



The Struggle for Food Sovereignty in the Philippines

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Character of agricultural production

- **the main source of food, income and livelihood for Filipinos**
- **generally small-scale and backward**
 - average farm size is two hectares
 - low level of technology
 - simple fishing gears and small boats
- **lack of government support**
 - Limited water supply
 - No production subsidy
 - Credit facility only for rich farmers
 - No marketing support



Character of agricultural production

- **undermined by government policies and programs**
 - **absence of genuine agrarian (land and aquatic) reform**
 - **promotion of neoliberal policies -- trade liberalization, deregulation and privatization**
 - **Implementation of loan conditionalities**

Effects of trade liberalization on food and agriculture

- dumping of surplus agricultural products
 - puts local production into unfair competition with highly subsidized agricultural products from developed countries
 - increasing rate of bankruptcy for Filipino farmers
 - growing problem of landlessness



Effects of trade liberalization on food and agriculture

- intensifying production for export
 - Less priority for domestic needs
 - Use of land, water and other resources for export production



Other policies that affect agriculture

- Deregulation of the oil industry = increased production costs
- Allows foreign control of land
- Proposed privatization of the National Food Authority – promoted by ADB
- Infrastructure projects that destroy land and the ecosystem



The struggle for food sovereignty

- “the right of peoples, communities and countries to define their own agricultural, labor, fishing, food and land policies, which are ecologically, economically appropriate to their unique circumstances. It includes the true right to food and to produce food, which means that all people have the right to safe, nutritious, and culturally appropriate food and to food producing resources and the ability to sustain themselves and their societies.”

Elements of food sovereignty

- **genuine agrarian and aquatic reforms**
- **ensuring access to adequate, nutritious and safe food**
- **sustainable agricultural system**
- **greater control of people and nation over food and agriculture**
 - **getting agriculture outside the framework of WTO and other multilateral and bilateral trading agreement**
- **promotion of women's rights**
- **struggle for substantive political reforms**



Thanks!