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SOLIDARITY ECONOMY AND DEVELOPMENT

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VMR

Rédacteur en chef:
Mme Daisy HERMAN

Secrétariat:
FIMARC aisbl
rue Jaumain 15
5330 ASSESSE
BELGIQUE
Tél/fax: 32-83-65 62 36
www.fimarc.org
fimarc@skynet.be

Compte bancaire:
ING 310-0756026-94
IBAN
BE87 3100 7560 2694
BIC/SWIFT
BBRUBEBB

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Coverpage : Cocoa beans

Periodical published by FIMARC in 4 languages which
highlights the rural world's life and activities of the member
Movements belonging or not to the Federation

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After a few months break, as every end of year, we are happy to see you again through the Voice of the Rural World articles. This editorial briefly introduces the contents for the 2008 VMR issues. As for the previous years we would like this tool to be your review, to be useful in terms of information, analysis and to meet its main objective, being a tool of exchange between movements and organizations in the rural world. We would like to thank MISEREOR for their support during the publication of the review, translated into 4 languages and with a circulation of about 1,500. We know that for some of you VMR is the only available organization tool and hence it is of paramount importance.

Throughout 2007 several aspects of solidarity economy were tackled. For this first 2008 VMR issue we wish to come back once again to the solidarity economy concepts as well as to the type of development it ought to implement for the sake of the population and our planet. What type of development do we wish for? For whom? Which values do we aim at defending?

Family and farmers' agriculture is indeed one of the models that would need promoting as it enables developing sustainable farming, local processing, and local trade. The next VMR issue will deal with it and it will also be the topic of our next annual seminar.

Solidarity economy, closeness, farmers' agriculture. All this entails political sovereignty, that is to say what we mean by the concept of food sovereignty, farmers' right, and countries to be able to define their own production, processing and marketing modes. All this in a context that enables everyone to express themselves, according to their own interests and the interest of the community they live in. We will come back to this in the third issue of Voice of the Rural World.

For the last issue of the review, agro fuels will be dealt with. The oil crisis that affects all farmers without any exception, the suggested alternatives based on the use of green fuels are many questions that we wonder about for the future of the planet and the rural world. Aware of the stakes these agro fuels involve, the Executive Committee members asked FIMARC Human Rights Working Group to look into this issue and analyze it as deeply as possible. This task will be taken stock of at the Committee meeting next May and this VMR dossier will report their work.

From this year on a new column will be published, aiming at being a real forum of dialogue and exchange through meetings with you, either directly in your countries or by mail. Do not hesitate to give inputs or to suggest themes that you would like to talk about.

*Daisy Herman
Secretary general*



Actions of the Movements

Democratic Republic of Congo

Congo is going through a major economic crisis following the successive wars that have been breaking out in the country since 1996.

The Puato territory located at the border with Zambia is particularly affected by this crisis, given the influx of population going back home after having sought refuge in the neighbouring territory.

To face supply and starvation problems, women get organized and grow community fields of cassava, maize, soy... But difficulties are manifold, mainly the lack of mechanization and fields being 60 to 120 kilometres away from their homes.

Zambia

Solidarity economy experiences in the diocese of Chipata report the progress made in rural communities.

Besides housing, health and education conditions improvements, CARAM groups highlighted empowerment of women thanks to access to

micro-credits and education, which enabled some of them to take an active part in politics and to become real leaders.

Advocacy is being developed amongst economic and political decision-makers thanks to decentralization which helps bringing decision-making places closer to rural communities.

Nepal

Thanks to the IPM programmes (Integrated Pest Management) for rice and vegetables crops, Nepalese farmers improved their food security by 51 days per year. It mainly was about training farmers in organic farming using adapted rice varieties, teaching them to recognize useful insects for crops and natural fertilizers.

Awareness raising and advocacy activities were also started to support enshrining food sovereignty in the Nepalese constitution and to ask for real land reform.

The constitutional Assembly was elected last April 10th.

Cameroon

The General Assembly of MARC movement took place in Yaoundé on 8th and 9th February. Following the assessment of the work undertaken the previous years, the movement set its action plan for the period 2008-2010. It will aim at strengthening grassroots groups, promoting local trade, food sovereignty and solidarity economy.

To further develop its activities, MARC decided to create a solidarity

fund which on the short term will self-finance the movement's activities. One of the priority projects of this movement is to develop call and reporting centres to meet its members and communities concerns in communities where the movement is present. Special attention is given to the need for cooperating with the young people of JARC and supporting their activities.



Meeting of a grass root group of MARC, Cameroon February, 2008



Philippines

The organization KASAMAKA is a federation of small farmers and fishermen organizations mainly located in the Bohol province. The major issues these farmers are faced with are related to irrigation and above all access to land. Philippine farmers keep on their struggle for access to land in this country where according to estimates nearly 3 million farmers use only 50% of cultivable land. Not only do the rural elite enjoy the land but they also control the sharing of technological inputs, the rural bank system, storing and processing facilities for products. KASAMAKA supports farmers in their steps to obtain some reforms or funds that will help them to slightly improve their situation.

Pakistan

Following the Asian seminar in Bangladesh, one of the delegates at this seminar attended a meeting gathering representatives of civil society and NGOs and M. Manzoor Ahmed, Ambassador at the WTO.

The meeting was organized by the development and economic justice organization based in Islamabad.

Participants could discuss the negative effects of the WTO in Pakistan. He also took part in an advisory workshop on sustainable development national strategy on 2nd February.





Chile

After 2 years of existence, INPRU, Instituto Nacional de Pastoral Rural, closed its doors on 1st February 2007, after a decision made by the Standing Committee of the Bishop's Conference in Chile. Being a Corresponding Institution of FIMARC since 1983, we always had friendly and fruitful contacts with this Institute. We would like to thank in this VMR the people in charge for this cooperation, and we are sure that we will further cooperate in the future for other matters.

El Salvador

Under the heading 'People are what matter the most in solidarity economy, not money!' Caritas El Salvador carries on its awareness raising and advocacy activities on solidarity economy. One of the sub-themes to be developed is ethical and responsible trade for a rational use of available resources in the country and on the planet.

Mexico

Last January FIMARC was present at the Social Forum in Mexico, thanks to a few local representatives. We welcome the inclusion in the final declaration title of the words 'People's Dignity, Unity and Sovereignty'. In this title that summarizes well the objectives we would like to achieve, sub-themes are tackled, such as among others claiming food sovereignty, solidarity economy promoting alternative markets, which include production, consumption and trade with a currency under social control of the populations and energy sovereignty.

FORO SOCIAL MUNDIAL 2008

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al mismo tiempo...*

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EN EL ZÓCALO DE LA CIUDAD DE MÉXICO

EXPOSICIÓN FOTOGRÁFICA
9 junio del 15 de enero en la Rotonda Central
CAROLINA DEL MAZ
Paseo de la Reforma 22 de enero

SEMINARIO "OTRO MUNDO ES POSIBLE"
26 de enero
Monumento a la Revolución en el Zócalo

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forosocialmundo@gmail.com
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Comité mexicano FSM 2008 • "Otro mundo es posible"



France

CMR organized its annual General Assembly in Forges on 29th and 30th March. It was an opportunity to thank the outgoing President and the Secretary General ending his term and to elect new people for these 2 positions, but also new administrators for the next 3 years.

For the first time at the Assembly federations were given the floor, triggering a wide debate in order to define together future orientations. In his invitation letter to the Assembly, the President said “do not let others decide for you”.

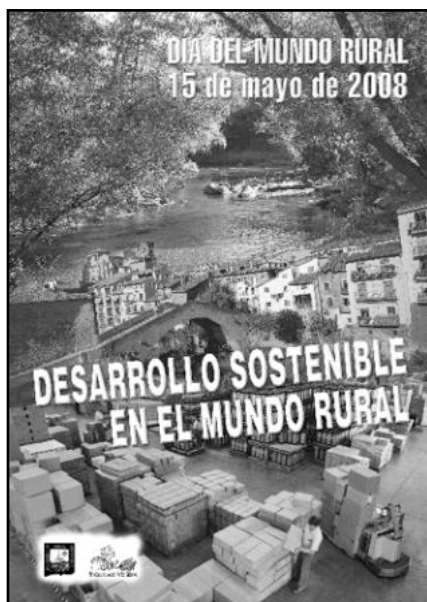
Spain

As every year on 15th May, MRC Spain organizes the « Rural World day ». This year, the theme is sustainable development in the rural world.

On 29th November 2007, the Congress of Members of Parliament endorsed the Sustainable Development of the Rural World Act, the main objective of which is to sustain rural populations, to improve quality of life of its inhabitants and their income.

This Act is not a land act, even if it was pushed forward by the Ministry of Agriculture. All farmers are citizens of the rural world but not all citizens of the rural world are farmers.

This is why the movement, like other associations, claimed for a specific act for the rural world. It is of great importance for the movement and the movement would like to analyze its ins and outs to see its practical and daily implementation.



Belgium

As in many countries, women met on 8th March to celebrate the International Women's Day.

At Monde Selon les Femmes, an advocacy paper was worked on to make demands so that the gender concept is really taken into account in several fields such as food sovereignty and access to land, sustainable jobs, and equality in trade...

At ACRF, some 80 women got together at the rural house to think about and discuss the issue of inner injuries.





Development, Sovereignties, Social and Solidarity Economy Requirements

Throughout 2007 and in the different issues of VMR, some aspects of what we call 'social and solidarity economy' were tackled.

This dossier comes back to this concept, focusing on the type of agriculture social and solidarity economy implementation implies. But also on the type of development it ought to implement for the sake of the population and our planet.

Some aspects in this dossier may seem repetitive. But we all know that repetition is one of the educational tools in our movements and organizations.

Together, we can make this other economy come true, which puts Man at the centre of its concerns, Man in his collective dimension, subject and player in his history.

EXPLOITATION IN THE RURAL WORLD

When we look at the situation in the peasant and rural world, in different countries, we can see that farmers are the victims of implemented liberal economic policies.

In Thailand, about 80% of farmers are landless peasants. The land is more and more in the hands of a few big landowners. The situation is going to worsen if transnational companies use the land for export crops, to the detriment of food crops. This will be the end of food security in the country, and above all a denial of the right to food sovereignty. It will also be the end of small-scale farmers.

In Argentina, intensive soy crops, to be exported or to make agro fuels, decrease the acreage devoted to food crops and breeding. As a consequence, the number of poor farmers increased.

In Mali, irrigated land is given to producers and breeders in exchange of a tax paid to a national body. Only the richest can afford this tax and hence grow the land. Because on top of the tax, money is needed for fertilizers, seeds, etc. Small-scale farmers are more and more excluded from growing, all the more that merchants set the purchase price for rice.



Plots of onions - Plateau of Bandiagara, Mali



Peasants deprived of their rights

In Philippines, for the last 10 years, the decrease in the selling price for coffee, the increase of fertilizers, pesticides prices as well as other products, made that peasants no longer earn enough money to live. Small-scale farmers lose markets, must sell at a low price, and even sell their land to real estate and industrial developers. They do not have a job anymore.

All around the world, millions of small-scale farmers and natives rely on local farming to survive, on the possibility to grow for local needs. But they are loosing their land and jobs to the advantage of major companies and big landowners. This deprives them of their income, their very means of livelihood, and jeopardizes their right to food for all.

To this picture add the fact that field crops are raised to make fuel, 'agro fuels'. By 2025, as a consequence of their development, 1.2 billion people will suffer from hunger: food products price increase unaffordable for the poorest, water used for agro fuels to the detriment of food crops, forests destroyed in Indonesia, Malaysia and Brazil.



*Deforestation of the Amazonian Forest
Mato Grosso in Norte, Brazil*

Everybody lose in the long-term

The agricultural model based on exports at the expense of local food favours the so-called 'agro-processing industry': profit and multinationals power increase; small-scale farmers deprived of their rights. This favours production concentration in the hands of big producers, who worry first and foremost about their profit and not about food security. On the global market of agricultural products, the 'same rule for all' is unfair, because big producers have a dominant market position. In the short-term, farmers are the ones who lose... In the long-term, the whole country suffers.



Women group of micro credit, Bangladesh January 2008

Nevertheless agriculture has an economic and social mission and role: ensuring food security for all; providing healthy, appropriate and enough food; developing jobs in rural areas; ensuring access to production resources and their knowledge; maintaining and managing land, infrastructures and rural landscape.



To meet these challenges and ensuring the future of agriculture at the service of the population and food for all, to assert the right to food sovereignty, it is urgent to implement another economy: social and solidarity economy.

Suggested questions to the groups and movements :

- *What is the situation of small-scale peasants in your region, in the country?*
- *What are the reasons for this dependency?*
- *Who are the victims of multinationals domination in the country?*

Bring along all hands, all dreams, all hopes...

« From a body aiming at participating to the building of a better society for excluded people, we became an organization that supports these very people in the building of a fairer world'. This world we must build thanks to everybody's solidarity effort. '*Bring along all hands*' sang Mercedes Soza, a committed singer from Argentina. But, not only bring along all hands, bring along your dreams and your hopes, yours pains and your frustrations, yours loves and your ideas, yours past stories and your current life experiences. All together, we shall build a new world'. »

('Cantera' Association, training to citizenship, Nicaragua; quoted by CCFD, international solidarity organization, France).

HUMAN RIGHTS PRIMACY

The liberal capitalistic economy forgets that the first aim of the economy is to meet the needs of all citizens. The alternatives to this predatory economy deny that profit is made to the detriment of the people, peoples and the environment.

As a farmer, one should have a decent life and thrive, and so should their families. They should ensure food security for the population. This requires a healthy and favourable living environment, access to basic social services such as health, education, housing, water... This agriculture at the service of feeding the population is based on food sovereignty, which requires a fair sharing of resources and income.

This agriculture at the service of the population is based on a series of principles: solidarity between farmers all around the world; enabling as many people as possible to produce and live on their production; respecting the environment; healthy and quality production; preserving biodiversity; thinking on the long-term, to guarantee the future of the planet and its inhabitants.

When there is a food crisis, one should not only deal with the emergency. Each country must act to produce according to its needs, to feed its population, denying selling the dignity of its citizens, at the mercy of exclusive foreign aid.

Justice, solidarity, right to stand up for your life

Human Rights imply that each human being can freely choose how they want to assert their Right to food, either by producing themselves their food, or by having the means to buy it. This requires implementing food sovereignty. And also that farmers' organizations are recognized as fully-fledged partners in the decision-making process of food and agricultural policies in a country or a group of countries.



Social and solidarity economy is a cross-cutting approach, the result of human beings' struggle to survive, live and develop themselves, as individuals and as a group. It puts Man at the centre of the development process: Man as a person and as a social player. Man is the centre of interest of development, which is overall and for all.



*Cocoa nursery, Cameroon
February 2008*

Implementing solidarity economy gives another meaning to development, which is not only economic. Solidarity economy contrasts sustainability with productivity and immediate profit. It contrasts mutual support and communities with individualism. It questions the fact that wealth is to be in the hands of a few. It encourages shifting from a consuming system to a system of values: our human rights, specificities, potential, human capital, social justice, respect for Human Rights, a rule of law respecting minorities, a dignified life for all. This economy demands alternative agriculture to save the whole world.

These reference values can be rephrased as: justice, solidarity, human rights, primacy of basic needs for all, consuming according to everyone and each community needs, economic institutions and mechanisms oriented on meeting everybody's needs, living differently and being jointly responsible.

Our Challenge

“ We don’t want to reject the mondialisation which is a fact and which is not negative, but the globalisation, economic mondialisation, has come to a point that it is high time to stop this trend as we are running straight to a catastrophe. All the work developed over the last years in FIMARC, has shown us that this is possible to live in dignity, to take care of our environment, to educate our children... through sovereignty. Food sovereignty that we are trying to reach but also political and economical sovereignty.

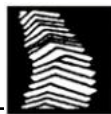
This is the challenge we identified in Taejeon, South Korea, during our last World Assembly: to work in the good governance in the frame of production and consumption to reach the food sovereignty, to work in the good governance in the political frame through participative democracy to reach political sovereignty and to work in the good governance and solidarity economy to reach the economic sovereignty.”

(Daisy Herman, Secretary general FIMARC - Letter to Rural Movement - N° 83 December 2007).

The Right to Development

“ The right to development is an inalienable human right by virtue of which every human person and all peoples are entitled to participate in, contribute to, and enjoy economic, social, cultural and political development, in which all human rights and fundamental freedoms can be fully realized.”

(UNO declaration on the Right to Development, article 1).



An economy at the service of man and the community

This solidarity economy has strengths, such as taking into account all dimensions of people's lives, and not only the economic aspect. It is based on the notion of well-being for all, on the importance of the community and living together. All are players, in a spirit of openness, through direct democracy. It puts forward Human Rights and justice. It develops links between producers and consumers, takes care of promoting women in all fields. It is focused on the individual as well as on local and regional development.

But it is at risk of remaining a local dimension, without tackling the dominant economy mechanisms. To do so, it is necessary to take time to train, raise awareness, and analyze situations and mechanisms. Its players must act to be recognized by States as fully-fledged economic and social partners.

When implementing conditions and principles of food sovereignty, it asserts that another world is possible: governance at the service of peoples, solidarity between countries in the North and the South, denial of GMOs, right to land, external debt cancellation for poor countries, biodiversity preservation, production and consumption of food adapted to each population and crop, primacy of Human Rights.

Suggested questions to the groups and movements :

- *From what you understand of economics, what are the values that matter: those of profit or alternative values?*
- *What are the alternative values that you deem fundamental to change society?*
- *What can we do, together and with others, to live and defend these fundamental values?*

ACTING TO CONQUER SOCIAL AND SOLIDARITY ECONOMY

Globalization and financial globalization raise global questions, at the level of the planet. We do not own the planet; those who will come after us own it, but we do have solutions for the future.

While refusing and rejecting economic and social policies imposed by the WTO, the World Bank and the IMF, we must roll up our sleeves and start from our own abilities. It is about protecting local markets of agricultural products and making natural or organic agriculture that preserves biodiversity.

Requirements for this sustainable farming are: remunerative prices for producers and breeders, rural jobs retention, producing healthy food and affordable for all, right to borders protection against agricultural products imports at a dumped price, respect for food sovereignty in all countries and all peoples, solidarity between producers and consumers.



Market place, Tulear-Madagascar



Peasant united to require another economy

Any evolution or modernization of traditional farming should be done at the rhythm of social, economic and cultural realities in local societies. It should be an internal process, desired and led by the players themselves and not decided on behalf of farmers. Training should be adapted to real local needs and local contexts, focused on food crops, on sustainable farming.

As more and more NGOs (Non-Governmental Organizations) underline it, public authorities must recognize and adopt the food sovereignty principle. This principle contains the requirement of land reform, for the right to land, water, seeds and any resources needed for farmers and breeders' production. Public authorities have the duty to implement adapted policies in order to meet these requirements and claim legitimacy of these policies in international negotiations. To do so, organized farmers and rural people's lobbying is indispensable.



Janadesh 2007, March of landless people - India

An urgent necessity

Rural groups and movements commit to network with all partners that share their claims for another world. Exchanges between countries and organizations are a way to learn from each other's initiatives.

“ Requiring another alternative economy implies that we must commit to conquer it, because they will not give it to us. We must build it, from the grassroots. It is a medium and long-term task that entails a democratic component, in which the majority of the population must be an active player. It is a task that requires experiencing new values, developing new solidarity attitudes and behaviours. We claim that another world is possible, and that it is an urgent necessity, building social and solidarity economy.” (*Spanish rural movement*).

Suggested questions to the groups and movements :

- *Do we know social and solidarity economy experiences?*
- *Are we convinced that an alternative to the dominant economy is possible?*
- *Which actions do we carry out and what can we do individually or together to build social and solidarity economy?*

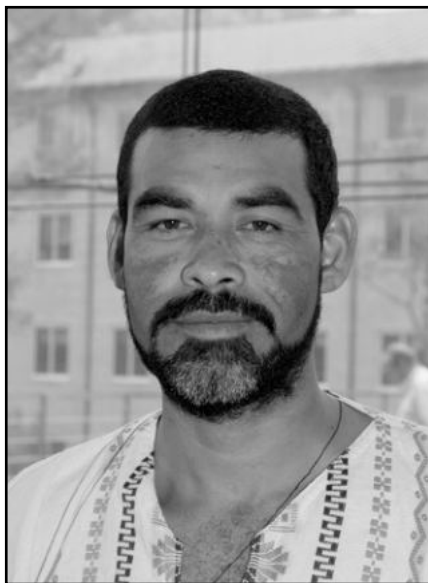


**For this VMR, we have interviewed
Manuel de Jesús Moran Hidalgo,
coordinator in El Salvador of the program
of political incidences and citizen's
participation for food Sovereignty**

Could you please introduce yourself?

My name is Manuel de Jesús Moran Hidalgo. I'm engineer in agronomy and coordinator in El Salvador of the program of political incidences and citizen's participation for food Sovereignty. This program is implemented at the national level through the sustainable agriculture platform.

I'm also member of the board in this platform and finally at the level of the Caritas of Santa Ana, I'm the coordinator for the programs of rural development.



What is your vision of the rural and farmer's world?

Basically I'm a farmer with the chance that God gave me the opportunity to study at the university. I have inherited from my illiterate parents the richness of knowing how to cultivate the land and to value the Christian faith, a richness of the rural families.

This education led me to the current analysis of the rural world : I think that after the green revolution, farmers have lost the capacity of rea-

ding the deep changes of the nature. All the changes have been attributed to the miracle of pesticides and fertilizers.

The astonishing capacity to see the land flourished after a long period of dryness has been lost slowly by slowly because nowadays with the sophisticated irrigation means, with the industrial fertilizers and the agricultural mechanisation, we can see the landscape totally changing in one day, even if it's in an artificial way.





Today in the rural world, apart from the changes I mentioned above, we have also to denounce the different forms of injustice: the monopolizing of land by the landlords or by the State, the exploitation of the farmer's labour and the unfair conditions of the international market which favours the productions for exportation at the detriment of food production.

And nowadays there is one more big risk for the global population with the development of agro-carburent made by food production.

Could you explain us why you decided to address the themes of solidarity economy and fair trade?

We are totally immersed in a logic where economy is reduced to its financial dimension while economy means in its understanding "a common issue".

But the system makes us concentrate on the monetary part and this is why we want with my colleagues, to save our history and our ways of living, based on principles that give value to the person before the money, against the global logic where so much importance is giving to money, even if this led to death.

This is why our slogan says, "in solidarity economy, persons are important, persons are before money".

We use it to grow the conscience that it's necessary to change the course, even if it looks like a utopia, but the world has to change.

What are the means that you're utilizing to work out the theme with the farmers?

We are working on different fronts: the technical teams intervene in the universities, in the colleges, in the public schools and in the church. But we are dedicating main efforts in the countryside. All over the country we have developed "Circles of communitarian reflection".

We count some 200 of those and in each circle we are reflecting on solidarity economy and fair trade; we are analysing the current system and we are looking together to alternatives. All this has given birth to "solidarity markets" where farmers can sell their productions and establish social relationship with the consumers coming from the cities.

For the conscientisation, we are utilizing promotional posters, campaigns via local radios; we are editing written material and promoting exchanges between producers.

What are the reactions of the public?

Truly speaking we can say that this is not easy to introduce the concept of solidarity economy when the main rule is individualism.

We should not forget that El Salvador depends principally of the “familiar sending” coming from the USA; 3 thousand billions dollars yearly.

We are in a society with great individualism, dolarised, acculturated to American culture.

Slowly by slowly, farmers understand that the system is not helping them and that the unique solution is the solidarity amongst the people. But again, this is not easy and there are a lot of resistances.

The big majority of the population is trapped in the system and in the trade of superficial products.

This is why we have to raise a prophetic voice to denounce the system. Even if from time to time ones are loosing their motivation, we have to continue the work for a change if we want a future for our country.





What are the objectives of the movement and its methodology?

We have to conscientize our population to the necessity of establishing a new economic concept; to facilitate the creation of commercial alternatives to allow the farmers to earn their life in dignity; to create spaces for the reflection at the technical and communitarian levels; to articulate the local, regional and national farmers networks for the claim of their rights.

The work is organized in regions; we have divided the country in 3 regions where we have 2 delegates.

Along the year we organize 2 meetings: one to plan the work together and the other one for the national evaluation.

We also have a team in charge of the animation at the national level and the articulation of the regional meetings that are taking place every 2 months.

What are the main obstacles that you are facing?

- The resistance of the technical teams to give up the formation received at the university based on economical profit

- The farmer's resistance to change
- The lack of support of the hierarchical church
- The communication medias totally in favour of the economical power
- The migration of human resources

What would be the actions to overcome the obstacles?

We have started to work in the reflection circles to change this reducing vision of the economy and we are trying to change the opinion of the professionals and to convert them in agents of change while analysing and criticizing the system.

We are also developing different experiences of solidarity markets to show that it's possible to work differently and we are utilising popular education to disseminate our message as it's difficult for us to use the traditional medias which are not accessible for the vast majority of the population.

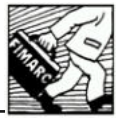


On which ethical principles and values are you basing your actions?

- First of all on the solidarity
- The subsidiarity
- The equality
- The honesty and the transparency
- The inclusion and the participation.

For the time being we have developed 7 solidarity markets in the country, where you can find food products like maize, rice, beans and sugar cane, fresh or processed fruits and vegetables.

We hope that soon we will develop others....



General Information



*Asian seminar, Bangladesh
January 2008*

The Asian coordinators met in Bangladesh last January on the occasion of the Asian Seminar on food sovereignty and solidarity economy.

In the seminar final declaration, participants insisted on the need for strengthening and further developing solidarity and food sovereignty experiences to consolidate these concepts and develop them in an ideology of Economic Sovereignty, highlighting how much the current economic and imperialistic situation was unbearable for rural communities.

The European coordinators met during 2 days in Assesse, beginning of March. The main objective of that meeting was to prepare the European seminar to be held in Croatia in September. Its theme will be 'real steps towards economic sovereignty and solidarity economy'. In the preparatory works, participants will be invited to be the main resource people at the seminar, organized around active participation of the attendees.

The Bureau met a few days before the Executive Committee annual meeting in April. Apart from the traditional items on the agenda, the Bureau wanted to prepare the seminar on 'Farmers' Agriculture, a Model for Solidarity Economy' and on the necessary decrease to settle alternative models.

Minutes of this seminar will be disseminated in a forthcoming VMR issue.



The next General Assembly of the CICO will take place on 19th and 20th June, Paris. It will aim at considering how the CICO can complement the Catholic-inspired Non-Governmental International Organizations FORUM which met for the first time in Rome at the end of 2007, and to see what its shape could be in the future. We will give you an update on this dossier in a forthcoming issue.



The 7th session of the Human Rights Council was held from 3rd to 28th March, Geneva. On the agenda of this session, FIMARC requested being heard, in the framework of the 'interactive dialogue' process, following M. Ziegler's report, the special rapporteur on the right to food.

Thanking M. Ziegler and his colleague for the quality of the report and their recommendations in favour of food sovereignty, FIMARC asked the special rapporteur which legal way he would consider on the one hand enshrining food sovereignty principles in international law and on the other hand officially establishing food sovereignty as the main guideline for agricultural and food policies.



FAO organizes in Rome, from 3rd to 5th June, a High Level Conference on World Food Security and Challenges of Climate Change and Bioenergies. On this occasion, a coinciding NGOs Forum will be organized from 31st May to 4th June by the International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty. Preliminary regional conferences took place from March to June in 3 regions to assess global warming risks or to analyze threats and opportunities of bioenergies.



Your column

It is your turn to write! As you know, one of the main objectives of VMR is to be a tool for exchanging between movements and rural organizations.

During our visits in the field, when we met you, you sometimes asked FI-MARC to get documents on technical agriculture, to find specific seeds, to know how some medicinal plants ought to be used...

We would like to start this column and we would like you to feed it in.

- If you want to react to an article
- If you have specific requests on particular techniques
- If you are looking for a good address in a country

Cameroon sent the first request, addressed to all :

How to make compost?

If you have practical examples, straightforward documents, sketches, brochures, do not hesitate to get in touch with us to send all this to our friends from MARC in Cameroon.

Thank you very much in advance and above all do not hesitate to write up!



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Editeur responsable

Daisy HERMAN, rue Jaumain 15 - 5330 ASSESSE (BELGIQUE)