



NATIONAL FORUM

Agro ecology and food sovereignty : for food systems in line with popular demands

OCTOBER 14 - 16, 2021

Context

In September 2021, the World Summit on Food Systems was held under the auspices of the United Nations. This event is taking place in a context in which the food system is experiencing an unprecedented crisis, with large multinationals and transnational corporations strengthening their grip on multilateral decision-making mechanisms with the sole objective of maximizing capitalist profits. In spite of the viable alternatives experimented and presented by the peasant movements, the large multinationals persist in seeking false solutions through the commodification of peasant alternatives such as agroecology.

Nearly one billion people live under constant threat of food crisis. A significant part of these people are peasant farmers. If it is true that the world currently produces enough food (3 times more) to feed the entire planetary population, how did we arrive at this crisis, at the inaccessibility to the right to food? What are the real causes of this catastrophe with the consequences we know: famine, migration, mass exodus, poverty, exclusion, marginalization, climate change, among others?

Agro-ecological family farming feeds more than 60% of the world's population, while the global agri-food industry has sufficient technology to guarantee equitable access to food for all populations. Why does this model fail to meet this need? What are the economic and political motivations that prevent it from doing so?

Agricultural land grabs, extractivism, the commodification of the environment through mechanisms such as the Carbon Market, anti-peasant policies... these are all structural and political threats to the achievement of the political objective of food sovereignty.

There is no crisis of alternatives to the current food system. The alternative experiences developed by peasants around the world in the practice of agro-ecological family farming, both in terms of practices and in terms of political orientation and governance, have shown the way for a sustainable response not only in terms of the objective of food sovereignty, responses to climate change, but also to the governance of food systems.

We need a paradigm shift. We need to re-peasantize the global food system. We need to break the mercantilist software of the world food system to solve the problem of hunger, to strengthen the basis of peasant alternatives and to pose them in terms of public policies and access to rights, to seriously address the climate crisis caused by reckless capitalism... to build collective well-being and to put the human being back at the center of the concerns of the multilateral system (to be reviewed in its essence) and that the populations participate in global governance.

En Haïti, la privatisation de l'Etat, l'application de politiques néolibérales et d'un capitalisme de second ordre et servile entre autres sont autant de raisons et de menaces objectives sur la paysannerie. S'il est vrai que l'Etat haïtien, depuis sa création, a toujours été anti-paysan, le tremblement de terre de janvier 2010 l'a encore révélé avec acuité. Le Plan Stratégique pour le Développement d'Haïti (PSDH) marque un tournant dans l'orientation des politiques publiques, exposant le caractère excluant et marginalisant des décisions de l'Etat haïtien et renforçant la mainmise de secteurs nationaux antipopulaires au service du capital transnational.

In Haiti, the privatization of the State, the application of neoliberal policies and a second-rate and servile capitalism, among others, are all reasons for and objective threats to the peasantry. If it is true that the Haitian State, since its creation, has always been anti-campesino, the earthquake of January 2010 has again revealed it with acuteness. The Strategic Plan for the Development of Haiti (PSDH) marks a turning point in the orientation of public policies, exposing the exclusionary and marginalizing character of the Haitian state's decisions and reinforcing the control of anti-popular national sectors in the service of transnational capital.

We must change the dependency of public policies in Haiti on inhuman and degrading capitalism. How can we repoliticize the struggle for food sovereignty? What are the pillars of the repoliticization of peasant work? How to create the conditions for a new model of governance of the national food system? How to create new dynamics of struggle for the elaboration and implementation of public policies articulated around popular demands?

So many questions that organizations of Haitian social and popular movements intend to address in the organization of a National Forum on October 14, 15, 16, 2021, in an international context marked by the realization of the World Summit on Food Systems, but also by a serious political crisis, socio-economic at the national level with an accelerated worsening of living conditions of the majority of the population in Haiti.

Within the framework of this forum, the concerned organizations will take advantage of the occasion of the international day of the rural women, on October 15, 2021, to feed reflections on the fundamental role of the women farmers, in the process of construction of the food sovereignty of the country. This refers to the socio-political issues of women's access to resources, including land, in this context of political, social and economic

crisis, both at national and international level. The forum will also take advantage of the celebration of October 16, as World Food Day and October 17, as International Day for the Eradication of Poverty to analyze the root causes of the situation of dehumanization in which millions of people around the world, particularly in Haiti, are wading.

Objectives of the Forum

- - To take stock of the public policies in application and the peasant alternatives in accordance with the claims related to food sovereignty
- - To reflect on the need to revitalize social and popular struggles for articulated responses oriented towards the re-politicization of alternative practices of agro-ecological family peasant agriculture

Expected results

- A common understanding of the causes and consequences of the crisis of the global and national food system is developed between Haitian actors and their international partners in order to strengthen the struggle for alternative public policies
- Concerted strategies are put in place for an articulation between Haitian social and popular movements and their international partners in order to face the challenges related to the governance of food systems, with a view to guaranteeing the rights of the population, in particular peasant farmers.
- The actors put in place strategies and initiatives to support the struggle of peasants against land grabbing, for public policies to support agro-ecological family farming.

Participants

- Women's organizations and movements - Peasant women
- Peasant organizations and movements
- Human rights organizations
- Production, processing and marketing cooperatives
- Youth organizations
- Support institutions in rural areas
- Universities (State - Private)
- Trade unions
- Organizations and institutions of popular education
- International partners (Via Campesina, Brigade Dessalines, Entraide & Fraternité (E&F), Grassroots Int'l (GRI), Jubilee South, Broederlijk Delen, Global Partnership Network, CIDSE CCFD-Terre Solidaire, ...)

- State structures (MARNDR, CNSA, INARA)

Methodology

The main thread of the forum will be a dialogue between knowledge (between the analyses of researchers, analysts and the experiences developed by different actors evolving in the sphere of food sovereignty).

Thus, the methodology will give a predominant place to exchanges and workshop work to ensure greater participation.

- It is planned :
 - - Short interventions (framing of themes)
 - - Exchanges, comments and questions
 - - Workshops on specific themes to feed the proposal documents that will result from the Forum

Proposed agenda for the Forum			
Schedule	Theme	Speaker	Facilitator
Thursday, October 14th			
08 :30 – 09 :00	Welcome and registration of participants		
09 :00 – 09 :30	Opening: National Anthem Artistic performance	Artiste KEB	
09 :30 - :09 :45	Introductory remarks, background, and methodological and logistical details of the forum	Ricot JEAN PIERRE, PAPDA	
09 :45 – 10 :30	Crisis of Capitalism and the World Food System: How did we get here?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Camille CHALMERS, PAPDA ✓ Chavannes JEAN-BAPTISTE, MPP, Via Campesina ✓ Laurent LEVARD, UTAA 	
10 :30 – 11 :10	Questions and comments		
11 :10 – 12 :00	Coffee break		
12 :00 – 13 :00	Megaprojects, extractivism: constant threats to food sovereignty and the strengthening of the system of exploitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Peterson DEROLUS, KJM ✓ Georges Eddy LUCIEN ✓ Ilionor LOUIS 	
13 :00 – 13 :45	Questions and comments		
13 :45 – 14 :45	The current food system, a mechanism of violation of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ESCR): How to guarantee access to rights?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Alermy PIERVILUS, POHDH ✓ Marie Eveline LARRIEUX, SOFA ✓ CIDSE 	Kepler AURELIEN
14 :45 – 15 :45	Questions and comments		
15 :45	Closing of the 1st day		
	Meals		

Friday, October 15th			
08 :00 – 08 :30	Arrival of the participants		
08 :30 – 08 :45	Reminder of the previous day	Kepler Aurélien	
08 :45 – 09 :45	Agro-ecology as a production model to guarantee food sovereignty: What public policies to guarantee farmers' claims?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ TK ✓ MPNKP ✓ Ceres HADICH, Direction Nationale du MST ✓ Fiona FAYE, GPN-Kassel University 	Guy NUMA
09 :45 – 10 :30	Questions and comments		
10 :30 – 11 :00	Coffee break		
11 :00 – 11 :30	Cultural animation	Rebèl Pakamò	
11 :30 – 13 :00	Peasant struggles in a context of deepening neoliberal policies in Haiti: Testimonies on struggles for the right to land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ MOPDES ✓ Esther JOLISSAINT, SOFA ✓ Milosthène CASTIN, AREDE ✓ KPSKBM ✓ INARA 	
13 :00 – 14 :00	Exchanges around the testimonies		
14 :00 – 14 :45	Climate Change, External Debt and Public Welfare: Fostering a Citizens' Movement for Climate Justice and the Right to Life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ GAFE ✓ PAPDA ✓ Chavannes JEAN-BAPTISTE, MPP 	Franndy LESPERANCE
14 :45 – 15 :30	Questions and comments		
15 :30	Closing of the 2nd day		
	Meals		

Saturday 16th October			
8 :00 – 08 :30	Arrival of the participants		
08 :30 – 08 :45	Opening and methodological and practical details	PAPDA	
08 :45 – 09 :45	Launch of the Workshops : - World food system and food sovereignty: what alternatives? Which governance model? - Agrarian reform and food sovereignty: How to meet the challenge? How to guarantee the right to land for the peasantry? - Agro ecology vs. Agribusiness: how to put Haitian peasants back at the heart of national and global food systems? - What are the essential elements that can create a favorable framework for advocacy for food sovereignty in Haiti and the governance and control of food systems?		
09 :45 – 10 :30	Coffee break		
10 :30 – 11 :30	Resumption of work in the workshop		
11 : 30 – 12 :30	Plenary session		PAPDA / ICKL
12 :30 – 14 :00	General discussions		
14 :00 – 14 :30	Proposal and adoption of the text of the Forum Declaration		
14 :30 – 15 :00	Cultural animation	Vanessa JEUDI	
15 :00 – 15 :15	Acknowledgements and closing remarks	Marc-Arthur FILS-AIME, ICKL	
15 :15	Meals		