

Agriculture and Food Governance – CFS in Focus: “Reflections”

CSO Parallel Meeting to the 30th FAO-APRC
Gyeongju, Republic of Korea
28 September 2010

Context and observation

- Hunger and poverty situation continue to worsen since 1996 World Food Summit
- Question should perhaps focus on what, rather than how
- FAO's stature within the global food governance to "become the central United Nations political platform dealing with food security and nutrition?"
- Food not merely a technical issue; also political; needs reform in power-relations (e.g., agrarian reform, food sovereignty)
- CFS has potentials if the reform will be taken seriously by FAO and member states & governments
 - > political will
 - > budgetary support
 - > willingness by FAO & Govts to engage CSOs

(continuation)

- Little/no information from national governments and FAO country offices to promote/build awareness on CFS Reform Process
- Challenges
 - working with various stakeholders (with diverse views, agenda) on food security
 - how the engagement processes at regional and national level can be expanded and linked to global processes of the CFS
- Processes mostly driven from global rather than national

On Global Strategic Framework and International Food & Nutrition Security CSM

- General feedback
 - processes are still done up there
 - consensus rather than strategic?
 - modality is mainly through electronic discussion; limitation to generate inputs from a wide range of organizations working on food security (concerns of access, language, availability of information, etc)

Global Strategic Framework for Food Security & Nutrition

- Global document → how to ensure buy-in from various stakeholders? Different country contexts?
- Analysis should take into consideration perspectives of social movements, CSOs; not merely on international frameworks for food security
- How will the GSF relate operationally vis-a-vis food security plans at country level
- Institutional reforms of stakeholders on food security
- How to ensure compliance if GSF will be voluntary? Need to assess experience of other voluntary guidelines

(continuation)

- Regular system to monitor, assess and update GSF
 - indicators for coherence, comprehensive, inclusive
 - horizontal linkages
 - vertical linkages
- Equal footing in the dialogue process

Civil Society Mechanism

- Need to strategize on the “engagement process” (i.e., how the perspectives of social movements and CSOs can influence the CFS processes)
- Local, national and regional activities not clearly defined
- Globally representative?
- Need to elaborate further on roles, tasks of various bodies identified (Secretariat, Coordination Committee, CS Forum)
- Need to evaluate CSM: a) how it facilitates involvement of social movements & civil society and b) how effective it engages the CFS processes

(continuation)

- Clear and transparent selection process
- How to ensure organizations not linked to current mechanisms and networks?