



2014
International Year of
Family Farming

INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL SEMINAR
INSTITUTIONAL PURCHASES TO
SUPPORT FAMILY FARMING

23RD APRIL 2014

Maison des Associations Internationales - MAI

Rue Washington 40,
B - 1050 Brussels

This seminar is organized by the Collectif Stratégies Alimentaires in the frame
of the 2014- International Year of Family Farming campaign



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INTRODUCTION

Family farming is by far the biggest supplier of employment in the world (40 % of active persons), all sectors merged, although the situation differs strongly according to continents: Africa and Asia have a far more important proportion of their working population in the farming sector (65 % of active persons) than the European continent. Taking into account the land use's point of view, family farming creates value for a considerable part of the territory on all continents, with consequent incidence on the environment. Family farming endorses then an unprecedented stake in terms of employment and environment. In parallel, family farming is also the biggest supplier of farm products, essential to population's feeding. On the other hand, the family farmers have almost no market power on basic products' markets, and even less on food markets. Accordingly, family farmers' incomes are strongly dependent on the evolution of these markets on which their structural position is extremely weak.

For all these reasons, the social, environmental and food importance, combined to farmers' weakness on markets, public authorities have the duty to intervene with the aim to support family farming through diverse instruments. The supply management instruments constitute the most efficient means to intervene on farmers' market power as well as on the structures of production, but they are also the most binding ones. From this point of view, the demand-orientated approaches can complete the offer-orientated agricultural policies' arrangements. In this case, the demand implies the offer and its quality. It is the large international institutions' privileged option, in particular those in charge of trade issues.

The seminar will deal with this approach in the direction of the demand. In particular, the seminar will address the food demand segment that is detained by public authorities, known as "institutional purchases". Indeed, numerous institutions stock up on food markets, what confers them a part of market power. It does not imply however that they use the purchases as extending agricultural policies instruments, or others. It is exactly on this opportunity and possibility of use of purchases as policy tools that we shall focus.

In the United States, the Farm Bill (489 billions \$) intervenes heavily on the food demand since 80 % of this budget is intended to support the demand, with, in this case, more of a social purpose. Diverse ongoing experiences try to use these institutional purchases as levers that enable to favor the national, and even local, offer, but also to target producers' categories and production methods. For several few years now, the World Food program (WFP) has been using its position of important foodstuffs applicant to favor the development of agriculture in the beneficiary countries of its food aid (Purchase for progress, or P4P). In Wallonia, a platform - www.leclicloocal.be- promoting procurements between communities and the Walloon producers is currently being tested. The "Zero Hunger" program distributes farm products to the Brazilians who are in a situation of social and food vulnerability. It is the "Program of Acquisition of Food", integrated in the "Zero Hunger program" that purchases the food at a remunerative price at family farmers' level. It is probably one of the most accomplished programs on the subject that carefully targets the institutional purchases in order to support the family farming.

The seminar will gather farmers' organizations from the South and the North, NGOs and agri-agencies as well as researchers and policy-makers. It will give the opportunity to consider the possibilities of supporting family farming through institutional purchases, the difficulties met by public-law bodies to get them, confronted to their bonds to their respect for the game of competition law, transparency and the risk of patronage. We shall discuss the constraints that arise to the producers and to their organizations in order for them to be able to answer the institutional demand. They are numerous, quite particularly in the countries where the family producers' access to the markets brings up lots of difficulties. We shall also question ourselves on the political orientations and their possible incidences on the support to family farming, on the producers' targeting and on the desirable support measures.

PROGRAM – 23 APRIL 2014

08h30-09h00	Reception of Participants: registration, collect of badges
09h00-09h20	Introduction - Presentation of the seminar's objectives and program Marek POZNANSKI , Collectif Stratégies Alimentaires (CSA) The environment/ employment Alliances Nicolas PIROTTE, Deputy Head of Cabinet- Green Deal Cell, Cabinet of Walloon Sustainable Development Minister

Session 1

Do Institutional purchases represent an opportunity and a lever to support family farming?

09h20-09h45	<i>The institutional purchases serving family farming : lessons learnt from the Brazilian experience</i> Rui Alberto VALENÇA, the General Coordinator of FETRAF-Sul (Federation of family farming workers), Brazil
09h45-10h10	Discussion
10h10-10h40	Coffee-break

Session 2

The support of family farming through institutional purchases implies a specific targeting

How to describe family farming and the local purchase? Which are the eligible products? Which food processing actors choose and how is it possible to ensure family farming's products' valorization?

10h40-10h55	<i>The P4P Experience : a testimony from World Food Program (WFP)</i> Damien FONTAINE, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer for the WFP
10h55-11h10	<i>Targeting in Wallonia, Belgium</i> Marianne STREEL, President of the Union of Walloon Women Farmers (UAW)
11h10-12h00	Discussion
12h00-13h00	Lunch

Session 3

The adequacy between institutional purchases and good governance

To use public organizations' purchases for purposes of development policy raises de facto the question of good governance on many aspects such as transparency, rules of competition law, efficiency, patronage...

13h00-13h15	<i>Public administrations' experiences in Europe</i> Natacha ZUINEN, Coordinator of the Sustainable Development Department for the Walloon Public Service
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13h15-13h30	Public administrations' experiences in Africa Roch L.MONGBO, Permanent Secretary of the National Council for Food and Nutrition in Benin (CAN-Benin)
13h30-13h45	Lessons learnt from the Brazilian and P4P's experiences Luana F.J. SWENSSON, Research Analyst , Market Linkages and Value Chains Group , FAO
13h30-14h30	Discussion
14h30-15h00	Coffee-break

Session 4	<p>Are Family Farmers able to satisfy the institutional demand? What support must be organized to help them towards this goal?</p> <p>How to ensure the marketing of products in required quantity and quality as well as in in the desired timeframe? How to organize the products 'processing? How to facilitate the needs for seasonal loans and for working capital, etc.?</p>
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15h00-15h10	COFERME's experience in Belgium Daniel COULONVAL, Vice-president of the COFERME cooperative and Président of the Walloon Federation of Agriculture (FWA)
15h10-15h20	CAPAD's experience in Burundi Annick SEZIBERA, General secretary of CAPAD (Confederation of the Associations of agricultural producers for development), Burundi
15h20-15h30	ASPRODEB's experience in Senegal Hamet Aly SOW, Project Manager for ASPRODEB (Senegalese association for the promotion of development at the ground level), Senegal
15h30-16h10	Discussion
16h10-16h20	Pakisama's experience in Philippines Raoul Socrates BANZUELA, National Coordinator of Pakisama (National Confederation of small producers and fishers associations), Philippines
16h20-16h30	FNN's experience in Cambodia Sophal CHHONG, Program Coordinator of Farmer and Nature Net (FNN) Cambodia
16h30-17h10	Discussion

Concluding remarks	
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17h10-17h20	Synthesis of the day's exchanges
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