



## Glossary of Terms

Some of the terms used throughout the workshop may be new or unfamiliar to some participants. Below are some definitions to help explain the terms to participants.

**Agribusiness**—Any or all of the various businesses involved in industrial food production, including farming, seed supply, agrichemicals, farm machinery, wholesale and distribution, processing, marketing, and retail sales.

**Cash crop**—Crop grown for money, as opposed to a subsistence crop which is grown to feed a farmer's family. **Cash crops** differ depending on region. Common **cash crops** include coffee, cocoa, sugar cane, bananas and cotton. **Agribusiness** tends to encourage production towards **cash crops** for national and international markets and away from those which can be consumed locally and sold on local markets. Dependency and reliance on **cash crops** has harmful environmental consequences.

**Commodity**—Item or good that can be bought and sold for profit.

**Food Sovereignty**—Right of peoples and communities to define their own food and agricultural systems. This includes the right to know where one's food comes from and how it is produced, and is best understood in contrast to the current system, wherein food is largely subject to the international market or the global economy and people are alienated from their food supply.

**Free Trade or Trade Liberalization**—Flow of goods and services between nations without taxes, quotas or other barriers to imports or exports. This includes the free movement of goods and services without trade-distorting policies such as subsidies (payments), tariffs (taxes on imports and exports), regulations or laws. Examples include the policies of the North American **Free Trade Agreement** (treaty between the United States, Mexico and Canada) or the Central American **Free Trade Agreement** (between the United States, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Dominican Republic).

**Globalization**—Changes in societies and the world economy that result from dramatically increased international trade and cultural exchange. Globalization describes the increase of trade and investing due to the falling of barriers as well as the interdependence of countries. In specifically economic contexts, the term refers almost exclusively to the effects of trade, particularly trade liberalization or **Free Trade**. Note: This definition of Globalization is also referred to by many social movements as Globalization from Above or Corporate Globalization, as opposed to **Globalization from Below** (see next).

**Globalization from Below**—Collection of individuals and groups who advocate fair international trading rules and are critical of current institutions of global economic governance. This is an alternative globalization where communities around the world are forming alliances, finding alternative ways of organizing and developing new concepts of agriculture, industry ecology and how they should be managed.



## Glossary of Terms, continued

**International Monetary Fund**—International organization responsible for overseeing the international financial system. Established in 1944, its main roles are: to supervise the policies of its member countries on monetary and international trade issues; to act as a lender of last resort for governments; and to oversee exchange rates and payments flowing into and out of one country to another to ensure international economic stability. The **IMF** also offers technical assistance and promotes international trade. It is often under criticism for placing conditionalities on its loans and services.

**Landless Workers Movement (MST)**—Brazilian Movimento dos Trabalhadores Rurais Sem Terra (**MST**). Latin America's largest popular movement. The **MST** has been at the forefront of social action for just land distribution, working with peasants to identify and settle on underutilized land, to gain legal title to the land and to bring it into productive use. Through the **MST**'s efforts, close to 300,000 families have been settled on 17 million acres of land and another 70,000 families are living in encampments, awaiting title to their land.

**Movement**—Large group of people or organizations united by a common ideology and working together to bring about social change on a specific political or social issue.

**Movman Peyizan Papay (MPP)**—Peasant Movement of Papaye. The oldest association of rural agricultural workers in Haiti, with a broad range of self-help development activities aimed at improving quality of life. The **MPP**'s program areas include: training in leadership and organization; agricultural production and animal husbandry; cooperatives (ceramics, sewing, as well as agricultural production and marketing); and health care.

**Neo-liberal Economics**—Political-economic policies that aim to reduce or reject government intervention in domestic economies, but favor the use of political power to open nations to entry by multinational corporations. In a broader sense it is used to describe the movement towards using the market to achieve a wide range of social ends previously filled by government.

**Palestinian Agriculture Relief Committee (PARC)**—Most important player in the Palestinian agricultural sector. **PARC** was founded to build greater food security at the household, community and territorial levels. **PARC** focuses on rural development, environmental protection, and strengthening women's position in society in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Specific units within the organization target food security; protection against land confiscation; creating job opportunities; and improving the position of rural women.

**Public Good**—Good that, once provided to one person, should be accessible to all in the same quantity. Economists define a **Public Good** as by nature non-rivalrous and non-exclusive.

**Resource Rights**—Fundamental human rights to access to clean water to land for food production and the other resources necessary to guarantee healthy lives. Grassroots International's **Resource Rights for All Initiative** rests on the belief that local control of and access to natural resources such as land, water and genetic material (e.g., seed stocks) is fundamental to sustaining rural livelihoods. Vital for food and health, these resources are part of the "global commons" and ought to be accessible to everyone.



## Glossary of Terms, continued

**State Coordinator of Coffee Producers of Oaxaca (CEPCO)**—CEPCO works with a membership of some 23,000 coffee-growing families to improve their economic security. Founded in the context of a plunge in world coffee prices and subsequent dismantling of government support for small coffee producers, **CEPCO** has been instrumental in strengthening coffee production, improving marketing, and linking growers to the fair trade market. It has also emphasized crop diversification and the exploration of alternative sources of income to lessen the dependence on coffee, especially through projects with women.

**Structural Adjustment**—Policy that promotes a combination of **neo-liberal** economic policies including privatization of state enterprises and cutting of social services in order to reduce a poor country's debt and facilitate its entry into international investment and trade markets. These policies are put forward by the **World Bank** and other international finance institutions.

**Via Campesina**—International movement which coordinates peasant organizations of small and middle-scale producers, agricultural workers, rural women, and indigenous communities from Asia, Africa, The Americas, and Europe. They advocate family-farm-based sustainable agriculture and were the group that first coined the term "**Food Sovereignty**".

**World Bank**—International organization which provides loans and technical assistance to countries for the purposes of economic development and poverty reduction. The bank promotes **Neo-liberal** economics and private investment. It often receives criticism for placing conditionalities on loans to recipient countries which many argue undermines national sovereignty.

**World Trade Organization**—International organization established to provide ground rules for international trade. It is also charged with overseeing the regulation and implementation for trade agreements. One of the organization's tasks is to create trade policies that help lift poor nations out of poverty. The organization has been accused of implementing trade policies that favor rich countries, thus creating more poverty instead of reducing it.