

Civil Society Consultation Working Groups – Sub-Regions

(N.B. The following were not represented: Andean Region, West Asia, and South Africa)

Europe and North America

Focal Point(s):

- 1. Stineke Oenema (ICCO)– Concord European Food Security Working Group**
- 2. Annelies Schorpion - European Coordination of La via Campesina**

The European and North American groups merged into a single working group. Ca. 40 people attended the meeting.

1. The state of the art of civil society networking in Europe.

Many civil society formal and informal networks and platforms were identified with a clear focus on food and agriculture related matters, including the following:

- Concord European Food Security Working Group bringing together EU development and humanitarian NGOs (including regional networks like Cidse)
- A number of federative organizations (e.g. European Coordination Via Campesina) that expand outreach capacity throughout the region.
- The Nyeleni Europe initiative involving the food sovereignty European platform
- In North America (in USA, in particular) the US NGO Working Group on the Food Crisis, which has just evolved into a food sovereignty movement, Interaction (platform of US development and humanitarian NGOs), and the Global Policy Forum grouping CSOs that interface with the UN.
- Opportunity to liaise with Eastern Europe (and also Central Asian) organisations is presented by FAO regional conferences and parallel civil society consultations
- IPC and More and Better campaign, though global, also offer good networking opportunities in the regions

Though several initiatives and opportunities were highlighted, challenges need to be addressed in order to strengthen civil society capacity. Some of them received more attention:

- A clear weakness in networking capacity was identified in Eastern Europe, both new accession countries and non-EU member countries,
- Some of the constituencies (i.e. indigenous peoples, pastoralists, fisherfolks) have more problematic capacity to network with other organizations and communities and to negotiate with governments and regional institutions
- Food industry workers are also often isolated from the wider context
- Potential conflicts between NGOs and small food provider organizations were also indicated as concern
- Spaces for democratic participation are still limited and this affects advocacy; this might force civil society organizations to limit their action and their

- effectiveness within institutional formats
- Autonomy from governments is sometimes limited and existence of people's organizations is per se not obvious in certain countries
- Consumer perspective still weakly represented in this context
- Gap between civil society organizations and movements focused on domestic food issues and those engaging on international goals (both in the US and in Europe))

To counter these actual and potential weaknesses:

- Inclusivity was recognized as crucial key word and commitment; alliance building is also essential. Need to continue the mapping exercise to include more organizations.
- The Nyeleni Europe process represents an opportunity to disseminate the message and to bring constituencies such as consumers and environmentalists on board; need to exploit all relevant physical gatherings to reinforce the mechanism. Assembly scheduled for August 2011 will bring together many groups and movements.
- The IPC work has to be valorized to get together organizations, movements and initiatives.
- Efforts oriented to integrate more organizations should be made by existing networks and platforms to increase the outreach capacity.
- Common work on CFS should be popularized and used to empower organizations at more regional and national levels, since it is not very known outside this context.

2. Selection of regional members in CC

Which organizations to involve

Small food providers and their organizations were clearly identified by all participants as a core constituency and larger alliances with other social sectors have to be established and reinforced at all levels

Youth perspective is sometime neglected and needs to be strengthened. Agricultural workers, environmental organizations, fisherfolk, smallscale cooperatives, pastoralists were also mentioned. Important to identify social sectors involved in strong struggles at local level but that don't have the strength to emerge. Fair representation in the CC of all constituencies is important and this will enable weaker constituencies to emerge.

Criteria to guide the selection of CC members

- Priority for self-organised or self supporting constituencies (i.e. social organizations)
- CC members have to behave as facilitators and not representing specific constituencies or organisations;
- CC members should have facilitation skills and willingness to listen to others points of view

- Transparency in selection mechanisms for CC members also crucial; the same should apply to the selection process at regional level
- Independency vis-à-vis private sector and philanthropic foundations is also relevant

Focal points to guide the process

The Concord European Food Security Working Group volunteers its chair (Stineke Oenema of ICCO), supported by the overall membership of the Group and the secretariat of Concord, as one focal point.

The European Coordination of VC expressed its availability to represent small farmers and the Nyeleni Europe process: needs to consult internally for its focal point nomination

More and Better (Aksel Naerstad) also gave its availability specifically to increase the outreach potential in non EU countries.

For East Europe the focal points to facilitate CC member identification are Wilhelm Schuster (Ecoruralis, Romania), Svetlana Boincean (IUF, Moldova) and Mariam Jordjadze (Georgia) They will indicate what support they need to carry out the process by the end of the year.

Methodology and calendar

Focal points will interact with the organizations and networks present here and others who join the process during the selection process. National platforms can help in mapping and outreach. The mailing list developed by the regional IPC focal point will be an essential starting point.

Information technologies to be used to share and disseminate information and documents; CSM4CFS webpage to be expanded to host specific regional contents and to post member names and contact details

Timely translation of documents is crucial to keep all organisations in the loop.

The sequence of the process will be:

- Publication on web site of criteria for selection and of names/contacts of organizations present at this meeting: immediate
- Constitution of an initial mailing list: by end October
- Mapping of existing networks/organizations in the various constituencies - mid October – mid November
- Nomination process – mid November – mid December
- Selection – by end December

The meeting of the European Food Security Working Group scheduled for 8 December might be used as a nucleus for bringing together a broader set of actors to discuss the process.

North America

There is a great deal of work to be done. The two organizations present (Save the

Children US and WOCAN) engage to report back to the networks mentioned above and to see how to take the process forward.

South Asia/ Southeast Asia & Oceania

Focal Point(s):

- 1. Sarojeni Rengam (ARWC) – Overall Coordinator**
- 2. Sahidur Rahaman (IFSN) - South Asia**
- 3. Ujjaini Halim(WFF)– South Asia**
- 4. Meenakshi Munda (APIYN)- South Asia**
- 5. Esther, Joan Salvador (ARWC) – Southeast Asia**
- 6. LVC – Southeast Asia**
- 7. Andre Leu (IFOAM) – Oceania**

1. *State of CS networking and advocacy in the region*

Strong points

- Many networks (PCFS, SAAPE, ICSF, WFF, WFFP etc.) and platforms (ASEAN, SAARC etc.) exist in these sub regions which are already doing good work on food security/sovereignty issues
- The need for promotion of food sovereignty is highly felt in these sub regions as Asia is the home of largest number of hungry people in the world and peoples' perspectives from Asia should be highlighted in global discussions
- NGOs/CSOs/CBOs in these sub regions are able to work with a clear and focused objective (related to promotion of food sovereignty) to achieve their goals.

Gaps, challenges

- Overwhelming hunger in Asia
- Corporate agenda determining food related policies and agricultural policies, promoting corporate agriculture and land grabbing
- Regional corporate houses have emerged strongly and are undermining rights of poor, India and China have emerged as two important actors in this regard
- Climate change is a big issue of concern, so are other issues like water sharing at regional levels
- Process of destruction of small scale food production has intensified in recent years which has further increased rural-urban migration and cross boarder migration and intensified poverty of vulnerable groups.
- Corporate agenda/languages like PPP, CSR etc. negatively affecting empowerment process of marginalized communities
- In some countries NGOs/CSOs are facing very difficult situations as their governments are not open to criticisms and NGOs/CSOs often have to face severe consequences for their works to promote rights (right to food, food

- sovereignty)
- Public Private Partnership is a new threatening trend emerging in many countries which is actually intensifying privatization of common property resources and destroying livelihoods of poor (restricting poor's access to resources)
- Price hike is a big concern and we have to develop our strategy on how to address this crisis in Asia.

Steps to be taken

- There are different ideologies, strategies and positioning of NGOs/CSOs/CBOs in these sub regions, what is needed is to develop a collective common position through:
 - Broad-based consultations
 - Mapping of organizations who are working for promotion of food security/sovereignty
 - Enhance information sharing and communication at all levels
 - Looking at (involving) multi actors in the process
 - Asserting our common democratic spaces in dialogues (particularly when government or corporate houses try to divide us)
- We should learn from each other's experiences, share our experiences among us and should focus on mobilizing and empowering communities
- We should document best practices (if possible with the technical help of academicians, universities)
- Support CSOs to increase their visibility at global level.
- People who would be at forefront should represent constituencies (adequate translation etc. need to be made available to them to make them feel comfortable in the process)
- Constituency representatives need to be capacitated in order to enable them to represent their constituency effectively

2. Selection of regional members of Coordination Committee

- All participants would be responsible to disseminate information on this process among other organizations, networks (who are working on similar issues in these sub regions) constituency-wise. Sarojini will develop an e-group for sharing information among the participants.
- Where ever possible sub regional consultations would be organized for broad-basing the process
- Various constituencies will nominate organizations to be included in the

consultation process and for identifying cc members

- Focal points are identified for South Asia, South East Asia and Oceania which will facilitate these consultations and they are as follows:
South Asia: Sahidur Rahaman (IFSN, Bangladesh), Ujjaini Halim(WFF,India), Meenakshi Munda (APIYN India)
- South East Asia : Esther, Joan Salvador (ARWC), and one person from LVC
- Oceania: Andre Leu (IFOAM)
- Sarojini will also play important role in overall facilitation.
- Focal points will be responsible to facilitate the consultations by establishing communications with the nominated organizations and all the nominated organizations and focal points will form a Council which will be known as Reference Group
- The Reference Group will discuss the issue of final selection of cc members from the respective sub regions. Reference Group will be in a facilitating role

Time line:

- Information to be shared with other CSOs/NGOs: by 20th October
- All nominations to be submitted by 15th November
- Reference group to be set up by 15th November
- Then this group will decide about final nominations to cc from their respective regions by 31st December
- If possible sub region-wise meetings would be organized for Reference Group members (depending on availability of resources)

- The entire process should be well documented to maintain transparency (by focal points)

- In future selection of cc members should be done through intensive consultations at various levels, which could not be done this time for time constraint

Africa

Focal Point(s):

1. PROPAC – Central Africa
2. WFF – East Africa
3. Remadel & IPC – North Africa
4. La Via Campesina - Southern Africa
5. TBD – West Africa

It is proposed that for each subregion within Africa, a reference group be formed to identify and select their representative on the Coordination Committee.

These reference groups will be initiated by the organisations present here, and then wider participation sought. It is acknowledged and accepted however that due to the time constraints, this group cannot expect to ever become fully balanced in representation and participation, and the groups should not take too much time in seeking to become so. The reference groups will exist solely for the purpose of selecting the representatives for this first year's Coordination Committee, and will not have any life beyond that. This first year is an experimental process.

Process

1. Constitute the group

- Organisations present here will elaborate the list of regional organisations and networks mentioned during this discussion in order to identify the groups who need to be part of this process. The reference group will elaborate criteria of relevance to food security and representativeness to be applied in developing the list.
- Organisations present here will select one organisation to be responsible for taking the lead
- The formation of the reference group will be communicated as widely as possible to all the organisations and networks identified with an open invitation to be part of the reference group

2. Invite nominations

- The (now extended) reference group will develop
 - criteria for the selection of the representative, and
 - TOR for the role of representative (including making clear the level of work involved and limited resources available)
- Call for nominations will be widely communicated, sharing the criteria and TOR

3. Select representative

- The reference group will select the representative for the subregion from the nominations received, according to the criteria
- This will be done by the end of December

Lead organisations

Central Africa:

- PROPAC (propac-cm@yahoo.fr , cnopcameroun@yahoo.fr)

East Africa:

- World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fish Workers
(mnakato@worldfisherforum.org)

North Africa:

- Remadel (remadel_maghreb@yahoo.fr) & IPC focal point
(karimakrout@yahoo.fr)

Southern Africa:

- La Vía Campesina (renaldo.unac@gmail.com)

West Africa:

- tbc

Annexe: list of organisations/networks from discussion

International:

- International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP)
- International Union of Food Workers (IUF)
- World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fish Workers
- Rural Women's Network
- International Food Security Network (IFSN)
- World Alliance of Mobile Indigenous People (WAMIP)
- Habitat International Coalition (HIC)
- International Indigenous ICT Task Force (IITF)

Continental:

- Pan-African Farmers Forum
- pan-African youth movement
- Organisation de femmes autochtones d'afriques
- Vía Campesina Africa
 - region 1: headquartered Moz
 - region 2: headquartered Mali
- IPACC (Indigenous Peoples of Africa Coordinating Committee)

Maghreb:

- Remadel
- U Magri

West Africa:

- ROPPA
- RECAO (Réseau des chambres d'agriculture de l'Afrique de l'Ouest)
- REPAOC (Réseau des plates-formes nationales d'ONG d'Afrique de l'Ouest et du Centre)
- MIJARC (Mouvement international des jeunes rurales catholique)
- Tin Hinan
- ORB/AOC (Observatoire regional du betail et de la viande en Afrique de l'Ouest et

du Centre)

- UFROAT (Union des Femmes Rurales Ouest africaines et du Tchad)
- reseau des consommateurs
- reseau des cooperatives
- ECOWAS women's network
- fisherfolks

Central Africa:

- PROPAC
- chambres d'agriculture
- food security network
- Dynamic Africa
- women's networks
- women farmers

East Africa:

- east african agricultural and food union
- NBD (Nile Basin Discourse) - 10 countries (east, north and central) - environmentalists, community, professional
- EAFF
- Mawed
- pastoralists

Southern Africa

- SACAU
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Central Asia

**Focal Point(s)
To be confirmed**

The group was facilitated by Maryam Rahmanian, report by Catherine Razavi Iran, with the help of our friend Akilbeck from Kirkstan.

We discussed about two subjects in the region of Central Asia, Iran and Afghanistan.

- A. State of Civil society networking and advocacy in the region
- B. Selection of regional members of coordinating committee (deadline is 31 December 2010)

A. State of Civil Society Networking and Advocacy in the region:

We have to work hard to find out several NGOs and indigenous organisation in the region of Central Asia, Afghanistan and even in Iran working specifically in the subject of "Food Security and Food Sovereignty". That shows us that for the future

we have to work hard in our region. That is why we have to work first at the national level and network very deeply again at national level for the coming years. For a while we should just agree with the NGOs working on environmental issues and then we are going to lobby for finding more specific NGOs.

Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan are not very open yet for NGOs and indigenous organisation. But we still can find if not very specialized NGOs with the subject of food security and food sovereignty NGOs working in general with natural resources, environmental and environmental protection. Kazakhstan, Kirgistan and Tajikistan should be the countries that at the beginning we have to focus on.

Regarding for example Pastoralism in Kirgistan we can't say that we are a network but we are for a while a project. That means as soon as the project is finished and the budget is finished the movement could disappear. That is why now a days we have to work very hard of organizing ourselves in a very strong network. It could be a very hard work but we have to have an overall goal for the near future.

We need to start seriously in our countries to built capacity building and then public awareness with the NGOs and indigenous people in the issue of Food Security and Food Sovereignty. For a while 90% project are based and organized by the government. The strong point in Central Asia is the common Russian language that in the future can facilitate the networking and website. With Iran and Afghanistan as well fortunately there is common language.

Fortunately Kazakhstan has got some network but we have to be in touch with them as soon as possible. But we have to be aware that agencies are taking the lead for the issues of agriculture and don't make the mistake and take them as Civil Society Organisation. We have to be aware that the Russian culture is more promoted the local and culture and local language. Maybe in the future we have to go more deeply in our culture especially regarding Pastoralism, Food Security and Food Sovereignty. As we understood we have for the beginning to focus only on Kazakhstan, Kirgistan and Tajikistan. Even in Kirgistan I hardly understood by my colleagues said our friend Akilbeck.

In Central Asia political division is the base of working together, in Arabic countries the religion is the base of working together. And this the question raised by our colleague of Kirgistan "how to consolidate the relation of farmers and pastoralists in the future. We have to think about it very seriously. And maybe this work will help us to find a good solution in the research of networking for Food Security and Food Sovereignty.

In our countries conservationists and environmentalists doesn't not yet believe in the very crucial role of Civil Societies, indigenous and local people and don't involve them in the process of decision and implementation only as a most of the time workers for their project. We have to take in account this and work hard for it. We have to work and lobby with experts and decision makers for different groups:

women, poverty, land less and formulate with themselves an adequate and functional solution for networking. We should not be in a hurry for having a good base for the future. We have to be in touch with other part of the world for example like Africa where networking is strong today and learn more from them.

We have to work at different level local, national and regional; the challenge is very big dissipate of lack of budget and legal framework, people working in the issue of Food Security and Food Sovereignty. We need a large network for the dissemination of the informations around our countries.

The question was raised how to consolidated the regional network? Maybe through press release, internet, yahoo group and somehow in some country through human rights of the civil societies and indigenous people.

We have to find very dedicated persons for being able to lobby with our governments in the subject of the inclusion of Civil Society in the CFS and MFS.

B. Selection of regional members of coordinating committee (deadline is 31 December 2010)

The selection of regional members of coordination committee will be a very difficult task for our Central Asia region. Each sub region should present just one member with a very democratic and transparent process. We should make a list of them and have criteria. We are going to take in account the same criteria and TOR of the group, and disseminate them. We have always remembered only the person of the civil society should be taking in the process. Indigenous and local people are considered as a CS.

Long term objectives could be and should be the setup of a regional platform on Food Security and Food Sovereignty. Different National network should be able to establish such platform at regional level. As we said before we have to start with Kazakhstan, Kirgistan and Tajikistan in Central Asia and with as well Iran and Afghanistan. The most important is to find a common interest and challenge between local level and as well between national level to being able to setup a strong and sustainable regional network. We are going to need a minimum budget for the organization of this regional network.

We need time and try to find out from which way we are going to process. Maybe we have to be in touch with ECO and other organisation where we can raise the very crucial issue of Food Security and Food Sovereignty.

For example in Russia Food Security is more oriented for production of grain and food. We should put mid-term goal for setting up a national network with our new approach on Food Security. Then think about regional network.

The person who will be in charge of setting up the network should be very committed and believer.

Adding here the selection criteria

The task for organizing in Central Asia, Afghanistan and Iran with the deadline of 31 December 2010 will be:

1. List of all organisations in the region which have somehow worked on Food Security
2. Information in Russian and Farsi in a kind of Cover letter explaining the goal of this network, CFS, CMS, criteria etc..... Maryam Rahmanian will do that and will send us what document we need for translation in Russian and Farsi.
3. We are going to have several conference calls after having find people of our lists.
4. Then make a group and start to have a council and then we will be able to choose people for the coordination committee. We are going to have rotation approach.

Latin America

Focal Point(s):

1. **Liseth Rodriguez – CICA**
2. **Maria Noel Salgado – Movimiento Agroecológico de América Latina**
3. **Mario Ahumada – CIP America Latina y Caribe**

Es fundamental el respeto y reconocimiento al proceso de participación que el CIP Regional de América Latina y los diferentes movimientos sociales regionales y organizaciones nacionales han venido desarrollando en la región. Existe una plataforma de articulación de numerosas y diversas organizaciones, la cual ha llevado sólo en este último año diversos procesos de consulta como es el caso de la II Conferencia para la Soberanía Alimentaria de la Sociedad Civil previa a la Conferencia Regional de la FAO en abril del 2010 en Panamá, asimismo la **Conferencia de las OSC sobre las Directrices para la Tenencia de la Tierra y de los Recursos Naturales**, en Brasilia, Brasil. En donde se determinaron propuestas significativas por un gran número de movimientos y organizaciones.

Con el fin de ampliar aún mas la participación y facilitar la incorporación de otros movimientos y organizaciones sociales, se acordó realizar un proceso de consulta para la identificación, incorporación y participación en el mecanismo de la sociedad civil de movimientos y organizaciones sociales que aún no se incorporan. En la reunión ya identificamos otras plataformas regionales que trabajan el tema de Soberanía Alimentaria, derecho a la alimentación, derecho nutricional, derecho territorial, por ejemplo:

- CIP América Latina y El Caribe
- Foro Social de Las Américas

- COPROFAN, REAL MERCOSUR
- CLOC, MAELA, AMIGOS DE LA TIERRA, REDLAC, RAPAL
- Red por una América Latina libre de Transgénicos
- Red por el Derecho a la Alimentación
- Consejo Internacional de Tratados Indios
- Consejo Indígena centroamericano
- Etc.

A su vez, también organizaciones nacionales como por ejemplo:

- FBSSAN de Brasil, CONSEA de Brasil, ANA de Brasil, ASA de Brasil
- RED AGROECOLOGICO DE URUGUAY, RED DE EDUCACIÓN AMBIENTAL de Uruguay
- CNFR/AMRU de Uruguay
- ASOCIACIÓN DE PRODUCTORES ECOLOGICOS DE BOLIVIA
- FUNDACIÓN LA ESPERANZITA DE NICARAGUA
- AGROSOLIDARIA DE Colombia etc:

EN CUANTO A LA ELECCION DE LOS PUNTOS FOCALES DE LAS TRES SUBREGIONES, COMO NO HABIA UNA SUFICIENTE REPRESENTACIÓN, EL GRUPO DE TRABAJO DE AMERICA LATINA ACORDO NOMINAR A 3 PERSONAS RESPONSABLES PARA QUE REALIZEN UNA CONSULTA POR INTERNET A LAS DIVERSAS ORGANIZACIONES NACIONALES Y REGIONALES, QUE LOGRE COMO RESULTADO SELECCIONAR A LOS 3 MIEMBROS DEL COMITÉ DE COORDINACIÓN ANTES DEL 31 DE DICIEMBRE.

PARA ELLO SE ESTABLECIO LO SIGUIENTE:

1. Ratificar las Redes que ya están establecidas, sus procesos de consulta
2. Trabajar en los procesos de participación nacional.
3. Tomar en consideración el Foro Social de las Américas, Mercosur, y otras ya mencionadas
4. CIP America Latina y el Caribe
5. Establecer una Ficha de organizaciones

Las personas serán las siguientes: Mario Ahumada, Lisseth Rodriguez y Maria Noel Salgado, las cuales tiene la tarea de hacer las respectivas consultas vía internet y trabajarán hasta el 31 de diciembre con la colaboración y apoyo de todos los

presentes.