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More and Better Newsletter

N°1 - February 2010

This is the first regular newsletter of the More and Better campaign and will be issued, from now on, on a monthly basis. If you have any information, news or contributions you would like to share with the More and Better network through this newsletter please send it to secretariat@moreandbetter.org

Follow the money

In 2009, the G8 countries promised to invest 22 billion US\$ in aid for agriculture to developing countries over the next three years. Other donor and developing countries are scaling up their support for agriculture and rural development, while new money has been also promised during climate change negotiations to help developing countries adapt to climate change. But how much of this can still be identified as 'new' money? For what exactly and through which channels these funds will be provided? UN institutions are trying to map and track the money on a global level. More and Better and its member organizations should try to work on national and local level, in order to find out how much money (new and old) is going to agricultural and rural development, how it is spent – and elaborate how the money should be spent. We encourage all organizations in More and Better to engage in this and to share the information within the network.

Good or Bad Aid? – New book from More and Better

In December 2009 More and Better has published a book that focuses on the quality of aid to agriculture and rural development by presenting 15 case studies from 12 countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America. The case studies describe concrete projects and the impact (good or bad) they have had on beneficiaries, taking as reference the principles developed by More and Better. The book also includes an overview of the economic aid given to agriculture and rural development and some facts about the countries involved in the case studies. The English version is available for download at www.moreandbetter.org and the French version will soon be available. If you wish to receive a copy of the book, please send an e-mail to secretariat@moreandbetter.org.

The reform of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS)

An important reform of the UN committee on World Food Security has taken place. The first phase of the reform was agreed on in the meeting of the committee in October and approved by the FAO conference in November, last year. Two very important issues in the reform process are the integration of other UN agencies in the committee and the strengthening of the participation and influence of civil society, especially the organizations of small scale food producers. Representatives from civil society will be members of the advisory committee for the CFS, of the high level panel of experts, and the CFS. A civil society mechanism will be established to ensure that all the organizations which want to feed into the work of the CFS, can have a channel for their input. See more information at www.foodsovereignty.org and www.fao.org/cfs/en/.

Input to anti-hunger documents

Two important documents for the fight against hunger and malnutrition are now going to be revised and we encourage organizations in More and Better to participate in this process:

1. **Policies and actions to eradicate hunger and malnutrition** - www.eradicatehunger.org

The working document "Policies and actions to eradicate hunger and malnutrition" was published

in November last year. It was developed through a process in which many civil society organizations took part, including several from More and Better. About 250 organizations have signed on to an open letter and the summary of the working document. The drafting committee for the document will soon discuss comments, notices and proposals for the improvement of the document. We encourage you to send in your contribution **before March 1st** to info@eradicatehunger.org

2. **Comprehensive Framework for Action for Food Security for All (CFA) -**

www.un.org/issues/food/taskforce/Documentation/CFA_Web.pdf

This document was developed in 2008 by the UN High-Level Task Force on the Food Crisis (HLTF). The document from civil society organizations (CSO's), "Policies and actions to eradicate hunger and malnutrition" (see above) has this description of the CFA:

"The Comprehensive Framework for Action (CFA) developed by the UN High-Level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis promotes some positive policies such as giving increased importance and support to smallholder agriculture and sustainable food production systems, and to a paradigm shift in urban planning. However, at the same time the CFA also promotes policies and actions that will increase hunger, malnutrition and poverty, exacerbate climate change, and undermine biodiversity and soil fertility. These include further trade liberalisation, unsustainable, chemical-intensive agriculture and increased power to corporations and the World Bank. The CFA thus cannot be the foundational document for policies and actions to ensure adequate food for all."

The High-Level Task Force (HLTF) is going to revise the CFA and would like to receive inputs also from civil society organizations. The HLTF has underlined that inputs from any organization will not be interpreted as an approval of the document, so organizations should not be afraid of being misused as a supporter of the CFA if they send in comments and proposals for changes. Some representatives from CSO's, especially from small scale food producers, will probably be invited to take part in a meeting in Ireland April to discuss the revision of the CFA. For comments and suggestion for changes in the CFA: Matthew.Cousins@undp.org

Common actions for commitments to eradicate hunger and malnutrition

Last year many organizations in More and Better took part in discussions about a common global campaign to eradicate hunger and malnutrition. Information about this was given on the MaB webpage and e-mail list. There will not be a common global campaign, but many organizations will cooperate and advocate together. One key element will be to try to get governments to make plans for how they will fulfill their commitments to half the number of hungry people by 2015 and to eradicate hunger and malnutrition as soon as possible. You can read more about this at www.moreandbetter.org