

Organic Farming and Food sovereignty

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Abstract

Organic, either certified or not, offers a concrete answer against hunger worldwide. In fact, food security can be assured only if there is a real food sovereignty and appropriate support measures to agriculture that do not lead to overproduction nor affect local markets; they should promote environmentally sound practices and support producers, particularly small farmers. The organic movement, now, must decide what approach to take: an agribusiness model based on a long distribution chain or one based on the food sovereignty concept.

AIAB integrally supports the food sovereignty option. Food sovereignty is the right of people to healthy and culturally appropriate food, produced through ecologically sound and sustainable methods (For us, this means both certified and uncertified organic farming.), and their right to define their own food and agriculture systems.

The organic farming model puts those who produce, distribute, and consume food at the heart of food systems and policies, rather than the demands of markets and corporations. It defends the interests and inclusion of the next generation, and offers a future to the youth in rural areas. It offers a strategy to resist and dismantle the current corporate trade and food regime, and support food and farming determined by local producers.

The organic farming model prioritizes the local and national economies and markets, and empowers peasant and family farmer-driven agriculture, food production, distribution, and consumption based on environmental, social, and economic sustainability.

Organic farming promotes transparent trade that guarantees just income to all peoples, and the protects rights of consumers to control their food and nutrition.

Organic farming should ensure that the rights to use and manage lands, territories, waters, seeds, livestock, and biodiversity are in the hands of those of us who produce food.

Organic farming implies new social relations free of oppression and inequality between men and women, peoples, racial groups, social classes, and generations all over the world.

All this means that there is a lot of work to be done. Organic has to answer the demands coming from all over the world, and must choose how to provide the answer. We must definitively show that organic farming is an option for everybody, and is not the fashion agriculture for the richest countries.

Now, this model must be at the center of policies to build local markets, fair trade, fair work, food, and resource access for all. The FAO can definitely play a leading role to make this model a mainstream policy and demand a major role for the civil society organization in the definition of the FAO's policy and programs.

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