

Glossary

AGRICULTURAL FRONTIER

The boundary between cultivated and non-cultivated land. Traditionally understood as the line separating woods and fields, so it is usually said that the agricultural frontier advances at the cost of the woods when agricultural land increases. The agricultural frontier recedes when cultivated land is lost, generally speaking due to human activity (urban pressure, environmental degradation, etc.).

AGROECOLOGY

Agricultural concept which combines environmental and social considerations, focusing not only on production but on the sustainability of the production system. It believes factors such as a collapse in market prices or changes in land ownership can have serious consequences for agricultural systems, such as drought, pest infestations or loss of nutrients from the soil. (Opciones, nº 12)

CONSUMER COOPERATIVES

Groups of people who form associations for healthy and secure consumption. They order products direct from the producer, avoiding intermediaries and paying a fair price for the product, always using the principles of agroecology and fair trade as a basis. Some

consist of consumers and producers and others only of consumers. In addition to doing this, they usually promote critical, social and environmentally responsible consumption.

DUMPING

According to the World Trade Organisation (WTO), a company practices dumping when it exports a product at a price below the normal market price in its own country, or even below the cost of producing it. It is considered to be unfair competition, because the company practicing it destabilises the market and causes serious harm to local producers. It is especially serious in impoverished countries, where this practice by multinational companies damages the fabric of local production.

ECOLOGICAL FOOTPRINT

Represents the area of land needed to provide resources to a person or human group and the surface needed to absorb their waste. The human footprint is too big: the print we leave is at the moment more than a third bigger than the total surface of the planet, but we do not all have the same shoe size: the print left by industrialised countries is four times the size of the impoverished countries and double what would be sustainable. It is very difficult to calculate exactly each person's

print, but it can help us to make decisions on our lifestyle: www.footprintnetwork.org/es.

ENERGY INEFFICIENCY

Investing more energy in a process than is gained from it. Energy efficiency is the reduction in energy consumption whilst obtaining the same energy goods and services, the same or better quality of life, with less pollution, whilst protecting the environment, ensuring its supply and encouraging a sustainable approach to its use.

FAO (WWW.FAO.ORG)

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. Based in Rome, its mission is to achieve food security for everyone.

FOOD INSECURITY

Is when people lack access to a sufficient amount of safe and nutritional food and so are not eating enough to develop an active and healthy life. This could be due to the lack of food availability, insufficient purchasing power or inappropriate use of food at family level (FAO).

FOOD SECURITY

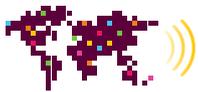
Exists when everyone has physical and economic access at all times to sufficient healthy and nutritional food to satisfy their food needs and preferences to lead an active and healthy life (World Food Summit, 1996)..

FOOD SOVEREIGNTY

The right of each group of people and every country to ensure a food supply that is sufficient, healthy, and linked to their cultural traditions and local markets.

FUTURES MARKET

Is a market in which parties negotiate contracts promising to buy or sell goods or securities at a future date, at a price set beforehand at the time of signing the contract. Its original purpose was to act as a form of insurance, especially to cover the risk of droughts and to attempt to guarantee a sufficient purchase price. But with the technological advances of the financial markets, this basic purpose has stopped being the most important and has turned into what is mostly a virtual market, on which commodities (oil, minerals, etc.), agricultural produce, financial assets, interest rates, etc. can be negotiated. The futures market has now become a virtual market, on which it is not even necessary to physically own them (i.e. be real owners of goods or services) to trade them. Now they are markets where in essence a gamble is made on what their future trading value will be, without needing to hold title to the goods or assets, something which creates tensions in the value of real exchange.



GMO

A genetically modified product or genetically modified organism (GMO) is a living being that has been injected with genetic material from other species through genetic engineering techniques that normally only take place in specialist laboratories. Combining genetic material from organisms from different species, families or even kingdoms of living beings involves jumping the natural barriers that guide the functioning of ecosystems. (Grup de Petroaliments)

GREEN REVOLUTION

A plan to increase agricultural productivity driven forward by FAO in the Sixties and at the beginning of the Seventies to find and distribute high-performance seeds, especially of wheat, corn and rice, with the aim of ending world hunger. Between 1961 and 1980 cereal harvests grew at a rate of 2% per annum, even more in developing countries, but with time serious disadvantages have become apparent, such as the large amounts of fertilisers and pesticides, as well as water, these plants demand, encouraging large-scale agriculture to the detriment of small farmers. And, what is more, it has not ended hunger.

HUNGER

Feeling which indicates the need for food or desire and need to eat. According to FAO,

'the concept of hunger is usually used in situations of intense food deprivation'.

People who are chronically hungry are undernourished. They do not eat sufficient food to obtain the energy needed to develop an active life. **Starvation** is considered to be a serious lack of food, which usually affects a large geographic area or significant group of people. It is usually accompanied by population movements, the spread of epidemics, destruction of communities and, in the most serious cases, an increase in the death rate of the population.

HYBRID SEEDS

Seeds which are the result of the cross-breeding of related species, generally by controlled pollination, with the aim of improving production: plants more resistant to pests and insects, with a better appearance, etc. The drawback is that the seeds of these plants cannot be used for sowing.

MALNUTRITION

A broad term which indicates any abnormal physiological state due to an inadequate or unbalanced diet. It refers both to **undernourishment** (lack of food) and **overeating** (excessive consumption in relation to energy requirements) and **undernourishment** (regular food intake which does not reach minimum energy requirements).

PRODUCTIVISM

Organisation of society based on the belief that measurable economic productivity and growth are the priority and final objective of human organisation, considering that the highest possible production of material goods is necessarily a good thing for the economy and for society.

RIGHT TO FOOD

The right to food is the right for everyone to have regular, permanent and unrestricted access, either directly or by means of financial purchases, to quantitatively and qualitatively adequate and sufficient food, and which corresponds to the cultural traditions of the people to which the consumer belongs, and which ensures a physical and mental, individual and collective, fulfilling and dignified life free from fear. (UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food).

TRACEABILITY

A system which allows the life cycle of food to be identified at all its stages: production, processing and distribution.

WORLD BANK (www.bancomundial.org)

Forms part of the United Nations system. Although it was created in 1944 to facilitate reconstruction and development after the Second World War, its official mission now is 'to fight against poverty through a process of inclusive and sustainable globalisation'. However, its policies do not always meet such high ideals.

ZERO-MILE FOOD

Refers to the distance food travels from where it is produced until it reaches our plates and, of course, it is not a literal expression; it means 'as near as possible, local'.