



Working for organic and traditional farmers
in ROMANIA

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Food Sovereignty

Via Campesina defines food sovereignty as:

Peoples', Countries' or State Unions' RIGHT to define their agricultural and food policy, without any dumping vis-à-vis third countries

This includes several issues, such as:

- prioritizing local agricultural production in order to feed the people, access of peasants and landless people to land, water, seeds, and credit. Hence the need for land reforms, for fighting against GMOs (Genetically Modified Organisms), for free access to seeds, and for safeguarding water as a public good to be sustainably distributed.
- the right of farmers, peasants to produce food and the right of consumers to be able to decide what they consume, and how and by whom it is produced.
- the right of Countries to protect themselves from too low priced agricultural and food imports.
- agricultural prices linked to production costs : they can be achieved if the Countries or Unions of States are entitled to impose taxes on excessively cheap imports, if they commit themselves in favor of a sustainable farm production, and if they control production on the inner market so as to avoid structural surpluses.
- the populations taking part in the agricultural policy choices.
- the recognition of women farmers' rights, who play a major role in agricultural production and in food.

Eco Ruralis' opinion

Romania's food sovereignty is today under threat from many directions. Within the markets of the European Union, Romania has lost much of the sovereignty it once enjoyed. We feel that the Romanian government and the EU mechanisms must recognize that Romanian peasants still have the right to develop local agricultural production, retain access to seeds, and to protect from foreign acquisition of land and low priced agricultural imports. Membership in the European Union is changing the way Romania looks and operates, but we wish to make sure that the peasants of Romania and their wishes are taken into consideration during this process. If Romania loses control over its agricultural production, it will lose a very important and long standing part of its culture and heritage. As Romania moves forward, we stand for a Romania sovereign in its food choices, where peasants get a say in all parts of the process, from seed through production.