

A GENDER PERSPECTIVE ON FOOD SECURITY:

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MEANING OF FOOD SECURITY:

- ◉ Food security has been defined by FAO not only in terms of access to and availability of food, but also in terms of resource distribution to produce food and purchasing power to buy food where it is not produced.
- ◉ “the capacity of households to procure a stable and sustainable basket for adequate food.”

ACTIONS REQUIRED TO BUILD FOOD SECURITY

- ◉ Stability- (food supplies are regular and sustained)
- ◉ Utilization-(all individuals according to their needs get the quality and quantity of food they require)
- ◉ Access— (every household is able to obtain enough food)
- ◉ Availability (adequate food supplies are regular and sustained form season to season).

WHY FOOD SECURITY ON A GENDER PERSPECTIVE?

ROLE OF WOMEN ON FOOD SECURITY:

- ◉ Women play a key role in the survival strategies of poor households
- ◉ Women produce between 60 and 80 percent of the food in most developing countries and are responsible for half of the world's food production, yet their key role as food producers and providers and their critical contribution to household food security is only now becoming recognized.

WHY FOOD SECURITY ON A GENDER PERSPECTIVE CONT’:

- ◉ In sub-Saharan Africa, for example, micro level studies have shown that women play a crucial role in many aspects of crop production. While men are often responsible for land clearing, burning and ploughing, women specialize in weeding, transplanting, post-harvest work and, in some areas, land preparation, and both take part in seeding and harvesting.

WHY FOOD SECURITY ON A GENDER PERSPECTIVE CONT;:

- ◉ In most rural areas, the most time-consuming activities of women are fetching water and fuel wood. Widespread deforestation and desertification mean that these tasks are becoming more burdensome and are preventing rural women from devoting more time to their productive and income-generating tasks.

WHY FOOD SECURITY ON A GENDER PERSPECTIVE CONT’

- ◉ When gender differences are ignored, projects are likely to fail
- ◉ Applying gender perspective helps projects to succeed

CHALLENGES THAT FACE WOMEN TO ACHIEVE FOOD SECURITY

- ◉ Access to resources
 - resources is crucial in the development of food security strategies.
 - Access to land. Not even 2 percent of land is owned by women
 - Access to credit. For the countries where information is available, only 10 percent of credit allowances are extended to women

CHALLENGES FACING WOMEN TO ACHIEVE FOOD SECURITY:

- ◉ **Access to agricultural inputs.**
 - E.g. . technological inputs such as improved seeds, fertilizers and pesticides is limited
 - frequently not reached by extension services
 - infrastructure
 - Access to education, training and extension services.
 - most of the extension services are focused on cash crops rather than food and subsistence crops, which are the primary concern of women farmers and the key to food security.

CHALLENGES CONTINUED:

- ◉ Access to decision-making-which are important for poverty reduction, food security and environmental sustainability.
- ◉ Access to research and appropriate technology.
- ◉ Thus, to improve food production for the household, greater priority has to be given to increasing women's participation in market production as well as other income-generating ventures.

CHALLENGES CONT'

- ◉ Access to seeds
 - Intellectual property(patenting of seeds)
- ◉ Seeds storage
- ◉ Impact of HIV/AIDS
- ◉ Equal access to market access
 - Multilateral trade rules (WTO)
 - Subsidies
 - Dumping

SUSTAINABLE FOOD SECURITY REQUIREMENTS:

- . The challenge for the future will be to pursue a concrete attainment of equity in access to resources by women to produce food, and purchasing power to buy food, where it is not produced thereby enhancing their potential to generate food security.
- ◉ Specific policy measures are required to address the constraints facing women farmers and to give special consideration to the needs of female heads of households.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO ACHIEVE FOOD SECURITY:

- ◉ ensure that women have the same opportunities as men to own land;
- ◉ facilitate women's access to agricultural services tailoring such services to their needs;
- ◉ encourage the production of food crops through the use of incentives;
- ◉ promote the adoption of appropriate inputs and technology to free up women's time for income-producing activities;

RECCOMENDATIONS CONT'

- ◉ improve the nutritional status of women and children;
- ◉ provide better employment and income-earning opportunities;
- ◉ promote women's organizations;
- ◉ review and re-orient government policies to ensure that the problems that constrain the role of women in food security are addressed.

WHAT IS FOOD SOVEREIGNTY?:

- ◉ Food sovereignty is the peoples', Countries' or State Unions' RIGHT to define their agricultural and food policy, without any dumping vis-à-vis Third countries. Food sovereignty includes :
- ◉ prioritizing local agricultural production in order to feed the people, access of peasants and landless people to land, water, seeds, and credit. Hence the need for land reforms, for fighting against GMOs ((Genetically Modified Organisms), for free access to seeds, and for safeguarding water as a public good to be sustainably distributed.

FOOD SOVEREIGNTY:

- ◉ Food sovereignty involves:
 - the right of farmers to produce food and the right of consumers to be able to decide what they want to consume, and how and who produces it.
- ◉ - the right of all nations to protect themselves from excessively cheap agricultural and food imports (dumping).

FOOD SOVEREIGNTY CONT'

- ◉ engaging the participation of people in the definition of agrarian policies.
- ◉ acknowledging the right of women farmers who play a key role in agricultural production and in food issues.

WHERE DOES THE CONCEPT OF FOOD SOVEREIGNTY COME FROM ?

- ◉ The concept of food sovereignty was developed by Via Campesina and brought to the public debate during the World Food Summit in 1996 and represents an alternative to neoliberal policies. Since then, that concept has become a major issue of the international agricultural debate, even within the United Nations bodies. It was the main theme of the NGO forum held in parallel to the FAO World Food Summit of June 2002.

WHAT ARE THE MAIN ARGUMENTS FOR FOOD SOVEREIGNTY?

- ◉ Which facts and arguments do you use if you are explaining the need for food sovereignty for others? What do you find most important, and what are additional arguments? Below are some commonly used. What do you want to add or take away?
- ◉ The need to eradicate hunger
- ◉ The necessity to offer a fair price for farmers
- ◉ The fight against poverty

MAIN ARGUMENTS CONT'

- ◉ The welfare of all food producers
- ◉ The need to produce more food in the future
- ◉ The support sustainable food production and to change a lot production from unsustainable to sustainable.
- ◉ To dismantle the multinational companies
- ◉ To respect local communities and the diversity of culture
- ◉ To preserve the cultural landscape created by rural community

PRINCIPLES OR KEY ELEMENTS

- ◉ The right to food
- ◉ The right to food is a human right which is not fulfilled for hundreds of million of people. Food sovereignty will realize the right to food. *The right to adequate food is realized when every man, women and child, alone or together with others, at all times have physical and economical access to adequate food or means to buy it*

PRINCIPLES CONT'

- ◉ Access to and control over productive resources
- ◉ Agro ecological production
- ◉ The rights for consumers
- ◉ Trade policies and local markets

FOOD SECURITY TO SOVERIENITY

- ◉ Raising agriculture productivity
- ◉ Fostering pro-poor economic growth through improved market access, better infrastructure
- ◉ Require added resources
- ◉ Strengthening actors calls for acknowledging and respecting their diversity
- ◉ Implement action: empowering with information and analysis

FOOD SECURITY TO SOVEREIGNTY

- ◉ Sharing responsibilities through sound partnerships to achieve food and nutrition security
- ◉ Governance pro-poor development policies
- ◉ Expanded knowledge and technology transfer

PRIORITIZING ACTIONS:

- ◉ The goals: achieving food security and ending hunger
- ◉ Focusing on people and their problems
- ◉ Strengthening governance and accountability
- ◉ Invest in raising agriculture productivity
- ◉ Invest in building human capacity
- ◉ Strengthening actors: equipping the actors with strengths

ACTIONS CONT'

- ◉ Facilitating a human right -based approach
- ◉ Building capacity on food and nutrition policy-making and policy assessment for all actors

- ◉ THANK YOU

KEY CONCEPTS RELATED TO GENDER

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ANNEXUTURE 1

- **Empowerment** is the process by which people take control and action in order to overcome obstacles
- It is the process by which women mobilize, to understand and overcome gender discrimination in order to achieve gender equality.
- **Gender discrimination** means that individuals are treated differently on the basis of their sex
- **Gender division of labor** describes a social pattern of life where women are assigned one set of gender roles



Gender concepts cont'

- **Gender equality** means that there is no discrimination on the basis of person's sex in the allocation of resources and in access to services. Gender equality may be measured in terms to equality to resources or equality to results
- **Gender equity** means fairness and justice in the distribution of benefits and responsibilities
- **Gender gap** is the measure is the measure of gender inequality. It is a useful social indicator
- **Gender** is defined as the set of characteristics, roles and behavior patterns that distinguish women from men socially and culturally.
- The concept of gender refers not only to the roles and characteristics of women and men but also to the relations of power between them



Gender concepts cont

- **Gender roles** are socially defines roles for women and men. The definition of gender roles change over time and differ between cultures.
- **Gender sensitivity** is the ability to recognize gender issues, especially the ability to recognize women's distinct perceptions and interests arising form their gender role
- **Gender stereotyping** occurs when certain characteristics or roles are persistently to men or women, therefore creating the belief that these are invariable linked to gender.
- **Oppression** is the use of political power to maintain an unjust system, oppression may exist at the levels of the state, village or the household. Women's oppression refers to the male domination used for the subordination of women.
- **Patriarchy** is the male domination of control of resources that maintains the system of gender discrimination



Gender concepts cont

- **Practical gender needs** are the needs of women and men that can be met without challenging gender inequality
- **Reproductive rights** are the basic rights of women and men to decide freely and responsibly on issues of sexuality and family planning, access to information to make these decisions, and means to carry them out
- **Reproductive health** is the state of physical, mental and social wellbeing in all matters relating to reproduction and reproductive system
- **Structural gender inequality** exists where gender discrimination is practiced by public or social institution