Agriculture

This session will consider issues and questions arising from the CHOGM 2011 Communiqué (http://bit.ly/ueOhqK) and the Commonwealth Civil Society Statement, also presented to CHOGM (http://bit.ly/tbodI3).

Problems

Although the CHOGM Communiqué and the Commonwealth Civil Society Statement have not mentioned agricultural issues, Heads of Government found the issue of food security to be of such importance that the Perth Declaration on Food Security Principles was agreed in October 2011.

This document has been issued in response to the various challenges surrounding this issue. Global food and humanitarian crises, drought and famine, population growth and increased urbanisation all contribute to the problems.

Paragraph 3 of the Declaration suggests that member states might use the document as a guideline for implementing national policies.

Commonwealth perspective and questions

Paragraph 7 of the Perth Declaration lays out the agreements of members on the issue of food security. There is a call to build resilience against future crises.

- What is the impact of agriculture on communities at a local level (trade, subsistence living, economies)?
- What protections can be put in place?

In discussions on sustainability, much mention has been made of natural resources and particularly fisheries.

- How can we manage fisheries more effectively?
- Are there problems with illegal fishing?
- How can we minimise the effects of climate change on fish stocks?

Need to consider ways to increase economic opportunity in the field of agriculture – look at problems with storage, waste reduction, and post-harvest loss.

CSC Professional Networks
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