

Working Group Urbanization and Rural Transformation implications on food security and Nutrition

Intervention of Elene Shatberashvili, Biological Farmer Association Elkana/LVC, Georgia, on behalf of the CSM Working Group on Urbanisation and Rural Transformation

We strongly believe that the CFS as the overarching body working across the food systems and nutrition based on the human rights approach is the best place to discuss urbanization and rural transformation in a holistic way, from the point of view of territorial approaches and overcoming rural-urban dichotomies. In this sense, it is fundamental to take into account the potential of agro ecological food systems in creating a space for youth & women employment opportunities, including resilience to climate change, use of traditional knowledge and agricultural biodiversity, giving more space for peoples innovations and autonomous production.

However, we also have to take into account, that while the UN institutions have an important role in knowledge sharing, they are not the only producers of knowledge and solutions. In this sense it is especially important to build on the knowledge from the grassroots, which have to be considered not only as the recipients of the “modern knowledge”, but the contributors and definers of both problems and solutions.

With this intervention we would also like to echo the debate on the CFS evaluation this morning. The workstream on urbanization and rural transformation was going on for the last 2 years; however we feel that the CFS was not able to use this opportunity as it could, to have a comprehensive policy dialogue with good participation of state, especially those without permanent representation in Rome. Thus we expect that intercessional events in 2018 will be able to identify key policy convergence issues which will serve as a basis for policy recommendations finally adapted by the CFS plenary.