

Analysis of Safety Food and Considerations in the Rural Sector

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Abstract: This study considers an analysis of safety and insecurity food in the rural sector, using a type of prospective and exploratory research where we look into understanding, synergies and delimitation of safety food, analyzing the formulations and development aspects of the international policies, plans and programs implemented for reducing levels of insecurity food, establishing that safety food implies dignified and decent life for humans.

Key words: Safety food, rural sector, policies, plans, programs, delimitation

INTRODUCTION

The right of all persons to receive food for the simple fact of human being not been guaranteed in many countries, mainly those denominated in development. Of 815 million hungry people in 2001 (Shenggen, 2010), 200 million are in Africa and 53 million in Latin America. Given this situation and following the Millennium Development Goals in 1996 the heads of polity and government of the world committed themselves to achieve safety food for all and to do an effort to eradicate hunger in all countries with the immediately purpose to reduce the number of undernourished people by half before 2015.

At this time, the rural population is 53% of the total population of the planet and agriculture remains the economic activity that generates more employment. Colombia is among the countries in which the participation of wage labor in agriculture is greater than the family labor, however in our country, agricultural family production is more important than capitalist (Forero, 2003). For this, you can highlight two very important aspects, first that agriculture and the rural economy remain very important in the world and that agricultural, rural, environmental and agricultural and food policies can continue to remain a priority on the national and international agenda. Second, the relative position of

Latin America can be seen as an interesting case of economic progress since its rural population is lower in the global context but an indicator of the serious limitations of the region to develop agriculture (Forero, 2003; Comunidad, 2011).

In Latin America, the first country that took this commitment and embodied as a National Development Plan with its program “Zero Hunger” was Brazil. In Venezuela is the National Nutrition Plan, the Food Bank in Mexico, different projects of national Food Security in Cuba, Dominican Republic, Colombia and Peru and policies and programs of Food Safety of medium and large scale in countries such as Algeria, Jordan, Nigeria, South Africa, Sierra Leone, Ghana, Indonesia, Mozambique, Senegal, Kenya and Tanzania.

In Colombia it began with the formulation of the National Food and Nutrition Plan, then with the 10 Year’s Plan for the promotion, protection and support of breastfeeding and later the National Policy on National Nutrition and Safety (PNFS). In the world about 70% of the 1.4 billion poor people live in rural areas of developing countries in Colombia, 3.5 million farmer’s supply 40% of the country’s food but at the same time is the most vulnerable population with the highest percentage of insecurity food (Deslinde). In Colombia, the rural economy uses 80% of its production for own consumption. According to published by the FAO,

925 million people suffer hunger in the world and about 75% live in rural areas and women represent on average 45% of the agricultural labor force but with wage discrimination if would be equal it will contribute to reducing hunger between 12-17%. Also, according to FAO, the official agricultural support fell from 17% in 1979 to 3.5% in 2004 and the corresponding public expenditure to agriculture has dropped approximately 7% in developing countries. The rural population has increased anemia, lower consumption of dairy products, increased abdominal obesity in women, lower consumption of vegetables and lower daily consumption of meat and eggs. The 78% of agricultural production units in Latin America correspond to small and medium producers. The population growth, expansion of ranching and increasing use of agrochemicals contribute to the deterioration of natural resources and increase food insecurity (Comunidad, 2011).

According to the above, the objective of this manuscript is to understand and know that the only access to food does not guarantee food safety, sanitary conditions (safety), physical quality and nutritional balance thereof are the aspects most relevant to achieve safety food.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

A descriptive study of prospective using secondary sources for this purpose was conducted. Initially, a documentary information and review of available databases on the analysis of safety food and its considerations in the rural sector was made. The type of research applied to this research is the exploratory type which investigates everything that existed, exists or could exist on the issue of safety food and relations with the rural sector and also aims to clarify understanding, identifying synergies and delimitation of the analyzed subject.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The criteria for the formulation of policies, plans and safety food programs in the rural sector can be:

Mutual benefit, win-win: An example in Ethiopia of a successful program is providing food in exchange of support public works with the community when the family aren't busy in agricultural or also are supplied with agricultural packages to increase agricultural production. For programs get structured and reach the people who really need it, it should take only one registration or information system where data of poor living conditions

people are properly recorded and with this manner select whom must be the beneficiaries of which programs and at the same time register them. Additionally is relevant to carry out continues assessments to observe how change the living conditions of the beneficiaries, if they are using the benefits in a correctly way and if their situation have changed at that point such are not necessary to receive any benefit. It is important to characterize the population group that will work to design the policy, the plan or program in line with its peculiarities, i.e., that in many cases it is better to establish municipal development plans and promote active participation of the community in them.

Institutional support and budget, revision of the entities involved in the field to assess their performance and contribution for the reduction of food insecurity as some benefit some little or large economic groups. In the evaluation of a food project should consider compliance, the impact at social, environmental and economic level and the influence on the right to food. When they go to design policies and programs of food and nutritional safety, you have to observe what are currently, to prevent that the population objective are the same, also the duplications in the beneficiaries and resources. It is often not to formulate new actions is better to evaluate the existing to improve them. Also, sometimes it is important to consider initiatives and practices of the communities to solve their problem of hunger, since these experiences may prove to be equally successful when applied to a higher level and integrate with the other programs. The idea is often not start from scratch but to integrate and consolidate.

National Food Security (NFS), if the community is involved in the formulation, execution and assessment of the NFS's policies and programs will see a greater commitment from the public and private organizations and surely they will get best results. It is important to sensitize the whole population about the problem of food insecurity and let them know how they can participate in programs designed and help others. For example, in companies where products aren't good for the market but well for consumption, rather than throw them away, you can donate to organizations that distribute them to people in need (Shenggen, 2010).

Formulate and execute a national Food Safety Policy Order of long term it will become a national commitment rather than simple plans. There must be continuity in policies, plans and successful programs which should not be affected by changes of government.

Policies that combine short-term actions should be established as are the actions of humanitarian aid to the population with structural actions of long term and

transcend between governments that promote the reduction of food insecurity in the small producer within the rural population.

All plans, programs and policies should strive for generate a self-sustaining small producer and does not rely forever on state actions, the success of these is to meet this objective, the success is that after their implementation only be done monitoring, control and improvement, must comply with the PDCA (Plan-Do-Check-Act). The Policies, Plans and Programs (PPP) should involve all sectors: health, education, trade, agriculture and environment with affordable goals.

Make the necessary community training for the promotion of the PPP and prior to the field team to facilitate the pickup information processes and measurement progress, like the validation of the formats to use. Promote the formation of community promoters to multiply the lessons learned in the training to give continuity, so that is installed in the community capacity (Forero, 2003).

Articulate the nutritional education with the production process, to ensure proper learning community under study and achieve greater consistency and improve results. Comprehensiveness of the PPP and its success is to do monitoring, tracking and assessing through the construction of measurable indicators in the proposal because they will allow the analysis and socialization of knowledge useful for making decision at different levels (Forero, 2003).

This leads to the important aspirations felt by most rural families getting their food security and increase their income with minimal risk. Start by meeting these aspirations felt and get themselves do, through concrete actions, it is an interesting strategy to break the vicious circle of underdevelopment. Once given this first step, farmers feel that if they are able to solve their food problems and increase their income, also be able to solve other problems that affect them. The polity could concentrate their efforts and resources in some strategic activities and execute them as really efficient for all farmers. Among these activities we can mention: rural basic education, generation and dissemination of technologies, training of farmers and implementation of some infrastructure projects. These are the four major challenges facing the agricultural sector and that the polity should invest.

The main aspects that can develop the polity in its Policies, Programs and Plans (PPP) for reducing food insecurity in rural population (small peasant producer) may be as follows (Sepulveda, 1996):

Promote partnership between farmers to reduce middlemen, to be more productive, increase volumes of

production and access to benefits and credits. Develop models that lead the integration of small farmers in productive chains with fair and equitable wages.

Aid programs in Food Security (FS) must be complemented by economic development actions so they are not constantly in the same population. It should encourage, strengthen and support family farming and agriculture for subsistence. The government must develop strategies that stabilize food prices that make up the basic basket and not generated a negative effect in the prices in terms of tax issues. Higher food prices do not allow them to save or improve housing.

The policies, plans and programs should be developed to benefit mainly the rural population and not a few should be formulated policies to support the Colombian peasant who is the most important actor in the production of food and its delivery to major cities. It should protect the traditional peasant of the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) as it is to being salaried in the sweatshops and services sector with low-wages. International trades establish the obligation that has the polity to respect access to food and refrain from taking actions that affect or worsen the current situation of the population but currently this is not fulfill and we saw recently with the agricultural strike that present in our country.

Encourage and promote the use of own or autochthonous seeds because they can reduce costs production and increase safety food. Strengthen the processes of recovery and use of native seeds. The technological proposals developed to increase yields should be done without affecting the future of farmers, without causing major environmental agronomic, social and economic risks because of the overuse of chemicals fertilizers.

Promote community participation in favor of development and improvements in safety food and production issues. Investing in agriculture, social protection, agricultural research, extension services and rural infrastructure to generate large impacts on agricultural productivity. Formulate a national policy in Safety Food (SF) of polity order and long-term to become a national commitment rather than simple plans. Strengthen traditional production systems, including the conservation, use, management, sharing of local knowledge and genetics resources and strengthening sustainable agro ecological proposals to ensure the SF and cultural identity.

Credit must have the target of stimulate the introduction of technological and management innovations, improve production efficiency and increase agricultural productivity but often the opposite happens,

more than encourage the credit should promote jointly invest to reduce rural credit. Incentives and land restitution incentivize decrease of Insecurity Food (IF) in the rural population. Investment projects must be consistent with the strategies of SF and rural development, ensuring land tenure and non forced eviction of the population.

A production model that can help reduce levels of Food Insecurity (FI) in the rural population is agro ecological family farming which has been implemented in the countries of the Andean Community of Nations (ACN). It is a support for family subsistence agriculture since the 66% of the population living in extreme poverty in the ACN countries, representing 400 million people. This is a very viable option for reducing FI in this population. Within the Andean countries, Bolivia is the only country that has a framework for promoting agro-ecology; Colombia has been dispersed in the subject (Navarro *et al.*, 2010; Perez *et al.*, 2002; Rodriguez, 2010).

CONCLUSION

The results of the application of different methodologies for the assessment of the food safety show that the rural population has higher levels of food insecurity and nutrient deficiencies because safety food implies dignified and decent life for humans. Additionally, it is very important for the small producer, the measurement of the agricultural ecosystem as it boost agro-ecological family farming, organic production model and technique of growing coffee in shady to who apply. This will allow them to be more productive and sustainable without having to rely so heavily on what the government does for this population and this sense. Currently, there is no method to measure the level of food insecurity of the small producer (rural farmers) in Colombia. There are different methodologies that measure

the 5 axes that make up the food safety, each one, one or various of the 5 axes but not all at the same time and do for both, rural and urban population.

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