



Rural women demand public policies that guarantee the human right to water and food

As part of the celebration of the International Day of Rural Women and World Food Day, rural women demanded that the Salvadoran State create public policies that guarantee the human right to water and food.

San Salvador, El Salvador/ San José, Costa Rica, October 18, 2019: El Salvador is the smallest country in Central America, located in a region which allows it to have rich tropical climates which should favor forest cover, water recharge areas and a rich diversity of crops. But this is not the reality.

Since the last 15 years there has been a deep environmental crisis with alarming levels of deforestation and the lowest forest cover in the region, triggering a series of ecological disturbances such as the reduction of rain cycles and infiltration of rainwater, and other sub-crises regarding access to food and clean water, which are most worrisome.

In this context, ecological restoration led by women is vital. Recognizing and learning about the care and recovery of the primary forests that peasant and indigenous women have been carrying out historically, contributing to the restoration of ecosystems, sustainable use of the land and community socioeconomic development is important.



The current agri-food system ensures that there is enough food to supply world population but these are not distributed equally, being controlled by a small group of national and transnational companies - which control seeds and the chain up to food marketing, generating food insecurity, nutritional distortions and diseases due to the use of transgenics and agrochemicals. This transnational control of the agri-food system prevents guaranteeing the right to adequate food for the majority of the population.



In this sense, the social movement that brings together community organizations of peasant men and women, formulated in 2013 the preliminary draft of a **Law for Food Sovereignty and Nutrition**, which advocates to:

- Promote greater State investment in family and peasant agriculture.
- Promote agroecology as an alternative for the production of healthy and nutritious food, free of agrochemicals.
- Promote equitable participation between men and women in access, control and management of productive resources: land, water, seeds, credit, technical assistance and field technology.
- Defend Salvadorans from rising food prices.
- Regulate the advertising of companies that sell food products with a high content of sugars, sodium and fats, which affect health and nutrition.
- Increase awareness and education on the consumption of healthy and nutritious foods.
- Create a strategic food reserve locally.
- To allocate the necessary public financing to promote actions that guarantee the right to adequate food.

Environmental organizations and those that advocate for food sovereignty point out that the approval of the Human Right to Water must also be integrated into discussions to guarantee an equitable development. All this, mainstreamed with the gender approach in which the role of women as producers and defenders of the web of life is taken into account for the formulation of public policies, nation plans and decision-making that favor the inalienable right to water and food of the Salvadoran people. The International Analog Forestry (IAFN) and the Global Alliance for Green and Gender Action (GAGGA) accompanied the October 18 Forum in the University of San Salvador in solidarity with these demands.

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More information about the Global Alliance for Green and Gender Action GAGGA and the International Analog Forestry Network is available here:

<https://www.gaggaalliance.org/>

<https://www.analogforestry.org>