



Women and Food Sovereignty: Understanding the Issue and Moving to Action

17 APRIL 2008 – ACCRA NATIONAL THEATRE, GHANA

13.30-16.00 (Translation in En, Fr, Sp)

Africa is reeling from the global food crisis and shifts in agriculture. Food riots have already occurred in several countries as a result of soaring commodity and food prices, low yields and lack of grain reserves. The World Food Programme has called for immediate international response to the growing crisis before it gets worse. As central players in food and agriculture production, processing, retail and consumption, African women are being impacted by the more immediate shifts as well as those that have occurred over time. Nonetheless, their voices have been marginalized in global, regional and national debates to identify new policy directions.

Unfair macroeconomic policies have allowed for dumping, extraction of natural resources, undermining of human rights, corporate concentration and lack of policy space. Climate change is impacting the environment, including yield stability and infrastructure. Women are calling for a different approach to food and agriculture in the name of food sovereignty, one that protects the environment and human rights.

Please join IATP, ACORD, Action Aid International, FoodSPAN, IGTN and GERA in a two-part workshop to bring together women farmers and representatives from the women's movement, the food and agriculture groups, development, consumer and environmental groups for mobilization around food sovereignty from a gender perspective.

Agenda: Understanding Food Sovereignty from a Gender Perspective and Mobilizing for Action

1. Testimony/ies relative to the impacts of trade on agriculture (ex. import surges, rising food prices , food aid) – voice woman farmer/s
2. Overview of agriculture, trade and development in Africa from a gender perspective (understanding the impacts: small scale farmers, workers, consumers, environment, food security)
3. Highlighting existing campaigns (farmer campaigns, EPA strategies, Food Sovereignty and Right to Food Campaigns) and discussing the potential for new ones
4. Strengthening messages and advocacy efforts