

WORLD FOOD DAY 2005 **“MAKE HUNGER HISTORY”**

Towards an equitable and healthy food system in world of plenty, where 852 million go hungry and 1.7 billion are obese

ROPPA CALLS ON PRIME MINISTER BLAIR AND G8 TO LISTEN TO FARMERS

The West African Network of Smallholder Farmers' Organisations and Agricultural Producers – ROPPA in its French acronym – wrote to Tony Blair and G8 ministers in July.

The letter was launched at the UK Food Group and Greyfriars Kirk MAKE HUNGER HISTORY event prior to the Make Poverty History rally in Edinburgh.

In the upcoming round of trade negotiations, ROPPA is calling for:

- an immediate halt to negotiations on Economic Partnership Agreements until there is a level playing field in terms of trade;
- the inclusion of smallholder farmers in developing and implementing plans and programmes for poverty reduction – something they say has been notably absent in the PRSP (Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers) process; and
- coherent policies that will address the espoused concern for Africa and will change the inequitable world order, which is controlled overwhelmingly by G8 countries and their corporations.

See: www.makehungerhistory.org

World Food Day falls on 16th October, the date of the founding of FAO in 1945. For its 60th anniversary celebrations FAO is focusing on the theme of Intercultural Dialogue – Our Common Heritage – to raise awareness of the need for all peoples to defend our food heritage and sustainable farming practices at all international negotiations www.fao.org/wfd/index_en.asp

BBC Food Programme marked World Food Day on 9th October.
www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/factual/foodprogramme_20051009.shtml

31st October: ‘Make Hunger History’

Parliamentary Briefing, 3:00 pm,
House of Commons, Westminster,

Hosted by **Joan Ruddock MP**, this briefing will present views on what the European Union and the UK Presidency could do to support African farmers in the upcoming World Trade Organisation negotiations and avert the growing crisis in food and farming.

- Ndiogou Fall, ROPPA, “How Africa Could Feed Itself”
- Lies Craeynest, War on Want, UK “Food Sovereignty: democratising food and farming choices”
- Christopher Jones, Agricultural Christian Fellowship, UK “Why agriculture matters at home and abroad”

Details: www.ukfg.org.uk (Click on ‘Events’ link)
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working together for global food security

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Action Aid, Agricultural Christian Fellowship, Baby Milk Action, Banana Link, Catholic Fund for Overseas Development (CAFOD), Catholic Institute for International Relations (CIIR), Christian Aid, Consumers International, Department of Health Management and Food Policy - City University, Farmers' Link, Farmers World Network, Find Your Feet, Gaia Foundation, Harvest Help, International Institute for Environment and Development, ITDG (Intermediate Technology Development Group), New Economics Foundation, Oxfam GB, Panos Institute, Pesticide Action Network, The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), Save the Children, Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund (SCIAF), Susila Dharma Britain, Tearfund, War on Want, Womens Environmental Network, World Development Movement, WWF UK Observers: Greenpeace, Overseas Development Institute, Sustain

SELECTED UK FOOD GROUP ACTIVITIES 2005

UK Government Department for International Development (DFID) consultation “Productivity growth for poverty reduction: an approach to agriculture”

The UKFG has engaged with DFID in its consultation process on developing its new agriculture policy, in particular, facilitating responses from CSOs to the 14 background Working Papers.

In the final draft, there is a need for greater clarity about scope, definitions and linkages; it prioritizes high potential growth areas and market access but neglects non-market agriculture. There's also an unsubstantiated pro-GM technology approach.

The UKFG submitted its response to the DFID consultation in September, based on consultations within the Sustainable Agriculture and Trade Working Group. The five-page submission is available at www.ukfg.org.uk/ (Click on 'UKFG Publications').

Electronic conference on the Future of Food and Small Scale Producers organised by IIED. UK Food Group participated in the Steering Group for this with CIIR, Small and Family Farms Alliance and TEBTEBBA.

2nd November, ‘Trade Justice not Free Trade’ Mass Lobby, 12 midday – 6:00 pm, London

This year, UK NGOs have been mobilising their memberships through the ‘Make Poverty History’ campaign to achieve a better deal for developing countries at the upcoming WTO Ministerial meeting.

There was tremendous public support at previous rallies, in April in London and July in Edinburgh, and we expect a good turnout at the upcoming mass lobby of Whitehall in November.

To push the message for trade justice not free trade, people are lobbying their MPs with the messages (1) Stop pushing poor countries to open their economies and (2) Respect poor countries’ right to decide their own trade policies in order to help end poverty and protect the environment.

For more information see www.tjm.org.uk

NEW!! UK Food Group publication ‘Achieving fairness in trading between supermarkets and their agrifood supply chains’ by Anne Tallontire and Bill Vorley

What are the prospects for fair trade to become the norm rather than the exception for trading between supermarkets, their suppliers, and farmers at home and around the world? That is the question asked in this paper, which comes at a time of widespread scrutiny of UK supermarkets and

their influence on the livelihoods of food producers and suppliers. The paper reviews the opportunities and risks in incorporating fairness into supermarkets’ trading practices. It was commissioned by the UK Food Group’s Trans National Corporations Working Group to inform member organisations’ campaigning strategies and to propose a new agenda for future research. Available at www.ukfg.org.uk/ (Click on ‘UKFG Publications’).

Food Sovereignty debate in the UK

In June this year the UK Food Group held a Food Sovereignty seminar to facilitate debate on the principles of food sovereignty among UK Food Group members. This was to further understanding about how the Food Sovereignty policy framework addresses hunger eradication and poverty reduction.

The keynote presentation was given by Michael Windfuhr, based on a new FIAN/ITDG report ‘Food Sovereignty: towards democracy in a localized system’. This is now available to download in English as a PDF file from the following website www.ukabc.org/foodsovpaper.htm (and in Spanish by the end of October)

It was agreed that more discussion is needed to define the modalities of how to implement the Food Sovereignty policy framework. Also, widening its endorsement by civil society and government needs addressing. The UKFG will continue to facilitate debate on this issue together with European and International partners.

Ban Terminator campaign. The UK Food Group has set up a sub-group on Terminator Technology. It is part of the international Ban Terminator campaign to ensure that Terminator Technology continues to be opposed by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) at its meeting in March 2006. More information on: www.banterminator.org.

UK Platform for Food Sovereignty

The Platform was set up by UK Food Group members in October 2004 as the UK chapter of the European Platform for Food Sovereignty. Its members include: Banana Link, Catholic Institute for International Relations, etcGroup (formerly RAFI), Farmers Link, Farm Crisis Network, Find Your Feet, Friends of the Earth, GAIA Foundation, Genetic Food Alert, Grassroots Action on Food and Farming, HDRA International Programme, New Economics Foundation, Pesticides Action Network, Small and Family Farmers Association, War on Want, Women’s Environment Network.

For more information and to join mailing list, contact:

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