



## MIJARC EUROPE

Mouvement International de la Jeunesse Agricole et Rurale Catholique  
International Movement of Catholic Agricultural and Rural Youth  
Movimiento Internacional de la Juventud Agraria y Rural Catolica  
Internationale Katholische Land- und Bauernjugendbewegung

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## Answering the challenge of Climate Change without disregarding Food Sovereignty!

### 1) Climate change challenge has to be tackled in a comprehensive and holistic way!

The upcoming international Copenhagen conference on climate change in December 2009 might be our last chance to tackle for good Climate Change challenges.

Even if it is a global issue, European countries have a large responsibility on the situation, as well as the power to change the situation. First, western countries are the first responsible for carbon emissions. Secondly, the solutions proposed to solve global warming make poorer countries pay the price for it. The European Union largely promotes Agrofuels usage and carbon market as a solution to global warming. But this policy is strongly unfair and unsustainable on a global scale. Agrofuels production and Carbon Offset projects mostly take place in Southern countries, while the use of Agrofuel and Carbon production are concentrated in Western Countries.

Moreover, the solutions proposed to solve global warming (new energies, carbon market,...) seem to threaten even more food security and sovereignty. The case of Agrofuels for example, is particularly damaging sustainable food production. Large parts of lands are no more used to produce food but fuels, deforestation destroys biodiversity and ecological balance and GMOs are promoted. As a consequence, small scale farmers disappear to let the floor to multinational companies which intensifies production and worsen global warming with their unsustainable producing processes.

### 2) Farmers are key actors in climate change situation!

Farmers work directly with nature, thus they are front line victims of climate changes. Droughts or flooding caused by global warming reduce their capacity to produce food. On the other hand, ice melt announces serious problems of water quality and quantity, a key element in agricultural activity. As a consequence, climate change challenge turns into a food challenge. As MIJARC Europe, we think that only Food Sovereignty can answer at the same time Climate Change and Food challenges. And Food sovereignty has to be implemented by farmers themselves.

### 3) Food Sovereignty is a solution!

The agricultural sector is partly responsible for Global Warming. But it is precisely because of the development of agro-business that small scale and sustainable farms disappeared. On the contrary, Food Sovereignty is the right of any community to define its own agricultural model, independently from any international market pressure.

As a consequence, on this World Food Day, MIJARC Europe calls for the implementation of the Food Sovereignty principle in any policy taken to cope with Global Warming. By promoting small scale, agro-ecological and peasant farming, local markets and direct link between consumers and food producers ... MIJARC Europe is already participating to the building of this sustainable future for everyone.

**For more information about the campaign on climate change, visit:** [www.mijarc.net](http://www.mijarc.net)

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