

World Rural Women's day 2007



« The right to food: rural women produce and provide »



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

All human beings need food, food is as vital as the air we breathe or the water we drink. Therefore, the right to food is a part of the respect for the life of each individual, wherever they come from.

We, rural women, want to contribute to this awareness to the right to a healthy, balanced and sufficient food supply for all. But food does not fall from the skies! It needs to be produced! Men and women throughout the world cultivate the land and raise cattle to procure their food and the food needed by the populations. Rural women are on the front line in the counties with the highest risks of famine and malnutrition.

But beware! Impoverishing women farmers will not help to provide food to city dwellers! A profitable selling price for women farmers products is absolutely essential to ensure their capacity to continue feeding others. Urban and country dwellers must move forward together to ensure everybody's right to a healthy nutrition in sufficient quantities.

Any possible improvement to the production capacity of rural women will contribute to the fight against hunger and malnutrition. For thousands of years, rural women have had the responsibility to produce food under difficult conditions sometimes even dangerous for their health. Discriminations remain regarding access to land, to credits, to seeds and to adequate tools. Furthermore, delays and obstacles due to limited or lack of schooling penalize rural women in their capacity to fulfill their given food-producing mission.

Far from remaining passive, rural women would like to be able to support everybody's right to food. This is why this World Rural Women Day will emphasize the importance of a support to all those who produce the food we eat.

We are all interdependent on our planet. Men and women, rural and urban dwellers, we all depend on each other and on food for our survival. Let us promote together improved living and working conditions for rural women so that together we may move towards a world where words such as « malnutrition » and « famine » will no longer be relevant.

Have a very good World Rural Women Day in unity and solidarity.

Karen Serres
President, IFAP Standing Committee of Women Farmers