



APRODEV Joint Advocacy Project on Food Security, Trade and Gender

”Trade for People, not people for trade”

APRODEV is the Association of World Council of Churches related Development Organisations in Europe. At present, 17 development and humanitarian aid organisations from 14 European countries cooperate through APRODEV.

The Joint Advocacy Project operates from a gender perspective and was established to focus on the following general objectives:

- to influence EU policies in the field of trade and agriculture, and ensure that these policies support global and local food security;
- to influence the international rule setting processes in the field of food, trade and agriculture by influencing EU policy making.

In relation to the position of the European Commission in the WTO negotiations at the 5th Ministerial Meeting in Cancun from 10-14 September 2003, APRODEV asks specific attention for the following points:

- 1. Inspired by our Christian background and values, we believe that economic systems and arrangements are not an end in themselves.** Trade, therefore, must be an instrument to promote life in just, participatory and sustainable communities. Justice is inseparable from love and ‘agape’ (which means creative sympathy for the suffering and the oppressed) -- siding with the poor and the weak and furthering their interests.
- 2. In our advocacy we start from the universal *right to adequate food*.** We recognise that the primary aim of promoting and implementing the right to adequate food is to reduce hunger and malnutrition and to advance nutritional wellbeing for every *individual* child, woman and man. This rights based approach towards development thus implies that the individual person’s nutritional status is the starting point. The World Food Summit-fyl (WFS+5) also confirmed the *right of everyone to have access to safe and nutritious food*.
- 3. Trade subsidies and dumping by rich industrialized countries destroy local markets and local food production in the South. Therefore, we** are convinced that rich and powerful nations should leave space for allowing developing countries to protect their local markets against dumping of agricultural product and food aid of subsidized surpluses.
- 4. The “Peace Clause”, instituted in 1994 and ending by December 2003, should NOT be extended.** This protective measure for the period of 10 years was agreed upon on behalf of the EU and the USA in order to phase out their trade distorting measures under WTO rules. This privilege should disappear.
- 5. Patenting of all natural life forms, like seeds, genetic resources for food and agriculture, and naturally occurring organisms should be excluded from TRIPS.** The access of small and subsistence farmers to their own seed reproduction should not be replaced by a dependency on international agro-industries.

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