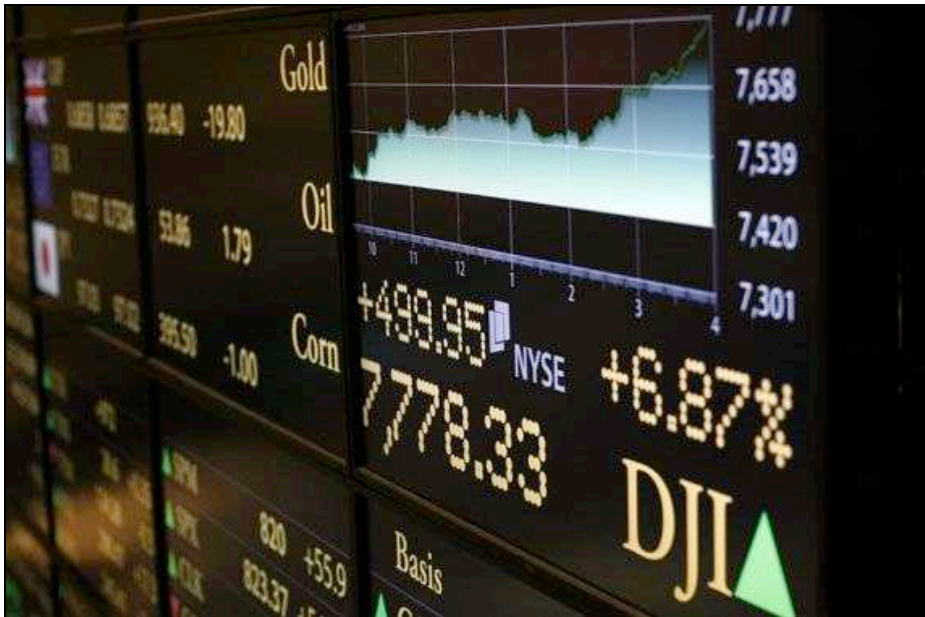
While diverting a part of the production dedicated to food, to incorporate it in our fuels, the available offer on the food markets has come down, provoking imbalances. The boom of agro fuels had a considerable impact on the evolution of the international grain and vegetal oil demand.

As oil prices increase, agrofuels are more and more profitable as the food production is sharply less. The volatility of oil prices has repercussion on volatility of food products through the transportation costs and prices of fertilizers.

These investments in agrofuels constitute thus as an undeniable factor of destabilization of the agriculture in Southern countries as well as serious violations of the population's rights.

### **Measures to be taken are very clear:**

- Immediate abolition of agrofuels incorporation objectives, as well as the subsidies supporting their production and fabrication.
- Each policy related to agrofuels must be based on the local capacity of production and has to take into account the impacts on the local food systems of production and the change in the land use.
- Emphasis must be put on the research concerning the energetic efficiency and efforts must be undertaken to reduce the energy consumption in general



### **1-3 - Speculation of the agricultural markets**

#### **The context :**

*« we were told to become more competitive according the criteria of the international financial institutions, that our States are not any more authorized to protect us. All our tariffs have been dismantled and our markets liberalized; food products coming from abroad have started to invade our markets with low prices, making us more vulnerable to the price volatility... None of these “solutions”, which were imposed on us did not allow us to get out of poverty. Worse still, we are more vulnerable. Ibrahim Coulibaly (Member of the executive committee of the ROPPA – network of the Farmers and Producers Organizations of West Africa)*

#### **Some key figures :**

- *“Since the economic crisis of 2008, the big speculative funds have deserted the traditional financial places to search for others, especially the exchange markets of agricultural raw materials, in Chicago. As a result: in one year the maize price has jumped of 63%, the corn price has doubled and the ton of rice has got 94%. This has nothing to do with sudden scarcities that are affecting the grains. This is just that speculators came over there! Are we going to let them act?” (Jean Ziegler\*, revue La Vie, 17 of May 2012)*
- *On the first stock exchange of raw materials, in Chicago, it is in by-products, 46 times the real world production of wheat and 24 times the real world corn production that are exchanged every year.*
- *At the international level, between September 2010 and September 2011, the food product prices have raised per average of 19%. (Data's of the World Bank\*).*
- *“The agricultural products market is a market of surplus and excesses. Only a very small part of the agricultural production is exchanged on the international markets. The cereal international trade represents so hardly no more than 10% of the world production, all cultures considered (7% for the rice). A small movement in one sense or another can make the market fall over. A second factor has to be added: while the demand (the consumption) is quite stiff, the offer (the production) is very fragmented (thus incapable to get organized and to press on prices evolution) and more subjected than any other to the climatic change. These two factors explain the extreme volatility of the prices on these markets, volatility that the speculation is only amplifying.” (Jean Ziegler “Massive destruction; geopolitics of the famine. Editions “Seuil”, 2011, France – P. 290)*



**Speculators get fat while children, women and men are suffering from hunger.**

Since the financial crisis of 2008, numerous investors filtered in speculation on the agricultural raw materials and realize major profits even while a billion people are suffering from hunger.

Numerous States, in the North as in the South, as well as the regional or international financial institutions (World Bank\*, IMF\*, Multilateral banks of development) wished to privilege the private initiatives even if there isn't any coherent and concrete medium term plan. The call to companies is thus become one of the leitmotifs of the international discussion over the last years even though those actors are putting profit logic at the centre of their strategy and not the food sovereignty of the people.

So, since a few years, we witness a rush of these actors on the agricultural raw material markets, speculative rush which was amplified more over again by the appearance of new markets as agrofuels or carbon credit markets.

These practices have directly favored the massive buying of land and the diversion of food productions to other purposes and it has accentuated the rise of prices. So many additional threats on the capacity to produce for all a quality food in an affordable price.

The domination of immediate profit logic harms the farmers in the whole world; distort the competitiveness and the purchasing power of the consumers.

**Adding to this, the tax evasion** *"We are told that the development will pass by the support to private investments. But nowadays, the resources which drain from us through the tax evasion of multinational companies deprive us of indispensable means to finance our educational or health policies as well as the possibility to support our agriculture."* (Sandra Kidwingira, from the Fiscal Justice Network in Africa).

Actually, in Southern countries, the tax evasion of the multinational companies generates a lack of 125 billion Euros per year for the States (corresponding to more money than the public support to development). As much resources that can not be affected to the essential needs for the poorest populations.

While playing like that on the world prices of raw materials, speculators participate to maintain one human being on 7 in a situation of food insecurity. We cannot say that the perspectives for the coming years are much more reassuring.

Nevertheless, according to the FAO<sup>7</sup>, the world agriculture, with its actual production forces, could feed 12 billion people; this is nearly the double of the actual population. There isn't any fatality in terms of rising food and agricultural prices but there is an emergency:



*Tax evasion (Tiounine/www.courrierinternational.com)*

### To fight against speculation on the agricultural raw materials:

**This is:** to frame and regulate the international practices which put in danger the price stability, ensure considerable profits to private investors against the interest of the producers and make it difficult for the access to food for the poorest.

#### **How?**

- By denying the right to any investors out the agricultural sector (such as pension funds or insurance companies) to intervene on the agricultural raw materials markets
- By reinforcing the powers of the market authorities (at different levels) so that they are able to intervene in all situations provoking an unbalance of the prices (opportunist changes, sudden rise of transaction on a product...),
- By settling regulation stocks at local, regional and international level,
- By communicating with transparency in all information related to the production and stocks even for the agro industry and the agro food sector
- By stopping the incentives to the agrofuels production at the international level...

***« Markets of staple food do not have to be a refuge when the other markets are dried up. The speculation makes good progress... and instead of allowing producers and consumers to protect themselves against this risk, it increased the risk and entailed valuable prices changes.»***

*Olivier De Schutter\** (Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food in the United Nations)





2010 - FAO/WFP Crop and Food Security Assessment Missions Haiti  
Photo: Raphy Favre - GIEWS/FAO

#### **1-4 – Agricultural and trade policies**

**The example of Haiti:** up to the beginning of the years 1980, Haiti was self sufficient in rice, even exporter with a tariff of 30% on the imported rice. Then, 2 adjustments plans were applied in the country: tariff was reduced to 3%/ Arrival of big quantity of rice from the USA, massive destruction of the national production and this resulted the destruction of the social existence of thousands of rice growers.

From 1985 to 2004, the imports of rice passed from 15.000 tons to 350.000 tons per year and the local production collapsed, passing from 124.000 tons to 73.000 tons. The government spends bit more than 80% of its small resources to pay the food imports and we see a massive rural exodus towards Port-au-Prince and to the big cities of the country.

In 2008, the world rice price triple... the government is not able to import enough rice: there is a famine in the country.

**The dumping on agricultural products:** the agricultural and trade policies of the big commercial blocs, like for example USA and European Union are amongst the main structural causes of the actual food crisis. During decades, exports of agricultural products, directly or indirectly subsidized, have prevented farmers from the developing countries to access to the markets and have exercised a constant pressure on the international market prices. The dumping of European products such as wheat, meat, powder milk and more recently, tomato paste, pork and pieces of chicken, had a direct impact on the right to food of the communities and of small producers in developing countries, more especially in Africa. Actually the European subsidized products entering in the market are sold with prices artificially low, which local producers cannot compete.

**Imports – Exports:** the most spectacular fall down of prices on the international agricultural market has been observed in the middle of the 1970, in the middle of the 1980's, when European Union reduced its food imports to become one of the main exporters of staple food. During the same period, Africa passed from a status of net exporter to a status of net importer, especially for grains and milk products. Several countries have in the same way become totally dependents of imports to ensure a sufficient food supply to their population.

Noticing the collapse of the international food product prices, the governments calculated that the import of food products would be less costly than the support to the national food production. According to FAO\* *“the availability of food products less expensive on the international markets is one of the factors that contributed to the recession of investments. And the decline of the support of developing countries to their agricultural sector is usually admitted as one of the reason of the last crisis»*

**The practices of the multinationals:** the liberalization conditions imposed to the emerging countries by the IMF\* The World Bank\* and the free trade organizations have prepared the ground for the multinationals.

In the world trade of food products:

- 6 companies are concentrating 85% of the world grain trade
- 8 of those are sharing more or less 60% of the world coffee seeds
- 3 of those have in hand more than 80% of the cocoa sale
- 3 of those are sharing 80% of the banana trade.....

Those multinationals acting in the international trade of food products have practices with negative consequences:

- Utilization of GMO's\* seeds are almost generalized
- Imposition of patents on living organisms, that forces the farmers to buy their seeds every year to the same multinational companies.
- Loss of plants biodiversity by the imposition of monocultures or GMO\* seeds; on the 30.000 species of consumable plants around the world, 8.000 are cultivated and only 30 to 40 species are referenced and imposed by the multinationals.

From seeds to fertilizers, from storage to process till the final distribution, they are dictating their law to billions of farmers on our planet, whether being farmers in the Beauce region of France or to the small farmers of Punjab in India. Those enterprises are controlling the food of the world.

*“The food prices, the access to rare resources as land or water, the climate change and the world food security are all affected by their activities.”* (Oxfam International, August 2012)\*

These methods have negative repercussions in the long term on the investment choice and on the agricultural productivity in the developing countries.

After a mission to the WTO\* (World Trade Organization), Olivier de Schutter\* writes: *« If we want that trade be profitable to the development and that it contributes to the realization of the right to sufficient food, we must recognize the specificity of agricultural products instead than assimilating them to a commodity like another”* (report “Mission to the WTO”, UN document A/HRC/10/005/Add.2. in Jean Ziegler\* book “Massive destruction; geo policy of hunger” Editions of Seuil, 2011 – France – P. 197)

### **Some recommendations :**

- The regulation of the exchanges must be revisited in order to reflect the principles of the right to food instead of the concerns of the exporters to access to the markets;
- The trade negotiations should let the countries in situation of food insecurity the necessary manoeuvre margin to react to the fluctuations of international prices (measures of price stabilization; quotas of imports and tariffs, even restrictions of the imports if necessary). The countries with low incomes in situation of food deficit should benefit of special treatment during the negotiation of trade agreements.
- To eliminate the direct or indirect subsidies. To assure that trade exchanges do not eliminate the local producers to the benefit of imports and that these are not against the human rights.





### **1-5 - The reserves and food stocks**

**The situation in Sahel** : «A sensitive point in the region of Sahel is about the storage of the crops, explains Maurine Jorand, project leader in CCFD – Terre Solidaire\* France. Actually, in some regions of the countries affected today by the food crisis, the loss of the post harvests may go up to 30 to 40% of the production. These reductions of more than one third of food reserves accelerate even faster the populations in food insecurity.» (Hunger development magazine\* May 2012).

The recent food crisis has reminded the urgency to consolidate the local, national and regional food stocks to

- **Limit** – the volatility of prices, the speculation
- **Establish a favourable environment** for the local producers, especially for the small farmers

**Observation:** the relation between the level of the stocks and the instability of prices is well established: low stocks lead to a rising of the prices and a big volatility of these prices.

#### **The role of stocks is double :**

- For the food distribution (emergency stocks). Under the effects of different factors (climate change, draughts, floods, hurricanes, conflicts...) the needs of emergency stocks are growing.
- To stabilize the markets (reserve stocks, regulations, tampons).  
They offer:
  - A kind of protection for the poorest consumers against the price variations
  - A fundamental security in the countries which are very much depending of imports of food stuffs
  - A price balance in between periods of good and bad harvests

#### **The control of the constitution and management of the reserves**

- Has to be implemented in a participative way
- By the small farmers and the communities at the local level
- But the reserves should also be object of national regulation
- And be subtracted from the interests of private sector
- Emergency stocks and food support should sustain the local food systems and are not made to respond to the interests of the donating countries.

The developed countries don't have to constitute too much stocks, because once put on the international markets, the products penetrate developing countries and come directly in competition with the local production. The small farmers of those countries have been eliminated from their own markets because of their incapacity to compete with subsidized products coming from the North. The local production is suffering and the subsistence of the population is compromised.

The FAO\* underlines that 30% of the harvests – even up to 40% in Africa – are wasted due to the lack or the inadaptation of storage structures. Thus the importance to re think methods of treatments and management of post harvest food products.

On 2nd of March 2012, during a meeting of the Resogest (Network of the public structures in charge of the management of the national stocks for food security in Sahel and in West Africa), 17 countries of the sub region have signed a cooperation frame, involving them to respect the principles of free circulation of commodities in the sub region and to promote the grain exchanges from the countries having surplus to the countries in deficit. If those agreements are implemented, they will benefit first of all to the populations suffering from hunger.



*2012 FAO/WFP Crop and Food Security Assessment Missions - South Sudan  
Photo: Jonathan Pound - GIEWS/FAO*



## **2 – Investments in the small holder family agriculture**

Investments are necessary so that the small holder family agriculture meets the challenge to feed the world, to answer to the real needs of the farmers, the breeders, the fishermen, as well as for the workers and traders living in the rural world. These investments must be realized in the perspective of the realization of human rights for all and in the dynamic of food sovereignty.

### **2-1- Small holder family agriculture**

This is a system of agricultural development that is at the same time a way of life, a unit of production, of consumption but also a social, ecological and cultural unit.

- Small holder family agriculture is not only defined by the cultivated land; this can change from a country to another, in regards with the type of production of cattle growing, in regards with the local traditions and the natural possibilities.
- We need to distinguish farmer agriculture and family agriculture; all farmer's agriculture is family based, as the main working force is the family; but the family agriculture is not necessary farmer's agriculture: some big farms in all the continents, as for example the latifundias in South America, may belong to a single family while developing an industrial and polluting agriculture.
- The farmer's agriculture implements the food sovereignty, from the local to regional, national and international level.
- Small farmers furnish more than 90% of the agricultural production in Africa and Latin America; they maximize the work and have a important productivity; they can feed the world population; thanks to the regional markets.
- Small holder family agriculture employs more than one billion of workers, and 96% of them in the Southern countries; it allows 2,8 billion people to live, what represents 25% of the current world population, estimated to 7 billion;
- The number of persons employed in agriculture around the world is estimated to 1 billions 340 millions; amongst this total, 29 millions practice a motorized agriculture (2%), 250 millions use the animal traction (19%) and more than 1 billion work manually using tools that are very often rudimentary.

- **The small holder family agriculture** is defined by some common characteristics:
  - This is a small size agriculture, with a repartition of the factors of production; the creation and the maintain of employments in the rural world that allows the family to get decent incomes, a real autonomy in the decisions and the management;
  - The development, thanks to the family working forces, where the roles and responsibilities of women are important;
  - Diversified systems of production, providing quality food and competitive products on the markets;
  - Preservation of the soils by the association of culture/breeding, the production and the use of organic manure, anti erosion sites, etc.;
  - Better productivity through natural techniques, reforestation, water management, respect of natural resources;
  - Respect and give value for the environment, by the implementation of an agriculture qualified as “agro ecological” or “intensively ecological”;
  - Act for the preservation of the domestic and natural biodiversity;
  - Anchored, In a “country”, attached to a territory, that implicates the choice for a local and ecological agriculture from the public institutions and States.



*Enhancement program for women– Pakistan*



## **2-2 – The « real » needs of the farmers and breeders**

They can be formulated in some points that are at the same time signals for the investments to be realized:

- To get food for oneself and for the family ; to feed the local community, the population of a region, a country, the world and thus to reduce poverty ;
- To better produce, improving the natural techniques', for an agro ecology, intensively ecological, using the natural resources together with the protection of environment;
- To get incomes allowing a decent life: to get prices paying the work, the refusal of dumping of imports; to realize and keep in hands the added value by the processing and the trading of the products, to get access to the local markets;
- Human and technical trainings, for women and men, in order to get a better use and value of natural resources ; the training must also have the objectives of learning individual and collective responsibility; the capacity of being partner in the decisions; to allow each one “ to stand up”;
- To be able to get organize in associations, cooperatives or other collective form, to be partners and part of the decision making of the agricultural policy while implementing food sovereignty.



*Diversification of the Farm du Sacré Coeur visited during the seminar on investments- Assesse (Belgium) – April 2012*

### **2-3 – Investments for a living future**

When we are speaking of investments, we are not only speaking of financial means, even if those are essential; the investments must respond to the real needs of the farmers, breeders, fishermen and other actors of the rural world. Investments have to be realized in partnership between the farmers, the farmer's organizations and the public institutions:

- To invest in human: giving value of the knowledge and knowhow of the populations, of the local communities;
- To invest in the energy by simple techniques allowing a better productivity; example of solar energy in Senegal allowing to pump water: possibility of watering (vegetables), selling of the surplus, better food for the families;
- To invest in the capital: to allow it to renew, to secure, so that every small producer or breeder can invest himself for his own development: examples: women in Burkina Faso processing cereals for the local consumption; an association of producers in Burundi who controls the weighing of cotton to get just and fair prices;
- To invest in the natural capital: land, water, farmer's seeds, resources, in order that they will be protected and managed by the local populations;
- To invest in a plan or a program allowing the farmers to get incomes: fiscal policy, research in agro ecology, development of the social life, partnership with farmers 'organizations/ States, to the service of the local agriculture in the dynamic of food sovereignty;
- To invest in research, associating the local populations – women and men – in order to give value for their know how and their real, individual and communities technical knowledge;
- To invest in the human and technical training for women and men;
- To invest in the possibilities of processing and trading of the local products, so that the added value keeps in the hands of the producers, of their families and of the human local communities;
- To invest in infrastructures to allow the farmers to access to the local markets and to properly linked with various levels of value chain.





*Intervention of the members of the FIMARC Working Group on Human Rights during the seminar on investments - Assesse (Belgium) – April 2012*

## **2-4 – Human rights**

Human Rights have to be the reference for any action to be planned, present as such or implied.

- **Universal declaration of human rights of 1948** : every Human Being is entitled to the same respect and to the same dignity. The Charter of Human Rights is to be taken in its entirety, the rights being universal, indivisible and inseparable (see, in appendix, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights) ;
- *«**The right to food** is a tag that must lead the efforts of the States to realize this right; it is signal to ensure a bigger coherence between the different elements that contribute to the realization of this right»* (Promotion and realization of human rights – Report on the right to food – Olivier De Schutter\* at the general Assembly of UNO, July 2009).
- We can also refer to **the social and solidarity economy** (periodic of the FIMARC\*, VMR N°86 page 10).

**Through what is written in the two first part of this pedagogical document, we are able to identify where human rights are implemented or scoffed;**

- The right to use the natural resources for the well being of the families and for all ; land, water, seeds of farmers ;
- The right to get a decent income, allowing oneself to live from his work and from the products of his land ; The right to manage the local and personal investments;
- The right to food that correspond to the “culture” and habits of the populations, to healthy and sufficient quantity of food , without pesticides or poisons and thus the right to a safe environment;
- The right to a human, social, technical, technological training to optimize the modes of production, processing and trading;
- The right of women to training, to autonomy, to participation, etc.;

- The right of association as producers (trade unions, association, farmers organisations , groups, etc.);
- The right, as citizen, to participate in the decisions involving the human community; this is the implementation of democracy and the citizen participation;
- The right to health, thanks to ecological agricultural practices (without pesticides or poison, etc.);
- The right to education for all, especially for the children, girls and boys, and for all women for a more effective participation to the community life and to the decisions.

**Questions proposed to the groups and the movements:**

1. – From the investments which are proposed to you, imposed in your village, in your community, in your organization, your region, your country...
  - > What are the Human rights that are scoffed?
  - > Who are the persons most touched, most threatened?
  - > By whom ? How?...
2. In your group, movement or organization, what are the priorities that could privilege to develop the small holder family agriculture?
- 3 – Which networks, which alliances seek to act?



### **3 – Orientations to act**

All proposals of action in the following chapter are made to respond to the « real needs » of the farmers and breeders (point 2-2) and to realize the investments for a future of life (point 2-3). These actions are to be implemented by the movements and the FIMARC\* network. Each movement or organization can choose one or several tracks of actions and implement the means to realize them, in regards with the local or regional priorities

Importance of two big axes: food sovereignty and human rights.

#### **3-1 - In direction of farmers and breeders**

In order that small holder family agriculture be innovative and sustainable, in the perspective of food sovereignty, it is necessary to:

- **To get organized, to form a group :**
  - To manage the projects inside rural committees or other form of communitarian organization ;
  - To manage the access to natural resources: water, land, farmer's seeds, etc. ;
  - To organize the populations, that will choose their representatives in order to negotiate with the authorities;
  - To support and to reinforce the producer's organizations: to find solutions together;
  - To associate the farmers and their organizations locally for the elaboration and the follow up of the agricultural policies;
  - To create alliances and networks of actions, from local to the regional and world levels;
  - To implement the human rights as tools of defence and promotion.
- **To help the farmers to produce in a better way:**
  - To develop cultures of subsistence and to help the small holder family agriculture as a local producer ;
  - To take into account the responsibility of women in the production;
  - To improve the access to the local markets;
  - To find innovative solutions: management of stocks (for the food weld), diversification of the crops, control of prices, etc.;
  - To support the financial participation of the population to all projects, even if this participation is small, facilitating the access to credit



- **To promote adapted technologies :**
  - To preserve the natural resources: land, water, farmers seeds, environment, etc.
  - To train the people to adapted and innovative techniques, to agro biology, to agro forestry for example to improve the soils associating crops and breeding, to favour the mode of natural protection of soils, crops and breeding;
  - To favour the food autonomy of the breeders;
  - To disseminate the knowledge;
  
- **To associate the populations, to organize the civil society:**
  - To built sustainable projects ;
  - To install confidence, to accompany the population;
  - To allow the participation of the civil society to the definition, the implementation and the evaluation of the agricultural and development policies;
  - To promote the concept of small holder family agriculture;
  - To train to food sovereignty, to the social and human dimensions, for the emergence of a collective conscience;
  - To reinforce the human capacities of training and information, especially for women, for a real autonomy, a human dialogue and a local, regional and social balance;
  - To create alliances with consumers organizations, for a same fight at the service of local populations;
  - To favour and support the States or groups of States that organize positive agricultural exchanges while emancipating themselves from WTO rules: agriculture and agricultural products are not products as others, as they concern the food of the humanity.



*The participants of the seminar on Investments in agriculture visiting the farm "La Belle maison" - Emptinne (Belgium) April 2012*



### **3-2 – To call on the public authorities, the States**

Public institutions, States and governments must watch the balance of the policies regarding the economic development, the commercial exchanges and the management of natural resources. It is their responsibility to support the small holder family agriculture and to regulate the markets while defining policies in favour of the right to food, while favouring the sustainable use of the natural resources and ensuring a fair access to the poorest.

Food sovereignty and human rights must be the priority strategic axes of the public authorities and States to fight against hunger and to reduce poverty.

- **To protect and promote the small holder family agriculture**
  - To implement policies to support, protect and value the small holder family agriculture ;
  - To allow the farmers, the women, the groups to access to the funds mobilized in their name to buy material, farmer's seeds, to create added value on their products so that they can live in dignity from their work;
  - To give priority to the local food production, to the markets, to the regional integration;
  - To allow access to natural resources, to credit;
  - To recognize the farmers organizations as partners in all project of small holder family agriculture;
  - To build roads and infrastructures to access to the local markets and to the commercial networks;
  - To defend the agricultural land for the local productions against the land grabbers; to abolish the agro fuels directives in all the countries;
  - To act for the development of local public services, devices for social protection, creation and repartition of the richness.
  
- **To realize and implement the right to food:**
  - To make sure that all people have access to this right, especially the most vulnerable groups ;
  - To establish policies of responsabilization so that farmers and rural people can raise their voice and be listen and so that they get access to justice to make their rights respected and implemented, especially the right to food;
  - To establish priorities and to guarantee the coherence between the food, agricultural, commercial and investments policies that has to be linked to the realization of the right to food.
  - To implement human rights: food, health, education, land, water, farmer's seeds, environment, freedom of association, freedom of trade union, and participation to the decisions...

- **To fight against speculation:**

- To forbid speculation on land;
- To regulate the international trade and the agricultural exchanges through fair prices, for the defence of the small holder family agriculture, by the denial of dumping on exports and imports;
- To fight against speculations on the agricultural raw material markets, this is to frame and regulate the financial practices that put in danger the stability of prices, ensure considerable benefits to the investors who speculate against the interest of the producers and put in danger the access to food for the poorest;
- To reinforce the obligation of transparency of the enterprises in regards with social, environmental impacts and human rights;
- To favour the local supplies to consolidate the emergency and regulative stocks, at the local, national and regional levels;
- To establish a coherent food governance system, that, placed under the control of the Committee on Food Security (CFS)\*of the United Nations, be able to tackle the multiple structural causes of the problem.

- **To condemn agriculture based on chemical products and pesticides :**

- To stop to privilege it through subsidies ;
- To ban GMO's and all that is in favour of the multinationals
- To decide to get out agriculture from the WTO
- To refuse the dumping on exports and imports
- To re orientate and re evaluate the agricultural budgets towards small farmers and family agriculture.





## Conclusion

*« The implementation of human rights and food sovereignty are key elements to resist to neo liberalism, to relocate the productions and to guarantee the right to food.*

*Food sovereignty should be a tool allowing to feed the human beings while preserving small farmer agriculture and while respecting the rights of small producers.*

*The main use of land is to allow the small farmers to feed the human population; food is not a commodity, this is nourishment for all.*

*Therefore, we refuse agrofuels that are transforming the food production in energy production;*

*We refuse GMO\*that create dependence of the farmers from the multinationals;*

*We refuse chemical products that poison human beings, land, water and environment.”*

*(Declaration of the FIMARC \*Executive Committee – Assesse – Belgium – April 27th 2012).*



*The members of the 2010/2014 FIMARC Executive Committee  
Assesse- April 2012*



## **Glossary**

**WB** : World Bank

**CIDSE** : International Cooperation for Development and Solidarity (Non Governmental Organisation – NGO). CIDSE is an international alliance of catholic development organizations.

**UNCTAD** : United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

**CFS** : Committee on Food Security . Intergovernmental Organisation that is a tribune for the exam and the follow up of policies related to food security.

**IMF**: International Monetary Fund.

**GMO**: Genetically Modified Organism, issued from the transgenic.

**WTO** : World Trade Organization

**GDP** : Gross domestic product

**TNC**: Transnational Companies

**Volatility of the prices**: corresponds to abrupt price changes with strong amplitude. This characterization allows to point out the finger on the major problem met by the actors, whether they are governments, traders, farmers or consumers, namely the instability of incomes and the important risks incurred by these same actors. (Centre of strategic analysis, France, in January, 2011 - The note of analysis, Sustainable Development)



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## **Annexe - Universal Declaration of Human Rights**

### **PREAMBLE**

**Whereas** recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world,

**Whereas** disregard and contempt for human rights have resulted in barbarous acts which have outraged the conscience of mankind, and the advent of a world in which human beings shall enjoy freedom of speech and belief and freedom from fear and want has been proclaimed as the highest aspiration of the common people,

**Whereas** it is essential, if man is not to be compelled to have recourse, as a last resort, to rebellion against tyranny and oppression, that human rights should be protected by the rule of law,

**Whereas** it is essential to promote the development of friendly relations between nations,

**Whereas** the peoples of the United Nations have in the Charter reaffirmed their faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person and in the equal rights of men and women and have determined to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom,

**Whereas** Member States have pledged themselves to achieve, in co-operation with the United Nations, the promotion of universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

**Whereas** a common understanding of these rights and freedoms is of the greatest importance for the full realization of this pledge,

**Now, Therefore THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY proclaims THIS UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS** as a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations, to the end that every individual and every organ of society, keeping this Declaration constantly in mind, shall strive by teaching and education to promote respect for these rights and freedoms and by progressive measures, national and international, to secure their universal and effective recognition and observance, both among the peoples of Member States themselves and among the peoples of territories under their jurisdiction.

### **Article 1.**

All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.

### **Article 2.**

Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. Furthermore, no distinction shall be made on the basis of the political, jurisdictional or international status of the country or territory to which a person belongs, whether it be independent, trust, non-self-governing or under any other limitation of sovereignty.

### **Article 3.**

Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.

### **Article 4.**

No one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms.

### **Article 5.**

No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

### **Article 6.**

Everyone has the right to recognition everywhere as a person before the law.

### **Article 7.**

All are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law. All are entitled to equal protection against any discrimination in violation of this Declaration and against any incitement to such discrimination.

**Article 8.**

Everyone has the right to an effective remedy by the competent national tribunals for acts violating the fundamental rights granted him by the constitution or by law.

**Article 9.**

No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile.

**Article 10.**

Everyone is entitled in full equality to a fair and public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal, in the determination of his rights and obligations and of any criminal charge against him.

**Article 11.**

1. Everyone charged with a penal offence has the right to be presumed innocent until proved guilty according to law in a public trial at which he has had all the guarantees necessary for his defence.
2. (No one shall be held guilty of any penal offence on account of any act or omission which did not constitute a penal offence, under national or international law, at the time when it was committed. Nor shall a heavier penalty be imposed than the one that was applicable at the time the penal offence was committed.)

**Article 12.**

No one shall be subjected to arbitrary interference with his privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to attacks upon his honour and reputation. Everyone has the right to the protection of the law against such interference or attacks.

**Article 13.**

1. Everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each state.
2. Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country.

**Article 14.**

1. Everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution.
2. This right may not be invoked in the case of prosecutions genuinely arising from non-political crimes or from acts contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

**Article 15.**

1. Everyone has the right to a nationality.
2. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his nationality nor denied the right to change his nationality.

**Article 16.**

1. Men and women of full age, without any limitation due to race, nationality or religion, have the right to marry and to found a family. They are entitled to equal rights as to marriage, during marriage and at its dissolution.
2. Marriage shall be entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses.
3. The family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State.

**Article 17.**

1. Everyone has the right to own property alone as well as in association with others.
2. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his property.

**Article 18.**

Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance.

**Article 19.**

Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.



**Article 20.**

1. Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association.
2. No one may be compelled to belong to an association.

**Article 21.**

1. Everyone has the right to take part in the government of his country, directly or through freely chosen representatives.
2. Everyone has the right of equal access to public service in his country.
3. The will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government; this will shall be expressed in periodic and genuine elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret vote or by equivalent free voting procedures.

**Article 22.**

Everyone, as a member of society, has the right to social security and is entitled to realization, through national effort and international co-operation and in accordance with the organization and resources of each State, of the economic, social and cultural rights indispensable for his dignity and the free development of his personality.

**Article 23.**

1. Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favourable conditions of work and to protection against unemployment.
2. Everyone, without any discrimination, has the right to equal pay for equal work.
3. Everyone who works has the right to just and favourable remuneration ensuring for himself and his family an existence worthy of human dignity, and supplemented, if necessary, by other means of social protection.
4. Everyone has the right to form and to join trade unions for the protection of his interests.

**Article 24.**

Everyone has the right to rest and leisure, including reasonable limitation of working hours and periodic holidays with pay.

**Article 25.**

1. Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control.
2. Motherhood and childhood are entitled to special care and assistance. All children, whether born in or out of wedlock, shall enjoy the same social protection.

**Article 26.**

1. Everyone has the right to education. Education shall be free, at least in the elementary and fundamental stages. Elementary education shall be compulsory. Technical and professional education shall be made generally available and higher education shall be equally accessible to all on the basis of merit.
2. Education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. It shall promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations, racial or religious groups, and shall further the activities of the United Nations for the maintenance of peace.
3. Parents have a prior right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children.

**Article 27.**

1. Everyone has the right freely to participate in the cultural life of the community, to enjoy the arts and to share in scientific advancement and its benefits.
2. Everyone has the right to the protection of the moral and material interests resulting from any scientific, literary or artistic production of which he is the author.

**Article 28.**

Everyone is entitled to a social and international order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration can be fully realized.

**Article 29.**

1. Everyone has duties to the community in which alone the free and full development of his personality is possible.
2. In the exercise of his rights and freedoms, everyone shall be subject only to such limitations as are determined by law solely for the purpose of securing due recognition and respect for the rights and freedoms of others and of meeting the just requirements of morality, public order and the general welfare in a democratic society.
3. These rights and freedoms may in no case be exercised contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

**Article 30.**

Nothing in this Declaration may be interpreted as implying for any State, group or person any right to engage in any activity or to perform any act aimed at the destruction of any of the rights and freedoms set forth herein.