The Right to Food, Public Health, & US Food / Agriculture Policy

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Overview

- Right to Food
- II. Farm Bill
- III. Applying Right to Food to the Farm Bill
- IV. Benefits of human rights language

2007 World Food Day Theme



The right to Adequate Food





http://www.fao.org/righttofood/

Key Human Rights Documents

- International Convention on Civil & Political Rights (1976)
- Convention on Economic, Social & Cultural Rights (1976) (US not ratified)
 - General Comment 12 (1999)
- Voluntary Guidelines (2004)



Applies to the US?

- Didn't want to er
 - Concerned at obliga
- Human rights implicing this between individuals and their evernments
 - Responsibility to people internationally?
 - Responsibility of corrations?
 - ICESCR non-signatories legally responsible?

Narula 2006

Two Aspects of Right to Food

- Right to Freedom from Hunger (absolute)
- Right to Adequate Food (relative)
 - Sustainable access to food in a quantity and quality sufficient to satisfy dietary and cultural needs

General Comment 12

"The right to adequate food is defined as the right of every man, woman and child alone and in community with others to have physical and economic access at all times to adequate food or means for its procurement in ways consistent with human dignity."



Photo credit: ©FAO/Marco Longari

Respect, Protect, Fulfill

Respect

- Don't stand in the way
- Protect
 - Get others out of the way
- Fulfill
 - Help people make their own way
 - Provide food, when there's no other way
- Progressive implementation, maximum of available resources
- External obligations

Farm Bill Titles (2002)

- I: Commodities
- II: Conservation
- III: Agricultural
 Trade and Aid
- IV: Nutrition
- V: Farm Credit

- VI: Rural Development
- VII: Research
- VIII: Forestry
- IX: Energy
- X: Miscellaneous
- 2007 Proposed:
 Competition/Livestock

Selected Farm Bill Issues - 1

- Subsidies, Food Stamps, Trade (discussed)
- Nutrition Healthy Foods
 - Community Food Projects, local food system enterprise development, fruits & vegetables in schools, Food Stamp Nutrition Education
- Conservation
 - Comprehensive Stewardship Program, Conservation Reserve Program, EQIP

Selected Farm Bill Issues - 2

- Credit / Rural Development enabling farms, rural viability
- Energy support for corn ethanol
- Research
- Competition level playing field for small & sustainable operations

Right to Food vs. Farm Bill

	Phys	Econ	At All	Free –	Dietary	No Adv.	Cult./
	Access	Access	Times	Hunger	Needs	Subst.	Dignity
Commodities							
Conservation							
Trade							
Nutrition							
Credit							
Rural Devel							
Research							
Forestry							
Energy							
Misc.							
Competition							

Physical Access

	Phys	Econ	At All	Free –	Dietary	No Adv.	Cult./
	Access	Access	Times	Hunger	Needs	Subst.	Dignity
Commodities							
Conservation							
Trade							
Nutrition							
Credit							
Rural Devel							
Research							
Forestry							
Energy							
Misc.							
Competition							

Physical Access

- Infrastructure for getting healthy & local foods to 'food deserts'
 - Nutrition
- Food availability in areas where local food system undermined
 - Trade
- Time to get food from overseas
 - Trade

Economic Access

Phys	Econ	At All	Free –	Dietary	No Adv.	Cult./
_	Access	Times		Needs	Subst.	Dignity
	Phys			Phys Access Access Times Hunger Access Ac		

Economic Access

- Adequate livelihood to enable buying own food
 - Trade, Credit/Rural Development, jobs
- Food costs
 - Energy, Commodities
- Food safety net
 - Nutrition

At All Times (Sustainable Access)

	Phys	Econ	At All	Free –	Dietary	No Adv.	Cult./
	Access	Access	Times	lunger	Needs	Subst.	Dignity
Commodities							
Conservation							
Trade							
Nutrition							
Credit							
Rural Devel							
Research							
Forestry							
Energy							
Misc.							
Competition							

At All Times (Sustainable Access)

- What we produce
 - Commodities, Energy, Nutrition
- How we produce it
 - Conservation
- Sustainability of local food system
 - Trade, Nutrition
- Sustainability of small-medium agriculture
 - Rural Development / Credit / Competition

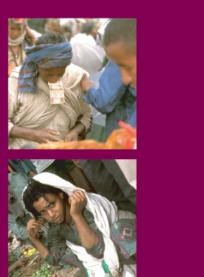
Analysis In Sum

- Human rights and right to food have been irrelevant to policy development
- Analysis suggests a way to examine policy in human rights context
 - Who could be mobilized
 - What could be said
 - Shaming, Blaming, AND Praising

Benefits of Human Rights Approach

(WITH economic, political, other arguments)

- "Rights" confers priority as a social goal
- Policy responses as obligations
 - Not charity/altruism;
 - Not economic strategy
- Every person has claims
 - No claims for corporations or "the majority"
- Hold countries to standards they and/or international community have endorsed





The Right to Food:

A Resource Manual for NGOs

Written by Rolf Künnemann & Sandra Epal-Ratjen

AAAS Science and Human Rights Program

http://shr.aaas.org/ manuals/food/RTF.pdf





Freedom from Hunger

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Phys	Econ	At All	Free -	Dietary	No Adv.	Cult./
Access	Access	Times	Hunger	Needs	Subst.	Dignity
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Freedom from Hunger

- Providing adequate calories
 - Nutrition
 - Trade
- Adequacy of food access under antihunger programs
 - Nutrition
 - Trade

Dietary Needs

	Phys	Econ	At All	Free –	Dietary	No Adv.	Cult./
	Access	Access	Times	Hunger	Needs	Subst.	Dignity
Commodities							
Conservation							
Trade							
Nutrition							
Credit							
Rural Devel							
Research							
Forestry							
Energy							
Misc.							
Competition							

Dietary Needs

- Adequacy of healthy food production
 - Commodities
 - Nutrition
- Provision of healthy foods through government programs
 - Nutrition
 - Trade

No Adverse Substances

	Phys	Econ	At All	Free –	Dietary	No Adv.	Cult./
	Access	Access	Times	Hunger	Needs	Subst.	Dignity
Commodities							
Conservation							
Trade							
Nutrition							
Credit							
Rural Devel							
Research							
Forestry							
Energy							
Misc.							
Competition							

No Adverse Substances

- Pesticide residues, substances in drinking water
 - Conservation

Culturally Appropriate / Accessible with Dignity

	Phys	Econ	At All	Free –	Dietary	No Adv.	Cult./
	Access	Access	Times	Hunger	Needs	Subst.	Dignity
Commodities							
Conservation							
Trade							
Nutrition							
Credit							
Rural Devel							
Research							
Forestry							
Energy							
Misc.							
Competition							

Culturally Appropriate / Accessible with Dignity

- What food is supplied
 - Commodities, Trade, Nutrition
- The "demand" side
 - Nutrition, Miscellaneous (Country of Origin)
- Rights/dignity of food producers
 - Competition