

*Participants across 12 countries in West Africa converge to discuss social protection and food security*

June 28, 29 2015 witnessed the coming together of more than 60 participants from West African countries for the second Global Dialogue on 'Global Dialogues on Food and Nutrition Security: Sharing Experiences from India and Brazil to Develop National Frameworks'. An ambitious project, Global Dialogues is led by the Centre for Equity Studies (CES), New Delhi with DFID support under the Knowledge Partnership Programme (KPP).

The workshop drew participants from the 11 countries of Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo. Representatives included those from the government, farmers groups and activists.

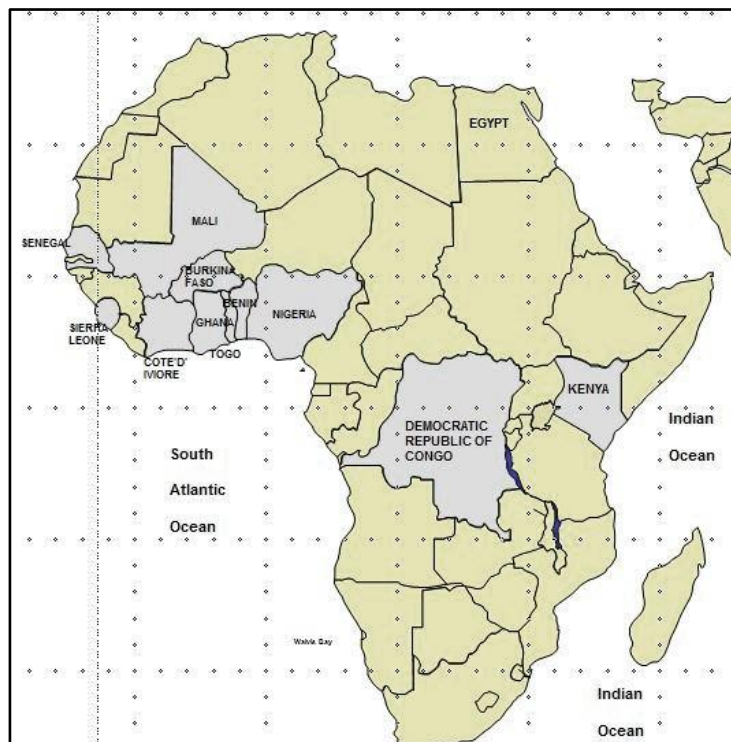
The representative from the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of Mali stated that access to food is an irrefutable human right and not one that can be 'played around' by political parties. He also informed about the initiatives taken by the government.

Indira Khurana, Policy Lead, KPP, IPE Global shared information on the KPP and the purpose of the dialogues. She

stressed on the opportunity this platform provided for cross learning to influence policy, programmes and practise to address the global challenge of hunger and malnutrition.

Harsh Mander shared the experience of the journey of the Right to Food and the ten critical debates that arose while the Act was drafted in India. Experiences from Brazil on the *Zero Hunger* project were shared as well.

Several of the participants shared their anguish over the lack of a democratic environment and the issues of natural calamities like drought and floods and the issue of internal displacement and refugees. Access to land and water and good quality seeds was highlighted as grave challenges before farmers, with consequent implications on food security.



Participants were then asked to work in groups and arrive at ideas on how to take the concept of food and nutrition security as social protection in their respective countries.

Many of the participants shared the context under which they are operating. The participant from Sierra Leone spoke about the challenges of food security for the 'Ebola orphans and survivors.' The participant from Kenya informed about the inclusion of the Right to Food in the constitution. However, there was a need for the *right* to be unpacked and appropriate policies to be drawn and implemented.

Participants from all countries appreciated the learning agenda and the need to keep the dialogue and knowledge sharing going. Kenya has expressed an interest in having a workshop to unpack the right to food and relevant policies of social protection with various excluded groups.

The Global Dialogues project is supported by DFID under the KPP in partnership with IPE Global. KPP is a South-South cooperation programme promoting knowledge sharing in the areas of Food Security, Resource Scarcity and Climate Change; Health and Disease Control; Trade and Investment; and Women and Girls. KPP is funded by the Government of UK's Department for International Development (DFID) and managed by a consortium led by IPE Global Private Limited under its Knowledge Initiative. The main objective of KPP is 'Gathering and uptake of evidence on issues central to India's national development that have potential for replication in LICs and impact on global poverty'.

