



Asia-Pacific Civil Society Organizations Consultation and FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific

8-14 March, 2014
Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

CSO Consultation:

The thirty-second FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific took place in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia from 10 to 14 March 2014. Prior to this conference Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) from Asia and the Pacific organized a two-day Consultation from 8 to 9 March, 2014. Ahmed Borhan (Regional Coordinator- AFSN) participated in this consultation. In this CSO consultation 40 participants from 10 countries and 12 constituencies discussed about the agendas of FAO as well as sharpen the position and concern of CSM regarding these agendas. Also During this consultation participants discussed their joint concerns about the future of small farmers, landless farmers, farm workers and other concerned stakeholders. This CSOs Consultation was graced by the presence of Hiroyuki Konuma, FAO Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific, said he welcomed CSOs participation in the upcoming FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific. Giving highest priority to the interest of small producer a written statement was also formulated during this consultation.

Major issues discussed during the consultation are as follows:

- Economic, social and environmental crises in the Asia Pacific region and across the globe.
- The situation of small food producers in the Asia Pacific Region.
- **Land, coastal and resource grabbing (aquatic)** - including state and, Land grabbing/land degradation (agriculture, pasture) for industrial purpose, mining, logging etc
- Consolidation of land –land grabbing by multinational and transnational corporations due to market-oriented economies.
- *Landlessness* and insecurity of tenure over the lands, the waters and the forests that we work on, including land grabbing by state and military and forced evictions
- IPs: Eviction of IPs from their ancestral lands and territories because of development and conservation projects such as mono cropping and expansion of plantations (Oil Palms, Rubber plantation, mining and dams etc.)
- Effects of grabbing on women-their physical and economic displacement due to land and resource grabbing further increases the stress on their rights as food producers.
- Corporate dominance in agriculture, industrial, chemical intensive agriculture.
- Excessive trade liberalization, privatization and deregulation which result in instabilities in the global financial system and a continuing unfair trade system that further threaten our food security and economic development.

Also role, responsibility, challenges and concerns of particular / distinct issue such as small farmers, landless, urban poor, consumers-safety and nutrition, NGOs were discussed during the consultation.





Moreover issues regarding regional and global policies and guidelines such as- **responsible agriculture investment, Regional Rice Strategy for Asia and the Pacific, Farmers' Aspirations in the context of Green Development, Sustainable Intensification of Aquaculture for Food and Nutritional Security in the Asia-Pacific Region, Restoration of Grasslands and Forests for Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation, and the Promotion of Ecosystem Services (c/o Ykhanbai)** were discussed through the consultation. It is to be mentioned that all of the above issues were designed in accordance with the agendas of FAO.

FAO Regional Conference:

The 32nd session of the FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific will convene in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia 10 to 14 March 2014, hosted by the Ministry of Industry and Agriculture. The conference will focus on the opportunities and challenges in the region and priority areas of work to improve food security and nutrition, increase agricultural productivity, raise the standard of living in rural populations and contribute to sustainable economic growth. Representatives from 41 member countries participated in the regional Conference. Observers from 1 Associate Members Nation, 1 non-member Nation, 10 international non-governmental organizations and 11 intergovernmental organizations were in attendance. Representatives of 4 other UN organization also participated.

Discussion taken place on:

- State of Food and Agriculture in Asia and the Pacific Region, including Future Prospects and Emerging Issues: The regional conference reviewed the state of food and agriculture in the region and considered future prospects and emerging issues.
- The regional conference reviewed recent developments and deliberations of the committee on World Food Security (CFS) and considered appropriate follow-up actions in Asia and the Pacific.
- Meeting Farmers Aspirations in the context of Green Development the regional conference considered ongoing transition in the agriculture sector and the challenges and opportunities such transitions pose in meeting farmers aspirations.
- The regional conference considered opportunities and constraints related to restoration of grasslands and forest in the region, particularly in relation to climate change.
- Regarding Prioritization of country and Regional Needs the ministerial- level session of the regional Conference, convened 13-14 March, involved the full delegations of all participating countries and organization.
- An informal round table on the Double Burden of malnutrition was convened on 14 March.

