

**Contributions from the Federations of Smallholder Farmers
from the CPLP (Community of the Portuguese Language Countries)**
(Angola, Brazil, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Portugal, Sao Tome and Principe)

MANIFESTO

Why are we at Rio +20?

Forty years after the Stockholm Summit and twenty years after the Earth Summit (Eco 92), countries around the world gather again in the Rio +20 Summit. Thus far, we found that the global problems of hunger and poverty have worsened, the gap between rich and poor is increasing and environmental problems have increased. This development paradigm of neoliberal nature and subjugated to the logic of free trade has failed and we need to change course! This requires a reversal in the global, regional and national paradigm towards a more sustainable environmental and social development. The CPLP Strategy for Food and Nutrition Security, adopted in 2011, shows evidence of being able to contribute to this change since it focuses on smallholder farmers and on strengthening governance from the perspective of the right to food.

What do we condemn at Rio +20?

In the context of the Rio +20, we express a firm stand against the way the "Green Economy" model is being proposed and we call attention to the possible dangers:

- The alleged environmental preservation based on the logic of profit will not solve the problems of poverty and won't lead us to achieve resources and environmental sustainability;
- The green capitalism behind this proposal will lead to privatization of natural resources and their consequent commodification and financialization, maintaining and replicating the mistakes of the current development paradigm, now with new clothes;
- Instead of sustainable development we will see a "greening of the model" that will continue eager to profit and will accentuate the spiral of exclusion and poverty in which we live in, particularly for the poorest countries;
- The "green economy", as is being proposed, is more of the same, and will only serve to legitimize the current exclusionary policies and continue to favour large corporations in the agricultural, food and energy sectors;

What do we claim at Rio +20?

Given the complete failure of the current development paradigm that promotes the exclusion of family farmers and small producers and aggravates poverty and food insecurity, we are clamming for a clear break with this model, namely due to:

- The need for agricultural, trade and environmental policies that favours small producers, recognizing their importance in economic, social and environmental terms;
- The need to protect and regulate the use and management of land, territories, water, seeds, livestock and biodiversity, ensuring fair and equitable access and manage for local communities, particularly small producers;
- The need to ensure access to markets for small producers focusing on short circuits and direct marketing;

- The need to prioritize the production of local food staples, instead of crops for export;
- The need to increase public investment in family farming and adopt positive discrimination measures to protect and strengthen small producers;
- The need for effective public regulation of food production and trade;
- The need to explicitly recognize the agroecological model as a guarantee of the social and environmental pillars of sustainable development;
- The need to reject the patenting of living beings, the use of genetically modified organisms and the use of crops dedicated to biofuel production that endangers food security and sovereignty;
- The need to recognize the right of peoples to decide and manage their own agricultural, food and environmental systems, in order to protect their products and producers based on the principles of food sovereignty and the right to food;
- The need to strengthen global governance for sustainable development and the fight against hunger, recognizing the small producers as legitimate speakers and essential for the development of policies;

What do we propose at Rio +20?

In order to keep the discussion alive and to continue the fight for these and other common positions, we decided to proceed with the establishment of the "**CPLP Farmer's Platform**".

Specifically, and in view of the consecration of **2014 as the International Year of Family Farming**, we propose to fight and work together in order to:

- Achieve a definition and recognition of smallholder farmers for the purpose of political dialogue and definition of the object of public policies that impact on agriculture and food security and sovereignty;
- Require that 80% of public funds (national, regional and global) invested in agriculture are directly channelled to support small producers and family farms;
- Require policies, programs and strategies to promote agroecology and strategic orientation focused on family farms and small farms, as well as an effective regulation of the emerging "technology package" associated with the third green revolution;
- Fight for the consecration of agrobiodiversity and traditional knowledge as an universal public good and require an effective regulation of access to and sustainable management of land, water and other natural resources.

MESSAGE

We call attention to the need to strengthen the global alliance of small farmers and rural workers and we demand that the United Nations recognize it as a legitimate and essential counterpart to the political discussion.



Support:

