Petrescu-Mag (2009) Promoting the Slow food concept for a better Common Agriculture Policy and Environmental Protection


The basis of this article is the explanation of the Common Agriculture Policy, or CAP for short. Before the World War II, the CAP focused on the need to supply food to all Europeans, as well as the establishment of a strong agricultural sector and overall food security. Since then, the goals of the policy have changed. Now the CAP must deal with such issues as food safety, environmental protection and animal welfare. The author of the article believes that one of the goals of the CAP should be to give farmers incentives to deliver the goods that are in demand across Europe, especially if they deal with the topic of the environment in any way, such as the fight against climate change. Policymakers must now deal with such issues as the high rate of non-communicable diseases that has spread across Europe due to nutrition transition as well as the new rise in food-borne illnesses and the emergence of new types of diseases. The article then discusses the Slow Food movement, which came to fruition in Paris in 1989. The main idea behind the Slow Food movement is what is known as eco gastronomy, or the idea that there is an important and strong connection between the food that humans consume and the earth itself. The Slow Food movement puts emphasis on the producers of the food that we consume, and those problems that these producers are confronted with on a regular basis. People that are involved in the Slow Food movement consider themselves co-producers, with their justification being that they are well-informed when it comes to the production of food. At the end of the article the author states that the CAP costs too much and benefits too few people, and that the best way to achieve food reform is to form a strong European Union policy for agriculture and rural development.

This article was confusing to me at first, since it seems to endorse the CAP before turning on it in the end and stating that it is ineffective and that there are better ways to achieve food reform. However, upon re-reading the article, I realized that it is important that the reader be informed of the history of the CAP and how one can form a new policy for the European Union with its basis being the basic principles of the CAP. The Slow Food movement appears to have a legitimate amount of support overall, and it does indeed seem possible that these supporters could make a push for a new EU policy that benefits more citizens, preferably the majority of them. Although I find it rather strange that the supporters of the Slow Food movement consider themselves “co-producers” simply because they are informed, I do believe that being knowledgeable is important if one wants to succeed in achieving a goal, and in this case that goal is better food policies for Europeans. Overall, this article captured my interest enough for me to possibly pursue any further developments in this food reform project overseas.