

Synthesis - Report by SI Representative to the FAO, Else Larsen

Programme Focus: Economic and Social Development

Session attended: FAO Conference, 34th Session,
Rome 17-24 November 2007

The theme chosen by the INGO group for the joint meeting with FAO staff and government representatives was the **Right to Food through the Right to Land and Water for Women and Rural Poor Farmers**. The right to food is defined as “the right of every person to have regular access to sufficient, nutritionally adequate and culturally acceptable food for an active and healthy life”. Many studies have shown that secure access by women to land, water, credit schemes and other resources is a basic factor for achieving food security and, hence, also achieving the **Millennium Development Goal n°1** (eradicate extreme poverty and hunger). A key action agreed by the meeting was to explore ways and means to integrate the concept of right to food into Article 14 under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

Other key agenda items of the Conference included reviews and discussions on: the state of food and agriculture, the report of the Independent External Evaluation (IEE) of the FAO, the **FAO Gender and Development Plan of Action 2008-2012**, the International Year of the Potato.

SI Clubs can engage with other NGOs in monitoring status/progress on the right to food and help prepare alternative reports for CEDAW on the actual situation in their respective countries. The right to food is closely related to other rights such as the access to safe-drinking water. SI Clubs interested in raising awareness about child hunger and contributing funds to support school feeding projects supported by the UN World Food Programme can start planning for the next **Fight Hunger Walk**, a world event that will take place on 1st June 2008. There are also many opportunities for “down to earth” practical involvements in the International Year of the Potato. SI Clubs, particularly in developing countries, can contact FAO country/regional offices to find out about locally planned events. SI Clubs in developed countries could support through twinning with SI Clubs in developing countries.

For more information, see the following websites:

www.fao.org

Right to Food www.fao.org/righttofood

CEDAW <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/index.html>

Fight Hunger Walk www.fighthunger.org

UN World Food Programme www.wfp.org

International Year of the Potato www.potato2008.org