**Introduction**

The World Farmers Organization (WFO) is an international organization that represents farmers, rural workers, and indigenous and smallholder farmers worldwide. It was founded in 1963 as the World Federation of National Farmers' Unions (WFNFU) and changed its name to WFO in 1986. The WFO is a membership-based organization that brings together national farmers’ organizations and federations from around the world.

**Theoretical Framework**

*Michel Foucault's approach to discourse analysis is the historicization of supposedly timeless and universal concepts like knowledge, truth and reality (Laclau 2001 in Kettner and Schneider 2006) which leaves them open for ‘historical reframing’ (Gutting 2005)*

*For Foucault, knowledge is understood in the following way: Because knowledge is always socially constructed in a given society, there is no place from which it can be ‘gathered’.*

*For Foucault, Power is located ‘...outside conscious or intentional decision. He does not ask who is in power. He asks how power manifests itself and produces its effects on the social bodies in which it has implanted itself. As a channel for the flow of power itself’ (Michoud 1995)*

*Power and knowledge are related in the sense that ‘...power and knowledge directly imply one another: that there is no power relation without the correlative constitution of a field of knowledge, nor any knowledge that does not presuppose and constitute at the same time the limits of the possible’.*

*How this is related to Emanicipation: Since for Foucault there is no situation that can be outside of some sort of a power/knowledge relation, therefore this relation should be designed with as little domination as possible.*

**Method**

- From each organization's website ten publications were chosen, for La Via Campesina from the years 2006-2019 and for the World Farmers Organization from the years 2012-2019.
- The software NVivo was used to code the publications according to Kathy Charmaz’s Grounded Theory (2006): the text was paraphrased and then sorted into emerging frames which enable an in-depth understanding of the text as well as the identification of interesting patterns, which constitute a good starting point for the Foucauldian discourse analysis.

**Results**

*The discourses of both organizations can be compared with each other by drawing on the information that they provide.*

**La Via Campesina**

1953 in Mon, Belgium

200 million peasants

Kasamala Raya Rafida Sangha (KRRS): from India, Movimiento de Trabajadores en Tuna (MST): from Brazil, Movimiento de Trabajadores de Agricultura Familiar, Kartulis Laiskikluja Landuraskettlu (KLLA) from Finland, National Farmer Family Coalition (NFFC) from USA

United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants (UNRDP) 2019

IPAF's Farmers' Forums, Committee on World Food Security (CFS)

**World Farmers Organization**

- Formerly IFAP (International Organization of Agricultural Producers) founded in 1946.
- Since 2005 the World Farmers Organization (WFO) has been included into IFAP.
- The World Farmers Organization (WFO) is headquartered in Bonn, Germany.
- The WFO is represented in 144 countries, including the European Union, through its National Committees of the World Farmers Organization (NCWFOs).
- The WFO has 140 member organizations, 126 of which are national organizations.
- The WFO's main goal is to represent farmers' interests to governments, international organizations, and the public.

**Basic Info**

- Name:
- Type of organization:
- Country:
- Number of members:
- Number of member countries:
- Examples of member groups:
- Recent declarations:
- Future goals that you like to participate in:
- How to reach food security:
- Through fast food and global trade
- How to reduce hunger and malnutrition:
- By helping large and small farmers
- What do they consider to be the solutions:
- What they consider to be the problems:
- Problems: Lack of recognition for farmers, farmers are disadvantaged, lack of government support, unstable market conditions, poor farming techniques, lack of agricultural infrastructure
- Problems: Energetic ways of food production, production of food through agriculture is environmentally friendly, food sovereignty is the right of every individual to have access to acceptable food in their own community

**Knowledge, power and emancipation**

*In the discourse of the WFO the concept of knowledge is conceptualized in the following ways:

- WFO believes that knowledge is a power/knowledge relation, which is used to control the agricultural decisions and policies.
- WFO believes that knowledge is used to influence policy decisions and to lobby for the benefit of the farmers.
- WFO’s approach to knowledge is that it is used to control the agricultural decisions and policies.

*In the discourse of La Via Campesina, knowledge is conceptualized in the following ways:

- La Via Campesina suggests that knowledge is a power/knowledge relation, which is used to control the agricultural decisions and policies.
- La Via Campesina believes that knowledge is used to influence policy decisions and to lobby for the benefit of the farmers.
- La Via Campesina’s approach to knowledge is that it is used to control the agricultural decisions and policies.*

**Discussion**

*The findings suggest quite radical epistemological differences with the two organizations: La Via Campesina as a left-political and the World Farmers Organization as a liberal-conservative approach.*

**Conclusion**

*Both organizations increase the direct influence of agricultural producers in the international development scene – in recent years, especially La Via Campesina’s entry into the scene has broadened the discourse space.*

*The differences between both organizations’ discourses create some sort of political competition which offers choices for farmers which is particularly important in times of multiple interests.*

*However, political competition does not automatically guarantee that everybody's voices are heard which is even more a problem during a crisis, as for example urban and rural radicals which lost their livelihoods due to the Covid-19 pandemic.*

**References**

- La Via Campesina: La Via Campesina is an international organization that represents small and medium-sized farmers around the world. It was founded in 1995.

Contact: n.blaschke@uni-hohenheim.de