



# A Global New Deal on Agriculture?



**A Recipe for Hunger:**  
How the World is  
Failing on Food



INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION (ITUC)  
Commission on Sustainable Development – New York – 11 May 2009

# The impact of the food crisis on workers across the globe

- While food prices have diminished somewhat, the food crisis has not gone away
- With the attention of the international community turned to the global financial and economic crisis, the real danger is that the world hunger situation may deteriorate even further.
- Throughout 2008, the ITUC received numerous accounts from our member affiliates in Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Middle East and even Europe explaining how they, as workers and consumers, had experienced a deterioration of their livelihood, their income and their purchasing power.



# Food Crisis Report: Key Findings

The combination in 2007-2008 of high oil and fuel prices, skyrocketing prices on basic food staples (like grain, wheat and rice) and the fact that many of the developing countries have become net food importers have made them extremely vulnerable to price fluctuations and in fact increased their trade deficit substantially; by making them dependent on imports.

This trade deficit along with other long-term structural problems in combination with some more recent developments, such as increased focus on biofuels and speculative trading, created a world food system that cannot feed our hungry population.



# The roots causes of the food crisis

- The policies pursued by the international financial institutions
- The world trading system and the WTO
- Speculative trading and the financialisation of food
- Supply and demand factors
- Climate change
- Biofuels



# ITUC recommendations

- The right to food
- A revision of biofuel policies
- Additional investment in agriculture
- Decent work, decent wages and social protection for all
- Re-regulation of international markets



# Final Words

- There is no one, magic solution to the global food crisis.
- Governments must accept their role. They are failing when more than 963 million people are living in hunger and the number of poor people increases by more than 150 million in one year due to high food prices.
- The international community must accept its joint responsibility to deliver an effective right to food for all the world's citizens.
- A global deal, able to tackle multiple and simultaneous crisis is needed, and the right to food must be a part of it



# Thank you!

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