

VOICE OF
THE RURAL WORLD

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RURAL EXODUS

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the member movements belonging or not to the Federation

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Dear Readers,

Greetings from International Secretariat!

This edition of VMR spells out Rural Exodus –the causes and consequences, which is one of the burning reality of the world and key concern of FIMARC as rural movement. Rural exodus is the movement of people from rural area to urban area for search of high paying non- agricultural employment and other incentives. Rural to urban migration reduces population in rural areas, which decreases farming activities, leading to food insecurity. It can lead to child labor when many young males leave for cities in search of employment. This causes a drop-in school enrollment.

Rural Migration also causes overcrowding in urban centers, which leads to a strain on social amenities and contributes to an increase in crime rate within urban centers. Excessive or rampant rural to urban migration increases the rate of unemployment, which reduces the standards of living among urban communities. In addition, it affects women in rural areas because they are forced to attend to many chores at home and in farms. Rural migration leads to the concentration of services and facilities, such as education, health and technology in urban centers, which disadvantages rural communities. It also causes psychological effects, such as the stress that result from traffic, high living costs and taxes

Small, labor-intensive family farms have been replaced by, heavily mechanized and specialized industrial farms in many countries. While



a small family farm typically produced a wide range of crop, garden, and animal products—all requiring substantial labor—large industrial farms typically specialize in just a few crop or livestock varieties, using large machinery and high-density livestock that require a fraction of the labor per unit produced.

The consolidation of the feed, seed, processed grain, and livestock industries has meant that there are fewer small businesses in rural areas. This decrease in turn exacerbated the decreased demand for labor. Rural areas that used to be able to provide employment for all young adults willing to work in challenging conditions, increasingly provide fewer opportunities for young adults. The situation is made worse by the decrease in services such as schools, business, and cultural opportunities that accompany the decline in population, and the increasing age of the remaining population further stresses the social service system of rural areas. In many countries, higher learning institutions are located in towns making many youths to migrate to towns when they reach college going age.

Rural migrants to cities face several challenges that may hinder their quality of life upon moving into urbanized areas. Many migrants do not have the education or skills to acquire decent jobs in cities and are then forced into unstable, low paying jobs. The steady stream of new rural migrants worsens underemployment and unemployment, common among rural migrants. Employers offer lower wages and poorer labor conditions to rural migrants, who must compete with each other for limited jobs, often unaware of their labor rights. Rural migrants often experience poor living conditions as well. Many cities have exploded in population; services and infrastructure. Massive influxes in rural population can lead to severe housing shortages, inadequate water and energy supply, and general slum-like conditions throughout cities.

Women, in particular, face a unique set of challenges. Some women undergo rural flight to escape domestic abuse or forced early marriages. Some parents choose to send women to cities to find jobs in order to send remittances back home. Once in the city, employers may attempt to take



advantage of these women preying on their unfamiliarity with labor laws and social networks on which to rely. In the worst of cases, destitution may force women into prostitution, exposing them to social stigma and the risks of sexually transmitted diseases

Additionally, rural migrants often struggle adjusting to city life. In some instances, there are cultural differences between the rural and urban areas of a region and causes breaking of family and cultural bond in rural areas. Both marginalized and separated from their home cultures, migrants face many social challenges when moving to cities

FIMARC will continue our efforts to build lively rural areas and to create a dignified rural life.

Enjoy your reading

George Dixon Fernandez
Secretary General





RURAL EXODUS



The exodus means a massive immigration of a population, in reference to the exodus of the Hebrews from Egypt. This term means the moving mass of a large number of people. An exodus can be caused by a war, an economic or socio cultural crisis.

Under this dramatic name, launched by the defenders of traditional values in the last century, it most often means the migration of rural people to the cities, as this is relatively important and continuous.

Situation in developed countries

The rural exodus is essentially a phenomenon of a relatively recent past in developed countries. Migration from the countryside to urban centres began to take on a rather massive character in England at the beginning of the XIXe s, at the time of industrialization; the size of the urban population there has been exceeded that of the rural population by the middle of the XIXe s. Later, the rest of the Western Europe and North America have experienced the same evolution, but residents have become outnumbered rural people only on the eve of the First World War. The time lag was sharper still in southern Europe, Japan and especially in the Eastern Europe. Everywhere in these developed countries, migration to the cities has been a facet of the industrial revolution. By changing



the production system, it caused an intense redistribution of the population at the expense of rural areas and for the benefit of urban centres.

After the Second World War, the phenomenon has seen a gradual slowdown despite a swift movement of urbanization, as manpower reserves began to run out in rural areas and because a number of households could go daily to work in the city while residing in rural areas.

We can see this phenomenon be reversed today - in recent years - with a return to the rural areas, especially because of the spread of peri-urban areas and of the wish of the people working in the city to return to the countryside for a better quality of life. This of course has changed the rural character of the country side.

The situation in developing countries

Today, for all the causes referred in the definition of the exodus, the phenomenon of rural migration is present especially in developing countries. For all developing countries, the population flow to the cities is estimated to 18-20 million people each year. In India, this is the case for nearly 3 million people. And rural people migrate to the cities for the same reasons: lack of economic opportunities in the country side or decoy of cities, wars, lack of educational opportunities for children, religious or cultural discrimination...

Rural exodus implies the depopulation of the countryside and the abandonment of the land occupations. This phenomenon is now an international issue: in 2007 and for



the first time in the history of humanity, the urban population exceeded those in rural areas. According to a study published by the FAO in June 2006, about 800 million people have left the country for the city over the past 50 years, and according to a UN report on urbanization in the world published in 2014, 2.5 billion additional people are expected to live in urban areas by 2050, hence the need to set up a program of urban planning and to give greater attention to small towns where the majority population is living.



“Today, 54 percent of the world’s population lives in urban areas, a proportion that should increase to 66% in 2050”, said the population service of the Department of economic and Social Affairs in the 2014 edition of its report on the prospects of urbanization.

According to UN projections, the combined effect of increased urbanization and growth will contribute to an increase of 2.5 billion additional people in the cities, including 37 percent in India, which currently has the largest rural population, followed by China and Nigeria.

And according to demographic forecasts, the megacities should lose importance in the face of the growth of medium-sized cities, particularly in developing countries. The most urbanized regions in the world are currently in North America, where 82% of the population lives in urban areas, followed by Latin America and the Caribbean, with 80% and 73% in Europe.

In contrast, in Africa and Asia the majority of the population lives in rural areas, which represents the majority of the world’s population. In these regions, the urbanization is expected to grow considerably in the years to come. This represents a significant challenge for the food security of the cities and which poses enormous questions for the future of the peasantry in the world.

In addition, the departure of peasants to the cities has a greater impact because of the extraordinary urban development in some developing countries or emerging countries, mainly in Africa and Asia. Food sovereignty and solidarity according to the analyses carried out in the sector of the social economy are one of the keys to prevent rural exodus. But agriculture is fragile because of the liberalization of trade that contributes to the degradation of the environment and the deterioration of the means of production. The poor working conditions and the rural exodus they entail are likely to create in a short term an imbalance in supply and difficulties in supplying urban consumers.

In sub-Saharan Africa, manual labor compensates the low technical level of agriculture, but there also the agricultural sector began to suffer from an exodus of workers. An improvement in the capacity to import food isn’t a viable option, considering the low potential for industrial exports in most of the countries of this region of Africa.



In the end, the best way to promote the maintenance of farmers on their land and to ease the pressure on urban areas is to increase investment in agriculture: recent studies clearly demonstrate the superior efficiency of agriculture in reducing poverty compared to other economic sectors. Its role is also important in terms of food security and the distribution of the population given that agriculture employs more than 2/3 of those who work in the concerned countries.

The causes of the rural exodus

Economic reasons

Whether it's of the last century or of the present, the reasons for migration are similar. They are mainly economic. Today, in many countries of the South, rural people are struggling to survive because of the generally expansionist agricultural policies or the development of agricultural techniques and people don't see other solutions than to leave their lands. It seems the prospect of city life is best. And it is a fact that education or healthcare systems are more developed in the cities than in the countryside... If you have the necessary economic means...

The wars

It should not, however, reduce the causes of rural migration to the economy alone. Sometimes - too often - these migrations are forced because of conflicts and the populations are reduced as to leave their land, even for a short time but this often means they miss one or another the season. Also, forced migrations are due to the exploitation of mineral resources that pollute the land and rivers, without taking into account biodiversity in those exploited areas.





Climate change

In many parts of the world, phenomena related to climate change are seen. We are talking about reduction of arable land, the decline in food reserves and fish stocks, the increase in floods or the often destructive weather phenomena of longer periods of droughts.

According to a study of the Christian Aid association, at least 1 billion people will migrate to 2050:

- 645 million people because of large projects (15 million per year currently)
- 250 million because of phenomena related to climate change (floods, droughts, famines)
- 50 million because of conflicts and violations of human rights

Based on data of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on the Evolution of the climate, a study says that by 2080 between 1.1 and 3.2 billion people will miss water, and between 200 and 600 million will suffer from hunger.

The poorest countries will be the first affected by climate migration: countries of South Asia, Middle East, Central Asia, Africa and Latin America, and Europe thereafter.

It's now official: climate change is now the leading cause of forced migration. From now onwards, the discourse on migration cannot be limited to political refugees and economic migrants, to the phenomenon of brain drain; it now includes a growing population of migrants for climate or weather reasons.





The future of Climate

According to the International Organization for migration, the share of emerged areas that suffer from permanent drought will increase from 2 percent today to at least 10% by 2050. The share of land that will be facing extreme droughts should on rise 1% today to 30% by the end of the 21st century.

It is obviously difficult to examine the impact of climate change on internal and external migratory phenomena. The lack of basic data, the increase in the population and the changing nature of the trajectory of climate change make the exercise perilous. All projections will also depend on the attitude of the international authorities to the phenomenon.

Public policy

No country, whether having low or high income, cannot escape the consequences of climate change. Climate migration penalizes development, put under pressure the infrastructure and services, and increase the risk of conflict. Each State will have to provide answers.

We can only hope that the recent COP22 has helped to settle - binding - mechanisms so that all countries signatories to the agreements of the COP 21 to keep climate warming under 2 °C will be followed by immediate and effective effects.

Climate migration superimposed on economic migration. Developed countries have a responsibility to support developing countries to help them facing these new phenomena, as well as in their efforts to adapt to climate disasters.

Alternatives

- **The revitalization of rural areas**

We are rural and proud of it! Little by little, the lure of the city shuts down. Thanks to new technologies, the information arrives in the country side. We realize the values we have in rural areas – problems also of course - but also of solidarity among the population; local business opportunities which tightens the relationship between producers and consumers, opportunities for a healthy life.



- **The transition**

Without lapsing into sentimentality, without lapsing into a melancholy and regret for past life, we have available now, farming techniques that allow a return to healthy practices without large mechanization, economically viable and able to meet the demands of consumers for the production of quality products.

- **The struggles for access to land**

Thanks to “globalization”, communication techniques are increasingly affluent. The spoliation of lands are better known, the legal instruments exist to claim rights to land.

- **Attention to the climate**

Now it turned out that climate migration will be - are already - a reality. We need to continue the necessary lobby for new laws be adopted to host climate migrants, but above all to ensure that the decisions taken at the COP21 and 22 are followed to limit the warming of the planet and reverse its effects to prevent mass migrations.

And movements of the FIMARC

One of the fundamental values that we defend is SOLIDARITY. We all continue to inform us about changes in our world, we mobilize to counter all the policies that run counter to the harmonious development of rural areas, to be welcoming of migrants - for some reason it is - to make every effort to keep climate warming under the fateful 2 ° C warming and convince our political representatives to put in place the policies to do this and to continue our struggle for food sovereignty and rural entrepreneurship so that populations develop in harmony in their own environment.





FIMARC NEWS

FIMARC AT HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

HRC 29 and HRC 30 - FIMARC participated in the 29th and 30th sessions of the human rights council in Geneva in 2015 to strengthen our engagement and follow up on Farmers rights. We made oral statements in the session to support the peasant rights process and strived for the approval of the resolution by the governments of the human rights council for prolonging the work of the UN intergovernmental working group to complete the text of the UN declaration on the rights of farmers and other people working in rural areas. Even though most of the European governments kept abstained from the resolution and United States and their allies opposed, we were able to get a positive result with our strong lobby work with our allies convincing the majority of Asian, African and Latin American governments

PARTICIPATION IN FAO, CFS (COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY) AND CSM (CIVIL SOCIETY MECHANISM)

FIMARC participated in the CFS 42 Session, CSM annual forum and Coordination Committee Meetings which were held in FAO Headquarters in Rome in October 2015. It is an important forum for lobbying towards

world leaders on the governance of food and agricultural policies and systems

CSM

The CSM is the largest international mechanism of civil society organisations (CSOs) seeking to influence agriculture, food security and nutrition policies and actions - nationally, regionally and globally. It works exclusively in the context of the UN Committee on World Food Security (CFS). Hosted for one more year in a row by the UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation, close to 200 civil society individuals actively participated. Participants represented a broad and diverse range of marginalized groups including, farmers, fisherfolk, Indigenous Peoples, pastoralists, agricultural workers, urban poor, youth - echoing the CSM's mandate to prioritize the voices of those most affected by food insecurity and malnutrition. The increase in participation of CSOs is a positive sign that outreach efforts are paying-off, and civil society organisations from around the world are recognizing the opportunity CFS presents as the foremost inclusive platform dealing with Food and Agriculture policy. A platform where civil society are not only welcome and appreciated, but heard. During the opening ceremony, Forum Paid a tribute to Chandrika Sharma, the fisher folk activist who lost the life in Malaysian

Air Accident. Honorary guests, Director General of FAO, José Graziano da Silva and CFS Chair, Ambassador of Holland, Yaya Gerda Verburg also welcomed participants.. Before splitting into working groups, the morning Plenary sessions focused on introducing new-coming civil society participants to the ways of working within the CFS and CSM, provided an introduction to the agenda of the 42nd Session of the CFS, Annual report from the Coordination Committee to the CSM Forum, and finally, CSM working group coordinators gave brief presentations on the policy issues of the CFS 42 agenda – what is at stake, and what are the controversial issues?

Wolfgang Scharl (President, FIMARC), George Dixon Fernandez (Secretary General), Jean Claude Germon (Treasurer) participated in the CSM Annual forum on behalf of FIMARC. FIMARC was also participated in the CSM coordination committee meeting which was held prior to the CSM forum. George Fernandez represented FIMARC in the CC meeting.

CFS FORTY-SECOND SESSION “MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

The Committee on World Food Security (CFS) held its Forty-second Session from 12 to 15 October 2015 at FAO Headquarters in Rome. The Session

was attended by delegates from 120 Members of the Committee; 9 non-Member States of the Committee and by representatives from: • 10 United Nations Agencies and Bodies; • 96 Civil society organizations1; • 2 International agricultural research organizations; • 2 International and regional financial institutions; • 68 Private sector associations and private philanthropic foundations2; and, • 47 Observers. 29 Ministers and 6 Vice Ministers

Opening statements were delivered by Ms Gerda Verburg, Chair of the Committee on World Food Security; Mr David Nabarro, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for Food Security and Nutrition, on behalf of and representing Mr Ban Ki-moon, United Nations Secretary-General; Mr José Graziano da Silva, Director-General, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO); Mr Kanayo Nwanze, President, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD); Ms Ertharin Cousin, Executive Director, the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP); Dr Per Pinstrup-Andersen, Chairperson of the Steering Committee of the HighLevel Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE)

Following an exchange of views, the Committee noted the following: a) CFS stakeholders called for CFS, as the foremost inclusive international and intergovernmental platform to promote



policy convergence and coordination on food security and nutrition, to put the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly those related to ending hunger and malnutrition, at the centre of its work from now until 2030; b) CFS offers a unique opportunity to share lessons learned, good practices, report on progress made, and address emerging challenges or policy gaps; c) Implementing existing CFS policy instruments such as the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT), the Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems (RAI) and the Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises (FFA), as well as the CFS policy recommendations informed by the High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE) reports, at country-level, can make an important contribution to advancing progress on Goal 2 and other related targets; d) CFS can also play an important role in supporting outreach and communication on Goal 2 and related and cross-cutting topics at all levels; e) In deciding on its future Multi-Year Programme of Work, strong emphasis should be placed on the added value of CFS in contributing to the achievement of the SDGs.

The Committee considered a presentation on behalf of the three

Rome-based Agencies by Mr Pietro Gennari, FAO Chief Statistician and Coordinator of the joint FAO, IFAD, WFP report on the State of Food Insecurity in the World 2015 (SOFI). The presentation provided an update of the main findings of 2015 SOFI Report and an overview of the new requirements for monitoring food security and nutrition in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Policy Round Tables on Water for Food Security and Nutrition, Youth for Food Security and Nutrition were held on 12 October. On 15 October a Special Event on Developing the knowledge, skills, and talent of youth to further food security and nutrition was held.

Wolfgang Scharl (President, FIMARC), George Dixon Fernandez (Secretary General), Jean Claude Germon (Treasurer) participated in the CFS 42 on behalf of FIMARC

FORMATION SESSION ON PEASANT RIGHTS TO SEEDS 2017

FIMARC organizes a yearly formation session for the global and continental leaders on the key burning topics related to rural people and agriculture. For 2017 it is planned to organise an International Formation Session on peasant rights to seeds. This study session will be organised during the Exco meeting in May 2017. It will be sharing and learning platform to initiate concrete work on seeds



*FAO, CFS (Committee on world Food Security) and
CSM (Civil Society Mechanism)-Rome*

VMR

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