

INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL SEMINAR

HOW TO BETTER INVOLVE FARMERS'
ORGANIZATIONS IN AGRICULTURAL
PUBLIC PROGRAMS?

NOVEMBER 28TH-29TH 2012

Auditorium International
International Trade Union House
Boulevard du Roi Albert II, No. 5 / 2
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Organized by Collectif Stratégies Alimentaires (CSA)



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INTRODUCTION

The idea that the involvement of farmers' organizations in the drawing up and implementation of agricultural programs can ensure that those programs meet farmer's needs is widely accepted in development actors' community. However in real life such contribution is rarely observed. The few developing countries that do try to involve farmers' organizations in their land policies are facing a serious lack of expertise in that area. Furthermore, this deficiency of involvement is also found in International Cooperation projects where the farmers' organizations' role is often limited to being solely beneficiaries of the projects.

This seminar on the 28th and 29th of November will try to understand the reasons for this incapacity to implement mechanisms involving rural development actors when the advantages of such mechanisms are frequently acknowledged. Past positive experiences of partnership between the State and farmers' organizations as well as interventions that aim to facilitate that partnership will be presented and analyzed.

Based on these analyses, a list of external and internal conditions required to ensure farmers' organizations' involvement in agricultural programs will be realized. Finally, the seminar will be concluded with identifying the kinds of support that should be provided to farmers' organizations in order to meet the conditions previously exposed (these discussions will mainly be about social and political dialogue with the State and its partners as well as about internal institutional factors of the farmers' organizations such as governance, financial management,...).

PROGRAM - NOVEMBER 28th 2012

INTRODUCTORY SESSION (09:00-10:00)

- **Why is it important for farmers' organizations to be involved in agricultural public programs?**

Marek Poznanski, CSA

- **Description of the context in which farmers' organizations organized themselves in Africa and were progressively established with a new role in the governance of land policies**

Mamadou Cissokho, Honorary Chairman of ROPPA

- **Social and political dialogue is the key to a good partnership between the State and farmers' organizations and it is the result of social movements' actions.**

Denis Pesche, assistant director, Actors, Resources and Territories in the Development Unit - CIRAD

- **Discussion: what kind of relationship between social actors and the State can we hope for in the absence of solid social movements?**

SESSION 1: SUCCESSFUL EXPERIENCES OF FO-STATE PARTNERSHIP (10:15 – 12:00)

This session will present concrete study cases where FO have been involved in public programs as well as the procedure and benefits of such involvement. A brief review of success factors and difficulties encountered will be presented. Finally, we will proceed to an assessment of the progression of the movement and its impacts on family farms.

- **Counsel and support to young people starting in agriculture.**

Olivier Plunus, Fédération des Jeunes Agriculteurs (FJA), Belgium

- **Implementation of the FO section of the PSAOP in Senegal**

Ousmane Ndiaye, National director of ASPRODEB, Senegal

- **The role of FO's in the design and implementation of agrarian reform in the Philippines**

Mr. Cesar Belangel, Head of program PAKISAMA, Philippines

SESSION 2: SUCCESS AND FAILURE FACTORS IDENTIFIED IN THE CASE STUDIES (12:00 – 13:00)

Discussion on the study cases presented in the morning and identification of success factors and difficulties encountered.

SESSION 3: CONSTRAINTS AND REQUIREMENTS IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF PUBLIC FUNDS FOR PRIVATE INITIATIVES: THE STAKES CONCERNING THE OPERATORS (14:30 – 17:00)

Two questions asked consecutively to the same panel

- **Question 1: What are the issues arising from the choice of operators in the implementation of government programs?**

As an operator, what differences are there between a peasant organization and other types of providers?

- **Question 2: Specificities and obligations related to the implementation of public programs and the handling of public resources by farmers' organizations.**

When these organizations are directly involved in defining the terms of access or in the management of public funds, how can we make sure that the right of all farmers to access public funds doesn't interfere with the organization's accountability vis-à-vis its members?

- **Panel:**
 - *Jean-Philippe Audinet, Senior Technical Advisor, Policy and Technical Advisory Division, IFAD*
 - *Barbara Dequinze, in charge of Farmers' Organizations in the DEVCO Unit of the European Commission*
 - *Ousmane Ndiaye, National chairman of ASPRODEB*
 - *Mamoudou Hassane, Conseiller Technique au Haut-Commissariat à l'Initiative 3N à la Présidence de la République du Niger,*
 - *A European FO leader*

SESSION 4. REVIEW OF SOME ATTEMPTS TO INCLUDE FO IN THE DEFINITION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF PROGRAMS OF INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS.

The case of the public window of the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP)

- **Presentation of GAFSP, the importance of the participation of FOs and the support mechanisms for this participation**

Mamadou Cissokho, Honorary Chairman of ROPP and former representative of FOs to the coordination committee of the GAFSP

- **Presentation of the situation in Asia and the interventions that have been undertaken to facilitate the participation of FOs**

Marlène Ramirez, Secretary General of Asiadhrra and Uon Sophal, chairman of the Asian Farmers' Association for sustainable rural development network (AFA)

- **Presentation of the situation in Africa and interventions that have been undertaken within the IFAD grant to Agricord to facilitate the participation of FOs (Rwanda, Ethiopia, Togo, Liberia and Sierra Leone)**

Anne Souharse, AFDI program officer ;

Mamadou Cissokho and Robert Bimba, vice-chairman of the Farmers' Union Network of Liberia

The case of National Agricultural Investment Programs (NAIP) and Regional Agricultural Investment Programs (RAIP) of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP)

- **Presentation of the participation of FOs in the implementation of the NAIP in Burundi**

Patrice NDIMANYA, Professor of Rural Economics at the University of Bujumbura and expert at the Farmers' Organizations Forum in Burundi (FOPABU)

Jean Marie NDAYISHIMIYE, Technical Coordinator of CAPAD

- **Presentation of the state of various regional CAADP processes in Africa (CEDAO, CEEAC, COMESA, IGAD, SADC) and the involvement of FOs related.**

Jeske van Seters, Deputy Program Manager Food Security, European Centre for Development Policy Management (ECDPM) and a representative of ROPPA

Discussion: what are the recurring obstacles at the national and regional levels and how to mitigate them?

SESSION 5. WHAT KIND OF SPECIFIC CAPACITY BUILDING CAN BE PROVIDED TO FARMERS' ORGANIZATIONS TO CREATE GOOD CONDITIONS FAVORING THEIR INVOLVEMENT IN PUBLIC PROGRAMS?

Examination of mechanisms and tools to foster partnerships between farmers and the state to ensure a better participation of FOs in public programs. The examination is as much about the mechanisms for consultation and mediation between farmers and the government as it is about the search of credibility of the FOs through their system of governance and financial management.

CONCLUSION