



**The Catholic Campaign
Against Global Poverty . . .
Fighting poverty with trade, aid and debt**

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) and Catholic Relief Services (CRS) invite Catholics throughout the U.S. to join in our Catholic Campaign Against Global Poverty. The campaign focuses on three areas of U.S. policy: trade, aid and debt. It advocates U.S. policies that promote coordination and consistency among these three arenas to combat poverty and hunger. The following is a discussion on Trade:

When the Honduran government entered a trade agreement that opened its markets to U.S. imports in the early 1990's, Maria Angeles Amaya of Santa Cruz de Yojoa lost her rice farm. Honduran rice farming could not compete with the low prices of the U.S.-subsidized rice that was flooding their country. Growers such as Maria and her husband lost their livelihoods and had to leave their communities to find work elsewhere. What was once a source of reliable income that allowed farmers to afford education and healthcare and meet other family needs had become a source of poverty.

The Campaign's Trade Goals call for the U.S. to reshape its trade policies so that overcoming poverty and promoting human development are central priorities:

- Reform U.S. farm programs to reduce overall payments. Remaining payments should be targeted to small and medium-sized farms. U.S. farm supports that particularly distort trade and make it difficult for farmers in poor countries to compete should be eliminated.
- Include environmental and labor provisions in U.S. bilateral and regional trade agreements to protect vulnerable workers and God's creation.
- Promote rural development that benefits small farmers, farm-workers and rural communities. Support World Trade Organization initiatives to preserve and strengthen "special and differential treatment" for poor countries.
- Encourage broad public debate about the human dimensions of trade. Open negotiations of trade agreements to representatives of the poor and other affected groups. Encourage transparency in all negotiations.

**Join the Catholic Campaign
Against Global Poverty**
www.usccb.org/globalpoverty
OR
www.catholicrelief.org/globalpoverty