



FIMARC

Rue Jaumain 15

Assesse, Belgium

Tel: +32 83 65 62 36

Fax: +32 83 65 62 36

E-mail: fimarc@skynet.be

Annual Report 2014

Introduction

This Annual report is dedicated on the occasion of the important commemoration of 50th anniversary of the founding of International Federation of Rural Adult Catholic Movements (FIMARC). FIMARC is pleased to convey warm greetings to all of you who contributed in one way or another to build this great movement of catholic farmers and rural people. Founded in 1964, FIMARC (International Federation of Rural Adult Catholic Movements) has been an aspiration of farmers and rural people.

FIMARC celebrate 50 years of work in the rural communities and among the farmers. It is half a century of strivings to show that a different pathway to human development is possible and worth taking. Today we also begin to write a new story -our next 50 years of perhaps even a more challenging journey.

Thank God and thanks to all the members and activists for FIMARC has lasted this long. Not so many organisations would have been so privileged. I've seen some give up early in the game or succumb at some point to development fatigue for a struggle that seems endless.

As we embark on 50 years we reaffirm our commitment to rural people and farmers by acknowledging members who have made invaluable contributions to the movement over the years. Without involved members who have shown commitment and passion for what they do, FIMARC would not be where it is. For FIMARC, our members and leaders have always been the foundation to our success and over the years many have contributed in ways to help grow the movement

FIMARC pay tribute to the generations of our leaders and members who found common cause with the rural people, fought and created a new life with the small and landless farmers, the small fishers, the indigenous peoples, the protectors of our common property heritage. So many people and deeds to remember, so many people and deeds to account for and to thank for what and where FIMARC stands today

FIMARC movement highly value the building of people's movements and actions, especially at the grassroots, in making democracy and development. The FIMARC movements have been federating and forming coalitions to leverage their voice and influence in decision-making and public policy over the years.

In step with the times, FIMARC had introduced new ways of doing development. We have broadened our actions, education, awareness and campaigns on Food Sovereignty, Solidarity economies, Human rights, livelihoods, and environment etc during the course of the past 50 years. We have been trying

out new modes of governance on right to food, to restore damaged ecosystems and enable communities to have a greater say in creating livelihoods .Our members have engaged in many areas where people's issues were debated and decided. FIMARC have heightened the profile and visibility of voices locally and internationally. We are not afraid to err on the side of daring and learning or to answer for the consequences of our action. We have learned our lessons well through our own deep reflections and self-criticisms. Indeed development is such a difficult and complex process that cannot be taken for granted.

That's our past, as briefly as it could be summed up. Here we are now, looking to a new future. When our founders and pioneers started they had to face widespread ignorance, poverty, disease, bad governance, civic inertia. In their time, neither democracy nor development was inclusive enough to give everyone a dignified place on the table. Sad to say, the problems addressed by our predecessors in 1964 were still the same problems confronting succeeding generations at 50 years later. The only difference though, is that those same problems had gone worse and new ones have emerged and made the situation much more complicated. It's hard to be optimistic when you see that most key indicators are pointing downwards. Except in a few rare cases, poverty overall has grown and deepened, the inequality gap has widened even more. Loss of biodiversity continues. Our climate system is heating

We would not have gone this far without our partners and donors. At the local level we have the community and people's organizations, the local governments, among others. At the national level, we have our allies and friends in the coalitions of social movements and NGO's, media, the church. Over the years FIMARC has developed a global outreach. We have considered the UN and other multilateral and bilateral systems as platforms for bringing the voices of the least heard

We must specially mention that the support of donors like CCFD,Entraid et Fraternite ,MISEREOR,Broderlijk Delen, Fastenhopfer , among many others, have enabled us to carry out our mission. Our solidarity around common causes keeps FIMARC going. We believe we're ready for the next 50 years and beyond.

The year 2014 was quite remarkable with the 50 years of existence of FIMARC as well as the successful organization of the FIMARC World Meeting in Germany. Over 80 participants from more than 40 countries defined the plan of action of the movement for next 4 years. *The global conference,Field Visits,Dialogue forums,panel debates etc* deeply reflected on **Global multiple crises and new paths of alternative development**. In 2014, FIMARC contributed much in relation to the International year of Family farming and the UN process on the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas .The global consultation on Peasant rights and the panel debate on how to promote family farming were the other two key activities of the year.

FIMARC will continue our avowed mission with dedication and faith in the rural world with the slogan of our World Assembly in all our actions in the filed "**Democracy, autonomy and dignity for all**".

Assesse, May 2015

Global objectives and working lines

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

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

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

FIMARC as a movement of rural people and small holder family farmers we are much concerned about the current situation of the agricultural sector and rural development trends in many of our countries.

FIMARC take into account in our actions, lobby and advocacy the following trends.

- Food sovereignty: access to land, keeping rural people in their environment;
- Decrease /Less is more
- Solidarity economy;
- Sustainable rural world and peasant based agricultue
- Defence of Human Rights and right to food
- Justice and solidarity between the peoples

The topics we involve:

- 1 Food, fuel and financial crisis
- 2 Price volatility
- 3 Land grabbing
- 4 Agro fuels
- 5 climate change
- 6 Alternative Economy
- 7 Migration
- 8 *Agricultural Investment*

Composition of the Exco of FIMARC 2010-2014

President Ki hwan CHUNG (South Korea)

Treasurer (Nieves Martinez Bravo (Spain)

Secretary General George Dixon Fernandez (India)

Chaplain Fr. Pasqual Kinoti SVD (Paraguay)

Delegates John Mwidu (Uganda) - Coordinator Africa
Jean-Paul Perin (France) - Coordinator Europe
Manuel Moran (El Salvadore) - Coordinator Latin America
Philip Biswas (Bangladesh) - Coordinator Asia

The following are the major policy process in which FIMARC regularly engage in multiple years at different levels

1. International Year of family farming -2014 and beyond
2. UN Process on the declaration of the right of farmers and other people working in rural areas(2013-2018.
3. Implementation of Voluntary Guidelines on Land tenure and natural resources(2014 and Beyond)
4. CFS process related to Principles of Agricultural investments(rai)-2014 and beyond
5. Review and follow up of Voluntary Guidelines on Right to Food(2014 and beyond)
6. Food Sovereignty campaign

I FORMATION ACTIVITIES

1) FIMARC Global session on Global multiple crises and new paths of alternative development.....

FIMARC World Assembly as well as the celebration of 50 years of our existence took place in Volkersberg , Germany in May 2014 . FIMARC organised a global training session on **Global multiple crises and new paths of alternative development** for the global leaders .This seminar was aimed for the socio-political formation of the International leaders in charge of FIMARC .The study session highlighted the following aspects. *The global conference,Field Visits,Dialogue forums,panel debates etc deeply reflected on the topic "Global multiple crises and new paths of alternative development"*

The general theme of the programme was "In this time of global crisis, open an alternative development path: democracy, autonomy, and dignity for all". The context of the topic was set by. Ms. Luiche, spokesman for the Civic Pact, organizations and private persons platform which aims to stimulate change and democratic quality, the will of the Pact is to open a conferred space to gather the energies and generate debates. There are 4 imperatives in this Pact: creativity, sobriety, justice and brotherhood. To open the path to autonomy and dignity, we have to put the economy at the service of man, to fix the rules of a fair and redistributive, social contract, to build new policies with the participation of citizens and revitalize living together.

Hildegard Hagemann of Justice and Peace put the issue of human rights at the center of her speech: the right to food as a right to life, the right to a dignified wage for the work performed, the right to organize, often denied by the agri-food sector. Development and peace are intertwined. This is why it is essential to integrate thinking about social peace in the thinking of the great issues of our society, in order to define more fair and redistributive policies.

Pierre Careil, former Treasurer of the FIMARC strengthened this analysis by offering some reflections for a search to follow still on development indicators. He advocated for relocation, a local economy which aims first to satisfy the basic needs of populations. He gave then some tracks, like for example the barter economy, recalling that barter was the basis of the economy, monetary exchange have come until later in the history of exchanges. In this sense, he advocated for the development of the SEL (Services of local exchanges), local economies, local currencies... The challenges according to him are: popular education, autonomy and values of all the know-how development and especially to find a trust capital to develop these relations of proximity.

With Thierry Wiard of ATD Quart Monde, made a more radical intervention: it is not a question of reducing poverty but to eradicate it. Dignity is to participate and not to live in denial of the fundamental rights. Autonomy will be to develop new methods so that the poor and disadvantaged can participate in discussions and decisions. Thierry warns against the danger of the "human waste". The poor have things to tell us, experiences to share in what they developed to get by.

The sessions were punctuated by intervention of delegates from various continents to illustrate and to reinforce these findings. Participants also identified the main challenges facing by the peasant and rural world. Unanimously, even in Europe, the issue of access to land remains first. In many countries land is grabbed to install large monocultures, in others, as is the case in Belgium, France and the European countries in general, it's more speculation on land, set aside to benefit from subsidies of the Common Agricultural Policy. How in this landscape, get access to land, to an environmentally friendly production, for quality food? The answer is not simple but it is much question of mutual confidence, short circuits, cooperatives... as well as development of a work of political lobby of resistance such as against the current attempt of the transatlantic Treaty.

In terms of action, we can mention the demand of Mr. Hans Geisslhofer, geographer, and specialist in the fight against land grabbing. Mr. Geisslhofer is trying to draw up a cadaster of land already grabbed almost everywhere in the world. Often these negotiations were kept secret and the known figures are unfortunately well below reality and it would be a precious help for this work of cadaster to provide the elements in our knowledge.

We were able to make a concrete declaration and follow up plan in terms of the topic on Global multiple crises and new paths of alternative development. The field visits in various regions of Germany, France and Belgium was quite enriching experience for the participants

FIMARC had a pertinent analysis on the topic to strengthen the struggles in various countries. This study session helped the global leadership to make a new orientation towards this topic. It Strengthened the Lobbying and political action capacities by a better knowledge of this critical issue. The conference allowed exchanges about the methods and practices in the movements to Identify the strength, capacities and weakness of the movements in different levels. Exchange and debate allowed to deepen the knowledge and to build up programs /projects which respond to the needs of rural people.

Field Visit

The exposure program was an important moment during the world assembly to know the realities of the countries. Groups of 5 to 6 people were formed to reach different regions of Germany, France and Belgium. The idea of an exposure program was to meet, to share experiences, to question each other on what is life in rural areas. From the questions and issues that arise in various realities, delegates were able to realize that everywhere the main issue is the right to land. How to live in autonomy, if from the outset, the issue of land is not solved? How to access to productive resources, how to organize to develop viable alternatives? All these issues were addressed in the various groups to enrich the work of the world session. It is important to note the pleasure of these meetings, conviviality and the desire of all to communicate a maximum to better know each other and to discover the richness of our land!

Global Consultation on the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas

Gaby Falchun head of the FIMARC Working Group on human rights presented the ongoing work in the Group concerning the right of peasants. To talk, the FIMARC had invited Ms. Angelica Navarro, Ambassador of Bolivia and the chair of the UN Intergovernmental working group on Peasant rights declaration. Ms. Navarro stressed the importance of the family peasantry and its contribution to food security, to the fight against climate change, for the conservation of biodiversity and the alleviation of poverty and hunger, major problems in many rural areas. This is why a work is carried out by the CETIM and other NGOs, including the FIMARC, to adopt a declaration on the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas. At the present time, a draft declaration has been submitted to the States, which largely have warmly welcomed this proposal. However, it should be noted the negative attitude of developed countries, in particular European Union and United States which attempt to block this text. Ms. Navarro asked delegates of the world meeting, so they communicate all the information concerning situations of violations of their rights, through our human rights working group to continue its important work of lobbying Governments to make this Declaration on the rights of peasants successful.

World Assembly 2014

Foundation of FIMARC 50 years ago was a response to the aspirations of the rural and farmer's movements in different countries to come together as people of similar interests, to exchange their reflections and actions. In a sense, the past 50 years was also about building rural capacities on the most fundamental challenge of our time — sustainability of development and life itself. FIMARC has

been struggling against hunger and for the eradication of poverty ever since it was founded. Today FIMARC fellowship has spread over 60 countries in five Continents and has brought together the respective rural and farmer's movements at National - Regional - Continental - Global levels. FIMARC will continue to be remembered for its rootedness in the community, in the rural villages, and local environments. The World Assembly gathers every 4 years in order to establish the working lines and to elect the responsible people

For several years now, the World meeting is organized every four years in rotating on 4 continents. After Benin, South Korea and the Paraguay, it is Europe that was having this honor and took charge of organizing logistics to accommodate 15 days seventy delegates. To host means not only accommodation and food but before the arrival of the participants even, the entire procedure of letters of invitation, many requests for the dossiers and visa records, the management of the flights tickets... This also means to arrange the logistic to welcome the delegates at the airport at all hours, day and night, even with the delayed flights. All this work has been ensured, always in a friendly way and warm welcome by our friends and colleagues from the KLB. Thanks again to all of them

In this year 2014, the general Secretary- to celebrate the 50 years of the FIMARC, in support with the KLB succeeded the bet to gather for a fortnight, some 80 delegates, from 5 continents and with a significant presence of representatives from the Eastern Europe countries.

The world meeting always provides a statutory Assembly, a general Assembly. After the presentation of balance sheet accounts and the budget of the year 2015, the general Secretary submitted the report of the Executive Committee, summarizing the past 4 years. At the global level, much work was done, including a reinforced presence in international forums close to the United Nations bodies. On the other hand, at the level of the continents, it should be noted some weakness, due in large part to the lack of resources that has failed to develop the action plan as it was adopted during the world meeting of Paraguay.

The world Assembly agreed upon the plan of action for 2014-2018 and defined the priority areas of our involvement. Other than the ongoing thrust areas, it was agreed to focus specifically on the following areas

1. Organization development - reorganization/Structure/Finance
2. Promotion of Family Farming -National and regional engagements
3. Farmers rights-Follow up on the process and Awareness building
4. Democracy/ Autonomy/ Dignity
5. Resource grabbing
6. Agro ecology
7. Local/ regional development - alternatives

The new Bureau and Exco members were elected for next 4 years

Composition of the New Exco of FIMARC 2014-2018

President Wolfgang Scharl (Germany)

Treasurer Jean Claude Germon (France)

Secretary General George Dixon Fernandez (India)

Chaplain Fr. Pasquale Kinoti SVD (Paraguay)

Delegates Medard Meyanga Ayong (Cameroun) - Coordinator Africa
Elizabeth Kibuywa (Kenya) - Coordinator Africa

Manuel Moran (El Salvadore) - Coordinator Latin America
Modesta Arevalos Ortiz(Paraguay)- - Coordinator Latin America
Philip Biswas (Bangladesh) - Coordinator Asia
Rony Joseph(India)- - Coordinator Asia
Nady Abdelsayed Khalil (Egypt)- Invited member from Middle East

Let me take this opportunity to thank all those who helped me to carry out my mission as the Secretary General of FIMARC for the last 4 years ,most especially the past Bureau members Kihwan Chung (President),Nieves Martines Bravo(Treasurer),Fr.Pascuale Kinoti(Chaplain) and all other Exco members . Congratulation to the newly elected Bureau and Exco members of FIMARC.

The final resolution of the World Assembly, called for an alternative development which includes our cultures, values and spiritual being, and is based on solidarity. Our vision, based on human dignity, equality of opportunity, and the realization of human rights. **FIMARC** believe in lifestyles of living simply, in community, and aspects of well-being. We want to promote Alternative models include degrowth, *buen vivir*, transition economy, agro ecology, sustainable family farming etc and to give priority to local, socially-oriented, small-scale models and actors. We look forward for more articulation between cities and countryside

50 years celebration of FIMARC

At the end of the world meeting, after the solemn ceremony presided over by Archbishop Joseph Clemens, the secretary of the Pontifical Council for the Laity and in the presence of Bishop Friedhelm Hofmann, Bishop of Würzburg, all delegates, official guests, members of the KLB joined us to celebrate 50 years of the FIMARC. After a presentation outlining the 50 years of existence through the highlights of the life of the federation, we had the pleasure to receive the congratulations of the personalities present. All acknowledged the importance of the FIMARC work and encouraged to continue this commitment because the challenges are many. We also had the pleasure of welcoming at various times former officials of the FIMARC, include Irénée Loyara who was President from 2002 to 2006, Gaby Falc'hun who was the first permanent of the FIMARC and general Secretary from 1974 to 1978, Joseph Pirsonl, general Secretary from 1986 to 1994, Léon Tillieux, general Secretary from 1994 to 1998 and Daisy Herman, general Secretary from 1998 to 2010. Another important presence among us was Christophe Heredeux representing the CCFD, long standing partner of our federation.

Conclusion

A world a meeting is an opportunity to celebrate, ending up outside the working time, exchanging local products, to meet in a different way and discover a beautiful country. Delegates will keep an excellent souvenir of the visit of the city of Würzburg and the Volkensberg House that welcomed us. All this was made possible thanks to the magnificent organization of the KLB. Volunteers have worked hard to meet the demands of some and the others, to solve the small problems inherent in this type of organization and all this always with a smile and lots of availability. Thanks to them all and to all delegates who have for some dedicated 3 weeks of their time to bright this world meeting.

The world we live in is in deep trouble." And things will not change with the heroic action of a few do-gooders. We need to hang on together, draw inspiration from each other's ideas and energies as we strive to make a difference. It is still a long way to go from here. A world that's free of poverty and exclusion, a world that's safer, fairer, more caring, more peaceful is still far out in the horizon. But it will come one day if people work together and try hard enough to build it. This was indeed the feeling and aspiration that was raised during the World meeting in Germany

2) FIMARC Campaigns during World Food Day

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. 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. 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. These actions are organised in different levels. This year world food day was celebrated on 16th October with the main theme "Family Farming: Feeding the world, Caring for the earth ". FIMARC prepared a call for action and materials to motivate the member movements to take concrete action in their countries

The World Food Day, October 16th, has become one main action day of FIMARC. Each year FIMARC prepares call for actions and formulates material that is used by rural groups all over the world in order to hold public activities, information campaigns or seminars. Since from our foundation in 1964 FIMARC has been working with and for the family farming. Basically most of our grassroots groups are either family farmers or rural people related to farming and off farm activities. Many members of FIMARC try to maintain family farming to strengthen local food systems in various countries. They promote sustainable agricultural practices based on agro ecology ,organic farming ,integrated farming etc as to lessen the ecological foot print.

FIMARC Believe that Investing in family farming is investing in a sustainable, food secure future: smallholder and family farmers can and should be at the forefront of the transformation of world agriculture. Ending hunger and poverty is within our reach, but only if we place family and smallholder farmers at the center of rural development efforts.

In connection with the World Food Day 2014, FIMARC called upon all the member movements around the world to take up concrete actions in their movements in relation to the theme of the year. Following were some of the proposed actions in that regard

- Organise sessions on with a view to raise the profile of Family Farming among various actors
- Organise meetings with politicians and local self government to seek the support and to strengthen Family farming systems.
- Share and upscale family farming practices and initiatives
- Make any solidarity action like fasting to collect money to support the needy or to provide one nutritious meal to the hunger
- Organise a get together of family famers in the locality to encourage their good work
- Organise a fair to expose the family farming products
- Organise one day volunteer work in family farms
- Organise Corner meetings ,press conference , press release or demonstrations on the topic to raise the awareness of the society
- Promote local and indigenous knowledge and know-how

During the world food day of 2014, FIMARC requests all its member movements to have deep reflections ,actions to raise the profile of Family farming all over the world and to Lobby for the policies that will foster sustainable family farming and urge all the members to organise a common action day . In this report let me high light one concrete action organized by FIMARC movement in Cameroun

CELEBRATION World Food Day - MARC-CAMEROON

During one week of intense activities, the MARC Cameroon celebrated the World Food Day of October 16, 2014 in Ayos, a small town in the South of the country where the farmers are the main economic force. Its particularity is to be located at the crossroads of major highways leading to Chad and Central African Republic, close to the theatre of the ongoing conflict in Central Africa, and also the

operative site of the notorious sect BOKO HARAM. And in both cases, the main victims are rural populations, undergoing many abuses and causing the displacement of people fleeing hunger and insecurity. If these conflicts do not quickly reach a happy ending, this situation would constitute a great threat to food sovereignty and the ecological balance of the entire sub region.

The choice of this locality was therefore done deliberately to raise the alarm to challenge the State, the local elected representatives, the development partners, young people, women and rural populations on the challenges of health, security, culture, economy, tourism as well as the challenge of food and the important role played by family Agriculture in this purpose.

ACTIVITIES

Programmed activities took place during the week of 13 to October 18, 2014: educational lectures with the youth of primary schools, round tables with the students and their teachers, discussions with the general public. Distribution of food to the Divine Mercy orphanage was organised on 17th October 2014

FINANCING OF THE ACTIVITIES

Activities were funded in cash and in-kind contributions from the members of Bafia, Soa, Nkizok, Ndelle, and Ayos. National Office members have also invested in various animation teams of educational lectures, round tables and public awareness campaigns. The municipality of Ayos also contributed significantly to the success of this event, having made available the esplanade from the bus station as well as tents, chairs, sound reinforcement, and banners.

PARTICIPATION OF JAC (CHRISTIAN AGRICULTURAL YOUTH)

The JAC has been involved in the preparation and conduct of the public awareness campaign. The two movements are now planning to join annually to make the day of 16 October an annual meeting of exchange

LEARNED LESSONS

The Organization of world day of nutrition October 16, 2014 helped MARC-Cameroon to draw the following lessons:

1. For an activity to succeed, a good preparation is necessary;
2. Lack of funding should not be a limit to our actions, since it is always possible to raise funds if the action is well presented;
3. Advocacy is of great importance for our movements that are called upon to play a decisive role in the interpellation of decision makers on the problems faced by populations.

IMPACT

The week of activities carried out by MARC-Cameroon to celebrate the World Food Day on October 16, 2014 aroused a great interest on the part of the students of primary and secondary schools as well as traders, carriers, local elected officials, opinion leaders, etc...

But the most evident impact is the improvised organization by the State, through the Ministry of Agriculture and livestock, five days after the MARC and in the same site, a grandiose and disproportionate event, with the mobilization of several Ministers, as to not to be stealing the spotlight by MARC-Cameroon, which can therefore be proud to have had the merit of showing a good example to the public authorities and get them out of the torpor.

Bureau and Exco are the elected rural leaders who are specifically responsible for the follow up of the action plan at continental and world level. Exco is the main political decision body of FIMARC for its operation and development. It comprises of one elected representative from each continent and 4 members of the Bureau

The normal tasks of Bureau and Exco :

- The discussion and approval of FIMARC's financial statements and new budget
- The discussion and decision on internal functioning
- final revision of the action plan and elaboration of result indicators and sources of control
- definition of follow-up strategies
- The discussion and sharing of experience on different topics
- organisation of operating mode, communication and clarification of roles and tasks
- evaluation of the work of the commissions (Human Rights)
- 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 meeting of the outgoing Bureau and Exco took place in May 2014 in Volkersburg, Germany prior to the World Conference and the meeting of the new Exco was held in Volkersburg, Germany soon after the World Assembly. The meeting of the New Bureau was held two times during the year 2014. The first meeting was held in July 2014 in Assesse, Belgium and the second one was held in CMR headquarters in Paris. A meeting with Christophe Heradeau (CCFD) and Xavier Bonvoicin was organised in connection with the Bureau meeting in Paris.

4) Working group on United Nations declaration on the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas

FIMARC has been actively involved in the process in relation to the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas from the very beginning. The Human rights advisory committee made a final study on the advancement of the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas and presented at the nineteenth session of the Human Rights Council in February-March 2012 (A/HRC/19/75). According to the final study, the main causes of discrimination and vulnerability of peasants and other people working in rural areas are closely linked to human rights violations: (a) expropriation of land, forced evictions and displacement; (b) gender discrimination; (c) the absence of agrarian reform and rural development policies; (d) the lack of minimum wages and social protection; and (e) the criminalisation of movements defending the rights of people working in rural areas." The Advisory Committee had said that "well-formulated rural development policies" are also essential to fulfil the rights of people working in rural areas. Advisory committee noted that despite the existing human rights framework, peasants and other people working in rural areas are victims of multiple human rights violations that lead to their extreme vulnerability to hunger and poverty, To overcome this situation and further advance their rights, the final study had said that there is a need: (a) to better implement existing international norms, (b) to address the normative gaps under international human rights law, and (c) to elaborate a new legal instrument on the rights of people working in rural areas. In its final study, the Advisory Committee was convinced that the best way to further advance the protection of the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas is to adopt a new instrument - initially, a declaration - to better promote and protect these rights and to be developed by the Human Rights Council".

The draft declaration prepared by the Advisory Committee, the Human Rights Council's think tank comprising 18 experts (A/HRC/WG. 15/1/2), which was considered by the working group, contains 13 articles. The working group, which was established by the UN Human Rights Council in October 2012, is also mandated to submit the finalised draft declaration on the rights of peasants to the Council. This open-ended intergovernmental working group held its first session in Geneva from 15-19 July 2013. During the 5 days working group session, there were panel discussions on issues ranging from food security, biodiversity conservation, the fight against climate change to the human rights situation in rural areas, examining in particular discrimination, poverty and hunger in these areas, as well as the need for a declaration on the rights of peasants. Our human rights working group members Gabriel Falchun (Coordinator), Gérard Boinon, Marcelle Favre, Elisabeth Pariat and George Dixon Fernandez (Secretary General) participated in this first working group meeting to bring the voice of the rural people and farmers. FIMARC also organised a preparatory meeting with CETIM and made

very strong written and oral interventions. Many European governments are not in favor of this process and thus there is a need of collective lobby and advocacy work to be carried out. FIMARC is jointly working with Via Campesina and CETIM in this regard.

In 2014, FIMARC send a questionnaire to our member movements in order to collect feedback on the various articles of the UN proposed declaration. FIMARC organized a Global Consultation on the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas in May 2014 in Germany (More details are given in Page 5) in order to prepare the summarised contents on the declaration. One of the main objective of the consultation was to draw inputs from FIMARC national leaders on various aspects of the declaration of farmer's rights

5) Global Dialogue forum to strengthen Family Farming in the Context of International Year of Family Farming

Family farming -productive unit rooted in the profound links between a piece of land, often small or medium, and the family that owns and works on it- represents a sector of great symbolic and Strategic value because of its economic, social, cultural, environmental, and territorial functions. Family farming is much more than an agrarian economic model: it is the basis of sustainable food Production aimed towards food security and food sovereignty, of environmental management of land and its biodiversity, the fountain of important cultural dimensions of each people and, all things considered, a fundamental pillar of the integral development of all nations.

Hunger, like poverty, is still predominantly a rural problem. "In a world in which more than enough is produced to feed the entire world population, more than 700 million people living in rural areas continue to suffer from hunger. Women play a crucial role in the food security of households, producing between 60 and 80 per cent of food crops in developing countries and earning incomes to feed their families, "however, that women account for 70 per cent of the world's hungry and are disproportionately affected by malnutrition, poverty and food insecurity.

The progressive deterioration in farming income and its effects on rural economies is causing the disappearance of many family farms due to the migrations to the cities. Family farming, a reality present on all continents and in a massive manner in developing countries, is, today, subject to great challenges and grave uncertainties. To create real hope of progress and quality of rural life has been recognized by UN through the official declaration of an International Year of Family Farming in 2014.

FIMARC has members of family members in our national movements and we believe that the celebration of an International Year dedicated to family farming would create a unique opportunity to develop means, which would assure in the medium and long term, a prosperous and sustainable family agricultural development in the rural and fishing areas in all the continents, especially, in the developing countries.

Global Symposium on how to protect and promote family farming

FIMARC organised dialogue forums on Alternatives to Strengthen Family Farming during the farmer to farmer exchange programmes prior to the world conference in collaboration with KLB Germany, ACRF Belgium and CMR France to provide space for North South Dialogue on this topic with participants outside Europe .During the global session, there was also a panel debate with Policymakers, church representatives, development agencies and farmers organisations on how to strengthen family farming. Dr.Rudolf Mogege(European Commission), Dr.Michael Kuhn(European Bishops Conference COMECE),Hermann Kroll Schluter(President of ILD Germany),Annette Vom Berg Erbar(Small holder farmer,Germany) and Kihwan Chung (Ex President of FIMARC from South Korea) were the speakers of the panel.Mrs.Nicole Pudlinsky (Vice chair of KLB Germany) moderated the session. This event discussed the real needs and challenges of Peasant/Family farming in both North and South

Round table on Family Farming-Berlin

FIMARC organised a panel debate on how to strengthen family farming at the Global Forum for Food and Agriculture in Berlin in January 2014. The joint workshop was organised by FIMARC and KLB (Germany)

6) Human Rights Working Group

This is an important commission existing at International level of FIMARC. This commission is an important body for sharing experiences, reflection and proposal of solutions regarding human rights issues which FIMARC is concerned. They contribute to revitalize the movement with new ideas, proposals and materials, and to define the position of FIMARC on Major human rights issues and violations, for our education, lobbying, advocacy and networking activities. The commissions also prepare the inputs to the conference regarding their specific topics and set up elements for the action plan follow-up.

Since from its foundation FIMARC is working on the human right issues and promoting right based approaches including right to food and food sovereignty. This commission is composed of members from national movements of France and Switzerland (due to the geographical proximity to ECOSOC) and temporary representative from other movements and the Secretary General. This commission generally meets few times in a year. This commission has been also responsible for the preparation of Pedagogical document of FIMARC with a human right approach. The recent documents on land grabbing, Agricultural investments etc have been widely used by members and Public .

Main tasks are:

1. To follow up the process of how FIMARC has to work on Human Rights issues, elaboration of a concrete action plan and political proposals.
2. To defend and promote the concept of Human rights, Right to food and food sovereignty within FIMARC and in the society, through the elaboration and diffusion of papers to the movements, as well as partners and other related institutions.
3. Lobbying and advocacy towards regional and international institutions on HR issues
4. Participation in continental and world meetings, forums and platforms related to HR
5. Preparing training and awareness materials on relevant issues.

The Human Rights working group meeting of FIMARC was held in Geneva with participation of secretary General in December 2014 .Three other meetings of the group was organized to prepare the participation and interventions of FIMARC in the UN Human Rights Council. Another objective of the meeting was for the evaluation of the work done during the last year and for the definition of objectives and planning of new activities for the coming year and to agree upon the outline of for the next pedagogical document on Agro Ecology

II. FIMARC engagement in other different Processes in relation to Right to food, Food Sovereignty and Human rights

A) Participation in the FAST Group of CIDSE, CIDSE Directors Midyear Planning meeting and CIDSE Paradigm shift seminar

FAST working group of CIDSE 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 .FIMARC participates regularly in the FAST Working group of CIDSE as a strategic partner.

FIMARC at CIDSE directors Mid Year conference 2014

29th Session of the CIDSE MID-YEAR MEETING was held at Worth Abbey, Crawley in United Kingdom on 6-7 July 2014. A Special Session on: How can Catholic NGOs be more effective and distinct actors on the global stage? had been organized during this conference. George Fernandez, the Secretary General of FIMARC was one among the few special invitee for the conference and the speaker of the

topic on "How to create change at the international stage - building on promising examples and new advocacy approaches - towards sustainable use of natural resources within planetary boundaries. Markus Heinze (Franciscans International) and Simone Filippini (Cordaid) were the other two speakers of this topic. Bernd Nilles (CIDSE Secretary General), Denis Auclair (Senior Policy Advisor) Heinz Hödl (KOO Austria and President of CIDSE), Bernard Pinaud (CCFD-Terre Solidaire and Vice-President of CIDSE), Simone Filippini (CORDAID), Angelo Simonassi (Entraid et Fraternelle) etc lead the various sessions. For FIMARC, it was an important space to raise the concerns and importance of the Catholic social action movement being a strategic partner of CIDSE and partner of various CIDSE members

FIMARC at CIDSE PARADIGM SHIFT SEMINAR on "To act for transformation towards a just and sustainable world"

The main aim of the CIDSE workshop, "Acting for transformation towards a just & sustainable world," was to develop strategies towards pathways for change. The seminar was held on 9-10 September in Brussels, which gathered 70 participants from across CIDSE membership, allies and partners from all continents. The workshop created a space to learn from experiences, voice challenging questions, and inspire strategies in order to realise human rights and a life in dignity for all. Over the past six years, CIDSE has been working to challenge assumptions on growth, development and consumption. The first workshop held in May 2013 was an important milestone, to put forward a common vision on "what" key changes are needed for a just and sustainable world. The focus of the second workshop CIDSE organized in September 2014 was on "how" we can act to bring this about. George Dixon Fernandez, the secretary General of FIMARC was invited as a panelist of these two workshops

B) 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 participate 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 depend and link 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 focusing 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. FIMARC Bureau had a meeting with Civil Society Department (OCEP) of FAO in 2012 to discuss about our involvement and future collaboration. 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. We involved in the CFS plenary and other relevant meetings of the CFS and CSM during 2014.

CFS 41 -Rome

CFS hold its 41st session from 13 to 18 October 2014. Nearly 800 representatives of CFS stakeholder groups (governments, civil society, private sector, international and regional organizations and observers), including 11 ministers and 2 vice-ministers, registered for CFS 41. Opening statements were delivered by the Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs (on behalf of the UN Secretary-General), the Director-General of FAO, the Executive Director of WFP, the Vice-President of IFAD, the Chair of the Steering Committee of the High-Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE) and the CFS Chair. The Committee heard findings of the State of Food Insecurity in the World 2014 (SOFI). It developed a series of policy recommendations based on the reports prepared by the HLPE on "Food Losses and Waste in the Context of Sustainable Food Systems" and "Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture for Food Security and Nutrition". A key outcome was represented by the endorsement of voluntary "Principles for

Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems". The Committee also agreed to continue its work towards the preparation of an Agenda for Action for Addressing Food Insecurity in Protracted Crises. Through a series of panel discussions the Committee explored global, regional and national linkages with CFS, discussing food security and nutrition in the Post-2015 Development Agenda and regional efforts to mainstream nutrition in agriculture. The Committee reflected on progress made in the last ten years in implementing the Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security, through national case studies on lessons learned. The Committee provided guidance on CFS work streams, including requesting revision of the guidance note for selection and prioritization of CFS activities. It requested two HLPE studies for presentation to CFS plenary in 2016 and 2017. The Committee emphasized the importance of communication to support an effective CFS, and agreed to a framework for monitoring CFS decisions. Via voting procedure the Committee amended the CFS Rules of Procedure. Committee endorsed the third version of the Global Strategic Framework on Food Security and Nutrition (GSF). On World Food Day, together with the Steering Committee of the International Year of Family Farming, a special event was held on Innovation in Family Farming: Towards Ensuring Food Security and Nutrition, with the participation of HRH Queen Máxima of the Netherlands and the UN Secretary-General's Special Advocate for Inclusive Finance for Development. FIMARC participated in the CFS 41 very actively to bring the voice the rural people and farmers at the policy discussions and deliberations in relation to food and agricultural governance. Mr. Wolfgang Scharl, the president of FIMARC and Mr. George Dixon Fernandez, the Secretary General of FIMARC represented FIMARC in this important global conference.

FIMARC Participated in the Coordination committee meeting of the Civil Society Mechanism held in Rome from 9-10 October in Rome and Annual Civil Society Forum which held in Rome from 11-12 October at FAO headquarters to prepare the World Committee on Food Security 2014. FIMARC made oral statement on behalf of global Civil society on pertinent issues related to food and agriculture as well as on the rules and procedures of the CFS

C) ICN 2 and FIMARC -19-21 November 2014, FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy

Malnutrition is one of the World's most serious but least addressed health problems and a significant contributor to child mortality. Nearly one-third of children in developing countries are either underweight or stunted, and more than 30% of people living in developing countries suffer from micronutrient deficiencies

The Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) was a high-level intergovernmental meeting that focused global attention on addressing malnutrition in all its forms. Over 2 200 participants attended the meeting, including representatives from more than 170 governments, 150 representatives from civil society and nearly 100 from the business community. In addition to plenary sessions held on November 19th, 20th and 21st, several pre-conference events for [parliamentarians](#), [civil society](#) and the [private sector](#), as well as [round tables](#) and [side events](#), provided a forum for participants to delve deeper into specific nutrition issues. The two main outcome documents—the [Rome Declaration on Nutrition](#) and the [Framework for Action](#)—were endorsed by participating governments at the conference, committing world leaders to establishing national policies aimed at eradicating malnutrition and transforming food systems to make nutritious diets available to all. Many heads of states as well as Pope Francis addressed the conference. Miss. Elisabeth Kibuywa, the Pan African coordinator of FIMARC represented FIMARC in this major global conference

D. FIMARC engagement in IPC for Food Sovereignty

The IPC is an autonomous, self-managed global network of more than 45 people's movements and NGOs involved with at least 800 organizations throughout the world. The IPC serves as a mechanism for information and training on issues regarding food sovereignty. It promotes forums in which PMs and other CSOs involved in food and agriculture issues can debate, articulate their positions and build their relationships at national, regional and global levels. It facilitates dialogue and debate between civil society actors, governments and other stakeholders at all levels. It is not a centralized structure

and does not claim to represent its members. It does not aspire to constitute an all-inclusive civil society interface with FAO and other institutions, but is rather a space for self-selected CSOs which identify with the food sovereignty agenda adopted at the 2002 forum.

So far FIMARC movements were not really involved in the IPC process in various continents and To strengthen our engagement with various farmers and other organisations working on Food Sovereignty issues, it is important to join at different continental and national food sovereignty Platforms. It has been decided that the continental coordination's along with the support of the support of the International secretariat would make this happen in a systematic way.

FIMARC participated in the Preparatory meeting in October 2013 and also participated in the IPC general meeting which held in Brasilia ,Brazil in November 2013.FIMARC will closely work with the IPC platform at global and regional levels to defend food sovereignty and to protect the interest of the small holders and rural communities .

FAO and IPC's Technical meeting FAO HQ, Rome 30 October 2014

With the Technical Meeting held between FAO and the International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty (IPC) an important further step was taken in order to strengthen the collaboration and partnership relation between FAO and the worldwide platform of small-scale food producers, rural workers and grassroot/community based social movements. Considering the new FAO Strategy for Partnerships with Civil Society Organizations- aiming to develop new practices for an inclusive participation of CSOs in policy processes, to intensify dialogue between different stakeholders in key thematic areas and to strengthen their partnership relation between governments and civil society- this meeting held in Rome, HQ, on the 30th of October 2014, brought together the technical expertise provided by different FAO Units with the detailed knowledge IPC has from the grassroots level along specific thematic issues. The expected aims and outcomes outlined in the Concept Note of the Technical Meeting were successfully met: the interest and need of IPC regarding to the different thematic issues were presented in order to be taken into account in policy formulation and adoption at national, regional and international level. Proposals for technical cooperation were made to reinforce participation of IPC, other CSOs and social movements in future sessions of the FAO technical committees and other governing bodies in particular in particular its regional conferences. The FAO-IPC Technical Meeting was successful in many ways: 1. It highlighted the needs and opportunities for building a more solid partnership between both parties. 2. It proved the importance of the role of regional offices where technical assistance and capacity building are crucial and mostly needed. 3. It identified concrete actions for OPC to follow-up with relevant technical departments and regional offices. The meeting also raised the challenge for better communication between FAO headquarters and FAO regional focal points and among the regional focal points themselves. The great contribution of IPC by sharing its knowledge and information has been acknowledged. This document provides a summary of issues raised by IPC and FAO Technical Units regarding the specific thematic issues and suggests concrete follow-up activities for the agenda of future collaboration. Mr.Rony Joseph, the Asian Coordinator of FIMARC represented the organization in this successful technical meeting between FAO and IPC.

E) Open ended Working Group on Agricultural investment of CFS: FIMARC Participated in the Open ended Working Group on Agricultural investment of CFS on regular basis. FIMARC also involved in the CSO working group on Agricultural Investment

F) Global dialogue on Family Farming- at FAO October 2014

FIMARC had been invited for the Global dialogue on Family farming co organized by FAO,the government of Philippines as well as the global steering committee of the IYYF. Mr.Rony Joseph, the Asian Coordinator of FIMARC participated in this important consultation forum and got the chance to make a presentation about the importance of Family farming with the concrete experience in his farm in Kerala, India

III. FIMARC commitment and engagement in various Process in relation to Right to food/Right to resources ,Food Sovereignty and Human rights

FIMARC strive for the Right to Food and Food Sovereignty as a legal right.

The right to food is a human right. It protects the right of all human beings to live in dignity, free from hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition. The right to food is not about charity, but about ensuring that all people have the capacity to feed themselves in dignity.

A) FIMARC participated in the review of Voluntary Guidelines to support the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security (Right to Food Guidelines 2004) in the CFS 41 to support the work of UN Special rapporteur on right to food and made the interventions on behalf of the Civil Society Organisations

B) HRC 23 and HRC 24-FIMARC participated in the 23rd and 24th session of the human rights council in Geneva in 2014 to strengthen our engagement and follow up on Farmers rights as well as to bring the human rights violations in some countries where FIMARC movement has been engaged to protect the right of the rural communities.

1V. Other activities

A) 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.

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

The General Theme and topics for 2014

The 3 numbers of VMR during the year 2014 focused the following thematic areas.

112 -Theme of the world Assembly

113- 50 Years of FIMARC

114- World Assembly of FIMARC 2014

3 numbers of VMR are published in 4 languages (French, Spanish, English, and Portuguese). Each publication has been sent to partners and movements and it is a popularized 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. In 2014 we were able to publish 3 editions of VMR only instead of 4 editions due to the reduction of office staff and the heavy work load in relation to the organization of World Assembly with one person working at the International secretariat. In 2015, we will publish 5 editions to make up the reduction of the number of VMR in 2014

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. Since 2011, the reduction of the support from the donor to the VMR caused a real problem in the process of this 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 in 2014, we continued again with our online publication.

B. Participation in the meeting of Nuncio

FIMARC had a bilateral meeting with Apostolic Nuncio to the European Commission, His Excellency Mgr. Alain Paul Lebeaupin at his residence in Belgium in 2014

C. International Civil Society Forum on Family Farming- LYON, December 2014

Smallholder agriculture is an essential pillar for meeting the challenges of the 21st century responses to food, energy, climate, health and environmental crisis. During the international year of family farming, the commission Agriculture and Food C2A and the Peasant Confederation of FRANCE organized an international forum of civil societies on family farming on 17 and 18 December in Lyon, whose objectives were to: Bring the positions of French NGOs of Coordination SUD, the Confederation Paysanne and partner organizations of civil society in the South, on peasant family farming. Draw up a balance sheet of the commitments of the France in 2014 to promote, at the international level these family-based farming and work for coherent policies as well as the legal, regulatory and financial devices in favor of it. George Dixon Fernandez, the Secretary General of FIMARC was invited as panelist on the topic of "Right to Land " and Peasant Rights during this important forum

C. Advocacy and Networking

The Bureau (President, secretary general, Treasurer and world chaplain) together with the continental teams and the commissions were responsible to carry out the activities around advocacy and networking and to be present during UN international conferences either in Rome, Geneva, Paris, etc. Since the Bureau members except the Secretary General are volunteers and thus major representation mission is the responsibility of the Secretary General. The participation within the main organs (councils, conferences, committees) of FAO, CFS, UNHCR and UNESCO is very important. FIMARC is part of different platforms like IPC (International Planning Committee), More and Better. Lobbying and advocacy initiatives are much strengthened in 2014 and our aim is to involve more member organisations in the struggle of rural people for the right to food and food sovereignty

D. The role of International Secretariate

The international secretariat plays a key role in all the organization, being at the centre of all the activities of information, of planning of the programs, of support to the regional coordination's, of organizations of the work of advocacy and of lobby and of global coordination management. The General Secretariat was in charge of the follow up and assessment of projects and activities carried out by continental coordination's and by the commission. Secretariate also provided necessary support and information in time to the continents and national movements regarding campaign and other political actions. The General Secretariat also organised the operational and logistic support for specific international activities and the participation in important events and major lobby, advocacy efforts where FIMARC represented.

Conclusion

We have celebrated 50 years and now it is time to move ahead with more courage ,strength and energy
In closing, let me share with you this motto of the Australian Commission for the Future . "The future is not some place we are going to, but one we are creating; the paths to it are not found but made; and the making of those pathways changes both the maker and the destination."