



RESOLUTION

FIMARC WORLD ASSEMBLY – THIES - SENEGAL

November 2018

1. We, member movements of FIMARC (International Federation of Rural Adult Catholic Movements) from Asia, Africa, Latin America and Europe, representing rural communities and peasants from 32 countries of the world, gathered in Thies, Senegal from 2-16th of November 2018 for the FIMARC Global session on “**Invest in sustainable rural development and agriculture - towards a better world for all**” as well as for the 15th World Assembly, at a decisive moment of reflection on the UN declaration of rights of Peasants and other people working in rural areas and in the context of UN decision to launch the Decade of Family Farming (2019-2028).

2. The main theme of the 15th World Assembly was “Let’s move together in solidarity and harmony to create a just and dignified rural world caring for all life”. The global session had a deep reflection and analysis on the current system of agriculture and rural development based on the encyclical Letter Laudato Si, the rights of peasants and rural people, ongoing trends and alternatives in the modes of production and consumption and the scope of intergenerational transfer of knowledge to strengthen family farming. It allowed us to deepen our common understanding, to share our own experiences from different continents and to define concrete next steps of engagement in these topics of our concern.

3 As the movements of rural people and peasants, we are concerned with the deteriorating stock of rural infrastructure, basic services such as education, health, technology that provoke the rampant rural exodus, closure of farms and rural jobs, leading to food insecurity and poverty among rural populations. Rural people are the victims of excessive land and resource grabbing, violence, corruption, narcotics, human trafficking and criminalisation of peasants and activists who fight for their rights and to protect their livelihoods. Profit oriented education systems in our countries neither provide values of rural life nor the skills for diversified employment opportunities including farm and off farm jobs. The traditional knowledge is either devalued or not properly transferred to the new generations. Current socio-economic and demographic trends and digital divide challenge relationships between generations cause ageing of the farmer population and rupture of the social safety nets.

4. It is evident that industrial and chemical farming is destructive and deadly with practices of agro-toxins, artificial hormones, use of GMO’S, chemical inputs, mono culture and overproduction that poison people and nature, causes loss of soil fertility, water contamination, conversion of natural resources into a commodity, including land, water and seeds and destruction of rural areas. Furthermore the liberalization of the markets and control of multinational agribusiness in the value chain alienate us from our productive resources and put profit before life. Peasants and rural people suffer from hunger, malnutrition and poverty at a disproportionate level and are vulnerable and discriminated with forced expulsions and lack of access to essential resources: land, seeds, loans, education, justice and basic services. Out of 821 million people suffering hunger in the world (2018 UN figure), 80% live in rural areas. Agricultural Policies contributes to the economic decline of the family farm system leading to farm consolidation, disappearance, foreclosures and resulting to the economic and political power concentration within greedy handful unaccountable multinational corporations.

5. Farmers are key to food sovereignty and the realization of the right to food, in particular in developing countries where they provide up to 80% of the food consumed at the local level. Hence we will strive to build family farming systems based on agroecology enriched by local traditional knowledge and cultural values. We believe Family farming is an efficient way of doing agriculture that enable to create employment and to ensure food sovereignty of the

population. It allows us to decide on what kind of agriculture to practice and food to produce. It will safeguard and protect environmental assets and natural resources, biodiversity and cultural heritage, preserves traditional food products, while contributing to a balanced diet. We believe that Agroecology can be practiced in many different ways, based on the local reality and culture. Diverse forms of smallholder food production based on Agroecology generate local knowledge, promote social justice, nurture culture, and strengthen the economic viability of rural areas.

6. We also want to promote successful alternative initiatives developed by our movements such as life planning, seed and food sovereignty initiatives in Latin America, Direct Marketing between rural producers and urban consumers in South Korea by CCFM, People Led development Process in the field of sustainable agriculture, health and education in Asia, Agro ecological Agriculture in Kenya and in other countries etc. Healthy and safe food is a fundamental human right and we need to develop dialogue with consumers and producers in this regard.

7. Scaling-up the support to smallholder family farmers and creating alternative and sustainable livelihood options in rural areas, with a special focus on women and youth, is fundamental to address the root causes of rural distress migration. Sustainable Investment in Rural development, genuine agrarian reform, farmer's participation, income diversification, land conservation and improved management of inputs is key to build sustainable family based agricultural systems. New forms of cooperation and community organizations can be encouraged in order to defend the interests of small producers and preserve local ecosystems from destruction (Laudato si 180). Thus we call our governments to set up national policies and programmes to protect and promote the family farming systems based on agro ecology, our own knowledge, wisdom and culture and implement legal tools and mechanisms to ensure the rights of peasants and rural people.

8. FIMARC and its member movements are and will strongly commit themselves

- To the awareness raising ,adoption and implementation of the declaration of “Rights of Peasants and other People working in Rural Areas” by the UN for the realization of our right to define own food and agriculture systems
- To engage with other actors to strengthen family farming in the context of UN decade of family Farming
- To identify and share the best practical diverse models within our own local communities in the fields of agriculture, health and education
- To commit for safe food production and consumption, sustainable health management practices and education for a dignified life
- To build cooperative forms of production, social enterprises; local value-added products
- To build local resistance, in order to protect our own productions systems, traditional knowledge and practices.
- To establish deep links between farmers and consumers

9. Conclusion

Life and ecosystem is a gift of the Creator and we have to preserve it and transmit to the future generations .FIMARC wants to promote intergenerational relations to foster the sharing of farm knowledge and skills, culture, traditional values as well as reciprocal care, support and exchange of resources. As humans we can live fully by realizing our potentials in community and care for creation. This authentic development includes our cultures, values and spiritual being, and is based on solidarity. It needs radical economic transformation, production and consumption models that respect the natural resource limits of the planet and ecological conversions as emphasized in Laudato si. Rural areas are used to be and could still be able to provide employment for all including young people willing to work .We should resist the massive rural exodus and to maintain more farmers especially youth in their land by giving more prospects for agriculture and rural life and ***We dare to build another rural world !”***