

CFS43 Plenary
Discussion - Sustainable Agricultural Development for Food Security
and Nutrition including the Role of Livestock
October 17, 2016

Elizabeth Mpofu, farmer from Zimbabwe, ZIMSOFF, General Coordinator of La Via Campesina:

- As CSM, we would like to point out the urgent need to assess the impact of different productive systems on livestock. Some had very negative impacts on livestock breeders, pastoralists and rural communities.
- The policy convergence process has recognised the existence of different productive systems for livestock, however there was no equal recognition that these do not cohabit in harmony. In contrary, there are increasing tensions and conflicts that derive by the hegemonic, homogenizing and predatory nature of the industrial and intensive system.
- The intensive production systems had destroying effects not only on smallholders' lives but also on environment causing land grabbing and the destruction our natural resources. As a result, as smallholder producers we are pressured by intensive and unsustainable livestock production.
- That's why we need to address the impacts of intensification on dairy, poultry, livestock production. The milk crisis we are living today is a result of this intensive production system
- Our way of production based on agroecology and traditional knowledge is sustainable. We need to differentiate the intensive production systems and our livestock production which provides healthy and nutritious food.
- We also need to recognise that our systems are inherently sustainable and capable of addressing the multiple livelihoods, health and ecological crises that we confront. Others are not. This means that some of them should be strengthened and some should be limited.
- This is where public policies are necessary. We need public policies that recognize the central role of Smallholders in livestock production.