

Declaration of FIMARC at the end of the meeting of the Executive Committee 2005 in Reconquista (ARGENTINA)

“Access to Land & Right to Water, conditions for a sustainable Agrarian Reform”

With a population of 37,5 millions of inhabitants, Argentina, which has the possibility to feed 300 millions of persons counts in its population 14 millions of inhabitants who are starving and are at the doors of indigence. Such situations are occurring in all the continents.

What could be seen as a paradox is actually the result of neo-liberal policies that have become more and more severe along the last years. The farmers, whom have the vocation of producing food for all their fellow citizens, have seen slowly by slowly, and more particularly during the last decade, the transformation of land, their working means transformed into speculative capital. Those, whom own land in quantity, don't have other preoccupation than generation of profit in a short term, without any consideration for the quality of food produced, for the dignity of the workers and for environment. The Indigenous People and the small farmers are suffering while seeing the “ pacha mama” (mother earth) unscrupulous exploited, while seeing the villages empty as there are not enough remunerative work and while seeing disappearing all that constitute their dignified life as free human being.

Right to water is for the same reasons in great danger, sometimes impossible for millions of people. Water, in the neo-liberal capitalist system is considered only as a simple good; more and more States have given up the water management to private societies because the constraints of structural adjustment policies. The productivist model that we all know, with these privatisations, have generated pollutions which have severe consequences for human beings as well as for environment. The wastes of intensive production and mineral exploitation are present in rivers and as well as in our plates by the end of alimentary chain, provoking allergies, cancers and other severe health problems.

For us rural and Christian people in FIMARC, those situations are unacceptable. Land is a space life to realize the right to food for all and the right to live in dignity for all human beings. In this context, access to water, source of life, cannot be submitted to money. The actual system is bearer of death. In front of this situation we can not remain silent and let the wild run for capital continue as it's destructive of population's health, environment, dignity of the persons, of a possible future for the generations to come.

We are urgently appealing a profound change to develop the productive models (there are already experiences existing) which will ensure food for all, taking care of the bio-diversity, best guarantor of a natural biologic balance in the long term, while generating the necessary capital that would allow all people to live in dignity while satisfying the basic needs of shelter, health and education in the respect of local cultures.

The change we are promoting, requires a personal and collective conversion in our way to consider water and land, and push us to reclaim agrarian reforms adapted to the cultures of each country and to the needs of the populations.

- The access to water and drinkable for all goes much further than technical or financial solutions. It needs the elaboration of a global political program taking into accounts the social, cultural and economic aspects for the service of the diverse human communities of our countries. This methodology is based on a culture of water, source of live, that cannot be considered as single merchandise.

- When we are reclaiming land as a mean of production for the farmers, we are reclaiming its equitable sharing, its access in decent conditions, for a dignified work, for the production of quality of food for the rural as well as for urban consumers, for the preservation of soil's quality and bio-diversity.

Water, land and also seeds are for us a common patrimony issued from the human communities during a multitude of generations and it must remain as such. The model of development we are promoting is a model of LIFE. To reach it, structural reforms are imperative as well as a profound reform in the way of seeing, reflecting and acting.

Convinced of this way of reflecting and acting, we consider that we have strong arguments to highlight. We commit ourselves to be the speakers and actors of changes presents in all discussions forums regarding those topics, during the elective dates in our countries, in all international meetings and in a near future in the Ministerial Conference of the WTO in Hong Kong to claim those demands and support those, who like us are compromising to built this new model of development.

The Executive Committee members of FIMARC
Reconquista (ARGENTINA)
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