



FIMARC ANNUAL REPORT 2012

FIMARC

Rue Jaumain 15
Assesse, Belgium
Tel: +32 83 65 62 36
Fax: +32 83 65 62 36
E-mail: fimarc@skynet.be

FIMARC intervention for the good governance of land and investments to realise food sovereignty

INTRODUCTION

As usual the year 2012 was also witnessed the tremendous engagements of FIMARC for the good governance of land and investments to realise right to food and food sovereignty as well as concrete initiatives and interventions to promote Socio solidarity economies based on the vision of decrease . The International study session on Agricultural investment which held in Assesse,Belgium gave new synergies, strategies and spirit for our work in various levels. Our strong lobby and advocacy work on land governance in the context of the CFS process of Voluntary Guidelines on land tenure and other natural resources as well as our increased presence in the human rights council in Geneva were the two major involvement that brought some good results. FIMARC was in the forefront also to organise some solidarity actions and resistance for the rights of marginalized rural communities and other vulnerable groups. FIMARC had been also present in the UN Summit on Sustainable Development that took place in 2012 in Rio de Janeiro - 20 years after the Earth Summit 1992.This summit provided an opportunity to reflect on the obvious shortcomings of the traditional development and growth model - and promote discourse on new models of welfare and development with our work shop on Agricultural Transition

FIMARC has been working on the Agricultural investment issues and Agricultural transition during the whole last year starting from the FAO Asia Pacific regional conference in Vietnam, Involvement in the CFS process of Voluntary guidelines on land tenure and other natural resources , and followed with our International formation session on Agricultural

investments in Assesse, Belgium. Our world Food Day campaign activities mobilised the national movements to take up some small but concrete actions to promote the spirit of collective work and promote the aspect of Cooperatives in the context of International Year of cooperatives. Many national movements organised awareness raising programmes on this topic. FIMARC also signed the lobby letter against mining problems in Honduras as well as the lobby letter of CIDSE on Biofuels. We had been involved in various other lobby and advocacy actions at ECOSOC and also in CFS

As it was in the case of year 2011 , the present Secretary General has been working only as part time during this year with the fact that MIJARC world Assembly had been shifted to the year end .Complete with drawl of 2 major catholic donors in terms of their financial support really effected the functioning ,planning as well as ended the paper printing of our regular Publication VMR(Voice of the rural world) which we continue to publish online at present .Further again we strongly request the Catholic development agencies to revisit their decision other wise eventually catholic social action movements will become only a history. This report will give an over all view of our major global actions and interventions during the year 2012. Wish you a good reading

Global objectives and working lines

The global objective of FIMARC : keeping rural populations in their living environment, enabling them to live a dignified life.

Main working lines that has to be adapted according to movements' and continental realities:

- 1 Food sovereignty: access to land, right to food, keeping rural people in their environment;
- 2 Decrease /Less is more
- 3 Solidarity economy/Alternative Economies
- 4 Human Rights.

Specific objectives

1. Training of organizations and rural movements to help them in organizing their advocacy and lobbying actions to implement their activities; means: publishing documents and educational material; organizing exchanges between farmers; training seminars...;
2. Organizing these rural people's voices to liaise with decision-making bodies; means: seamless communication to relay rural people's voices, visiting movements and participating in some of their activities;
3. Animating continental coordination's and ensuring efficient global coordination for all regions and in all the domains of intervention. Means: an effective international secretariat that has the means of this work
4. Supporting the movements and member organizations; means: effective international secretariat and dynamic and lively coordination's;
5. Strengthening our network; means: participating in several activities of regional or international organizations that work in the same fields as FIMARC.

International secretariat

George Dixon Fernandez (Secretary General - part time) and Anne Van Gysel (Office Assistant - part time) are the only staff at the International Secretariat during the year 2012

ACTIVITIES

1. Formation session on Investment in agriculture and contribution of small scale/family farmers

In the fast changing world with a lot of emerging challenges, the formation of our leaders to carry out their actions related to various themes as well as lobby actions and advocacy towards the decision making authorities at different levels and also to the international and intergovernmental organizations such as FAO, UNHCR, ECOSOC, UNESCO, CFS is quite important. Such formations will also help them to make awareness to general public

The Executive Committee of the FIMARC met last April in Assesse, Belgium, at the headquarters of the FIMARC. After an exposure program in two farms in the region, a biological one and the other in conventional agriculture, a seminar on "Investment in agriculture: challenges and opportunities for small farmers" was organized. During these days of training, the various experts have highlighted the need to invest in sustainable agriculture that allows farmers to live in dignity, while respecting the natural and reproductive resources. The current trend towards investment is unfortunately not that one, but more and more experts and studies agree that it is time to stop this large-scale investment that deplete the land, pollute the rivers and are ultimately more harmful and costly than investments which would be made in the frame of small scale agriculture

The aim of this programme was:

1. To support global leadership to make a new orientation towards the struggle against land grabbing and to advocate for the increase in investment in small holder agriculture
2. To discuss and share the experiences in various continents related Agricultural investment.
3. To make a sound analysis about the current impact of Agricultural investment in different countries.
4. To work out specific proposal of arguments in favour of investing in small holder and family agriculture and sustainable rural development

One of the central theme of our work of the year was on the topic of Agricultural Investments. This seminar was aimed for the socio-political formation of the international leaders of FIMARC. FIMARC movements are involved in actions and concrete projects of sustainable agricultural investments in many countries and have been resisting the massive corporate investments that alienate millions of rural people and farmers from their land

and livelihood resources. Rural people are often trapped and become the victims of extreme poverty due to profit-oriented private foreign investments. Corporate investment has alienated millions of small-scale producers from their own land and other productive resources, hence generating human rights violations in many countries through the expansion of agrofuel production and monocultivation (contract farming). Private investors in agriculture comprise a vast and diverse range of actors from companies involved in agricultural production, processing to investment funds that seek opportunities to invest in land and other assets. Growing trend by agri-TNCs is directly controlling the farming system leading to an increasing vertical integration of the food supply chain trapping farmers in debt and poverty. Small-scale food producers need policies that support their production and protect it from a take-over by the corporate sector. Eighty percent of the world's hungry people live in rural areas. Rising and increasingly volatile food prices in recent years and the climate crisis have increased poverty, displacement, hunger, undernourishment. Certain governments are trying to meet their food security requirements by acquiring agricultural lands and productive capacities abroad and supporting agricultural investments by their home corporations.

FIMARC demand for an increased public agricultural investments, that aim at ending hunger, ensuring the right to food, enhancing the sustainable food production capacity of smallholder food producers and creating decent conditions for agricultural workers and strengthening local food systems and agro-ecological smallholder food production - with special attention to women and young people

Small scale farming contributes to the social, economic and environmental advantages such as creating employment, maintaining good cultural practices, sustainable rural development and preserving ecosystems and the largest part of the investment in agriculture in terms of capital and knowledge is made by these small-scale food producers themselves. But only a small proportion of the national budgets in developing countries and of development aid goes to agriculture and rural development. Agricultural policies have been made not considering the risk and roles of large-scale plantations, multinationals or the impact they cause to small-scale farming, including economic, social, gender and environmental impacts

Neo-liberal trade and investment regimes undermine the ability of governments to preserve and protect essential services, natural resources, food sovereignty, access to medicines, and public health and safety. We are living in extraordinary, even unprecedented times. Perhaps, never before in recorded history has there been such a convergence of crises and forces that threaten the future of both humanity and the planet. We, therefore, call on social movements, labor unions and civil society organizations of the world work together to resist and replace the neoliberal trade and globalization regime that is causing and intensifying the global crises and to protect the life and livelihoods of the farmers and other rural people. More than at any other moment in living memory, the time has come for civil society associations and mass social movements to unite in a common cause to turn around the dominant agenda and model of economic globalization.

We were able to make a concrete declaration and follow up plan in terms of agricultural investments considering the real need of the peasant farming and rural life. An interactive

session with Via Campesina Europe, CNCD, Entraid Et Fraternity and MISEREOR ,FIMARC Human Rights Working group was also part of the programme. This session also provided solid feed back for the ongoing CFS process related to the elaboration of Agricultural Investments

Results: 8 people in charge of Bureau and Exco as well as 4 members of the GTDH (Human Rights working group) and few national leaders of FIMARC had a pertinent analysis of the impact of foreign ,Private and massive corporate investments as well as strengthen the argument in terms the concrete and sustainable investments providing by the small holder farmers on a daily basis in the agricultural sector as well as called for the increase of Public investments and state interventions to support and strengthen small farmer lead agriculture. It is evident that big foreign investments also results the massive land grabbing and thus this study session helped the global leadership to make a new orientation towards this struggle. It Strengthened the Lobbying and political action capacities by a better knowledge of this critical issue .It was also helpful for the preparation of the planned Asian study session on Agricultural investments and to increase our lobby and advocacy campaign to support the local populations who fight against the mining investors and land grabbers in various countries.

Outlook: We want to strengthen the networking with other organisations who are involved on these issues. Last year we committed for the finalisation of the Voluntary guidelines on Land tenure and natural resources initiated by CFS (FAO) and finally it was approved by the CFS in May 2012.We will also be involve in the CFS Open ended Working group on Principles of Responsible Agricultural Investments to prepare the Terms of reference of the Consultation process . We want to strengthen the capacity of our national movements to make their advocacy and lobby work in their countries to face the challenges that cause by massive corporate investments .

2. FIMARC Exco and Bureau

Exco and Bureau are the two main political decision bodies of FIMARC. The Bureau meets two times per year and one along with Exco which takes place once a year, with the participation of one continental coordinators of each continent as well as the Bureau members. The Exco is in charge of:Normally we organize training sessions or seminar on specific topics for our leaders during the Exco meetings. It also ensures the participation of all the continents in the decision making process, make the operational plans of the movement in different levels and update our lobby advocacy actions.2012 Bureau and Exco meetings were held in April 2012 in Assesse ,Belgium along with a training session

Current members of the Exco of FIMARC

Ki hwan **CHUNG** (South Korea) - President

Nieves **Martinez Bravo** (Spain) - Treasurer

George Dixon **Fernandez** (India) - Secretary General

Fr.Pascuale **Kinoti** (Paraguay) - Chaplain (Since November 2011)

John **Mwidu** (Uganda)

Jean paul **Perrin** (France)

Oscar **Rodriguez** (Argentina) represented by Manuel Moran(Elsalvadore since 2012)

Philip Biswas (Bangladesh)

Objectives:

- the report and evaluation of activities carried out in each continent and at world level
- the discussion on the participation in continental and world events, summits, forums, platforms
- the planning of activities at continental and world level, according to FIMARC's Action Plan
- the discussion and approval of financial statements and yearly budgets
- the discussion and sharing of experience on different topics
- the evaluation of the work of the Human Rights Working group
- Reinforcement of the internal networking of FIMARC
- Evaluation and planning of the World Food Day campaign
- Revision of action plan

Results/Impact:

The year 2012 was evaluated and the financial statement of the last year has been discussed and adopted as well as the financial planning for 2013. An evaluation of the activities of FIMARC was made as well as plans for campaigns in 2013. The Exco had a long discussion about the financial situation due to the ongoing reduction of support for the functioning from the traditional donors and notified the urgency to act on it ; Exco agreed that George could work for MIJARC as part time until the World Assembly of MIJARC.

Outlook:

The next Exco will take place in Belgium in the month of April and would discuss about the future orientation of FIMARC and will finalise the theme and slogan of the next World Assembly

3.FIMARC AT RIO+20 UN sustainable development conference

A joint workshop with More and Better network on Agricultural Transition

The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD) took place in Brazil on 20-22 June 2012 to mark the 20th anniversary of the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), in Rio de Janeiro, and the 10th anniversary of the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg. It is envisaged as a Conference at the highest possible level, including Heads of State and Government or other representatives. The Conference will result in a focused political document.

The objective of the Conference was to secure renewed political commitment for sustainable development, assess the progress to date and the remaining gaps in the implementation of the outcomes of the major summits on sustainable development, and address new and emerging challenges The Conference focussed on two themes:

- a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication; and
- the institutional framework for sustainable development.

In the context of Rio + 20 conference in Brazil, FIMARC co organised two side events with

More and Better Network on "Agricultural transition into a viable food future"; The First side event organised on June 19th at RioCentro Convention Center and followed by the second one on June 21st in Flamengo Park. Many organizations and networks are practicing and/or promoting different forms of sustainable forms of agriculture. Different initiatives for strengthening / building a global movement for agricultural transition were presented and debated. Other than our own workshops, FIMARC also participated in the other workshops.

Purpose:

- To show that agroecological and other forms of sustainable agriculture is widely practiced and can nourish the people of the planet, preserve and improve the environment, play a major role in combating climate change, create employment and livelihoods for billions of people - if supported and promoted.
- To present lessons learned on the ground from farmers transforming into agroecological and other forms of sustainable agriculture.
- To present and debate what kind of policies and actions are needed for agricultural transition to make agroecological and other kind of sustainable agriculture the dominant mode of agriculture.
- To contribute to build a global movement for agricultural transition

Results

Our joined participation in the Rio +20 was quite interesting and fruitful. Actions that we developed during the peoples Forum allowed us for the reinforcement of the contacts with other movements and networks. It also reinforced our relations and the collaborations with more and better members. The theme of the workshop allowed widening the network to other rural organizations working on the same topic and more over other concrete results are

Increased recognition of Agro ecological practices

Strengthened the networking and collaboration with like minded organisations

Lobby with the governments to promote agro ecology

Outlook

FIMARC consider Agro ecology as a viable alternative and we will promote this at the different platforms and UN events to have better policies to support it.

4. FIMARC WORKING GROUP ON HUMAN RIGHTS

FIMARC Human Rights working group is composed with the Secretary General, militants of our movements CMR (France) and ACAR (Switzerland) and currently include one person from each continent who can participate in virtual or online consultations. It is a support group of FIMARC within the ECOSOC. Gaby Falch'un, the first secretary general of FIMARC is the spokes person of this working group.

For a few years, the group centred its efforts on all that related on the Right to food. With the constant work of FIMARC and of the other organisations, little by little the suggestion of the food Sovereignty as basic right is now more accepted than before. The FIMARC will continue its work on Right to food and also will work with UN special rapporteur on Right to food in order to pass relevant informations to our movements. FIMARC also follow the UPE (Universal Periodic Examination) of countries where we have member movements.

Normally 3-4 meetings of the group would take place in a year in Geneva. The secretary General normally participates in minimum two meetings if this group GTDH focussed more in Political work in 2012. The research action is one important working area of this group and this group has prepared various pedagogical documents on various themes including our publication on land grabbing. This group elaborated a pedagogical document on Investment in Agriculture and the contribution of small holder family agriculture. This group also is working closely with Via Campesina, Catholic Center, CETRI and other organisations in Geneva who are involved in Human Rights issues.

GTDH have the following goals and tasks:

- To present the FIMARC positions and voices of the rural people to the sessions of the human Rights councils and particularly at the time of ordinary or extraordinary sessions deals the right to food.
- To participates and takes floor by oral and written declarations and lobbying to evolve the concept of food sovereignty as human right.
- To make the interventions in relay and in support to the countries that wish to invest themselves in the universal periodic review of their country.
- To make research actions on human rights issues
- To network with other like minded organisations
- To elaborate and disseminate documents on human rights issues
- To elaborate training materials and pedagogical documents on various themes with human rights approach
- To participate in forums and platforms on human rights issues

The meeting of the working group on human rights (GTDH) was held in Ancy Region in France from 30-31 of October 2012. The meeting acknowledge the work plan proposed by the Exco 2012 with regard to our involvement in United Nations Human Rights Council during the upcoming year. Mr.Melik from Cetim was present in this meeting to prepare jointly the participation on the activities related to farmers rights .The focus was on right to food ,productive resources, Agroecology and Framers rights). Lobby and advocacy plan, Preparation of documents on key issues and topics, Field investigation and preparation of case studies etc were discussed. As part of research action, the group also discussed about the pedagogical document on Agricultural investment.

Results of the October meeting

Finalisation of the pedagogical document on Investment in Agriculture and contribution of small scale farmers. An action plan for one year was made. Identified the organisations to create networking on human rights issues. It also prepared for the participation in the upcoming process on Farmers rights

Results in General

Results: FIMARC is regularly present in the sessions of the human Rights Council and particularly in the sessions dealing the right to food and access to productive resources (especially land and water). FIMARC participates and takes floor during the interactive dialogues or by oral and written declarations. FIMARC is one of the important rural organisations, which is actively involved in the debate of right to food and food sovereignty

at global and other levels. The group is in contact with other organisations such as CETIM, Via Campesina etc. The group also follows the work of the UN special reporter on right to food. 4 meetings of the group took place in 2012 to elaborate the pedagogical document as well as to plan the lobby work at the Human rights council and also one meeting with the secretary general in October 2012 to organise the work plan of 2013.

Outlook

The next meeting of the GTDH will prepare for the HRC 22 Session as well as plan our involvement in the Farmers rights process and follow up. The FIMARC will continue its work on Right to food/Food sovereignty/Access to productive resources and also will work with UN special rapporteur on Right to food in order to pass relevant information to our movements and defend the human rights of the rural people and farmers around the world. FIMARC will participate in the next Human rights council meeting in February and will make a written and oral interventions on relevant agenda items. FIMARC will also follow the resolution of the Human rights council on rights of farmers and other people working in rural areas.

5. Participation in FAO, CFS (World Committee on Food Security) and CSM (Civil Society Mechanism)

In the past FIMARC was much involved in lobby and advocacy work in Geneva on human rights issues and right food in the frame work of UNHCR and time to time we participated in the different meetings of FAO but it was not regular as we do not have human and financial means to carry out this work. Hence most often we depended and linked with the work of MIJARC on certain key issues and events to make the necessary follow up. But during the last two years FIMARC has been much focussing on the governance of Food and Agricultural issues due to the emerged crisis related to food, fuel and land grabbing. We have been doing a regular follow up on the Voluntary guidelines to land tenure and natural resources as well as involving in the newly renewed world committee on Food Security (CFS) and Civil society Mechanism which is the interactive body to CFS.

This new focus of FIMARC in FAO and CFS is also due to the fact that the new secretary General had a lot of experience in this field and who being the advisory group member of the CFS can make a good impact in terms of political work with the governments. The Bureau meeting of FIMARC held in Korea in September 2010 decided to invest more in working with FAO and proposed Nieves Martinez Bravo, Treasurer of FIMARC to do the follow up with FAO until 2012 when the Secretary General finishes his mandate with MIJARC FIMARC Bureau had a meeting with Civil Society Department (OCEP) of FAO 2 years back to discuss about our involvement and future collaboration. FIMARC was invited for the renewed world committee on food security (CFS) which was held in October 2011 as a participant and also the parallel Civil Society Forum of the Civil society mechanism (CSM). The participation in FAO meetings is a very good opportunity to defend our values and the interests of rural people particularly regarding food and agriculture. It is an important forum for lobbying towards world leaders on the governance of food and agricultural policies and systems

Countries adopted global guidelines on tenure of land, forests, fisheries

FIMARC has been actively involved in the process of finalizing the voluntary guidelines on tenure on land, forest and other natural resources in the World Committee on Food Security and Last 11th of May in Rome, the CFS (Committee for Food Security) of the FAO adopted a set of global directives aiming to help the governments to safeguard the rights of the people to own or to have access to land, forests and fisheries. This work started in 2009, including the participation of government's representatives, Civil society organizations, private sector, international organizations and universities, has led to the adoption of those guidelines for the responsible governance of lands, forests and fisheries in the context of the national food security.

1. The guidelines address a wide range of other issues as well, however, including:

- Recognition and protection of legitimate tenure rights, even under informal systems
- Best practices for registration and transfer of tenure rights
- Making sure that tenure administrative systems are accessible and affordable
- Managing expropriations and restitution of land to people who were forcibly evicted in the past
- Rights of indigenous communities
- Ensuring that investment in agricultural lands occurs responsibly and transparently
- Mechanisms for resolving disputes over tenure rights
- Dealing with the expansion of cities into rural areas

The complete text of the Voluntary Guidelines can be downloaded on the web site of the FAO www.fao.org

39 th session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) and Annual Civil Society Forum 2012

The Committee on World Food Security (CFS) held its Thirty-ninth Session from 15 to 20 October 2012 at FAO Headquarters in Rome. The Session was opened by the Chairperson of the Committee, Mr Yaya Olaniran of Nigeria. Opening statements were delivered by Mr Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General, United Nations, Mr José Graziano da Silva, Director-General (FAO), Mr Kanayo Nwanze, President (IFAD), Ms Ertharin Cousin, Executive Director (WFP), Mr M.S. Swaminathan, Chairperson of the Steering Committee of the High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE). The two Policy Round Tables: 1) Social Protection for Food Security and 2) Nutrition Food Security and Climate Change were organised during the CFS 39. State of Food Insecurity (SOFI) Report was also presented in the meeting. The CFS adopted the First Version of the Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition (GSF) and also approved the Terms of Reference for the process within CFS to develop principles for responsible agricultural investments. FIMARC will actively involve in the up coming consultation process in order to bring the voice of the rural people and marginalised farmers who are much effected with the investment trends around the world. Follow up of Voluntary Guidelines on land tenure, Endorsement of the recommendations from the High Level Expert Forum on Protracted Crisis, Presentation of global and regional Food Security and Nutrition initiatives etc were be the main Agenda of this conference. Prior to the CFS 39, the annual civil Society forum was held in Rome with the participation of hundreds of Civil Society organisations from around the world to prepare

and involve effectively in CFS debates .FIMARC participated in the annual Civil Society Forum as well as in the official CFS 39 session .Jean Paul Perrin from France participated in the World Committee on Food Security along with the Secretary General . FIMARC was also present in the Civil Society forum to prepare the policy messages on CFS issues . We organised some lobby meetings with various governments .George Dixon Fernandez,Secretary General was one of the main organiser of the CSM Annual Forum and Civil Society delegation to the CFS. We also involved in the CFS plenary and other relevant meetings and round tables; FIMARC also participated in the meeting with French development minister to discuss about our concern on food price volatility and G8 initiatives

Results: Increase involvement in Lobby and advocacy on food and agricultural issues. More engagement in CFS and FAO activities.

Outlook: Considering the importance of food and agricultural governance and the expertise of the Secretary General in this field, FIMARC will be more involved in FAO and in the world committee on Food security(CFS) and Civil Society Mechanism (CMS) on a regular basis. We are looking forward for a regular support for our Political work on Food and Agricultural governance;

6. FIMARC WORLD FOOD DAY CALL FOR ACTION ON «Cooperatives»

World Food Day campaign 2012

Context: The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations celebrates World Food Day each year on 16 October, the day on which the Organization was founded in 1945 in order to heighten public awareness of the problem of hunger in the world, to strengthen international and national solidarity in the struggle against hunger, malnutrition and poverty, and to encourage the participation of rural people, particularly women and the least privileged categories, in decisions and activities influencing their living conditions.

Activity : FIMARC has been actively involved in supporting this call for many years and last year we have made a call to make some pragmatic actions in various countries in this regard. FIMARC Executive Committee decided to strengthen our World Food Day activities. The topic of 2011 World Food Day was «Food prices - From crisis to stability». At the occasion of the World Food Day, FIMARC publishes every year a communication or a declaration to call the movements to take up some concrete actions to eradicate hunger and poverty; This actions normally organised in different levels. This year we published and distributed awareness raising materials to the national movements and local groups to support in coordinating their actions.On world food day 2012, movements were asked to reflect on the topic of cooperatives as a means to achieve food sovereignty and to do actions for the strengthening and creation of cooperative initiatives with solidarity economic aspect

The main aim of the WFD campaign and call is

- Common action day.
- Common orientation and awareness raising campaigns .
- Realisation of some practical projects

Some examples of concrete actions

The call for action letter was sent to all movements and published on the website. Movement in Paraguay invited students to discuss about hunger and food and organised research on hunger factors ;They had collaboration programme with World Food Programme. They also created new cooperatives and organised various programmes to strengthen their existing cooperatives and they also organised a website game to provide one meal to the children . Many other member movements organised demonstrations in order to raise awareness on the topic as well as to call the society to work together to eradicate hunger and poverty .

CCFM Korea had a training programme on Cooperatives. Cooperatives and social enterprises law changed due to the great work of our movement in Korea along with other organisations .Due to the economic crisis,the regional governments in Korea were supporting such initiatives of the CSO's. Cooperative research institute with experienced senior leaders from KCFM looked at the existing cooperative law and this helped finally for the launching of new government law on Cooperatives . Now KCFM and others have the possibility for the exchange with other cooperative systems in Italy,Canada etc to understand each other

Bangladesh- RRF Bangladesh organised the programme with World Food Programme. RRF feed 230000 students daily. They also organised a Rally and discussion on the theme.

El salvadore- Worked on Seeds issue,Food security law and Farmers autonomy,They send a Letter to FAO regional office asking for work on food sovereignty.

India- Worked with women on land and livelihood rights. Last year ,tree planting and School children programme was also organised

Results: Common action day. Common orientation. Realisation of some practical projects and awareness raising to stand together against poverty.Strengthening and promoting cooperative spirit.

Outlook : WFD 2013-We will continue the call for action on the theme of the year and will send a short evaluation form to get the updates and news about concrete actions of the movements

7.FOLLOW UP AND ACCOMPANIMENTS OF THE MOVEMENTS AND MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

During the continental programmes, the Bureau tries to make visits to the national movements in order to better understand the realities on the ground as well as to see the activities and projects. This help to a better transparency and communication within FIMARC and to strengthen the links at world level. This is also necessary in order to define common programs or activities at continental and world level; Hence visit and accompaniments to the national movements are quite necessary to build up the movements and make a good coordination. There is a great need to have the follow up and accompaniment with the national movements in order to support and mobilise actions and interventions and to build up the advocacy and lobbying capacities. The world social forum was a great occasion to encounter

with some of our member movements .The European CAP seminar in Brussels allowed to meet some European movements and the Asian coordination in Thailand as well as Latin American seminar in El salvadore also brought different movements together

Outlook: We should keep on trying to have a regular working relation ship with national movements and possibly through direct visits.

8. Follow up of the forum of the catholic inspired NGO's

FIMARC has been actively involved the process related to the forum of the catholic inspired NGO's from its beginning .FIMARC participated in the earlier forums in 2007 and in 2010. After the last forum we have been following the working groups initiatives in Rome and in Geneva from distance. In 2012, FIMARC Bureau and Exco decided to make the regular follow up of this working groups and also participate occasionally in the physical meetings with the view that the secretary general will be working full time from October 2012 onwards but due to the shifting of the MIJARC Assembly secretary general has been working only as part time and thus it really made it difficult to strengthen our planned work in this regard. FIMARC is closely collaborating with Holly see representation to EU in Brussels. FIMARC participated in the annual gathering organised by the Nuncio of Belgium at Centinary Park in Brussels. FIMARC makes the alliances with other international catholic inspired Organizations to attain the objectives of food Sovereignty, Solidarity Economies and of sustainable development .

9. Publications of the Voice of the Rural World- VMR

Voice of the Rural World (VMR) is the review of the movement, published four times a year in four languages (English, French, Spanish and Portuguese). It has been sent to around 1500 people as well as to all the national movements. It is a popular and useful tool of FIMARC as it is focusing on one special theme linking with the challenges of our era. It contributes to the information and formation of national and local leaders on the different topics of FIMARC's work. It is also a forum to share ideas and experience between the continents.

The General Theme and topics for 2012

4 numbers of VMR are published in 4 languages (French, Spanish, English, Portuguese). Each publication has been sent to partners and movements and it is a popularised tool using by many of the people in our movements as well as general rural public. Each publication has a special thematic focus, which is linked to the challenges of our era.

The 4 numbers of VMR focussed the following thematic areas.

General theme: Decrease

- VMR 105- Application of decrease in Energy Use
- VMR 106- Water Crisis and Decrease
- VMR 107- Decrease in Food Consumption
- VMR 108- Application of decrease in production systems

Thanks to the support of MISEREOR and to the solidarity of the European movements, we were able to publish the Voice of the Rural World in a uniform way during the latter years. The Voice of the Rural World is for number of rural movements the only popularized publication which is accessible.

The Voice of the Rural World is a tool easily usable by the biggest number by its easy form and easily reproductive format. it is a tool of information and of education .In 2011, the reduction of the support from the donor to the VMR caused a real problem in the process of his publication and we were constrained to reduce the number of pages to 16 of the VMR and to use our own resources to realize the publications as we had foreseen it . Hence 2012 ,we continued with our online publication

Objectives of the publication

- To serve as tool between the movements of the FIMARC from the experiences which promote viable alternate development of the rural people and particularly peasants;
- For the people in charge of the basic groups, VMR is a tool of formation in link with the general orientations of the FIMARC, the defined priorities of work related to global plan and the different continents;
- An information and tools of analysis on the issues of our corporation, the big challenges that concern the rural world and peasant.
- To share the experiences and the good practices that exist in the movements and create united actions on certain issues
- Reinforce the protagonism of the readers and to reach out to the vast network of organizations that fight in the same perspectives and/or with similar objectives

Results: The VMR is reading and using by a large number of people in the movements. It is widely using as an education tool by the rural people. We receive lot of feed back showing the interest of the people on our publication

Outlook: The Publication of VMR is facing a big challenge in terms of finance still. All the translations are now depending on the volunteers as it was in the case of 2011. But we will publish the 4 editions of VMR on line even though it will be a big constrain .

REGIONAL NEWSLETTERS

Regional newsletter has an objective to facilitate the exchanges and the knowledge of the member organizations of the same regions. This information bulletin is compiling by the regional coordinators for the movements and member organizations of their region

Results: During the year 2012 FIMARC Europe Published 2 Newsletter. Belgium and Croatia contributed for the Newsletter. International Secretariat supported this publication in terms of translation, Lay out and dissemination. Asian newsletter was published 2 times during 2012. Newsletter allows a good contact between the movements.

10.Publication of the pedagogical document on Land Grabbing

Training and research action are the two important aspects in the work of FIMARC. In its field of action we always try to spread our ideas through the pedagogical documents. In last years FIMARC published various documents on climate change, Food Sovereignty, Agro fuels etc in the previous years. Land grabbing is one of the recent phenomenon which adversely affects the rural world in terms of their access and right to land. If this situation continues then the peasants and rural people have to forcefully move from their places for their existence;

This pedagogical document was published in 3 languages (French, Spanish and English) and this was a major contribution to the analysis and reflection on the ongoing land grabbing debates all around the globe. This tool has been disseminated at the disposal for the 60 movements and organizations for the animation of the basic groups. This was also published on the FIMARC web site to serve more people. This document would be available to the partner organisations and all the institutions working in these areas.

11. European parliamentary session on CAP and European coordination Meeting

Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) is an important topic for European movements. The year 2013 is the deadline for the CAP evolution and the European Coordination of the FIMARC wanted to meet parliamentarians to share their concerns for this reform and its consequences for the small European farmers, for the society in general and for the other countries around the world. The FIMARC European coordination organized a one-day event in Brussels on 10th April 2012 on questions related to the future of the CAP. There was a training session for leaders and a public action session, to make 'visible' the European movements' proposals. The programme also included a meeting with European political representatives. FIMARC Movements from Germany, France and Belgium participated in this programme. KLB Germany was the main organiser of the event along with FIMARC European coordination. Around 75 people participated in this programme which held at Bavarian representation near the European Parliament. A parliamentary evening was organised where some important EU political leaders participated and this allowed us to bring the FIMARC point of view on CAP reform to the policy makers.

This allowed:

- The Submission of FIMARC proposals on CAP demanding investment in Sustainable agriculture and rural development .
 - Common Positioning and understanding
- Strengthen networking, Lobbying and Advocacy with like minded organisations

In 2012, Two meetings of the FIMARC European coordination meeting took place in Assesse.

12. Central American Congress on Rurality and migration and the Latin American Coordination meeting

FIMARC Central American congress on Rurality and Migration was organised from 16th to 21st March 2012 in El Salvador. Migration is a big phenomenon and reality of the Central American continent. Rural regions are getting deprived and depopulated due to this migration

trends. This seminar focussed on the causes and consequences of migration in Central American regions and tried to find a sustainable solution to tackle its impact. Delegates from almost all the Central American countries participated in this important seminar. After the fruitful exposure program in the rural side of El Salvador, the participants came together in the UCA(University of Central America) of Salvador. Father Andreu(rector of the university) welcomed and reminded how the rural area was historically marginalized and how it is still suffering because of years of right oriented governments that developed trade and import of agricultural products from other countries. This is one of the main reasons from big migration to the United States and to other countries of the region. During the congress, resources persons deepened the causes of the migrations and the difficulties resulting from these phenomena. One of the recommended solutions is to gain political stability in the country that will allow the inhabitants to live and to work on their land. As an out come of the seminar some concrete campaign on coffee and Banana has been started in El Salvadore. Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs addressed the conference.

The seminar allowed:

- Effective formation of rural leaders in the Central American countries particularly where the migration is drastic.
- Better understanding of the reality and to set up concrete actions.
- A close collaboration with Caritas in El Salvador + CELAM too

12 .FINALISATION OF THE PEDAGOGICAL DOCUMENT ON "AGRICULTURAL INVESTMENT"

Large scale foreign private investments adversely affect the rural world in terms of their access and right to land and alienate them from their resources. The final draft of the document on Agricultural investment and contribution of small scale farmers was prepared by the FIMARC human rights Working group in December 2012. International secretariat would organise the translation in three languages as well as the lay out in 2013. The publication and dissemination of the document will be in 2013 This pedagogical tool will at the disposal for the 60 movements and organizations for the animation of the basic groups.

13.ADVOCACY AND LOBBYING

In order to make the voice of the rural world heard at different instances, it is important that FIMARC is present in various networks and working groups; The following are some of the examples that we invest in terms of our lobbying and advocacy work in 2012.

PARTICIPATION IN THE FAST GROUP OF CIDSE

This group is important for FIMARC as it is a resource group that treats many subjects related to our preoccupations. As international organization, FIMARC brings the concrete expertise of the movements that it federates and the preoccupations that they carry to the CIDSE WG. The documents of the CIDSE giving information, and analysis for the movements of FIMARC. Secretary General of FIMARC participated in the CIDSE FAST working group meetings held in Brussels and also supported CIDSE work in Rio+20. FIMARC signed the

lobby letter on Biofuels prepared by the working group

Results: Being part of the FAST group we bring critical analyses on the situation of rural areas and also carry out joint lobby actions with CIDSE Members of the group. FIMARC also supports the campaigns of CIDSE on issues of common interest. We are also participating in the working group effectively.

Outlook: FIMARC will continue this strategic partnership with CIDSE on food and agricultural governance. We will join our hands with CIDSE at CFS and in the upcoming WSF in Tunis

14. LOBBY LETTER ON MINING EXPLOITATION IN GUATIMALA

FIMARC has been supporting and involving in such struggles with the people for a long time. FIMARC sent a lobby letter to the government of Guatemala against the mining exploitation in the country and to stop the killings of rural people and farmers and the exploitation of Nature. Latin American Exco member Mr. Manuel Moran has done much follow up in this issue.

OUTLOOK: FIMARC WILL ALWAYS CONTINUE THE SOLIDARITY ACTION WITH THE PEOPLE AFFECTED .

15 .PARTNERSHIPS WITH AGENCIES OF DEVELOPMENT AND OF OTHER INTERNATIONAL MOVEMENTS

FIMARC has closer collaboration with MIJARC and IYCW. We have the intention to collaborate more during the years to come. FIMARC also closely collaborates with the members of CIDSE most especially with CCFD, Broederlijk Delen, Entraide & Fraternité, MISEREOR, etc.; We have close collaboration with Via Campesina and other farmers and rural people's networks. FIMARC also engages much in HRC and ECOSOC in Geneva as well as FAO and CFS in Rome. FIMARC involvement in CSM in relation to the World committee on Food Security also strengthened during the year.

George had a meeting with Christophe Heraudeau of CCFD in Brussels in 2012 as well as with Claude Mormont of Entraide Et Fraternité to discuss and convince the need to be supported our actions on regular basis. FIMARC also organized a meeting with MISEREOR in Aachen along with our Leaders from KLB Germany to reopen the possibility of future support from MISEREOR to FIMARC

Results: FIMARC is present and visible in various forums and organizations. MIJARC and FIMARC support each other mutually for the organization of events. FIMARC was part of many activities or declarations in common with above organizations. Evaluation is more positive on this collaboration and we wish to follow it in the future and to reinforce this partnership.

Outlook: FIMARC will take the lead in connecting with all the other catholic social action movements. Concrete partnership with MIJARC and IYCW is also foreseen. FIMARC will also continue in participating in the various lobby and advocacy initiatives and campaigns organized by CIDSE members.

16. PRESENCE IN UNESCO

FIMARC has a consultative status in UNESCO. During the preceding years we assured the presence in some of the commissions that treated education for all, water and women. One militant from CMR France has been doing the follow up work with UNESCO earlier but we were not able to do much work at UNESCO in 2012.

Outlook: We are still in discussion with CMR to see the possibility for the formation of a UNESCO group that would invest itself more to UNESCO

17. 31st Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific (APRC) and CSO consultation meeting Hanoi, Vietnam

The 31st session of the FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific held in Hanoi, Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, from 12 to 16 March 2012 under the theme "Food security and poverty reduction in rural areas", hosted by the [Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development \(MARD\)](#).

Ministers, high-ranking officials and representatives from civil society organisations from 40 countries and territories were attended the 31st UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) regional conference for Asia and the Pacific (APRC)

During the first three days, from 12 to 14 March, senior government officers hold in-depth discussions on a range of issues central to food security, the increasing trend of global food prices and rural poverty alleviation in Asia-Pacific countries.

The Asia-Pacific region is home to 578 million poor people, accounting for 62 percent of total poor and malnourished people in the world. Population boom, shrinking agriculture land areas, and rising oil prices are seriously affecting poverty and malnutrition in Asia. Climate change is also exerting a negative impact on food security and socio-political stability in the region. According to FAO, promoting sustainability in agricultural production and enhancing poor people's accessibility to food should go along together to address the aforementioned issues

The agenda focused, firstly, on regional and global policy and regulatory issues such as the state of food and agriculture in Asia-Pacific, and on two initiatives by the [Committee on World Food Security \(CFS\)](#) - the process to map food security and nutrition actions, and the preparation of the Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition, the need for sustainable intensification and diversification of crops towards food and nutrition security, and value chain development and post-harvest loss reduction for small-scale farmers.

Secondly, the conference considered programme and budgetary matters and review

proposals for enhancing FAO's effectiveness and efficiency at country level and made recommendations on the most suitable structure and skills mix of the network of FAO offices in the region. On Friday 16 March, a round table was held on policies to address food price volatility

In conjunction with the FAO meeting - a wide range of key civil society organizations representing farmers, fisher folk, indigenous people, rural women, cooperatives, NGOs and other civil society organizations will meet at an Asia-Pacific Regional Civil Society Consultation on 10 and 11 March, hosted by the Viet Nam Farmers Union, at the Khan Quang Do hotel in Hanoi. **130 representatives** of smallholders food producers such farmers, fisherfolk, indigenous peoples, rural women, pastoralists, rural youth, cooperatives, labor movements, consumers and NGOs from **20 countries** from Asia participated in this important CSO consultation meeting

George Dixon Fernandez presented the topic on Agricultural investment in the CSO consultation as well as the session on CFS /CSM -opportunities for the global governance on Food and Agriculture

The APRC was a good opportunity for the CSOs to input our perspectives, analysis, recommendations and suggestions to improve the situation of smallholder food producers and the rural populations involved in food and agriculture production. With the change of Director General of FAO, there was also a change in the level of participation of the CSO's from observers to equal participation as delegates. With the new arrangement agreed at the opening of the conference the CSO's were given spaces for 3 spokespersons to intervene anytime in the agenda discussions. George Dixon Fernandez, The president of MIJARC and the Advisory Group Member of the World Committee on Food Security was nominated as one of the CSO spokes person. The benefit of this participation was that many of our interventions and suggestions were reflected in the final report. The CSO's who were invited to attend the APRC as observers were also given opportunities to input into the discussions. Another major remark is that 6 member from the Civil society was invited for a bilateral meeting with the new Director General of FAO Mr. Graciano D'silva on 15th March. George Dixon Fernandez lead this delegation to bring the views of Civil Society on Food and Agricultural governance issues as well as the role and decentralization process of FAO in this regards. This meeting last for more than one hour and it shows the interest of New DG to work with CSO actors

The final declaration of the CSO consultation was presented in the ministerial meeting on 15th March. It highlighted the fact that the profit-driven and unsustainable development model has gravely afflicted the region's marginalized and vulnerable communities mainly small food producer, causing increased hunger and malnutrition, displacement and loss of livelihoods and agrarian conflicts. The following are some of the major calls to governments and FAO

To governments

*Stop domestic and foreign land grabbing and instead implement genuine, people-led land, agrarian, pasture and fisheries reforms and rural development

Develop policies to regulate investments on agricultural lands for food. and initiate processes towards implementing the Voluntary Guidelines on Land Tenure.

End food commodity market speculation, and develop and implement policies aimed at stabilizing food supply and prices at the country level such as strategic food reserves primarily sourced domestically, and price control mechanisms to address food price volatility

Develop and implement policies in support of small-scale enterprise and people-led value chain, including smallholder food producers organizations and cooperatives, institutional development, infrastructure support, research and development, and capacity building

Institute environmentally and economically sustainable food production models that lead to dynamic local economies

Ensure the promotion of gender responsive policies at all levels, including participation, gender budgeting and women's control of and access to land, and productive resources.

To FAO

Ensure that the Global Strategic Framework (GSF) includes strong monitoring mechanisms to hold transnational corporations accountable

Encourage its member states to set up position limits, ban commodity index funds, and strengthen food reserves to stabilize supply and prices of food staples.

Institute mechanisms for its national offices to strengthen engagement with wider civil society in their programs, work plan, implementation and monitoring

Initiate processes to reconcile, monitor and report on various international treaties and conventions that pertain to natural resource management and agriculture.

18. FIMARC Asian Coordination meeting -Chiangrai, Thailand

FIMARC Asian coordination meeting was held at Chiangrai ,Thailand from 13-19 July 2012 in collaboration with Caritas Thailand and CCHD. Kihwan Chung(President ,FIMARC) ,Philip Biswas (Asian Cordinator) , Rony Joseph (Coordinator ,INAG), George Dixon Fernandez

(Secretary General ,FIMARC) ,Praphan Mr. Praphan Thianvihan(South East Asian Coordinator) Participated in the meeting;Ms.Naiyana Vichitporn ,Mr.John (Caritas Thailand) and other leaders of Caritas Thailand were also present in the meeting as observers. The different field visits and meetings with the local people, Phayao University, Community centre , Buddhist monks were really gave an opportunity to learn and share different issues related to rural development, farming etc. Asian coordination meeting also revised the plan of action of the movement .Forth coming seminars on Agricultural Investment ,Alternative economy, Preparation of a CD with best practices in the movements etc will be main activities of FIMARC during the next 2 years in Asia.One good news is that Caritas Thailand has been declared as an Associated Member in FIMARC .We are much thankful to CCHD and Caritas Thailand for hosting the Asian Coordination of FIMARC in Chiangrai. FIMARC Asia also made fecilitation to Praphan Thianvihan for his succesful election as the mayor of Maeka Municipality . This achievement of Praphan is a recognition of his work as leader of FIMARC in his area and we wish him all the success for his alternative development plan in his municipality

19. Caritas Asia Training Program on Sustainable Agriculture-Chiang Mai, Thailand

Caritas Asia Organized a Training Program to share the best practices of Sustainable Farming initiatives of its Partner Organizations in Asia as a means to learn from each others experiences and to strengthen and spread the initiatives as a strategy to address the issues of Poverty and Hunger and to achieve Food Sovereignty in the Region. This Training Program was Organized in Chieng Mai in Thailand from 20th to 23rd Of October 2012. Chinnappan Nicolas participated as an Expert of FIMARC to share his experiences on the struggles for food sovereignty as, FIMARC has been working for a long time among the Rural Communities on the issue of Food Sovereignty. FIMARC made a presentation in this conference to bring the agricultural and rural issues at the core of the debates.During the event, there was sharing of good practices of farmers from different Caritas organizations in the region. The overall issues of the conferences was surrounding the issues of climate change, food security and sharing of best practices on sustainable farming techniques. FIMARC While Organizing the marginalized communities into movements to struggle for progressive land reforms progressive water , sea and forest policies in the countries, we are also working on alternative economic models such as sustainable agriculture, consumers and farmers linkages, community forest management, cooperative agriculture and fishing initiatives that would ensure the communities to fulfil their basic needs and would also address the issue of climate change. There was exposure visits to certain areas where young farmers are involved in organic farming and marketing their products directly to consumers and which was quite encouraging. Above all the visit to Maijo University in ChiengMai which is completely involved in promotion of Organic farming had further enriched the experience.

20. GENERAL ADMINISTRATION - Evaluation and follow up

The international Secretariat of FIMARC and its Bureau is in charge of the coordination, the implementation, follow up and evaluation of the different activities of formation,

accompaniment of the movements and advocacy activities. It has also an equal responsibility to assure the coherence of the different actions in line with the priority axes of work defined by the World Assembly in 2010. The secretariat coordinated all most all the actions which was defined by the the *General Assembly* and the Bureau for the year 2012. It coordinates, participates in certain meetings, does lobby and advocacy work, link with partners. It supports the continental coordination's and the work of the coordinators and translates the documents. It provided support for movements in terms of formation. The secretariat carried out all the work in a better way even though we had reductions of human and financial resources. For many tasks, we received also the support from volunteers and militants of the movements especially for the translation of the texts of the VMR in 2012 also when we faced an unprecedented reduction of financial support for this project. During the year 2012 also, the international secretariat worked only with 2 part time employees.