Food Sovereignty

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Caribbean food sovereignty during covid-19

The main issue being discussed in the article is food sovereignty. Food security is vital in building sustainable food systems in the Caribbean. There has been a need to improve food security in the middle of the pandemic to ensure food security in the Caribbean region. The CARDI has laid down a plan to support small islands that play a significant role in food production. The plan identified cassava as an important food in the context of food sovereignty (Nacla, 2020). This is because the crop can be locally grown and processed into a variety of food items such as flour, chips, and starch. The presence of such food can reduce the dependence of the region on imported foodstuff, thus promoting food security.

Increasing the production of cassava will need several strategies, such as maximizing economic opportunities for farmers and their firms and re-orienting ecological, economic, social, and political system to boost decision-making abilities. When states can make their own decision, changes in food needs are visible, which creates a necessity to change food policies. Food sovereignty creates the fear for food policies that aim to make profits over the people's health and nutrition (Nacla, 2020). This called for a change from foreign reliability to strengthening the local food and agricultural industries. However, the set plan policy had few guidelines that would lead to the achievement of these goals.

The article argues that the main challenge that stops the Caribbean from attaining food stability is policies involving investments and trade developed around forty years back, which erodes the economic viability of local domestic production of food. The policies made farmers give up on farming, for they could not compete with the cheap foreign products that investors were importing. The prime minister of CARICOM has urged the country to reduce this dependency on foreign food by twenty-five percent in five years (Nacla, 2020). Plans have also been made to erode these policies. Also, extra measures are being taken to revive local farming. For instance, the Rd Stripe Project Grow has seen over 2256 acres of land being used for cassava production.

Food sovereignty will help the country gain economic stability. The country will enjoy a favorable balance of payment due to reduced exports. A well-fed nation is a healthy nation. Citizens will have more energy to engage in other businesses even during and after the covid-19 pandemic. The Caribbean might rely on the USA in case its citizens are starving. Therefore, when the country has food sovereignty, the united states will have fewer worries and can direct the money that could have been given a donation to other developmental projects such as improving infrastructure. Indeed, boosting the local agricultural industry is the best solution for attaining food sovereignty in the Caribbean.

Personal opinions on the article

I find the article very relevant. A lot of nations have been experiencing food shortages due to the ban on exports in several countries. Most of these countries have been depending on foreign processed import foodstuffs. The article is informative. It gives solutions on what the Caribbean and other such countries going through the same issue can do to solve its problem. I agree with the author that food is very vital in any nation. One cannot lead a hungry nation. I feel that the country took so long to realize that there was a need to boost its local agriculture food production, especially if their land supported agriculture. It took the outbreak of the coronavirus to teach nations of the importance of dependence on critical industries and services such as food and healthcare. Nations are supposed to be proactive and not reactive to such matters of national importance.

This article makes me understand the need for Latin America to fix its main problem; environmental degradation. Latin America has for a long time been neglecting agricultural and other business activities that are environmentally friendly. Latin America has focused more on processing industries, and this has contributed to environmental changes that are not so friendly. As much as Latin America is financially stable, there is a need to revisit its food and agricultural industries. The states have been relying heavily on processed foodstuffs that are not even so healthy (Nacla, 2020). The article also makes me understand Latin America as an independent community capable of caring for its people.

In my opinion, the author's perspective in this article is very logical. The ability of a community to feel itself with less foreign dependency is very encouraging. Food security is more stable when foodstuff is produced and processed locally compared to buying from outside in large numbers. The government or authority of society is very key in determining the success or failure of plans. For instance, the plan to improve local farming was nearly impossible due to a government policy passed in the past. However, when the government intervened, the policy was changed, better strategies were laid, and the plan was easier to implement.

The above article relates to the contemporary economic and political themes in the united states today in that food is a very crucial organ in a state. The united states need to find a way to increase their food safety in readiness for any emergency or disaster that may surpass the damage and losses experienced from the covid-19 pandemic. A hungry nation cannot be ruled, and money may not always guarantee food security. America, therefore should reconsider improving on their local crop production for better food security.

References

Nacla. (2020, August 14). *Caribbean food sovereignty during COVID-19*. NACLA. <https://nacla.org/news/2020/08/14/caribbean-food-sovereignty-covid>