

BRIEF PROFILE

Regional CSO Ad Hoc Committee for the 30th FAO-APRC

I. BACKGROUND

Some 35 representatives from regional formations of rural sectors namely, farmers, fishers, indigenous peoples, women, youth, cooperative, NGOs, and INGOs met last February 2010 during a CSO consultation workshop supported by FAO to consolidate and integrate the many initiatives by various Asian and Pacific Asian stakeholders to democratize space and find ways of institutionalizing civil society participation in FAO and to agree on a workplan for achieving a concrete civil society agenda with proposed outputs for the upcoming 30th Asia-Pacific Regional conference (APRC) of FAO meeting. The consultation occurs as part of the processes in the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) for addressing endemic weaknesses in addressing the fight against hunger and malnutrition, to parallel the broader FAO reform which expands the functions of Regional Conferences to better integrate Regional interests into the work of FAO. The engagement of key regional actors and players, and relevant networks and platforms is hoped to contribute to the building of a future CFS-related "International Civil Society Forum on Food Security" as part of the new and reformed architecture for global governance in food and agriculture.

An Ad Hoc Committee (AHC) was then formed to ensure the continuing coordination among CSOs towards more meaningful and effective engagement with FAO and other regional and international bodies concerning food sovereignty and sustainable rural development issues in Asia-Pacific region. The process was based on volunteer/self-nomination basis given interest and ability to devote time to the AHC by the CSOs participants, with due consideration to geographic and sectoral spread.

II. COMPOSITION

The ad hoc committee consists of sectoral and multi-sectoral groups:

A. Sectoral

Farmers: Asian Farmers Association (AFA); International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP), La Via Campesina (LVC)

Fishers: Southeast Asia Fisheries Network for Justice (SEAFISH)

IP: Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP)

Youth: The International Movement of Catholic Agriculture or Mouvement International de la Jeunesse Agricole (MIJARC-Asia)

Rural Women: Women Organizing for Change in Agriculture and NRM (WOCAN)

B. Regional/Multi-sectoral

Regional Networks: Asia Pacific Network of Food Sovereignty (APNFS), Asian NGO Coalition for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (ANGOC), Asian Partnership for the Development of Human Resources in Rural Areas (AsiaDHRRA), Network for the Development of Agricultural Cooperatives in the Asia Pacific Region (NEDAC); Pacific

Islands Association of NGOs (PIANGO), *Pesticide Action Network Regional Centers (PAN-AP)
-- membership for re-confirmation

C. Country

China: China Association for NGO Cooperation (CANGO)

D. **International NGOs:** ACTION AID, International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM)

AsiaDHRRA was nominated and agreed as the secretariat of the AHC and was tasked to anchor the coordination among the Ad Hoc Steering Committee members and the other participating organizations in the conference.

II. NATURE AND ROLE / RESPONSIBILITIES

The following have been identified as roles and responsibilities of the AHC (*July 6, 2010 AHC Meeting*)

- To serve as a platform for NGOs, farmers' groups, and people's movements to follow-up FAO processes in the next two years and beyond.
- To comment and follow-up on, and make significant contribution to, the draft paper of CSO involvement in the CFS.
- To lobby for the inclusion of CSOs in the FAO processes as participants, beginning in September 2010 in Korea, and in 2012 through potential country 'champions' (e.g. Philippines, Nepal, Thailand).
- To participate in the national level FAO processes (such as country mechanisms for food security) to establish closer ties with the country FAO representatives.
- To make the AHC initiative be known to global processes, especially in relation to the on-going CFS process.

III. SIX-POINT MEDIUM TERM THEMATIC AGENDA (2010-2012)

- Access and Control of Natural Resources
- Management of Regional Commons
- Sustainable Production Systems
- Climate Change
- Trade Agreements
- CSO meaningful engagement in Food and Agriculture Governance / CFS processes

Annex A: Thematic Agenda (for further processing of respective clusters)

1. Meaningful participation of small-holder producers, consumers, NGOs in Food and Agriculture Governance
 - a. CSOs in Asia will develop a mechanism to contribute to the review process to strengthen CSO participation in the reformed CFS;
 - b. voluntary funds and secretariat for participation of women representatives to be established (with attention to women's participation of 50% in decision-making processes)
 - c. a regional mechanism or a Network of Women in Agriculture & Rural Development in Asia & the Pacific to be formed building on existing women's networks;
 - d. effective participation of IPs in decision making in processes at global, regional, national and local levels, free and prior informed consent principle should be ensured;
 - e. availability of incentives and fund allocation by donors for sustainable agriculture be provided;
 - f. success stories be documented and disseminated;
 - g. social movements working in the domain of food and agriculture in Asia and the Pacific be strengthened;
 - h. CSOs in the FAO processes at regional and country level be made more significant through recognition of the CSO parallel forum at regional conferences in 2010, 2012 and beyond (including allocating resources and time for CSO interventions);
 - i. country government-CSO-FAO dialogue in follow up to regional conferences;
 - j. participation and involvement achieving challenges in three sectors - fisheries, forestry, and land tenure - among others;
 - k. early involvement of CSOs in the design of regional and national consultations and forums.

2. Access and control over productive resources (e.g. land, water, etc)
 - a. indigenous peoples be recognized as true stewards of mother earth;
 - b. increased recognition of ensuring tenure security articulated under the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN DRIP) on access and control over productive resources be ensured through training, public awareness raising, publication;
 - c. governments are made to protect, fulfill, respect and to ensure farmers and indigenous peoples rights;
 - d. awareness of women's access and control over land, including implementation of women's land ownership and joint titling, rights of single parents or separated women (widows, single mothers, unmarried women) to have titles under their names, be increased;
 - e. agreements reached by FAO member states during the International Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (ICARRD) be followed through;
 - f. women and smallholders' access and control over productive resources be included as an agenda item in the upcoming Asia and Pacific Regional Conference (APRC) in Korea;
 - g. awareness of the situation of the rural youths and their access to land and control over productive resources.

3. Climate change
 - a. traditional knowledge in agriculture for attaining sustainable agriculture be acknowledged as extremely critical in achieving food security;
 - b. traditional farming, shifting cultivation, ecosystem approach and food sovereignty be promoted;
 - c. climate change adaptation and mitigation be integrated with the goal of food security;
 - d. agricultural and climate change financing for adaptation with high mitigation potentials involving women farmers and directly benefiting them (e.g. communal water, food, seed storage);
 - e. organizing and capacity building for women farmers for production (e.g. "Food Always In The Home", Bio-Intensive Gardening);
 - f. marketing of climate change-resilient, sustainable agriculture crops and food products.
4. Sustainable Production systems
 - a. Recognize and promote farmers' knowledge;
 - b. Promote incentives for organic farming systems, and subsidy for soil recovery should be provided;
 - c. successes documented and published;
 - d. FAO be helped in making a stronger push to governments in supporting the IAASTD document.
5. Management of regional commons (fishery and forestry)
 - a. global fisheries management in light of global and regional challenges be set up;
 - b. balanced development and management .
6. Food price crisis (speculation, biofuel, etc) and unfair trade agreements
 - a. experiences and policy lessons in dealing with the financial and food crisis be identified and considered in agenda and strategy design and development
 - b. analysis and policy advice on unfair trade agreements;
 - c. food and agriculture governance (which is about the participation of small producers in the governance of food production and trade).