



## **Repeat the obvious truth.**

There are some obvious truths that no one repeats probably enough. The first task of agriculture is to feed humans. The latest FAO report on the state of food insecurity stresses that hunger in the world is in progress. Its most recent estimations suggest the number of 923 million people suffering from hunger in 2007, which means an increase of over 80 million of people over the "1990-92" reference period. In 2050, we will be nearly 9 billion men and women on the planet. Ensuring safe, sustainable and quality food for all is a challenge for all farmers of the world. Ensuring food security for populations while preserving natural resources is the great challenge of the early 21st century.

Meanwhile, we know that "progresses" of agriculture have been disastrous in terms of environment and it has reduced the rate of agricultural productivity, while the world needs to double its food production to feed the 9 billion people by 2050.

The aim is now to develop food crops – indispensable option to the survival of populations in regions that suffer most from malnutrition. For **this** reason, the increase of yields and cultivated area is necessary.

These regions must be helped in order to mobilize their development capacities through training, spreading of technical progress and by providing answers to questions related to access to land and access and management of water. The search can be, in this context, one of the engines of sustainable progresses.

This is a question of food sovereignty. From this perspective, the map of the bio-industry favored by some governments and groups, which have appeared for a time as one way to ensure the maintenance of agriculture and to fight against global warming, appears *in fine* extremely dangerous – sacrificing the nurturing function of agriculture on the altar of an oil, maybe green, but that does not encourage more sustainable lifestyles.

The survival of agricultural public policies, whatever they are, depends on a profound change in paradigm. We must now highlight the priorities that must combine food security, protection of natural resources, climate change, agricultural development and jobs in a context of solidarity between North and South.

Much remains to be done to feed well humans.

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