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Topic: The political economy of public health nutrition

Title: ACTIONS AND ACTIVISM IN FOSTERING GENUINE GRASSROOTS PARTICIPATION IN HEALTH AND NUTRITION.

Presentation Type: Oral

Standing alone to-right-the-world's-wrongs is a false ideal. 'Divided we beg, united we demand'.

Grassroots-organized acts need to be channeled into patterns of higher political meaning. Activists are needed to lead the way, because without them popular struggles will remain just toothless words.

New forms of learning and action are needed:

Develop a widely shared strategy not merely denouncing, but also announcing a new order with more empowering-health-and-nutrition-actions.

Redefine the strategies we use to combat preventable ill-health, malnutrition and premature deaths.

Not only reflect on new institutional ways of supporting grassroots initiatives, but also proactively organize them in the practices-of-direct-democracy.

Reassess the pertinence of foreign aid in the fields of health and nutrition. If the latter cannot be done, it is high time poor countries begin considering turning it down.

Start with helping create a shared critical awareness of the immorality of the prevailing economic and political system responsible for all the violations we see. For this, people both in the rich and the poor countries must become vocal in their demands based on their discontent and leading to commensurate actions.

To foster an authentic people-centered development we will have to engage in these more concrete actions. Fourteen of these will be presented for discussion in the presentation.

Only through the constant practice of such people-centered development activities -- often through trial-and-error-- will we overcome the limitations of existing flawed development models.

But to make a difference, remember that networking with other like-minded activists in the field has to come first!

