

A GMO free Europe: one step to achieve Food Sovereignty

Workshop at
Food & Democracy
April 2009, Lucerne

Idea of the workshop

- ⇒ Bring together two movements, strongly linked in many different ways (movement for food sovereignty and GMOfree movement)
- ⇒ Strengthen contacts and learn from each other
- ⇒ Discuss promising (international) processes

Important Momentum

- ⇒ food crisis
- ⇒ climate crisis
- ⇒ financial and economic crisis

Nothing really new, but higher public attention on issues

=> FAO, G8, High Level Task Force etc.

=> e.g. debate and two initiatives for food sovereignty at Swiss parliament; global video conference at European Parliament

Promising Initiatives

- ⇒ IAASTD (International Assessment of Agricultural Knowledge, Science and Technology for Development)
- ⇒ First steps to bring forward a European network for Food Sovereignty (farmers, NGOs)
- ⇒ Right to Food gaining strength (Report on WTO by the Special Rapporteur)
 - ⇒ several initiatives, processes, reports like Ecofair Trade Dialogue; and others

GMOfree Movement: a European Success Story

- ⇒ strong movement and networks within Europe (at different levels)
- ⇒ important achievements
- ⇒ farmers, consumers and NGOs brought together
- ⇒ networks on the local levels are linked to the international level

Learn from each other?

- ⇒ the demand for GMOfree agriculture represents the core of the demand for food sovereignty: democratic control of the food we produce and we eat
- ⇒ what and how could be learnt from the GMOfree movement?
- ⇒ How the different movements, initiatives, networks, processes could strengthen each other?

Make use of momentum

- ⇒ make use of international processes and reports - IAASTD
- ⇒ debate on national levels regarding food sovereignty
- ⇒ not loosing international focus and solidarity

Outline Workshop

1. 9:00-10:00
Food Sovereignty in Europe: Main issues at stake
2. 10:00-10:30
Hot two learn from each other and make use of existing processes, initiatives...
3. 11.00-12.00
Debate of special issues (seeds, local markets, consumers choice, trade etc.) in working groups
4. 13.00-15.00
Short report back from the working groups: Specific activities, strategies, synergies to take up, follow?

Possible Result

1. Where do we have agreements
2. What are the open questions that need to be re-addressed?