



CLARION



THE NEWSLETTER OF ASIAN COMPAS PARTNERS

For Private Circulation Only

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ENDOGENOUS DEVELOPMENT AND BIO-CULTURAL DIVERSITY -THE INTERPLAY OF WORLD VIEWS, GLOBALISATION AND LOCALITY



Jean Zeigler being introduced by Stephan Rist

Center for Development studies (IUED) of University of Geneva. Nearly 110 delegates from around 25 countries took part in this conference.

The guest of honour Mr. Willi Graf, SDC, Mr. Stephan Rist, CDE-University of Bern, Mr. Bertus Haverkort, Compas and other special invitees from different continents gave speeches during the conference. The special invitees were Dr. Rachel Gumbi, Principal and Vice-chancellor, University of Zululand, Africa, Mr. Augusto Barrera, Ex-minister and councilor of Quito, Latin America, Mr. T.K.V. Desikachar, Krishnamacharya Healing Yoga Foundation, India and Mr. Hans Peter Durr, Former Director of Max Plank Institute, Laureate of the alternative noble price, Europe.

On the second day of the conference, there were parallel sessions on ten themes. These sessions started with personal introduction, which was followed by presentation of papers and discussion on the implications for policy, research and action. Subsequently, there was a special address by Ms. Rigoberta Menchu of Guatemala, winner of the Nobel Peace Prize.

The final day of the conference started with a session on Vedic chanting by Mr. T.K.V. Desikachar. This was followed by a discussion of the draft declaration. A statement of

The International conference on “Endogenous Development and Bio-cultural Diversity” took place between 3rd and 5th of October 2006. This conference was co-organized and hosted by Compas, CDE-University of Bern, IUCN, KFPE and

commitment supporting Endogenous Development and Biocultural Diversity was prepared and adopted. The 12 different core objectives of the declaration were Core of Conduct, Nature Conservation, Agriculture and Food sovereignty, Local Economics, Spirituality and Religion, Local Economics, Reshaping the development agenda, Intra and Intercultural dialogue, Development Agenda, Health, Territory, Education and research, Legislation, Endogenous Development in Europe.

Comments on the declaration were also made by Mr. Jean Ziegler, Special Rapporteur of the Commission of Human rights on the Right to Food, United Nations, Mr. Alpen Lipetz, Parliament of the European Union and some invited guests. The Statement of Commitment is produced at the end of this report as an annexure.

Overall, the conference was an opportunity for the COMPAS partners to share and assess experience on the Endogenous Development with various other groups. Above all, the partners were able to strengthen the bond of strategic alliances and explore options for collaboration between community-based organizations, NGOs, scientists and policymakers aiming at Endogenous Development. A core group has been formed of persons who have volunteered to further develop the plans and ideas in the statement of commitment.



Delegates near the Geneva Lake

COMPAS PARTNERS MEETING AT POLAND

A meeting of all the COMPAS partners took place at Lezajsk in Poland between 17th and 30th September 2006. Representatives from COMPAS partner organizations in all parts of the world and members of the COMPAS International Coordination unit participated in the meeting. The meeting was held with the objective of a major review and exchange of experience between the COMPAS partners regarding the current phase of the COMPAS programme (January 2003 - December 2006). It was also meant to make plans and preparations for the future phase of the COMPAS programme (2007-2010). Some of the activities that were carried out during the meeting were –

- Detailed presentation and exchange of experiences between partners on the theme of endogenous development.
- Drafts of a forthcoming publication sharing endogenous development experiences from various parts of the world and the publication on the theme of Learning about endogenous development (abbreviated as LENDEV) were discussed.
- As a last issue of the COMPAS magazine during the present COMPAS project period it is being planned to produce a picture book and the partners worked on the book.



Asian Delegates during a small group discussion

- Field trips were organized to know about the experiences of Polish farmer groups with whom ETC Foundation has been working for the last few years.

The local government officials as well as at the Cultural Centre at Lezajsk had also arranged for a reception for the COMPAS team. During the course of the meeting the COMPAS meeting members also worked together with local artisan groups to produce a monument of peace in wood and metal in collaboration with the local teams of wood work and metal work artisans. This remains as a monument which is now in the town of Lezajsk.

VALIDATION OF TRADITIONAL PRACTICES OF AGRICULTURE METHODOLOGY AND APPROACH - MEETING IN TAMIL NADU

CIKS has been involved in organic agriculture for several years. It had a strong felt need of bringing together farmers, experts and scientists on a common forum to interact with farmer's experiences. As a result, a workshop on validation of traditional practices of Agriculture - methodology and approach was organized by CIKS on 4th and 5th of November 2006. Scientists from universities and colleges, experts in the field of Animal Husbandry and Ayurveda, leading organic farmers from various parts of Tamil Nadu, representatives from other NGOs and COMPAS partners participated in this workshop. The session started with a brief outline of activities of COMPAS programme and its partners by A.V. Balasubramanian. There were presentations by NGO representatives and scientists. Farmers shared their knowledge and understanding of basic ethical values of using animal products in organic agriculture.

Three groups were made and each group was given a topic for discussion. The topics were agronomical, mechanical and biological methods (selected practices), use of rituals, mantras, pooja, time of sowing and other related practices (selected practices), involvement of experts, students and scientists in collecting, documenting, experimenting and disseminating information and knowledge. At the end of the discussion, the rapporteur of the respective groups presented their comments on some of the practices of interest and gave general suggestion on how to conduct further experiments based on those practices. Field trips were also organized to the biopesticide unit set up at Agani and to the organic paddy field at Sirkazhi.

At the end of the workshop, a handful of practices which were experimented by farmers or to be looked at in future were listed down. The participants also gave their feedback, which would help us in shaping our future programmes in a more meaningful manner. The two-day programme served as a platform for exchange of views and to understand the basic ethics and practices involving animal products in traditional agriculture.

WORKSHOP ON PRIORITISATION OF ANIMAL PRODUCTS IN AGRICULTURE IN ANDHRA PRADESH

IDEA facilitated a three day farmers workshop for prioritization of various animal and plant based products for traditional agriculture practices in tribal and rural areas of Andhra Pradesh and Orissa states from 27th and 29th December 2006 at Endogenous Development Research Centre (EDRC) of IDEA at Araku Valley, Andhra Pradesh. The workshop was inaugurated by Dr.K.Chakravarthi of the Department of Agriculture, Government of Andhra Pradesh and Chaired by Mr.K.Likon (Crop health healer) from the IDEA promoted Crop Health Healers Forum (Taas Guniya Samakhya). Nineteen tribal and rural farmers, agronomists, research staff from the Department of Agriculture and IDEA attended this workshop. Mr. K.J.N.Gowtham Shankar, Chairman, IDEA gave a brief overview of the COMPAS supported UC topical research programme on the use of animal products in traditional agriculture.

The participants reviewed the field survey and trials conducted during the project period. This was followed by in-depth group discussions and sharing of experiences by the farmers. Based on this experience, the participants prioritized 10 traditional formulas for the future interventions. The experts also assessed and reviewed the field trial exercises and gave their conclusions and recommendations for further improvement of farmers lead experiments in the future and also offered technical and research collaborations on prioritized products.

The workshop has yielded fruitful results. The Department of Agriculture has invited IDEA to extend technical support in participatory action research and training programmes and related methodologies to Government Farmer Training Centres and also to the agricultural training curriculums in Polambadi programme. A dialogue on further collaborative field research programmes by IDEA and Department of Agriculture is also developed and it is to be finalized in the near future. During the workshop, the Taas Guniya Samakhya (crop healers forum of IDEA), has released community knowledge register on the field survey analysis of 25 villages covering 14 tribal and 2 rural communities and on the use of animal products in the traditional agriculture. The register has been handed over to Dr. SBS Nandh, the Assistant Director, Department of Agriculture, Araku, Government of Andhra Pradesh and also to Local panchayats.

WORKSHOP ON PRIORITISATION AND VALIDATION OF INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE IN KARNATAKA



Participants of the workshop

Krishi Prayoga Pariwara (KPP) conducted a one day workshop on "Prioritisation and Validation of IK" with special reference to paddy at Thirthahalli on 22nd December 2006.

Experienced organic farmers, scientists from ARS, Sirisi and Ponnampet of Karnataka state attended this workshop. The objectives of the workshop were to share the field and research experiences with others, to list the problems faced by the farmers in paddy cultivation, to find out solutions to the problems identified and to prioritise experiments based on IK to find solutions to the problems listed.

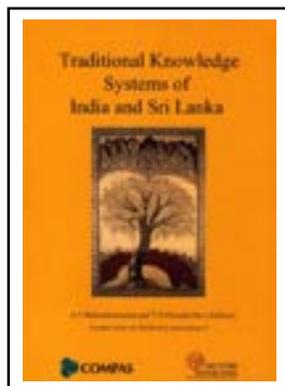
Farmers and the scientists from ARS shared their experiences on organic cultivation of paddy. Paddy breeder from ARS, Ponnampet shared his views on participatory varietal improvement and characterisation of varieties. The workshop listed a number of problems and also noted the changes in the paddy cultivation on the Western Ghats of Karnataka where KPP projects are concentrated. Some of the problems / changes identified include no proper prediction of rainfall and relevant meteorological data is not available - this makes the transplanting system of paddy cultivation more risky; soil fertility management especially during conversion period; some inherent characters of local varieties like lodging and low yield.

The groups also discussed on how these problems are to be addressed. Following are the conclusions of the meeting.

- KPP to formulate a proposal to respective Universities in Karnataka to conduct research and experiments towards solving the problems listed involving the IK documented.
- Scientists will help KPP in designing and monitoring the experiments.
- Paddy breeder will help in improving the local varieties against their inherent characters like lodging, grain dropping and panicle breaking.
- To continue the experiments conducted by KPP.

TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS OF INDIA AND SRILANKA

A.V. Balasubramanian & T.D. Nirmala Devi (Editors)



This volume is meant to provide the reader with an overview about the material presented and discussed at the “Compas Asian Regional Workshop on Traditional Knowledge” that was held between 3rd and 5th July 2006 at Bangalore.

The workshop was held with the objective of taking stock of varied efforts in the Asian region to study, comprehend and build on traditional knowledge systems in several areas. It attempted to explore the successes and failures of these studies as well as the strategies for upscaling these efforts. The changes required at the policy and institutional levels for expanding these efforts were also deliberated upon.

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MOVING WORLDVIEWS- RESHAPING SCIENCES, POLICES AND PRACTICES FOR ENDOGENOUS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Bertus Haverkort and Coen Reijntjes (eds)

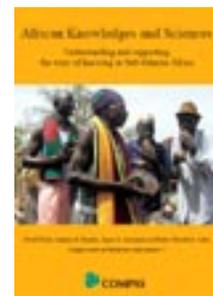


This book presents the outcome of a European conference on Moving Worldviews. The conference searched for answers to the polycrisis that the globe faces in terms of ecology, social conflicts and security. Questions addressed at the conference include: What is the relation between the polycrisis and the dominant worldview in the West? What new insights have emerged that might lead to worldviews with greater potential to deal with the polycrisis? What new insights are emerging from innovative research, learning and rural development? Can inter-cultural and inter-scientific dialogue contribute to changing the worldviews of the West? The workshop concluded that the Western worldview is indeed directly related to the polycrisis.

AFRICAN KNOWLEDGES AND SCIENCES

David Millar, Stephen B. Kendie, Agnes A. Apusigah and Bertus Haverkort (eds)

For copies of both these books, Contact: ETC Netherlands, Kastanjelaan No.5, P.O.Box. 64, 3830 AB Leusden, The Netherlands. Email: compas@etcnl.nl



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