

International Conference on Food Sovereignty, Agrarian Reforms & Peasants' Rights

Press Release

International Conference on Food Sovereignty, Agrarian Reforms & Peasants' Rights jointly organized by Peasant Coalition along with All Nepal Peasants' Federation and La-via Campesina, was successfully held in Kathmandu as per schedule. The conference is participated by representatives from 16 different countries from Europe, Africa, Latin America and Asia.

The inauguration session took place amidst a grand function punctuated by Peasants' songs. Foreign Minister and the chief guest of the ceremony Madame Sahana Pradhan expressed that such conference plays contributive role at a time when food sovereignty is inducted in the constitution of Nepal and rules to accord practical value is not yet framed. Similarly, Forest and Local Development Minister Mr. Dev Gurung called international peasant leaders to share their rich experience and strengthen peasant community in Nepal and help achieve their leaders Food Sovereignty goals. Agriculture and Co-operative Minister Mr. Chhabi Lal Biswakarma addressed the august gathering calling to ensure right to food and sustainable agriculture development to Nepalese peasants. Chairperson of ANPFa and Ex. Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Bamdev Gautam chaired the session and confidently asserted Food Sovereignty as rule of hour on earth.

Mr. Henry Saragih, International Secretary, La via Campesina on behalf of international organizers welcomed all national and international delegates and called for stronger solidarity to share the experiences of Nepal to put Food Sovereignty as fundamental right of people in the constitution in their respective countries. Ms. Sarojeni Rengam, Director, PANAP, Mr. Bashu Babu Aryal, In-Country Program Coordinator, IFAD, Mrs. Anna Amorim, MST, Brazil, Mr. Ibrahim Colibali, CNOP, Mali, Mr. Jose Bove, La Via Campesina, France, Mr. Rafel Mariano, KMP, Philippines addressed the ceremony expressing their solidarity in Nepalese peasants' struggle for recognition of Food Sovereignty as fundamental right of the people included in Interim Constitution of Nepal, 2006.

Soil, Seed and Water symbolizing agriculture were the objects of inauguration where ANPA (R) Secretary Mr. Chitra Bahadur Shrestha delivered welcome speech on behalf of national organizers. On the occasion Mr. Bhim Prasad Gautam, Chairperson, All Nepal Peasants' Association, Mr. Bhanu Sigdel, Chairperson Nepal Farmer Association, Mr. Tuk Nath Sharma Paudel, Nepal Farmer Association (D) addressed the session.

Now, the closed session is in progress deliberating on **Food Sovereignty: An alternative to corporate neo liberal economic policy in Food and Agriculture**. The key note speakers are Paul Nicolson, La Via Campesina, Bamdev Gautam. ANPFa, Nepal, Bipblab Halim, IMSE, IFTOP, India, and Ibrahim Colibali, CNOP, Mali, Africa. The second topic is **Genuine Land Reforms and access and control over natural resources**. Key note speakers are Jose Bove, La Via Campesina, Bhakti Prasad Lamichanne, ANPA(R), Nepal, Rafel Mariano, KMP, Phillipines and Sarojeni Rengam, PANAP, Malaysia.

Nepal Peasants' Coalition and La Via Campesina
Organizing Secretariat
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Kathmandu