

Written inputs submitted by Solidaritas Perempuan (Women's Solidarity for Human Rights)

Food systems and human rights in Indonesia from feminist perspective in Indonesia

The most prominent challenge of the food system in Indonesia is food corporatization which can be seen from several indications such as: (i) massive land grabbing for large-scale plantation corporations that displace small-scale food producers (farmers and peasants); (ii) liberalization of the national food supply, which can be seen in the Job Creation Law that shows food supplies is no longer prioritize domestic production; (iii) digitalization of food, especially e-commerce of food products during the COVID-19 pandemic, has become a trend for urban communities; (iv) corporations that produce various chemical inputs such as hybrid seed and pesticides are facilitated by the government which make farmers to be depend on these agricultural inputs. In addition, the use of chemical inputs and agricultural technology often eliminates the role and knowledge of women farmers which then makes women marginalized from the mechanical food system; (v) The Indonesia Government 2021 National Work Plan had encourages 350 Farmer Corporations as a solution to increase farmers' income by changing people's behavior in agricultural management which was originally supported by the government through the APBN (national budget) and subsidies, then become dependent on investment and business. The findings of Solidaritas Perempuan in the community shows that food corporatization have displaces small-scale and traditional food producers. Moreover, women farmers and women fishers do not get full recognition of the significant roles they play. Women food producers are often excluded from decision-making, and women specific situation is never considered.

Specifically, the challenge faced by Indonesia is a food system that still relies on output. Namely, food that available to the public and corporations are considered to have more advanced technology and greater production capacity. So, the food system built by the Indonesian government is a food system that is pro-investment and facilitates corporations. The aggressiveness of Indonesian government in binding itself with trade agreements such as the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) also affects policies at the national level. These include reducing subsidies for farmers and fishers, as well as removing trade barriers which then facilitate food imports.

In the context of mass food production which is encouraged by the Indonesian government through corporations for the sake of liberal trade competition in the Free Trade Agreements scheme, small-scale and traditional food producers are excluded. Moreover, to women food producers who produce food with subsistence characteristics. A food system that relies on mass production and expansive is a patriarchal food system. This causes a more severe, layered and deep impact for women. Especially where women still experience discrimination in terms of ownership, control and utilization of food production sources such as land and access rights to capital, information and others.

In the midst of the above situation, the movement of farmers and fishers together with civil society continues to strive with aim to build a rights-based approach of food system with local knowledge and experience. This movement is getting stronger in the midst of COVID-19 pandemic because it became a real solution for the communities. The people's movement helps the people in Indonesia, making people more connected to each other. For example,

bartering is carried out by fishers and farmers in the midst of the threat of jammed food distribution due to the restricting mobility policy. The bartering also been done by urban - rural communities in East Java who are connected to each other by distribute vegetables and other food products directly in the midst of the rising food prices during pandemic. Meanwhile, women farmers in Yogyakarta are trying to maintain an agricultural system that does not depend on corporate products at all – in order to maintain the quality that has been needed by the community. Women in Mantangai Hulu - Central Kalimantan have also succeeded in reclaiming their lands which were taken by palm oil companies, and then managing it collectively and independently based on the wisdom of local food system that is passed down from generation to generation. By managed collective gardens, women are able to meet the food needs without having to buy it, and even support their movement against the massive investment that robs women living space. While the government, in aid packages, is usually only able to provide instant food that does not meet nutritional standards, and the distribution is not evenly well distributed.

Looking at the national process related to the UN Food System Summit, the Indonesian government actually prioritizes corporations in the national dialogue process. This can be seen from the list of participants invited and dominated by various corporations that have interest in the market related food system. In Indonesia, a national dialogue was held by the Ministry of National Development Planning/National Development Planning Agency (Bappenas) at the end of April 2021 in a closed forum, without official publication of the stages of implementation and clearly not inviting the public participation. This is certainly far from the principle of democratization and leads to a multi-stakeholder approach. Such a large space for corporations certainly has a big impact on the results of the Food System Summit with their interests.

Instead, the UN Food System Summit will generate legitimacy for both corporations and the private sector, which are strong actors in the challenges above, by becoming the center of interest. Corporations will seek to cooptation and re-narrate the 'food system transformation' in order to maintain the corporate model and not expose systemic problems such as asymmetric power and undemocratic governance, as well as issues of gender inequality that have multi-layered impacts against women, especially women food producers.

Therefore, the State as a party mandated by its people to respect, fulfill and protect the rights of its citizens and eliminate discrimination against women in the food system needs to ensure that the FSS process is carried out in an open, meaningful participation and involves rights holders. Including making affirmative efforts to involve groups that have been marginalized, such as women, indigenous peoples and others. UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food should publicly commit to ensuring that the FSS and its outcomes will strengthen human rights-based governance of food systems on all levels, which assigns clear responsibilities and obligations to states as duty bearers, the people as rights holders, including women and indigenous peoples, and a dramatically reduced role to the private and corporate sector, in accordance with its function as third party under international human rights law.

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