

**SAIELN's Third Biennial Conference on Food Security and International
Law: Critical and Interdisciplinary Perspectives**

Civil Society Perspectives on Food Security:

Taking Policies from Glassfronts to Grassroots

Tuesday, 20 December, 2022, Kochi

Background & Context

Achieving global food security is a complex goal which requires efficient and coordinated action by international organisations and national governments at one end, and producer communities at the other. Rules are negotiated internationally, implemented nationally and have their impacts felt locally. Civil society organisations (CSOs) are one of the few bridges which connect lived experiences of producer communities, consumers and citizens to national policymakers and ultimately, to international rule-shaping. The discourse on food security, and other facets surrounding the international economic governance of agriculture, would therefore greatly benefit from a well-informed civil society and grassroots perspective.

Within the international framework governing agriculture, rules regulating international trade in agricultural commodities and seeds, and their impacts on global and domestic food security, have historically been one of the most fraught areas in international economic governance. This is due to their political sensitivities in both developed and developing economies. Governments have to navigate international rules and political constraints, and are often at a loss to explain the complexities of agricultural policies to their citizens. At the same time, grassroot concerns remain underrepresented before policymakers, both at the national level as well as feeders into the negotiations on the international plane.

Given this context, this Panel will touch upon civil society perspectives on food security and examine the role that CSOs around the world can play in all these aspects. It will also offer a view on how policymaking can be made inclusive and taken from glassfronts to grassroots on the one hand, and how lived experiences and ground realities can better feed into policymaking and rule-shaping processes nationally and internationally, on the other.