

CONCEPT NOTES

HAMBRE CERO

IV Cumbre Mundial de las Regiones
sobre Seguridad y Soberanía Alimentaria

TEMUCO, CHILE

27 / 28 de octubre 2022



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COMBATING CHRONIC CHILDHOOD MALNUTRITION AND ANEMIA

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27TH, 2022 10:00 AM

GOAL

Raise awareness of the situation of malnutrition and anemia in millions of children and adults around the world and affirm the relevance of the work of regional governments to address the problem. From this perspective, it is essential to call for multi-sectoral and multi-level attention, involving all countries and their territories so that they can develop shared, effective, measurable and achievable programs and actions to end this problem.

CONCEPT

Eradicating child malnutrition is part of the international commitments of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies have been particularly detrimental to children under 5, leaving them vulnerable to serious and infectious diseases including anemia, mental retardation and permanent blindness, while causing physical and cognitive impairments such as stunting and stunting. Both undernutrition and micronutrient deficiencies can affect children's cognitive functioning, preventing them from reaching their full potential in school, thus affecting their future employment and income opportunities and perpetuating the cycle of poverty.

The vast majority of those affected live in developing countries, where 12.9% of the population is undernourished. Poor nutrition causes almost half (45%) of the deaths of children under 5 years of age: 3.1 million children per year. One in four children is stunted. In some countries the proportion can be as high as 1 in 3. The security situation is even more serious in countries facing armed conflict or in regions affected by natural disasters as a result of climate change, as is the case in several areas of sub-Saharan Africa and Southeast and West Asia.

In many cases, these realities are determined by inequity and the difficulty of access to healthy food, public health services, education and basic services such as water and sanitation. It is not only essential to ensure the quantity of food, but also its quality. In this regard, the role of prices is important, but also their physical availability, promotion and advertising, and education.

In 2017, FAO noted that an additional investment of US\$267 billion per year was needed to ensure the eradication of hunger and extreme poverty on a sustainable basis. This investment would be oriented to social protection, the improvement of goods and services for the poor and vulnerable people, living in rural areas, and the promotion of public and private investments in countries that would not be able to overcome hunger on their own.



For this reason, it was reaffirmed that it was urgent to bring together the efforts of all the corresponding sectors and levels, with the aim of implementing strategies and making commitments that would lead to structural solutions and not just quick-fix strategies that deal only with the immediate causes of a problem, touching only its surface. In this sense, the work of central governments is not enough. It is necessary to articulate general policies with the capacity of regional and local governments to implement them.

In order to properly direct actions over the next ten years, we must re-evaluate what has been achieved and identify those strategies that make sense and have been successful, protect and support them, and promote new policies only when necessary. This approach is possible with discipline and flexibility, but above all with good governance that respects the right to subsidiarity and empowers local governments.

QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS

What is the current situation of malnutrition and anemia in childhood, teenagers and adults in your region?

What is the role of regional governments in this area?

What measures, strategies or projects are currently being implemented?

What are the results of the actions carried out?

What strategies around the world have had successful results and can be adopted and promoted in different regions?



RURAL PROSPERITY

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27TH, 2022 11:30 AM

GOAL

ORU Fogar has always been committed to the rural world. And today, as it was done at the UN Food Systems Summit, it must be stated that food security depends on rural prosperity. The importance of investing more in rural farms and local small and medium-sized enterprises was stressed, as they can help to create more inclusive, fair and sustainable food systems. There was a call for small farmers in developing countries, who grow a third of the food consumed in the world, to receive "living wages".

CONCEPT

During the 20th century, and especially in its last decades, the rural exodus to the cities has marked the lives of millions of people around the world. The lack of infrastructures, services and qualified jobs, in short, of expectations for the future, encouraged people to leave their territories to go to the cities in search of better opportunities. Often they found these opportunities, but in many other cases, they found themselves in slums where their poverty was enshrined.

In recent decades, the massive rural exodus has contributed to a significant degradation of life in many cities. Today, the trend continues and all forecasts predict that millions of people will continue to migrate from rural to urban areas. Multilateral bodies and many governments are unmoved by these prospects. A world concerned about the environment, sustainability and people's well-being cannot resign itself to contemplating this phenomenon. It is only when we talk about food that we place the issue in a different context.

A prosperous rural environment contributes to a more sustainable food and production system. Traditionally, the rural world has been the source of food. Disregarding and overlooking it has led to poverty and, eventually, to famine in different regions of the world. On the contrary, contributing to the rural prosperity not only helps to provide food in our regions, but also to reduce poverty and food insecurity.

Rural areas, however, are affected by a wide range of problems. The coronavirus pandemic, together with climate change, has affected rural communities and their people, especially small farmers, increasing their disproportionate poverty, hunger and inequality.



It has been estimated that more than 60% of poor people in different regions work in agriculture, and although they produce much of the world's food, they remain vulnerable to hunger and often face difficulties in earning a decent living. This is why we must focus on the prosperity of rural communities by protecting their livelihoods and production.

Supporting small rural farms provides, in addition to food, jobs, local production services, opportunities and economic growth, which generates more stable and sustainable societies. Economic growth in agriculture has been found to be more effective in reducing poverty and food insecurity than growth in other sectors.

By promoting rural prosperity, we will contribute to the elimination of extreme poverty and hunger, as set out in the 2030 Agenda. At this point, we must draw attention to the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). This financial institution of the United Nations system, dedicated exclusively to transforming agriculture, rural economies and food systems to make them more inclusive, productive, resilient and sustainable, specializes in carrying out its work in the most vulnerable and remote regions.

This organization presents us with the following items when pointing out why we should invest in rural areas and agriculture in our regions:

- Reduce poverty and improve livelihoods.
- Feed more families.
- Empower women and girls.
- Improve health through nutritious food.
- Create jobs and opportunities for rural youth.
- Create a better and sustainable environment.

Thus, ORU Fogar demands that IFAD establish a work plan with regional governments, as territorial governments. We must know about rural areas in order to be able to collaborate in their prosperity. Small family farmers, indigenous communities, producers, women and rural youth should be given the opportunity to make themselves known and share their experiences. With IFAD's support, intermediate governments can articulate actions aimed at the inclusive participation of small producers in local markets and distribution centers. Finally, it should be noted that rural prosperity is not only about agricultural development. It also means having good physical and technological connections, and having services comparable to those of the cities throughout the territory. This is basically the responsibility of the public sector.



QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS

How do we avoid the rural exodus? Is it inevitable as is often implied in the debate on the global agenda?

What are the basic infrastructures to retain the population in rural areas?

How does the rural environment gain prestige in the face of the attractiveness of the city?

How can it be that at this time of great prestige of the environmental approach, the rural world continues to be affected by so many prejudices?

How do you think IFAD, as a United Nations structure, should work with regional governments?



QUALITY FOOD AND HEALTH / ORGANIC AGRICULTURE FOR NUTRITIOUS FOOD

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27TH, 2022 12:30 AM

QUALITY FOOD AND HEALTH

GOAL

To share good practices regarding food quality and health control throughout the food chain. To reflect and make visible the importance of food quality for people's health.

CONCEPT

Food quality is a fundamental issue to be taken into account for food systems. Thus, quality is linked to the intrinsic qualities of food, from which its value can be judged. Quality refers to the set of qualities that consumers accept. These qualities include those perceived by the senses, as well as hygienic and nutritional qualities.

In this sense, it is essential that, throughout the agri-food chain, from the primary producer, through the food industry, distribution centers, markets, and the final consumer, actions are established with the objective of maintaining food quality. The main example of the actions taken by the different governments are the controls and care taken in the food industry to prevent large-scale contamination.

As consumers and members of the food chain, we can also influence food quality, for example, when we shop or when we get home and preserve food or cook it for consumption.

In line with this, FAO's Food Safety and Quality Unit supports strengthening food safety and quality control systems at national, regional, and international levels. FAO plays a recognized leadership role in developing global food safety initiatives and translating them into action at the national level. The Food Safety and Quality Programme supports an integrated, multidisciplinary approach to food safety management, as well as holistic and viable food chain solutions to food safety problems, as set out in FAO's Strategy for Improving Global Food Safety. The rationale for this approach is supported by scientific evidence.

ORGANIC AGRICULTURE FOR NUTRITIOUS FOOD

GOAL

To reflect on the effects that agriculture currently has on ecosystems around the world, on populations, and their food quality. To make commitments with the aim of thinking about and implementing measures that decrease the negative impact of agriculture on the environment and societies, that promote organic production and consumption at local and regional levels, and strengthen food systems by becoming much more resilient.

CONCEPT

Global agriculture has reached a crossroads. In recent decades it has been transformed by new technologies, driving its productivity to ever higher levels in order to meet growing global demands. However, this has had a negative impact not only environmentally but also socially, with soil degradation, loss of biodiversity, water, and soil contamination, increased Greenhouse Gas emissions, etc.

At the moment, our soils, freshwater, oceans, forests, and biodiversity are rapidly degrading. Climate change puts even more pressure on the resources we depend on, increasing the risks associated with disasters such as droughts and floods. In rural areas, women and men can no longer make ends meet on their land, forcing them to migrate to cities in search of opportunities. Food insufficiency is also causing the stunted growth of millions of children, due to severe malnutrition.

Ecosystems around the world are under pressure, threatening the productive potential of the world's natural resources and compromising the future fertility of the planet. It is clear that we must go down a new path.

With the world population projected to reach 9.7 billion by 2050 (United Nations, 2019), the demand for food is seen as a major global challenge. To avoid the possibility of food shortages for the growing population, strong measures must be addressed to increase the global food supply and its availability.

This is why organic agriculture is so important. As more than 95% of food is linked directly or indirectly to soil (FAO, 2015), one must consider that to address the goal of Zero Hunger, it is imperative that we take soil health into account. It is estimated that 10 million hectares of previously fertile land have become ineligible for agriculture due to soil degradation.

Organic practices such as organic matter application and longer and more diverse crop rotations with cover and catch crops can contribute to reduced soil erosion and increased fertility. Similarly, meta-analyses support the fact that organically managed fields contain higher doses of organic matter and larger and more active soil microbial communities, both key indicators of soil quality.

Organic agriculture can play a key role in long-term food supply by providing better soil quality, resulting in less loss of agricultural land over time and improved climate resilience. It is time to rethink how food is grown, produced, and distributed. If done correctly, agriculture, forestry, and fisheries can provide nutritious food for all and generate decent incomes, while supporting people-centered rural development and protecting the environment.

QUESTIONS AND ISSUES

What actions are currently being taken to mitigate the effects of conventional agriculture in the regions?

How can intermediate governments contribute to the strengthening of agroecological family farming in terms of its contribution to food security and sovereignty?

What successful measures have already been implemented in different regions of the world regarding this problem, and which of them can be replicated in the regions herewith?

How can intermediate governments contribute to territorial food systems with effective and sustainable alternatives for agriculture in the countries?



PROMOTING REGIONAL GASTRONOMY

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27TH, 2022 4:00 PM

GOAL

To reflect on the importance of promoting regional sustainable gastronomy, what are its consequences and how they favor societies. To think and plan new and innovative strategies that comprehensively involve all stakeholders.

CONCEPT

Gastronomy is not only the art of preparing good food, it is also a cultural fact that identifies a given territory. Thus, it is a key element in everything related to food security, insofar as the cuisine of a territory uses the raw material that is usually grown and consumed in the region. Typical food is usually made up of simple and authentic dishes that, with their great flavor and history, manage to attract attention.

The promotion of regional gastronomy is a fundamental part of the actions to be taken to achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 2, Zero Hunger, for several reasons. On the one hand, this would greatly benefit regional economies, the entire food production chain of the region, and its producers. Not only that, but it would also benefit the tourism sector, which, having quality gastronomy that is positioned, in some cases -even- worldwide, invites tourists to visit it in its place of origin.

On the other hand, promoting regional gastronomy is a key element of food education, because it makes the inhabitants of the region aware of the importance of consuming organic and local food, improving their diet, their nutritional levels, and therefore their quality of life.

This is known as sustainable gastronomy, which plays a fundamental role in sustainable development, as it promotes agricultural development, food security, nutrition, sustainable food production, responsible consumption, and biodiversity conservation.

Sustainable gastronomy must, in fact, be committed to the conscious consumption of products at risk of extinction, to the issue of food waste, and to respecting cultural customs and food traditions in the territories.



There are many activities that are carried out to promote regional gastronomy, different types of events, the creation of festivals, days, routes, and gastronomic exhibitions. Meetings are also held where knowledge and recipes are shared among producers and tastings of products are promoted to consumers. One of its objectives is to recover traditional and ancestral knowledge, among others.

Gastronomy offers us a way to show the authenticity of places through food, recognizing its value as a means to socialize and a space to share the lives of others and exchange experiences. It is therefore essential to create new and original initiatives for the promotion of sustainable gastronomy in the regions, enhancing value propositions through the joint work of governments at different levels, chefs, agricultural producers, food entrepreneurs, international organizations, and all actors who are involved in some way.

Regional governments can undoubtedly be key players in this dynamic.

QUESTIONS AND ISSUES

Which actions are being taken to promote sustainable gastronomy, are they effective, and what could be improved?

What value proposition can be given to the gastronomy of the regions?

How can we implement new strategies in this regard?



LOCAL PRODUCTION AND APPELLATIONS OF ORIGIN

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27TH, 2022 5:00 PM

GOALS

Recognize the importance and benefits of production in proximity together with the appellations of origin. Expose how intermediate governments can benefit the regions through these concepts.

CONCEPT

When we talk about production in proximity or appellations of origin we are referring to two key concepts for the regions of each country. Regional governments can take advantage of them to benefit the areas and their respective populations.

When referring to production in proximity, that is to say, the elaboration of products in territories close to where their consumption is destined, it can be observed thanks to past experiences of the regions, that it is a fairer production, since with it certain obstacles that regions usually have when it comes to consuming certain products.

Consuming local products substantially reduces the additional costs derived from transport, production lines, packaging, etc., so that makes what the product is really worth is paid. The cheapening of large-scale distribution products usually occurs at the expense of mass cultivation (producing a great environmental impact) and/or the reduction of labor costs. In this way, by reducing long-distance transport and its packaging derivatives, CO2 emissions and the waste produced by them are reduced, which makes production more sustainable.

As another benefit for our regions, we can highlight the sources of work that are produced in the territory. By consuming a product made in the immediate environment, we contribute to the maintenance of small productions. It favors small rural environments so as not to be dependent on large urban centers.

Proximity production is very important for the growth of the regions, which is why the Dakar Declaration³ (2010) touched on points that promoted proximity markets and favored proximity investments, which were taken up again during the II Medellín Summit 2012, in which the 30 attending countries committed to creating a system to guarantee access to quality food, the so-called "Territorial Food System" in order to achieve these objectives.



In turn, we have the existence of appellations of origin, which help us protect products originating in the regions, certifying that they have a distinctive sign of quality provided by the natural and human factors of the area where they were made.

The effective existence of this link is essential to justify the important benefits associated with the recognition of an exclusive right of the region. There are many benefits that can be identified in the protection of DOs. It will strengthen the position that local producers have in an increasingly competitive market thanks to globalization and the integration processes of countries through international trade. It allows taking advantage of local resources and converting the territory itself into an attribute, thus favoring both regional economic development and the conservation of those ancestral cultural elements that make up the region's identity.

Regional governments must promote both production in proximity and appellations of origin to encourage the development of the regions and at the same time protect them and their products.

QUESTIONS AND QUERIES

How does proximity production work and why is it beneficial for the regions? Why should we protect products with appellations of origin? What is the importance of putting them into practice together?

What role do/have governments played in different parts of the world? Have they encouraged the regions through these concepts?



AVOIDING FOOD WASTE

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27TH, 2022 6:00 PM

GOALS

According to the European Commission, more than 1.3 billion tons of food are wasted every year worldwide, which is equivalent to one third of the world's production. Wasting and throwing away food that still has nutritional value, food that is damaged or expires in the fridge or pantry and we have not been able to consume... All this ultimately adds up to between 30% and 50% of edible food, which becomes waste in one of the links in the food chain. The costs of this waste are by no means negligible: the production and disposal of food waste, in the European Union, involves an emission of 170 million tons of CO₂, equivalent to 143 billion euros (2012). Thus, avoiding food waste is a very important issue. This space aims to provide tools to regional governments on how to avoid food waste by sharing best practices and talking to experts on the subject.

CONCEPT

Food wastage is a problem that affects all countries. However, it is the most vulnerable societies that suffer the greatest consequences. The European Commission established that every year more than 1.3 billion tons of food are wasted, which translates into one third of the world's food production. Of all food waste, a major part is produced in the most developed countries, which clearly shows the existing international inequalities in a detailed way. An average of 40% of healthy, edible food ends up being discarded by households.

It is important to take into consideration the difference made by FAO between food loss and food wastage. On the one hand, loss is caused by inefficient functioning at some point in the food chain, while on the other hand, wastage is related to poor food consumption and purchasing habits. In this way, food is wasted at different points in the supply chain, from its primary production to its subsequent sale and marketing in the different supermarket chains. It can also be seen that upper-middle-income countries are the ones that waste the most food at the consumption stage. This situation is mainly caused by consumer behavior and a lack of coordination between the different actors involved in marketing.

In contrast to this reality, in lower-middle income countries, food wastage occurs substantially in the initial stages, i.e., in production. The causes of this are mainly technical and financial limitations in harvesting.



Thus, in order to understand food wastage in a complete manner, it is essential to take into consideration different variables, among which are waste in production, waste in sale and waste in consumption.

In conclusion, addressing the problem of food wastage through communication and transmission of good practices in this area is a fundamental issue that must be addressed. On a planet with limited natural resources, with high inequalities at the global level, with a high level of poverty and famine in low-income countries, effective solutions must be found to consolidate sufficient and quality production for all inhabitants.

Regional governments, with a possible impact on both production and consumption, can play a fundamental role in preventing waste. Above all, they can play a fundamental role in raising awareness and educating citizens about this situation.

QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS

What is the food wastage situation in your region?

What measures are you taking in this regard?

What good practices are being implemented in your region?

What level of importance do you give to food waste in your region?



THE ROLE OF INDIGENOUS, PEASANT AND NATIVE COMMUNITIES

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27TH, 2022 6:00 PM

GOAL

Raise awareness of the role played by indigenous communities in ensuring food security, learn about their practices and learn from them. The regional level can protect their food systems and, eventually, articulate them with the food system of the region. In any case, a regionalist vision must maintain full respect for this ancestral system, also as a way of protecting an entire cultural system.

CONCEPT

To indigenous communities, food is more than mere biological action. It carries nutritional, medicinal, healing, spiritual, social, cultural, relational and emotional dimensions and values. In this way, food is an expression of the links between indigenous peoples, their ancestral lands and the spiritual world.

Indigenous community food systems are traditionally based on self-sufficiency and subsistence orientation. Indigenous peoples' food systems produce and generate food at scale, but not for commercial purposes. Furthermore, food is generated, grown and harvested for family and community consumption.

A fundamental element in understanding the role of indigenous peoples in food security is territorial management. Territory is where the spiritual and material worlds manifest themselves. This territorial management often includes mobile practices such as shifting cultivation, fishing and hunting. Their territorial management practices allow them to maintain biodiversity, natural resources and food abundance in terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems.

Indigenous peoples' food systems are efficient in their use of resources, avoiding waste, but encouraging the circulation of resources. Thus, they make very careful use of food and other resources, with no or minimal waste generation. All materials used tend to be fully utilized and recycled locally. Likewise, indigenous communities take future generations into consideration when giving and taking resources from nature.

Indigenous peoples' traditional knowledge is a substantial part of their food systems. The management of territory and natural resources is based on the knowledge systems and know-how of indigenous peoples.



ZERO HUNGER

IV World Summit of Regions on
Food Security and Sovereignty

TEMUCO, CHILE

October 27 / 28, 2022

Indigenous community food systems promote the equitable distribution of food, resources and power. This is mainly because the generation and production of food by food systems is localized, community-based and linked to their ancestral lands.

QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS

In the region, how do indigenous communities contribute to achieving food security?

How can the regions incorporate indigenous peoples' food systems?

How does the relationship between indigenous people and government materialize in your region? Are there channels for dialogue and/or participation?



WOMEN'S WORK TO ENSURE FOOD SECURITY

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27TH, 2022 6:00 PM

GOAL

Make visible the role of women in food security.

CONCEPT

The World Food Summit Declaration of 1996 recognizes the need for equal participation of men and women to achieve food security throughout the world. In this way, it seeks to ensure gender equity and support the full exercise of women.

In terms of food production, women play a fundamental role in subsistence agriculture in rural areas, being responsible for a large part of the activities related to the processing, preservation and marketing of agricultural products.

On the other hand, the preservation of biodiversity and natural resources is an essential factor in terms of food security. Over time, women have acquired essential and unique knowledge about the values and uses of local species and ecosystems, which determines their role in the preservation of natural resources.

The nutritional status of families is also an important factor when talking about food security. Thus, in most countries, women tend to have sole responsibility for family nutrition and for the provision of resources that are essential to achieve an adequate nutritional status of the family.

Although women are the main producers of food, and are responsible for the processing and preservation of food products and the nutritional status of the family, they face enormous barriers in carrying out these tasks.

In this way, the discussion on the role of women in food security should focus on reducing these gaps and achieving true social inclusion of women in this topic. One of the main strategies to combat this reality is the mainstreaming of the gender agenda in different public policies carried out by the regions.

Several regional governments have played a very active role in encouraging and supporting women's groups to empower themselves to take charge of farms or marketing spaces. In food fragile territories, these actions create very important nodes for ensuring food security.



QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS

What role do women play in food production in your region?

Are there mechanisms to make women's work in food security more visible?

Are there channels of political participation for women involved in food production?

Is the gender agenda mainstreamed in public policies?



FROM THE MARKET TO THE TABLE. FROM PRODUCER TO CONSUMER

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2022 9:30 AM

GOAL

To reflect on the importance of improving the processes of the value chains of food products, shortening the gap between the producer and the consumer, providing both with greater benefits. Identify successful practices and initiatives regarding the problem. Create strategies to adapt and download them at the regional and local level, taking into account the conditions and context of each specific territory.

CONCEPT

It is clear that food systems need to undergo a profound transformation. Traditional forms of food production and marketing have had a great impact on the world's ecosystems. Currently 29% of greenhouse gas emissions come from the supply chain that brings food from farm to fork. Thus, certain food systems can end up being a very real threat to life. For this reason, it is necessary to think and create strategies that can urgently improve this situation.

With the increase in the concentration of the population in urban centers, the intensification of agriculture and the scaling of production, the current agri-food system was shaped, which due to the number of links and actors in the agri-food chain led to a distance between producers and consumers, as well as an asymmetry in the distribution of their respective benefits. Other actors appeared in the middle, making the chain more complex and lengthening, which led producers to focus on reducing their costs, neglecting the importance of developing value attributes and quality of their production.

ORU Fogar affirms that to solve this problem it is essential to emphasize rural prosperity and therefore warns of the importance of investing more in rural farms and in small and medium-sized local businesses, as they can help create more inclusive, fair and sustainable food systems. This leads to another important point, that small farmers in developing countries, who grow a third of the food consumed in the world, receive decent wages.

One way to solve this is by creating inclusive markets that facilitate access to producers and consumers, especially small producers and vulnerable consumer groups, in order to bridge the gap between the two and thus promote well-being, employment and the supply of affordable goods and services.



In this sense, we can highlight the FAO initiative: the SFC (Short Food Chains), which are market alternatives that imply geographic, organizational and social proximity between producers and consumers, characterized by minimal intermediation in their exchanges. The SFCs offer products grown and raised using sustainable agricultural practices.

Like the SFCs, it is necessary to propose new alternatives that provide solutions that impact the productive and food sectors and the sustainability of agricultural practices and the environment. The value of food must also be understood as much more than a mere commodity. It is a right of the people that must be fulfilled, improving the production and distribution processes from the first link in the value chain until the product reaches the consumer's table.

QUESTIONS AND QUERIES

What is the current situation regarding food production in each region?

What measures are being carried out in this regard? What results have they had?

What strategies can be proposed to improve the situation?

WATER SECURITY, REFORESTATION AND SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2022 11:00 AM

GOAL

Strengthen the dialogue between the different stakeholders to achieve water security at local, national, regional, and global levels, claiming a planning role for regional governments. To propose and implement cooperation strategies to achieve integrated water resources management. Develop institutional and human capacities with respect to water sustainability.

CONCEPT

Water is the most abundant substance on Earth and is the main constituent of all living things. It is a decisive factor in the planet's climate for human existence and the formation of landscapes. It is an essential commodity for life and the economic and social development of nations.

However, an increasing degree of collaboration and coordination between citizens, economic sectors, and institutions is required to make sustainable use of this resource and avoid problems and conflicts. In this sense, water is the common thread that connects all the Sustainable Development Goals, hence the importance of the concept of water security.

Water security is the reliable availability of an acceptable quantity and quality of water for health, livelihood, and production, along with an acceptable level of water-related risks.

This is increasingly complex and urgent due to population growth in recent decades, concentration in cities, degradation of water quality, changes in land use, and the growing impact of floods, droughts, and other hydrological effects related to climate change. Situations that require identifying viable responses to find sustainable solutions for the future.

Climate change represents a daunting challenge for populations already experiencing its effects. Over the next 40 years, approximately 800,000 people will migrate each week to cities around the world. Population growth and rapid urbanization will create new pressures on water resources and have an enormous impact on the natural environment. Deteriorating water infrastructure in many parts of the world will affect public health and the environment.

In the face of these challenges, proper freshwater management is essential. Investment in this area will become a unifying factor in fostering healthier and more prosperous territories. And ensuring access to water for everyone will be a fundamental policy for impoverished populations. Water security will require more funding than ever before. Efficiency will be fundamental: avoiding losses and leaks, harnessing rainwater, recycling used water and building desalination plants. As important as funding will be to recognize the role of territorial governments in this management. Throughout the world, municipal governments have a recognized role in both domestic water supply and wastewater disposal. In many countries, however, resource planning and management continue to be extremely centralized, which in many cases makes it very inefficient. The threat looming over many countries should be an opportunity to rethink the distribution of competencies in the field of water management so that regional governments take on a leading role. They are the ones who, with precise knowledge of their territory, know where the resources are and where the water needs are.

Thus, in order to achieve water security, a multidimensional and interdisciplinary approach is indispensable, and this is possible through Integrated Water Resources Management. Its objective is the achievement of a necessary balance, understood as the equilibrium between the availability of water, the source of sustenance for human beings and nature, and the protection and conservation of the resource to sustain its functions.

This balance is possible if it is considered that the different uses of water are interdependent and should therefore be managed simultaneously, in a joint manner. Recognizing water as a social, economic, and environmental good. In this way it can be managed in an integrated manner, by a set of key actors, evaluating their influence and particular interests to achieve consensus.

Integrated Management has become an essential tool to make the art of adapting to climate change a key to achieving or improving water security and this will be the trigger to achieve the SDGs that the 2030 Agenda is pointing out to us. Thus, the complex and changing future will be managed through efficient, equitable, and sustainable Integrated Management, in which the regions will be key.

Beyond management, an integrated approach to water calls for action that respects the territory and the environment, enabling the restoration of natural water cycles. The restoration of ecosystems will be key, as will appropriate reforestation policies and the implementation of integrated and environmentally friendly agricultural practices. In this area, many regional governments already have very significant actions in place. The "sowing of water" is a very successful policy, especially in Latin America and - very particularly - in the Andes.

QUESTIONS AND ISSUES

What is the current regional water situation?

Are initiatives being carried out to guarantee water security?

If so, have they been successful, and which ones can be adapted and replicated?

What initiatives, actions, and strategies can be proposed to start implementing Integrated Water Resources Management? What should be the role of the regional government in water management? What should be the role of the national government?

Which actors should dialogue and cooperate in this regard? How are municipal governments and regional governments articulated?



FOOD SECURITY OR FOOD SOVEREIGNTY?

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2022 4:00 PM

GOAL

To raise awareness about the importance of food sovereignty for the different regions and its complementarity with the notion of food security. Consolidate cooperation networks between regional, local and national actors to achieve food sovereignty and food security.

CONCEPT

In recent years, the notion of food security has been in vogue, following what was proposed by the FAO, we can speak of food security when all people have access to food to meet their nutritional needs and to be able to lead an active and healthy life. This approach recognizes access to food as a central problem and affirms the need to promote redistributive public policies, link food production with nutrition, and implement social protection proposals to face temporary crises.

On the other hand, food sovereignty is conceptualized as the right of peoples to nutritious and culturally appropriate food, accessible, produced in a sustainable and ecological way, and their right to decide their own food and production system. In this way, the practice places the subjects that produce, distribute and consume food within food systems and policies, above the demands of markets and companies.

In this way, food sovereignty, as a practice, gives special priority to local economies and local and national markets, granting most of the power to the peasant sector and family farming, and places food production, distribution and consumption on the basis of environmental, social and economic sustainability. In this way, it seeks to guarantee that the rights of access and management of land, territories, waters, seeds, livestock and biodiversity, are in the hands of those who produce food.

This concept is relevant in achieving goal two of the SDGs "Zero Hunger". The concept of food sovereignty is not opposed to that of food security, but shows a certain complementarity with it, since it does not focus exclusively on food policies, but instead seeks to visualize the entire food system. It is important to mention that intermediate governments in strengthening food sovereignty in an articulated manner with national and local actors, they develop initiatives within their territories. In this way, the relationship between sovereignty and food security must be taken into account by intermediate governments in the construction of public policies, which manage to mobilize the capacities of local and national actors to guarantee the human right to food.



QUESTIONS AND QUERIES

How do you go from declarations of intent to action plans with priorities and assigned resources? This Summit could represent a substantial step along these lines, including the possibility of forming or strengthening networks and platforms, strengthening South-South cooperation mechanisms and new types of alliances. What recommendations arise in this regard?

What kind of capacities are necessary to support processes of food security and sovereignty that are integral in nature, intertwined with the viability of sustainable production systems, healthier forms of consumption and territorial governance? How and with which allies can these capacities be systematically developed?