



FIMARC

Rue Jaumain 15

Assesse, Belgium

Tel: +32 83 65 62 36

Fax: +32 83 65 62 36

E-mail: fimarc@skynet.be

FIMARC ANNUAL REPORT 2018

‘Empowering farmers and rural people for a better tomorrow’

Dear friends,

With the turn of this year, it gives me immense pleasure to present the FIMARC Annual Report for 2018, which provides a glimpse of what we did and achieved this year through our synergised efforts.

It is currently financially more advantageous to harm the environment, exploit people and negatively affect their health, than it is to protect and enhance our natural resources, and strive for the well-being of our society. There is no room for complacency, however. At the same time as huge global challenges – including rising numbers of hungry people, the intensifying effects of climate change, mass migration and growing economic inequality – are threatening the lives and livelihoods of the world’s most vulnerable women and men, particularly farmer and rural people, the development landscape is changing. Unequal power relations in the world have added more fuel to the fire of poverty and social injustice. It is time to relook at the development order in the world and integrate the most poor and wealthy to have a common outcome in development and economic prosperity at different levels.

FIMARC keep the view of Investing in farming and rural development as an act of nation building. While we march ahead on the path of development, it is the responsibility of all of us to ensure that farmers and rural people are not left behind in the process. They must be provided with opportunities to grow in a stimulating environment. We continued to upkeep our commitment towards the sustainable development of agriculture and rural areas

At FIMARC, we’re fighting alongside hundreds of courageous peasants and rural people who are leaders in their families, their communities and their nations, to ensure their rights, to protect and promote family farming systems, traditional know how, sustainable food systems, improve access to productive resources, education and economic opportunity, and ultimately realize their full potential.

The year 2018 has been the year of the 15th FIMARC World Assembly, which brought together representatives of rural christian movements and organizations from 32 countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America and Europe in Senegal. This assembly was a means of reminding us of the priorities of our commitments to serve the rural populations with whom we live and work. It highlighted the involvement of a national movement, the Senegalese MARC, in various local development operations. It has reinforced our orientations and choices in favour of rural development methods and the types of agriculture we support with a view to a fair, harmonious and supportive rural world.

The year 2018 has been the year of achievements for FIMARC. Collaborative approaches once again paid the desired results. During the year we effectively implemented various projects as planned. Our PLDP programme in Asia and Prorure Projects in Europe has been running successfully in 6 countries and 9 countries respectively for past 3 years. FIMARC also bring local and regional successes to global fora so that others can learn from them. Community-based collective actions in line with our PLDP programme in Asia which encourage the farmer led and controled initiatives are reaping a rich dividend. Along with our work at the grassroots, we have been making consistent efforts to sensitise and bringing sustainable change through alliance and network building as well as collective formation activities. Sub regional Capacity building workshop on Intergenerational transfer of knowledge in Kenya, Africa and the national level capacity building workshops on strengthening family farming in Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka and Pakistan and more over the transnational seminar on Family farming and meeting with European Parliamentarians in Brussels, regional seminars on Laudato si in Argentina etc were some of the key initiatives of the year.

2018, was the year in which the Universal Declaration of Human Rights turns 70 and it is abundantly clear that none of us can take any of our human rights for granted. We certainly cannot take for granted that we will be free to gather together in protest or to criticize our governments. Neither can we take for granted that social security will be available when we are old or incapacitated; that our babies can grow up in cities with clean, breathable air; or that as young people we will leave school to find jobs that enable us to buy a home. However, 2018 also demonstrated the enduring willingness of people and some governments to stand up for their rights and for the values they want to see in the world by making into the reality of adopting the UN Declaration of Rights of Peasants and other people working in Rural Areas. FIMARC have been part of this historic process together with other peasant organisations and CSO's. The coming year will provide a vital opportunity for a renewed commitment to the transformative idea of Peasant rights into its implementation process.

Our strength lies in our numbers, teaming up with people from around the world who believe they can contribute to positive change allows us to amplify our messages while taking an honest and critical look at our food systems .I would like to take this opportunity to thank our partners and donors for their strong and consistent support, without which we would not have been able to achieve so much. Annual report 2018 captures the best of our journey, bringing alive some of the most memorable moments and the most inspiring narratives through these pages. Hope you will find it an engaging read!

George Fernandez
Assesse, June 2018

❖ **Major objectives of the year 2018:**

- Enhance the capacity of members as actors of changes in rural areas.
- Strengthen family farming systems in different countries.
- Promote the dialogue on intergenerational transfer of knowledge.
- Organise the FIMARC World Assembly and the World conference of peasants and rural people with view to elaborate a plan of action of the movements.
- Help the member movements and public to have critical awareness on existing socio-economic and agricultural issues in different continents.
- Support and strengthen peasant family farming systems through specific interventions and cooperation with different actors.
- Strengthen the advocacy and lobbying efforts at different levels for the approval of the UN Declaration on Peasant Rights.
- Influence the policy decisions of the World Committee on Food Security (CFS).
- Coordinate common actions in relation to World Food Day theme of the year through specific campaign.
- Build strong alliances and networks of food sovereignty movements.

❖ **Results**

- FIMARC put in place great efforts for the conclusion of the peasant rights declaration process.
- FIMARC successfully implemented the World Conference of peasants and rural people and its World Assembly in Thies, Senegal.
- FIMARC supported and initiated genuine and coordinated dialogue between different actors and organisations, which work on family farming through national consultations in India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.
- FIMARC national movements in different countries developed concrete community led development initiatives and programmes.
- FIMARC had been present and influenced debates on food and agricultural governance in favour of small holder farmers and rural populations at international policy spaces and

forums. (Ex: FAO, CFS and Human Rights Council).

- FIMARC Published the Global Campaign Material on the theme of the World Food Day and organised common actions in different countries.
- 4 Editions of VMR (Voix de Monde Rural/Voice of the Rural World) has been released and used by different movements to share and showcase best practices from the movements.
- FIMARC strengthened the dialogue on Intergenerational Transfer of Knowledge in East Africa through the capacity building workshop in Kenya.
- FIMARC organised the transnational meeting in Brussels with the participation of delegates from nine European movements in order to bring our proposals to the European Decision makers on how to strengthen family farming systems.
- *FIMARC initiated collective reflection through a joint sub regional workshop in Philippines on youth in Agriculture together with MIJARC and JOCI.

MAJOR ACTIVITIES OF THE YEAR

A.FIMARC and PEASANT RIGHTS

✓ *UN Declaration of the rights of Peasants and Other People working in Rural Areas*

FIMARC has been firmly committed, together with La Vía Campesina, CETIM etc for the adoption at the United Nations of a new international instrument to better protect the rights of peasants. FIMARC delegations participated in all the Intergovernmental Working Group which prepared the articles of the declaration. FIMARC made various interventions on different articles of the draft declaration of the Peasant Rights and organised and participated in different lobby meetings to get the support of different governments.

April 2018, after 6 years of negotiations, the 5th Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group of the Human Rights Council (HRC) concluded the debates on the content, finalized the text. In September, the HRC (39th Session) adopted the Declaration by a majority vote. Our Human Rights Working Group members, Gabriel Falchun, Gérard Boinon, Elisabeth Pariat, Marcel Favre, Wolfgang Scharl and George Dixon Fernandez participated in the 5th open ended Intergovernmental working group held in Geneva from 9-13 April 2018 as well as in the 39th Session of the Human Rights Council that approved the declaration last year. FIMARC made very strong arguments through oral and written statements about the need to conclude the declaration urgently by maintaining the key articles and concepts such as peasant Rights on Seeds, Food Sovereignty, Traditional know how, Collective Rights etc .

The CMR co-signed a letter calling on France and the European Union to issue a favourable opinion during the vote at the United Nations. ACRF, Belgium send a letter to the minister in

charge of the peasant rights process. CCFM South Korea made a campaign to influence their government. FIMARC at International level made press release calling for the national governments to approve the declaration without further delay as well as organised a signature campaign by the member movements in different countries to demand their support.

Finally, on 17 December 2018, the 73 Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA 73) in New York adopted the UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas. At present it is an international legal instrument and an important tool which should guarantee and realize the rights of the peasants and other working people in rural areas.

FIMARC declaration at Human rights council –March and September 2018

FIMARC delegation participated in the regular session of the human rights council in March and September 2018 in Geneva to support and follow up the Peasant rights process. We strived with great effort to have the approval of the declaration in Human Rights Council in September so that it could be presented in the third committee in New York in October 2018 as well as in the UN General Assembly in December to get the final approval of the declaration.

Human Rights Working Group (GTDH)

The FIMARC Human Rights Working Group (HRWG) held two meetings in 2018 to continue working on farmer's rights and to discuss about the pedagogical document on seeds.

B.FIMARC Thematic Campaigns

✓ World Food Day Campaign 2018-October 16

FIMARC publishes every year a call to the movements in line with the World Food Day theme of the year to take up some concrete actions to eradicate hunger and poverty. A campaign material was published in English /French and Spanish and distributed to the national movements and local groups to support in coordinating their actions and raise their awareness. The main aim of the WFD campaign and call was to have a Common action day, common orientation and awareness raising campaigns, realisation of some practical projects. The global message for World Food Day 2018 was ZERO HUNGER. On the occasion of this World Food Day, FIMARC called upon along with FAO on countries and other stakeholders to implement concrete initiatives to achieve the target of Zero Hunger.

✓ Proposed Actions

- Organise a campaign activity to raise awareness among the public on Zero Hunger
- Organise sessions with a view to raise the debate on Zero Hunger
- Organise meetings with politicians and local self-governments to demand concrete actions and initiatives for the realization of Zero Hunger in respective territories
- Organise Corner meetings, press conference, press release or demonstrations on the topic to raise the awareness of the society
- Make awareness raising activities against food waste and harvest loss

- Organise Traditional Cooking completions to raise awareness on Sustainable consumption
- Mix up the diet campaign :At least one meal a week an all-veggie one
- Buy local : Shop from local farmers whenever you can and support local economy

✓ 2. FIMARC Campaign on FAMILY FARMING

FIMARC campaign on Family Farming is still progressing. Through this campaign FIMARC tries to influence decision makers, governments, international organizations, church, all other religious leaders, producers, consumers and society in general to support and promote family farming. FIMARC supported Continental /National initiatives in relation to Family Farming Campaign and facilitated the exchange of successful approaches among members.

➤ FIMARC National Level Workshops on FAMILY FARMING in Asia



There is a great importance for Family Farming for the future of mankind. But the situation of the farming families is worsening day by day. The number of Family Farms are reducing in both north and south. FIMARC consider that the promotion of mono crop cultivation, unfair agricultural policies of the Governments, land grabbing of corporate, lack of proper orientation and negative attitude of the young people towards farming, increasing rural youth exodus to urban areas, widespread consumerist way of life of the people, Price volatility, lack of unity and organizational structure among the Family farmers, unfair land distribution, lack of infrastructure, lack of land tenure rights and land reforms, increasing difficulties in access to vital resources such as land, water and seeds, Lack of land inheritance for women, bad impact of the structural adjustment policies, lack of rural infrastructure and development, lack of financial means for research and development of family-orientated agriculture, lack of counseling for peasant families and lack of social protection for peasants and rural people are the major reasons for the closure and disappearance of Family Farms in most of the countries. FIMARC believe that with the right economic, social and environmental conditions, smallholder family farmers can be at the forefront of a sustainable transformation in world agriculture. This programme on **Strengthening Family Farming and rights of peasants** is aimed to bring motivation and confidence most especially among the family farmers of the implementing countries as well as to raise support from all the other relevant actors.



The whole phase of the programme has been planned over a period of 24 months (2018 and 2019) to work with 8 movements/ organizations of FIMARC in Asia. During the year 2018, FIMARC Asia decided to start implementing the project activities in 4 Asian Countries such as Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, India and Pakistan.

✓ **Goal of 2018**

To support local resistance and to develop alternatives in 4 movements/ organizations of FIMARC in Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, India and Pakistan for strengthening their local leadership, attaining food sovereignty through ecological and sustainable farming practices and thereby enhancing the livelihood of the rural communities with environmentally and culturally appropriate community actions.

✓ **Preparatory Phase**

Visits to the implementing Countries : FIMARC Asian Coordinators made a visit in Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, India and helped to make SWOT analysis of the existing involvement of each movement/ organization. The same has been done with Pakistan through online conferences. This helped the key leaders to realise the need for a change among the communities and the partnering organizations.

✓ **FIMARC Asian Coordination Meetings:**

During the year 2018, two FIMARC Asian Coordination meetings were held which planned for the implementation of this programme in 4 countries in Asia. The first FIMARC Asian Coordination Meeting was held in Seoul, South Korea from 25-27 April 2018 which decided India, Bangladesh Pakistan and Sri Lanka as the 4 implementing countries of this program during the first year. Further the concept note on this programme on **Strengthening Family Farming and rights of peasants** at country level was circulated and discussed with these 4 country movements and leadership during the visits of the coordinators and also through online conferences. The second FIMARC Asian Coordination in 2018 was held in Dhaka, Bangladesh from 9-12 September 2018 which analyzed Progress of the programme based on the implementation of the country level workshop of Pakistan that was held in Multan in September 2018 and planned the

workshops of Bangladesh, India and Sri Lanka. All the FIMARC Asian Coordination Members as well as the Secretary General of FIMARC participated in the two FIMARC Asian coordination meetings of 2018 especially to prepare the programme on Family Farming supported by CCFD.

✓ Overview of the Major Activities

Country level Initiation workshop with field visits

Around 140 community leaders from the 4 movements of FIMARC Asia from Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, India and Pakistan had been part of this initiation workshop in 4 Countries. Country level workshops initiated actions in each organization level and an initial plan of action has been developed as an outcome in each of the country level workshops.

It is important for the activists/ leaders to understand the community in a historical purview so that the cultural dimensions, the traditional food patterns and agriculture systems and the traditional institutions and their roles are understood well. The detailed report of each of these country level workshops are given below (From Page 8 onwards).

✓ Country Level Activities :

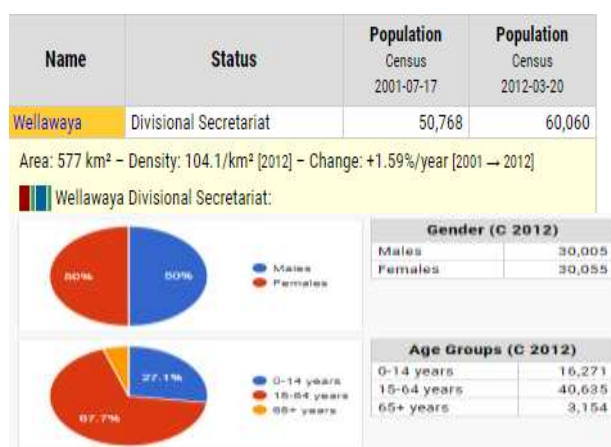
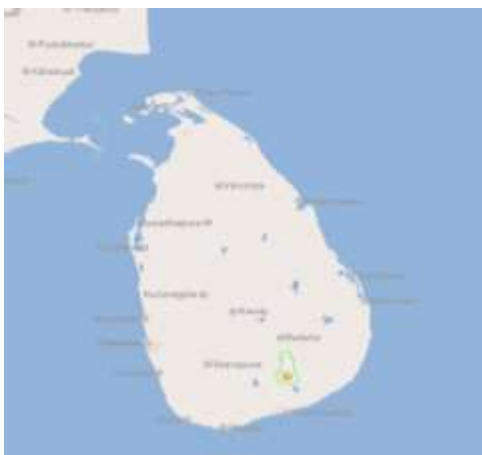
Different countries had organized various activities based on the theme of Strengthening Family Farming and Sustainable Agriculture”.

1.SRILANKA

FIMARC Sri Lanka organized a workshop on “Developing and promoting family farming to uphold food sovereignty, nutritional security and right to natural resources of the communities in Wellawaya - Monaragala District”.

Organization: Uwa Wellassa Women's Organization

Region: Wellawaya divisional secretariat area



Selected Communities: 07 D.S. Divisions (Wellawaya AGA Division- Selected Villages Level Women's Associations Members. An action plan was developed based on **the Problem Analysis and Solution Analysis**



2. PAKISTAN

During the year 2018 Pakistan Movement has organized a Training Workshop on Strengthening Family Farming in Pakistan and field visit on 15th -16th September, 2018 at Chak No. 5/4-L Rangpur, Muzaffargarh. The workshop was attended by 28 participants.

Objectives:

1. Develop the capacity of the target community as Leaders of their communities.
2. Strengthen family farming practices in the target areas.
3. Build and develop confidence of female community members for sustainable agriculture and family farming.
4. Provide a platform to the practitioners of family farmers especially the women farmers to meet and interact with each other and could share their problems, knowledge and experience.
5. Build the capacity of community to work for family farming Programs in their respective areas.

Output/Outcomes:

1. The participants are committed for continuing sustainable agriculture.
2. The participants have shown their willingness to work and strengthen family farming at grass root level.
3. The participants have taken the contact numbers of each other and also show interest to work for other organizations voluntarily, which are engaged in the work of strengthening family farming in the area.



The rural people of Pakistan could enjoy a long and healthy life for generations; if they could provide a training opportunity to manage natural resources and forest at grass root level. They could live without any major ailments or diseases. The history of these rural people shows that in every minor disease, symptom or discomfort, they depended on forest herbs, plants, vegetables, to get well, and they never visited a drug store, hospital, or took any injections.

3. INDIA

India has organized workshop on “Protecting and Strengthening Family Farming and Rights of Farmers” held at Rise Field Office, Villianur, Pondicherry, India on 14th 15th & 16th of December 2018.

Exposure visit:

First the Participants visited the Auroville Community managed farm for safe food production situated in the Binright village of Villupuram District in Tamil Nadu. Second one is an Integrated Family Farm of Mr.Poonkundran / Boy Thanikvel in Poorang kuppam village of Pondicherry. His son 9 year old boy explained about their farm and the techniques of how to make organic manure, composting and pesticides.



Third farm is also a Family Farmer Mr.Karukaram of Thirukanchi village Pondicherry who produce food crops. The group members shared their **Exposure visit experiences**. After the break the **Panel session** started. The first presentation and the facilitation were done by one of the young farmer Mr. Francis Harry Roy. He shared about his Family Farming experiences and also presented the challenges in Family Farming. The Family Farmers Mrs. Selvi and Mr. S Thirumal presented

the problems of the Family Farmers and also faced by the Farming Communities. After the panel presentation the participants were divided into 5 groups and discussed the following questions in the **Group work**:

1. What are the main challenges faced by Family Farming and Peasants?
2. What are the reasons behind it?
3. Why youth are not interested in Family Farming?

Then best practices and alternatives in strengthening Family Farming were delivered by young Family Farmer Mr. Mathewkutty Tom.



✓ **Follow-up Actions:** The following actions were proposed.

Each one will share about this workshop and farm visit experiences in their respective families, friends and relatives.

Try to conduct this type of workshop and visits in their local areas.

Try to identify common plots / waste lands in their areas and try to cultivate safe food for the families those who are associating with the group.

Identify the best practicing family farms in respective localities and learn from their farm activities and disseminate this concept to others.

✓ **Focus group discussion** with the University students:

All the students shared that this is the first time they are attending this kind of a grass root level capacity building workshop. The exposure was really a learning process and it helped to open their mind to think in a different way. RISE Director Mr. Roche Victor shared the possibilities of collaborating with the students to initiate some concrete programmes in the villages where RISE is involved. The students are very much interested to collaborate, if there are such initiatives started by RISE or other Family Farmers group.

✓ **Launching event of the UN Decade on Family Farming in Kerala, India**



Launching event of the UN Decade on Family Farming - FIMARC organised the launching event of the UN Decade of Family farming (2019-2028) on 9th December 2018 at Priyadarshini Auditorium, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. The programme was inaugurated by Advocate A Sampath, the honourable member of Indian Parliament and a key note talk and launching of UN decade in Kerala was done by Sri. George Mathiew, a traditional farmer from Kottayam District, Kerala. This well known traditional family farmer from Kerala presented his life experience of his family farm and its viability even at the amidst of challenges. A dynamic discussion from the floor followed after his presentation really motivated all the participants including the various policy makers and political leaders of the state.

4.BANGLADESH

The workshop was held on “Strengthening Family Farming and Sustainable Agriculture” in October 2018 at RRF’s head office conference room, Jashore, Bangladesh for promoting Bangladesh agriculture especially in family level. The session emphasised on the real needs of farmers and rural people that could strengthen and enhance family farming systems and to get feedback on the sustainability of agriculture.

Objectives:

- To make an analysis on the current situation of Family farming in Asian Countries
- To discuss about the real needs, rights of the family farmers to make agriculture sustainable.

Participants from different organization such as Rural Reconstruction Foundation, Shusomaj Foundation, Alo, SBF, AFNAN, NESANA, and Green land Jashore, Agronne mohela Unnayan Jashore, AMUS Jashore, Ashraf Foundation Chowadanga were present on the workshop. Mr. Philip Biswas, Chair of BSDF presented the topic and relevance of family Farming. Basically most of our grassroots groups are either family farmers or rural people related to farming and farming related activities. Many members of BSDF try to maintain family farming to strengthen local food systems in various areas. They promote sustainable agricultural practices based on agro ecology,



organic farming, integrated farming etc. as to lessen the ecological foot print. Mr. Biswas said Family Farming is a way of life which strengthens the rural economy and ensures food security.

Mr. Abul Kalam Azad was shared about the context of Family Farming in Bangladesh and highlighted the following aspects.

Importance of innovative Family farming:

Family farming, in all its diversity, is the predominant form of agriculture worldwide. Local and global food security depends on it.

1. Family farmers also help preserve and enhance local traditions, heritage and food systems, as well as community ecosystems and rural landscapes.
2. Generates food and income for hundreds of millions of rural people, including the ultra poor, poor and marginalized farm family.
3. Creates jobs for women, men and young people, both within their family farms and in related enterprises along food and agricultural value chains for sustainable income.
4. Provides models of adaptability and resilience for more sustainable food production.
5. Is socially and culturally part of family, communities and territories constituting nations, and as such underpins national food security in most countries.
6. Safeguards and protects environmental assets and natural resources, biodiversity and cultural heritage with diversified production.
7. Raises Agricultural Productivity through modern technologies adaptation with family approach.
8. Links farmers to markets and strengthen value chains with market systems.
9. Reduces risk and vulnerability to reform of legal frameworks and policies in order to address the unfavorable macro-economic and trade policies that are major obstacles to tapping the potential of family farmers.
10. Facilitates agricultural entry, exit, and rural non-farm income (cross-cutting across focus area).
11. Enhances environmental services and sustainability for safeguards to ensure that restoration activities protect and enhance biodiversity and respect the rights and interests of local people, especially indigenous people.
12. Improves safe and nutritious status of soil and crops/products etc.



Five key Focus Areas of the family farming-Action Plan for Bangladesh

1. Raise Agricultural Productivity through modern technologies adaptation with family approach.

2. Link farmers to markets and strengthen value chains with market systems
3. Reduce risk and vulnerability to reform of legal frameworks and policies in order to address the unfavorable macro-economic and trade policies that are major obstacles to tapping the potential of family farmers.
4. Facilitate agricultural entry, exit, and rural non-farm income (cross-cutting across focus areas (I-3)
5. Enhance environmental services and sustainability for safeguards to ensure that restoration activities protect and enhance biodiversity and respect the rights and interests of local people, especially indigenous people.



Rights to land in Bangladesh: During workshop we have vast discussion on land rights since it is vital issue in our country. Md. Rifat Hossain, Advocate, Civil court Jashore has discussed the topic. It was followed by Professor. Dr. JamalUddin Ahamed, Agriculture specialist, University of Agriculture, Dhaka who has discussed about Organic food production

Recommendations/ Actions

Based on the analysis of the whole situation and discussions the following suggestions are in order to expedite the process of establishing land rights and poor people's access to land and water bodies.

- Related to Khas Land
- Related to Vested Land
- Related to Land of Indigenous People
- Related to Land rights for women. So, following these all issues, BSDF will advocacy with government's land rights based department to determine effective and identical land right law so that deprived people can have easy access to get ownership of land.

Women in agriculture: BSDF, along with all partners want to raise the voice against the discrimination with women when they work in agriculture fields and other working fields.



With growing rural outmigration, women's role in agriculture is increasing. They contribute significantly to rural economy, and their empowerment is crucial to minimizing poverty and hunger.

Following initiative will be taken to promote women involve potentially in agriculture:

- Create awareness among community to ensure wage payment equally for men as well as women
- Enhancing women to be more involve in agricultural sector with men for more production through advocacy, FDG, courtyard session etc

C) FIMARC and relation with Church

1. Meeting of the International Catholic Social Action Movements-April 2018

FIMARC participated in the coordination meeting of the International Catholic Social Action Movements which was held from 7-8 April 2018 in Paris. The main objective of the meeting was to create stronger catholic social action network and collective actions. Global leaders of the Catholic social Action Movements participated in this meeting and reaffirmed their commitment to work more collectively to face the current challenges.

2. Vatican Catholic Inspired NGO forum-Follow up

FIMARC participates in the follow up of the Vatican Catholic Inspired NGO forum. During the year 2018, we have participated in the Working group on Sustainable development and provided our inputs through online teleconferences.

D) FIMARC World Assembly

The 15th FIMARC WORLD ASSEMBLY -2 to 16 november 2018, Thiès Sénégal

The 15th FIMARC World Assembly was held in Thiès, Senegal from 2 to 16 November 2018. It was hosted by the Catholic Rural Adult Movements of Senegal (MARCS). The gathering took place in several instances: a welcome ceremony, an opening session with the civil and religious authorities of Senegal, a field visit and meeting with local population and the teams of 6 dioceses of the Senegalese movement to perceive the realities of rural life and local agriculture, a seminar on the modes and issues of rural development, the session of the statutory General Assembly, a closing mass and sending delegates, and FIMARC business sessions : bureau, Executive Committee, meetings of delegates by continent.

The participants :



The Assembly brought together 47 national delegates, an additional delegation of 11 Koreans and some 20 Senegalese representatives. These delegations represented 32 national movements and organizations from 5 continents : 12 African delegates from 9 movements, 11 Latin American delegates from 9 movements including Mexico, 10 Asian delegates from 7 movements and 14 European delegates representing 7 movements. Six Asian delegates were prevented from traveling by the emmigration authorities of their respective countries but had participated in preparatory works. Functionally about twenty MARCS participants mobilized to support this gathering, to welcome delegates upon their arrival, and support during the immersion (field visit), participating in exchanges during the seminar and in the opening and closing celebrations at cathedral inThies



Monsignor André GUEYE,
Bishop of Thiès

The opening Mass. After the welcome session and first exchanges at the Tostan Training Center in Thiès, we gathered on Monday, November 5th, for the opening Mass in the cathedral of Thiès. It was concelebrated by Monsignor André Gueye, Bishop of Thiès, assisted by our chaplain Fr.Tomas Spanghero and the diocesan chaplain of KLB Bamberg (In the framework of Collaboration with German bishop's conference and the diocese of Thiès), Father Epiphane Mbengue, chaplain of MARC Senegal, with a large delegation of Senegalese clergy and in the presence of a large and prayerful assembly. A vigorous preaching by Mgr André Gueye, in charge of the apostolate of the laity of Senegal, invited our movements to mobilize for the service of our brothers and sisters of rural areas in favor of a fair and sustainable development.

The official opening of our meeting was held on Tuesday 6 in the main conference room of the Tostan Center, in the presence of Monsignor Michael Wallace Banach, Apostolic Nuncio to Senegal, and Monsignor André Gueye, Bishop of Thiès, Mrs Gueye representative of the Mayor of Thiès, Mr Cheik Omar Faye representative of the Muslim community, Jacques Badji, President of MARCS and Wolfgang Scharl President of FIMARC etc. Beyond the words of welcome, the speakers agreed on the relevance of the themes proposed by our assembly. The mobilization of the inhabitants of the rural territories for a solidary development offers perspectives to take into consideration in order to face the challenges of the climatic change, the increase of the world demography and the migrations of populations around the urban mega-cities.



Opening of The World Assembly : the official tribune.

3 : Immersion in the Senegalese rural communities (6-9 November)

A 3-day immersion period was scheduled at the beginning of the stay of the delegates. This time it was an usual practice of FIMARC assembly in order to allow delegates to perceive the diversity and realities of Senegalese situations. In response to the wishes of MARCS to manifest the

FIMARC presence to the whole of the Senegalese Church. This immersion took place in 6 of the 7 dioceses of Senegal. Ten groups of 4 or 5 delegates were welcomed by local MARCS officials in the dioceses of Thies, Dakar, Kaolack, Ziguinchor, Kolda and Tambacounda. For a linguistic



FIMARC delegates welcomed in Casamance

question, the 14 Korean delegates remained grouped in the region of Thiès. This immersion time has highlighted several aspects of MARCS members' engagement in Senegalese rural society.

4 : The seminar "Investing in rural development and sustainable agriculture" (5-6 and 10-11 November)

At its last World Assembly in Germany in 2014, FIMARC set itself the goal of supporting peasant family farming through the activities of the movements it federates. Our exchanges show that the forms of agriculture within our territories are diverse and seek to respond to specific issues according to regional conditions while facing common obligations and constraints: the search for food autonomy and sufficient agricultural production in a context of climate change, in the need to respect the available natural resources. The size and type of farms may vary, but farmers face the same issues: access to land ; price volatility; selling price of products determined by external actors; the price of inputs; controlled marketing by external actors; access to credit and financing ; lack of succession for the resumption of farms ; loss of knowledge ... Five issues related to this family farming were presented and discussed during this seminar

4.1 : What kind of rural development and agriculture do we want for a better world ?

Ndiakaté FALL, a Senegalese farmer, member of the platform of the National Council for Concertation and Rural Cooperation (CNCR) and member of Via Campesina, recalled that 70% of the population of Senegal lives from an agriculture based on traditional and family foundations. This agriculture is changing in its production methods (choice of crops, management of crops and seeds, traction mode ...) and helping to cope with the very strong increase of the Senegalese population. At the same time, it is facing pressure from commercial networks and the development of forms of industrial agriculture that mobilize large agriculture areas. Ndiakaté FALL highlighted the crucial link between the agricultural production method, the forms of social life in rural areas and the preservation of natural resources to ensure the sustainability of this production. He recalled the



Ndiakaté FALL : 70 % of senegalese population has a life based on family farming

attachment of Senegalese farmers to the land as common good of the village community and the role of rural populations in the stability of the social body.

Father Epiphane MBENGUE, chaplain of MARCS, expressed the wish that the MARCS could work in association with CNCR.

4.2 : Rural development: a farming to live or to make profit?

Father Joseph GUEYE, priest of the diocese of Thiès, recalled the content of Laudato Si, a true road map for Christians in agricultural development and management of our planet. With an



Father Joseph GUEYE recalled the strength of Laudato Si's message

interpellation. "Do we have a profit or service relationship with the land ? ". Challenges remain: how to overcome hunger, the possibility for small farmers to be able to live off their incomes, the preservation of the state of natural resources, the awareness that the development of immoral technologies leads to death of living environment. Perspectives in accordance with the social doctrine of the Church. Land and water are common goods whose use must be equitably distributed. Legal structures are needed to ensure this equity. The definition of norms for the use of natural resources cannot be sufficient without an alert of consciences. A pressing invitation for a radical refocusing of economies in the service of social justice, based on sobriety in the global use of resources, and taking into account sufficiency rather than efficiency alone.

4.3 Peasant rights to land and seeds

Mamadou GOÏTA, Executive Secretary of the Network of Peasant and Producer Organizations of West Africa (ROPWA), actively participated in the drafting of the draft declaration of peasants' rights adopted by the United Nations Human Rights Council in September 2018 and approved by the UN General Assembly on 20 December 2018.

Mamadou GOÏTA recalled the history of the approach initiated by Via Campesina in the years 1996-2000 around the idea of food sovereignty, then the Nyéléni declaration (2007), the idea of a declaration of peasants' rights and the negotiations that led to the resolution of the United Nations Human Rights Council (2012) and the establishment of a working group to prepare a draft of United Nations declaration. FIMARC, a member of the Human Rights Working Group, actively participated in the drafting of this text. The Human Rights Council had highlighted five main causes of the difficulties faced by farmers in making a living from their production. In response to these evils, the text adopted aims to pass into national legislation several important rights, including :



Mamadou Goïta participated in the drafting of the declaration of peasant rights

- Recognition of the principle of food sovereignty
- The right of peasants of access to land, with individual and collective approaches (community rights)
- Seed production and marketing rights
- Equal rights for men and women, especially for access to credit and in the transmissions of previous rights. In view of the adoption of this declaration, Mamadou GOÏTA emphasized the

important role of our movements in making its contents known to our governments and in defining appropriate strategies in our respective countries to advance its implementation.

4.4 The development of sustainable production and consumption patterns



Mrs Voré SECK, an energetic woman for an agriculture and a safe environment at the service of all

Mrs Vore Gona SECK is recognized in Senegal for her commitment to support agricultural production and environmental protection. She recalled some of the causes in which she has involved personally or through the NGO she leads. The fight against deforestation with the improvement of charcoal production methods and the development of improved ovens ; support to farmers and aid for financing to fight against land grabbing by transnational corporations in northern Senegal ; support to farmers for the production and preservation of their seeds during the lean season ; approaches to regulate the mesh size of sea fishing nets to avoid the collection of small fish and ensure the renewal of fish populations.

It was indeed a testimony of an energetic and determined woman, at the service of the people of her country and an illustration of the diversity of actions in which women are involved !

4.5 intergenerational relationships and knowledge transfer

Thomas GARRICK (African Center for Human Rights Education) and George FERNANDEZ (Secretary General of FIMARC) addressed this issue, which was highlighted in rural communities facing the migration of young people to cities, the difficulties of young people in finding their place both in rural and urban areas, the feeling of abandonment perceived by the elders, and the intergenerational gap accentuated by the digital divide ...

Without directly addressing the issue of population migration, Thomas GARRICK emphasized the role of culture as a means of remedying intergenerational divide, stressing the importance of a dialogue to be built to move from a culture of competition to a culture exchange that seeks to propose rather than to impose.

George FERNANDEZ said that the question of the intergenerational transfer of knowledge has been addressed in the Asian movements who has become aware of the intergenerational divide and the resulting isolation. Perception of the need for a space for reflection and learning from a dialogue in which everyone really tries to be understood by the other. In a culture of exchange, young people have things to teach to elders, and elders can pass on their traditional knowledge to the younger people.

A first approach that has made it possible to emphasize that this question is a cross-cutting issue within our movements and needs to be further developed.

This seminar was also a time for sharing activities illustrating how the movements have taken up this issue of family farming:

- CMR (France): meetings between farmers and non-farmers around agricultural holdings on the possible changes in production methods.
- KIDEP (Kenya): women's mobilization around the issues of family farming and agroecology.
- FIMARC Salvador (Araba de Romero): the mobilization of farmers' associations on the rights of peasants.
- CCFM (Korea): Sustainable production and consumption initiatives in Korea: short producer-consumer circuits, solidarity, connection and cooperation mechanisms between rural and urban people.

Similarly, a "marketplace" type of exchange time has highlighted 3 promising initiatives:

- The participatory development approach in Asia: the PDLP method led by the Asian movements (presentation by Rony JOSEPH from INAG, India)
- The development of microcredit in rural areas in Senegal (Caurie Micro-Finance)
- The role of "Maisons Familiales Rurales (MFR)" in rural training in Senegal (with Mr Pape SANE, President of the Federation of MFR and Mrs JULIETTE, Director of the MFR of Fandène).



The Market Place, an interactive exchange about the PDLP working method

This seminar time was completed in the evening by a presentation session on the intervention of the Senegalese state in rural development by the representative of DRDR of Thiès, and by the representative of regional Caritas of Thiès. The cultural evenings have also complimented the sharing sessions between delegates from different continents.

5 : The Statutory Assembly (12-14 November)

51 : The detailed activity report of the Secretary General. George Fernandez made it possible to recall the various operations in which FIMARC has been involved during the past 4 years through a power point presentation of Key initiatives.

52 : The treasurer's financial report. Jean-Claude Germon, Treasurer, reported on the evolution of the budget over the last 4 years. The presentation showed a balanced budget over this period. However, the balance is fragile and very dependent on our ability to convince our donors by presenting our activities and the animation that we provide with our movements. We must continue to convince our movements that more assertive support from them is a sign of credibility for the funders we solicit.

53 : Joining new movements

Paraguay and El Salvador have been following the work of FIMARC for many years as movements in contact: they have expressed the wish to be associated movements. Their activities are in

conformity with the criteria and have presented the necessary references (coherence with the FIMARC orientations, character of the movement, agreement of the Bishop's conference) and thus *Accession was unanimously approved.*

54 :New Executive Committee (Exco)



The ExCo 2018 : Jean Claude Germon, Sophie Elisabeth Kibuyva, Rony Joseph, Manuel Moran, Médard Meyanga, Père Tomas Spanghero, Wolfgang Scharl, Modesta Arevalos, George Fernandez, Nayana Vitchiporn

The new executive committee for the period 2018-2022 is composed by:

- *Sophie Kibuyva and Médard Meyanga (Africa)*
- *Modesta Arevalos and Manuel Moran (Latin America)*
- *Nayana Vitchiporn and RonyJoseph (Asia)*
- *Wolfgang Scharl and Jean Claude Germon (Europa)*
- *George Fernandez (General Secretary) and father Tomas Spanghero (Chaplain)*

Wolfgang Scharl has been elected as President of FIMARC, George Fernandez as Secretary General and Jean Claude Germon as Treasurer.



Wolfgang SCHARL, FIMARC President

6 : Closing and final declaration of the World Assembly



The Closing Mass in the Cathedral at Thiès allowed Monseignor Michaël Wallace Bannach, Apostolic Nuncio, to remind the delegates that their commitment was continuing at the end of this meeting and that the "Ite missa is" of this celebration, associated with the proclamation of the final resolution of the World Assembly, constituted their sending on mission

7 : Some highlights of this Assembly.

A common priority for FIMARC movements expressed at the seminar and in continental groups; ***a continued advocacy for support for peasant family farming and respect for the rights of peasants and rural populations*** recognized in the declaration approved by the United Nations.

The diversity and representativeness of the delegates: 32 movements and organizations from 32 different countries worked together during these nearly 2 weeks. A wealth of exchanges that impressed those who were attending this meeting for the first time. The gender parity was not respected but is on its way to becoming one. This parity would be reached if the movements gave

themselves the means to participate with two delegates. The mixed male / female character of our movements is one of our riches and is certainly a way to allow an evolution in the societies in which we work.

The mobilization of the Senegalese movement for the immersion time and the reception in the different dioceses of Senegal: all the delegates showed their satisfaction of the contacts and exchanges made during this short stay. Many thanks to the teams who mobilized for this immersion stay and for the smooth running of the Assembly.

The Korean video of the Martyrdom of Mr Bak Nam Gi, vice-president of the Korean movement, who died following police brutality during a demonstration to obtain a better price for agricultural products paid to producers. A great emotion in this video which shows the peaceful investment of the movement that has contributed to the renewal of the Korean government.

El Salvador and Paraguay's applications for membership: the applications for membership of FIMARC from the two South American movements confirm the strong presence of FIMARC on this continent.

Attention to other religions Our Senegalese hosts reminded us that they live in a predominantly Muslim cultural environment. In their activities and their development projects they work with their Muslim brothers and sisters. In our countries we live in contact with communities of different religions and faith, or lack of religious reference. Our FIMARC meetings are a way of questioning ourselves about the expression of our faith and the need to live in acceptance and respect of the difference of the other.

Our eucharistics celebrations, our evenings of sharing, relaxation and celebration, our coffee breaks were also times to live the fraternity of our movements.

9 : Some photos and souvenirs.



*Jacques Badji,
President of MARC Senegal*



*Father Epiphane Mbengue, Chaplain of
MARC Senegal*



*Parity Men and Women: a wealth to
become in our movements*



*Modesta Arevalos & Manuel Moran,
Latin America Coordination*



*George Fernandez,
The General Secretary of FIMARC*



*President of KCFC , the very active
movement in South Korea*



*Jean Clement Sengue, Julien Badji & Madame Badji : the
voluntary advance by the african movements*



*Continental meeting of the Latin America
delegation and portage of an intermovement projects*



*The international character of our celebrations with the
chaplains from Korea, Burkina Faso, Senegal, Argentina*



*The attention to other religions Bishop André Gueye and
the local Imam*



*The south Korean delegation surrounding the wife of Mr Bak Nam Gi dead as
a result of police brutality during a protest for fairer prices to farmers.*



*Tribute to the wife of
Mr Bak Nam Gi*

E) FIMARC Publications

1. **Voice of the Rural World (VMR)** is the review of the movement, published four times a year in four languages (English, French, Spanish and Portuguese). VMR is a tool to share ideas and experience between the continents/Movements. FIMARC support the movements to share and showcase best practices of family farming and agro ecological initiative through VMR. It contributes to the information and formation of national and local leaders on the different topics of FIMARC's work. The following editions with respective themes were released during the year 2018

VMR 124 – Social Protection in Agriculture

VMR 125-Food Sovereignty and Seeds

VMR 126-Gender Equity and Empowerment

VMR 127-Quality of Food Security and Nutrition

2. **LMR** : FIMARC published LMR 98 in relation with the theme of reflection about Easter 2018.

F. Other Continental Activities of 2018

Latin American

Latin America continues to be a continent where social dynamics are constantly changing, but the living of the Christian faith is always very determinant for transforming the reality of rural life. For this reason it is necessary to continue on the path, sowing leaderships and building a peasant fabric that is capable of defending its land, its territory and its culture.

For FIMARC AMERICA must be a priority of believers, convert their faith in defense of Just Causes and in protection of culture, eating habits and means of cultivation in each territory. The construction of social movements based on peasants is synonymous with "smelling of peasants", meaning that we have worked so that our leaderships do not become instruments of politics, but rather we have pursued the emergence of new rural leaders who are with peasants in their struggles: Water, Land, Seeds, Culture and Art, that has been the great challenge.

Main operational activities carried out in 2018

FIMARC, works with volunteers in the different regions of America, in total there are 8 people who encourage movements in the areas: southern cone, Andean zone and Central America and the Caribbean.

1. FIMARC Promotion

Each of the comrades in their movements has worked to promote FIMARC as a worldwide movement demanding the rights of peasants. Festivals, farmers' fairs, forums, visits to officials, exchanges, radio programs and pamphlets, bags, t-shirts etc. have been carried out in many countries.

2. Coordination Visits in the field

The delegates from each region have made the effort to visit other movements with the purpose of accompanying in the field, the peasant struggles and the desire to have a camp with hope. In the southern cone there were 7 visits, in the Andean zone 6 visits and in Central America and the Caribbean 10 visits.

3. Continental Meetings

The distances are long and the flights are also expensive, so FIMARC Latin America only held 1 continental meeting in the Dominican Republic and 6 continental Virtual meetings with which we managed to coordinate the work well. The meetings are very important to see the culture and the work of each companion and to push the movements to link up with political actors in the countries.

4. Regional Meetings

Each region has its own operating dynamics, but we have tried to find ourselves in countries where costs are lower. For example, in The Southern Cone, Colombia, The Andean Area in Bolivia and Central America in Guatemala. This is the closest space for discussion and accompaniment that the delegates of each movement have to understand the dynamics and work of FIMARC.

5. Concrete Productive Initiatives

FIMARC Latin America have promoted three productive initiatives in 2018:

- ✓ Green sugar production (El Salvador)
- ✓ The integral farm (Paraguay)
- ✓ Organic coffee production (Mexico)

These three productive initiatives are growing and advancing towards sustainability so that they will soon be a source of income so that the continent can count on some resources to make the regional meetings more dynamic. The first two initiatives started in 2017 and the last in 2018 in the state of CHIAPAS, in a village of the XENTAL TRIBU called OCOSINGO in where many campesinos produce an excellent organic coffee and that is very badly paid. With the fund granted, they are roasting, packing and selling their coffee directly; it is a very good experience. These initiatives are led by those responsible for the regions and encouraged by the work of the partners, it is the work of all for all.

6. World Assembly: Latin America had 9 delegates from nine countries, something very enriching because it gave an opportunity to put in the context of the global rural movement the reality of America in all its facets. Half of the delegates were new people, especially Mexico, Guatemala, Bolivia and Ecuador. Having been in Senegal, also allowed the Latin American delegation to review the resources that they have in America, to know the political actors and to expand the horizon of Political Analysis on Agricultural Problems in the continent. Today we can say that America has a small legion of comrades committed to the struggle of peasants at the political and technical level that allows denouncing and proposing at the level of high decision-making structures such as FAO, WORLD BANK, CNAF, UN. Having attended the World Assembly has allowed to strengthen the hope that America will be strong in the Catholic social movements, since it made a realization that they are united by a single faith and a single language and seeing the limitations exist in Africa also allowed them to value the wealth that they still have.

Impacts of Work in the Continent

For now, FIMARC has 10 National structures in 10 Countries and 70 Contacting organisations, which perform a valuable basic work, defending rural life. FIMARC have formed an important group of leaders who, in the very near future, will be able to accompany social struggles in favor

Latin America is the land of the martyrs in defense of the rural world, agricultural reform, just wages and for recasting the maltreated dignity of the rural people, that is why we feel that we must take responsibility in this new historical context, this path we are taking together between the south and the north

[illegible]

Mexican Group of Organic Coffee of the Zental Tribe



Workshop with Rural Youth of Tacuati



HOPE Workshop Participants in the Diocese of San Lorenzo



Regional Seminar on Laudato Si. in Reconquista, Argentina



FIMARC PROMOTIONAL MATERIAL



2: AFRICA

Sub regional Joint Capacity Building Workshop on Land Access & Rights and Scope for Intergenerational Transfer of Knowledge in Africa – Kitale, KENYA- December 2018

FIMARC sub regional consultation on Intergenerational Transfer of Knowledge in collaboration with MIJARC was held in Kitale, Kenya from 29 December 2018 -2 January 2019. Around 45 National leaders from 6 countries participated in this sub regional workshop. This was a first joint initiative in the African sub region to have a dialogue among youth and adult on key issues pertinent to rural areas. It helped MIJARC and FIMARC to reflect this theme together and to develop some concrete initiatives to work on this topic at different level in changing the mentality, tradition and relations between the young and the old in the community and will further involve all community members in the discussion process in future dialogues in participating countries

Achieved Results

- * Intergenerational dialogue on knowledge sharing
- * Exchange of information on land issues in East Africa.
- * Better coordinated and collective actions at national and sub regional levels



Group at DESECE Centre Kenya



Group in a field visit at Monor House Kitale



Group at Monor House Kitale - field visit

The workshop was attended by six African countries namely : **Burundi, Cameroon, Kenya (host), Rwanda, Uganda, Zambia & Brussels**

Offical Opening of the Training Session

The workshop was officially opened by the minister of agriculture, fishery and livestock, Bungoma county, Hon. Matthew Wanjala and Tongaren sub county agricultural officer Mr.Shadrack Wasike. The two officers highlighted some of the agricultural issues in the county and these were:



From Left Hon. Mathew Makanda (minister), Mr. Shadrack Wasike Agriculture officer, Miss Sophie E. Kibuywa director DESECE

Introductory Session on the theme

George Dixon Fernandez, the Secretary General of FIMARC made an introductory presentation on the theme of the day “Intergenerational relations and Transfer of knowledge”. He primarily explained the context and relevance of the need to have better relations between generations with some examples of different life contexts of today as well as with some anecdotes. The session also provided some outlook on the eventual possibilities of transfer of knowledge that could benefit generations and particularly the two movements.



George Dixon Fernandez,
Secretary General of FIMARC.

The first day of the seminar was dedicated to the topic on land access and land rights in East Africa. An expert presentation of the training was carried out by **Mr. William Anunda** who dealt with land access and rights in East Africa.

African Context of Intergenerational relations and intergenerational transfer of knowledge

The day's second session was a presentation from Dr. Chris who dealt with intergenerational relations and intergenerational transfer of knowledge in the context of Africa. **Socio,cultural, economic and demographic trends and intergenerational relations.**

Professor Wanjala Bonventure Kerre talked about socio cultural, economic and demographic trends and intergenerational relations.



Way forward

An action plan has been developed by MIJARC and FIMARC at the end of the workshop

- ❖ FIMARC Uganda and FIMARC Kenya takes the lead to replicate the workshops on intergenerational dialogue with some Community leaders especially on the question of land

- ❖ MIJARC takes the lead to replicate the workshops on intergenerational dialogue with some Community leaders in Kenya especially on the question of land.
- ❖ FIMARC Training Centre of DESECE will be pen to receive young people from Kenya or Uganda to provide agricultural trainings to settle in farming.
- ❖ Both organizations will take effort to organise a training session on Land Access and Rights and Intergenerational Relations in Central African region in 2019.
- ❖ Advocate and influence policies that support land access and rights issues.
- ❖ Take initiative to have a library for MIJARC and FIMARC where one can acquire knowledge on rural issues and Agriculture
- ❖ Organise a day for awareness about MIJARC, FIMARC and Create platforms for awareness in the respective countries on land access and rights.
- ❖ Create some support system for our farmer members.
- ❖ Organize field visits to farms in order to enhance knowledge on farm management.
- ❖ Making publication items branded MIJARC and FIMARC in order to enhance awareness.

FIELD VISIT TO MANOR HOUSE and Davis Nactari's farm : A field visit was organized at Manor House Agricultural Center in Kitale, Kenya to have a firsthand knowledge about the function of this agricultural knowledge transfer center that provide training especially in organic farming skills for evolving organic farmers and young farmers. Thereafter a visit was held at Davis Nactari's farm to learn a kind of mixed approach in farming.

Some photos of the Programme





3. EUROPE

Prorure Transnational Seminar and Meeting with EU parliamentarians And COMECE

Representatives of 9 European Christian movements gathered in Brussels in September 2018 to bring the concerns of rural populations to the representatives of the European Union (the "Agriculture and Rural Development" Commission) and to the representation of the Catholic Church in Brussels (COMECE)



Introduction by Mgr Hérouard, COMECE Vice President

Delegates from 9 european countriess at the european parlement

1. Participation of CMR and FIMARC in the International Peace Festival,

The International Peace Festival was organised by MRJC (France) and KLJB (Germany) from 2-5 August 2018, in Besançon (France). Around 3000 young Germans and French participated in 3 days gathering. Numerous round tables on local development, food sovereignty, the future of Europe, the conditions for a world peace, disarmament etc were held. FIMARC and CMR participated in this event and orgnised a stand



The general meeting on the conditions of the world peace

The stand of CMR FIMARC

2. FIMARC's involvement in international networks:

CCFD Food Sovereignty Network : FIMARC participated in the CCFD food sovereignty network with CMR in March 2018 with Jean Claude and an intervention by George Fernandez.

Entraide et Fraternite Seminar : FIMARC participated in the Seminar 2018 of Entraide et Fraternité in Brussels in June 2018 and Jean Claude Germon, made a presentation on FIMARC's activities during this International Workshop

3 CMR's activities in relation to FIMARC's orientations

The annual seminar of CMR organised by the Agriculture and Food Network commission in December 2018 focused on the theme "Let's mobilize for another Common Agricultural Policy" came up with with a final press release from CMR recalling "what we want" and "what we do not want" around 4 orientations: maintenance of the vitality of rural territories; coherence of the CAP with the development of the countries of the South; preservation of the environment, food quality and health; promotion of the peasant profession.



Invitation to the seminar

Presentation and exchanges on the European Agricultural Policy.

4- Exchanges around agriculture and farmers carrying out transformations in rural areas in different regions :

Burgundy, June 2018 : 70 persons who are actively engaged in the agro-ecological approach and production in short circuits gathered in Burgundy, France in June 2018 in order to share their best practices and to learn from one another. The meetings and sharings were organised in 3 farms with 3 different approaches to agro-ecology. Similarly other events have been organised in other regions ; in Brittany, around 100 people were gathered on 29 September 2018 for an "exchange on the fragility of the rural world".



Exchange with a farmer at the edge of the field

Demonstration of bread production by the peasant baker



4. ASIA

Sub regional Joint Seminar on Youth

The Youth Seminar was an initiative developed by three international organizations namely; MIJARC, FIMARC and JOCI with the support of Entraide and Fraternite. The sub regional seminar on “Youth” in Asia, Philippines in particular “was held in Antipolo Rizal, Philippines from September 24-28, 2018. It was attended by various organization and partners in the Philippines as well as the leaders from various national movements of MIJARC, FIMARC and JOCI in Asia.

The Youth Exchange

Before the youth seminar itself, two days exchange program was held in Valenzuela City, Philippines to see the reality of the young contractual workers working in the factory and with the informal sector working in the street.

Presentation and Discussion of analysis and action

All the partner organizations made specific presentations in relation to the theme of the workshop.

FIMARC made the following presentations to enrich the seminar. Similarly other partner organisations too. An external expert presentation on the situation of youth in Asia –Pacific broadened the reflections on the theme

A. Presentation of FIMARC on Global Analysis on Agriculture

B. Presentation of FIMARC actions

C. Presentation of FIMARC Bangladesh

D. Presentation of FIMARC Sri Lanka

Possible Future areas of Collaboration:

- To continue the seminar at local and international levels
- To strengthen the organizational network we already have and deepen the analysis through exchanges and integration with other sector like indigenous people and farmer’s community.
- Solidarity (mobilization and manifesto)
- To strengthen the advocacy and action lobby at national level and to have synergy with various networks
- Deep analysis of reality (2) survey and inquiry (3) testimonies (4) publication
- To develop training together on lobby and advocacy
- Linking local leaders during visit of the coordinators and support them at national level
- Identifying one campaign that we can work together (for Example : social security)
- Develop collective reflection during international action (statement/manifesto)
- Mapping of organizations and involve them
- Short term Plan: sharing of information and news, publication, manifesto
- Mid-term Plan: Celebration of International Women’s day, labor day, Farmer’s day, World Food Day, International Human Rights Day etc.

G OTHER LOBBY AND ADVOCACY ENGAGEMENTS & Partnership Alliances

1. International Symposium on Agricultural Innovation for Family Farmers -FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy

International Symposium on Agricultural Innovation for Family Farmers : Unlocking the potential of agricultural innovation to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals took place at FAO Headquarters, Rome, 21-23 November 2018. Through this Symposium, FAO aimed to provide inspiration for innovation actors and decision-makers, especially in the developing countries, to unlock the potential of innovation to drive socio-economic growth in order to ensure food and nutrition security, alleviate poverty, improve resilience to changing environments and thereby achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. The symposium also tried to provide spaces to share inspiring success stories of innovation and innovators. The symposium took a multisectoral approach, encompassing innovation in the different production systems and value chains of the crop, livestock, forestry and fishery sectors. There were over 540 participants, including 286 delegates from 92 member countries and the European Union as well as representatives of intergovernmental organizations, private sector entities, civil society organizations, academia/research organizations and producer organizations/cooperatives.

According to FAO and some governments as well as private sector tried to push the view that agricultural innovation is essential for sustainable adoption of information, scientific solutions and technologies for family farmers. Mostly they aimed for Innovations like high tech machines, robots, drones, GM technology ,Bio Tech etc .But for Civil Society we have to remind quite often to recognize the central role of family farmers in agricultural innovation and the need to support the innovations of the family farmers in the fields and most especially the agro ecological innovation that we are promoting in different regions.

George Dixon Fernandez, Secretary General of FIMARC participated in the Civil Society preparatory Meeting organized by IPC (International Planning Committee) for Food Sovereignty as well as in the Symposium of FAO. FIMARC took the floor few times in the official plenary debates and parallel sessions to defend the opinions of Family Farmers. With our strong interventions, we were able to convince the need to strengthen the capacity of family farmers to innovate, including through adaptation, sustainable use of knowledge systems, indigenous resources, co creation and learning.

2. Strengthening the global food sovereignty movement (IPC)

The IPC is an autonomous, self-managed global network of more than 45 people's movements and NGOs involved with at least 800 organizations throughout the world. The IPC serves as a mechanism for information and training on issues regarding food sovereignty.

General Meeting of the International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty was held in Cape Town, South Africa from 11 to 18 March 2018. Ms.Elizabeth Kibuywa (Pan African Coordinator) from Kenya and Mr. George Dixon Fernandez, Secretary General of FIMARC were the representatives of FIMARC in this key International forum.

Mr. George Dixon Fernandez, Secretary General of FIMARC has been selected as the global support group member of IPC and Facilitating Committee Member of the Asia Region by the last

General Meeting held in South Africa. FIMARC continue our engagement in IPC at global as well as in various continents to strengthen our work on Food Sovereignty. FIMARC is also engaged with other core organisations to conclude a new MoU with FAO to engage in key areas of work in different regions.

3. The World Committee on Food Security (CFS 45) and Civil Society Forum 2018

The Committee on World Food Security (CFS) held its Forty-fifth Session from 15 to 19 October 2018 at FAO Headquarters in Rome. Mr. Rony Joseph (FIMARC Asian Coordinator) and Mr. George Dixon Fernandez, Secretary General participated in the CFS45 as well as in the prior CSM (Civil Society Mechanism) Annual Forum held on 13-14 October 2018 in Rome. At present, Mr. Rony Joseph is the Coordination Committee member of the CSM representing the farmers Constituency and thus participated in the CC Meeting which held on 11-12 October in Rome to prepare the CSM Annual Forum.

The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2018, Global Thematic Event on the Right to Food Guidelines, CFS and the agenda 2030: Good Practices and Lesson Sharing were some of the agenda items in which FIMARC engaged actively during the plenary debates. We have expressed our deepest concern about the rising number of food insecure people in the world and the negative trends in hunger and malnutrition, as highlighted in the 2018 SOFI report, and called on all stakeholders to take the necessary actions to reverse the trends.

4. First Systemic Change Forum of CIDSE

FIMARC participated in the first Systemic Change Forum of CIDSE which was held on 17-18 April, Leuven, Belgium. Building on the “Paradigm Shift” reflections that guided the work in the past years, it has been evident that we have to work for change that will pervade all parts of the system that is currently perpetuating injustice and inequalities, ecological dysfunction and climate change. FIMARC has been part of the Paradigm shift reflections that led finally to the “**Systemic Change**” approach.



The Systemic Change forum focused on the topic of rethinking our relationship with nature and explored alternatives based on the principles of climate justice and focus on emerging pockets of change and resistance to large-scale mining and other forms of exploitation of the commons purely for profit. George Fernandez, Secretary General of FIMARC as well as the member of systemic change group of CIDSE, actively contributed in the first systemic change forum in order to shape the CIDSE network's systemic change strategy and narrative.

5. Connecting small holders to market

In the context of the implementation of the recommendations on “Connecting Smallholders to Markets” adopted by the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) in October 2016, FAO agreed to support a process of developing a participatory methodology for collecting data on territorial markets in collaboration with producer organizations (POs) and researchers who followed the negotiations. The objective of this initiative is to influence policy, to convince decision-makers to formulate policies that strengthen these markets. The data collection activities should be led by the POs, who also want to master and control the results of the data collection and analysis activities that will be conducted.

The specific objectives of the initiative are to

- Make territorial markets more visible, with a view to influencing the public policies adopted to foster them
- Develop on-going mechanisms of data gathering and processing on territorial markets
- Establish alliances among different actors, in order to strengthen the linkages between these markets and smallholders production systems.

An international workshop that took place on 19-20 June 2018 with the presence of some 15 global and regional POs participants decided to launch this process in different regions. As part of Connecting Smallholder to market process in the CFS, a regional workshop on “Mapping territorial markets “ has been organized in Dakar, Senegal from 24 to 26 November 2018 and hosted by ROPPA. IPC organisations from Africa region has been participated in this workshop. FIMARC was represented by Medard Meyanga Ayong (Pan African Coordinator) from Cameroun and Omer Diedhou (West African Coordinator) from Senegal.

Conclusion

Admittedly, what we achieved this year could not have been possible without the constant support of our dedicated partners and donors. With the end of this successful cycle, please join me in appreciating and recognizing the contribution made by our frontline leaders at different levels volunteers, members, donors, and board members. We are grateful to have such a dynamic team, generous donors listed at the end of the report, and our collaborating partners. We heartedly laud their valuable support.

“It is always begins with the civil society – when people initiate positive actions, actions that can change lives and the course of history.” Lasting change can only become a reality when underlying causes of poverty and social exclusion are addressed in a holistic manner. We continued to reach out to the marginalised communities, to make a positive impact in their lives and livelihoods.

END

