

# Constitutionalisation of food sovereignty

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Food sovereignty is a fundamental right of the people, local communities and the state to decide and implement their agricultural and food policies and strategies for sustainable production and distribution. It is the right to produce food sustainably and the right of access to productive resources such as land, water, seeds, bio-diversity, etc, for sustainable utilization. Sustainable agriculture is the way forward for the food sovereignty. The following points can be incorporated into it:

The new interim constitution of Nepal incorporated food sovereignty as a fundamental right of Nepali people. Food Sovereignty is the inherent right of every citizen. The main purpose of constitutional status to Food Sovereignty as a fundamental right of people lies on the fact that in a country of multi-ethnicity and cultures such as Dalits, indigenous people, women and lagged behind communities, the right to food can not be realized without widening the access of peasantry to land resources. Therefore, land reform is designed to ensure peasants and land agricultural laborers' rights through people's awareness, mobilization and pressure build-up.

- Genuine agrarian reform for social justice and productivity increase
- Access and control over natural resources (land, water, seeds, forests, biodiversity)
- Protection of local and traditional knowledge
- Participation of small producers on decision-making process and policy formation
- Pro-people/small farmer based research
- Protection of agriculture and livelihood
- Regulation of trade affecting agriculture and other food industries
- National food distribution policies premised on community food production
- Pro-people, proactive food relief, food subsidy, nutrition policies
- Ensuring affordable basic food items through combination of regulation and centralized provision
- Policies for remote and disadvantaged areas/peoples/tribals
- Regulation of trade and investment

Mali, Senegal, Venezuela, Bolivia have explicitly included "food sovereignty" in their constitution or sectoral development plans and a few other countries have similar provisions without explicitly using the term of food sovereignty.

## Role of the international communities:

- The international community can play a supportive role in this process of making a new constitution and ensure food sovereignty
- A supportive role can be expected in the implementation of land reform program.
- Promote and support family farm practices
- Increase investment on agriculture infrastructure (irrigation, production, post-harvest facilities, other social services, investment on research-pro farmers)
- Provide space for social movements in policy making (project planning, design, implementation, monitoring)