

**FIMARC**

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## **Annual Report 2019**

Dear Friends,

2019 marked 55 years of our critical thinking, exposing the underlying causes of poverty, hunger and malnutrition, and putting forward the real solutions we need. In this Annual Report we will provide a topline overview of the major global and continental actions and interventions undertaken by the movement in 2019. Indeed the year 2019 marked with the tremendous engagements of FIMARC to the fight for Food Sovereignty, Rights of Peasants and the promotion of Agro ecology and family farming.

2018/2019 has been a time in which the value and impact of collective civil society action has been felt and sustained by millions around the world. From the uprising in Sudan to youth-led climate action around the world to protests for democracy in Hong Kong, collectively what we have seen - and what the alliance has lived - gives us hope. It demonstrates that through the power of partnership, by working in a broad coalition, and by sharing what works and being nimble with approaches and tactics, civil society can gain ground and build momentum to ensure fundamental freedoms, justice, democracy and equality around the globe.

Yet, as the 2019 State of Civil Society Report makes clear, there are still reasons for deep concern. The increasing poverty, hunger, malnutrition, continuing populism and nationalism, the growing power and influence of anti-rights groups and planet-altering events like the burning of the Amazon are just a few examples. At a time in history when reactionary forces are gaining ground and enabling even more corporate looting of our common wealth and our fragile planet, movement like FIMARC is more critical than ever.

It also shows that there is still work to do to ensure that joint action, dynamic responses, long-term thinking and working in solidarity become the norm. What is happening in the world requires us to evolve, to innovate, to be more effective and to act as a true alliance of individuals and organisations as actors of change.

Last year we have further strengthened our work with various political actions, representation, trainings as well as networking and lobbying and had a significant impact at various policy making institutions. Our actions were aimed to create solidarity among the people to fight for their rights and to resist all the systems that marginalize the rural communities and other vulnerable groups. The focus of our work is as usual - to expose the exploitations, propose solutions, share best practices, build alternatives and work with other social movements who can bring changes in the society.

We accomplished so much together in 2019 ! With your partnership, FIMARC facilitated powerful exchanges among diverse communities working for global justice, deepened and expanded our advocacy network in Rome, Geneva and Paris, and stood in solidarity with peasant rights leaders facing tremendous dangers. FIMARC Global and sub regional training sessions on Intergenerational transfer of knowledge in rural areas in Europe and Latin America, National level capacity building workshops to promote family farming in Asia, Sub regional training session on Land access and Food sovereignty in Central Africa, FIMARC Europe Prorure second phase initiatives in 9 European Countries to strengthen the movement and family farming systems, our committed and regular engagements in the policy processes and initiatives for the governance of food and agricultural policies at UN Institutions like FAO, CFS and our advocacy and awareness raising initiatives on peasant right process etc are the few noteworthy initiatives of the year. We delivered powerful messages to decision-makers at the UN and governments, ensuring that grassroots voices were heard. Our world Food Day campaign activities 2019, mobilised the national movements to take up some small but concrete actions related to food security and poverty eradication at grass root level.

When you're facing extreme poverty, every day can be uncertain. For poor people, extreme poverty is a crippling headwind keeping them from living into their full potential. But there's a bright spot in all of this. It is the difference we're making together, hand in hand with those who most need it. Through the decades, we have been maintaining our core commitment to global justice and people-led social change. Resilience has always been part of our central belief that organized communities can respond to threats and oppression with collective strength, flexibility and long-term sustainability. Power of the people and power of their solutions will drive the change.

Assesse, Belgium - 30 March 2020

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# **FIMARC presentation**

## **International Federation of Rural Adult Catholic Movements**

### **Composition of the Exco of FIMARC 2018-2022**

<b>President</b>	Wolfgang Scharl (Germany)
<b>Treasurer</b>	Jean Claude Germon (France)
<b>Secretary General</b>	George Dixon Fernandez (India)
<b>Chaplain</b>	Fr. Tomas Sphangero (Argentina)
<b>Delegates</b>	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 Naiyana Vichitporn - Coordinator Asia Rony Joseph (India) - Coordinator Asia

### **The global objective:**

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

### **Thrust areas**

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

- Promotion and Protection of Family farming and Agro Ecology
- Food sovereignty: Peasant rights
- Rural Migration
- Climate change and Environmental protection
- Decrease /Less is more-Sustainable production , consumption and life styles
- Sustainable rural world and peasant based agriculture
- Solidarity economy-Fair trade, direct marketing and other initiatives
- Defense of Human Rights and right to food
- Justice and solidarity between the people

### **FIMARC implemented the activities with the following major objectives during the year 2019 :**

- \* To create critical awareness on existing socio-economic and agricultural issues in different continents
- \* To organise & mobilize small farmers to raise their voices for their rights
- \* To Increase the FIMARC capacity as an international network and help and strengthen FIMARC members as social movements in rural areas
- \* To support and strengthen peasant family farming systems in different countries
- \* To bring the farmer's voice from southern countries in the elaboration of the global decade on

family farming

- \* To raise awareness on World Food Day theme through a campaign material and common action Day
- \* To reflect the farmer's voice from southern countries in the policy decisions of the World Committee on Food Security (CFS) and CSM 2019

### **Some key Results**

\*FIMARC Members widely used the Exco Resolution on Intergenerational transfer of knowledge and the info documents on UN Declaration on peasant rights

\*FIMARC strengthened initiatives in relation traditional food systems, agro ecological and sustainable agriculture practices and methods

\*3 Editions of VMR (Voix du Monde Rural/Voice of the Rural World) has been released and used by few movements to share and showcase best practices of family farming and agro ecological initiatives

\* FIMARC supported and initiated genuine and coordinated dialogue between different actors and organisations, which work on land access and land rights in Central Africa through a sub-regional workshop in DR Congo

FIMARC supported and initiated genuine and coordinated dialogue between different actors and organisations, which work on the topic of Inter-generational transfer of knowledge in Latin America through a sub-regional workshop in Bolivia

\* FIMARC initiated the second phase of the transnational project between nine European movements entitled "Networking to strengthen Civil Society in Rural Areas in Europe

\* FIMARC movements in, Thailand, Philippines and Indonesia initiated national level consultation to promote family farming

\*FIMARC started the collaboration with Via Campesina, FIAN etc for the launching of the global support mechanism against the criminalisation of social activists and peasant leaders

## **FIMARC : General Operations**

### **1. FIMARC formation session on Intergenerational Transfer of Knowledge 2019, resolution, field visits-May 2020**

FIMARC organizes a yearly formation session for the global and continental leaders on the key burning topics related to rural people and agriculture. We organised an International Formation Session on **Intergenerational Transfer of Knowledge in Rural World from 21-23 May 2019**. This study session was organised prior to the Exco meeting of 2019 in Belgium. We actually had a preliminary presentation about this theme during the World Assembly in Senegal and FIMARC Assembly decided to deepen our reflection on this topic during the next 4 years and to develop some concrete initiatives to work on this topic at different level. It was a sharing and learning platform on **Intergenerational Transfer of Knowledge** experiences and initiatives from different continents. FIMARC global leaders visited an art and handicraft skill transfer centre near Ciney and had an interactive session with the organisers and director. A Concrete resolution on Intergenerational Transfer of Knowledge in Rural World was declared by the Exco 2019.

The aim of the programme was:

- \* To support global leadership for the orientation of concrete national /continental level actions on Intergenerational Transfer of Knowledge
- \* To discuss and share intergenerational transfer of knowledge practices of the communities in various continents
- \* To protect and preserve the traditional ways and means of knowledge transfer



Dana SCHURMANS (Expert - Université Catholique de Louvain)

### **Some basic conclusions of the Seminar**

FIMARC as a Catholic movement and in the light of LAUDATO SI (159) notes that the economic and ecological crisis has led to the relational rupture, fragmentation and segmentation of society and also effected the activities of the rural territories. This has led us to a situation that the new generations and the elderly cannot meet or to share in fraternal dialogue of knowledge that has always enriched the rural areas and has allowed until today to preserve: technologies, knowledge, arts, healthy habits, food culture and values that allow dignified life in the rural world.

It is with concern that we see today that the wisdom of older people is little valued and is less respected in the territories, local knowledge is rather considered archaic and obsolete, older people are excluded and families leave the responsibility of transferring the knowledge acquired from generation to generation, through which life has been possible. But we also observe a lack of openness and listening on the part of the elders to make possible the construction of a culture of listening without judgments and without reproaches to the concerns of young people. This leads young people to be feeling abandoned and making immediate decisions, relying on technology and the digitization of life.

Intergenerational solidarity is a crucial need in the rural world because it will allow us to rebuild a broken fabric that does not contribute in forming resilient territories in the face of many challenges in modern society, where adults are separated from young people from the residential point of view. We note that in many countries that achieved maximum industrialization, the adult population is dominant, while in the countries of the South, the population is mostly young. This is a

challenge but also an opportunity for the rural world and for the intergenerational transfer of knowledge. We are also happy to see how in several countries, young people are returning to the countryside in search of a simple life and in coherence with their ideals.

Ageing should not be seen as a burden, rather it should be celebrated that adults live longer, so it will be possible to share for longer the knowledge, culture, art and values that have given life to a rural coexistence that prioritizes life over the money

FIMARC notes with concern that rural schools and education systems do not contribute to the intergenerational transfer of knowledge of rural life, rather try to eliminate and replace them by educational processes that alienate young people from their community life around the land. For us it is key to generate formal and informal educational processes that revalue the knowledge of older people in order to re-establish reciprocity and equity between generations, which would allow younger generations to reconnect and reconcile with their history, their identity and their origins.

Digital divide in rural areas

Technology has also contributed greatly to the growing gap between young and old, but it must also be recognized that these tools are present in all territories and farmers live with this reality.

In some parts of the world, poor farmers can use mobile phones to get information on agricultural market prices. Radios are used to broadcast programmes on how to treat sick animals. Rural women's groups use the Internet to exchange information on organic agriculture. These are just a few good examples of how access to information and technology can improve rural life in developing countries. However, the opportunities offered by information and communication technologies (ICTs) - telephone, radio, video and the Internet - are unevenly distributed. Only 6% of the world's population is connected to the Internet, and many people on the planet have never made a single phone call. There is a growing gap between those who have access to information and those who do not. The latter are in the majority, and most of them live in remote areas.

Some proposals to face the challenges

- Education systems in the countryside must respond to the reality of the rural world
- Formal education should encourage a dialogue of knowledge that promotes the transfer of intergenerational knowledge.
- The necessity to promotion of spaces for exchange and dialogue where young people are also protagonists.
- State organizations and NGOs intervening in rural territories should respect and encourage the transfer of knowledge between communities
- The need to promote campaigns that give a better presence of rural work.
- The motivation and incentive for young people to stay in rural areas by supporting viable activities.

## **2. FIMARC Exco and Bureau Meetings 2019**

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. The first Bureau Meeting was held on 19-20 May 2019 prior to the formation session and the second bureau meeting was held in Rome on 6-8 December 2019 prior to the Catholic Inspired NGO forum of Vatican. This gave the opportunity for the Bureau members to have different meetings with leaders of global organisations and networks



**FIMARC Exco members during the meeting in 2019**

The Exco 2019 was held in Assesse, Belgium after the formation session on **Intergenerational Transfer of Knowledge in Rural Areas**. Exco made a concrete planning for the strong and committed engagement of FIMARC to build the initiatives for the transfer of knowledge in rural areas at different levels, approved the work and financial report of the movement, provided inputs for the engagement of FIMARC at the Human rights council, FAO, CFS, UNESCO and also approved the resolution on **Intergenerational Transfer of Knowledge**. Exco evaluated the work of the continental movements, made the operational plans of the movement in different levels and updated our lobby advocacy actions.

### **3. FIMARC Publications**

1. **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). VMR is a tool to share ideas and experience between the continents/Movements. FIMARC support the movements to share and showcase best practices through VMR. It contributes to the information and formation of national and local leaders on the different topics of FIMARC's work. 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. This also helps us to reach out to the vast network of organizations that fight in the same perspectives and/or with similar objectives. The following editions with respective themes were released during the year 2019.

**VMR 128 - Extractive industries and rural conflicts**

**VMR 129- The role of local governments in rural development**

**VMR 130- Urban and rural transition**

2. **LMR** : FIMARC published LMR99 and LMR 100 in relation with the theme of reflection about Easter 2019 and Christmas 2019 respectively.

#### 4. FIMARC Human Rights Working group (GTDH)

FIMARC Human Rights working group is composed with the Secretary General and 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 and UN Declaration on Peasant Rights. With the constant work of FIMARC, Via Campesina and of the other organisations, little by little the suggestion of the food Sovereignty as basic right is now more accepted than before and even became constitutional rights of some countries. We were able to realise the approval of Peasant Rights Declaration by the UN General Assembly.

The meetings of the FIMARC Human Rights working group took place 3 times in 2019 to prepare the written and oral statements to the Human Rights Council Meetings and to plan the follow up 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 that took place on 29, 30 April 2019. 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.

#### 5. FIMARC World Food day campaign-. **"OUR ACTIONS ARE OUR FUTURE HEALTHY DIETS FOR A #ZERO HUNGER WORLD"** October 2019.

Founded in 1945 to unite all nations in the fight against hunger, FAO celebrates its birthday on the 16th of October, through a global celebration known as World Food Day. World Food Day promotes worldwide awareness and action for those who suffer from hunger and for the need to ensure food security and nutritious diets for all. The focus of the day is that food is a basic and fundamental human right. The World Food Day 2019 focus on the theme **".OUR ACTIONS ARE OUR FUTURE HEALTHY DIETS FOR A #ZERO HUNGER WORLD"**. On the occasion of this World Food Day, FIMARC is calling along with FAO on countries and other stakeholders to implement concrete initiatives to create a Zero Hunger World through healthy diets.

##### **What FIMARC proposed to the movements?**

Everyone has a role to play in achieving Zero Hunger through healthy diets. There are also a number of actions that we can take to help. This World Food Day is an occasion to focus the world's attention on **"HEALTHY DIETS FOR A #ZERO HUNGER WORLD"**.

WFD 2019 calls for action across sectors to make healthy and sustainable diets accessible and affordable to everyone. At the same time, it calls on everyone to start thinking about what we eat

Some proposals of actions in line with the theme of the World Food Day 2019 are mentioned below. But each movement can organise activities based on their own reality.

- *Organise a campaign activity to raise awareness among the public on **HEALTHY DIETS FOR A #ZERO HUNGER WORLD***
- *Organise Festivals and fairs of food tastings and cooking demonstrations to food markets and exhibitions of local products*
- *Organise Cultural performances such as Concerts, choirs, theatre and even dancing.*

- *Organise Recreation and sports activities such as a run, a march, a walk or even a marathon against hunger and malnutrition.*
- *Organize conferences, debates and public round tables with political leaders, educators, scientists and farmers*
- *Organize food donations that would otherwise be wasted or lost in accordance with local regulations. Link to local shops, restaurants, etc*
- *Plan a WFD exhibition to support your projects, multi-stakeholder partnerships or agricultural products in your region.*
- *Distribution of Prizes and awards to Recognize farmers, breeders, fishermen, producers and farmers' associations who are contributing to Zero Hunger efforts in your country/locality by hosting an awards ceremony.*
- *Plant a tree (fruit trees or vegetables) during your WFD event.*
- *Organise Corner meetings, press conference, press release or demonstrations on the topic to raise the awareness of the society*
- *Organise 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 awareness raising activities on healthy diets*
- *Organise Traditional Cooking competitions with local fresh food to raise awareness on healthy diets*
- *Make your own diet balanced*
- *Buy local : Shop from local farmers whenever you can*

During the world food day of 2019, FIMARC urged all its member movements to have deep reflections, actions for the progressive realization of 'Zero Hunger World through healthy diets' and to Lobby the governments for the same. Different actions were developed by FIMARC movements in their respective countries

### **Actions on World Food Day in India ...**



... India too



... and in Kenya



## FIMARC in Church

### 6. Chaplain for FIMARC



FIMARC Exco 2016 elected Fr .Tomas Jose Sphangero from Argentina as the new chaplain of FIMARC for 4 years and Fr.Tomas requested the Exco to find a new Chaplain due to his ill health. FIMARC extends our deepest gratitude and appreciation for his great service and commitment for the cause of rural population and peasant communities. FIMARC extends all the best wishes for his health recovery

### 7. Global meeting of the Catholic social action movements- May 2019- Brussels Belgium

Global leaders of different specialized Catholic Action Movements met in Brussels, Belgium from 11-12 May 2019 to strengthen our collaboration and to reflect together to find collective ways to meet the common challenges of today and more over to deepen our socio political analysis through a critical reflection on the issues affecting our Movements, the Church and the world.

The debate helped us to formulate a more universal observation about the world. We noted that, in United States, Trump stands up against the establishment, migrants, the media. The movement of Brexit in Europe, the five stars against the system in Italy, "yellow jackets" protests in France, the Lega against migrants, Poles pray against their enemies : the Germans, migrants, and the European Union. The elections favoring the return of authoritarian regimes in different countries, International institutions such as UNESCO are abandoned by the USA, or become the scene of

conflicts between states. Such developments also manifest challenges and threats for our movements and the wider society.

Increasing poverty, hunger and malnutrition, deep climate and ecological crisis, greater inequality and disparities, massive human rights violations, lack of access to health, education and social security etc are affecting the poor and marginalized everywhere in the World. Faced with these challenges which threatens human relationship and even existence, we feel the intense need to be in solidarity with the suffering, the downtrodden and the poor, irrespective of their race, ethnicity or religion and as Catholic Social Action Movements to re-affirm our collective actions

#### ***Some actions agreed by the movements***

- Strengthen the collaboration of the Specialized Catholic Action Movements at different levels
- Prepare a common document to explain the relevance of MIACS
- Agreed to organize collective meeting and reflection with our financial partners too
- Draw collective actions and synergies to make the voice of the poor and oppressed at UN Platforms
- To strengthen accompaniment for our Movements
- To share regularly our analysis, statements and activities between movements

The key leaders from FIMARC, ICYCW, IYCS, IYCW, MIAMSI, MIDADE, IMCS ICMICA Pax Romana, MIJARC were present in the meeting. George Dixon Fernandez (Secretary General) represented FIMARC in the meeting.

## **8. Vatican Forum of the Catholic Inspired Organizations**

The general Assembly of the Vatican Forum of the Catholic Inspired Organizations was held from 5-7 December 2019 at the Villa Aurelia in Rome. The general theme of the forum was 'Towards a More Inclusive Society'. Different thematic presentations by the eminent panelists enlightened the topics such as Human Rights, Development, Health, Education, Family, Youth and Migration.



**FIMARC Bureau Members with Cardinal Pietro Parolin (Secretary of State, Vatican)**

Specific Panel Presentations were held on Strengthening Cohesion and Future Collaboration with a special focus on Models in Advocacy and Towards a Forward-Looking Common Agenda/H.E. Msgr. Ivan Jurkovič Apostolic Nuncio, Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the United Nations in Geneva, H.E. Msgr. Alain Paul Lebeaupin Apostolic Nuncio to the European Union, Gabriella Gambino Under-Secretary, Dicastery of Laity, Family and Life, Msgr Bruno Marie Duffé the Secretary of Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development etc shared their views on this topics.



#### **Few delegates of the Catholic inspired organisations with the Vatican Forum Secretariate**

Specific thematic Working Groups on Integration, Interaction and New Synergies, Future Collaboration and Forum Development and Advocacy in Practice and Future Orientations provided a number of concrete examples of advocacy work on inclusion, indicating the complexity of the issue, action taken in response and result obtained. **In their working groups the FIMARC representatives underlined how much important is the encyclical Laudato si as the road map for their Rural Christian Movements.**

His Eminence. Pietro Cardinal Parolin, the secretary of the state presided the closing mass of the forum. A Papal audience was held on December 7th allowed all the participants of the forum to have an encounter with Pope Francis at his residence in Vatican. Jean Claude Germon (Treasurer of FIMARC ), Wolfgang Scharl (President of FIMARC) and George Fernandez (Secretary General of FIMARC) were part of the FIMARC delegation in the forum.

### **9. Meeting with Vatican Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life**

FIMARC had a meeting with Vatican Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life on 8 december 2019 at Piazza San Calisto Rome. Wolfgang Scharl had a meeting with the prefect of the dicastery Cardinal Ferrel

## **FIMARC and the World organisations**

### **10. FIMARC at Human rights council**

**HRC 40 and HRC 41** - FIMARC participated in the 40<sup>th</sup> and 41<sup>st</sup> sessions of the human rights council in Geneva in 2019 to strengthen our engagement and follow up on right to food and Farmers rights. As usual we made oral and written statements in the sessions to demand the follow up of peasant rights process and strived for the resolution by the governments of the human rights council to continue the work in relation to the implementation mechanism of the UN declaration on the rights of farmers and other people working in rural areas.

### **11. The World Committee on Food Security (CFS 46) and Civil Society Forum 2019**

**The Committee on World Food Security (CFS)** is the foremost inclusive international and intergovernmental platform for all stakeholders to work together to ensure food security and nutrition for all. Every organization that belongs to civil society and works on food security and nutrition can join and participate. The Committee reports to the UN General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and to FAO Conference. CFS held its Forty-sixth Session from 14 to 18 October 2019 at FAO Headquarters in Rome.

The main conclusions of this session :

- the recognition of the fact that world hunger is on the rise since 2015, returning to levels not seen since 2010-2011 and the necessity of an "Accelerating progress on SDG2 to achieve all the Sustainable Development Goals."
- the importance of "Agroecological and other innovative approaches to sustainable agriculture and food systems that improve food security and nutrition."
- the approved strategic programme of work for 2020-23 including thematic workstreams on: food systems and nutrition; agroecological and other innovative approaches; gender equality and women's empowerment; youth engagement and employment in agriculture and food systems; data collection and analysis tools; and, reducing inequalities for food security and nutrition.
- the importance of creating conditions to engage rural women in food security and nutrition-related strategies, policies and programmes.
- the interest of UN Decade on Family Farming (2019-2028), and the necessity to create more synergy between the Decade and the CFS, promoting the application of CFS policy instruments.

**The Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples' Mechanism (CSM)** for relations with the United Nations Committee on World Food Security (CFS) is the largest international space of civil society organisations (CSOs) working to eradicate food insecurity and malnutrition. CSM was founded in

2010, as an essential and autonomous part of the reformed CFS. The purpose of the CSM is to facilitate civil society participation and articulation into the policy processes of the CFS.

CSM is an open and inclusive space and hence does not have formal members, but participating organizations. Every organization that belongs to civil society and works on food security and nutrition can join and participate. The CSM Annual forum prepared all the agenda items discussed in the CFS plenary and made relevant collective statements raising the concerns of the most affected constituencies across the world.



**George Fernandez**  
intervention during CFS 46

Mr. Wolfgang Scharl (President of FIMARC), Mr. Rony Joseph (FIMARC Asian Coordinator) and Mr. George Dixon Fernandez, Secretary General participated in the CFS 46 as well as in the prior CSM (Civil Society Mechanism) Annual Forum held on 12-13 October 2019 in Rome. Mr. Rony Joseph is the Coordination Committee member of the CSM representing the farmers Constituency and he also participated in the CC Meeting which held on 10-11 October

## **12. FIMARC Follow up UN process on Rights of Peasants and Other Rural Workers**

We have an ongoing engagement in the Human Rights Council and as such we were part of all the pre-steps that made this peasant rights process possible, including the reports of the Advisory Council and the bilateral discussions early on with La Via Campesina. When the report of the Advisory Council was presented, and also for the resolution, we made oral and written statements in support of it. We believed this as an opening to enhance specific rights declared for peasants and rural people, an opportunity to invest ourselves more and push governments to recognize our rights.

At the beginning, only two farmers organizations, LVC and FIMARC, were involved. FIMARC is a federation of farmers as well as rural people. We have these two target groups, so for us this Declaration have dual commitment. We have made different interventions about what the term "peasants" means and we have advocated for the expansion of the title of the Declaration to include a broader perspective, to add other forms of rural employment. Not to dilute but to give dignity to all forms of rural life and jobs.

Since 2012, when the first meeting of the Open-Ended Intergovernmental Working Group (OEIWG) was held, FIMARC has participated in all sessions, 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. In December 2018, the UN General Assembly adopted the "United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas".

The adoption of this Declaration is a demonstration that 'people' - in this case peasants and their allies - can change international law. Indeed, the idea for a UN Declaration came from the Indonesian Farmers' Union 17 years ago. From stage to stage, the project took shape, La Via Campesina became first involved in the process, FIMARC and other allies joined La Via Campesina, to make this Declaration a reality

This United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants is a working tool for any group in any country. Each organization must take ownership of it : read the text, organize very diverse meetings to present and discuss the Declaration, use it as a means to defend our rights and to do collective work. It is therefore essential to disseminate this text throughout the organization's network in each country. So FIMARC took different initiatives for raising the awareness about this declaration such as :

- \* Dessimination of the declaration in different languages to our movements, partners and other networks
- \*Supported the CETIM Publication on United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants
- \*Participated in various advocacy meetings for the promotion of this tool and demanding its implementation
- \* Planning for consultations in different countries in the future

### 13. The Global Launch of the United Nations Decade of Family Farming (2019-2028) -FAO Rome, Italy

On 20 December 2017, the United Nations General Assembly unanimously adopted resolution

United Nations  
Decade of  
**FAMILY  
FARMING**  
2019-2028



(A/RES/72/239), by which it declared 2019-2028 to be the Decade of Family Farming. FAO and IFAD actively supported the campaign leading to the resolution and have been called upon by the General Assembly to co-lead the implementation of the Decade in cooperation with a broad range of partners.

Building on the success of the international Year of Family Farming of 2014 and on the improved knowledge about the multiple contribution of family farmers to sustainable rural life, the Decade will aim at focusing systematically on cross-cutting and multi-dimensional issues which are of concern to family farmers. The objective is to improve national results in the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), while positioning family farmers as key agents of change in transforming food systems. The Decade will provide ten more years for a wide range of stakeholders to strengthen political commitments to reformulate programs and institutional arrangements for the benefit of family farming.

The Global Launch of the United Nations Decade of Family Farming, co-organized by FAO and IFAD, took place on 27-29 May 2019, at the FAO headquarters in Rome, Italy.

The main objectives of the event were to:

- Present the Decade's objectives and the Global Action Plan;
- Seek for engagement of various stakeholders through concrete actions at country level to support smallholder family farming through enabling policies and investments;
- Increase understanding about the potentials and multi-dimensional contributions of family farming and how it can contribute to the achievement of SDGs.

The Global Launch which took place over the course of three days had two days of preparatory meetings where the direct exchange with and between family farmers from different regions and

sectors, as well as forums to initiate discussions for potential actions in different regions. This was followed by an official high level launch of the decade on 29 May 2019.

The event brought together a range of stakeholders working for sustainable food and agriculture, including, representatives of governments, intergovernmental organizations and of CSO's and private sectors with a special emphasis on farmers and their global, regional and national organizations and constituencies.

From May 27th to 29th, a delegation of FIMARC joined the Global Launch Event of UN Decade of Family Farming (UNDIFF) to reiterate FIMARC's openness and commitment to work with all the fellow farmers' organizations and other relevant stakeholders to develop and implement policies to support family farmers, putting forward collective and coherent actions that can be taken during the next ten years.

Actively involved during the three-day event, taking the floor to bring our positions as well as the collective position of the IPC organisations within a series of sessions focused on aspects of family farming across different regions, as well as on challenges and opportunities for family farming. Naiyana Vichitporn (FIMARC Asian Coordinator) and George Fernandez (Secretary General of FIMARC) was part of the FIMARC delegation that made tremendous contributions for the policy debates during this UN event.

## **14 Facilitation of the global food sovereignty movement (IPC)**

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.

FIMARC has been actively participating in the IPC platform for many years. We regularly participates in all the global general meetings for example in Brazil 2013, India in 2015 and in South Africa in 2018. Mr. George Dixon Fernandez, Secretary General of FIMARC has been elected as the global facilitating committee member of IPC at the last general meeting held in South Africa. FIMARC is responsible for the coordination work and strengthening IPC in Asia too. In 2019 FIMARC continued our engagement in IPC at global as well as in various continents to strengthen our work on Food Sovereignty.

FIMARC also actively involved in the preparation of the FAO regional conference and Civil Society Participation where IPC had been given a mandate from FAO. We participated in various preparatory meetings organized by FAO regional office in Thailand for the Asia Pacific regional conference of FAO in 2020. We also supported the preparatory work for the African regional conference of FAO which is scheduled in 2020.

International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty (IPC) organised the meeting of the Facilitating Committee from 9-11 December 2019 at Borgo di Tragliata, Rome, Italy. George Fernandez, Secretary General of FIMARC was part of this important event. The main objective of this meeting is to assess the implementation of IPC commitments taken during the last General Meeting (Cape Town, March 2018) and to discuss the IPC's role and strategy on how to meet better the challenges and opportunities of the current national, regional and international contexts.

4 major Priorities focussed by the meeting

- Assess the current context and the role and relevance of the IPC in this context.
- Concretise, within the mandate of the Cape Town agreements, strategies and actions to respond to the current challenges.
- Assess the current functioning of the IPC (General Meeting, Facilitating Committee, Working Groups, Regions, Secretariat).
- Define and agree on concrete proposals to improve the internal functioning (communication, fundraising, training).

**The meeting decided to work on the following areas in 2020**

- Prepare a socio political analysis document in the context of proposed World Sustainable Food System Summit 2021
- The IPC will work on strengthening the existing and active Working Groups (Agroecology; Land, Water, Forests and Territories; Agricultural Biodiversity; Fisheries; Indigenous Peoples) rather than creating new ones.
- IPC will promote the discussions on Livestock in the Agroecology, Agricultural Biodiversity, Land, Water, Forests, Territories WGs,
- The work on water will be strengthened in the Land, Water, Forests and Territories Working Group.
- Trade and Territorial Markets discussions will be promoted in policy debates
- Draw new priorities and the strategic decision to work beyond Rome. Each working group will elaborate a mapping of the relevant spaces to extend their work beyond FAO

## **FIMARC and Movements in Africa**

### **15. FIMARC initiative to strengthen sustainable agriculture and Agro Ecology- true stories and best practices from Kenya**

During 2019 DESECE-Kenya carried out the number of activities on sustainable agriculture and agro ecology.

- 1 Organised campaign activities to raise awareness among family farmers to diversify their farming activities.
- 2 DESECE held 4 field days with other stakeholders to share the best practices in food production and alternatives which target to achieve zero hunger among the peasant farmers, the topics covered were food security and economic development, composting, seed selection and integrated pest management (IPM).
- 3 Conducted one residential training on agriculture, leadership, gender and sustainable organic agriculture with 32 participants.



**Madam Gladys Mukhwana Raising awareness on sustainable agriculture and agro ecology based family farming during field day.**



**Sustainable organic agriculture family visit to one of boresha matisi group memebre in Bungona West**



**Field exposure visit to crow pact on seedlings extabishment and crop management**



**Mr Anuda facilitatong sustainable organic Agriculture, Leadership and gender training at DESECE Center**

- 4 DESECE conducted One day trainings through groups and institutions, agroecology and sustainable agriculture to respond to food sovereignty and livelihood, and formation of child rights club for intergenerational knowledge transfer, They also formed the agro ecological clubs to address food sovereignty through agro-ecological practices. Like designing of Bio intensive kitchen garden, food forest, composting, integrated pest management (IPM).
- 5 Organised Consultative meeting with the county officials to advocate for policies that support sustainable production, consumption and agro ecology in the region
- 6 Staff capacity building on policy dialogue on how to address policy issues that support sustainable production and resource mobilization.



**Formation of child Rights Clubs in school for pupils to understand their rights and responsibility to enable them embrace farming at tender age by Ms Catherine Nyongesa Human Rights officer.**



**Mr Kizito The programme officer and Mr Godfrey having consultative meeting with Voice of Bungoma to lobby for policies**



**Capacity building with KRCS to discuss on policy issues and Resource Mobilization**

## **16. Joint Sub regional capacity building workshop on Land Access and Rights in Central Africa by FIMARC, with MIJARC, JOCI and Entraide et Fraternité**

The seminar on access to land and land rights took place in Mbakana, Congo DRC, from 25 to 29 November 2019. This seminar was organized by FIMARC, MIJARC, IYCW and Entraide et Fraternite with the participation of 27 people from 11 countries.

The objective of this seminar was to analyse the situation of access to land and land rights of youth, women and peasants in Central Africa and to understand the existing laws and initiatives in the different countries that facilitate access to land and land rights.

### **Rational of the theme and key analysis of the context**

The increasing demand and value of Africa's natural resources will only intensify conflicts over these assets. In addition, climate change, food insecurity and growing demand for alternative energy will further increase tensions over land use and access. In addition, small-scale farming families' risk

of losing land that has been farmed for generations. The reasons for this situation are diverse: landspeculation, expropriation by the state, illegal land grabbing by indigenous or foreign investors. The dispossessed of their land, these families are also deprived of their homes, their cultural roots and their prospects for the future.

In many African countries, laws may recognize community control over land but need to be strengthened to recognize stronger property rights. Even where ownership is recognized, laws or regulations may limit certain uses of land. Inconsistent laws governing other sectors such as extractive industries, agribusiness and conservation can also have a negative impact on indigenous and community land rights. Furthermore, formal legal recognition of indigenous and community lands is not sufficient to guarantee security of tenure. States and other actors must also respect, support and enforce these legal protections.



#### **A. Actions to be carried out at local and national level:**

- 1- Organize awareness and training campaigns for farmers on land rights.
- 2- Organize advocacy campaigns to demand and defend the right of access to land for vulnerable populations.
- 3- Organize the restitution of the activities and results of the present meeting to the ecclesiastical authorities, political-administrative authorities, local populations in order to expand the movement.
- 4- Integrate in education programs of young people the importance of land for a dignified rural life.
- 5- Put in place national and regional agricultural policies that facilitate young people's access to land and productive resources.
- 6- Establish legal services to help people resolve conflicts related to access to land and to know the related procedures.
- 7- Creation of networks in the field of land tenure. Create an observatory on the issues.
- 8- Decentralize land services.
- 9- Translate land law texts into local languages.
- 10- Accompanying peasants in securing their land.
- 11- Popularize procedures for access to land.
- 12- Carry out a field survey on the issue of access to land and land rights.
- 13- Raising women's awareness and building their capacities to access political positions.
- 14- Train young people in agricultural entrepreneurship.

## **B. Actions to be carried out at regional and international levels:**

- 1- Promote the exchange of experience between countries on the access to land and land rights.
- 2- To set up a sub-regional network whose role is to defend the interests of peasant farmers, through support to peasant support structures.
- 3- Promote exchange meetings at the regional/sub-regional level.
- 4- Set up an observatory on land tenure issues.
- 6- To constitute the documentation of existing national, regional and international legal texts related to access to land.



**Some Key Conclusions and final proposals**

## **17. Senegal : MARCS support for family farming**

Following the World Assembly in Thies, MARCS is mobilizing to support family farming through various events:

- Participation in the national session of the Laity in Poponguine (December 2019) on "Approaches for a Catholic Peasant Movement closer to the rural world".
- After the NDiaganiao (Dakar) and Mont-Roland (Thiès) Diocesan Rural World Days "Food and agricultural systems specific to the actors", MARCS is mobilizing in view of the Diocesan Rural World Day to be held in Batal, Diocese of Thiès in February 2020 on the theme "Let's strengthen family farming to preserve our health and the environment".



**MARCS members' investment in cooperative agriculture: banana production in Nguène (Tambacounda region))**

## FIMARC and Movements in Latin America

### 18. Joint Sub regional Seminar on Intergenerational Transfer of Knowledge and role of Women – Bolivia – November 2019

Latin American sub regional Seminar on "Intergenerational transfer of knowledge and role of women" was held in La Paz, Bolivia from 1-4 November 2019. It was a joint initiative by FIMARC and MIJARC and supported by DKA, Austria.. Several preparatory meetings were held in Brussels and online with South American leaders and Global leaderships of both FIMARC and MIJARC. Manuel Moran; (El Salvadore), Modesta Arevalos (Paraguay), German Vargas (Bolivia) and George Fernandez (Secretary General of FIMARC) and Jao (Bresil), Joel (Bolivia) and Krishnakar Kummari (MIJARC President) were the members of the preparatory team. There has been an unprecedented political unrest in the hosting country of Bolivia during the planned period of the programme. After long discussions on security conditions in the country, we have decided to maintain the seminar as planned during the first week of November 2019 due to the fact that all the practical arrangements including the reservation of accommodation and purchase of the air tickets were already done.



An expert presentation on Intergenerational relations and knowledge transfer (Sociocultural, economic and demographic trends - challenges and impact for rural agriculture) was done by José Luis Aguilera



The second speaker Jesús Calleja made the presentation of the topic on Intergenerational transfer of knowledge and the role of women by means of an interview method made that each one can be presented, generates empathy and dynamism.

A field visit was organized during the seminar and the delegates were received by a group of producers who work in an organized way at 3200 meters high. One of them is a member of the Social Pastoral of La Paz, which is divided into six regions serving 50 institutions. Delegates had an interactive session with the groups.

Delegates from Argentina, Bolivia, Peru, Brasil, Equadore, Paraguay and Columbia participated in this Youth –Adult exchange workshop.

## **FIMARC and Movements in Asia**

### **19. FIMARC Campaign on FAMILY FARMING in Asia**

FIMARC campaign on Family Farming is still progressing. Through this campaign FIMARC tries to influence decision makers, governments, international organizations, church, all other religious leaders, producers, consumers and society in general to support and promote family farming. FIMARC supported Continental/National initiatives in relation to Family Farming Campaign and facilitated the exchange of successful approaches among members.

#### **➤ FIMARC National Level Workshops on FAMILY FARMING**

##### **A. National Capacity Building Workshop on Strengthening Family Farming and Rights of Farmers in Thailand at RTRC Chiang Mai, THAILAND**



FIMARC



organised a National Capacity Building Workshop on Strengthening Family Farming and Rights of Farmers in Thailand at RTRC Chiang Mai, THAILAND from 26-28 December 2019. The programme started with a presentation to know each other by the participants allowing them to share their stories of family farms. This was followed with an Orientation on the UN Global plan of action for Family Farming .

An input session was held with the presentation of Mr. Geiytisak Chatdee from Institute for Sustainable Agricultural Communities (ISAC) on the topic **"Build better communities based on sustainable agriculture system and fair-trade market"**.

A Field visit was organised to understand the problems of family farmers of the region as well as to know the best practices. The participants visited the network of ISAC in San sai district, Chiang Mai



**Visit of Organic farm of Ms Lawan San pa pao village San sai district, Chiang Mai**



**Visit at the Community rice mill, Nong yang village, San sai district, Chiang Mai**



**Final Visit at the organic market, Mae Heai district, Chiang Mai**

### **An Exchange forum on community initiatives of Family Farming**

Six representative of the participant from the communities of Karen, Lawa, Lahu, and local Thai shared on their family farming practice in their communities. The family farming are the traditional practices in every communities from the past and still continue to practice in everyday life and each ethnic community have a special name for the family farming such as in Phayao province, local Thai named Soun Hee, Karen called Mue wae de ko loue poo, Lawa called Lapuem, Lahu called Wo ja wo ma sae ja we, The ideology of the family farming system is to be self-reliance in producing their own meal as rice which is a staple food, vegetable, pig, cow, chicken and fishery- The Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy King Rama the 9



**Plan of actions agreed by the participants :**

1. Each participant doing their own plan on family farming
  - Start on family farming plan in systematic way
  - Set up family farming learning center
  - Making their own compost
  - Revise and promote the family farming in their community
2. Exchange program between the farmer
3. Networking ,Advisory team personal, institute, and organization
  - Agriculture skill
  - Academic
  - Community Participatory research on Family Farming
4. Set up the committee of the family farming consists of.
  - Ms. Mayuree Srisuk - Women committee(Karen)
  - Mr. Suriya Sangusonnaiprasuta - Village leader from Mae tang area (Karen)
  - Ms. Boonsri Phasil - Women leader in Mae pon nai (Karen)
  - Ms. Namoo Mejue - Women leader (Lahu)
  - Mr. Peat Sakhongnanthakul - Village leader from Mae Hua village (Lawa)
  - Ms. Sangdean Kantanil - Women leader from Mae Sai sub district (Local Thai)
  - Mr. Adirek Phuwiwat - Village leader from Mae Sai sub district (Local Thai)
  - RTRC - Coordinator body



## B. Family farming national capacity building workshop in Indonesia

FIMARC national capacity building workshop with field visit was held at Mr. Subagyo house Jurangdepok hamlet, Banjarasri village, Kalibawang sub district, Kulon Progo district, Indonesia from 19-21st November 2019 and organized by WFDDFM (World Food Day Farmer's and Fishermen Movement of Indonesia),

Seminar was opened by highlight the current issues on family farming situation in Indonesia by **Ronny Novianto** (board of WFDDFM secretariat Indonesia). He reflected about the poor farmers in Indonesia based on the statistic data where they hold less than 5000 sqm land, especially in the villages where the farmers are gathered. Different reflection sessions on the issues pertinent to family farming was held with the help of 5 resource persons and moderated by Mr. Subagyo.

### 1. Objectives and Achievement Results

Objective and Output gained from the seminar and exposure are

- To conduct analysis on the current family farming situation in Indonesia.
- To discuss the real needs of family farming
- To upscale potencies and limitation of family farming
- Gather informations on the resistance to face obstacle issues of family farming.
- Enhance to involve the way to strengthen family farming.
- Closer relation between people, local government, and Parish church and NGO in the same concern of Family Farming.

### 2. Participants

Participants involved in the seminar and discussion and exposure consist of

- Farmers
- Practitioner on Family Farming
- Community leaders
- NGO Activist
- Church Activities/ leaders
- Local village government (Banjarasri village, Banjararum village, and Pagerharjo village)
- BPP (Balai Penyuluhan Pertanian) Supervisory body under Agriculture department of Kulon Progo district government.



Family farming is a system of farmer's family livelihood which focusing on agriculture sector as main economic source of income. Family farming functions in a way that each family member to have Right on determining and planning of farm enterprise.

In Indonesia there are 25,1 farmer's family and 55 % of which are small land holder. Each farmer family hold less than 5000 m<sup>2</sup>. In the context of Kulon Progo district where World Food Day Farmer's and Fishermen Movements of Indonesia (WFDFFM) has number of farmer's family movement spread out in several sub districts such as Kalibawang, Nanggulan sub district, Samigaluh sub district, Girimulyo sub district, etc where each family only manage 3000 m<sup>2</sup> in average, even some farmers are land less, they only work in farm with farm land owner for a share.

There are multi stake holders focus of their works on farm such as BPP (Balai Penyuluhan Pertanian) a legal supervisor body works under Agriculture department of Kulon Progo district government), Parish Church of Boro, Kalibawang, Kulon Progo which covers 2 sub district such as Samigaluh sub district and Kalibawang Sub district.



#### **Proposed Key Actions:**

1. Start to optimize each home garden with local crops potencies on climate condition and market prospect.
2. Collaborate with government, parish church and NGO (WFDFFM Indonesia) and FIMARC to promoting and widening family farming movement.
3. Build media group through WAG for coordination spread information among members (participants).
4. Coordination meeting and evaluation meeting will be held every 3 months. Start on January 2020 (2-3 months) after family farming seminar held. The date will be settle after then.
5. Exchange skill and innovation among others in family farming.



## 20. Asian Lay Leaders (ALL) Forum 2019- Chiangmai, Thailand

ALL Forum promotes the spirit of "reaching out" to the marginalized as a Church. In that, those elements are distinguished : Collaborations among partner organizations, providing on-going and holistic programs for youth formation like Asian Youth Academy (AYA)/ Asian Theology Forum(ATF) and "Moving School". ALL Forum has held Asian Youth Academy (AYA)/Asian Theology Forum (ATF) for the last 10 years. ALL Forum is based on concretized and praxis-centered collaborations among five partners: social issues-specialized WTI, spirituality-centered Fondacio Asia, ecology-focused JCIM & RTRC and International Movement of Catholic Students (IMCS) AP. ALL Forum focuses on Catholics but is not limited to them. It promotes a wider ecumenical, inter-religious and inter-cultural encounter and learning for mutual growth. In order to realize the People of God as a genuine local Church of Asia, ALL Forum is committed to urgent matters such as youth, women and girl children, ecology, migrants, Indigenous peoples (IPs) and other marginalized whom FABC has designated as the "special pastoral concerns" by harnessing the Catholic Social Teachings (CSTs) and "pastoral spiral" assessment of FABC.

The ecology focussed organisation RTRC, Chiangmai which is a collaborative organisation of ALL forum is partner of FIMARC in Thailand. Asian Lay Leaders (ALL) Forum 2019 including Asian Youth Academy and Asian Theology forum was held Chiang Mai, Thailand from 1<sup>st</sup> to 10 August 2019 at Communal Life of Love and the Unity of Mountain People Foundation (CLUMP) Center, Doi Tong, Chiang Mai with the theme "Wisdoms of Religious /cultural Traditions in Asia responding to Ecological crisis and human security". Research and Training Center for Religio-cultural Community (RTRC), the partner of FIMARC was the local organizer of the ALL forum 2019. *Capacity building of young people on different topics including interfaith dialogue, community engagement, field visits, country reports, sharing of best practices, orientation talks on key global issues etc were part of the programme. George Fernandez, Secretary General of FIMARC was a key speaker of the forum on the topic "Implication of UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People (UNDRPOP) and Contribution of Small and Family-centered Farming for the Integral Ecology". Many FIMARC delegates from Thailand also participated in the forum.*

## **21. High-Level Asia-Oceania Regional Conference on "Future of Work"-Bangkok,**

International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC) organised an High-Level Asia-Oceania Regional Conference on "Future of Work" which was being held from 1- 4 December 2019 in Bangkok, Thailand in conjunction with the Annual meeting of the ICMC Asia-Oceania Working Group.

The High-Level Regional Conference on the Future of Work is being organized as part of a two-year initiative organized by a network of Catholic Church-inspired organizations active in labor-related advocacy called « The Future of Work, Labour after Laudato Si ». It aimed to bring together Faith Leaders, social partners and NGO representatives engaged in promoting decent work and just policies related to labor migration. This initiative had close collaboration with the International Labor Organization (ILO), especially in relation to this year's centenary observance of the ILO and the report of its Special Commission on the Future of Work. ICMC served in a coordinating role for the Initiative, which involves six different Research Tracks on the Future of Work as well as a variety of convenings on related topics. It also serves as the lead organization on the Labor Migration Research track.

The High-Level meeting gathered around 70 participants, including officials from ILO, IOM, UNHCR, UNICEF, OHCHR, the Vatican's Migrants & Refugees Section, religious leaders from different faith traditions, as well as the ICMC Working Group members, and representatives of other Catholic inspired and civil society organizations.

FIMARC participated in the ICMC Asia-Oceania Migration Working Group, which was developed as a response to the emerged increasing need to strengthen the voice of the Catholic Church in Asia and to foster an exchange of information on matters related to migration. During this meeting, the Working Group focussed on three priority topics: 1) Child migrants and refugees, especially those who are separated from or unaccompanied by their parents; 2) Labour migration, especially that undertaken under indecent, forced, or involuntary working conditions; 3) Human trafficking and smuggling. Naiyana Vichitporn ,FIMARC Asian coordinator was part of this initiative to bring the concerns of agricultural and rural workers

## **22. FIMARC Asian coordination meeting -Chiangmai, Thailand**

FIMARC Asian Coordinators meeting was held at RTRC, Chiangmai, Thailand from 6- 7 November 2019. Miss. Naiyana Vichitporn from Thailand , Mrs. Asha Dasanayake from Sri Lanka (Alternative to Miss.Daya) ,Mr. Rony Joseph from India participated in the meeting.

Some key conclusions of the meeting

- To identify the different practices of Intergenerational transfer of knowledge and highlight these practices to widen this concept.
- Decided to disseminate the document of the UN declaration of peasant rights
- To seek the possible collaboration with IFAD programmes
- Decided to disseminate the Exco report and resolution
- To extend the work in Myanmar, Malaysia and Laos
- To work further for the promotion of family farming in Asian Countries in the context of UN decade on family farming

## 23. Planning Meeting with RTRC (Thai movement)

Meeting with RTRC (Thai movement) was held in Chiangmai on 12 August 2019 to discuss about the Asian programmes of FIMARC as well to strengthen the FIMARC initiatives on Family Farming and peasant rights in the country. George Fernandez (secretary General of FIMARC ) and Naiyana Vichitporn ( Asian Coordinator of FIMARC ) participated in this meeting

## FIMARC and Movements in Europe

### 24. FIMARC Europe and Prorure activities 2019

FIMARC Europe Worked on European Erasmus plus project with objective of better networking between movements- Family Farming, Food Sovereignty, organisational development, Communication etc. are the elements of this project. Italy, Spain, France, Germany, Poland, Belgium + Slovakia, Bulgaria and Romania were partners of the first phase of the project which lasted for 2 years.

Currently Project Prorure II (PRORURAL EUROPE II)- « Networking to strengthen civil society in rural areas within Enrope - Live the idea Europe ». This projects is involving 11 european christian national movements or organisations, 8 of which are FIMARC members. Its aims is to help the movements to create an european network in order to be a support and a voice of inhabitants of rural areas to the European institutions. This projects is partially supported by the European Erasmus + programme until october 2020.

- February 1-3 : Kick-Off Meeting of the project, Koenigswinter, Germany
- June 5-9 : « Common cultural roots" - understanding life worlds in eastern and western Europe » Cluj, Romania
- October 4-6 : « Seminar IT communication technology in the European network », Augsburg, Germany.
- November 22-24 : « A network for Europe-Communication », Strengthening, connecting and reconstructing rural movements in Europe - Living out and carrying forward the idea of Europe. Avila, Spain



Participants of Avila Meeting



Wolfgang Scharl address to Cluj meeting



*Cluj, Romania : Understanding the rural worlds in eastern and western Europe, through a seminar and a trip to a village community.*

The Cluj seminar showed the need to take into account the cultural diversity of the different regions within Europe and to work towards building a Europe that stands on its two feet, from West and East.

The seminar in Avila examined the different possible ways of building a network of Christian-inspired European rural movements. The movements involved were invited to express their willingness to implement such a network, with its functional and financial implications. Mr. Jean Claude Germon (Treasurer of FIMARC ) and Mr. Wolfgang Scharl ( President of FIMARC ) participates in the transnational meetings of the Prorure programme to bring global perspectives and solidarity of our work in the continent

## **25. Ongoing follow up of Peasant Rights process in Germany**

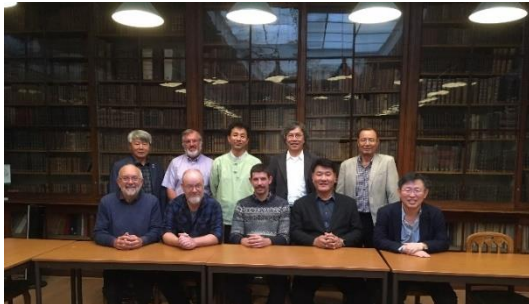
FIMARC has been part of the network of Civil Society organisations in Germany for the last few years ever since the UN process for the declaration of the rights of peasants and rural people was started in the Human rights council Geneva. The CSO network had multiple facets of engagements : to raise awareness about the peasant rights and its importance among the German population and decision makers, to lobby the government in favour of the declaration and its implementation .With this view different meetings were organized in Germany in 2019 . Wolfgang Scharl ,the president of FIMARC participates regularly in all the preparatory meetings of the network as well as in the specific meetings in Berlin, Germany on June 26, strategical meeting held in Cologne, Germany on 21 August 2019 for promoting peasant rights and also in the peasant rights, round table on 27 June 2019 with the participation of government and civil society and organised by the human rights commissioner of the German government

## **26. Meeting with FIMARC local groups in Belgium on climate alternatives**

George Fernandez participated in the ACRF local group meetings in Arlon region, Belgium to discuss about the alternatives to mitigate climate change and role of rural people in this debate. Benedict Willemart made the moderation of the event.

## **27. Meeting with delegation of the Korean Agricultural ministry, December 2019-Paris**

On 22 October a Korean Agricultural delegation of Ministry of Agriculture was received in Paris by Jean Claude Germon for FIMARC and by Confédération Paysanne delegation. The Korean delegation was interested by the role of rural organisations of civil society and agricultural unions in discussion concerning the Agricultural policy and the European Common Agricultural Policy in particular.



*The Korean delegation and representatives of CMR and Confédération Paysanne.*

The Korean delegation, composed of the Presidents of 2 Farmers' Unions, a government representative, 2 professors and a leader of the FIMARC Korean rural movement KCFM, underlined the challenge posed to their government by the low level of self-sufficiency of their agricultural production (24%). They also stressed the willingness of the current government to pursue a policy of openness and appeasement with its neighbour North Korea.

## **FIMARC and Partners**

### **28. Collective reflection meeting with CCFD and Social Action Movements-Paris, France**

A Collective reflection meeting with CCFD and Social Action Movements was organized at CCFD Head Quarters in Paris, France on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2019. Leaders from 6 global organisations financed by CCFD participated in the meeting. It gave an opportunity to encounter with the President of CCFD Mrs. Sylvie Buckarel and Helen Dulin and Walter Prysthon the responsables of global and regional partnerships in CCFD. This gathering also allowed the global movements to have a collective reflection and analysis of the global socio-political and environmental contexts and challenges of today. It also provided a space to share information about our engagements in different policy processes and issues. Meeting also drew collective synergies and relevance of future collaboration between organisations and with CCFD. George Fernandez and Jean-Claude Germon represented FIMARC in this important meeting of the year. Other than FIMARC, movements such as MIJARC, CIJOC (ICYCW) and JOCI (IYCW), IMCS (Catholic Students) and IYCS (Young Cath. Students); a renewed prospect of partnership with CCFD has to be followed in the upcoming years.

## 29. Meeting with Partners 2019

In 2019, Jean-Claude Germon (Treasurer of FIMARC) and George Fernandez (Secretary General) had meetings with Helen Dulin and Walter Pristhon from CCFD. George Fernandez (Secretary General) had meetings with Philippine Carter and Guy Auline from Entraide et Fraternite as well as Emmanuel Yap from CIDSE.

## 30. Follow up with national movements

Members of FIMARC's Executive committee are in charge for the relations with the other national movements and including their own. Wolfgang Scharl, FIMARC President participated in the national board meeting of KLB, Germany. Jean Claude Germon, FIMARC Treasurer participated in different meetings of CMR networks in France.

George Fernandez, Secretary General had a meeting with Thailand Movement of FIMARC. He had preparatory meetings with the leaders of Philippines and Indonesia for the implementation of the national level family farming workshops in these countries.

## Conclusion

We realise change can't come in incremental steps anymore. The crises our planet is facing are urgent and existential — the speed of action is critical and we must find ways to make fundamental change. Together, with our supporters, donors and Alliance members, we are truly trying to change the way development is being done, and ensuring farmers and rural people take their due place in decision-making spaces.

We're making significant progress. But with more than 800 million people still facing extreme poverty today, the world's need demands that we act with urgency. Our mission drives us to do so effectively, efficiently and in a manner that places poverty-fighting solutions squarely in the hands of those who most need them. Throughout a grim world, every candle burning in the night is a beacon. Let's light the small candles together. With your continued support, we will. Thank to you.

We recall and extend our gratitude to the fellow Bureau and Exco members for their commitment and our volunteer teams at different levels for the commendable work during 2019. The Development Partners who financed our programmes are highly appreciated and we hope that we have done worth to the real value of their support.

Now and always, we welcome your ideas and feedback. They will help ensure that together we move the closer is to achieve our vision. Thank you for all that you do to support and share our vision of a world without hunger, poverty and environmental degradation.

Together, we are working to make 2020 a year of spirited resistance and transformative movement building!

Thank you for your support !