



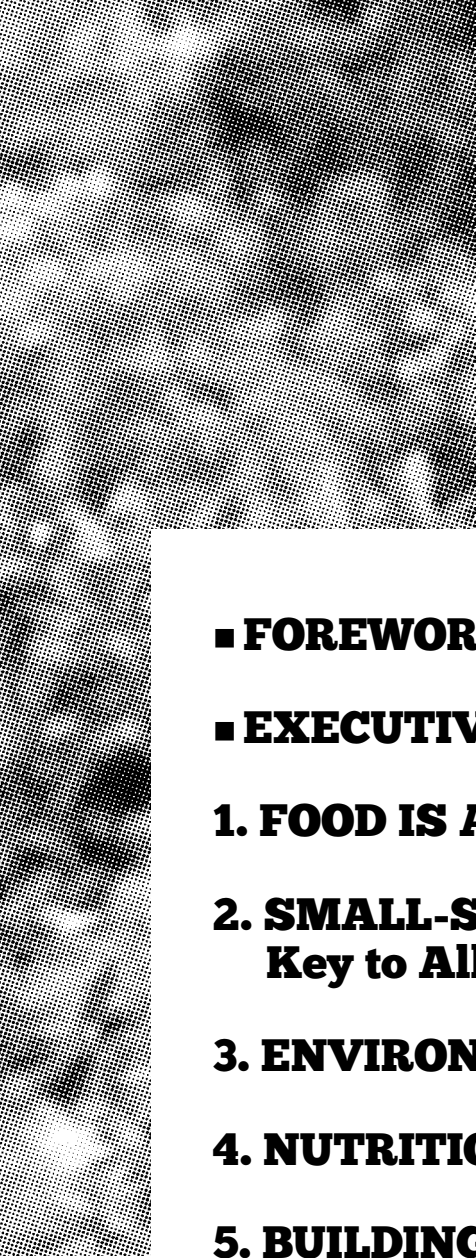
The EU's Role to End Hunger by 2025

A Caritas Europa study on the Right to Food with concrete recommendations towards sustainable food systems and how the EU can champion the fight against world hunger

Table of content



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■ FOREWORD	04
■ EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	06
1. FOOD IS A BASIC HUMAN RIGHT	12
2. SMALL-SCALE AGRICULTURE : Key to Alleviating Hunger	15
3. ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE	20
4. NUTRITION	24
5. BUILDING RESILIENCE	27
6. POLICY COHERENCE FOR DEVELOPMENT	30
A) Food Speculation	31
B) Land Governance	34
C) Agro-Fuels	35
■ A GOAL ON ENDING HUNGER	37
■ WHO WE ARE	38

Foreword

The imperative of securing access to food for all, especially for the most vulnerable, is recognised worldwide and is at the top of the agenda for national, European and international policies. This report is aimed at showing Caritas's support for this idea and giving evidence for its advocacy work towards European Institutions on the Food Security debate.

Caritas Europa's first main message is the need for fulfilment of the Right to Food for All. In order to do that, it contributes to promoting effective strategies to have the human right to food granted in an affordable and sustainable way all over the world.

This report is aimed both at giving evidence for Caritas Europa's position so as to influence EU policies on food in a coherent and comprehensive manner. Recommendations and conclusions are given based on evidence from field experience, thanks to Caritas Europa Member Organisations' concrete projects and case studies. All these experiences have contributed to shape the best practices and positive approaches



that Caritas is developing at field level, in order to influence EU and Member States' food security policies, either through Caritas Europa Member Organisations or its secretariat in Brussels.

His Holiness, Pope Francis, in his message for the Caritas Internationalis "Food for All" campaign declared that *"we are in front of a global scandal of around one billion people who still suffer from hunger. We cannot look the other way."* He highlighted that hunger and food insecurity are not a matter of quantity, as *"the food available in the world is enough to feed everyone. If there is the will, what we have never ends. On the contrary, it abounds and does not get wasted."*

It is therefore not only a matter of wasting but also a matter of distribution, as it is true that there are increasing disparities within and between countries.

Caritas Europa shares these ideas and strongly believes hunger is not inevitable. On the contrary hunger must be tackled by fighting its structural causes through a

long-term and coherent approach, primarily by promoting the sustainable agricultural development of poor countries, which includes providing better access to markets for small-holder farmers and pastoralists. We strongly believe hunger can end by 2025 if everyone works towards it.

Tackling this problem requires greater intervention by public authorities, at all levels. Even if we are deeply aware that local, national and international stages need to implement urgent and coherent policies on this issue, we acknowledge that the European Union has a privileged role for influencing food security policies. For this reason strong and firm action is demanded.

Caritas Europa, with the support of Caritas partners in the South, has commissioned this paper as it has been working for the past two years on Food Security issues, particularly related to the protection of the Right to Food (RtF). All this has been possible thanks to the additional support given by Caritas Europa's International Cooperation

working group and, in particular: Amparo Alonso from Caritas Spain, Helene Unterguggenberger from Caritas Austria, Martha Rubiano Skretteberg and Tuva Nodeland from Caritas Norway, Jacqueline Hocquet from Secours Catholique, Gauthier de Lochet from Caritas Belgium, Albert Schneyder from Caritas Switzerland, Isabel Fernandez, Silvia Sinibaldi and Thorfinnur Omarsson from Caritas Europa.

Alex Wijeratna, external consultant and food security specialist, helped us in drafting and compiling different sources of information.

Big "Thank you" to all of them!

Jorge Nuño Mayer
Secretary General

Executive Summary

FOOD SECURITY

Today, about 842 million people – one in eight – are undernourished.¹ Overall, more than 3 million children die each year from the causes of under- and malnutrition,² and some 2 billion people suffer from one or more micronutrient deficiencies, lacking key vitamins and minerals such as vitamin A, iron and zinc.³ But there is enough food for everyone – according to FAO estimates there is food enough in the world to provide every single person each day with approximately 2,770 kcal.⁴

The global food system currently fails to ensure the right to adequate food for hundreds of millions of poor and marginalized people in developing countries, and only deep reforms at multiple levels will ensure a more equitable, sustainable and resilient food system truly capable of ending hunger by 2025 and of feeding 9.6 billion people by 2050.⁵

Ending hunger cannot simply be done by supplying enough food for everybody. The structures that prevent people from self-sufficiency must be changed. Experts such as Olivier De Schutter, UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, agree that the root causes of hunger and malnutrition stem from disempowerment, marginalization and poverty. People are not hungry because we produce too little; they are hungry because they cannot afford the food that is available on the markets, or lack access to resources to produce it sustainably themselves.



DIGNITY OF THE HUMAN BEING

At the heart of the mission of Caritas lies the dignity of the human being. Hunger is the basic manifestation of poverty and a violation of basic Human Rights. It is not only a matter of right to food, but also the right to life and human dignity of the millions of people who starve every year. Eradicating hunger is the basic requirement for every human being to live in a dignified and meaningful way. Caritas Europa believes that hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition can and must be ended irreversibly by 2025.

Stewardship of the planet is a shared responsibility of the human race, and a central concern for Caritas. As an expression of this, the international confederation of Caritas organisations has recently published a very interesting reflection paper on the impact of climate change on food security.⁶ Climate change is only one of several obstacles to ensuring food security for all. To overcome these challenges, we need strong political leadership. As a network of European Caritas organisations, we are therefore approaching the EU with a set of recommendations for the crucial years ahead.

OUR CHALLENGE TO THE EU

Worldwide, the European Union - with its 28 Member States - is the most important donor of development aid. Policies pursued by the European Union have a crucial impact on global food security and sustainable development paths. Therefore the EU has an essential role to play when it comes to the fight against hunger. Ensuring that EU policies are genuinely coherent and mutually reinforcing, in terms of ensuring food security and the right to food, is vital.

Despite the stark financing gaps and aid flow inconsistencies, the EU adopted an enlightened Food Security Policy Framework in 2010,⁷ and there are many forthcoming policy opportunities where the EU can implement its public commitment to the right to food, and to increasing access to food. The negotiations on the Post 2015 development agenda have the potential to set the tone and direction for development and aid during the next 15-30 years, and are a unique occasion to strengthen EU commitment and actions to eradicate worldwide hunger.

¹ FAO (2013) *The State of Food Insecurity in the World*, FAO: Rome

² The Lancet (2013) Maternal and Child Nutrition series, Executive summary, 6 June 2013, The Lancet

³ FAO (2013) *The State of Food and Agriculture*, FAO: Rome

⁴ FAO estimate world average per capita availability of food for human consumption was 2,770 kilocalories per person per day in 2005-2007. See: FAO (2012) *World agriculture towards 2030/2050, The 2012 Revision, ESA Working Paper No.12-03*, FAO: Rome

⁵ UN Population Division (2013) *World Population Prospects: The 2012 Revision*, UN Population Division, New York

⁶ The report can be found here: <http://www.caritas.org/what-we-do/advocacy/>

⁷ For EC (2010) *An EU policy framework to assist developing countries in addressing food security challenges*, SEC (2010)379, Brussels 31.3.2010 COM(2010) 127 final, see: http://ec.europa.eu/development/icenter/repository/COMM_PDF_COM_2010_0127_EN.PDF

The European Union should support the eradication of worldwide hunger as a priority for the post 2015 agenda, and push for a clear definition of a "Zero Hunger" goal, addressing all the root causes of hunger, in particular those that are a result of policies pursued by the European Union. In this report, Caritas Europa is addressing six main topics of utmost importance, calling on the European Union and its Member States to take action in the following areas:

■ **The Right to Food**

Food is a basic Human Right and it is in this way that it should be treated. A legal framework is needed so that all people should have this right fulfilled, with a focus on the most vulnerable. Grounding the EU approach to agriculture and food security in the right to food is vitally important because it can significantly improve policy effectiveness and targeting. The human right to adequate food is, above all, a bottom-up, participatory and people-centered human right, and on this right we can base a policy that considers multi-dimensional structural causes of hunger, and draws attention to the stigma, discrimination, insecurity, inequalities and social exclusion associated with poverty. A rights-based approach to food security offers a legal framework based on the principle of non-discrimination and it is focused on the most vulnerable, their right to take part in the conduct of public affairs and their empowerment.

■ **Agriculture**

Sustainable family farming is the key sustainable model for development in agriculture. 70 percent of the people living in extreme poverty worldwide live in rural areas, and the vast majority of hungry people in the world are small scale farmers. Women also have a key role in agriculture and this has been widely recognized by the international community. Family is at the heart of our society; for this reason Caritas organisations worldwide are convinced of the importance of family farming as a key element to fight hunger consistently and effectively, and to grant a decent life for all. Key features of family farming are the preservation of traditional knowledge, sustainable management of natural resources, the empowerment of women and an economic model based on community and solidarity. Smallholders and agro ecology need to be supported and we call for an increase in research and development for agriculture. Sustainable food production for local consumption should be ensured by international and EU policies, as the United Nations, through the FAO, are proposing for 2014 with the "International Year of Family Farming".

■ **Climate Change:**

The impact of climate change on food security and the environment needs to be considered and evaluated in a coherent way. Climate change is strongly interlinked with access to food, if we consider climate-related factors such as dry lands, land degradation, the threat to biodiversity and the dependence on water in agriculture. Without the leadership and participation of the EU and other industrialized nations, strategies to mitigate climate change will not be successful. Industrialized nations hold a debt to the international community, having built our wealth on an unsustainable use of the planet's resources. Introducing tougher EU emissions reduction targets is urgently required, and would simultaneously send a strong international signal of leadership. Furthermore, greater EU support is required for an urgent shift towards more sustainable, diverse, adaptive and climate-resilient agriculture. EU policies and aid should take a wider perspective, appreciating the duality of climate change and food security. By recognizing the multi-functionality of agriculture and its environmental dimensions, the EU should direct aid policies towards contributing to preserving traditional knowledge, and enhancing farmers' skills and knowledge of biodiversity.

■ **Nutrition:**

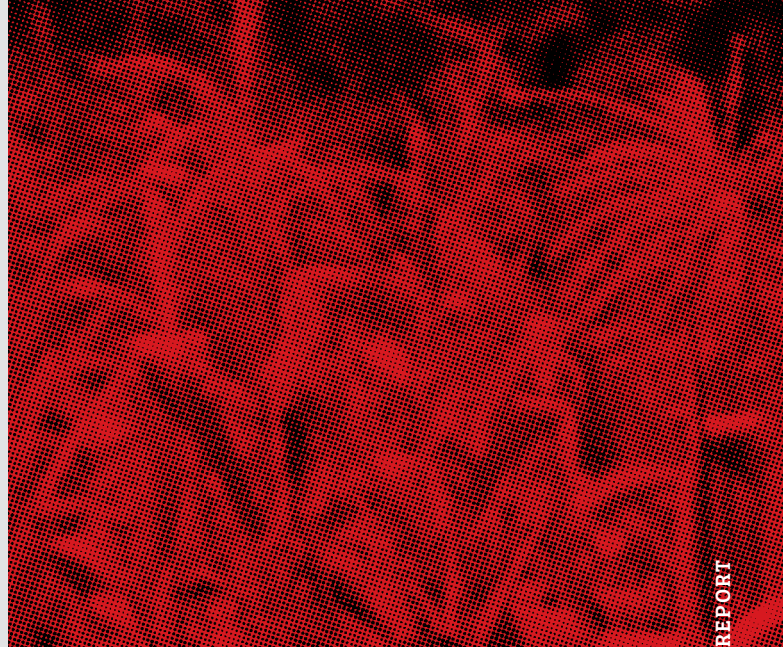
Three million children under five years old starve every year. In addition, many others suffer from physical and psychological problems due to malnutrition. Child malnutrition also has a negative impact on other areas of development, such as education. In order to combat malnutrition, a holistic approach is essential. In addition to access to food, additional factors such as living conditions, environmental quality, and health and care practices, must all be successfully addressed. Actions improving care practices (child care, feeding practices, nutritional knowledge, food preparation, eating habits and intra-household food distribution), hygiene and sanitation aspects and food security are essential to contribute to better nutritional status of the child. It is therefore essential to involve families and the whole community to control the great prevalence of malnutrition.

■ **Resilience:**

Building resilience is important to reduce vulnerability, especially in fragile situations and among the most deprived communities, which are usually the one tackling the most severe climate conditions and at risk of natural disasters. Resilience should be built through a community-based approach, focused on facing emergencies, on nutrition and on social protection mechanisms. There is a need for proactive measures, bearing in mind that phases of relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction which follow a disaster, are windows of opportunity for the rebuilding of livelihoods and for the planning and reconstruction of physical and socio-economic structures, in a way that will build community resilience and reduce vulnerability to future disaster risks. Development actors, such as the EU, need to focus more strongly on social protection and community-based approaches, and integrate resilience into their work with food security and all aspects of emergency aid.

■ **Policy Coherence for Development:**

The achievement of food security for all, and especially for the most deprived, requires Policy Coherence for Development at all levels. Coherent action should be implemented by advanced economies, emerging economies and developing countries, as well as civil society and international organisations. Without everyone pulling in the same direction, the challenge of raising incomes, ensuring sustainable and improved agricultural production and equitable consumption can never be achieved. Choices made at European level impact food availability and accessibility in LDCs. Biofuels, land grabbing, trade policies, are a few horizontal issues that need to be tackled and challenged from different points of view. Europe and the OECD hold a shared responsibility not to implement policies that counteract development. Development is related not only to southern partners and humanitarian agencies, but also to European and OECD agriculture, environment, climate and health policies. The cooperation of all these EU Directorate Generals should be welcomed and reinforced.





RECOMMENDATIONS

This report brings a set of main messages to be addressed to the European Union and its Member States. A complete list of recommendations can be found at the end of each chapter, nevertheless there are two levels of priorities that Caritas Europa thinks should always be kept in mind. The first five recommendations respond to non-negotiable elements to bear in mind when talking about Food Security.

Right to Food: the Right to Food should be mainstreamed as a priority in all EU policies having an impact on agriculture and food security;

"End Hunger" Goal: the EU and its Member States promote an ambitious "End Hunger" Goal in the post 2015 framework - worldwide undernourishment must fall below 2% and stunting in children under 5 should be reduced to 5%. The EU must contribute at all levels to its achievement (financially and by implementing the principle of Policy Coherence for Development);

Small-scale farming: development assistance to agriculture by the EU and its Member States should focus on supporting sustainable small-scale farming activities. No funding should be allocated to high-input agricultural activities that lead to degradation of eco-systems;

Civil Society Organisations are the EU and Member States' key partners in the fight against hunger. Their experience in working with people affected by hunger and under-nutrition is considered in decision-making processes. The EU should foster an enabling environment for CSOs, including access to funding, political space and participation of the most vulnerable populations, to enable them to get wider access to their rights;

Policy coherence for development is granted by the European Union. For this reason the regulation of biofuels, land tenure, and trade policies should be considered from a global view by assessing all the consequences and risks they could bring to Low Development Countries and to the poorest of the world.

OUR MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS SHOULD BE SUPPORTED BY FURTHER MEASURABLE ACHIEVEMENTS:

10% of Official Development Assistance to sustainable agriculture: the EU and its Member States should increase their support to sustainable agricultural activities and spend at least 10% of their Official Development Assistance on sustainable agriculture;

Specific support to programmes aimed at fighting against under-nutrition: the EU and its Member States should increase their support to countries in their efforts to combat under-nutrition. In doing so, a holistic and integrated approach upholding the interdependency links between food security, social and health policies should be applied;

Stop speculation on food: the EU and its Member States should implement swiftly and strictly the recently adopted directive on financial markets (MiFID II) in order to stop excessive speculation on food in European commodity markets;

Prevent land grabbing: the EU and its Member States have to contribute to the prevention of land grabs by supporting partner countries in the national implementation of the UN Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests;

Regulate the private sector: the EU strictly needs to regulate and monitor European private sector investments in developing countries' agriculture. Further importance should be given to the ongoing negotiations on the UN Principles for responsible agricultural investment ('RAI').⁸

Climate change: the EU should secure a binding target in terms of emissions reduction in order to contain global warming below 1.5°C;

Foster resilience: the EU must integrate a resilience approach into emergencies.

⁸ See also: Concord (2013): Spotlight Report on EU Policy Coherence for Development. The real life impact of EU Policies on the poor.

“*The right to adequate food is realized when every man, woman and child, alone or in community with others, have physical and economic access at all times to adequate food or means for its procurement.*”⁹

Food is a basic Human Right

In December 2013, The Caritas Confederation launched a global campaign for the fulfillment of the Right to Food. The campaign is called “One Human Family, Food for All” and it illustrates the paramount importance Caritas gives to the commitment of ending hunger and working for Integral Human Development, in accordance with Catholic Social Teaching.

In the balance of political decisions, human rights must take precedence over all other interests. The right to food is indispensable for the attainment of other Human Rights. For it to be fulfilled, every person must have the possibility either of producing his/her own food directly or buying it. It requires that food is available, accessible and adequate in a sustainable manner.

For these reasons the right to food should not be jeopardized by the implementation of conflicting policies, while instead it should be granted in a coherent and comprehensive way.

Grounding the right to food

According to Caritas, grounding the EU approach to agriculture and food security in the right to food is vitally important because it could significantly improve effectiveness and targeting. This entails an approach based on the principles of accountability, non-discrimination, participation, transparency and empowerment, focused on the most vulnerable.

The human right to adequate food is, above all, a bottom-up, participatory and people-centered human right, and on this right we can base a policy that considers the multi-dimensional structural causes of hunger, and draws attention to the stigma, discrimination, insecurity, inequalities and social exclusion associated with poverty. A rights-based approach to food security offers a legal framework based on the principle of non-discrimination and it is focused on the most vulnerable, their right to take part in the conduct of public affairs and their empowerment.

A human rights approach leads to the requirement of ensuring food security in terms of legal entitlements and accountability mechanisms.

The UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights notes that the right to food imposes three levels of obligations on states:

- The obligation to **Respect** existing access to adequate food. States are not to take any measure hampering such access;
- The obligation to **Protect** requires States to take measures to ensure that enterprises or individuals do not deprive individuals of their access to adequate food;

The obligation to **fulfill** means that States must pro-actively engage in activities intended to strengthen people’s access to and

The right to adequate food is recognized under Article 25 of the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights¹⁰ and under Article 11 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR - 1966) ratified by all 28 EU Member States. The core content of the right to food and the corresponding obligations of States to respect, protect and fulfil the right to food, were defined in 1999 by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights¹¹, which monitors the implementation of the ICESCR, in its General Comment No. 12. The prescriptions found in General Comment No. 12 are complemented by the Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security adopted by the Member States of the FAO Council in November 2004¹².

⁹ UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, General Comment 12, para 6, 12 May 1999, E/C.12/1999/5, see: <http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G99/420/12/PDF/G9942012.pdf?OpenElement>

¹⁰ “Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food...” (Art. 25)

¹¹ U.N. Econ. & Soc. Council [ECOSOC], Comm. on Econ. Soc. and Cultural Rights, General Comment 12: The Right to Adequate Food, § 10, U.N. Doc. E/C.12.1999/5 (May 12, 1999), para 6

¹² FAO, Voluntary Guidelines on the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security, 2005, adopted by the 127th Session of the FAO Council, November 2004. <http://www.fao.org/docrep/meeting/009/y9825e/y9825e00.htm>

In India, in the context of a severe food crisis in 2001, a large coalition of individuals and organizations including Caritas India and Diocesan Caritas called the Right to Food Campaign rallied in support of a petition filed by the People's Union for Civil Liberties to the Supreme Court. Caritas India and many Diocesan Caritas have been part of many initiatives focusing on the issue and the Food Security bill.

In parallel, Caritas India and Diocesan Caritas have participated in many civil society efforts to strengthen the food security bill like the campaign of GM Free India, Sphere Campaign, Wada NA Todo Abhiyan etc. and submitted the recommendations to National Advisory Committee formed to finalise the draft bill on Food Security. One of the networks formed by us has also submitted its recommendations.

As a result, India's Constitutional Court recognized the right to food, transforming policy choices into enforceable rights. In July 2013, the National Food Security Bill was adopted.

The People's Union for Civil Liberties case stands out as the most successful court case ever brought on the basis of the right to food derived, in this case, from the right to life guaranteed in section 21 of the Indian Constitution.

The NFSB is the beginning and has to be operationalised in a fair and efficient manner, targeting the most vulnerable sections of the population.

utilization of resources, and their means to ensure their livelihood, including food security. Finally, when an individual or group is unable to enjoy the right to adequate food by the means at their disposal, states have the obligation to fulfill that right directly.

The FAO Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security outline the key measures States should take. These include actions such as adopting a national strategy to ensure food and nutrition security for all, establishing institutional mechanisms to map and identify the hungry and any emergent threats to the right to food, improving coordination between different ministries and sub-national government agencies, ensuring adequate participation of civil society actors, in particular the most vulnerable and food-insecure, and adopting framework legislation ensuring the right to food is justiciable before national courts and that other forms of redress are available.

Indeed, not all countries have similar **resources** for the full realization of the right to food, yet all have **obligations**¹³ :

- To use **maximum of available resources** to grant rights to their citizens;
- To take **immediate steps** for their implementation;

- To start with the **most vulnerable** people/individuals;

- **Non-discrimination & transparency.**

Right to food works

Worldwide, the right to food approach is gathering steam. A recent survey shows that 24 states now explicitly protect the right to food in their constitutions – from Bolivia to South Africa – and others from Honduras to Paraguay are pursuing multi-year comprehensive rights-based national FSN strategies to eradicate hunger.¹⁴ Caritas Europa is deeply conscious about the fact that the right to food must be supported by giving strengths and capabilities to the beneficiary population, as it is very well defined in famous economist's Amartya Sen approach.¹⁵

The Lisbon Treaty ascertains that the EU and its Member States have a legal obligation as duty bearers to respect, protect and promote human rights, including the Right to Food. The EU has made several commitments to guarantee Human Rights. The European Commission, for example, has been widely focused on human rights in its development policy,¹⁶ and supports the enforcement of the right to food, including

the idea of readdressing mechanisms aimed to reinforce such right giving entitlement to southern Countries to become real protagonists of their own development.¹⁷ The European Parliament has taken a similar position and takes conscience about the increasing complexity of food crises, especially in highly fragile areas.¹⁸ Despite all of this, no clear mention of the right to food is made in any of the fundamental European Treaties, nor in their revisions. A clear statement about it should be given, even more so after the European economic and social crises of recent times.

¹³ FAO, Voluntary Guidelines on the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security, 2005, adopted by the 127th Session of the FAO Council, November 2004, "Part 3: guiding principles of responsible tenure governance". http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/cfs/Docs/1112/VG/VG_Final_EN_May_2012.pdf

¹⁴ De Schutter, A Rights Revolution, Implementing the right to food in Latin America and the Caribbean, Briefing Note 06, September 2012

¹⁵ Amartya Sen, (1999), Development as Freedom, Oxford University Press

¹⁶ European Commission (2011) Increasing the impact of EU Development Policy: An Agenda for Change, COM (2011) 637 Final, 13 October 2011, EC: Brussels

¹⁷ European Commission (2010) An EU policy framework to assist developing countries in addressing food security challenges, COM (2010) 127 Final, 31 March 2010, EC: Brussels

¹⁸ European Parliament (2011) Assisting developing countries in addressing food security challenges, European Parliament resolution of 27 September 2011, (2010/2100) (INI) and EP (2013) Report on the EU approach to resilience and disaster risk reduction in developing countries: learning from food security crises, (2013/2110) (INI).



THE RIGHT TO FOOD AND THE EU

Caritas recommends the EU to:

- Integrate the Right to Food as a priority in and outside the EU in all policies having an impact on agriculture and food (including the regulation of the agribusiness sector and speculation on food);
- Explicitly integrate the Right to Food among other human rights in further revisions of the internal fundamental Charter;
- Operationalize complaint mechanisms for all people affected by EU policies to claim their rights;
- Influence the G8 New Alliance on Food Security and Nutrition to firmly defend the Right to Food, small scale farmers and sustainable and localized food systems;
- Play a major role in the World Committee on Food Security to promote the common good and the interest of farmers' organisations before other private interests, and to foster regional and national adoption and operationalization of the Right to Food in legal frameworks and accountability mechanisms;
- Support national governments to operationalize the FAO Voluntary Guidelines on the Right to Adequate Food to help build up legal frameworks, national strategies, coordinating bodies, effective institutions and accountability mechanisms. Support for adequate civil society participation and monitoring is also essential.

Small-Scale Agriculture key to Alleviating Hunger

Background

Agriculture (which we understand as including livestock farming, pastoralism, fisheries and the agro-forestry economy) plays a crucial role in eradicating hunger in the world. It also affects many other domains like culture, communities, employment, environmental and land conservation. But first and foremost agriculture has always been the main source for nutrition. Everywhere in the world, and especially in developing countries, an important share of the workforce is still engaged in agricultural activities. Approximately 2.5 billion people live directly from agricultural production systems, either as full or part-time farmers, or as members of farming households that support farming activities.¹⁹

A key priority for Caritas programmes worldwide is the promotion of sustainable agricultural practices. Caritas Europa's member organisations support a big variety of programmes with different Caritas partners in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Through our experience and through the advice of experts, we have become convinced that it is specifically by supporting smallholders and sustaining agro-ecology that hunger can be tackled efficiently. This is the first step needed to face poverty in a concrete and efficient way, securing the right to food for many vulnerable groups in different countries and environments worldwide.²⁰

- Promotion of sustainable farming activities in Burkina Faso, Ethiopia & the Democratic Republic of Congo.
- Caritas supports smallholders dramatically affected by hunger and under-nourishment.

Some 4,000 poor smallholder farmers in rural areas in Burkina Faso (Dori and Kaya dioceses), Ethiopia (Meki Vicariate) and the Democratic Republic of Congo (Lubumbashi Diocese) have adopted agro-ecology techniques to improve their food production and food security under community-based initiatives supported by Caritas Austria and implemented by diocesan Caritas organisations in the three countries

The majority of the population in the programme areas are small-scale subsistence farmers, who cultivate mainly crops on a relatively small area. In Ethiopia, maize, haricot beans, wheat and teff are the main rain-fed crops produced, harvested once a year and with a low productivity. In the DRC, the rural population is mainly living from subsistence farming, producing maize, beans and potatoes. In Burkina Faso, agricultural production concentrates on sorghum and millet, complemented by sesame, nièbe beans and ground nuts. The harvest is barely sufficient to feed a family or to generate a small surplus and subsequently a small income covers the costs for essential non-food items, education or health care. Productivity is too low due to the use of outdated cultivation methods and seeds of low quality, the lack of use of ecological fertilizers and too little irrigation, plus decreasing soil fertility.

The Caritas Austria programme showed that the promotion of sustainable agricultural practices works and it is a key factor in fighting food insecurity in poor rural regions. Previously isolated small-scale farmers were encouraged to form community-based organisations, to plant a wider variety of cereals and vegetables, to integrate small ruminants and beekeeping, and to adopt composts, manures and organic fertilizers to enhance declining soil fertility. Farmers have increased and diversified their agricultural production leading to better nutrition of the household's members. (Source: Caritas Austria)

diversified their agricultural production leading to better nutrition of the household members. (Source: Caritas Austria)

¹⁹ IFAD/UNEP (2013) *Smallholders, food security, and the environment*, IFAD/UNEP: Rome

²⁰ De Schutter (2010) *Agro-ecology and the right to food*, Report presented at the 16th Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council, 17 December 2010, A/HRC/16/49

Indeed, it is now well recognized that agriculture has tremendous potential to alleviate poverty. On average, the contribution of agriculture to raise incomes for the poorest people is estimated to be at least 2.5 times higher than that of non-agriculture sectors in Least Developed Countries.²¹

Smallholders are the main target group of Caritas programmes aiming at reducing hunger and assuring food security. 70 percent of the people living in extreme poverty worldwide live in rural areas, and the vast majority of hungry people in the world are small scale farmers. Smallholders – which include farmers, forest dwellers, pastoralists and artisanal fisher-folk – produce food and non-food products on a small-scale in diverse systems with limited external inputs, cultivating field and tree crops as well as livestock, fish and shellfish. Smallholders also include some 350 million indigenous peoples, who conserve many different crop varieties and livestock breeds. The vast majority of smallholders live in rural areas, although urban and peri-urban smallholdings are increasingly important.²² Worldwide there are an estimated 500 million small farms of two hectares or less.²³ Although many are excluded from credit, financial services, rural extension and adequate local markets,²⁴ smallholders produce 80 percent of the food consumed in Asia and sub-Saharan Africa. Women play a crucial role within the smallholder system and are commonly responsible for the production of food crops, especially where farming systems include both food and cash crops.²⁵ The World Bank, FAO and International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) estimate that women account for 60 to 90 percent of total food

production.²⁶ Hunger could be cut by 100–150 million – or 12–17 percent – if women had the same access to productive resources as men.²⁷

Agro-ecology, including both traditional and innovative sustainable practices, ensures better access to food for the most vulnerable. In its rural development programmes, Caritas focuses its support on promoting sustainable small-scale family farming with low inputs and aims at farmers being independent from high cost external inputs.

Agro-ecology is the science of sustainable agriculture. It is based on a set of practices that follow these five ecological principles:

- Recycling biomass and balancing nutrient flow and availability;
- Securing favourable soil conditions for plant growth through enhanced organic matter;
- Minimizing losses of solar radiation, water, and nutrients through microclimate management, water harvesting, and soil cover;
- Enhancing biological and genetic diversification on cropland, and;²⁸
- Enhancing beneficial biological interactions and minimizing the use of pesticides.²⁹

Encouragingly, an impressive range of experts, high-level reports and assessments endorse the multiple social and environmental benefits of low-input smallholder-based agro-ecology.³⁰ There is ample evidence that agro-ecology works successfully for smallholders and the environment on all continents, and can be adopted at scale.

An analysis by UNEP-UNCTAD of 114 cases in Africa in 2008 found the conversion of farms to agro-ecology organic methods increased agricultural productivity by 116 percent. Moreover, increased diversity in food crops available to farmers resulted in more varied diets, and thus improved nutrition. Also, the natural capital of small farms – such as soil fertility, levels of agro-biodiversity, water retention and landslide and flood control – increased over time after conversion.³¹

The concept of Food sovereignty also needs to be explored. It goes beyond the right to eat and promotes the need for a right to participate in and have control over the process of food production.³² According to Caritas Australia, “discussions around the food crisis often focus heavily on deficits; deficits in foodstuffs or deficits in spending. Discussions need to progress beyond this realm to examine how a lack of control over food production and agriculture implies a democratic deficit. Without sovereignty over food and agriculture, citizens are unable to have a say over the policies and decisions that affect their lives and future opportunities. Food sovereignty is a challenge to this deficit.”³³

In April 2008 the International Assessment of Agricultural Science and Technology for Development (IAASTD), adopted the following definition: “Food sovereignty is defined as the right of peoples and sovereign states to democratically determine their own agricultural and food policies.”³⁴ At the Forum for Food Sovereignty in Sélingué, Mali, 27 February 2007, about 500 delegates from more than 80 countries adopted the “Declaration of Nyéléni”,³⁵ which says in part that “Food sovereignty is the right of peoples to healthy and culturally appropriate

²¹ UNEP (2011) *Towards a Green Economy: Pathways to Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication*, UNEP: Nairobi

²² IFAD/UNEP (2013) *Smallholders, food security, and the environment*, IFAD/UNEP: Rome

²³ HLPE (2013) *Investing in smallholder agriculture for food security*, High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition, HLPE: Rome

²⁴ IFAD (2011) *Rural Poverty Report 2011*, IFAD: Rome

²⁵ IFAD/UNEP (2013) *Smallholders, Food Security, and the Environment*, IFAD/UNEP: Rome

²⁶ World Bank (2009) *Gender in Agriculture Sourcebook*, World Bank: Washington, DC

²⁷ FAO (2011) *The State of Food and Agriculture*, FAO: Rome

²⁸ In its programmes, Caritas refrains from using genetically modified crops. In Caritas's view GMOs don't address the root causes of hunger and increase dependency of poor farmers. See also “A Cidse/Caritas Internationalis Statement. GMOs and Hunger.”, 2004

²⁹ Altieri, M (2002) *Agroecology: the science of natural resource management for poor farmers in marginal environments*, Agriculture, Ecosystems and Environment 1971, 1–24 (2002)

³⁰ Like FAO in “Save and Grow – A policymaker's guide to the sustainable intensification of smallholder crop production”; UNEP (in 2012) “Towards a green economy, Pathways to sustainable development and poverty eradication, Nairobi”; UNCTAD (2011) in “Brief, Sustainable agriculture and food security in LDCs” or Olivier de Schutter (in 2010) *Agroecology and the right to food*, Report presented at the 16th Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council, 17 December 2010.”

³¹ UNCTAD/UNEP (2008) *Organic agriculture and food security in Africa*, UNCTAD/UNEP: New York and Geneva; see also Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance “Nourishing the World Sustainably: Scaling up Agroecology” <http://www.e-alliance.ch/en/1/food/>

³² Caritas Australia (2009). Food the Fundamental Right: a Framework for Alleviating Global Hunger. Downloaded from http://www.caritas.org.au/docs/publications-and-reports/report_foodthefundamentalright

³³ Caritas Australia (2009). Ibid, p.16

³⁴ International Assessment of Agricultural Knowledge, Science and Technology for Development (IAASTD), Global Summary for Decision Makers. Accessed online 23 September 2008.

³⁵ Declaration of Nyéléni (text), Nyéléni 2007 - Forum for Food Sovereignty. Accessed online 19 February 2010.

food produced through ecologically sound and sustainable methods, and their right to define their own food and agriculture systems. It puts those who produce, distribute and consume food at the heart of food systems and policies rather than the demands of markets and corporations. It defends the interests and inclusion of the next generation. [...] Food sovereignty promotes transparent trade that guarantees a just income to all peoples and the rights of consumers to control their food and nutrition. It ensures that the rights to use and manage our lands, territories, waters, seeds, livestock and

biodiversity are in the hands of those of us who produce food. Food sovereignty implies new social relations free of oppression and inequality between men and women, peoples, racial groups, social classes and generations”.

This movement is advocated by a number of farmers, peasants, pastoralists, fisherfolk, indigenous peoples, women, rural youth and environmental organisations.

SMALL SCALE FARMING AND THE EU

Caritas recommends the EU:

- To focus on supporting agro-ecological small scale farming activities in its efforts to fight worldwide hunger: smallholders have a central role in global food and nutrition security. Caritas believes that one solution to alleviate hunger consists of the support of agro-ecological farming activities that reach those people most affected by under-nutrition. That is why Caritas welcomed the European Commission’s Communication of March 2010 supporting the need that sustainable small-scale food production should be the focus of EU-assistance,³⁶ as well as the EU regulatory framework on organic farming.³⁷ For the same reasons Caritas Europa welcomes very much 2014 as the International Year of Family Farming, as is appointed by the FAO and the UN;
- Adopt strong principles to defend the right of small farmers and their organisations and associations to protect local agriculture systems, including the saving and use of seeds based on local biodiversity and available knowledge. Finally, to protect local agriculture systems against the contamination of genetically modified organisms;
- To promote in its relevant policies the multi-functionality of agriculture by addressing food security challenges not only from the angle of food production but also by taking into account the socio-cultural, environmental and economic dimensions of agriculture;
- To give particular attention to preserving traditional knowledge and enhancing farmers’ skills and knowledge on biodiversity, with special attention to women farmers, who produce more than half of the food in the world;
- Increase research on agro-ecological food production systems, building on existing best practices, and to support participatory research, farmer field schools, and farmer-to-farmer networks and rural extension services at local levels.

Caritas recommends that the EU should strictly regulate and monitor European private sector investments in developing countries’ agriculture with a view to prioritizing the empowerment of smallholders and their access to, and control of, productive resources. This comes after the May 2013 Council conclusions, where EU foreign ministers stressed that, in order to feed the world’s population, agricultural production must be significantly increased and diversified in a sustainable and resilient manner recommending for this end “responsible investment of the private sector in agriculture”³⁸. It seems that in promoting the agricultural sector, the EU attributes an important role to the private sector.

³⁶ Communication of the European Commission to the Council and the Parliament “An EU policy framework to assist developing countries in addressing food security challenges”, 31.3.2010.

³⁷ http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/organic/index_en.htm

³⁸ Foreign Aid Ministers Council Meeting, Council Conclusions on Food and Nutrition Security in external assistance, May 2013, p.3



AN END HUNGER GOAL TO BE ACHIEVED WITH THE EU

Caritas recommends the EU to:

- Promote a strong “End Hunger” Goal with high importance given to sustainable agriculture within negotiations on Beyond 2015: Caritas welcomes that EU foreign ministers emphasized in their Council conclusions of May 2013 the need “to ensure that hunger and food and nutrition security are well reflected in the elaboration of the post-2015 agenda”,³⁹
- Support an ambitious Zero Hunger goal in the Beyond 2015 framework. In the goal the importance of agriculture has to be stressed. Beside other indicators, a future goal on hunger should integrate indicators with regard to small scale agriculture like investments of countries in small-scale farming, share of ODA to sustainable agriculture or the existence of national implementation plans for sustainable food production systems;
- Increase its share of Official Development Assistance (ODA) to sustainable agriculture to at least 10%: annually the European Union spends about 45 billion Euro on its Common Agricultural Policy. The new Multiannual Financial Framework 2014-2020 foresees 36% of its budget for the promotion of agriculture in Europe.⁴⁰ The trend is different when talking about the share of ODA (Official Development Assistance) to agriculture. With regard to quantity, the support of agricultural activities in the so called developing countries does not fall into the priorities of the European Union development policies. In 2012, the EU spent less than 5% of its total ODA on agriculture.⁴¹ This amount is far too little having in mind the recommendations of different experts and high level reports saying that investments in agriculture are the key to reduce extreme poverty and hunger;
- Caritas recommends that the European Union and its Member States increase their support to sustainable agricultural activities and spend at least 10% of their Official Development Assistance *on sustainable agriculture*.



³⁹ Foreign Aid Ministers Council Meeting, Council Conclusions on Food and Nutrition Security in external assistance, May 2013, p.2

⁴⁰ European Parliament, Policy Department B: „European Council conclusion on the multiannual financial framework 2014-2020 and the CAP.” p.40.

⁴¹ OECD statistics, <http://stats.oecd.org/Index.aspx?datasetcode=TABLE5>

Environment and Climate Change

Background

Climate change and food security are intrinsically linked. There is abundant evidence that we are undermining the ecological foundation of the world's food system. Both the natural resource base and the ecosystem services needed to support global agricultural production are being seriously undermined⁴², threatening food security, and increasing risk and vulnerabilities of poor communities in a world threatened by accelerating climate change.

Without ensuring ecological sustainability, any progress made within the area of food security will be vulnerable and temporary. A major principle of Catholic Social Teaching is the Stewardship of Creation - requiring us to respecting the world's resources as a shared and common good, which gives both an individual and common responsibility of taking urgent action to secure the livelihoods of future generations.

Together with that we call on the fact that Caritas work is guided by the preferential Option for the Poor. It is a central principle of Catholic Social Teaching and at the core of every single action Caritas tries to Implement or change it advocates for. Politicians, national and European institutions have a special responsibility to reduce poverty among the world's most vulnerable. Accelerating climate change means severely affecting the food security of the planet's poorest and most vulnerable groups. For Caritas, finding just solutions to climate change is therefore of paramount importance.

The Ecological Footprint

Humanity is facing the huge challenge to feed a growing global population without pushing humanity's footprint beyond planetary boundaries. In general the ecological footprint can be defined as the overall impact of human activities measured in terms of the area of biologically productive land and water required to produce the goods consumed and to assimilate the wastes generated.

More simply, it is the amount of the environment necessary to produce the goods and services necessary to support a particular lifestyle⁴³. The ecological footprint differs significantly from country to country, as it differs from individual to individual, depending on the choices made in terms of resources used to fulfil a certain lifestyle. Because the ecological footprints of populations of some countries have a damaging impact on the life chances of populations of other countries, this concept is important when discussing social justice in the context of the planetary boundaries.

The impacts of climate change on food security

According to IPCC – the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change – rising temperatures and shifts in precipitation and rainfall patterns from climate change are predicted to have a profound impact on agriculture and ecosystems in many of the poorest regions of the world. These are the regions that have the least economic, institutional, scientific and technical capacity to cope and adapt. Generally, Least Developed Countries suffer the most from the many consequences of climate change, due to factors such as rapid demographic change, volatile economic growth rates, and institutional instability.⁴⁴

Dry-land agriculture in arid and semi-arid regions, where more than 650 million of the poorest and most food insecure people live, is particularly vulnerable to the risks of climate change and variability, drought in particular⁴⁵. With CO₂ levels higher than ever in the last 15 million years, the World Bank says that under present emission trends the world is on a path toward 4°C warming within the century. The predicted consequences of this are unprecedented heat waves, severe drought, and major floods in many regions, with serious impacts on human systems, ecosystems and associated services⁴⁶.

⁴² unep (2012) avoiding future famines: strengthening the ecological foundation of food security through sustainable food systems, unep: nairobi, kenya

⁴³ see www.footprintnetwork.org

⁴⁴ http://ipcc-data.org/docs/ar5scenarios/IPCC_Final_Draft_Meeting_Report_3May08.pdf

⁴⁵ HLPE (2012) Food security and climate change, High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE): Rome

⁴⁶ World Bank (2012) Turn Down the Heat: Why a 4°C Warmer World Must be Avoided, World Bank: Washington, DC

Reductions in arable land in low-latitudes will be most pronounced in Africa, Latin America and India, and flooding of agricultural land is expected to severely impact crops yields. Some 10.7 percent of South Asia's agricultural land could be exposed to inundation, accompanied by a 10 percent intensification of storm surges.⁴⁷

Research since 2007 points to a more rapidly escalating risk of crop yield reductions asso-

habitat destruction as the greatest threat to biodiversity. Large-scale loss of biodiversity – through increased forest loss, desertification, wildfires, disease, pests, invasive species and biome shifts – is likely, and ecosystem damage would be expected to dramatically reduce the provision of ecosystem services on which society depends, for example, fisheries and protection of coastlines provided by coral reefs and mangroves.⁵²

Asia and the Near East/North Africa, and where land is available, in sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America, more than 70% suffers from soil and terrain constraints.⁵⁶

Nevertheless, pressure on available land is set to intensify due to increasing biofuels' production and expanding cities. The International Energy Agency and FAO estimate the total area devoted to biofuels could grow from 13.9 million to 34.5–58.5

World Bank on Climate Change

Data extracted from the World Bank project:⁴⁸

- The emergence of unprecedented high-temperature extremes in the tropics will lead to significantly larger impacts on agriculture and ecosystems
- Sea-level rise is likely to be 15-20 percent larger in the tropics than the global mean
- Increases in tropical cyclone intensity are likely to be felt disproportionately in low-latitude regions
- Increasing aridity and drought are likely to increase substantially in many developing country regions in tropical and subtropical areas.

ciated with warming than previously predicted. Negative impacts have already been observed. It is estimated global production of maize and wheat declined by 3.8 per cent and 5.5 per cent, respectively, as a result of climate change since 1980.⁴⁹ By 2050, and without adaption, projected yield losses are 14–25 percent for wheat, 19–34 percent for maize, and 15–30 percent for soybean.

In Africa, 65 percent of current maize growing areas would be affected by yield losses under rain-fed conditions⁵⁰ and simulations show maize yields in northern Uganda, southern Sudan and semi-arid areas of Kenya and Tanzania may decline by 20 percent.⁵¹ In a plus 4°C world, climate change is also likely to become the dominant driver of ecosystem shifts, surpassing

Land Degradation

Soil erosion is a major contributor to land degradation, and it is estimated that 24 percent of the world's total land area and 20 percent of cropland is degrading and losing productivity.⁵³ About 1.5 billion people depend directly on these degrading areas, and soil erosion is particularly severe in Africa.⁵⁴ Most of the degradation is caused by deforestation, wind and water erosion, salinization, acidification, compaction, and pollution from inappropriate and intensive farming practices.⁵⁵

In most developing countries there is little room for expansion of arable land. Virtually no spare land is available in South

million hectares by 2030 – amounting to 0.8 to 1.7 million hectares per year to 2030 (equivalent to the land area of Venezuela).⁵⁷ Similarly, the World Bank estimates that cities and urban sprawl will grow by 2.5 times in area by 2030, covering some 100 million hectares or 1.1 percent of the total land area of countries, with the possibility of extending into as much as 5–7 percent of total arable land.⁵⁸

⁴⁷ World Bank (2012) *Turn Down the Heat: Why a 4°C Warmer World Must be Avoided*, World Bank: Washington, DC

⁴⁸ World Bank (2012) *Turn Down the Heat: Why a 4°C Warmer World Must be Avoided*, World Bank: Washington, DC

⁴⁹ Lobell, D et al, 'Climate Trends and Global Crop Production since 1980,' *Science*, 5 May 2011

⁵⁰ World Bank (2012) *Turn Down the Heat: Why a 4°C Warmer World Must be Avoided*, World Bank: Washington, DC

⁵¹ IFAD/UNEP (2013) *Smallholders, food security, and the environment*, IFAD/UNEP: Rome

⁵² World Bank (2012) *Turn Down the Heat: Why a 4°C Warmer World Must be Avoided*, World Bank: Washington, DC

⁵³ UNEP (2012) *Avoiding Future Famines: Strengthening the Ecological Foundation of Food Security through Sustainable Food Systems*, UNEP: Nairobi, Kenya

⁵⁴ UNEP (2012) *Avoiding Future Famines: Strengthening the Ecological Foundation of Food Security through Sustainable Food Systems*, UNEP: Nairobi, Kenya

⁵⁵ UNEP (2009) *The Environmental Food Crisis*, UNEP: Nairobi, Kenya

⁵⁶ FAO (2011) *Save and grow - A policymaker's guide to the sustainable intensification of smallholder crop production*, Rome: FAO

⁵⁷ UNEP (2012) *Avoiding Future Famines: Strengthening the Ecological Foundation of Food Security through Sustainable Food Systems*, UNEP: Nairobi, Kenya

⁵⁸ World Bank (2005) *The Dynamics of Global Urban Expansion*, World Bank: Washington, DC

Water

Agriculture accounts for 70 percent of all freshwater withdrawals from rivers and aquifers, but pressures are mounting because the share of water available for agriculture is expected to decline to 40 percent by 2050.⁵⁹ Around 80 percent of croplands are rain-fed,⁶⁰ and only 24 percent of arable land is cultivated with the help of irrigation from flowing surface waters or groundwater aquifers.⁶¹ Non-renewable fossil aquifers are already being depleted, for instance in Egypt, Libya and the Punjab,⁶² and in many areas of China and India groundwater levels are falling by one to three meters per year.⁶³ Domestic water use is projected to double in sub-Saharan Africa by 2050, and to grow by 20 to 90 percent in Asia, while total global water demand could double by 2050 owing to pressures from industry and urbanization.⁶⁴ Overall, the World

Water Assessment Program indicates that 90 percent of the three billion people to be added to the population by 2050 may live in regions already experiencing significant water stress.⁶⁵

Biodiversity

Important ecosystem services are also under threat. Over the last century, about 75 percent of plant genetic resources have been lost and it is estimated a third of today's diversity could disappear by 2050.⁶⁶ From a food security perspective, it is essential that these trends are reversed, since crop genetic diversity plays a critical role in increasing and sustaining food production and nutritional diversity.⁶⁷ Smallholders and indigenous people play a key role in 'in situ' use and conservation of crop genetic diversity, as local crop varieties are often more adaptive, hardy, and resilient than

modern varieties. Even in China, during the spring drought in the southwest area in 2010, most of the modern varieties of vegetables and cereals were lost, while the great part of the indigenous ones survived.⁶⁸ This is just an example of the added value of natural born species in different areas of the world. According to the IUCN – International Union for the Conservation of Nature⁶⁹ -, “no other feature of the Earth has been so dramatically influenced by man's activities. By changing biodiversity, we strongly affect human well-being and the well-being of every other living creature”. Despite all this, the economic value of biodiversity should be better recognized and considered when drafting new agriculture policies, both in the North and in the South.

■ Caritas Case Study – Tackling Land Degradation in Bangladesh

■ Bangladesh is one of the countries in the world that is most affected by climate change. Caritas supports the implementation of more climate-friendly agriculture in local communities.

Minority tribal communities in 47 villages in the Chittagong Hill Tracts in southeastern Bangladesh have worked with local organisations, supported by Caritas Bangladesh, to move away from highly destructive 'slash and burn' forest clearance practices towards sustainable and agro-ecology-based farming systems.

In danger of violent attacks from the Army and incoming-settlers, and under threat of expropriation of collectively-held but weakly enforced land and land rights, many minorities had practiced 'slash and burn' agriculture, much to the detriment of the land, soil and environment.

However, community-based training for 2,000 families in improved land management, irrigation and soil testing and enrichment, animal husbandry, the adoption of natural fertilizers, seed storage, rice production, and a wider variety of fruit and vegetables through new cuttings made by nurseries, has seen food production increase by 20 percent, production costs decline by 20 percent, and dietary diversity significantly improved, especially for women and children. Popular awareness campaigns on food, health and collective land rights issues have also enhanced the knowledge and resilience of the minority communities.

Source: Caritas Bangladesh, Caritas France (SCCF)

⁵⁹ OECD (2012) Environmental Outlook to 2050, OECD: Paris

⁶⁰ FAO (2011) Save and Grow, A policy maker's guide to the sustainable intensification of smallholder crop production, FAO: Rome

⁶¹ UNEP (2011) Towards a Green Economy: Pathways to Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication, UNEP: Nairobi, Kenya

⁶² UK Government (2011) Foresight. The future of food and farming, London: Government Office for Science

⁶³ FAO (2011) Safeguarding Food Security in Volatile Global Markets, FAO: Rome

⁶⁴ UK Government (2011) Foresight. The future of food and farming, London: Government Office for Science

⁶⁵ UNEP (2012) Avoiding Future Famines: Strengthening the Ecological Foundation of Food Security through Sustainable Food Systems, UNEP: Nairobi, Kenya

⁶⁶ FAO (2011) Save and Grow, A Policy Maker's Guide to the Sustainable Intensification of Smallholder Crop Production, FAO: Rome

⁶⁷ UNEP (2009) The Environmental Food Crisis, UNEP: Nairobi

⁶⁸ IFAD/UNEP (2013) Smallholders, food security, and the environment, IFAD/UNEP: Rome

⁶⁹ IUCN is a global environmental organisation. They have got the status of observers at the UN General Assembly and consider biodiversity as central to all development policies. They have several scientific taskforces working on that. www.iucn.org

The Caritas Experience

The impact of climate change will most affect the world's poor, who are equipped with far fewer resources to adapt to these changes. Being a confederation of humanitarian and development organisations, the impact of climate change on the world's poorest communities is of particular concern to Caritas. Progress made in ensuring food security for all could be quickly reversed by climate change. Therefore, climate change adaptation as well as mitigation is essential in order to ensure future food security and sustainable livelihoods.

With our expertise in grassroots development, Caritas has first-hand experience of the importance of designing and implementing programmes that are adapted to local contexts and ecological systems. Building resilient communities and flexible adaptation interventions that do not simply address current problems, but anticipate future climate variability can be done through building local knowledge and capacity. World-wide, Caritas is working to promote community-based natural resource management, sustainable agriculture, water and sanitation measures and risk reduction programmes.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE EU

Without the leadership and participation of the EU and other industrialized nations, strategies to mitigate climate change will not be successful. Industrialized nations hold a debt to the international community, having built our wealth on an unsustainable use of the planet's resources. Introducing tougher EU emissions reduction targets is urgently required, and would simultaneously send a strong international signal of leadership.

Furthermore, greater EU support is required for an urgent shift towards more sustainable, diverse, adaptive and climate-resilient agriculture. EU policies and aid should take a wider perspective, appreciating the duality of climate change and food security. By recognizing the multi-functionality of agriculture and its environmental dimensions, the EU should direct aid policies towards contributing to preserving traditional knowledge, enhancing farmers' skills and knowledge of biodiversity.

Caritas recommends the EU to:

- Secure a binding target, as well as in terms of emissions reductions, in order to limit climate change below 1.5°C and also in terms of support given to developing countries to cope with the devastating impact of climate change;
- Integrate binding climate targets in the design and implementation of all EU policies, including its policies on agriculture, transportation, industries, etc;
- Use best practice in 'sustainability impact assessments' in order to integrate strong human rights and social safeguards in investments and agreements between the EU and developing countries, that have an impact on vulnerable people and their ability to cope with environmental and climate change;
- Increase support to climate-smart, smallholder-based agro-ecology and community-based conservation of natural resources (soil, water, forests) in developing countries.



Nutrition

BACKGROUND

Three million children die every year as a result of under-nutrition⁷⁰. Worldwide 162 million children suffer from severe stunting (low height for age) and 99 million under-five year olds are underweight. 56% of all stunted children live in Asia and 36% in Africa⁷¹. Acute under-nutrition has irreversible consequences for physical and cognitive development, especially

during the first two years of a child's life. A child's poorer school performance results in future income reduction of up to 22 per cent on average⁷². Children growing up in poor households are more likely to suffer from under-nutrition. Micronutrient deficiency, stunting, being underweight or overweight, plus obesity are all symptoms of the same underlying problems: poverty, inequality and a dysfunctional food system that is unable to meet the health and nutrition needs of the population.

Between 2000 and 2012, worldwide stunting prevalence declined from 33 percent to 25 percent. On the occasion of the 65th WHO assembly in April 2012, the international community committed to a new global target: to reduce the number of stunted children by 40% by 2025. Other targets were decided on anaemia, exclusive breastfeeding, low birth weight, overweight and wasting⁷³.

Caritas's work:

Nutrition services for malnourished children in Burkina Faso,⁷⁴

Caritas Austria supports the ongoing work of OCADES Caritas Burkina, focusing on prevention of malnutrition of children in Dori diocese of Burkina Faso. This region is especially affected by malnutrition in under 5 year olds.

Caritas focuses its work on three pillars:

- **Nutrition education:** Through an outreach program Caritas staff visits families in the villages, educating them on how to prevent under-nutrition, on essential care practices, and on how to recognize symptoms of acute under-nutrition.
- **Therapeutic feeding in a feeding centre (CREN):** children who are diagnosed by Caritas staff or who are in governmental health stations are transferred to a therapeutic feeding centre for therapeutic interventions. Normally patients are given a porridge made of soya, milk powder and oil. Depending on their status, children have to stay between 7 days and 3 weeks in the centre. Afterwards mothers are requested to have their child regularly checked at the centre.
- **Caritas uses the time of children's therapy in the centre to educate mothers accompanying their children:** they learn more about how to prepare nutritious meals, what kind of vegetables can be cultivated in home gardens and they are sensitized to the importance of hygiene and sanitation aspects.

⁷⁰ UNICEF: *Committing to Child Survival. A Promise Renewed*. Progress Report 2013, p. 27.

⁷¹ Joint Unicef-WHO-The World Bank *Child Malnutrition Database, Estimates for 2012*. September 2013. http://www.who.int/nutgrowthdb/jme_2012_summary_note_v2.pdf

⁷² see <http://www.unicef.org/nutrition/>

⁷³ *Comprehensive Implementation Plan on maternal, infant and young child nutrition*, April 2012, endorsed by the 65th World Health Assembly. www.who.int/nutrition/topics/WHA65.6_annex2_en.pdf

⁷⁴ For more information, see: Caritas: <http://www.caritas.at/auslandshilfe/projekte/afrika/burkina-faso/zentren-fuer-ernaehrungssicherung-und-beratung/>

NUTRITION AND THE EU

Caritas recommends the EU to:

- Promote a strong “End Hunger” Goal with high importance given to nutrition within negotiations on Beyond 2015. Stunting in children under-5 should be reduced to 5% by 2030. Both the European Commission in its Communication of March 2013, and the European Foreign Ministers in their Council conclusions of May 2013, welcomed the global target on the reduction by 40% of stunted children by 2025. But both are very doubtful about the probability of achieving this target saying that “current trends will fall significantly short of the WHA target”;
- Make all efforts to avoid the situation whereby, in 2030, there are still children with irreversible developmental problems due to chronic malnutrition. Stunting in children under 5 should be reduced from the current 26% worldwide to 5%;
- Increase support to countries with high burdens of under-nutrition: Caritas welcomes the Communication “Enhancing maternal and child nutrition in external assistance: an EU Policy Framework” published by the Commission in March 2013, and supported by the EU Council of Foreign Ministers in May 2013^{75 76}. It is now essential to put the proposals made in this communication quickly into practice;
- Increase support to countries in their efforts to combat under-nutrition. Food waste should also be tackled as one of the key behaviours contributing to malnutrition. Specific nutrition interventions, behaviour change communication, provision of micronutrients and supplementary and therapeutic feeding interventions should be granted and enhanced;
- Give support to countries with high burdens of under-nutrition, to improve access to basic health services, mainly for women and children;
- Apply a holistic and integrated approach upholding the existing links between food security, social and health policies.

In order to achieve these goals, the four pillars of food security - availability, access, utilisation, quality, and stability, as well as the additional factors that affect nutrition - namely living conditions, environmental quality, health and care practices - must all be successfully addressed. Actions to improve care practices - child care, feeding practices, nutritional knowledge, food preparation, eating habits and

intra-household food distribution- as well as hygiene and sanitation aspects and food security are essential to contribute to a better nutritional status of the child.

In many countries of the world Caritas supports programmes and activities with the aim of treating and preventing under-nutrition, mainly for children with diseases like Kwashiorkor or Marasmus. Specifically the

first 1,000 days of a child’s life are critical for combating the long-term effects of under-nutrition. As Caritas has representatives and volunteers in parishes all over the world, we have access to populations in very remote areas. We know how essential it is to involve families and the whole community to control the great prevalence of malnutrition.

⁷⁵ Council of the European Union: “Council conclusions on food and Nutrition Security in External Assistance”, 29 May 2013, http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/137318.pdf

⁷⁶ European Commission, Communication from the European Commission to the European Parliament and the Council: “Enhancing maternal child nutrition in external assistance”, March 2013, http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/documents/enhancing_maternal-child_nutrition_in_external_assistance_en.pdf



Caritas Experience Caritas Case Study- Resilience in Mauritania

Since 2011, Caritas Mauritania has been focusing its efforts on eradicating hunger in one of the poorest areas of the country, the Gorgol region, an area named also as “the Triangle of Poverty”. The wilaya of Monguel, the main focus of the intervention, are affected by cyclical droughts, like that of 2012. Climatic hazards, the lack of water and infrastructure, ongoing deforestation and weak community mechanisms have increased the vulnerability of rural families and reduced their capacity to respond to recurrent crises. The right to food in the region is constantly violated due to speculation and high price fluctuations (two-thirds of cereals’ stock is imported). The lack of access to food in the dry season (March to July), is another big problem and it’s mainly due to the geographic isolation of communities, lack of access for irrigation, lack of training and technology and lack of infrastructure. Local government has put in place a strategy to promote resilience in the area, but governmental programmes do not tackle the whole problem. Caritas Mauritania is helping communities build their resilience through an integrated approach whose main pillar is the setting up of grass root civil society mechanisms within the communities, as well as the improvement of their organisation and capacities (organisational skills, alphabetization, veterinary services and so on). On the other hand, efficient management of water resources, diversification and enhancement of agro-pastoral production (boosting of community gardens and small scale community farming), creation of community services and income generating activities, and a special focus on women (who are often heads of households due to seasonal migration) are instruments to enhance resilience and reduce vulnerability. In this region, as in many other cases, the root cause of food insecurity is structural and, therefore, might be tackled with a comprehensive local adapted approach in order to prepare these communities to face a crisis.

Building Resilience

Background

In a world of rising food prices, energy shocks, food spikes, increasing natural disasters, economic contagion, health pandemics, and longer-term stresses like climate change, environmental degradation and protracted crises, it has become vital to strengthen the resilience of households and communities to potentially catastrophic risks, shocks and stresses.

According to the FAO, resilience refers to the ability of people or communities to absorb and recover from the effects of hazards (recurrent or not) and to re-organize themselves, integrating these changes, while retaining the same basic structure, the same functioning, the same identity and capacity to react and adapt⁷⁷.

In October 2012 the European Commission issued a Communication on “the EU approach to resilience”, based on the evidence on Food Security Crises⁷⁸. This was very good for the debate on the issue and for giving visibility to a few almost-forgotten African crises. It must also be said, however, that prevention, preparedness and risk assessment cannot be done but in a comprehensive, coherent and holistic way.

Recent crises – such as soaring food prices in 2008 and 2011, recurring droughts in the Sahel and the Horn of Africa, the earthquake in Haiti and currently, the typhoon in the Philippines – have been a wake-up call and expose the increasing

risks and vulnerabilities faced by the world’s poorest communities. The number of people exposed to floods and tropical cyclones has doubled since 1970, and half of all people living on less than \$1.25 a day will be in fragile states or affected by conflict by 2015⁷⁹.

With 20 percent of the world’s undernourished people – roughly 166 million people – living in just 22 countries in protracted crisis in 2010⁸⁰, it is clear that “business as usual” is insufficient, and that the EU must pursue a more targeted, comprehensive, longer-term, rights-based and climate-focused approach to ensure the resilience of marginalized communities in the face of multiple threats. It is imperative that states mitigate and take on more of the growing burden of risks, and simultaneously support local communities to empower themselves and further claim their rights.

On the other hand, extending social protection is a crucial first step. Some 75-80 percent of the population does not have access to comprehensive social protection, to shield them from the effects of unemployment, illness or disability – not to mention crop failure, natural disasters, or soaring food costs. If a crisis hits, the lack of social protection leaves millions to rely on their family or own limited coping mechanisms, remittances, or charity. In many cases they must resort to drastic measures, such as removing children from school to save money, foregoing healthcare, migrating to cities, or selling livelihood assets that they

use to generate income – such as land, seed, or livestock – and so jeopardizing their capacity to thrive or deal with future shocks⁸¹.

In this regard, the role of diversification and insurance is crucial. Access to insurance can help the community to better manage risks and drastically improve resilience when disasters come. Insurance can be adapted to different sectors: agriculture, housing, health, and to people’s income, with tools such as micro insurance. Local governments should facilitate the access of vulnerable families to insurance, as a way of extending social protection.

Likewise, diversification has been a traditional way of coping with risk, but it prevents scale economy and therefore can be inefficient. When adequate mechanisms for risk management are operating – such as social protection, insurance, access to credit – the economic activity of a family can be focused on activities with maximum profitability, generating resources to reduce poverty.

⁷⁷ FAO (2011) “*FAO-Adapt/Framework Programme on Climate Change Adaptation*” FAO: Rome

⁷⁸ http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/what/food-security/documents/20121003-comm_en.pdf

⁷⁹ Oxfam (2013) *No Accident, Resilience and the inequality of risk*, Oxfam: Oxford

⁸⁰ FAO (2010) *The State of Food Insecurity in the World*, FAO: Rome

⁸¹ De Schutter and Sepulveda M, *Underwriting the Poor, A Global Fund for Social Protection*, Briefing Note 07, October 2012

The vulnerability to disasters can be substantially reduced if the population is well informed and motivated towards a culture of disaster prevention and resilience. This task requires collection, compilation and dissemination of relevant knowledge and information on hazards and vulnerabilities as well as stronger capacities.

There is also a need for proactive measures, bearing in mind that phases of relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction which follow a disaster, are windows of opportunity for the rebuilding of livelihoods and for the planning and reconstruction of physical and socio-economic structures, in a way that will build community resilience and reduce vulnerability to future disaster risks⁸².

Caritas Case Study – Disaster Response in Burkina Faso

In Burkina Faso, the 2012 drought affected 2 million people. Caritas International Network launched an international emergency appeal, which was aimed at reaching more than 7 thousand families. Actions were implemented to help these families recover and enable them to produce food again.

After the drought many families were forced to eat part of the grain reserved for planting at the next harvest, to kill the last animal they had, as well as to sell the tools to cultivate their land. Their traditional solidarity made them share their goods with the most affected farmers, and so, the effect of lack of capitalization, spread among the communities.

The response of Caritas had 3 main components which were inter-linked to face that problem: firstly, free distribution of food to most vulnerable families (7,036 families were reached), secondly, child malnutrition monitoring activities (21,000 children benefitted from the nutrition programme) and, thirdly, an agro-pastoral support programme (2,260 families benefitted). This last component combined animal distribution, seed and tools' distribution at subsidized prices, along with training and cash transfers to help families recover their production capacity.

After the intervention, an evaluation was carried out; finding a considerable positive economic impact on the local economy, a reduced number of abandoned children, and a production improvement in selected communities.

Source: Caritas Burkina (OCADES), Caritas Spain



⁸² Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015 World Conference on Disaster Reduction 18-22 January 2005, Kobe, Hyogo, Japan



RESILIENCE AND THE EU

Caritas recommends the EU to:

- Focus on strengthening a community based approach: Caritas recommends that the Right to Food should be recognized as the core of all measures regarding food security. Support should also be given for the collective organisation of poor women and men at community level, in order to build knowledge, skills, empowerment, and recognition of their rights;
- Focus on a resilience approach in an emergency context: Caritas recommends that a resilience approach should be integrated into all emergency phases, from early warning systems, disaster risk-preparedness, and up to the rehabilitation phase;
- Integrate resilience into the food and nutrition agenda: Caritas recommends that the Voluntary Guidelines on “*right to adequate food*” and on “*land and natural resources’ use*” are adopted and implemented not only by a considerable number of partner countries but also by European countries⁸³;
- Scale up social protection initiatives within the Beyond 2015 process: Caritas recommends a Global Fund for Social Protection for 48 Least Developed Countries⁸⁴;
- Put in place predictable sources of funds to implement action on the EU-AGIR Initiative⁸⁵: Caritas recommends that the two main pillars of social protection, need a fast provision of funds to be able to achieve any result. With regards to the third pillar, food production, we would recommend measures oriented to protect and develop the national food production sector rather than “regional policies for free movement of goods and services”⁸⁶.



⁸³ This should be reflected in the “*Action Plan for Resilience in Crisis Prone Countries 2013–2020*”, http://ec.europa.eu/echo/files/policies/resilience/com_2013_227_ap_crisis_prone_countries_en.pdf

⁸⁴ This measure was proposed by the ILO on 9th October, 2102. The fund would have two functions: to help the 48 least developed countries (LDCs) put in place a «social protection floor»; and to serve as a reinsurance provider to step in if a state’s social protection system was overwhelmed by an unexpected event, forme such as extreme drought or flooding.

⁸⁵ AGIR is the ‘Global Alliance for Resilience Initiative’ formed for helping to build resilience to the recurrent food and nutrition crises that affect the countries of the Sahel region. It starts from the premise that the time has come for a sustained effort to help people in the Sahel cope better with recurrent crises, with particular effort towards the most vulnerable people. See http://ec.europa.eu/echo/policies/resilience/agir_en.htm

⁸⁶ AGIR Regional Roadmap CEDEAO, CILSS, UEMOA 2012.

Policy Coherence for Development

Background

The EU has a legal obligation to ensure the external impact of its policies does not undermine the EU's development co-operation objective of reducing poverty overseas (Article 208 of the Lisbon Treaty). However, EU policies have the potential to negatively affect food security and poverty efforts in poor countries: speculation on food on European commodity markets can result in high and volatile food prices, the European energy policy on agro-fuels can have a strong influence on the world prices of cereals and this can happen to the detriment of poor smallholders in the poorest countries. The European Common Agricultural Policy, decided in December

2013, has the potential to be in concurrence with local agricultural markets in poor countries. Only a far greater EU-wide commitment to Policy Coherence for Development (PCD) and a greater adherence to a Human Rights-based approach will ensure that these policies are coherent with poverty reduction goals and responsive to the needs and rights of the poorest communities.

PCD implies that all EU policy areas must be in support of developing countries' development needs, or at least not contradict the aim of poverty reduction. Complying with Article 208 primarily means adopting the overarching principle of 'Do no harm' in the EU's external relations. A Human Rights-Based Approach provides a deeper

understanding of the PCD concept, as it describes a more dynamic relationship of rights holders and duty bearers, and of sharing responsibilities and engaging in a progressive realization of rights. Caritas Europa is a member of the European NGO Network CONCORD. In November 2013 CONCORD published its yearly report "Spotlight on EU policy Coherence for Development", giving examples on how, for example, EU investments in agriculture have a negative impact on people's lives in many African Countries.⁸⁷

Caritas Europa's members especially advocate on the following EU policies that can have negative implications on poor people's lives, namely:



Caritas Campaign: Food must remain affordable – stop speculation on food

In 2012 and 2013 Caritas Austria carried out an advocacy campaign with the aim of having strict regulations introduced for speculation on European commodity markets. Caritas raised awareness in Austria on the dramatic consequences of food speculation on poor smallholder farmers. 16,000 Austrians signed a petition addressed to the Minister of Finance and members of the European Council ECOFIN, asking them to actively promote strict regulations on agricultural commodity markets, to be integrated in the new European Markets in Financial Instruments Directive (MIFID II).

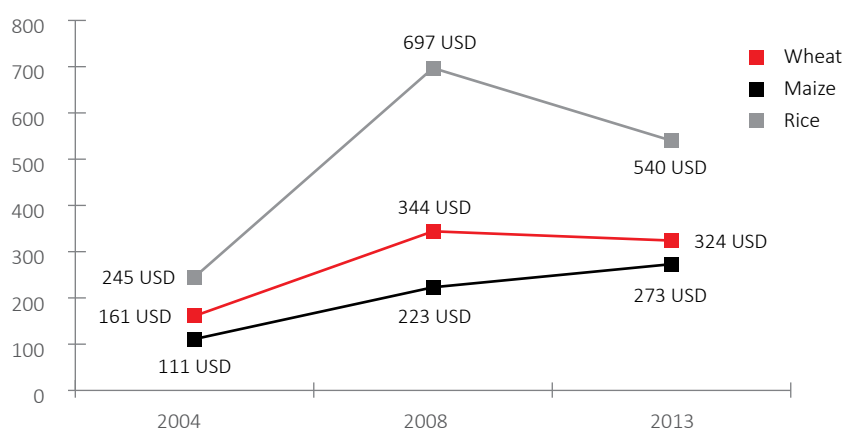
Picture: In November 2012 Caritas, with a network of Austrian NGOs, hands over 16,000 signatures to the former Austrian Minister of Finance

⁸⁷ Concord 2013 *Spotlight on EU Policy Coherence for Development*, Concord. The real life impact of EU policies on the poor - Brussels

A) FOOD SPECULATION

Highly volatile and overall increasing global food prices seem to be our new reality. There are many factors that influence food prices like droughts, poor supply chains and infrastructure, increased ethanol production, the oil price, or insufficient stocks.

Development of international commodity prices:⁸⁸



However, global food crises cannot be fully explained by these arguments anymore. There are many studies that conclude that speculation on food commodities has been an important factor for price developments in recent years. The Global Hunger Index 2011 identified speculation as one of the key triggers for increasing prices and

erratic volatility.⁸⁹ In particular, the speculation on food commodities has increased considerably during the last 10 years. The share of speculators rose from 23% in 1998 up to 69% in 2008⁹⁰.

Caritas supports programmes in several Sub-Saharan countries that aim to increase food security of small holder farmers who are especially vulnerable to high prices of staple foods. In Ethiopia, for example, the average household spends two-thirds of its income on food. A small rise in the price therefore has a strong impact on the coping strategies of households. Today, 21 out of 29 African countries are not able to meet the demand for food themselves. Many African countries are forced to import food and, therefore, are very sensitive to international price developments. The price for imported food is usually linked to the world price. In the Democratic Republic of Congo, where 70 percent of the population is suffering from insufficient access to food, prices of basic food have increased continuously within the last years.⁹¹

⁸⁸ See: FAO International Commodity Price Database

⁸⁹ Global Hunger Index 2011. *The challenge of hunger: Taming price spikes and excessive food price volatility*. p. 26.

⁹⁰ Finance Watch http://www.europolitics.info/pdf/gratuit_en/313270-en.pdf

⁹¹ Wohlmuth, Karl, *Global Food Price Increases and Repercussions on Africa: Which Public Policy Interventions are really appropriate?* In: Andreas Knorr, Alfons Lempert, Axel Sell, Karl Wohlmuth (Ed.): *Berichte aus dem Weltwirtschaftlichen Colloquium der Universität Bremen*, Nr. 123, March 2012, p. 4

PCD AND THE EU: FOOD SPECULATION

Caritas recommends the EU to:

- Champion stronger regulation of agricultural commodity markets. In January 2014 an agreement was reached on the European Markets in Financial Instruments Directive (MiFID II) which was offered a chance to regulate excessive speculation on food. Although there are many loopholes regarding speculation on food, Caritas welcomes the agreement as transparency of agricultural commodities exchanges will increase and limitations on derivatives' trading in food-stuffs will be introduced by means of position limits. Nonetheless, serious loopholes still remain. These loopholes could threaten the efficiency of the new position limits' rules. As criticized by Caritas since the beginning of the legislative process, limits will be set by national authorities and not by the ESMA or other EU wide authorities. It is expected that not until 2016 will MiFID finally be set into order. There is a risk that a race to the bottom will occur. In order to be more attractive to financial players, Member States could compete in lax regulation measures;
- Guarantee that the MiFID II rules on transparency and position limits are implemented very strictly, in order to stop excessive speculation on food in European commodity markets. It is important to monitor and critically support the process of how position limits are implemented by competent authorities;
- Ask the drawing back of European financial actors from excessive speculation on commodity futures' markets. With the financial crisis, the European population has lost its confidence in the functioning of the European financial markets and in the functioning of banks as their most prominent actors⁹². Banks should give assurances that their investing activities don't have any negative consequences on food prices of basic foods. They should guarantee that:
 - within their fund management activities they renounce investment in financial products, whose returns are directly related to the prices of agricultural goods.
 - they do not offer products and funds to their clients that are related to bets on agricultural commodity prices or their price differences.
 - they inform their clients about the possible negative humanitarian consequences of speculative investments in agricultural commodity markets.

⁹² 2012, European Central Bank, 'Explaining EU citizens' trust in the ECB in normal and crisis times', <http://www.ecb.europa.eu/pub/pdf/scpwps/ecbwp1501.pdf>



Caritas Case Study – Colombia Land Grabs

Some 17,000 members of 43 poor Afro-Colombian rural communities in Chocó in western Colombia – known as COCOMOPOCA – fought and recently won a 12-year legal battle to gain collective land title to 73,000 hectares of ancestral land that they had previously been displaced from by armed paramilitaries and guerrillas – only to find that the UK-listed gold mining multinational corporation, AngloGold Ashanti, had been granted extensive gold mining concessions on three-quarters of their newly collectively-titled land.

With assistance, training and legal support from the Diocese of Quibdó and the Pastoral Social COCOMOPOCA, members from Atrato, Bagadó, Cértegui and Lloró took a year of often dangerous legal probing, during 2012, to discover that AngloGold Ashanti had been granted gold mining concessions by the government on 55,000 hectares of their ancestral land, without the communities' free, prior and informed consent.

On their return to Chocó, the communities of COCOMPOCA found that there were illegal and armed parties protecting dozens of small-and-medium scale mining operations on their territories, and that their food security was compromised because land and rivers were contaminated with toxic chemicals.

(Source: COCOMOPOCA and Diocese of Quibdó)



B) LAND GOVERNANCE

Caritas Europa is very much concerned by the increased phenomenon of land grabbing to the detriment of food self-sufficiency. Foreign investment and a rush for land is leading to widespread large-scale land acquisitions and the dispossession of land, forests and water resources under customary tenure, from the rural poor. Weak community land rights are providing few safeguards against growing global commercial pressures on land, ranging from urbanization, tourism, mineral extraction, and food and biofuel production.⁹³ Land tenure by smallholder farmers is being

threatened by large-scale land acquisitions, driven notably by foreign agricultural investments (e.g. for ensuring food security in a developed country, or producing agro-fuels), without prior and informed consent by the local communities, and without adequate benefit sharing.

Food crops and biofuels are the largest drivers of this alarming global 'land grabs' phenomenon, which has seen an unprecedented 32.6 million hectares of large land concessions leased or acquired by large investors in 755 concluded deals since 2000.⁹⁴ A large number of these projects

involve European companies from EU countries, including from the UK, France, Germany and Italy.⁹⁵ In many cases poor rural communities have been dispossessed of land, water, forests and eco-systems under customary tenure to make way for biofuel projects,⁹⁶ and have been given little opportunity for prior and informed consent, or received little or no compensation, and scant employment.⁹⁷ Accounts of forced evictions and human rights' abuses have also been reported.

PCD AND THE EU: LAND TENURE

The European Union participated in and supported the negotiation of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests, that were adopted in 2012. Furthermore, the EU participates in the process launched by the UN Committee on World Food Security (CFS) to develop and ensure broad ownership of principles for responsible agricultural investment ('RAI').

Caritas recommends the EU to:

- Contribute to the prevention of land grabs by supporting partner countries in the national adoption of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security;
- Put further weight behind finalizing ongoing CFS negotiations on the new Principles for responsible agricultural investment ('rai'). These principles should guide all European actors to promote investment in agriculture that contributes to food security and nutrition, and that supports the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security;⁹⁸
- Strictly regulate and monitor European private sector investments in developing countries' agriculture, with a view to prioritizing the empowerment of smallholders and their access to, and control of productive resources;
- Withdraw support from alternatively proposed but non-transparent and undemocratic Country Cooperation Frameworks and investment plans adopted under the G8's new Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition in Africa.

⁹³ Anseeuw, W et al (2012) *Land Rights and the Rush for Land: Findings of the Global Commercial Pressures on Land Research Project*, ILC: Rome

⁹⁴ Land Matrix Newsletter, June 2013, see: http://www.landmatrix.org/media/filer_public/2013/06/10/lm_newsletter_june_2013.pdf

⁹⁵ See: ActionAid (2013) *Fuelling hunger: new data reinforces why the UK must tackle damaging biofuels policies at the G8 and the EU*, ActionAid: London; Land Matrix Web of Transnational Deals, see: <http://www.landmatrix.org/get-the-idea/web-transnational-deals/>, accessed 7 July 2013

⁹⁶ See: ActionAid (2010) *Meals per gallon, The Impact of industrial biofuels on people and global hunger*, ActionAid: London; ActionAid (2011) *Fuelling Evictions, Community Cost of EU Biofuels Boom, Dakatcha Woodlands, Kenya*, ActionAid: Brussels

⁹⁷ Anseeuw, W et al (2012) *Land Rights and the Rush for Land: Findings of the Global Commercial Pressures on Land Research Project*, International Land Coalition (ILC): Rome

⁹⁸ See also: Concord (2013): *Spotlight Report on EU Policy Coherence for Development. The real life impact of EU Policies on the poor.*

PCD AND THE EU: BIOFUELS

Caritas recommends the EU to:

- Refrain from large-scale use of first generation agro-fuels that have a negative impact on food security in the South, carefully check the potential impact of second and third generation agro-fuels, and instead put stronger emphasis on energy efficiency and invest more efforts in the development of environmentally and socially sound low carbon transportation systems.

C) AGRO-FUELS

Rising oil prices, coupled with the need to cut down the energy dependency from politically unstable oil producing countries, have pushed Northern nations to boost the production of large scale biofuels, also known as agro-fuels. The consequences of agro-fuel production vary according to each country's context, the technology used and the type of crop. Generally speaking, Europe's need for agro-fuels on such a huge scale is severely impacting vulnerable communities and ecosystems in the South. Land grabbing by large companies happens to the detriment of local livelihoods, forests and human rights.⁹⁹ Urgent action is needed to halt the expansion of agro-fuels made from food crops or dedicated energy crops, which bring few or no climate effects, while putting pressure on scarce natural resources, affecting people's right to food, especially poor people in rural areas, because it uses up land and water that are needed to grow subsistence crops.¹⁰⁰ The food crisis of 2007–08 made the world reflect on them; in 2009, the FAO stated

that the demand for agro-fuels was one of the causes of the food crisis and that it had contributed to the recent price hikes in food staples, further straining food security.¹⁰¹

Sudan, one of the poorest countries in the world, but with huge agricultural potential, received 673,000 tonnes of food aid from the World Food Programme in 2008. In 2009, the country aimed to export 65 million litres of ethanol. While the food aid mainly benefitted poor people living in rural areas who had been neglected for many years, the sale of ethanol benefitted foreign investors and consumers in the developed world.¹⁰² This paradox aptly introduces the controversy surrounding agro-fuels and their impact on food security in connection to climate change.

When land previously used for food, feed or fibre is diverted to biofuels production, and agriculture has to expand elsewhere to meet existing (and future) demand for food and feed, this effect is referred to as Indirect

Land Use Change (ILUC). The ILUC impacts of Europe's biofuel policies are of such a magnitude that fundamental reform is now necessary. An impact assessment of the renewable energy action plans adopted by the EU Member States,¹⁰³ showed that by 2020 the EU agro-fuel supply would depend on imports (about 50 percent for "bio"-ethanol and 41 percent for "bio"-diesel), requiring an agricultural area of 4.1 to 6.9 million hectares, an area equivalent to just larger than Belgium and to just under that of the Republic of Ireland. Within a few years, agro-fuel production has already grown massively. In 2008, close to 40 million ha of land worldwide were used for agro-fuel crops (to cover worldwide needs), a threefold increase since 2004 (13.8 million ha) and an area corresponding to 2.3 percent of the world's entire agricultural land.¹⁰⁴

⁹⁹ <http://www.foei.org/en/what-we-do/agrofuels/learn-more>

¹⁰⁰ See Trocaire (2013). *Biofuels: fuelling poverty and environmental degradation*. Briefing Paper, May 2013. Downloaded from www.trocaire.org and Caritas Internationalis (2014). *What climate change means for feeding the planet: a Caritas Internationalis reflection paper*. Downloaded from www.caritas.org

¹⁰¹ FAO, Bioenergy and Food Security Project: <http://www.fao.org/bioenergy/foodsecurity/befs/en/>

¹⁰² Caritas Europa (2010). *Hunger is a scandal: Food Security for all! A responsibility of Europe*. January 2010.

¹⁰³ IEEP (2010). *Anticipated Indirect Land Use Change Associated with Expanded Use of Biofuels in the EU – An Analysis of Member State Performance*. Institute for European Environmental Policies IEEP, November 2010

¹⁰⁴ *Évaluation de l'impact de l'expansion des cultures pour biocarburants dans les pays extracommunautaires*, Monique Munting, Centre Tricontinental, November 2010.



A Goal on Ending Hunger in the Beyond 2015 Framework

In June 2013 the «High Level Panel of eminent persons» published its report on the post-2015 development agenda and suggested a goal “to ensure Food Security and Good Nutrition by 2030”. Compared to the former MDG target of halving hunger, it includes additional indicators such as food waste, sustainable forms of production and the importance of agriculture. With the protection of the right for everybody to sufficient, safe, affordable and nutritious food, the proposal has a human rights-based approach. At the end of July 2013, the United Nations’ Secretary General published his report for the General Assembly, wherein he also supports a new goal on ending hunger and malnutrition with specific targets.¹⁰⁵

Caritas Europa advocates for a strong “End Hunger” goal to be defined in the future Beyond 2015 Framework.

- Caritas Europa recommends that the EU and its Member States promote an ambitious “End Hunger” Goal in the post 2015 framework and commit to contribute at all levels to its achievement. Undernourishment must fall below 2% and stunting in children under 5 should be reduced to 5%.
- End hunger should be defined in the form of a real zero-goal. Global undernourishment must fall below 2% by 2030 (from currently 12.5% worldwide) and stunting in children under 5 should be reduced from the current 26% worldwide to 5%.
- Other indicators must show the need for action at different levels in order to eliminate hunger in the world and

should clearly define international responsibilities in the fight against hunger (the EU’s principle on “Policy Coherence for Development”). At the very least, the following aspects should be directly considered in the “End Hunger Goal”:

- Legislation on the right to food;
- An increase of sustainable agricultural production, mainly through support of small scale farming;
- ODA directly dedicated to food security aspects;
- Indicators on land tenure (e.g. implementation of the UN voluntary Guidelines on Land Tenure);
- Stable cereal prices (among others through limitation of excessive speculation on food commodities);
- Climate change: implementation of mitigation and adaptation measures;
- A fair agricultural trade policy;
- Reduction of food waste.

¹⁰⁵ UN, (2013) *A life of dignity for all: accelerating progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and advancing the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015*. Seite 14.



WHO WE ARE

- Caritas is the relief and development organisation of the Catholic Church. In over 160 countries, Caritas works with the poor, vulnerable and excluded, regardless of race and religion. Present on the ground in local communities all over the world, Caritas has access to some of the world's most vulnerable and marginalised people.
- Caritas Europa is the network of Caritas organisations on the European continent. A total of 49 members, present in 46 European countries, make us one of the major social actors in Europe. The network brings forward the needs of the people experiencing poverty and the voice of its member organisations to the European Institutions, European Union Member States, public authorities, and private stakeholders.
- We believe in the importance of basing international policy decisions on the experiences of those most closely affected by the issues at stake. The aim of this report is to bring the voices of people living in poverty to the attention of EU policy makers, anchoring our recommendations in practical experience at grassroots level. Case studies are presented from a range of projects by Caritas partners all over the world.



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