



INTRODUCTION

Why a convention on food sovereignty

Hunger and poverty is increasing instead of decreasing in many regions of the world. Corporate globalization has intensified the structural causes of hunger and poverty. In other words the control of transnational corporations over global and national food and agriculture policies and production is eroding people's access to nutritious and safe food. The impact of this exploitative and profit motivated agricultural development and food production has been devastating the lives of our food producers i.e. women and men peasants, fisherfolk, agricultural workers, pastoralists and indigenous peoples. This corporate dominance has been made possible by the globalization process through institutions such as WTO and multilateral financial institutions, and supported not only by the elites particularly in the G8 countries but also those from the South.

These processes have systematically removed restrictions and support mechanisms that have served to protect traditional small scale farming and fishing in the South as well as in the industrialised countries. The dumping of artificially priced subsidized food and agricultural products by corporate monopoly traders has bankrupted the small fishers and peasants of our countries. Other WTO agreements such as TRIPS and SPS strengthen corporate control and further displace the peasant sectors. The farmers are rapidly losing control over seeds and other genetic resources while the corporations are increasingly consolidating their hold over these resources through patenting, biopiracy and genetic engineering. Human health and the environment are being destroyed by the poisons produced by these TNCS.

