

Strengthening Household and Community Food Reserve Systems.

AsiaDHRRA Experience





Outline

- 1. Traditional practices on local food reserves in Asian Culture**
- 2. AsiaDHRRA initiatives on strengthening community food reserve system**
- 3. Lessons / Observations / Analysis on local food reserve**
- 4. Proposed policies to support local food reserve**



Traditional practices on local food reserves in Asian Culture



Household backyard gardening

root crops (sweet potato, cassava, yam, etc) vegetable, fruit trees

indigenous herbs to enhance milk production of lactating mothers
(breastfeeding as form of food reserve for children)

Solidarity group for food reserve

joys and sorrow club

(kasal-binyag-libing or wedding, baptism, death)

Traditional practices on local food reserves in Asian Culture

Indigenous food preservation

(fermentation, fish drying, etc)

allocating portion of harvest for household food reserve
(e.g. 10 bags of paddy reserved for family consumption until the next harvest)

Storing the reserved stock at a small area within the household

LUMBUNG (Indonesia), TAMBOBONG (Bicol, Philippines)



AsiaDHRRA Initiatives on strengthening community food reserve system



Initiatives to Support Traditional Practices on local/ community food reserve system

- Capacity building / Trainings
 - *Food always in the home (FAITH) gardening*
 - *Food preservation technologies both to manage surplus and for food reserve (food processing e.g. banana chips, rice noodles making)*
- *Campaign/Promotion of Slow food*



Initiatives to Support Traditional Practices on local/ community food reserve system

- Building of rice banks and community nursery (seedling for vegetables)
- Strengthening mother's group – reproductive health initiative e.g. breastfeeding, day care, strengthening Rural improvement clubs (RIC) etc.



Initiatives to Support Traditional Practices on local/ community food reserve system

- Facilitating access/ownership of land to small-scale farmers
 - Tripartite partnership for agrarian reform program (TRIPARRD) of PhilDHRRA resulted to issuance of land title to landless small-scale (*including the name of wife in the land title*) which allowed farmers to plant food crops not only mono-crop (e.g. plantation type farms)
 - women farmer usually plant in small plot root crops and vegetable aside from their main crop for household food consumption



Initiatives to Support Traditional Practices on local/ community food reserve system

- *Campaign/Public consciousness raising on local food stock*
 - *JaDHRRA members promoted slow food to japanese students in Otemon Gakuin University (cook indigenous food/local delicacies)*
 - *Launched Rice Festival in partnership with AFA (featuring different uses of rice from different countries)*



Lessons / Observations on Community food reserve system



Lessons/Observations/ Analysis

- central role of women in local food reserve systems (food preservation, vegetable gardening, breastfeeding, etc.)
- Project interventions on increasing farm productivity and income sometimes has too much orientation on market economy at the expense of losing the traditional concern for household food security



Lessons/Observations/ Analysis

- Community-level measures/ actions play an important role in providing food security buffers and strengthening livelihoods
 - *most prevalent in communities with less-developed socio-economic conditions. Farming household in this type of communities tend to pursue simple strategies targeted at increasing coping capacity and sustaining basic needs that can be implemented at the household or community level with limited financial and other resources*
 - *communities with more developed socio-economic conditions, farming household tend to pursue strategies targeted at reducing the variability of income and at improving the productivity and resilience of their farms. The measures that they adopt tend to depend more on market and other institutions, improved technologies, and financial resources than is the case for farmers in less-developed communities.*



Lessons/Observations/ Analysis

- Diminishing role of collective action at the community level is an important deficit in the capacity of these communities to ensure food self-sufficiency particularly amidst climate change



Policy Recommendations



For CSOs

- integration in community development projects consciousness raising and incentive system for crop diversification including cash crops and food crops for home consumption
- document and popularize indigenous household and community food reserve practices using local languages and maximizing on-line media
- inventory and propagation of local food crops varieties



For local/national government

- infrastructure support for small water system that will support household food production
- enact a sustainable national land and water use act that ensure the protection of agricultural land against massive land conversion for commercial purposes
- recognize the role of women in ensuring household food security by providing representation and meaningful participation of women in decision making and in designing programs and project on food security
- enact policies that protect and provide incentive for household and communities that practices food reserve e.g. lumbung, tambobong, urban farming, edible garden in public spaces/parks etc.
- promote diversification of food sources based on available local/indigenous food crop varieties
- stop adopting unilateral import liberalization policies and domestic liberalization of the farming sector that are marginalizing small women and men farmers, indigenous people, fisherfolk and other agricultural stakeholders.



For intergovernmental bodies

- support the international call on food reserve
- recognize the developing countries' capability to use Special Product (SP) and Special Safeguard Mechanism (SSM) to address the needs of small women and men farmers, indigenous peoples, fisherfolk and other agricultural stakeholders.
- Recast all FTAs in a manner consistent with the right of developing countries to protect the food security and livelihoods of small-scale women and men farmers, indigenous people, and fisherfolk.

Thank You

