# Food Sovereignty: Concept, opportunities and challenges

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#### Present Scenario of food and hunger

- Worldwide one billion people lack food
- 9 million people die worldwide each year
- Demand for food rising
- Food needed for 9 billion by mid-century
- Grow by 50% by 2030 and 70% by 2050
- Sustainable use of land and natural resources
  (use less land, water, input, produce less
  waste, lower environmental impact)
- New agriculture model needed

## Policies and strategies being implemented:

- Failing to reducing hunger
- Losing the capacity of agriculture
- Ignoring agrarian reforms
- Inadequate and insufficient to people's access on decision making
- Declining sustainability and ecologically balance;
- Weakening food governance

# Food Sovereignty

- Right of people, community & country
- Food and agriculture policy that is socially, economically and culturally appropriate
- Right of people to have:
  - safe, nutritious and culturally appropriate food and
  - food producing resources
- Puts the people at the centre of decisions on food systems and policies

# Context of Food Sovereignty

- La Via Campesina defined, conceptualized, in 1996
- Farmers' organizations taken as the main program
- NGOs/CSOs join and promoted
- Human rights defenders lobby and advocacy
- UN recognized as a potential issue
- Acceptance by various nations as a policy frame

# Framework of food sovereignty

- Land Sovereignty
- Seed sovereignty
- Water sovereignty
- Community access to productive resources
- Legal Instrument for Peasants
- Sustainable Agriculture Practices
- Localized food system
- Regenerative Conservatory Agriculture
- Food Governance

#### **Agrarian reforms**

- Ownership on land
- Ceiling on land holdings
- Abolition of dual ownership
- Consolidation of land and land use policy
- Tenancy right
- Recording of Land and landless people
- Eradication of usury and bonded labor
- Improvement of land and land tax
- Women right
- Promotion of collectivism

# Internalizing food sovereignty

- Policy framework
- Strategic framework
- Institutional Framework

# **Policy framework**

- Policy for food production
- Policy for food distribution
- Policy for health and nutrition
- Cross cutting issues

# Key policies for food production

- Agro-ecological model of production
- Building and protecting indigenous knowledge
- Seeds conservation
- Pro-people based research and technology
- Extension services
- Regulation of investment
- Support and subsidy

# Key policies on food distribution

- National food distribution policies
- Food relief, food subsidy, nutrition policies
- ◆Public Distribution System (PDS)
- Ensuring affordable basic food items
- Policies for remote and disadvantage community
- Stopping the Junk food

# Key policies for health and nutrition

- Nutrition programmes focusing on marginalised
- Access to safe drinking water
- Food quality and safety
- Access to high quality food

# Cross cutting issues

- Family farming promotion
- Small-scale ecological food production
- Reorientation of incentives to small farmers
- Regulation of agribusiness
- Reorientation to farmers' friendly research
- Restriction on natural resources grabbing
- Adequate funding for climate change
- Bridging gap between traditional knowledge and modern science

## Strategic framework

- Producers' participation
- Producer controlled production system
- Recovering nature's regenerative abilities

#### **Institutional Framework**

- Legal framework
- Plan of action
- FS Council/ Commission
- Rapporteur Right to Food/FS
- Independent monitoring mechanism
- International Convention on FS and PRs

## Reframing existing food system

- Self sustained localized food system
- Widened food producer's access to resources
- •Ensured access to food and nutritional requirements
- Higher income and rising living standard

- Sustainable and regenerative agriculture
- Agriculture flourishing
- Secured livelihood and ecological balance
- Reduced hunger to zero

Food sovereignty achieved

# Opportunities

- Realized and accepted by the nations
- Communities practiced localized food production
- •Widened food producer's access to resources
- Support to peasants and increasing investment
- Model of food production and distribution system
- Networking of movements
- Peasants' participation in decision making process
- Promotion of ecological agriculture
- Reduce hunger and poverty

#### Challenges

- Policy departure in food and agriculture
- Modern industrial agriculture production system
- Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs)
- International trade agreements, FDI and Climate change
- Lack of food governance
- Lack of policy credibility
- Weak and ineffective implementation
- Little responses of state toward the reform
- Lack of peasants empowerment

# Thank you!