THE FOOD DIALOGUE PROJECT

DIALOGUE WORKBOOK
March 2012

In partnership with:
THE CANADIAN COMMUNITY
FOR DIALOGUE AND DELIBERATION

OXFAM
Canada
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Purpose of the Dialogue
Why talk about women’s rights and the right to food?

Consumer trends indicate an increased interest in organic food, local food and sustainable food. People are beginning to think more about where food comes from, how it is produced, and what that means for their own lives and the lives of others within the food system.

Last spring EKOS polled Canadians on issues related to food and women’s rights. The findings described a Canadian population that is concerned with global hunger and food shortages, recognizes and is aware of the specific role that women play in our food system, and nearly two thirds of Canadians polled said they are extremely concerned with the rights of women in the developing world.

As we change how agriculture works around the world, we know that women’s rights need to be considered in the policies, practices, technologies and systems that are created to move our food system forward. These rights include women’s right to education, health and, of course, one of the most basic rights—the right to food.

We have brought you together as a group of Canadians, a group of passionate and concerned people, and a group of influencers in your different communities, organizations, occupations and networks. We believe that the issues facing our broken food system today are complex, and are often missing the important conversation of how and why women fit into the picture: Our global food system does not ensure women’s rights nor does it ensure the universal right to food. This dialogue will provide an opportunity for you to bring your experience and background to this conversation, to help inform and explore how to ensure that women’s rights, needs, priorities and voices are central in a conversation about the right to food.

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1 See summary at: www.oxfam.ca/sites/default/files/EKOS%20-%20Oxfam%20Survey%20-%20Summary%20of%20Findings.doc 97 per cent of Canadians express concern about a potential increase in the frequency and severity of hunger and food shortages.

2 Over half (54 per cent) of Canadian are aware that the majority of food production is done by women.

3 Nearly two thirds (63 per cent) say they are extremely concerned about the rights of women in developing countries.

This workbook has been created to help you be a part of this conversation. It provides background on various issues relating to gender, food systems and food production. To spark ideas and questions about this issue, it also includes three possible approaches to fixing our broken food system and working towards ending world hunger.

These approaches were developed through a workshop with a variety of experts in the field of food and women’s rights. The Canadian Community for Dialogue and Deliberation (C2D2)—our partner in this dialogue—facilitated the workshop. The different approaches reflect different values, perspectives, assumptions and experiences. As participants, you have the opportunity to explore these approaches and consider the different choices you would make in creating a path forward to ensure both women’s rights and the universal right to food.

Your participation in this dialogue will inform Oxfam Canada’s work to promote and protect women’s rights in developing a better global food system. We hope it also informs and propels your ideas and work.

We’re looking forward to an exciting and informative conversation together.

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5 Participants in the workshop included representatives from USC Canada, The Conference Board of Canada, the University of Ottawa faculty of Women’s Studies Informed Opinions and Oxfam Canada.Org

6 For further information about C2D2 see: www.c2d2.ca
**Background Information**

**Introduction**

This background section provides context for the dialogue to help inform our discussions by offering some relevant information on key topics pertaining to women’s rights and the right to food. It is not comprehensive, and we hope that in reviewing it you will be inspired to reflect on what information is not here as well as what is.

**Women’s Rights**

Through the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the world asserted that everyone has the right to standard of living adequate for their health and wellbeing—without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. Considering this, women’s rights are human rights.

The reality that women face in achieving these universal rights was highlighted and has been acted upon through the 1979 Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). In accepting the convention, states agreed to incorporate the principle of equality of men and women in their legal system, abolish all discriminatory laws and adopt appropriate ones prohibiting discrimination against women.

Despite these global efforts, women continue to be treated unequally and less value is placed on their lives because of their gender. Women are responsible for the majority of food production in many developing countries, despite having restricted access to markets, land, credit and decision-making about food production. When considering women’s rights and the right to food, understanding women’s differential access to power and control of resources is central.

Approaches which focus on achieving one right (the right to food), should not sacrifice other fundamental rights, for example, education.

There is a trend across international agencies to call for investments in women’s productive capacity in order to achieve the ‘bigger goal’ of food security and economic growth. Investments in women’s productive capacity are often divorced from demands articulated by women themselves, and are not designed to advance women’s rights or to ensure that women can actually share in the benefits of these investments.
Hunger

In a world that is producing more food than it ever has before, there are still people going hungry. Food is recognized as a right through the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights. In 1996, the global community recognized the urgent need to assert this right for all—the Rome Declaration was signed at the World Food Summit as a blueprint for the reduction of global hunger by 2015.

In 2010, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization estimated 925 million people suffer from hunger and a total of 32 countries are in a state of serious food crisis requiring emergency food assistance. It is also estimated that 6 out of 10 hungry people are women and girls. Moreover, in situations of crisis, and following natural disasters, women and girls are more likely to suffer from food shortages. It is clear that global hunger is disproportionately affecting women and girls.

Hunger affects both those in the North and the South, since a direct consequence of rising inequality is increasing hunger. In 2008, 3.5 million Canadians lived in poverty. This figure is expected to climb to 5.3 million by the end of 2011. As a country, our numbers of people in poverty and suffering from hunger are also rising.

7 www.fao.org/docrep/003/w3613e/w3613e00.htm
9 WFP Gender Policy and Strategy
10 More Women die than men as a result of natural disasters, London School of Economics, 2006
11 http://foodsecurecanada.org/sites/foodsecurecanada.org/files/RTFCanadaJointCivilSocietySubmission2r.pdf
12 http://foodsecurecanada.org/sites/foodsecurecanada.org/files/RTFCanadaJointCivilSocietySubmission2r.pdf
“When I joined the [Horticultural Association ‘3 de Fevereiro’] I was very closed off, but now I am not afraid to speak where there are many people, including men and women. I helped my husband buy bricks to build our house with money that I managed to get by selling vegetables. I also manage to buy food for the family, school material for the children, and now I practically don’t depend on my husband to buy anything I need.”

Marta António Alficha, participant in Magariro Sustainable Livelihoods and Agriculture Program
Food Production

Over several decades, from dairy and vegetable producers in Canada to fisher folk and pastoralists in Thailand, changes have occurred in the methods, inputs and strategies for food production.

Precision farming was developed, which allows farmers, using technology, to respond directly to variations in soil and plant requirements.13

Genetically modified organisms were created, allowing scientists to nutritionally enhance certain crops, and allowing companies to create seeds with increased yields and resistance to certain insects.14

Seed saving has increased, ensuring the maintenance of our agricultural genetic diversity.15 Women are, and have been historically, particularly active in this process.16

Despite these changes, it is estimated that food production in developing countries will need to double by 2050 to meet demand.17 How are we going to ensure the global right to food?

There are nearly 500 million small farms in developing countries, and they support almost two billion people, nearly one-third of humanity.18 Specifically, rural women produce more than 55 per cent of all food grown in developing countries.19 Conversely, in Canada, the number of farmers is declining—with fewer than 30,000 young farmers in Canada today, fewer and fewer farmers will be producing food in Canada in the future.20

Agribusiness corporations are increasingly playing role in the global food system—in the ways that they interact with and influence those

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13 www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/sag1951
16 http://usc-canada.org/what-we-do/sos/
18 www.ifad.org/operations/food/farmer.htm
19 www.un.org/ecosocdev/geninfo/women/women96.htm
20 http://foodsecurecanada.org/sites/foodsecurecanada.org/files/RTFCanadaJointCivilSocietySubmission2r.pdf
who farm, those who trade and those who consume. But food is not just another commodity. It is a basic human right.²¹

DISTRIBUTION OF INFLUENCE WITHIN THE FOOD SYSTEM

Additionally, we continue to grapple with how new developments in agricultural production are affecting our planet. Agriculture currently contributes about 14 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions, not including emissions from the manufacture of fertilizer²². However, the biggest contributor by far to agricultural emissions is land-use change. For example, converting wilderness to agriculture can release large amounts of greenhouse gases, particularly in the case of forests and wetlands. The challenge is need to understand how to create a food system that meets the needs of the world’s hungry populations while maintaining a planet with ongoing capacity to meet those needs.


²² www.ccic.ca/working_groups/FSP6%20brief%20on%20national%20food %20policy.pdf
In thinking about how food is produced, distributed, consumed, and how we ensure the right to food, it is vital to consider the various resources involved in the entire food system. As part of the conversation about women’s rights and the right to food, it is also important to examine who has power and how that power is used.

A few hundred companies—traders, processors, manufacturers, and retailers—control 70 percent of the choices and decisions in the food system globally, including decisions about key resources, such as land, water, seeds, technologies and infrastructure.23

Specifically, in the case of land, a smaller and smaller number of people are increasingly holding a large percentage of the world’s land.

- In the US, four percent of farm owners account for nearly half of all farmland.

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• In Guatemala, less than eight percent of agricultural producers hold almost 80 percent of land—a figure that is not atypical for Central America as a whole.24

• Women represent fewer than five percent of all agricultural landholders in North Africa and West Asia. In sub-Saharan Africa, they make up an average of 15 percent.25

**WOMEN’S ACCESS TO LAND GLOBALLY**

Recently, the phenomenon of land grabs has also increased. Demand for land is soaring as investors look for places to grow food for export, grow crops for biofuels, or simply buy-up land for profit. The scramble for land really took off with the 2008 food price crisis. More than 80 million hectares have changed hands since, an area bigger than any of the Prairie Provinces and nearly as big as all of British Columbia. In 2009, Africa saw 22 years worth of land investment in just 12 months. Very often, women grow food, fetch water and collect firewood for their families on land sold as ‘unused’ or ‘undeveloped’. Women, who produce up to 80 per cent of food in some poor countries, are usually most vulnerable as they have weaker land rights. This inequality has wide reaching impacts, not

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only on who has access to land, but also on how the change in land use affects food production, consumption and our environment.

When we consider other resources, such as extension services and credit, only five percent of what is available is provided for women farmers.26 In rural sub-Saharan Africa, women hold less than 10 percent of the credit available to smallholder agriculture.27 It is important to examine how resources are invested, as well as the impacts of those investments, that are central to the development of solutions to ensure both women’s rights and the right to food.

**RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT INVESTMENTS AND IMPACT**

"In the case that your husband doesn’t leave you anything, there’s no opportunity to survive as a farmer. ...The only way to ... make a living here is to grow crops and raise cattle and you need land to do both these things. If you don’t have land, you can’t do these things and you can’t survive.”

_Norma Medal Sorien, farmer and mother, Mexico_

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26 [www.unwomen.org/how-we-work/csw/csw-56/](http://www.unwomen.org/how-we-work/csw/csw-56/)

27 [www.unwomen.org/how-we-work/csw/csw-56/](http://www.unwomen.org/how-we-work/csw/csw-56/)
AGENDA

Dialogues will run from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., with a break for lunch.

10:00 to 10:15  Welcome and introductions
                Overview of the agenda
                Round of introductions

10:15 to 10:30  Setting the context
                Overview of the issue
                Overview of the process

10:30 to 12 noon Dialogue on the approaches

12:00 to 1:00 p.m. Lunch

1:00 to 2:00  Dialogue (continued)
                Identifying common ground

2:00 to 2:45 p.m. Moving into action

2:50 to 3:00 p.m. Wrap-up
                Invitation to stay longer to provide feedback

GROUND RULES FOR OUR DIALOGUE

The following ground rules can help us engage in good dialogue.

1. The purpose of dialogue is to understand and learn from one another (you cannot “win” a dialogue).

2. All dialogue participants speak for themselves, not as a representative of others’ interests.

3. In a dialogue everyone is treated as an equal: leave status and stereotypes at the door.

4. Be open and listen to others, especially when you disagree. Suspend judgment.

5. Identify and test assumptions (even your own).

6. Listen carefully and respectfully to the views of others: acknowledge that you have heard the other, especially when you disagree.

7. Look for common ground.

8. Express disagreement with ideas, not with personalities or motives. [Disagree without being disagreeable.]

9. Respect all points of view.
WHAT IS DIALOGUE?

The process that will be used for our conversation is called deliberative dialogue. It is not a debate, with opposing sides trying to win, neither is it a casual discussion. Deliberative Dialogue is a shared inquiry – a way of thinking and reflecting together to help determine what actions may be in the best interests of all those who will be affected.

Deliberative Dialogue is a facilitated discussion that presents a number of approaches as tools for dialogue. The approaches stress different priorities and principles and are developed to promote thoughtful dialogue on a current and challenging issue. The approaches are not mutually exclusive and are not policy options, nor do they offer "right" or "wrong" answers. In deliberative dialogue, each person is able to explore the issue through sharing his or her views and listening and learning with others. Everybody participates and nobody needs to be an expert.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DEBATE</th>
<th>DIALOGUE</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assumes there is one right answer (and you have it)</td>
<td>Assumes that others have pieces of the answer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attempts to prove the other side wrong</td>
<td>Attempts to find common understanding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Objective is to win</td>
<td>Objective is to find common ground</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Listening to find flaws</td>
<td>Listening to understand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Defends personal assumptions</td>
<td>Explores and tests personal assumptions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criticizes others’ point of view</td>
<td>Examines all points of view</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Defends one’s views against others</td>
<td>Admits that others’ thinking can improve one’s own</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Searches for weaknesses and flaws in the others’ positions</td>
<td>Searches for strengths and value in the others’ positions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seeks an outcome that agrees with your position</td>
<td>Seeks an outcome that creates new common ground</td>
</tr>
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</table>
SUMMARY OF APPROACHES

Following are three possibilities for taking action on our food system. Each approach reflects widely held and somewhat different concerns and priorities. They are not the only possible approaches. Rather, they are a vehicle for our dialogue and have been purposely framed to highlight ethical and values challenges and to prompt a discussion at that level. While they are not mutually exclusive, each does suggest a priority focus with particular consequences.

It is not intended that dialogue participants choose one of the approaches as “the answer”. There will probably be elements of each approach that you like, and elements that you do not like. As we explore the approaches, we’ll consider advantages and disadvantages of each, the tradeoffs that exist between them and what is most important to us as a group in finding ways to address our “broken” food system that includes consideration of women’s rights.

Each of the following approaches place the priority on a different aspect of our food system:

APPROACH 1: PRODUCE ENOUGH FOOD TO FEED EVERYONE

Today 925 million people will go to bed hungry. Based on current trends, demand for food could increase by 50 percent by 2050. When people go hungry, women and girls suffer the most. We have to find ways to produce more food, more efficiently and more sustainably. This will include increasing the productive capacity of women farmers.

APPROACH 2: KEEP OUR ENVIRONMENT HEALTHY

Many of the ways we produce and distribute food are destructive to our environment. Our food production and distribution systems create greenhouse gases that increase climate change. Women in the developing world are disproportionately impacted by climate change. We must change the ways we produce and distribute food and consider the health of people and the planet first.

APPROACH 3: ENSURE ACCESS TO FOOD

Poverty and access to food are directly linked, globally and in Canada. Those living in poverty are the same people who suffer from chronic hunger and malnutrition. We need to respect access to healthy and adequate food as a human right. This will mean ensuring women can produce their own food and/or have an adequate income to purchase food.
APPROACH 1: PRODUCE ENOUGH FOOD TO FEED EVERYONE

What is the problem?
According to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, an estimated 925 million people suffered from hunger in 2010 – the majority being women and girls. We know that there is enough food produced to feed everyone on the planet today. But, without change, hunger will increase as populations grow. One estimate is that food production in developing countries will need to double by 2050 to meet demand.

How should we deal with this problem?
We urgently have to find ways to produce more food, distribute it more efficiently, and grow it in ways that will sustain future generations, without wrecking our environment. This challenge will mean recognizing and increasing the productive capacity of the small-scale women farmers—one of the largest contributors to global agriculture.

How does this relate to women’s rights?
Rural women produce more than 55 per cent of all food grown in developing countries. Yet women often do not have equal access to land because of the complex and diverse power relations of men and women in different societies. Women’s voice needs to be heard and integrated into the development of agricultural policies and programs. Rural women have limited access to rural extension services and technology. Increasing both the number of women trained in agriculture and the quality of their training would contribute to improving agricultural production and economic empowerment.

What actions can we take?
- Provide incentives for women farmers to maximize their yields.
- Provide education and training to women on ways to increase crop yields.
- Make decisions about the food we purchase based on how and by whom it was produced.
- Support efforts to promote women’s rights as a strategy consistent with the right to food.

What are reasons to support this approach?
- Women and girls are hungry now and we need to produce more food to ensure their right to food is fulfilled in the future.
• Producing more food should keep food prices down and ensure that everyone can afford to buy the food they need.
• Focusing on women’s role in food production will recognize and enhance the important role of women farmers globally.

What are reasons to oppose this approach?
• Producing more food doesn’t mean that women and girls can access it.
• Focusing on women in food production may lead to even more work for women, taking away opportunities for education and other fundamental rights.
• Focusing on increasing food production without taking into account environmental impacts could be a damaging for the environment – an essential resource for many women’s livelihoods globally.

### APPROACH 2: KEEP OUR ENVIRONMENT HEALTHY

What is the problem?
The current ways we produce and distribute food are damaging to our environment. Our food production and distribution systems create greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change. Climate change is already hitting farmers hard. Rising temperatures will cause crop yields to fall – possibly to half of their current levels in some African countries. And changes in seasons will make it even harder for farmers to know when to sow, cultivate and harvest.

How should we deal with this problem?
We need to acknowledge the importance of the environment as the source of all food and as integral to access food and livelihoods for many women. To ensure this, we must change the ways we produce and distribute food so that they consider the health of people and the planet first.

How does this relate to women’s rights?
Climate change disproportionately affects women in the developing world. In situations of food crisis, because of gender discrimination, women often eat last and least. The problem is compounded because frequently women’s access to food is dependent on subsistence agriculture that faces increased challenges as result of climate change. The focus needs to shift to sustainable agricultural practices that protect the environment. As sustainable food production practices are encouraged and implemented, it will be
crucial to ensure that women are active participants in building knowledge of these practices. Women play an integral role in the maintenance and care of our planet – this can be seen in many ways, including in their role in saving seeds and protecting water.

What actions can we take?

- Provide education on sustainable agricultural practices to women farmers and build on their knowledge.
- Protect land for local food production as a measure to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and ensure access to healthier food.
- Engage civil society in understanding everyone’s role in reducing the threat of global climate change.
- Provide incentives to transition to sustainable food production practices including agroecological methods.
- Engage and regulate corporations to increase socially responsible use of agricultural land.

What are reasons to support this approach?

- Implementing sustainable food production and distribution now will create a more resilient food production system in our changing global climate and will ensure food security in the longer-term.
- Many current agricultural practices are heavily dependent on chemicals that are damaging to the environment and human health.
- The environment is the source of all life and productivity.
- Although women farmers in poor countries contribute little to greenhouse gas emissions, they are already the hardest hit by climate change. Human life and sustainable economic production depend on healthy ecosystems.
- Food costs rarely reflect the social and environmental impacts related to production and transportation.

What are reasons to oppose this approach?

- Canada is a developed country and we shouldn’t have to give up consuming things we like because of climate change.
- Keeping food local is idealistic. People want choice—having fruits and vegetables in winter means trading with other countries and importing foods.
- This approach doesn’t address the issue of access to and affordability of food. If anything, it could increase costs. For example, organic and local produce can costs considerably more at the grocery store.
Approach 3: Ensure Access to Food

What is the problem?
Poverty and access to food are directly linked, globally and in Canada. Those living in poverty are the same people who suffer from chronic hunger and malnutrition. In the global south, the urban poor and the landless spend as much as 75 percent of their income on food, whereas in Canada we spend only 14 percent. Food prices are expected to increase by as much as 70 to 90 per cent by 2030. High food prices reduce purchasing power for other essential needs such as housing – which will put more women at risk, increasing the number of those who are already hungry and unable to access food.

How should we deal with this problem?
We need to promote access to healthy and adequate food as a human right. One of the ways to accomplish this is to ensure that women can produce their own food and/or have the right to a livelihood that can produce an adequate income to purchase food.

How does this relate to women’s rights?
Food availability is, first and foremost, an issue at the household level. In times of scarcity, women and girls, due to discrimination, often eat last and eat the least. Increasing incomes and ensuring economic empowerment for women living in poverty enables women to maintain autonomy and assert their own rights, including the right to access food. As long as men and boys are valued more than women and girls, men and boys are given priority access to education and training. Ensuring rights for women overall is essential to ensuring their access to food in a changing economic and environmental context.

What actions can we take?
- Create opportunities for women to lift themselves out of poverty.
- Support women-owned and women-led micro-enterprises and cooperatives.
- Fund programs to ensure equal access to education for women and girls.
- Advocate for women’s rights and enact policies and legislative changes to ensure women’s right to food is respected.
What are reasons to support this approach?

- Sustainable and equitable access to food can only be achieved when women are treated as equals and given the freedom to assert all of their rights as human beings.
- Addressing root causes like poverty will help ensure long-term solutions to the problem of accessing food.
- Access to food is essential for society as well as individuals. Malnutrition increases health care costs and decreases social and individual productivity.

What are reasons to oppose this approach?

- Women are hungry now and this approach will take too long.
- The environment we rely on for our food is being damaged. The focus needs to be on protecting the food-producing capacity of our lands for future generations.
- This sounds like an approach to eradicate poverty. Eradicating poverty will never be accomplished in a world where our populations keep growing and our resources are diminishing.
- This approach would take a lot of investment by governments.
TERMINOLOGY - GENDER

**Sex** is a categorization connected with biology; determined by chromosomes, genitalia, hormonal states.

**Gender** describes those characteristics of men and women which are *socially determined*, in contrast to those which are biologically determined (i.e. sex). Gender determinants are social, psychological, historical, and cultural. For example, characteristics of men and women can be determined by the social/cultural perceptions of masculine and feminine traits where they live.

**Women’s rights** are defined as rights that promote a position of legal and social equality of women with men.

**Gender equality** means that the different behaviour, aspirations, needs and voices of women and men are considered, valued and favoured equally.

**Gender equity** means fairness of treatment for women and men according to their respective needs.

**Gender analysis** refers to a lens through which gender roles, activities and identities are captured. Gender analysis is a tool used to understand how development and relief work differently affects men, women, boys and girls. Gender analysis looks not only at roles and activities but also at *relationships*. It asks not only who does what, but also who makes the decisions, and who benefits.

**Gender division of labour** refers to different kinds of work done by men and women and the different values ascribed to the work. The gender division of labour varies from one society and culture to another. It changes with external circumstances both in response to sudden shocks/crises and over long-term societal shifts.

**Women in development** is a development approach which seeks to integrate women into development by making more resources available to women. Projects are generally framed as efforts to increase women’s efficiency in their existing roles.

**Gender and development** is a development approach that bases interventions on an analysis of men and women’s roles and needs. These projects attempt to empower women and improve their position relative to men. They also seek lasting benefits and transformations for societies as a whole.

**Women’s rights** are defined as women’s ability to attain the universal human rights as defined in the UN Declaration of Universal Human
Rights. Within the Convention for the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination, there is special reference to the rights of rural women affirming their right to participation in decision making in development, their right to access credit and loans and their right to organize to attain equal access to economic opportunities.

**TERMINOLOGY – FOOD**

**Hunger** is the most commonly used term to describe the lack of access to, or the ongoing need and desire for food.

**Malnutrition** is a general term for a condition caused by improper diet or nutrition, and can occur in conjunction with both under and over consumption of calories.

**Famine** is a widespread scarcity of food.

**Food security** is defined as including both physical and economic access to food that meets people’s dietary needs as well as their food preferences. Food security is built on three pillars: availability, access and use.

**Food sovereignty** is the right of people to healthy and culturally appropriate food produced through ecologically sound and sustainable methods, and their right to define their own food and agriculture systems.

A **land grab** is the acquisition of large amounts of land by foreign investors in another (usually developing) country.

**Biodiversity** refers to the diversity among and within plant and animal species in an environment.

**Agricultural extension services** are services that encourage the application of research and innovation to agricultural practices through farmer education. This includes agricultural techniques, application of technologies and marketing and organization practices.

A **crop** is a non-animal species that is grown with the purpose of being harvested as food, livestock fodder and fuel, or for any other economic purpose. Major world crops include sugarcane, pumpkin, maize (corn), wheat, rice, cassava and soybeans.
Agricultural inputs are anything that is put into the land in agricultural production. Inputs can be direct such as water, fertilizers, and pesticides or indirect such as equipment and fuel.

Yields are a quantitative description of the total amount of a product produced.

Agricultural productivity is a quantitative description of the correlation of the amount of a product that is produced relative the resource use to create that product.

Agroecology is a low-carbon, resource-preserving type of agriculture that has been shown to increase yields while benefitting the environment and small hold or subsistence farmers, many of whom are women.

Precision farming is a farming management concept based on observing and responding to intra-field variations. It relies on new technologies like satellite imagery, information technology, and geospatial tools.
WEBSITES FOR MORE INFORMATION

Oxfam Canada: The Food Dialogue Project
www.oxfam.ca/food-dialogue-project

Food and Agriculture Organization: Women and the Right to Food

Farming First: The Female Face of Farming
www.farmingfirst.org/women/

Canadian Hunger Count 2011
www.foodbankscanada.ca/hungercount

Food Secure Canada
http://foodsecurecanada.org/

USC Canada
http://usc-canada.org/

Inter Pares

Conference Board of Canada, Centre for Food in Canada
www.conferenceboard.ca/cfic/default.aspx

People’s Food Policy Project
http://peoplesfoodpolicy.ca/home

Canadian Council for International Co-operation
The Global Challenge to End Poverty and Injustice
http://ccic.ca/_files/en/about/001_10pts_agenda.pdf

Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)
CIDA’s Food Security Strategy

Oxfam: Growing a Better Future Report
www.oxfam.ca/grow/learn/growing-better-future

Oxfam Canada acknowledges the generous financial support for our programs from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).
APPENDIX 1: FOOD, LAND AND AGRICULTURE CHARTS

Undernourishment by region (2010, millions):

- Asia and Pacific: 578
- Latin America and Caribbean: 53
- Sub-Saharan Africa: 37
- Near East and N. Africa: 19
- Developed countries: 19

Undernourishment by household type (2005 estimate, %):

- Small-scale farming households: 50%
- Urban households: 20%
- Landless rural households: 20%
- Pastoralist, fisherfolk, and forest user households: 10%

7bn consumers

No more than 500 companies control 70% of choice

Food companies

Traders and processors

Retailers

1.5bn producers

Input companies

Four firms – DuPont, Monsanto, Syngenta, and Limagrain – dominate over 50% of seed industry sales globally.

Walmart revenues were $428.1bn in 2009, equivalent to the GDP of the world’s low income countries combined.

Nestle, the world’s largest food company, controls 80% of milk production in Peru, and by 2020 was the largest food company in Brazil.
