



FIMARC

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## **Annual Report 2021**

2021 has been a year when the COVID pandemic continued and challenged humanity, which brought with unprecedented challenges for the entire population, especially the marginalised communities. Unfortunately, the Covid-19 pandemic has been unprecedented in its impact on the marginalised. The lock downs in any countries to contain the spread of the virus left many day-to-day wagers again out of work, plunging millions into further poverty. It has disrupted the informal economy and impacted women disproportionately. And we have also seen how local farmers' markets were banned, leaving tons of food to go to waste, while supermarkets - which promote junk food that weakens our immune system - were strengthened.

But this comes as no surprise - at least not to hundreds of social movements, indigenous and peasant communities around the world who have been warning about the consequences of ecological destruction and structural injustices. COVID-19 has exposed the fragility of the dominant food system ; a system based on a political economic model that promotes inequality and ignores planetary boundaries. This pandemic is the result of this approach. The pursuit of profit through extractive activities and the expansion of agribusiness is destroying our ecosystems, and therefore favoring the transmission of pathogens from animals to humans - like COVID-19. It is time to change course. If we want to address social and environmental challenges and ensure that people have adequate food, we need to look to a food system that is based on the realization of human rights. If not, the COVID-19 pandemic will only be the beginning of one of the many global crises that await us.

Instead of providing room for discussion and debate on how best to meet the challenges of 2021, the continuing trend was for governments to suppress independent and critical voices, with some even using the pandemic as a pretext to shrink further the civic space. Across the globe, governments unduly prevented and dispersed peaceful protests, sometimes using the pretext of regulations to prevent the spread of Covid-19. Several governments, notably in Africa, the Middle East and North Africa and Asia, blocked or heavily restricted access to the internet and social media.

There were unfolding mass displacements in 2021 caused by emerging and entrenched crises. Globally, millions of people continued to flee their countries due to human rights violations related to conflict and violence, inequality, climate change and environmental degradation, with ethnic minorities among those most affected.

According to the UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, as of mid-2021 there were 26.6 million refugees and 4.4 million asylum seekers worldwide. The international community failed to provide adequate support and, worse, restricted access to safe havens.

FIMARC worked closely with our members with a priority to enhance the health system's preparedness during these difficult times. Besides sustaining our core work, our teams have supported communities and civil society partners in scaling the COVID response work focused on addressing the livelihood needs of the most marginalised segments. We have scaled our work with marginalised smallholder farmers and women.

We would also like to share our gratitude to all the FIMARC family members – donors, peer organisations, and other stakeholders, who have believed in us and worked selflessly to convert our intentions into realities. Our best endeavours would be futile without the backing of our partners, and we have included them as an integral part of our vision. We take this opportunity to thank them for their unstinted support so far and express our confidence that they will continue to stand by us in our vision for the future. **FIMARC looks forward to working closely with all its partners and communities to build a better future for all.**

**FIMARC Bureau**  
**Assesse**

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## **FIMARC presentation**

### **International Federation of Rural Adult Catholic Movements**

#### **Composition of the Exco of FIMARC 2018-2022**

President	Wolfgang Scharl (Germany)
Treasurer	Jean Claude Germon (France)
Secretary General	George Dixon Fernandez (India)
Chaplain	Fr. Tomas Sphangero (Argentina)
Delegates	Medard Meyanga Ayong (Cameroun) – Coordinator Africa Elizabeth Kibuywa (Kenya) – Coordinator Africa Manuel Moran (El Salvadore) – Coordinator Latin America Modesta Arevalos Ortiz (Paraguay) – Coordinator Latin America Naiyana Vichitporn (Thailand)
) Coordinator Asia	Rony Joseph (India) – Coordinator Asia

#### **The global objective:**

The overall goal of all the activities of FIMARC is to foster sustainable rural development and peasant based agriculture by promoting and creating a lively rural world with dignified life. Our activities also aim for the creation of sustainable society and to promote a comprehensive education and training of rural people

#### **Thrust areas**

FIMARC takes into account in our actions, lobby and advocacy the following topics.

- ❖ Food System Transformation in the light of Laudato Si

- ❖ Formation and building of Livelihood initiatives in the context of COVID-19 Pandemic
- ❖ Strengthening Agro Ecological Practices and Approaches
- ❖ Promotion and Protection of Family farming and Follow up of UN Decade of Family Farming
- ❖ Food sovereignty: Peasant rights /Implementation of UN Declaration
- ❖ Rural Migration → Climate change and Environmental protection
- ❖ Decrease /Less is more-Sustainable production, consumption and life styles
- ❖ Sustainable rural world and peasant based agriculture
- ❖ Solidarity economy, Fair trade, direct marketing and other initiatives
- ❖ Defense of Human Rights and right to food → Justice and solidarity between the people

**FIMARC implemented the activities with the following major objectives during the year 2021:**

- Equip and support the rural populations and farmers to face the current challenges of the COVID 19 Pandemic and its impacts on their life and livelihoods
- Protect and promote family farming and foster agro ecological approaches in different continents
- Resist the resource grabbing that alienates the rural population from their productive resources
- Advocate and lobby against the causes of the poverty among rural people at world forums and power blocks for the progressive realisation of right to food and food sovereignty
- Increase the capacity of members as social movements to promote Family Farming through agro ecology.
- Exchange and upscale of agro ecological best practices
- Bring more people back to rural areas and to agriculture

**Some Key Results**

- FIMARC inputs to the special thematic consultations of the UN special rapporteurs on right to food
- Grass root campaigns in relation to World Food Day 2021
- Collective actions and synergies to face the challenges of the Covid 19 Pandemic
- Increased awareness on agroecological practices and sharing of best agro ecological practices
- More visible and regularly present together in policy spaces to influence the policy debates in favor of Peasant rights, Family Farming and Agroecology at CFS, HRC and FAO
- Better coordinated and collective actions at national and sub regional levels in the context of the Pandemic
- Engagement in building the counter mobilization on UNFSS
- Brought the perspectives of farmers and rural people in relation to UNFSS
- Follow up of UNDROP
- Strengthening global and regional platform for food sovereignty
- Strengthening global and regional platform of SoliResp

## **Major Engagements of FIMARC in 2021**

### **1. CFS Forty-seventh Session "Making a Difference in Food Security and Nutrition"- 8 to 11 February 2021**

The Committee on World Food Security (CFS) held its Forty-seventh Session from 8 to 11 February 2021. The session was convened virtually on an exceptional basis, in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and associated public health concerns. The Session was attended by delegates from 107 Members of the Committee; 7 non-Members of the Committee and other stake holders including FIMARC and other CSO's and FO's. The CFS 47 discussed the following key topics. Wolfgang Scharl, FIMARC President, and George Dixon Fernandez, Secretary General of FIMARC attended this virtual session

1. Food security and nutrition : building a global narrative toward 2030.
2. Global thematic event on the CFS framework for action on food security and nutrition in protracted crises.
3. Terms of reference for the preparation of the CFS voluntary guidelines on gender equality and women's empowerment in the context of food security and nutrition
4. The CFS voluntary guidelines on food systems and nutrition (VGFSyN)

### **2. CFS Forty-eighth (Special) Session "Making a Difference in Food Security and Nutrition" 4 June 2021**

The Committee on World Food Security (CFS) held its Forty-eighth (Special) Session on 4 June 2021. The Session, held virtually, was attended by delegates from 102 Members of the Committee; 5 non-Member States of the Committee, and by representatives from other stake holders including FIMARC and other CSO's and FO's. The CFS 48 discussed the following key topics. George Dixon Fernandez, Secretary General of FIMARC attended this virtual session. The main deliberations of the session were about the Policy recommendations on Agroecological and Other Innovative Approaches for sustainable agriculture and food systems that enhance food security and nutrition.

### **3. CFS Forty-ninth Session "Making a Difference in Food Security and Nutrition" 11 to 14 October 2021**

The Committee on World Food Security (CFS) held its Forty-ninth Session from 11 to 14 October 2021. The Session was attended by around 1300 delegates including 10 Ministers, 7 Vice-Ministers, 122 Members and 9 Non-Members, 16 UN Agencies and Bodies , 121 Civil society organizations including FIMARC and other CSO's and FO's. The CFS 49 discussed the following key topics. George Dixon Fernandez, Secretary General of FIMARC attended this virtual session. Following were the key topics discussed:

- ♣ 2021 State of Food Security and Nutrition report
- ♣ Uptake of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition
- ♣ The implications of the UN Food Systems Summit on CFS
- ♣ Promoting Youth Engagement and Employment in Agriculture and Food Systems
- ♣ Monitoring CFS Policy Recommendations on Climate Change and Water
- ♣ CFS Multi-Year Programme of Work, and other ongoing CFS workstreams and priorities The Plenary also featured a Special Event, divided into two parts:
- ♣ Observance of International Day of Rural Women, organized by IFAD
- ♣ Synergies and opportunities between CFS and the three Rio Conventions, organized by the CFS Secretariats

#### **4. COP 26 Glasgow, November 2021**

The rural movements involved in FIMARC are confronted with the realities of climate change in their territories and its consequences on agriculture, living conditions and the availability of food resources. They realise that the poorest populations, and in particular those living in rural areas, are the most exposed to climate disruption. FIMARC made an assessment of the inadequacies of the conclusions of the COP 26 held in Glasgow. It recalled the slow awareness of climate issues, the inadequacy of emission reduction targets to limit the current drift of global warming, and the lack of political will of most governments to implement effective emission reduction measures that are bearable by the populations.

In a publication addressed to its movements (VMR N° XXX), FIMARC invites them i) to raise awareness of the causes and responsibilities of this climate change, ii) to get involved in their territories in initiatives and ways of operating that allow limiting greenhouse gas emissions, iii) to be bearers of modes of development in solidarity to enable people to cope with the consequences of worsening climate constraints.

(VMR N° XXX After the COP 26, what perspectives for the FIMARC movements)

#### **5. CIDSE Second systemic change forum -7 to 9 June 2021**

From 7 to 9 June 2021, CIDSE organised its second Systemic Change Forum, assessing and advancing the implementation of its systemic change approach as member organisations and as a network. This was done by checking in on the global context and the role CIDSE plays as a network. FIMARC being a strategic partner of CIDSE participated in this systemic change forum. George Dixon Fernandez, Secretary General represented FIMARC in this key program. The Systemic Change Forum was a space where we were able to question and challenge our own global partnerships and a call to be courageous enough to challenge power structures and move away from a North-South paradigm.

#### **6. Stop Child Labor Campaign-DKA JULY 2021**

DKA Austria launched a strong campaign against **Child Labor** and handed over the mosaic with the more than 5000 entries to the President of the Parliament, together with a children's delegation and strongly urged the need for binding laws to protect human rights in supply chains. On the Day Against Child Labor, DKA had an appointment with Justice Minister Zadic, and also hand over the mosaic to her and also met other politicians for advocacy talks. And had a very supportive discussion about this issue. The German Bundestag passed a supply chain law on June 11. A legislative proposal from the European Commission for a Europe-wide regulation is to be presented this year. Important steps in the right direction with a major role model effect: DKA is making follow up on this suit in Austria. FIMARC promoted this important campaign among our members and actively participated in the campaign

#### **7. Realizing Peasants' Rights through Children and Youth in Agroecology**

On 30 November 2020 DKA hold a 3-4hrs kick-off webinar with those who like to play an active part in the work peasant rights and agroecology. The objective of the new project of DKA was to link the work on food and agriculture in Asia to international advocacy and to make convergences. It wanted to bring the voices of children and young adults from smallholder communities from partner communities in Asia into global struggles for smallholder rights. This Webinar affirmed Agroecology as developmental framework to help partners converge over issues of sustainable agriculture and community development. It also underlined the UN Peasants' Rights Declaration (UNDROP) as rights-based international instrument to support the various empowering advocacies partners struggle for in their own contexts.

#### **Follow up programs**

##### **A. Peasant's Rights, Agroecology and Children/Youth – South Asia Group Meeting**

South Asia Group Meeting on Peasant's Rights, Agroecology and Children/Youth was held on 15 Jan. 2021 with an input from Ute Mayrhofer on Children's Participation & Time to Talk Toolkit and also from

Philipp Bück: about the Planning and SDC Programme timeline. George Fernandez participated in the meeting

## **B. UNDROP workshop with Christophe Golaye**

Christophe Golaye of the Geneva Academy gave a 4 hour capacity building workshop for the SDC-Consortium team on 4 February 2021. The workshop had two parts – first info and intro to UNDROP and then breakout group work on the different regions related to the project. George Fernandez participated in the meeting

## **8. FIMARC Engagement in Soliresp (Solidarity, Resistance, Hope)**

Soliresp is the platform and mechanism to support people who face human rights violations and criminalisation in various countries. SoliREsp is the space to organize the response to criminalization, a response from the movements. Building from the grassroots, transmitting protection is hope. To be able to share, to build strategies, increases the capacity of the movements. FIMARC joined in this mechanism and participated in the general meeting held in Olviedo, Spain in February 2020. Arnold from Paraguay represents FIMARC in the formation team of Soliresp. FIMARC actively involves in the “Write for Columbia Campaign about the human rights violations over there and Arnold was one of the coordinators of this campaign.

### **A.Soliresp (Solidarity, Resistance, Hope) General Assembly Meeting 2021**

Soliresp (Solidarity, Resistance, Hope) General Assembly Meeting was held virtually on 8 April 2021 and decided to organize the following key actions for 2021/2022: George Fernandez, Wolfgang Scharl, Jean Claude Germon,, Modesta Arevalos, and Arnold Garzia attended in this plenary meeting. Following are the key actions decided by the General Assembly

- ❖ Virtual meetings of jurists from Africa, Asia, Europe.
- ❖ International Meeting of Jurists by 2022.
- ❖ Te Escribo Colombia Festival.
- ❖ Campaigns of denunciation and follow-up as demanded by the organizations.
- ❖ Summer Festival of Solidarity/Food Sovereignty - USA (Virtual Festival in summer 2021.
- ❖ Te Abrazo Colombia (political and cultural meeting in Colombia, in 2022).
- ❖ Mapping: in 2021, focus on the legislation used to criminalize organizations in Colombia, Honduras, India and the Philippines. Organizing a report on this topic.

### **B.Soliresp (Solidarity, Resistance, Hope) Meeting on Communication strategies**

SoliREsp is born in the face of increasing violence against our movements. The capitalist mode of production gives one more turn of the screw on our territories, with disappearances, assassinations, harassment, threats. SoliREsp seeks to articulate our experiences in this area: to reach more people, to articulate denunciations, to coordinate communication work, to remove people from areas if necessary. Communication is a strategic issue. Soliresp Meeting on Communication strategies (campaigns, denunciations, etc.). was held on 11 August 2021 and decided to work on the following issues. George Fernandez, and Jean Claude Germon attended in this meeting

### **C. Soliresp Resistance Festival 2021**

Resistance Festival "Resistance is Love" was held on 26 September 2021 with four blocks: Remember, Unite, Cultivate, Dream. The comrades of FIMARC Paraguay were in charge of block four, Dreaming, presenting their struggles and elements of the culture of the native peoples, through music, dances, poems, songs, stories, etc. The session was held with the presentation of Federico Pacheco and Berta

Malvarez, and the participation of several organizations and movements from all over the world. George Fernandez, Modesta Arevalos, and Arnold Garzia attended in this meeting. It was a day of dialogue and performances celebrating the necessity of movements coming together in the struggle for food, for land, for justice.

#### **D. International Call for Entries: Defending Land and Life: Resistance is Love.**

Social movements face unimaginable odds. Even as they tirelessly defend our land, water, and resources, activists around the world are targeted, harassed, and branded as terrorists. This year, we are coming together in an act of love—an act of resistance—to send the message that we are stronger collectively than any force that seeks to divide us. *Soliresp called on artists and creatives to submit digital artwork to help raise critical grassroots support funds for social movements defending land, territory and sovereignty under the banner of Resistance is Love.*

In 2021, SoliResp took active steps towards a world without colonialism, imperialism, violence, and warfare. In many places all over the globe, movements are taking to the streets, organizing digital demonstrations, feeding and protecting the people through large mutual aid and distribution efforts. Resistance looks different everywhere, but Soliresp wanted to celebrate it all—art, language, song, rest, and all other forms. Artists play a critical role in building the strength of this resistance; in bringing people into movements; in connecting the dots and in building hope and energy for a better world. In September 2021, The Alliance for Solidarity, Resistance and Hope hosted a digital rally called *Resistance is Love* where art was featured on prints, posters, etc.

#### **E. Campaign on Palestine 2021**

On October 19th 2021, a military order by the Israeli Defense ministry declared that 6 Civil Society Organisations in the occupied Palestinian Territory are “terrorist organizations”. This issuing is appalling and a next step in the criminalisation and destruction of Palestinian Civil Society opposing the inhumane occupation policy of the Israeli government. This order gives the Israeli government the possibility to close their offices and arrest members of the organisations and send them to jail. This means a threat to the safety and security of this people and an end to their organizations.

SoliResp organizations were invited to make immediately, and continue to do so, statements in their social networks and communication channels in favor of our Palestinian comrades. FIMARC through Soliresp called upon the governments and international institutions to denounce vigorously this measure and demand with all means to the Israeli government to ensure its immediate rescission. and especially demanded the US government and the EU to intervene and demand from the Israeli government to take back this decision and take concrete measures to ensure protecting CSOs organizations and not silencing them by considering them as terrorist organizations .It was also a call to social movements and other Civil Society organisations to denounce this alarming criminalisation of Civil Society organisations that resist an inhumane occupation policy and try to support the Palestinian population to be able to survive in these dramatic circumstances.

#### **F. Preparatory Meeting for the SoliResp General Assembly**

In order to continue building Solidarity, Resistance, Hope (SoliResp) a meeting with the objective of: brief analysis of context, functioning of SoliResp and preparation of our Assembly was held on 9 November 2021. George Dixon Fernandez,(Secretary General of FIMARC) ,Jean Claude Germon (Treasurer) and Arnold Garzia from Paraguay participated in this preparatory meeting.





## **9. FIMARC Engagement in The Right to Food Conversations of UN SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON THE RIGHT TO FOOD**

### **The Right to Food Conversations: Law and Governance May – June 2021**

The UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, Michael Fakhri, and his team convened a series of four Right to Food Conversations around the question of how law can be used to resist oppression and build new relationships in food systems.

Following were the schedules of the conversations

1. DIGNITY & SOLIDARITY Monday, 17 May 2021 (Modesta Arevalos, FIMARC Latin American Coordinator and George Dixon Fernandez, Secretary General attended the conversation)

2. TERRITORY & ECOLOGY Tuesday, 1 June 2021 (Jean Claude Germon ,FIMARC Treasurer and George Dixon Fernandez, Secretary General attended the conversation)

3. RECLAIMING PEOPLE'S CONTROL OVER FOOD SYSTEMS Tuesday, 15 June 2021 (Elisabeth Kibuywa, FIMARC Pan African Coordinator and George Dixon Fernandez, Secretary General attended the conversation)

4. GLOBAL GOVERNANCE Friday, 18 June 2021 (Wolfgang Scharl ,FIMARC, President and George Dixon Fernandez, Secretary General attended the conversation)



As the pandemic continues to make people's life even harder and worsen existing inequalities, the right to food needs to be further advanced in order to make individuals and communities stronger. The problem with the world's food systems is clear: power is increasingly concentrated in the hands of a few individuals, corporations, and countries. The solution is also clear: the world's Indigenous peoples, peasants, pastoralists, fishers, and workers need to build upon their ongoing organizing work and reclaim more of their power. The difficulty lies in figuring out how people can gain more control in their food systems and lives.

The first two conversations were on Dignity & Solidarity and Territory & Ecology. These two conversations were about coming together, listening to each other, and exchanging ideas about how people may use legal knowledge to build a better future. The third conversation – Reclaiming People's Control Over Food Systems – aimed to shift towards questions of strategy and tactics in food systems. The final conversation on Global Governance focused on international institutional strategies and tactics, with an emphasis on trade. The conversations were an opportunity for peoples' movements to meet a wider network of lawyers and legal scholars whose expertise extends beyond human rights .Both scholars and people working in food systems learned more from each other about how to develop better ways to develop legal tactics that operate at different political scales – local, regional and global – at the same time.

Finally, the conversations informed the Special Rapporteur's report on food systems to the UN General Assembly in October 2021. In his report, the Special Rapporteur provided a critical account of the Food Systems Summit process, a framework that can be used to assess the Summit's final outcomes, and suggestions on what needs to be done to change the current institutions global governance in order to ensure that the world's food systems fulfill people's right to food.

## **10. FIMARC Action and Position on UN Food Summit**

In October 2019, the Secretary-General of the United Nations announced he would host a Food Systems Summit in 2021 with the aims of maximizing the benefits of a food systems approach across the entire



2030 Agenda, meeting the challenges of climate change, making food systems inclusive, and supporting sustainable peace. But the Summit was under fire from hundreds of small food producers, NGOs and civil society and Indigenous Peoples' organizations – including the Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples' Mechanism (CSM) – who believe the Summit is ignoring human rights and sidelining the small-scale producers who produce 70-80 per cent of the world's food, prioritizing instead the interests of corporations.

In March 2020, the CSM, together with more than 400 organizations, sent a letter to the Secretary-General to share our key concerns, flagging the undue corporate influence, a missing human rights grounding, and a lack of transparency in the process. The letter remains unanswered.

CSM and other organizations of those most affected by hunger, malnutrition and ecological destruction launched an open invitation to join forces to challenge the Summit which took place on 23 September 2021. This new platform of organisations and individuals took the name of "Autonomous Peoples' Response to the UN Food Systems Summit".

### **Counter-Mobilization to Transform Corporate Food Systems -25 and 28 July 2021**

In May 2021, FIMARC and those who responded to the open invitation decided to organize a counter event in parallel to the UN Food Systems Pre-Summit. The event, entitled "Counter-Mobilization to Transform Corporate Food Systems", took place in a hybrid format between 25 and 28 July. This was hailed as great success, as the event drew together a wide variety of attendees and was able to catalyze and amplify a counter-narrative to the official proceedings. The counter-mobilizations continued in September 2021 and beyond.

FIMARC took a critical stance on the way the Food Systems Summit has been organized, as it has been strongly influenced by the corporate sector to the detriment of people's interests, needs and human rights. Together with other organizations and movements, we took swift action and expressed these concerns in a letter addressed to UN Secretary General António Guterres. Despite being endorsed by more than 500 organizations and widely featured by media, this letter never received a response and the preparations of the summit kept developing in a very problematic way. This is why we actively supported the launch of an open call for engagement to challenge the Summit by the Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples' Mechanism and played an active role in fostering discussions between movements and organizations across the globe to create a strong and united front. **FIMARC prepared and presented a video message with our position towards the presummit as well as official food system summit.**

### **11. FIMARC World Food Day Campaign 2021**

The World Food Day 2021 focused on the theme "**Our actions are our future- 'Better production, better nutrition, a better environment and a better life'**". On the occasion of this World Food Day, FIMARC made a call along with FAO on countries and other stakeholders to implement concrete initiatives to create a world without hunger.

Collective action across countries is what makes World Food Day one of the most celebrated days of the UN. The food we choose and the way we consume it affect our health and that of our planet. It has an impact on the way agri-food systems work. World Food Day 2021 marked a second time while countries around the world deal with the widespread effects of the global Covid-19 pandemic. It's a time to look into the future we need to build together.

### **FIMARC CALLS TO ACTION**

This World Food Day is an occasion to focus our attention for the realization of Zero Hunger World through healthy diets. In relation to the World Food day 2021, FIMARC called upon all our member movements around the world to take up concrete actions in our movements in relation to the theme of the

year. Following were the proposals of actions in line with the theme of the World Food Day 2021 that movement engaged in

❖ **Choose healthy diet**

*Campaigns to promote diverse and nutritious foods with a slogan “Just as variety supports biodiversity, a varied and balanced diet benefits the body and mind”.*

❖ **Reduce Food Waste**

*Awareness raising to reduce food waste to promote the following key ideas. Buy only what you need and use it all!. Improving food storage and meal planning at home and make pickles or jam preserves with fruit and vegetables that haven't consumed.*

❖ **Recycle**

*Organising Recycling activities to put nutrients back into the soil by composting raw or cooked foods that can no longer eat*

❖ **Share Knowledge and Information**

*Awareness raising activities about better nutrition*

❖ **Other actions**

- *Organisation of Recreation and sports activities against hunger and malnutrition.*
- *Organisation of conferences, debates*
- *Organise Corner meetings , press release*
- *Organise one day volunteer work to save money and to support hunger eradication projects*
- *Make awareness raising activities on WFD theme*

## **12. IPC Global General Meeting (April & May 2021)**

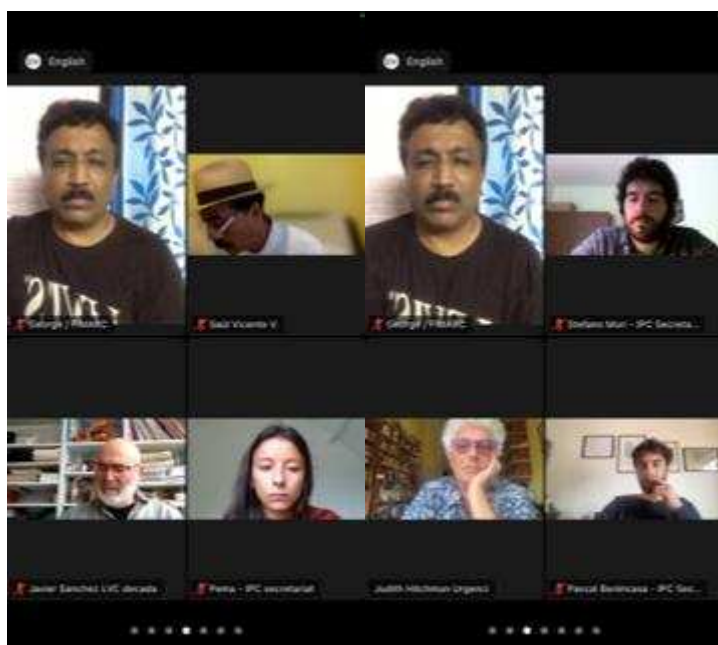
The International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty (IPC) is an autonomous, self-managed global network of more than 45 people's movements and NGOs involved with at least 800 organizations throughout the world. The IPC serves as a mechanism for information and training on 16 issues regarding food sovereignty in the world. It promotes forums in which Peoples Movements and other Civil Society Organisations involved in food and agriculture issues can debate, articulate their positions and build their relationships at national, regional and global levels. It facilitates dialogue and debate between civil society actors, governments and other stakeholders at all levels. It is not a centralized structure and does not claim to represent its members. It does not aspire to constitute an all-inclusive civil society interface with FAO and other institutions, but is rather a space for self-selected CSOs which identify with the food sovereignty agenda adopted at the 2002 forum in Rome. FIMARC has been actively participating in the IPC platform for many years.

The Coronavirus crisis exacerbated fractures, inequalities and oppressions of a world system that doesn't protect the interests and health of its citizens and nature. Moreover, the eternalization of the crisis is preventing us to meet and hindering Social Movements' capacity of mobilization. One year after the globalization of the pandemic and three years after our last IPC General Meeting, the IPC Facilitation Committee organizes a Virtual General Meeting (VGM) to take stock of the situation and develop a shared political analysis and the next political steps of our alliance. The whole network of the IPC had been invited to actively participate to the VGM that took place on-line (on zoom platform) with four plenary sessions and three sessions of regional break-out meetings starting from the 21<sup>st</sup> of April 2021 up to 18 May 2021

The Agenda of the meeting and the dates:

- Opening session (plenary session): Wednesday 21st April
- Analysis of the current local to global context From 21st to 25th April
- Analysis of the current local to global context (plenary session) on Tuesday 27th April
- Second regional session: each region organized the sessions From 28th April to 9th May
- Second Global plenary session on Tuesday 11th May
- Launch of the “Gathering” process and closing statements (regional session: From 12th May to 17th May )
- Final Global plenary session -Tuesday 18th May

George Dixon Fernandez, Secretary General, Jean Claude Germon (Treasurer) and Elisabeth Kibuywa (Pan African Coordinator) represented FIMARC in all the respective regional sessions as well as Global



Plenary Sessions which were held between 21 April 2021 to 18 May 2021. George Fernandez is one of the Global Facilitation Committee member of the International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty and also have specific responsibility to coordinate the work of IPC in Asia Pacific region

Other than the Virtual General Meeting of IPC, In 2021. FIMARC participated in the regular monthly virtual conferences of the IPC at global level to prepare various programmes and initiatives in line with food sovereignty. We also participated in the periodic meetings of the IPC Asia Pacific region as responsible for this

region from the global committee

### **13. Global event on Food Sovereignty : 25 years Building the Future-16 October 2021**

The global virtual event on *Food Sovereignty: 25 years Building the Future*, which was being held as part of the International Day of Action for Peoples' Food Sovereignty and against Transnational Corporations and as part of the month-long celebration of the 25th anniversary since La Via Campesina proposed the paradigm of Food Sovereignty. The event was organized by LVC, FIMARC, WMW, WFPF, IPA, Urgenci, WAMIP, CITI, FoEI and IPC. It will be broadcast through the Facebook of various organizations, in 11 languages and at 2 different times to accommodate different time zones

#### 14. International Webinar on "PARTICIPATION AND EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN/Gender equality in the world" 21 NOVEMBER 2021

The International Federation of Catholic Rural Adult Movement – FIMARC, the International Movement of Catholic Agricultural and Rural Youth - MIJARC, and the Young Catholic Workers - YCW - pursue the recognition of Gender equality opportunities and rights.

As apostolic and coherent movements organized collectively from the grassroots we believe it is important to address the issue of women from the different cultural worldviews of the world; to provoke reflection in a critical and constructive way in favor of this sector that struggles every day to be recognized as a subject of rights.

**WEBINAR INTERNACIONAL**

**TEMA: "PARTICIPACIÓN Y EMPODERAMIENTO DE MUJERES EN EL MUNDO"**

**OBJETIVO:** Promover la participación y el empoderamiento de las mujeres en el mundo para contribuir el desarrollo sostenible de los pueblos.

**FECHA:**  
**DOMINGO, 21 de NOVIEMBRE**

**HORA EN CADA PAÍS**  
15:00 Pm (Perú y Colombia).  
16:00 Pm (Bolivia, Haití)  
17:00 Pm (Brasil Y Paraguay)  
14:00 Pm ( Nicaragua)

**Atención: Observe la hora exacta en su país.**

**INVITADAS PANELISTAS:**

**Luz Mery Benavides**  
Asesora del MIJARC ALC

**Yamileth Díaz Mejía**  
JOC NICARAGUA

**Modesta Arévalos**  
Trabajadora Social  
FIMARC- ALC

**NOS APOYA:**  
ENTRAIDE & FRATERNITE

Logos: MIJARC, FIMARC, JOCI-YCW, and ENTRAIDE & FRATERNITE.

In this sense, we organized a joint international webinar on gender equality in order to promote an exclusive space for participation and reflection to raise awareness of the great importance of women's lives.

#### OBJECTIVES:

- To promote the participation and empowerment of gender equality in the world in order to contribute to the sustainable development of peoples.
- To sensitize and make women aware of their value and role in society as agents of change and subjects of rights from the perspective of equality and equity.
- To strengthen the participation and action of international apostolic movements for the recognition and appreciation of women at all levels.

#### 15. FIMARC Exco and Bureau Meetings 2021

In 2021 the members of the board and the Exco have facilitated or participated in various meetings with FIMARC partners:

- Wolfgang Scharl facilitated four meetings of the Statutory Group of Exco in order to discuss possible FIMARC statuts changes and participated in an online conference of the Geneva Academy on "Guide on the UN Declaration on the rights of peasants and the right to land" at 15. April.
- Wolfgang Scharl, Jean-Claude Germon and the members of the European coordination (Angelika Haaf, Elizabeth Saint Guily, Fulvio Bucci and Alin Tat) attended the ProRurE meeting (online)

on 5.-6. February and 9.-10 July, in order to complete the ProRurE Erasmus+ project and to found a new structure, the ProRurE Association

- In Germany, Wolfgang Scharl took part in two Strategic Online meetings of the UNDROP Network associations and NGOs, in order to promote the implementation of UNDROP in the German policy.

**Exco and Bureau are the two main political decision bodies of FIMARC. In the context of the Pandemic** , it was impossible to organise the physical meeting of Exco in 2021. But we organised the online Bureau meetings every month regularly in 2021 as well as the online Exco meetings once in two months.

BiMonthly Exco meetings allowed the Exco members to have the possibility to share the impact and challenges of the Pandemic in their respective countries and continents. .Exco, approved the work and financial report of the movement, provided inputs for the engagement of FIMARC at different policy forums and updated our lobby advocacy actions.

Moreover the preliminary preparatory discussions in relation to the next World Assembly has been started.

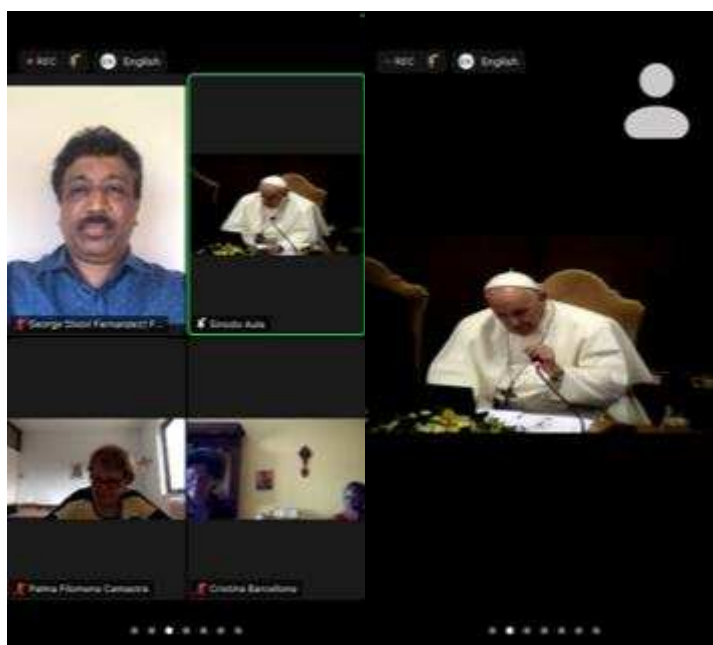
## 16. MIACS Meetings

The International Specialised Catholic Action Movements (MIACS) represent more than 500 movements around the world with a great diversity of countries, cultures and backgrounds. Since the beginning of the Covid pandemic, MIACS had monthly regular meetings at global level with the participation of key leaders of the International teams for reflecting together on this crisis and to prepare some key actions based on the collective reflection. FIMARC participated regularly in the monthly meetings of the global catholic social action movements (MIACS) by George Fernandez and Jean Claude Germon.in 2021

## 17. VATICAN Meeting for Associations of the Faithful, Ecclesial Movements and New Communities

16th September 2021

VATICAN Meeting for Associations of the Faithful, Ecclesial Movements and New Communities was organised by DICASTERY FOR LAITY, FAMILY AND LIFE on “The Responsibility of Government in the Lay Associations: An Ecclesial Service” at Vatican City – New Synod Hall on 16th September 2021.





Pope Francis and Card. Kevin Farrell, Prefect of the dicastery addressed the global leaders of the catholic associations .Msgr. Matteo Visioli, Under-Secretary, Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith made an intervention on Exercising Authority in the Church: Nature, Goals, Limits followed by the Testimonies of Experiences of Government in Associations of the Faithful and Ecclesial Movements. Dr. Linda Ghisoni, Under-Secretary, Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life made a second intervention on Exercising Government in Associations of the Faithful and Ecclesial Movements: Criteria and Pratical Orientations. Wolfgang Scharl (President), George Dixon Fernandez, (Secretary General) and Jean Claude Germon (Treasurer) represented FIMARC in this meeting .

#### **18. FIMARC Participation in thematic group meetings of the Forum of Catholic-inspired NGOs**

FIMARC Participated in the different thematic working group meetings of the Forum of Catholic-inspired NGOs held in 2021. Wolfgang Scharl (President), George Dixon Fernandez, (Secretary General) and Jean Claude Germon (Treasurer) represented FIMARC in the following Vatican forum meetings

2021 February 16<sup>th</sup> Tuesday: Migration

2021 February 19<sup>th</sup> Friday: Development

Development and Environment on Thursday, July 1<sup>st</sup> 2021

Migration on Wednesday, June 30<sup>th</sup> 2021

#### **19. Workshop on “Promoting Family Farming Through Agroecological Practices” in India 27<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> Dec 2021**

##### **Objectives**

- i) Create awareness on Family Farming (FF) and Agro ecology
- ii) Increase the capacity of members as social movements in FF through agro ecology

FIMARC and MIJARC joint workshop on **“Promoting Family Farming Through Agroecological Practices”** was held at M. S. Swaminathan Research Foundation Center at Chennai, Tamilnadu from 27<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> Dec 2021. Around 35 delegates from India and Nepal were part of this program. The workshop was started with the Inaugural session by the Chief guest N.S Manaoranjana State Director of Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan Government of India. He delivered an inaugural speech on importance of Family Farming and Agroecology.







# Glimpses of National actions and synergies in the context of Pandemic

## 1. Key activities of ACRF Belgium

### A. Small producers with a big taste

For two years now, groups in the province of Namur have been organising a local market of small regional producers. These producers have the opportunity to offer their products but above all to exchange with the many visitors interested in knowing the work of these people. The COVID crisis has made consumers aware of the need to relocate production and support local producers.

### B. ACRF study days

The generic theme of the movement's study days was “resistance”. Among our guests, Claude Rollin, former European deputy who confirmed our choice of resistance, resistance to unbridled capitalism, resistance to the dictates of large food groups... Among our other guests we had the chance to welcome Mr. Chabot, philosopher and the very well known judge Anne Gruwez, both also with this discourse of resistance, to develop critical thinking.

### C. Heritage Days



Every year, a weekend is dedicated to the discovery of heritage, which allowed us to open the rural house. The former convent is well known in the region but people are always interested in discovering what the place has become, notably with the community vegetable garden and the activities proposed by the ACRF - Femmes en milieu rural.

### D. Regional activity in the Province of Liege on climate crisis



At the beginning of the social year, each region proposes a conference, a film, debates to launch the year's theme. In the Liège region, the choice was the climate. The climate crisis and especially the floods that have hit many villages in this region have led women to look more closely at this theme and to try to find solutions together at a local and regional level to deal with these difficulties.

## 2. BSDF's –Bangladesh Brief Report of Activities of 2021.



The Bangladesh Sustainable Development Forum (BSDF) founded in 1991 by Mr. Philip Biswas, Founder and Executive Director, Rural Reconstruction Foundation (RRF). with the support of FIMARC. BSDF comprise with 21 number partner organizations who are working to promote Peoples Led Development Process (PLDP) through promoting sustainable agriculture, land rights, safe food and safe health practices, organize movement on the issues affecting the lives of the mass people. BSDF has been promoting Peoples Led Development Process (PLDP) through its member organizations. This is a brief activities report of BSDF-PLDP which has been carried out in 2021.

To develop facilitators among the BSDF's member organization on PLDP, conducted training and workshop with the staff, as a result 43 facilitators have been developed among the partner organizations and they are now more capable to promote PLDP in community. To enhance staff knowledge, an exposure and experiential learning visit was conducted on the role of herbal/medicinal plants to promote healthy life and conserve of natural resources, 11 participants from five BSDF member organizations took part including five Executive Directors. The president of BSDF provided support in this regards.



To exchange Farmer to Farmer knowledge on the best and traditional practices that are sustainable, 13 Farmer to Farmer exchange visits was conducted on organic farming, traditional seed preservation, use of organic manure, traditional animal rearing where 390 farmers took part. Community leader's development through training and workshop is an on-going process, under this initiative in total 48 community leaders have been developed who are working as a change makers to promote PLDP approaches in their localities.



Farmers training on organic manure making.

To conserve natural resource, 5 trainings were conducted on the technique of organic manure making where 148 farmers took part, to promote crop diversification, provided training to 150 farmers on the benefits and process of crop diversification. As part of Intergenerational Knowledge transfer, 12 meetings/exposure visit were organized with the youth and children where 155 youth and 170 children took part.



Intergenerational Knowledge transfer among the student.



Intergenerational Knowledge transfer among the youth generation.

To establish rights of the community, various initiatives were taken including submitted memorandum to the District commissioner. Agriculture Officer, Education Officer etc for ensuring safe food & band



Rally to ensure safe food organised by BSDF & Right to food Bangladesh.

smoking at open place, advocacy to secure women's access to local market, press conference to provide compensation for damaging crops by the climatic hazards, mass petition and rally to prevent eviction from the khas (Common property) land. As per country law, common land should be distributed among the landless families, to create access to the common property in favor of landless families, 125 landless have been trained on the land rights and 85 applications have been filled to the local land office (Assistant Commissioner- land) to distribute common land to the landless.

To ensure coordination among the BSDF partner's organization, 3 country level coordination meetings have been conducted where reviewed progress, limitations and decided future course of action of BSDF.

### Limitations

- In 2021 the Covid-19 pandemic provoked while some planned activities were postponed including farmer to farmer exposure and experiential learning visit, in country monitoring review meeting, intergenerational knowledge transfer to youth and children, farmer's training etc.

### 3. Kenya -DESECE organizations – Climate change resilience and agroecology project

The project is implemented in two western Kenya counties, Bungoma and Trans-Nzoia west in the following sub-counties: Bumula, Bungoma South, Kimilili, Bungoma North and Mt Elgon in Bungoma county and Trans-Nzoia West in Trans-Nzoia county.

Along with the establishment of demonstration farms and tree nurseries, trainings and workshops in agro-ecology/ organic agriculture, joint design and implementation of food forest, training on climate resilient farming practices, ecosystem and water conservation measures, and joint marketing is conducted for all the smallholder farmer groups to enable them ensure food sovereignty as well as their income.

In order for the schools and vocational training centre to showcase climate resilient agriculture, water and ecosystem conservation practices, agro-ecology clubs in schools/vocational training centres, agroecology clubs have been formed and parents, students, teachers/instructors, trained on climate adaption through climate resilient farming practices, trainings on establishing of bio-intensive kitchen gardens composting, demonstration food forests, and rainwater harvesting and storage infrastructure. The products from the school gardens complement the school lunches.

**6 plots** measuring **0.5 acre** (ca. 2023 m<sup>2</sup>) have been identified and leased to develop **6 demonstration plots** to showcase alternative tillage practices such as double digging, soil and water conservation, composting, plant tea manures, swales and live/dead barriers to manage water infiltration ("slow, spread and sink") and soil erosion, bio-intensive kitchen gardens, small food forest as well as integrated pest management.

**125 Members of the farmer groups from each sub-county** implement the elements of learning by doing on the demonstration plot accompanied each by 1 community animator and 1 field technical officer. Therefore, they usually work for **3 days a week since the commencement of the project in 2021**. Field animators, supervised by the field technical officer, manage the plots.

Additionally, **3 tree nurseries** in addition to **3 existing ones** (Trans Nzoia west, Mt. Elgon, Kimilili) were established on leased plots of 0.25 acres (ca. 1011 m<sup>2</sup>) each by farmer group members within the sub-county and managed by the nursery manager. Assorted tree seedlings, suitable for establishment of the food forests and conservation of the environment have been propagated to supply the farmer groups with

fruit-, firewood-, and other (functional) tree. Each nursery is managed by a nursery manager, recruited from the farmer group in the same sub-county.

**30 farmer groups with 750 participants** (300m/450f) are trained on the 6 demonstration plots involving practical hands on experience on alternative tillage practices, such as double digging, soil and water conservation, composting, plant tea manures, swales and live/dead barriers to manage water infiltration (“slow, spread and sink”) and soil erosion, the establishments of bio-intensive kitchen gardens and small food forest as well as integrated pest management. Besides that, these trainings foster team building, solidarity and social cohesion within the farmer groups.

Farmer groups are accompanied by field technical officers and field animators to elaborate an appropriate farm plan including the different components (kitchen garden, compost, food forest, watering system, etc.) considering agroecology/permaculture principals (soil quality, terrain, exposure to wind and sun, water availability, etc.). Implementation is done by individual farmers accompanied by field technical officers and field animators.

For the food forests participants select seven layers of tree seedlings and other plants. These include canopy (large fruit and nut trees), low tree layer (dwarf fruit trees), shrub layer (currants and berries), herbaceous (comfrees, beets, herbs), rhizosphere (root vegetables) soil surface (ground cover e.g. strawberry, etc) and vertical layer (climbers, vines).

Suitable rainwater harvesting and storage infrastructure and irrigation system have been designed by the farmer groups guided by the water technician for each farm depending on the prerequisites of the respective farm/buildings. The Water technician is responsible to train farmer groups and the technical officers who accompany the farmers on their individual farms.

To foster networking and knowledge exchange between DESECE and Kenya agro-ecology/organic farming community exposure/exchange visits for 24 participants (selected farmers) once every year is organized to learn from advanced level of implementation on agro-ecology in different ecological zones of the country. Also, DECESE staff and beneficiaries attend meetings, conferences related to agro ecology, climate change adaptation, and share newsletters, magazines, flyers within the farmer groups and wider farming community. This activity also includes engagement with policy makers in the issue.

**6 primary and secondary schools, 6 new agro-ecology clubs (100 pupils each, 50 m/50 f) as well as 2 agro-ecology clubs in vocational training centers (20 students each 10 m/10 f) have been formed. Each club is accompanied by a field technical officer and field animator, 2 teachers in primary and secondary schools and 1 teacher in vocational schools, 4 parent representatives, and 1 security guard.**

The role of the agro-ecology groups is clarified as implementers and sensitizers of climate change adaptation and agro-ecology practices on the school compound and ambassadors of change in the community. Despite all these, still experience unreliable weather patterns that are unfavorable for plant growth and movement by staff to the working areas.

High cost of farm inputs especially indigenous seeds low salary to staff who are the implementers of the project directly affects implementation of the project.

Our organization in Kenya is happy to report that the local community is directly benefitting from the fruits of the project. watering cans , water tanks, chain links, hose pipes, wheelbarrows, Hoes, Bionets and seeds distributed to the farmers are helping them to implement the project which translates to the cordial success of the project.

We look forward to working with more international and local partners to extent our reach to the local community to fight hunger and threats of climate change through Agroecology trainings and exposure. A community free from hunger can go far and unity in the time of crisis can save the humanity.





DESECE Climate change resilience and Agroecology team inspecting Bio intensive Kitchen Garden at DESECE Model Farm in Bungoma North Sub county Main office



Climate change resilience and agroecology club pupils harvesting Jute Mallow from the school Kitchen garden led by DESECE Field Officer Mr. Daniel Wafula



Nursery manager Madam Zaina Mitati with climate change resilience and Agroecology training farmers on soil preparation for potting in Tranzonia West



Climate change and Agroecology team preparing the compost manure at the model farm at DESECE org





Climate change equipment (Water tanks, watering cans, wheelbarrows etc)



Distribution of Climate change equipment to farmers in Mt. Elgon, Bungoma County



Madam Sophie, Project Co-ordinator, Water Technician in the field distributing Climate Change Resilient materials to the farmers in Bumula, Bungoma County



Madam Sophie and farmers in Mwangale Kimilili Sub-County after receiving their Climate Change resilient equipment ready to be used in curbing the harsh effects of climate change

## 4 FIMARC Europe : May 9, 2021: Europe Day

### *A time of prayer with FIMARC for an open and peaceful Europe!*

As an extension of the meetings organized in the framework of the European project ProRurE, the European coordination of FIMARC has taken the initiative of meetings in video conferences to show the presence and the commitment of our rural Christian movements on the questions of European politics and to make our common concerns recognized. Times of spiritual exchanges associated with times of exchanges on the concerns of our movements, renewed in 2022 and which take a strong meaning in the heavy context of war in Eastern Europe



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## 5. CMR and FIMARC: some shared concerns- FRANCE

### **In 2021, CMR continued its investment in the European network for another CAP**

CMR has supported the positions of French organizations in favor of the establishment of a more ecological and fairer European Common Agricultural Policy. Within the framework of the elaboration of the National Strategic Plan, it has been involved in the follow-up of the work of the network "for another CAP". During the national consultation, he recalled the priorities he wished to put forward:

- A common agricultural policy that allows dignified and fair incomes for farmers and their families in Europe
- An agricultural policy that favors the installation of young people in agriculture in good working and living conditions, whether they come from the agricultural world or not
- An agricultural policy that takes care of the environment and allows the production of quality food at an affordable price for all
- A European agricultural policy that respects the farmers of the South and promotes food sovereignty.

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***December 6, 2021 The day of the CMR "Agriculture-Food" network on the theme "Livestock and society: reinventing the link". Face-to-face and video meeting; 50 participants***



The CMR Agriculture-Food Network continued its reflection on the role and place of livestock in agriculture. A first day in 2020 on the evolution of production methods in France had underlined the interest of restoring functional links between livestock and plant production.

Our 2021 day focused mainly on the analysis of the relationship between the farmer and his herd and the evolution of this relationship over the last century under the influence of the economic rationality of agricultural production methods. With the passage from a peasant breeding marked by a



relationship of sometimes close dependence between man and animal, to modes of production in which the animals are selected and managed as tools for the production of economic goods with an increasingly marked disconnection between the activities of breeding and plant production. With a questioning on the nature of this evolution and on what our fellow citizens want?

Elements of answer were given through 3 series of testimonies. A couple of breeders concerned with adapting their production to local demand, with a concern for the well-being of the herd and the search for autonomy through the production of food and the marketing of meat in a short circuit. A cooperative approach for the implementation of an on-farm slaughtering system, seeking to eliminate the stressful phases linked to the transport of the animals and prior to their killing. The testimony of a dairy farmer who expresses her perception of the reciprocity of the gift experienced in her relationship with her herd. The expression of an inherent spirituality and the search for harmony in the daily relationship with the animals that contribute to our food.

With conclusions on the strong link remaining between farmers and their herds, the alteration of this link in the industrialized modes of operation, the sacred character of food and the need to respect its sources.

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### ***Methane production and agriculture: interest and limit or a debate to be deepened?***

The conclusions of COP 26, which was held in Glasgow in November 2021, require us to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions by nearly half by 2030 if we want to contain the increase in temperature of our environment to a bearable level. With a clear questioning on the fossil fuel sources.

At the same time, we are invited to imagine and develop lifestyles that take into account these climate constraints and are based on sustainable modes of operation. Among the renewable energy sources, the production of methane from agriculture is the subject of passionate debate in Europe. Our Christian movements involved in rural societies are challenged and are led to nourish their reflection on the place and the mode of operation that this form of energy can take. The exchanges developed within CMR, during fieldwork and in our publications, have allowed to initiate a reflection that has highlighted several points:



Visit of a methanization plant at the farm of the Abbaye de la Pierre qui Vire

- Biological production of methane by fermentation of organic matter can be an interesting mechanism when it is produced from organic wastes and does not compete with a necessary food use.
  - The quantities of methane produced by this method can constitute a significant part of the energy needs distributed on the territory, with a distribution that can be adapted to the location of the populations.
  - The environmental feasibility of this methanization must integrate all the costs of production of the biomass used and management of the residual waste resulting from these fermentations.
- Farmers have demonstrated the sustainable, economically viable and environmentally friendly nature of well-controlled on-farm methanization facilities.
  - The proliferation of large-scale facilities based on the availability of uncertain organic resources is currently raising questions about their effects on the size and operation of farms, and their environmental impacts.
  - The development of energy-efficient lifestyles that are equitably shared economically remains a challenge for our societies.

These exchanges need to be pursued within the CMR agriculture and food network

## 6 A. FIMARC Dominican Republic fight for Agro ecology and Food Sovereignty

About 400 producers, mostly descendants of Haitian fathers, who live on the small plots of land, most of them do not exceed 5 hectares, 8 tareas, they grow bananas, yucca, sweet potatoes, pigeon peas, pumpkins, lemons, coconuts, mangoes, avocado, within the framework of peasant family farming and everything that has to do with food sovereignty. The portions of land occupied in more than 15 communities in the sugar cane zone amount to some 3000 tareas (one hectare is equal to 16 tareas).

The demands that the movement are raising is to promote family and agroecological agriculture to have food for general income by farmers and ensure food security and sovereignty of the country. The pandemic of COVID 19, is fought with vaccines and with food for the poorest sectors, the cultivation of sugar cane impoverishes the local farmers and only enrich the businessmen.

The production of sugar cane pollutes the environment with the cachitos, aerial spraying, insecticides, herbicides and toxic products. Agriculture generates more jobs, stimulates the local economy and guarantees food for the country. The movement demanded for Respect and regularizes the occupations of peasants occupying small plots of land, the cessation of the constant abuses committed by the Central Sugar Consortium and the State Sugar Council (CEA) against peasants and sugar cane communities. Moreover to stop the policies of handing over Agrarian Reform land. The campaign still continues.

## 6 B.FIMARC Latin America participation in Land Program Network

### **Workshop on From the Land to the table, a space for visibility and promotion of experiences for sustainable development.-**

More than 200 people from all over Latin America and the Caribbean participated in the workshop organized by the Latin American Land Program. Towards a possible fraternity, of Sophia LAC with the collaboration of CEBITEPAL, CLACSO, RUC and the Ecoceno Foundation.

During the months of October and November, the course "From the Earth to the table. Production, commercialization and sustainable consumption", a space dedicated to the exchange of experiences and the promotion of initiatives carried out in the region, related precisely to the production and supply of food in terms of equity, sustainability and fraternity.

Aimed at producers, marketers, artisanal fishermen, organizations, development institutions, chefs and food processors, consumer associations, researchers, academics and students, the course, which lasted 4 sessions, developed different topics through a methodology that facilitated the exchange of experiences, difficulties, opportunities and expertise, which enabled an enjoyable participation and the strengthening of local and regional networks. Modesta Arevalos, Latin American Coordinator invest a lot in Land program network and particularly in this workshop.

## Conclusion

We are grateful to all our donors and partners for their support in driving the execution of various programmes in this unprecedented environment. **When we look back on the last year, the weight of the pandemic and the profound, far-reaching and intergenerational impacts.** As we look ahead, we see the importance of growing with mindfulness; intentionality and staying grounded on our foundation so that we can scale our programs to meet the needs of farming and rural communities. We truly believe that the trust of our donors and support base is at the heart of this. Thank you.

We know that the value and impact of working together in person will never be replaced and we are grateful for the dedicated and hardworking leaders of our movements at different levels and also the Exco members. We are inspired by their passion and dedication to continue working through these challenges — and we know you are too. It is time to connect our struggles and fight together for a better world based on mutual respect, social justice, equity, solidarity and harmony with our Mother Earth and to rise up against corporate food systems!