In the Asia region, APNFS continued to engage regional institutions like the FAO-Asia Pacific Regional Office and the ASEAN to pursue its advocacy for regional policies and instruments that will secure greater food security and food sovereignty of countries in the region and address the trends in large-scale land investments and land grabbing, water privatization and water grabbing, food price volatility and finance speculation and provide farmers voice in regional policy dialogues. It organized workshops during the ASEAN People’s Forum in Phnom Penh in March and November 2012, a forum on the XAYABURI Dam and its impact on food security, livelihoods and environment during the ASEAN-EU Peoples’ Forum in Vientiane in October 2012, and another People’s Forum on Water during the ADB Annual Meeting in Manila in May 2012.

APNFS, together with its members organizations in Indonesia, the Philippines, Vietnam, Bangladesh and India continue to engage in research and documentation to come up with a more in-depth analysis of policies and programs by governments and international institutions as well as trends in trade, investments, and financial flows that are impacting upon the livelihoods and food sovereignty of peoples and communities in the region.

The Integrated Rural Development Foundation of the Philippines (IRDF) is a national NGO based in the Philippines which supports the empowerment of poor farmers, fishers, indigenous peoples and especially rural women. It engages in grassroots organizing and assists in capacity-building of rural poor organizations to enable farmers and other marginalized sectors to gain greater access to and control of their land, water, seeds, and other productive resources. IRDF promotes local enterprise development and cooperatives to strengthen the position of farmers and women in the market. IRDF helps local farmers, indigenous peoples (IPs), and small fishers in defending their land, water and commons through secure tenural instruments, campaigns and direct actions. At the national and international level, IRDF engages in policy advocacy, lobby and networking to promote food sovereignty and the rights of small farmers, women, fishers and indigenous peoples. IRDF serves as the secretariat of the Philippine-based campaign coalition Task Force Food Sovereignty (TFFS) and the regional network Asia-Pacific Network for Food Sovereignty (APNFS).

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ASIA PACIFIC NETWORK FOR FOOD SOVEREIGNTY

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ASIA PACIFIC NETWORK FOR FOOD SOVEREIGNTY

APNFS is a regional platform of small farmers and fishers’ organizations, women’s movements and CSOs that advocates for food sovereignty as framework for agriculture and food policy-making. It seeks to enlarge the voices of grassroots farmers, fishers, women, indigenous peoples and other marginalized rural sectors in local, national and international decision-making in relation to food and agriculture. As a network it undertakes studies and researches on agriculture, water, trade and climate issues; engages policymakers and governments; and launches region-wide campaigns around these issues. It has more than 30 members comprising farmer federations, women’s organizations, fisherfolk associations, rural development NGOs, and advocacy and campaigns organizations in South and Southeast Asia. Its secretariat office is based in Manila.

More recently, APNFS has organized together with international organizations workshops on the issue of water privatization and the right to water during the World Water Congress in Marseille in March 2012 and the Rio plus 20 People’s Summit in Brazil in June 2012. It also organized two workshops tackling water privatization and global landgrabbing during the World Bank Annual Meeting in Tokyo in October 2012.

APNFS has been actively engaging national, regional and international institutions such as the FAO, ASEAN, CFS, UNCSD, UNFCCC and international financial institutions to promote its advocacies on food sovereignty, economic and social rights, climate justice, land and water rights and trade justice. It has organized events during ASEAN People’s Forum (APF) on the issues of food sovereignty, free trade agreements (FTAs) and land rights. It also participated in CSO conferences parallel to the World Food Security (WFS) summits and FAO Asia-Pacific regional conferences. It also contributed to the preparation for the Civil Society Mechanism (CSM) in the FAO Committee for Food Security (CFS). APNFS is active in monitoring the negotiations in the UNFCCC and COP meetings.