

## **INTERVENTION OF CIVIL SOCIETY FOR GOVERNING BODY 7**

### **International Planning Committee (IPC) for Food Sovereignty**

**Muhammad Qomarunnajmi (IPC)**

#### **Intervention at point 11: The Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing**

Selamat Siang everybody!

I am Muhammad Qomarunnajmi, a small holder peasant from Indonesia with land holding of about 2500 sq.m. I am a member of La Via Campesina and Serikat Petani Indonesia representing millions of farmers around the world and Indonesia.

We are practicing to exchange seeds among us for century. We are very happy and love to doing without worry or fear because we did that as cultural traditions tradition and for social benefit purpose. But nowadays, there are lot of bodies who make seeds as commodity and profit-oriented. And they sell these seeds back to us at very expensive prices. For this, they also bring laws which restrict us from using our own seeds. And this they do by using our own seeds that they have grabbed from us without our permission and without the understanding of our cultural values.

It makes us worried to share our seeds now because there is possibility that this will help the industry to criminalise us for using our own seeds. This happened in my country a couple of years back when 6 farmers were imprisoned for using their seeds.

Therefore it is very important for us that this system of MLS first safeguard our rights and understand our worry.

So we request that the governing body should ask CGIAR and other stakeholders likely to transfer material under development:

- to inform the governing body of the existence of any exclusivity or intellectual property agreements that limit access to this material;
- to refrain from demanding exclusivity or intellectual property contracts, particularly on native characteristics, which may limit farmers' rights on PGRFAs that they are cultivating and/or that are accessible to the public.

Thank you.