

agricultural development with urban poor in Latin America, and published the findings on poverty reduction through improved food security in its publication *Journal of Learnings*. CUSO is producing a radio series on food security for a community radio station in Saskatoon, and is working to enhance it for production on CBC Ideas.

In general, there is a lot of work underway on food security in the community. The GNFS is a positive initiative, and the government's Joint Follow-up Committee to the World Food Summit is an interesting and worthwhile experiment in policy dialogue. Apart from RAFI, however, there is very limited research capacity in the community in this field, and no adequate leadership or coordination of policy work by international co-operation NGOs.

7. Global Trade and Investment

Policy goal: Work towards a more equitable global economic order by pursuing trade and investment agreements and regulation of financial flows that contribute to reduced social inequalities and protection of the environment, by cancelling unsustainable debt for the highly indebted countries, and by ensuring democratic reform of multilateral trade and financial institutions such as the WTO, the IMF and World Bank.

Current capacity and activities

The Halifax Initiative, described earlier in the section on Sustainable Development, is the NGO coalition working on these issues, particularly on IFI reform and debt relief for the highly-indebted least developed countries. The coalition aims to end the unsustainable policies and practices of the international financial institutions by calling on the appropriate institutions to stop all lending for environmentally and socially destructive projects, cancel or reduce multilateral debt, develop a mechanism to control international currency speculation, halt structural adjustment programs as currently constituted so as to prevent further social and ecological damage, and to reform structures and operations to incorporate democratic governance, transparency, decentralized decision-making, community involvement, full and open public participation, and full public accountability. The Coalition has worked on public education and mobilizing on the issue of debt relief through its "Drop the Debt" campaign in 1996-97. It has also pushed for a more comprehensive and transparent review of the Enhanced Structural Adjustment Facility (ESAF). See the comments in the section on Sustainable Development for other details on the