

# World Development Report 2008

## *Agriculture for Development*

### Some viewpoints

Aksel Naerstad



#### **MORE and BETTER**

An International Campaign for Food, Agriculture and Rural Development Aid to eradicate Hunger and Poverty

#### **MÁS Y MEJOR**

Una Campaña Internacional para la Ayuda a la Alimentación, a la Agricultura y al Desarrollo para erradicar el Hambre y la Pobreza

#### **PLUS ET MIEUX**

Campagne internationale pour l'aide à l'alimentation, à l'agriculture et au développement rural pour éliminer la pauvreté et la faim

# Is the report important?

- I am not speaking on behalf of either More and Better or the Development Fund.
- The first World Bank Development Report on agriculture in 20 years
- Different views on the importance:
  - Not important
  - Very important
- Different views also on the contents?



**MORE and BETTER**

An International Campaign for Food, Agriculture and Rural Development Aid to eradicate Hunger and Poverty

**MÁS Y MEJOR**

Una Campaña Internacional para la Ayuda a la Alimentación, a la Agricultura y al Desarrollo para erradicar el Hambre y la Pobreza

**PLUS ET MIEUX**

Campagne internationale pour l'aide à l'alimentation, à l'agriculture et au développement rural pour éliminer la pauvreté et la faim

# A mixed report

- Many viewpoints most of us will agree on.
- **BUT** most of us will disagree on a lot of the contents.
- It is also partly schizophrenic
- I think the report will influence policies a lot, and that it is dangerous.



**MORE and BETTER**

An International Campaign for Food, Agriculture and Rural Development Aid to eradicate Hunger and Poverty

**MÁS Y MEJOR**

Una Campaña Internacional para la Ayuda a la Alimentación, a la Agricultura y al Desarrollo para erradicar el Hambre y la Pobreza

**PLUS ET MIEUX**

Campagne internationale pour l'aide à l'alimentation, à l'agriculture et au développement rural pour éliminer la pauvreté et la faim

# Some good perspectives

1. Agriculture is important for economic development and crucial for the eradication of poverty.
2. Priority must be given to the support of small scale farmers / peasants.
3. The importance of farmers' organizations is underlined.
4. State regulation, support and interventions are necessary.
5. Local and national markets are most important



**MORE and BETTER**

An International Campaign for Food, Agriculture and Rural Development Aid to eradicate Hunger and Poverty

**MÁS Y MEJOR**

Una Campaña Internacional para la Ayuda a la Alimentación, a la Agricultura y al Desarrollo para erradicar el Hambre y la Pobreza

**PLUS ET MIEUX**

Campagne internationale pour l'aide à l'alimentation, à l'agriculture et au développement rural pour éliminer la pauvreté et la faim

## Good perspectives - continues

6. To strengthen agriculture it is necessary also to strengthen infrastructure, education, health care, credit possibilities etc
7. Peasants need to move from subsistence farmers to also earn money on the farming.
8. It is necessary to create other work possibilities for peasants; industry, services etc.
9. Underline environmental issues



**MORE and BETTER**

An International Campaign for Food, Agriculture and Rural Development Aid to eradicate Hunger and Poverty

**MÁS Y MEJOR**

Una Campaña Internacional para la Ayuda a la Alimentación, a la Agricultura y al Desarrollo para erradicar el Hambre y la Pobreza

**PLUS ET MIEUX**

Campagne internationale pour l'aide à l'alimentation, à l'agriculture et au développement rural pour éliminer la pauvreté et la faim

# Schizophrenic

The report is schizophrenic on some issues.

- It says that local and national markets are the most important and that small scale farmers need protection.
- **BUT** it also promotes free trade and the WTO Doha agenda
- It says that state interventions in the market are needed and criticises the closing down of marketing boards etc
- **BUT** it is promoting free market and market based solutions



**MORE and BETTER**

An International Campaign for Food, Agriculture and Rural Development Aid to eradicate Hunger and Poverty

**MÁS Y MEJOR**

Una Campaña Internacional para la Ayuda a la Alimentación, a la Agricultura y al Desarrollo para erradicar el Hambre y la Pobreza

**PLUS ET MIEUX**

Campagne internationale pour l'aide à l'alimentation, à l'agriculture et au développement rural pour éliminer la pauvreté et la faim



# Policies against peasants

The overall policies are promoting unsustainable agriculture and policies not in the interest of the majority of farmers.

1. Totally market based (“market failures”)
2. Promotes neoliberalism
3. The power of the multinational companies cannot be challenged according to the Bank.



**MORE and BETTER**

An International Campaign for Food, Agriculture and Rural Development Aid to eradicate Hunger and Poverty

**MÁS Y MEJOR**

Una Campaña Internacional para la Ayuda a la Alimentación, a la Agricultura y al Desarrollo para erradicar el Hambre y la Pobreza

**PLUS ET MIEUX**

Campagne internationale pour l'aide à l'alimentation, à l'agriculture et au développement rural pour éliminer la pauvreté et la faim

## Policies against peasants - continues

4. Promotes public-private partnership with big companies
5. Promotes biotechnology – GMOs etc
6. Promotes emigration in stead of developing the rural areas
7. The report doesn't even mention food sovereignty!



**MORE and BETTER**

An International Campaign for Food, Agriculture and Rural Development Aid to eradicate Hunger and Poverty

**MÁS Y MEJOR**

Una Campaña Internacional para la Ayuda a la Alimentación, a la Agricultura y al Desarrollo para erradicar el Hambre y la Pobreza

**PLUS ET MIEUX**

Campagne internationale pour l'aide à l'alimentation, à l'agriculture et au développement rural pour éliminer la pauvreté et la faim



# Practice is more important than words

- The world Bank has very often changed its rhetoric.
- We have to look at its practice. Please give examples!



**MORE and BETTER**

An International Campaign for Food, Agriculture and Rural Development Aid to eradicate Hunger and Poverty

**MÁS Y MEJOR**

Una Campaña Internacional para la Ayuda a la Alimentación, a la Agricultura y al Desarrollo para erradicar el Hambre y la Pobreza

**PLUS ET MIEUX**

Campagne internationale pour l'aide à l'alimentation, à l'agriculture et au développement rural pour éliminer la pauvreté et la faim

# My conclusions

- It is a dangerous report
- It will be used by the bank, agencies and governments, so it will be very important.
- We can use parts of it in a positive way for us
- We need to develop and promote alternatives
- Food Sovereignty and Agroecological alternatives.



**MORE and BETTER**

An International Campaign for Food, Agriculture and Rural Development Aid to eradicate Hunger and Poverty

**MÁS Y MEJOR**

Una Campaña Internacional para la Ayuda a la Alimentación, a la Agricultura y al Desarrollo para erradicar el Hambre y la Pobreza

**PLUS ET MIEUX**

Campagne internationale pour l'aide à l'alimentation, à l'agriculture et au développement rural pour éliminer la pauvreté et la faim



[www.moreandbeter.org](http://www.moreandbeter.org)