

EU - SSA Civil Society Alliances.  
Stuart Coupe, Policy Adviser, Practical Action  
EU/AU Workshop on Organic Farming.  
Brussels, 11 July 2011



# Food Sovereignty

Food Sovereignty is a counter-proposal to the liberalised, trade-based development model that dominates food policy.

The call for Food Sovereignty was reaffirmed in Rome in November 2009, when 642 people from 93 countries, representing 450 organisations and movements of small-scale food providers, gathered at the People's Food Sovereignty Forum.

They committed to “strengthen and promote our ecological model of food provision in the framework of food sovereignty”



# Food Sovereignty

- Focuses on food for people rather than internationally tradable commodities.
- Values food providers rather than eliminating them.
- Localises food systems rather than encouraging dependence on inequitable global trade,
- Takes control of the food system away from unaccountable corporations and places it back at the local level
- Builds knowledge and skills that conserve and develop local food production,
- Works with nature in diverse agro-ecological systems, rather than production methods which damage the environment and contribute to global warming.

# Food Sovereignty

Growing trend within EU development and environment NGOs to supporting Food Sovereignty: e.g. Practical Action is a partner with Terra Nuova, Vriedeselanden, C.S.A, Crocevia and EAFF/PROPAC/ROPPA in EU Public Awareness of Development Issues project, “EU/Africa, Towards Food Sovereignty” 2011-2014.



# Transition from Industrial to Ecological Agriculture

- “Such a shift would recognize and give increased importance to the multifunctionality [multiple outputs] of agriculture, accounting for the complexity of agricultural systems within diverse social and ecological contexts. ... It would also recognize farming communities, farm households, and farmers as producers and managers of ecosystems. ... In terms of development and sustainability goals, these policies and institutional changes should be directed primarily at those who have been served least by previous agricultural knowledge, science and technology approaches, i.e., resource-poor farmers, women and ethnic minorities.”
- *IAASTD Global Summary and Synthesis Report*

# Promotion of Industrial Agriculture

Future model of production in Africa?

G8/World Economic Forum New Vision for Agriculture, SAGCOT, AGRA etc. – funders include private US foundations Warren Buffet/Bill and Melinda Gates. partners are Yara, Unilever, Syngenta, Monsanto etc. Is there a need for Food Sov/Organic stakeholders to come together to challenge sustainability claims of this alliance , within CAADP?

Look out for African Agricultural Growth and Investment Task Force at AU Summit in November 2011.



# Report by Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food

- Report to Human Rights Council
- 17 December 2010
- A/HRC/16/49
- Olivier de Schutter
- Subject: Agroecology

# Agroecology and the Right to Food

## Agroecology:

- Raises productivity at the Field Level
- Reduces Rural Poverty
- Contributes to Improving Nutrition
- Contributes to Adaptation to Climate Change
- Farmer Participation: as asset for the dissemination of best practices

# Recommendations



- Donors should engage in long term relationships with networks such as ROPPA, ESAFF, PELUM, and La Via Campesina, to scale up agro-ecological approaches for lasting change

# Recommendations



- CGIAR should increase the budget for agroecological research at the field level
- Train scientists in the design of agroecological approaches and participatory research methods