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Annual Report 2015

Dear Friends,

I am delighted to present to you the 2015 Annual Report for the International Federation of Adult Rural Catholic Movement (FIMARC). It has been an inspiring year and one of continued resurgence. While political will and new democratic models are needed to address growing inequalities, religious and cultural fundamentalisms continue to drive political debates and public discourse, again with the direct consequences for farmers as well as men and women in rural areas. The strong engagements and deep interventions that we had during the course of the year which you will read in this report is surely the result of the unwavering commitment and leadership of a delightful Bureau, Exco and National teams whose values and hard work continue to shine through.

During the year of 2015, women and men living in poverty continued to mobilise for their rights despite the volatile mix of disasters, militarism, conflict and economic displacement that left many of the world's poorest people more vulnerable than ever. Inequality continued to rise, characterised by many of the states in which we work, serving the interests of rich elites and powerful multinational corporations while performing poorly in protecting, promoting and respecting their citizens' rights.

Farmers, rural people and women continued to experience exclusion and rights violations as a result of deepening fundamentalism and patriarchy, and a development model that further exploits them. In this difficult context, women and men living in poverty did not lose hope. The world saw people mobilise in traditional and new ways to claim their rights and build alternatives. The climate movement grew, with the result that there was progress on mitigation and adaptation at the climate agreement in Paris (though the agreement did not meet the expectations of those affected most by climate change - the poorest and most vulnerable).

In 2015, we tried to build a strong networked Movement, deepening the impact of our work, strengthening the organisation and to be accountable and effective. We have experienced greater integration of our empowerment, solidarity and campaigning work across local, national and international levels and were able to share learning from experiences across the Federation. As you read this report, please keep in mind that this work is about our passionate and committed assignments of our volunteer

teams, the partners and communities that work tirelessly to fight poverty and injustice, and our friends and allies who accompany us.

As usual, through our national movements, we also supported farmer-to-farmer exchange, training of farmer groups etc. Based on a farmer-to-farmer methodology, FIMARC grass root movements provides training in low cost and sustainable agriculture practices that help farmers in the unfair competition against large agribusinesses. Using sustainable methods, farmers are less dependent on commercial seeds and tools, and learn to value local knowledge. With the support of FIMARC, people living in rural areas actively resists land grabs by multinational companies in few countries.

We want to stress that the most meaningful impact happens when we make a clear link between local issues lived by farmers and rural people to global policy making processes. We recognise our movements become more powerful when we collaborate with other social and people's movements demanding human rights, justice, development and peace. We have established alliances and networks to build pressure for structural change. For this, we made coordinated efforts to ensure the involvement of the most marginalised people in various continents to amplify their voices at global decision making processes

In 2015 ,We increased our influence and visibility through activities at key external events such as the World Social Forum in Tunis, Food security and nutrition talks in Rome, Peasant right debates in Geneva, the Paris Climate Summit and the Agro Ecology Forums of FAO in Mali and Thailand - all of which contributed to networking and alliance building.. FIMARC instigated a campaign on the UN Process for the declaration of rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas. At the IYFF+10 process (International Year of Family Farming + 10), we started working with our movements and other organisations to build our campaign on family farming for transformative and sustainable development goals.

Strengthening family farming through community mobilization and empowerment continues to be our focus. The communities we work with are on the frontlines in the struggles for food sovereignty and rights of the rural people. **FIMARC** is a grassroots organization that engages peasant and rural families through organizing and through implementation of sustainable agriculture practices that are environmentally friendly and economically viable. FIMARC has been a leading voice for the promotion of family farming, the rights of peasants and rural people but against the expansion of large-scale industrial agriculture, climate change, GMO's etc. . . .

We are very proud of the partnerships we continue to forge as we strive for the highest impact in solving rural issues." Finally, during the Climate Change COP21 events in Paris, France, we were able to work together closely with our CIDSE friends and also done much to create awareness at various levels to have a genuine climate deal in Paris. The different initiatives in collaboration with our national movement CMR France, our strategic partner CIDSE and CCFD is really worth to mention as it created much impact in COP21, Paris.

We believe that more than ever we need to be committed, passionate and agile to serve the communities and movements with whom we work. It was a beautiful end to a fruitful year. Thank you for your continued support and interest in our work. We will keep us going! And looking forward to an even brighter 2016!

Assesse, Belgium- July 2015

FIMARC World Assembly 2014 held in Germany decided the general orientation of the movement for the upcoming 4 years. 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

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. Tomas Sphangero (Argentina)
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

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

- Family farming
- Solidarity economy-Fair trade and other initiatives
- Food sovereignty: Farmers rights
- Decrease /Less is more
- Sustainable rural world and peasant based agriculture
- Defense of Human Rights and right to food
- Justice and solidarity between the people

FIMARC movements generally involve in the following topics:

- Right to Food and Food Sovereignty
- Agro ecology
- Global crisis
- Resource grabbing
- Climate change
- Alternative Economy
- Migration

1. FIMARC International Seminar on Family Farming, Belgium -April 2015



As family farms demand less land to produce food and employ more people per hectare, small-scale farms are more efficient than the large agricultural operations, controlled by international agribusinesses. Family farmers exhaust fewer natural resources and destroy less of the forest reserves and marginal land that often is not appropriate to food production. Working in small plots, family farmers are less dependent on oil-based agrochemicals. Their efficient use of resources leaves a smaller environmental foot print on the land. Agribusinesses - controlled by a few international corporations - are aggressively extracting resources from the communities to feed other industrial operations and markets overseas. Despite unfavorable conditions for small-scale farmers, food security depends on the work of rural families on their land.

FIMARC organizes formation sessions for the global and continental leaders on the key burning topics related to rural people and agriculture each year.

During the Executive Committee of the FIMARC, which was held in Assesse, Belgium from 15 to 20 April 2015, an important international training session was organized on **Family farming -Strategy and Follow up of IYYF and concrete actions at national levels for the promotion of Family farming**. This was also the theme adopted by the General Assembly of FIMARC in Germany for its campaign 2015-2018. This training session was articulated in four moments:

- The presentations of the speakers followed by exchanges with the participants
- Working groups
- Sharing of the results of those groups
- Immersion in family farms



Photos: Olivier de Schutter, Former Special Rapporteur on Right to Food at FIMARC Global session, and Bernard Roux, Resource person in Rural Economy from France.

I - Main ideas derived from the presentations

- Family agriculture feeds more than 70% of the world's population and give work to 2.5 billion people to whom it provides substantial income and decent jobs;
- It contributes to the good health of populations by the diversity, the variety and the quality of the products it offers.
- It develops and uses environmental friendly agricultural practices which is thus better protected and preserved environment for future generations.

II- Recommendations to the FIMARC:

1. The FIMARC should grab many international forums of the next few months to advocate in synergy with the other stakeholders of the civil society with a view to the adoption by the General Assembly of the United Nations of the declaration of the rights of farmers and other people in rural areas.
- 2 - It should be kept to a backward-looking corporatist battle, but rather that worn by both rural and urban populations benefiting all both with the same title of the services rendered by family agriculture;
- 3 - The FIMARC is urged to join the activities carried by international civil society under the name IYFF+ 10, at the national, regional and international levels to sustain and strengthen the achievements of the international year of the family farming celebrated in 2014.

III-2015-2018 Campaign plan

After each working group, participants met in plenary for the consolidation of the work by continent, and it is from this synthesis that the plan of campaign was developed. Below is the brief overview of the global campaign on Family Farming

A - General objective:

Promote, protect and strengthen family farming;

B - Specific objectives:

- 1 - Establish a dialogue with members of the FIMARC, partners and other stakeholders to sensitize them for the promotion, the protection and the strengthening of family farming,
- 2 - Educate young people and policy makers on the importance of family farming,
- 3 - Mobilize support at the national, regional and international.

C - Expected results:

- 1 - The dignity and civil rights of family farmers are recognized and respected;
- 2 - The members of the FIMARC have undertaken actions for the defense, the promotion and the strengthening of the family farming at the national, regional and international level;
- 3 - Success stories in family farming are listed and available to make good example.

D- Actions

- 1 - Create functional networks at the national, regional and international level;
- 2 - Produce working documents for the campaigns;
- 3 - Organize campaigns of awareness;
- 4 - Organize campaigns of advocacy towards decision-makers;
- 5 - Strengthen the capacities of the members;
- 6 - Identify and disseminate success stories in family farming;
- 7 - Establishing links between producers and consumers;
- 8 - Organize a leafleting campaign.

Recommendations to take into account in the finalization of the plan of action by continent or country

1. Taking into account the international character of the FIMARC, consider activities that may be carried out at national, regional and international level;
2. Develop collaboration with other stakeholders, in never losing sight that there are initiatives trying to do the same thing that we do all over the world;
3. Replicate the training received wherever possible;
4. Always make the link in each formation between human rights and the topic of the countries
5. The assessment of the various action plans will be realized next year.





IV - Follow up of the campaign on family farming:

For the follow-up of the campaign of FIMARC on family farming, a team was set up by the Executive Committee, specifically responsible for the mobilization of members. This team includes the following persons:

Modesta Arevalos from Paraguay
 Rony Joseph from India
 Jean Claude Germon from France
 Meyanga Ayong Médard from Cameroon
 George Dixon Fernandez-Secretary General, FIMARC

V. Visit of two family farms in the region of Assesse

Two field visits were organised in connection with the theme of the session to get concrete experience and information from the local family farms. Participants had the opportunity to visit two family farms in the region of Assesse on April 15, 2015, which allowed the participants to become familiar with the realities of the Belgian family farmers of Wallonia

Visit of the 1st site:

Type of activity: biological poultry farming of hens with a capacity of 30.000 hens who have the freedom to leave at certain hours of the day in a grassy course specially designed for this purpose.

The farm is run by a couple, the husband is permanent while his wife is a nurse who comes to the farm the afternoons after returning from work; there is also a seasonal worker who comes when extra support

is needed and is also tipped to take over the farm if the couple withdraw.

Funding: initial funding was gathered by the own efforts of the couple who contracted a significant credit for the construction of buildings and the purchase of equipment (batteries for breeding, treadmill for the egg collection, automatic supply of food and water, calibration and codification for tracing of eggs, etc...).

Organization of marketing: constitution of the college of Walloon producers carrying out collective actions of direct sales to consumers.

Premium for organic farming: an incentive is paid to this operation to reward the efforts and sacrifices made to meet the requirements of this type of farming.





2nd site:

Activity: manufacture of homemade ice cream;

Site name: farm Leboutte

Farm was recovered from their parents and held by two sisters aged respectively 24 and 26;

Other coupled activity: rearing cows

Funding: the two girls followed a training program of insertion of young people by the European Union, which allowed them to have access to the financing they needed for their installation.

They have developed a direct marketing service to consumers and gives them full satisfaction.



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 , lobby actions and advocacy towards the decision making authorities at different levels and to the international and intergovernmental organizations such as FAO, UNHCR, ECOSOC, UNESCO, CFS is quite important. These types of formation really help them to increase their knowledge, reflection and analysis and more over make them capable to provide awareness to general public in their own areas of work.

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 organized in different levels. The world food day of 2015 was celebrated on 16 October with the main theme "Social Protection and Agriculture -Breaking the Cycle of Rural Poverty ". 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. FIMARC published and distribute awareness raising materials to the national movements and local groups to support in coordinating their actions.

About 73 percent of the world population have no access to adequate social protection (ILO, 2014). A majority of people without social protection live in the rural areas of developing countries, many of them dependent on agriculture to make a living. Poor rural households are already constrained by limited access to resources, low agricultural productivity and poorly functioning markets, which reduce their ability to cope with economic and natural risks and shocks that threaten their livelihoods.

In the absence of social protection, poor households, which are already constrained by limited access to resources and services, are at constant risk of hunger and poverty, especially when faced with a crisis or shock of any nature. Social protection is critical in such cases because, the economic or in-kind support it provides prevents people from hunger in the short term. Moreover, by stimulating production, social protection provides greater income stability and ability to manage risk, thus contributing to reducing poverty and food insecurity in the longer-term

Providing them with access to social protection helps them to better manage the social and economic risks and environmental threats they are exposed to. Through direct income support to the most vulnerable households, social protection helps alleviate extreme poverty and overcome food insecurity. At the same time, by providing more income security and investing in rural livelihoods, social protection can contribute to improve agricultural productivity, stimulate local economic development, build resilience, encourage sustainable natural resource uses and promote social inclusion.

If properly designed, social protection tends to benefit women and promotes their economic and social empowerment. Similarly, it can also benefit children and youth, as social protection helps improve nutrition and health outcomes inasmuch as household income security allows young people to stay in school longer, and cash for work programs help enhance employment opportunities for youth.

Social protection exists when governments develop policies and programs to address economic, environmental and social vulnerabilities to food insecurity and poverty. Through cash transfers, vouchers, insurances and in-kind contributions, social protection programs enhance the income, status and capacities of poor and vulnerable people. Social protection improves people's access to health care and other social services, enabling them to sustainably provide for themselves and their family members.

World Food Day is an occasion to focus the world's attention on the crucial role played by social protection in eradicating hunger and poverty. This is why in connection with the World Food Day 2015, 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:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organize sessions with a view to raise the debate on Social Protection in Agriculture • Organize meetings with politicians and local self-governments to demand social protection schemes for the farmers and rural people • Share the information about the existing viable social protections measures/Schemes • Facilitate dialogues with Banks, Insurance companies and government agencies in your locality to collect datas and to tap social protection schemes • one day volunteer work to save money and to support hunger eradication projects in your own places or send to the FIMARC World Food Day fund to support other people who are in need around the world • Make any solidarity action like fasting to collect money to support the needy or to provide one nutritious meal to the hunger • Organize Corner meetings ,press conference , press release or demonstrations on the topic to raise the awareness of the society • Take initiative for the knowledge generation and dissemination at the local, national levels through the collection and compilation of information, data and good practices on the impact of social protection schemes on rural poverty, food and nutrition security. |
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During this world food day of 2015, FIMARC requested all its member movements to have deep reflections, actions to raise the debate on Social Protection in Agriculture all over the world and to Lobby for the policies that foster Social Protection and we urged all the members to organise a common action day. In this report let me high light five concrete actions organized by some of the FIMARC movements:

1. MARC Cameroun-had organized a meeting with National Insurance Company to have social protection schemes and crop Insurance for farmers in their villages.

2. DECESE Kenya organized "field days "and demonstration of food and crops during WFD. Desece hosted 300 people and spoke about Family Farming and contacted with local Banks to organize insurance schemes for the farmers. They also organized study days to discuss about the topics of VMR and translated VMR in local languages and more over organized a competition on neglected crops and received first price of 1000 Euros for making a cake made of Cassava

3. FIMARC, India in Tamil Nadu felt that rice and wheat are being imposed and politicised every day there are systematic attempts to destroy the nutritious and traditional crops in the southern countries like millets, lentils, pulses and grams as a means to promote rice and wheat. There fore we had decided to develop the production of traditional crops in our area. There fore we brought together our organic

farmers to share their traditional seeds among themselves and multiply them in their homestead lands and common lands. There were nearly 150 participants in this event who shared their seeds and experiences of traditional farming.



4. BSDF Bangladesh Philip organized a forum on Social Protection in Agriculture in collaboration with World Food Programme.

World Food Day 2015

"Social protection and Agriculture; breaking the cycle of rural poverty"



বিশ্ব খাদ্য দিবস ২০১৫

গ্রামীণ দারিদ্র্য বিমোচন ও সামাজিক সুরক্ষায় কৃষি

Venue : Conference Room, RRF, Jessore, Bangladesh

Organized By : Jointly RRF & Bangladesh Sustainable Development Forum (BSDF)



Theme: "Social Protection and Agriculture; breaking the cycle of rural poverty"

5. WORLD FOOD DAY COMMEMORATIONS, 16TH October, 2015 CARAM-ZAMBIA. HOSTED IN PETAUKE DISTRICT EASTERN PROVINCE OF ZAMBIA

From 14-16 October 2015 CARAM-ZAMBIA organized three days forum on social protection in Agriculture. Zambia has fallen behind other countries in agriculture. There was drought in the country during the last three years. Unfortunately, the possibility for diversity that nature has bestowed upon Zambia has been suppressed by heavily top sided economic policy of the past Government. In particular Government action - started by UNIP and continued by MMD which provides fertilizer and seed input subsidies and delivery, extension services and a guaranteed market for just a single crop-maize. As a result maize is produced even in low -yield and risky areas where it should not be grown at all. But Peasant farmers lack access to the finances and have become dependent on subsidized maize production. Accordingly Zambia grows more maize than the nation need in normal years. As to be expected maize subsidies and guaranteed marketing are highly politicized. It was the maize marketing system that was the major factor brought down the UNIP Government in 1991. The Government went broke when copper prices fell and maize subsidies kept increasing under political pressure.

Marketing: The Government stopped buying maize with cash, they are buying on credit. Again they have reduced the number of packs of fertilizer two bags per person per year.

Poverty: The Government is trying by all means to help the poor peasant farmers to reduce poverty. Social Cash Transfer was introduced in order to help those who are vulnerable.

Schemes ; Many CARAM Farmers have got schemes but they are lacking dams, equipment for farming as you know that there isn't enough rainfall these days .
Hunger eradication project has been introduced in Basic schools as start (one meal per day) which is not enough.

Challenges: No good market for soya beans and other crops.

Plan: To look for some investors who can Import Soya Beans from Zambia especially from CARAM farmers (Extract from the report by Arnold Kawendama Coordinator CARAM-Zambia)

3. International Forum on AGRO ECOLOGY, Nyeleni Center Mali

The International Forum on Agro ecology was organized by the peasant movements at the Nyeleni Center in Mali, from 24 to 27 February 2015 .FIMARC has been part of this forum that gave momentum for a global debate on Agro ecology as solution to climate crisis. Medard Meyanga, the FIMARC African Coordinator represented our movement in this global conference. Small scale food producers developed their first ever common vision on agro ecology for Food Sovereignty in this global forum. The common vision was developed at the historic Forum through dialogue among food producers such as peasants, artisanal fisherfolk, the landless, rural workers, indigenous peoples, hunters and gatherers, pastoralists and nomadic peoples, urban communities and consumers. They warn against the corporate co-optation of agro ecology through initiatives such as Climate Smart Agriculture. These attempt to redefine agro ecology as a narrow set of technologies without challenging the industrial food system, or its existing structures of power.

Representing the producers of 70% of the world's food, they call for an immediate transformation of food system towards agroecology. The forum affirmed that "Agro ecology practised by small scale producers generates local knowledge, promotes social justice, nurtures identity and culture and strengthens the economic viability of rural areas," and . "Agro ecology is political; it requires us to challenge and transform structures of power in society. We need to put the control of seeds, biodiversity, land and territories, waters, knowledge, culture and the commons in the hands of the peoples who feed the world."

Small scale food producers of the forum demand that policy makers respect and reinforce their agro ecological processes rather than support forces that destroy them. Mali Forum on Agro ecology call on all civil society organisations to strengthen the movement for agro ecology and endorse the Declaration of the International Forum for Agro ecology and the organisations present in the forum decided to promote the common vision on Agro ecology, at the CFS and FAO regional seminars on agro ecology in November 2015

The Forum was indeed a unique opportunity for NGOs and social movements to exchange on agro ecological approaches, strength synergies, evaluate policies for sustaining agro ecology, family farming and food sovereignty around the globe. The CSO were able to come up with common understanding about agro ecology, the strategies and policies needed to support and strengthen it and also a common final declaration was another major outcome of this conference

4. More and Better General Meeting-Mali

Medard Meyanga from Cameroun, Africa participated in the More and Better General Meeting in February 2015, Nyélén Center, Mali prior to the "The International Forum for Agro ecology! .FIMARC is a member of the More and better Network and we strive to have better policies and support for the

small holder agriculture throughout the world through the campaign and activities of this network

5. FIMARC engagement in the CIDSE Work Shop on Food in Brussels, March 2015

The workshop was dedicated to food sovereignty strategies for the democratization of food systems and was held by CIDSE on 17-18 March 2015. People from different backgrounds came together to discuss three pillars which sustain food sovereignty: the right to land, access to markets, and the right to seeds. A process of sharing and debating, concrete opportunities for collaboration were identified. The experience brought to the workshop by participants - both CIDSE members and partners -, was extremely valuable and helped tackle the issues from different points of view. Since the experience shared on each topic was presented from local/national and also from regional/international perspectives, this led to insights and opportunities at local, national and international levels for processes on the ground and for advocacy. For each thematic area, after a group discussion some points for potential common actions were identified among the regional and international organisations present were: Urgency, Via Campesina, FIMARC, Peoples Coalition's on Food Sovereignty, INADES (Africa) and GRAIN. Country partners included Grupo semillas (Colombia), RESDAG (Guatemala), Masipag and Sumpay (Philippines), Papda (Haiti), Centro Humboldt (Nicaragua) and Jinukun-Copagen (Benin).



Photo -CIDSE workshop on Food, Brussels

Right to Land, Access to Markets and Right to Seeds were the three areas explored during the workshop. Following are the concerns on these topics.

Right to land

Land and territories form the backbone of the identities of rural communities and indigenous people, and are a source of well-being. Yet land is being taken away from communities and concentrated in fewer and fewer hands at an alarming pace. We are currently experiencing a new wave of land grabs and land concentration globally, not just in the South. Fertile farmland is often converted to non-agricultural uses and export-oriented commercial plantations that grow agro-fuels instead of food. Control over land is being usurped from small producers and their families, with elites and corporate powers squeezing people onto smaller and smaller land holdings. These processes are facilitated by legislative changes concerning agricultural land and are often accompanied by growing militarization, violence against peasants and criminalization of social movements and land rights defenders.

Access to markets

Food corporations have continually been taking over larger proportions of the food system, with major implications for the entire food chain. Food prices are established in relation to global markets prices. Due to the commodification of food, the high dependence of industrial agriculture on fossil fuels and the recent boom in agro fuel production, international food markets are facing increasing speculation and price volatility. Developing markets have been largely ignored in favour of larger enterprises, while the smallholder sector, which mainly produces for the domestic market, has been neglected.

Right to seeds

Control of seeds leads to control of farmers and their production systems, the land and ultimately the entire food system. Through modern breeding methods along with privatisation of seeds and restrictive seed laws that criminalise seed saving, agro transnational companies have rapidly gained monopolistic control of agriculture in the name of addressing global food insecurity. We have reached an alarming situation where 75% of our food now comes from just 12 plant and five animal species. Without the seed diversity developed by traditional farming systems over generations, agriculture across the planet will struggle to adapt to climate change.

6. FIMARC at World Social Forum, TUNIS -March 2015 'Reclaiming Local Food Systems'

For the second time in a row, the World Social Forum (WSF) gathered in Tunisia, the birthplace of the Arab spring. The 2015 edition of the World Social Forum (WSF) closed with a march in solidarity with Palestine through the streets of Tunis, which was hosting this grand annual celebration of alter-globalisation for the second time. Between 40,000 and 50,000 people from 120 countries met in Tunis to proclaim that "another world is possible".

During four days, over 1000 workshops, seminars and round tables brought together members of associations, NGOs, trade unionists, researchers and activists from 120 countries at the El Manar University campus and *discussed a wide range of issues and topics including, fiscal justice, a healthy environment, free universal healthcare, new consumption models, or a people's revolution, climate justice, immigration, media freedom, women's rights, refugees and energy.etc.*

FIMARC considers WSF as an important space for mobilization opportunity around alternatives and proposals in favor of Food sovereignty as well as strengthening the solidarity with the allies and other social movements around the Globe. In fact, the 2015 WSF was held at a crucial moment at which the social movement are seeking for justice, freedom and solidarity. The set goals and orientations do take into consideration the political, social and economic changes in Maghreb-Mashreq, and as well in the African continent, with regard to the ecological and economical crisis around the entire globe. People all over the world are suffering the effects of the aggravation of a profound crisis of capitalism, in which private transnational corporations, banks, media conglomerates and international financial institutions are trying to increase their profits by applying interventionist and neo colonial policies with the complicity of neo-liberal governments.

The Social Movements Assembly of the WSF 2015, Tunisia was the place where we came together through all our diversity, in order to forge a collective agenda to fight against capitalism, imperialism, patriarchy, racism and all forms of discrimination and oppression. We have forged a common history and a common stream of work which led to some progress, with the hope to garner some amount of victory against the ruling system and to create several alternatives for a socially just development that respects nature. The Forum provided a chance to sharpen our arguments in the run-up to two major events this year: the 21st Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Agreement on Climate Change (COP 21), at the end of 2015, and the UN Special Summit on Sustainable Development, which will give birth to the new post-2015 agenda as the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) reach their deadline. In its final declaration, the Assembly of Social Movements, for its part, returned to the foundations on which the Forum has been built since its advent in 2001 in Porto Alegre, Brazil, less than two years after the "Battle of Seattle" put the spotlight on the WTO and its promotion of free trade. It points the finger, first and foremost, at the "transnational corporations and the financial system (IMF, WB and WTO), who are the main agents of the capitalist system, privatizing life, public services and common goods such as water, air, land, seeds and mineral resources, promoting wars and violating human rights, and ransacking resources

FIMARC organised a workshop on Reclaiming Local Food Systems in collaboration with via campesina, Habitat International and Urgency on 25 March 2015 at World Social Forum held in Tunis this year. The workshop discussed and shared the links between the Right to the City platform, the food sovereignty movements, and solidarity economy. This activity focused on enhancing local and regional food systems, including tangible experiences in creating better and more sustainable access to food. Presenters George Dixon Fernandez from FIMARC, Judith Hitchman from Urgenci, Community Supported Agriculture around the world, Adriana from the MST and La Via Campesina, Emily Mattheisen from HIC, and Jason Nardi from RIPESS shared their organizational experiences in implementing structural change in urban and rural areas including implementing Right to food. The workshop also highlighted the need to strengthen more the food sovereignty and solidarity economy movements around the world and to raise the voice against the ongoing land and resource grabbing.



Photo : At the WSF in Tunis, the team from the workshop on Reclaim the city and rural areas, reclaim our food systems! representing, George Dixon Fernandez from FIMARC, Judith Hitchman from Urgenci, Community Supported Agriculture around the world, Adriana from the MST and La Via Campesina, Emily Mattheisen from HIC, and Jason Nardi from RIPESS

7. FIMARC Asian Coordination meeting 2015, India

The meeting took place in Kerala, India from 12th of July to 15th of July 2015. Mr. George Dixon from FIMARC Bureau, Mr. Philip Biswas from Bangladesh, Rony Joseph from India participated. Mr. Son young jun informed his inconvenience to participate in the meeting.



From left 1.Mrs.Pinku Rita Biswas, Deputy ED of RRF Bangladesh, 2.Mr. George Dixon from FIMARC Bureau, 3.Mr. Rony Joseph from INAG, India 4.Mr. Philip Biswas from BSDF Bangladesh

The meeting decided the following

1. FIMARC member movements in Asia has to report the implementation and progress of the Action plan prepared by the Asian participants during the FIMARC World Assembly 2014 in their own countries.
2. FIMARC member movements in Asia has to identify and collect information on existing *Sustainable models in promotion of Local Safe Food, Promotion of Biodiversity , promotion of local culture , Promotion of Traditional knowledge, Good Governance (democracy,autonomy,dignity) , Promotion of Family Farming ,Cooperatives & Direct Marketing* in their own regions and countries. Representatives from FIMARC Bureau and EXCO can visit and experience these initiatives in Asia .Asian movements *should prepare a list of the above mentioned Sustainable Models in their own country and try to document whatever forms possible (Written,Photos,video etc...)*
3. Organise an Asian Seminar on *Strengthening Family Farming Systems in Asia through People Lead Approaches* prior to the 50th Anniversary Celebrations of CCFM Korea
4. Organise an Interfaith Dialogue on the Role of Religion in Protecting the Health of the Marginalised Communities in Asia and also a Workshop on Encyclical Letter *LAUDATO SI' (Care for our Common Home)* of the Pope Francis during the *International Conference on Aids in Asia and Pacific* DHAKA, Bangladesh.
5. *Sensitizing the PLDP (People Lead Development Process) based on the INAG Experiences*

8. UN process on Rights of Peasants and Other Rural Workers:

FIMARC already involved in this process in Geneva for the last two years. FIMARC participated in different lobby meetings in Geneva through our working group on human rights as part of our collective work along with CETIM and Via Campesina to mobilise support for this process from various actors. On the occasion of the 30th session of the Human Rights Council, CETIM, FIAN International and La Vía Campesina in collaboration with FIMARC organised a side event on: ***Rights of Peasants and Other***

Rural Workers: The Value Added of a UN Declaration on Monday 21 September, 2015, at Palais des Nations, Geneva. FIMARC Human Rights Working group members Mr. Gabriel Falchun and Ms. Elisabeth Pariat made contribution to this side event



Speakers:

H.E. Ms. Nardi Suxo Iturry, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Plurinational State of Bolivia and other International Organizations in Geneva
Mr. Ndiakhate Fall, National Council for Rural Dialogue and Cooperation (CNCR), Senegal
Ms. Geneviève Savigny, Peasant Confederation, France
Mr. Zainal Arifin Fuad, Serikat Petani, Indonesia

9. FIMARC at CIDSE /JUSTICE AND PEACE Conference in Rome -July 2105

The conference "People and Planet First: the Imperative to Change Course", organized by CIDSE and the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace in the aftermath of Pope Francis' Encyclical *Laudato Si*, was held from 1- 3 July in Rome.



The event brought together 200 church, civil society, and political representatives from all continents and from 45 different countries, involving high level speakers such as Cardinal Pietro Parolin (Secretary of State of the Holy See), Naomi Klein, Mary Robinson (UN Special Envoy for Climate Change), and Enele Sopoaga (Prime Minister of Tuvalu) amongst others. "This two- day conference has been a unique space for discussions, during which worlds that usually operate independently met, exchanged reflections and took advantage of such an exceptional space for dialogue" In light of the encyclical letter *Laudato si*, the CIDSE conference "People and Planet first: the Imperative to Change Course" called for urgent climate action and highlighted that overcoming climate change also requires a greater social, environmental and economic transition with new rules for the economy. This includes ending the fossil fuel era by 2050 and changing lifestyles in order to respect sustainability and the need to limit overall material consumption today in line with planetary boundaries. George Dixon Fernandez, Secretary General of FIMARC participated in this important conference. The conference was opened by CIDSE president **Heinz Hoedl** who highlighted that: "The ecological crisis reveals the systemic failures of a political and economic order driven by vested interests and based on the primacy of the market and profit, which has failed to put the human being and the common good at the heart of the economy. We need to put an end to the current growth and development paradigm of unequal economic, social and

political systems, unequal distribution and access to resources like water and land, leading to human rights violations, environmental and social degradation and conflicts. "Cardinal Parolin recalled the importance of the encyclical *Laudato Si'* in 2015, a year when three important United Nations conferences will take place: the "Third International Conference on Financing for Development" in July, the "United Nations Summit to Adopt the Post-2015 Development Agenda" in September and the "Twenty-First Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations framework Convention on Climate Change" ("COP21") at the end of the year in Paris and "the Encyclical will have a certain impact on these events, but its breadth and depth go well beyond its context in time



Photo: Closing mass in the nature

Cardinal Turkson closed the conference highlighting the need to continue to work together, to take on the ideas generated at this conference, including giving the role of women a greater emphasis. Further, he announced upcoming Holy See initiatives to work with the encyclical including looking at the Jubilee Year of Mercy 2016. **Bernard Pinaud** (CCFD/CIDSE), added a call to mobilize worldwide for Paris COP21, where governments need to deliver an ambitious agreement and where outside the negotiations civil society and people will come together to embark on a future that respects our common home.

10. Organisational development

International secretariat along with the continental coordination's initiated the work on the organizational development of the movements based on the deliberations of the FIMARC World Assembly

In Asia, piloting INAG Indian Experience on Farmer lead people lead approach is the first step in this regard. Believing that people have knowledge, giving due recognition to that knowledge, creating platforms to share and strengthening their capacities is what FIMARC India has supported by facilitating a people - centered development process. Farmers with renewed confidence are going back to their traditional systems of farming ensuring food and nutrition security for the households. Empowered farmers, today, are in a position to lead campaigns, meetings, rallies and food festivals promoting the establishment of sustainable food production systems.

To kick start this process on piloting the PLDP in 6 other Asian Countries (Sri Lanka, Philippines, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Pakistan, Thailand) with the support of MISEREOR, a preparatory meeting of

INAG (FIMARC INDIA) was held in Bangalore on 21-22 November 2015. FIMARC Asian Coordinator Rony Joseph and FIMARC secretary General George Fernandez led the meeting and prepared the movement to carry out this action. Various activities in connection with the PLDP process will take place in Asia in 2016 and 2017.

FIMARC in Latin America is preparing for a training session on methodology to motivate the grass root groups with Support of MISEREOR

FIMARC European Coordination was held in Wurzburg (Germany) to plan for the organizational development in the continent. FIMARC president Wolfgang Scharl participated in this meeting. FIMARC Europe will organize a session on Family Farming in Assesse and an initial session to prepare an Erasmus plus project for the movements.

11. FIMARC Exco and Bureau 2015

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 continental coordinators of each continent as well as the Bureau members. In 2015, one bureau meeting was held in Assesse, Belgium in April and the second bureau meeting was held in Rome during the CFS meeting. The Exco 2015 was held in Assesse, Belgium soon after the formation session on Family Farming. Exco made a concrete planning for the FIMARC Global campaign on Family Farming, approved the work and financial report of the movement, provided inputs for the engagement of FIMARC at the Human rights council and also made a resolution on family farming. Exco gave the possibility for all the continents to participate in the decision making process, evaluated the work of the continental movements, made the operational plans of the movement in different levels and updated our lobby advocacy actions.

12. FIMARC at Human rights council

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

13. FIMARC Human Rights Working group (GTDH)

FIMARC Human Rights working group is composed with the Secretary General, militants of our movements. It is a support group of FIMARC within the ECOSOC. 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. FIMARC continues its work on Right to food. 3 meetings of the group took place in 2015 to prepare the written and oral statements to the Human Rights Council Meetings and the work in relation to the UN declaration on Rights of Peasants and Other rural workers. The secretary General participated in one meeting of Human Rights group last year. This group also is working closely with Via Campesina, FIAN Catholic Centre, CETIM and other organisations in Geneva who are involved in Human Rights issues and makes the follow up on farmer's rights discussions and debates in Geneva.

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

FIMARC participated in the CFS 42 Session, CSM annual forum and Coordination Committee Meetings which were held in FAO Headquarters in Rome in October 2015. It is an important forum for lobbying towards world leaders on the governance of food and agricultural policies and systems

CSM Forum- 10, 11 October 2015

CSM Coordination Committee -8, 9 October 2015

CFS 42- 12-15 October 2015

The CSM Is the largest international mechanism of civil society organisations (CSOs) seeking to influence agriculture, food security and nutrition policies and actions - nationally, regionally and globally. It works exclusively in the context of the UN Committee on World Food Security (CFS). As a result of the Reform Process of the CFS in 2009, a proposal for the establishment of the CSM was endorsed by CSOs at the Civil Society Consultation held in Rome in October 2010 and acknowledged by CFS Member States during the 36th Session of the CFS in the same month. The CSM is reaching out to hundreds of CSOs in all continents, sharing information with them on global policy debates and processes, promoting civil society consultations and dialogue, supporting national and regional advocacy and facilitating the participation of a diverse range of CSOs at the global level, on all CFS-related issues. The Annual CSM Forum is the apex of their work, where two days prior to the CFS plenary session, civil society gather in Rome to discuss, strategize and finalise messages for the negotiations ahead

The CSM Annual Forum. Each year the CSM holds its Annual Forum prior to the CFS Plenary Session and it is open to all interested civil society participants of the CSM. This two-days forum is a fundamental moment and space for the CSM. At the Forum, CSOs are able to debate, consolidate, articulate and finalise their positions that will be shared and brought to the CFS Plenary Session. Prior to the Annual Forum the CSM CC holds its annual meeting. The Forum is as well a space for accountability, where CC members report to all participating CSOs about their work, performance and activities. Finally the CSM forum is the space to assess the past processes, to consolidate the common positions for the present and to identify the key challenges and steps forward for the future

Hosted for one more year in a row by the UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation, close to 200 civil society individuals actively participated. Participants represented a broad and diverse range of marginalized groups including, farmers, fisherfolk, Indigenous Peoples, pastoralists, agricultural workers, urban poor, youth - echoing the CSM's mandate to prioritize the voices of those most affected by food insecurity and malnutrition. The increase in participation of CSOs is a positive sign that outreach efforts are paying-off, and civil society organisations from around the world are recognizing the opportunity CFS presents as the foremost inclusive platform dealing with Food and Agriculture policy. A platform where civil society are not only welcome and appreciated, but heard. During the opening ceremony, Forum Paid a tribute to Chandrika Sharma, the fisher folk activist who lost the life in Malaysian Air Accident. Honorary guests, Director General of FAO, José Graziano da Silva and CFS Chair, Ambassador of Holland, Yaya Gerda Verburg also welcomed participants. Before splitting into working groups, the morning Plenary sessions focused on introducing new-coming civil society participants to the ways of working within the CFS and CSM, provided an introduction to the agenda of the 42nd Session of the CFS, Annual report from the Coordination Committee to the CSM Forum, and finally, CSM working group coordinators gave brief presentations on the policy issues of the CFS 42 agenda - what is at stake, and what are the controversial issues?

Wolfgang Scharl (President, FIMARC), George Dixon Fernandez (Secretary General), Jean Claude

Germon (Treasurer) participated in the CSM Annual forum on behalf of FIMARC. FIMARC was also participated in the CSM coordination committee meeting which was held prior to the CSM forum. George Fernandez represented FIMARC in the CC meeting.

15. CFS Forty-second Session "Making a Difference in Food Security and Nutrition -12-15 October 2015, FAO, Rome, Italy

The Committee on World Food Security (CFS) held its Forty-second Session from 12 to 15 October 2015 at FAO Headquarters in Rome. The Session was attended by delegates from 120 Members of the Committee; 9 non-Member States of the Committee and by representatives from: • 10 United Nations Agencies and Bodies; • 96 Civil society organizations¹ ; • 2 International agricultural research organizations; • 2 International and regional financial institutions; • 68 Private sector associations and private philanthropic foundations² ; and, • 47 Observers. 29 Ministers and 6 Vice Ministers

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



Following an exchange of views, the Committee noted the following: a) CFS stakeholders called for CFS, as the foremost inclusive international and intergovernmental platform to promote policy convergence and coordination on food security and nutrition, to put the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly those related to ending hunger and malnutrition, at the centre of its work from now until 2030; b) CFS offers a unique opportunity to share lessons learned, good practices, report on progress made, and address emerging challenges or policy gaps; c) Implementing existing CFS policy instruments such as the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT), the Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems (RAI) and the Framework for Action for

Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises (FFA), as well as the CFS policy recommendations informed by the HighLevel Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE) reports, at country-level, can make an important contribution to advancing progress on Goal 2 and other related targets; d) CFS can also play an important role in supporting outreach and communication on Goal 2 and related and cross-cutting topics at all levels; e) In deciding on its future Multi-Year Programme of Work, strong emphasis should be placed on the added value of CFS in contributing to the achievement of the SDGs.

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

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

16.UN conference on Climate change in Paris 2015 (COP 21)

The 21st session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC took place in December 2015, in Paris, France from November 30, 2015 until 11 December 2015. FIMARC participated in this event with the following initiatives denouncing the false solutions to the climate crises. In Paris, at the 21st Conference of the Parties (COP21), where representatives of corporations negotiated "false solutions" for climate change, FIMARC along with other peasant movements and CSO's made it clear that Food Sovereignty and small holder family agriculture are among the real solutions to global climate crisis, by feeding the world in a sustainable way.

CMR (France), FIMARC and COP21



The village of Alternatives : The Stand of CMR-FIMARC, close to our friends CCFD



The village of Alternatives. The theme of priority : Agriculture and Food

Many events have been organized in Paris during the COP 21 to support the guidelines discussed by the UN Conference on climate change. The CMR, the national movement of FIMARC in France in collaboration with FIMARC International, has organized two specific activities in relation with our lobby work on climate change on December 5 and 11. Moreover, FIMARC was involved in other activities. **5 December 2015 : participation in the " Citizen Summit for the Climate" with a booth of CMR-FIMARC in the Global Village of Alternatives at Montreuil, in the suburbs of Paris. Several thousands of people were**

visited the global village in the course of this day which brought together 300 stands. It was indeed a great occasion for meeting with visitors to say what is CMR and FIMARC and our involvement with the rural world, links with the rural associations as well as our involvement to support an agriculture which is more respectful for the environment and more close to the consumer, in a living rural territory.

11 December 2015- A day of exchange was organised by CMR, with the MRJC, on agriculture, rural world and the climate transition. This meeting was organized in the premises of the Bishops Conference of France. 70 persons from both rural and urban areas, of the different French regions, from the North to the Pyrénées mountains, and from Bretagne to the Jura participated in this encounter. A series of testimonials of farmers and an associations of consumers followed with exchanges in the workshops on the themes illustrating the investment of the members of CMR for the development of an agriculture which provides quality food production accessible to all : i) an agricultural world open to the Ecology, presented with humor by a sketch "Ecology told to my father," ; ii) agricultural production, health, respect for the environment with the testimony of two farming couples explaining how they have changed their production to reduce the use of plant protection products in their mode of production ; iii) the access for all to good quality of agricultural products , with the presentation of a consumer association which organises a supply based on short circuits from producer to the consumer.

The day continued around a conference-debate on the theme " Is agricultural transition possible? In what climate? "with Mathieu Calame, an agronomist and Director of the Foundation Leopold Mayer for the progress of human rights, Jean-Claude Balbot, National Secretary of the Federation of Centers of initiatives to enhance the agriculture and the rural areas(CIVAM).

Then a synthesis was made linking with Laudato Si recalling that "everything is intimately linked, and that the current problems require a vision that takes into account all aspects of the World Crisis".

FIMARC was associated with all these meetings organised by our French National movement with the participation of Wolfgang Scharl and Jean Claude Germon, respectively, the President and Treasurer of the FIMARC, as well as François Delvaux of the CIDSE.



Conclusion of the seminar by Fr. Marc Delebarre, membre of the national team of chaplains of CMR

8 December 2015 : International Seminar of CCFD on « The question of seeds ».

During the COP 21, the CCFD has organized an international seminar on the theme of seeds with 30 international participants (20 NGOS from 20 different countries) mobilized in Paris on the issues of climate change. This seminar helped to emphasize the need to maintain an international mobilization in order to preserve the right of farmers, and in particular of small farmers, to produce and exchange their traditional seeds and to avoid a monopolisation of the market by the multinational seed companies.

Jean Claude Germon has participated in this seminar on behalf of FIMARC. A few highlights of presentations and exchanges:

- The seeds are become an issue for the industrial lobbies: in 1980, there were 7000 seed companies but in 2016 only 10 companies control 75% of the seed market and are dominant on the market of plant protection products.
- This control of the seed market is accompanied in different countries by a criminalization of peasants who want to keep the control of their production of seeds.
- The defense of the right of a self production and exchange of seed is a major agricultural and food issue in agreement with the respect of the food sovereignty.
- The seeds from an ancient work of selection should be considered as a common good of humanity which must be defended and protected.
- The mobilization for the preservation of the right of seed production is also a form of refusal of the privatization of the living.
- The question of the seed is not yet on the agenda of the Committee on World Food Security (CSA-FAO) but should be imposed. Interest to the Declaration on the Rights of the peasants of the Human Rights Council.

10 December : involvement of CIDSE for sustainable development

This meeting brought together around hundred people from the different components of CIDSE present in Paris for the COP21. Wolfgang Scharl and Jean Claude Germon have met with the representatives of development agencies that support FIMARC (CCFD, Entraide et Fraternité, Misereor) and other Christian development organisations. They have been able to explain the role of FIMARC as a structure for exchange and support in favor of a full development in rural areas with the Christian movements involved in 50 countries around the world. In the course of the workshop entitled "move toward sustainable lifestyles". Wolfgang Scharl explained the motivations and the approach of FIMARC for support to peasant family agriculture .



Opening session of the CIDSE meeting : informations on status and progress of the negotiations of the COP21.



The Wolfgang Scharl's presentation : FIMARC and peasant family farming.

17. 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).

In 2015, we have published 4 editions of VMR on the following themes

VMR115-Rights of peasants
VMR116-Peasant Family Farming
VMR 117-Climate change
VMR 118-Laudato Si

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. 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.

We think that VMR 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 and to share the experiences and the good practices that exist in the movements and create united actions on certain issues. This also helps us to reach out to the vast network of organizations that fight in the same perspectives and/or with similar objectives.

18. Asian Agro ecology conferences of FAO -Bangkok, Thailand and Dakar, Senegal

Regional Meeting on Agro ecology in Asia

The FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific organized a Multi-Stakeholders Consultation on Agro ecology for Asia and the Pacific. George Fernandez, the Secretary General of FIMARC had been the Steering Committee member of FAO for the Agro ecology Forum of Asia organised by FAO in Thailand. Rony Joseph and George participated in the Asian Agro ecology forum held in Bangkok, Thailand from 24-26 November 2015 and made two presentations in this conference.

This event derives from the context of a global and regional growing interest in the issue of Agro ecology expressed by governments, civil society and academia. Following FAO's Symposium on Agro ecology for Food Security and Nutrition in September 2014 in Rome, and as Agro ecology has to be based on local and regional realities as well as environmental, economic and social conditions, FAO decided to hold three regional events in Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean.

Agro ecology in the context of Asian countries

In Asia, while the term "Agro ecology" is not often used, there is a wealth of initiatives, production systems, networks and organizations, which are based on agro ecological principles. These initiatives and practices aim for goals as diverse as reducing rural poverty, the eradication of hunger and malnutrition; achieving sustainable agriculture and development, increase climate resilience of agriculture, move towards reducing dependency on external agro-chemicals and the increased involvement of traditional knowledge of local communities and indigenous peoples, especially in the areas of community-level water conservation and women's knowledge of seed-saving and exchange. The increase in science, practices and civil society engagement in Agro ecology all over the world has also included Asia. With the threats of climate change posed on agriculture and food security, Agro ecology is increasingly recognized as a key approach in tackling hunger and malnutrition while simultaneously minimizing the impact agri-production has on environment

The objective of the forum was to create a platform for an informed debate with net neutrality to push the issue further in the region with participation of government officials, UN agencies, CSOs, INGOs, NGOs, academics

and research and development institutes, university, private sector, farmer's organizations, and individuals. The regional meeting highlighted existing best practices in the region, as well as challenges and strategies to overcome them.

The program was organized in discussion with an Advisory Panel, composed by representatives from Government, Scientists, CSOs, and NGOs and Private sector which helped FAO organizing the meeting. Program consisted of:

- An opening session including recaps from the International Symposium on Agro ecology and from the Seminar on Agro ecology in Latin America and the Caribbean (held in June 2015 in Brasilia) and Sub-Saharan Africa (held 05-06 November 2015).
- Sessions on the contributions of Agro ecology on Food and Nutrition Security, on the use of natural resources in the context of climate change, on Social Innovation, Livelihoods and Technology and on Public Policies to develop Agro ecology.

Regional Meeting on Agro ecology in Sub-Saharan Africa-Dakar, Senegal

A regional meeting for Africa on agro ecology took place on 5 and 6 November 2015 in Dakar, Senegal. It aims at promoting dialogue on science and implementation experience of agro ecology. *Medard Meyanga, FIMARC African Coordinator* participated in this *Africa Agro ecology Forum*. The meeting was organized by the FAO Regional Office for Africa, the FAO Office in Senegal and FAO Headquarters in Rome, as well as the Government of Senegal (Ministry of Agriculture). It was backed by an Advisory Committee for the scientific aspects and a National Commission on Agro ecology set up by the Government of Senegal.

Agro ecology in Africa

The holistic approach of agro ecology incorporates the traditional knowledge and skills of communities around the world by integrating ecological, agronomic, economic and social research. It has the potential to support strong and democratic food systems that provide income and health services to small-scale family farmers and rural communities while preserving the environment. Agro ecological initiatives and practices play roles as diverse as reducing rural poverty, eradicating hunger and malnutrition, achieving sustainable agriculture and development, enhancing the resilience of agriculture to climate change, shifting towards systems that depend less on external agrochemicals, and increasing involvement of traditional knowledge of local communities and indigenous people. Even though the term "agro ecology" is not often explicitly used, many actions and initiatives exist throughout the Sub-Saharan Africa which are based on agro ecological principles.

Following were the objectives of the forum

- Assess the current state of agro ecological practices in Africa, identify constraints and opportunities and identify the expectations of stakeholders;
- Contribute to the dynamics of agro ecological development through experience sharing, and by highlighting and strengthening existing levers

19. Meeting with Vatican Dicasteries

FIMARC Bureau members (*Wolfgang Scharl, George Fernandez and Jean Claude Germon*) had meetings with different Dicasteries of Vatican such as Pontifical Council for Justice and peace, Pontifical Council for Laity and Pontifical Council for Migrants in Rome in October 2015



Photo: Meeting with Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace



Photo: Meeting with Pontifical Council for Migrants and Itinerant People



Photo: Meeting with Pontifical Council for Laity -October 2015

20. Meeting with Partners

In 2015, George Fernandez, Secretary General of FIMARC had bilateral meetings with Christophe Hérodeau and Sébastien Mauras from CCFD, Claude Mormont from Entraide et Fraternité as well as Anja Martinette from MISEREOR and Nicolas Bullard from CCFD along with Rony Joseph (FIMARC Asian Coordinator). Jean-Claude Germon (Treasurer of FIMARC) had bilateral meetings with Sébastien Mauras (CCFD) and Jean Vetraino (Secours Catholique, France).

21. Support from GPH, South Korea

Last year we managed to get one each salary support from GPH Korea (human rights organization) through KCFM chaplain Fr. Lee for three FIMARC Asian Movements (Philippines/India/Pakistan). Thanks to GPH and CCFM Korea

22. Participation in the FAST Group of CIDSE:

FIMARC participate regularly in the FAST working of CIDSE and also support the implementation of the strategic plans defining by this working group. George Participated in the CIDSE "FAST "Working Group Meetings in May in Brussels and in October 2015 in Rome prior to the CFS meeting.

23. 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 Peoples Movements and other Civil Society Organisations 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.

In 2015, our engagement in Asia, Africa and Latin America has been strengthened in this regard while FIMARC Europe has to involve more in this platform. FIMARC participated also in the IPC General meeting 2015 which was held in Gujarat, India from 30 August to 3 September. Rony Joseph, the Asian Coordinator from India and Modesta Arevalos, Latin American Coordinator from Paraguay participated in this meeting as representatives of FIMARC. Mr. George Dixon Fernandez, the secretary General of FIMARC has been selected as the global support group member of IPC and Mr. Rony Joseph, the Asian Coordinator of FIMARC as the IPC facilitator for Asia. FIMARC involve regularly in the major work streams of IPC in relation to our food sovereignty agenda at global and regional levels

24. World Food Expo MILAN 2015

FIMARC planned to participate in this major event earlier, due to the fact that Civil society was not properly considered for the WFD activities at the Expo and also based on the collective decision of CSM in Rome, finally we have decided not to be part of World Food Expo program which was held in Milan, Italy from May 1st to October 31st, 2015.

25. High Level Forum on Connecting Small holders to market by CFS -JUNE 2015

The High Level Panel Expert (HLPE) Report on Investing in Smallholder Agriculture for food security and the recommendations of the related policy round table held at CFS 40 in 2013 proposed to organize a High Level Forum on Connecting Small holders to market in 2015. Strengthening and improving smallholders' linkages to markets should be seen as a contribution to food security and poverty reduction both for the farmers themselves but also for urban populations. Food security should be considered in relation to its four dimensions and the main question to be considered should be "How could better access to markets increase food production (availability), provide livelihoods and better income (access), diversify diets (utilization) and act as a buffer to price volatility, market related and other shocks (stability). FIMARC was part of the Civil society preparatory process and provided inputs to this important consultation to bring the aspect of overall "value chain " than the single idea of market in the deliberations of the forum

26. Strengthening the plat form of Catholic social action movements

In order to strengthen the platform of Catholic social action movements at Global level and to mobilise the process of cooperation between ISCAM* (International Specialized Catholic Action Movements) initiated June 17, 2014,, A meeting of the major catholic social action movements was held on 22 and 23 May 2015 at JOC France at their headquarters in Paris . 3 main questions were raised in the meeting: 1 - What is the current relevance of our almost centennial founding intuitions? (Starting from human realities, option for the poor, working by, for and with the people, articulate faith and life ...) 2 - How we stand in the Church with the changes after Vatican Council II and the message of Pope Francis? 3 - How to make this common heritage successful for the world today?

The meeting affirmed the need to Coordinate between ISCAM to offer, in the countries where we are and beyond, an accompaniment and a support according to diverse human situations and to continue the process of opening our movements to religious and cultural diversity, without forgetting the source, our belonging to the Catholic Church. Renew our animation methods, our analysis and our language to make the Gospel available to all. The key leaders from ICYCW, FIMARC, IYCS, IYCW, MIAMSI, MIDADE, IMCS Pax Romana, ICMICA Pax Romana, MIJARC, WMCW were present in the meeting. George Dixon Fernandez (Secretary General) and Jean Claude Germon (Treasurer) represented FIMARC in the meeting.

The ISCAM network wants to support mutual fertility, effectiveness, development and reputation of its member movements. We have identified four priorities:

I - To make the network living: mutual information, action together, participation in the actions of others, support if difficulties ... Each member is a network's ambassador with international institutions, Holy See...

II - Sharing resources and competencies.

III - Working on common themes, reflections, reports ..

IV - Develop cooperation projects at regional or local level, particularly for the extension of our movements

The meeting also decided to organize a more important event in Rome in 2016.

27. FIMARC Participation in Various Meetings

FIMARC Participated in the INAG meeting which was held in Bangalore on 21,22 November 2015 to prepare the PLPD activities in Asia (George Fernandez)

FIMARC had a meeting with the State secretary of Ministry for economic cooperation and development in Germany (Wolfgang Scharl)

FIMARC Participated in the CMR national Congress in France in May on the topic "Creators of another Humanity, Hope Transmitters". Wolfgang Scharl was invited for a short introduction during the initial plenary session of the Congress in order to highlight the link between CMR and FIMARC and by this way with the other Christian movements in the world.

FIMARC Participated in the Justice and Peace Workshop on Food Sovereignty in July 2015 in Essen, Germany (Wolfgang Scharl and George Fernandez)

FIMARC participated in the European Convention on "Country Living with a Socially Sustainable Future", organised by Caritas in Freiburg, Germany, 18-21 May 2015. Wolfgang Scharl, FIMARC president, participated with a lecture about "Global Insights: Pastoral social welfare challenges in the countryside"

FIMARC had a meeting with Mr. Micheal Kuhn (Advisor for Ecology & Sustainability and Education, Culture and Youth Policy) from COMECE, Commission of the Bishops' Conferences of the European Community (Wolfgang Scharl)

FIMARC participated in a meeting organised by PACRO (Poland), Germany and Czech on the role of Associations in Eastern Europe (Wolfgang Scharl)

FIMARC had a meeting with CIDSE on the participation of FIMARC in the CIDSE Global Campaign on Life styles and in the upcoming Climate change conference COP 21 in Paris (George Fernandez)

FIMARC participated in the seminar on Human Rights of Indigenous people organised by Justice and Peace, Germany (Wolfgang Scharl)

FIMARC had a meeting with Mrs. Christine Roche of the Catholic centre in Paris in December 2015 to discuss about our UNESCO Participation (Wolfgang Scharl)

Conclusion

It was obvious ; our strength is in our membership - the organisations of grassroots people on the frontlines of the struggle for their rights. In order to create a better network, we need to support and fortify these frontlines. We've come this far because of the unwavering support from allied members and partners and dedicated -donors like you. We look forward to another year of exciting challenges and important victories in our fight against hunger! Thank you for all that you do to support and share our vision of a world without hunger, poverty and environmental degradation. We've done it all with the support of many for economic justice and food sovereignty. Thank you!

