



## LAUNCHING THE NEW PHASE OF THE COMPAS PROJECT

The Compas network has currently launched the new phase of the Compas project commencing from January 2003 to December 2006. A meeting of the International Management Group of the Compas programme consisting of the Regional Coordinators from Asia, Africa, Latin America and Europe and the International Coordination group was held in the Netherlands between 16<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> June, 2003. The activities in this phase would include - field projects by the individual Compas partners, regional activities which include exchange programmes, training programmes and publication of newsletters as well as international activities which include coordination between regions, exchange of experiences, publication of the Compas magazine and books and maintenance of the website of the Compas project. The Compas Universities Consortium programme is also being initiated during this period (described separately in detail).

During the meeting, the regional coordinators exchanged experiences and worked out a pro-

gramme for research, action and publications during the current phase. It was also agreed that during the initial period of this phase the partners would each undertake a "Community diagnosis" of Indigenous resources in their respective field areas. This would serve as a guideline for planning the field work by the partners for the Compas programme from January 2004 onwards.



*Compas Regional Coordinators at the IMM Meeting*

### **Co-Evolution of Sciences: Symposium at the Wageningen University**

A one day symposium was organised jointly by the Compas network and the Wageningen University and Research Centre at Wageningen, Netherlands on 19<sup>th</sup> June, 2003. The objective of the programme was to make a presentation regarding the experiences and understanding of the Compas partners from different regions about the diversity of knowledge systems particularly with respect to agriculture and natural resources management. The following presentations were made as part of this programme :

- ◆ Endogenous development, concepts and experiences - Bertus Haverkort, Compas International Coordinator.
- ◆ Building on traditional Indian knowledge - A. V. Balasubramanian, CIKS, India.
- ◆ PachaMama and agricultural development - Freddy Delegado, AGRUCO, Bolivia (Presented by Katrien van't Hooft).
- ◆ African knowledge and values - David Millar, CECIK, Ghana.
- ◆ The challenge of Inter-scientific dialogue and post modernity synthesis - Bertus Haverkort, Compas International Coordinator.

The symposium was attended by about forty participants which included faculty and students from various departments of the Wageningen University as well as some independent researchers and agricultural scientists from various agencies in the Netherlands. Following the presentations there was also a discussion in terms of the manner in which the Compas network can continue to interact with researchers and students in Universities in general and the Wageningen Agricultural University in particular.

## COMPAS ASIAN MEETING



*Compas Coordinators with Srilankan Partners*

A series of meetings were held between the Compas Asian partners from India and Sri Lanka, Compas Asian Coordinator and the International Coordinator at Chennai in India between 25-30 April 2003. The meeting started with a welcome address by Dr. K. Vijayalakshmi of CIKS. This was followed by the presentation of Mr. Bertus Haverkort, about the origin of the Compas movement, its approach and endogenous development (*See diagram on page 3*). The Compas partners in different regions of the world, who will be involved in the next phase were listed. He explained in detail about the six local resources and the ten entry points that support endogenous development. The lessons learnt, the constraints faced and the challenges ahead were also discussed in

detail. He also gave an overview about the present funding situation.

**Training Programmes :** The partners listed out various training programmes and discussed it. The topics were then classified as those suitable for International, Regional and Project support. Theory building and Endogenous development was proposed by most as topics requiring international support for training. This was followed by a discussion on Theory building and Endogenous development. It was also decided that training would be organised at a regional level for all topics that have been identified. Based on all the inputs received, a prioritised list of topics will be finalised by the Regional Coordinator and the training schedule will be drawn up. Each

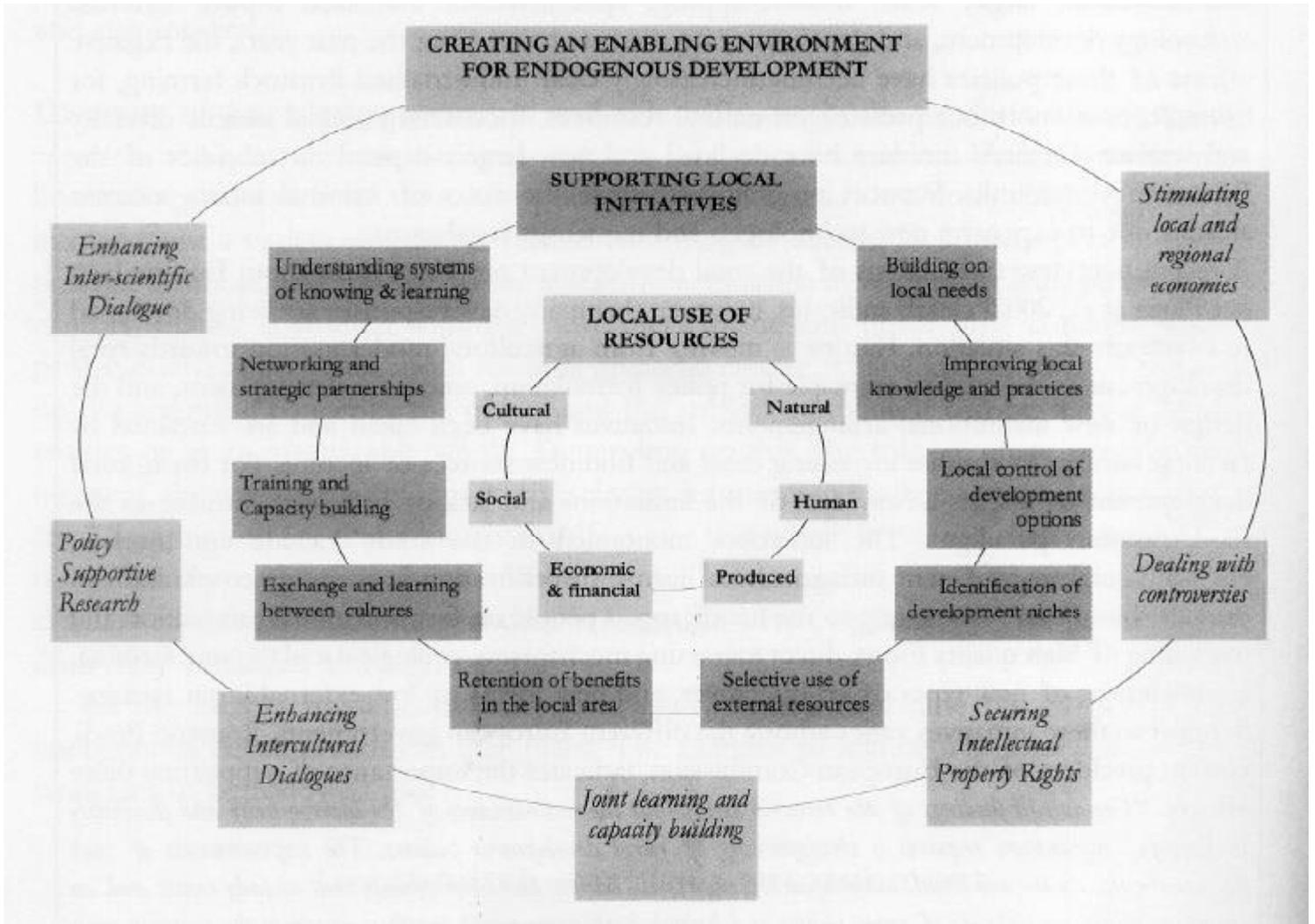
partner would take up a research programme independent of the Universities Consortium. Proposals have been submitted by various Asian partners. This specific research program is for a period of three years.

**New Partners :** In Sri Lanka, three NGO's have been identified who will also be partners from July 2003 onwards. They are Friends of Lanka, Kegalle; Naula Rural Development Foundation, Naula and Biodiversity Research Information and Training Centre (BRIT), Badulla. Interest has been expressed in the Compas project from different locations in Asia including Yemen, Thailand, China, Pakistan and India. Currently, we are only exchanging information and material with these groups.

Mechanism for project implementation for the new project period from July 2003 to December 2004 was also discussed. It was also decided that CIKS would continue to be the web master and have a responsibility for maintaining the Compas website, based on inputs from partners. The Asian Coordinator and the International Coordinator had detailed discussions with each one of the partners regarding their individual proposals.

**Presentation of Work by Partners :** CIKS made a CD presentation titled "The Seedkeepers". This CD traces the efforts of CIKS in seed conservation during the past ten years. Ms. Suma Tagadur of FRLHT made a presentation about the software developed by their organisation called "Local Health Traditions Information systems". It helps in documenting and managing home remedies, food and regimen and natural resources used by house holds. Mr. Gowtham Shankar of IDEA made a presentation on the Tribal world view theory building concepts. This was about the theory behind the rain making ceremonies practised by the Nayak Gotnas - the tribals of North Eastern ghats of India. He also made a presentation about the festivals celebrated by them which are related to the conservation of agrobiodiversity.

SUPPORTING AND ENABLING ENDOGENOUS DEVELOPMENT



*This diagram represents the overall framework in which we see the Compas effort. The inner circle “Local use of Resources” represents the varied resources available with the community. In this phase of the project each field group is to make an assessment of these resources in consultation with the local communities. The middle circle “Supporting Local Initiatives” lists the various ways in which the field groups are supporting endogenous development by initiatives in the local region. The outer circle “Creating an enabling environment for Endogenous development” represents the larger framework in which the work is located and efforts that are made to link the local initiatives to the larger reality.*

## COMPAS UNIVERSITIES CONSORTIUM

In the Compas International meeting of September 2001 held at Chennai, India, it was felt that the Compas field groups are quite competent and capable when it comes to documentation of field work, extension and training work. However, it was felt that their capacities are limited with respect to research and rigorous experimental testing of traditional knowledge. In this connection, the possibility of collaborating with Universities was discussed. The members felt that if a frame work could be defined, the Universities could work with the field groups in a mutually supportive manner. In February 2002, a meeting

of the representatives of the Compas Regional coordinators and International Coordinator was held along with representatives from nine Universities who had expressed interest in such a collaboration. Preliminary discussions were held to identify possible activities and a proposal was submitted a few months later. The field groups prepared a consolidated list of topics in which they needed training and input from the Universities.

The Compas Network has obtained support for this effort during the current phase of the project. The Compas Universities Consortium is becoming operational from September 2003 .

The following Universities have been identified for this collaborative work

1. Bulawayo Polytechnical University, Zimbabwe
2. University of Development studies, Ghana
3. Gandhigram Rural Institute, India
4. Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences, India
5. Perediniya University, Sri Lanka
6. Universidad major de San Simon, Bolivia
7. Centre for Development and Environment, University of Bern, Switzerland

8. CERES, The Netherlands

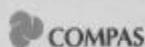
9. Wageningen University, The Netherlands

The major roles of the Universities under this consortium are : supporting the field work of Compas members, carrying out research on specific topics identified by the partners, developing a curriculum for University students on 'Endogenous development', yearly assessment workshops, regional exchange of information, to bring forth publications on the experiences gained, theory building and organising scientific conferences to discuss the findings of the research activities.

### Ancient Roots, New Shoots Endogenous Development in Practice



Bertus Haverkort, Katrien van 't Hooft and Wim Hiemstra (eds)



## ANCIENT ROOTS, NEW SHOOTS ENDOGENOUS DEVELOPMENT IN PRACTICE

***Bertus Haverkort, Katrien van't Hooft and Wim Hiemstra (eds)***

This book describes the processes by which the present-day diversity of knowledge and culture have emerged. It presents a number of field experiences of endogenous development, or development from within, in sub-Saharan Africa, Asia, South America and Europe. Innovative methodologies have been developed to understand and experiment with indigenous practices, and to find synergy with modern knowledge systems. This book carries the experiences of various Compas Partners as well as "Synthesis" chapters from various regions by the regional coordinators for Asia, Africa and Latin America as well as the International coordination team.

**(For copies contact the Asian Co-ordination office — e-mail — [ciks@vsnl.com](mailto:ciks@vsnl.com) , [info@ciks.org](mailto:info@ciks.org) )**

## *Indian Partners*

1. **CIKS**  
**Asian coordination**  
**Mr. A.V. Balasubramanian**  
30, Gandhi Mandapam Road  
Kotturpuram, Chennai - 600 085, India  
Ph: +91 44 24471087 / 24475862  
Fax +91 44 24471114,  
E-mail: [ciks@vsnl.com](mailto:ciks@vsnl.com),  
Website: [www.ciks.org](http://www.ciks.org)
2. **FRLHT**  
**Mr. Darshan Shankar**  
74/2, Jarakbande Kaval,  
Yelahanka BG, Via Attur P.O.,  
Bangalore 560 064, India  
Ph: +91 80 8565760  
Fax: +91 80 8567926  
E-mail: [darshan.shankar@frlht.org.in](mailto:darshan.shankar@frlht.org.in),  
Website: [www.frlht-india.org](http://www.frlht-india.org)
3. **GREEN**  
**Dr. Vanaja Ramprasad / Mr G. Krishna Prasad/  
Dr. Nadagowda**  
P.B. No.7651, 570/1, Padmashri Nilaya, 3rd main,  
4th cross, NS Palya, BTM 2nd stage  
Bangalore - 560 076, India  
Ph: +91 80 6784509  
Fax: +91 80 6591729  
E-mail : [greenfound@vsnl.net](mailto:greenfound@vsnl.net)  
Website: [www.greenconserve.com](http://www.greenconserve.com)
4. **IDEA**  
**Mr. Gowtham Shankar**  
Flat no. 4C, Maharaja Towers  
R.K. Mission Road  
Visakhapatnam - 530 003, India  
Ph: +91 891 2714030  
E-mail: [gowtham\\_shankar@hotmail.com](mailto:gowtham_shankar@hotmail.com)  
Website: [www.ideaind.org](http://www.ideaind.org)
5. **KPP**  
**Mr. Aruna Kumara, V. K. / Mr. Anand A.S.**  
Krishi Prayoga Pariwara  
"Srinivasa", Analekoppa Extension  
Sagara, Shimoga district - 577 401  
Karnataka, India  
Ph: +91 8183 327085  
E-mail: [aruna\\_kpp@yahoo.com](mailto:aruna_kpp@yahoo.com)  
[anand\\_kpp@rediffmail.com](mailto:anand_kpp@rediffmail.com)

## *Sri Lankan Partners*

6. **FIOH**  
**Mr. K.A.J.Kahandawa,**  
325/A/3, Kanupelella, Badulla, Sri Lanka  
Ph: +94 55 23496 / 30072  
E-mail : [future@wow.lk](mailto:future@wow.lk)
7. **ECO**  
**Mr G.K. Upawansa**  
Hyneford, Dekinda, NAWALAPITIYA, Sri Lanka  
Ph: +94 54 22580, Fax +94 54 23627  
E-mail: [pasasa@sltnet.lk](mailto:pasasa@sltnet.lk)
8. **FOL**  
Kankeeriya, Hettimulla, Kegalle, Sri Lanka  
Ph: +94 35 32891 / 72 254381  
E-mail: [fink@stlnet.lk](mailto:fink@stlnet.lk)
9. **BRIT**  
Water Tank Road, Badulla, Sri Lanka  
Ph: +94 55 23667
10. **NRDF**  
No: 3, Education Office Road,  
Naula, Sri Lanka.

## *Nepal Partner*

11. **ECOSCENTRE**  
**Mr Maheswar Ghimire**  
Ecological Services Centre, P.O. Box 4  
NARAYANGARH CHITWAN, Nepal  
Ph: +977 56 23663 / 24574,  
Fax +977 56 23834 / 22245  
E-mail: [ecoce@mos.com.np](mailto:ecoce@mos.com.np), [ecoce@mail.com.np](mailto:ecoce@mail.com.np),  
[ecoce@mos.com.np](mailto:ecoce@mos.com.np)

## COMPAS INTERNATIONAL COORDINATION

**Mr. Bertus Haverkort / Mr. Wim Hiemstra /  
Ms. Katrien van't Hooft**  
Kastanjelaan No.5, P.O.Box. 64  
3830 AB Leusden, The Netherlands  
Ph : +31 33 4326008 / 00  
Fax : +31 33 4940791  
E-mail: [compas@etcnl.nl](mailto:compas@etcnl.nl)

**Compas Website:**  
[www.compas-network.org](http://www.compas-network.org)

## PARTNER ACTIVITIES

### Seed Savers Network Conference : A Green Foundation Platform for Seed Savers

Green Foundation in association with K.H.Patil Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) organised a second Seed Savers Conference at Hulikote, Gadag, Karnataka on 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> of May 2003. This conference was a continuation of the first one that was conducted in the Southern part of Karnataka .The purpose of conducting the second conference in North Karnataka was to explore the diversity in dry land varieties.About 125 people including Organic farmers, Community Seed Bank members, SHG members, like minded NGO's, interested individuals and scientists from not only 19 districts in Karnataka, but also from Kasargod in Kerala and Dharmapuri in Tamil Nadu participated in this conference.The rationale of this conference was to assemble all the seed savers from different ecoregions of Karnataka and to create a common platform for them to share knowledge and experience in saving and conserving varieties. It was also a follow up of the first workshop. The participants were divided into four groups based on their zones and group discussions on diversity, status and practices of agriculture were held. An exhibition was organised where earheads, seeds, vegetables, fruits, samples, photographs and profiles of the organisations were displayed. The programme ended with seed exchange between the participants. This conference saw a lot of discussion and participation from the farmers particularly women farmers .

### “The Seed Keepers” - A Multimedia Presentation



The Seed keepers is a self running multimedia presentation made with still photographs, commentary and sound track.This 23 minute presentation summarises the efforts of eight years work of CIKS on biodiversity conservation. This would be a starting point for organisations

involved in biodiversity conservation work. The CD is available both in English and Tamil.

( For copies contact : [ciks@vsnl.com](mailto:ciks@vsnl.com) , [info@ciks.org](mailto:info@ciks.org) )

### Tatwaprakashini 2003

At the invitation of the Arsha Yoga Vidya Peetham Trust, Coimbatore, A.V.Balasubramanian of the Centre for Indian Knowledge Systems, Chennai participated in the *Tatwaprakashini* 2003 programme held at the Karl Kubel Institute at Coimbatore in June 2003. This was a one week orientation programme on the basic principles of Ayurveda attended by a group of five students of Ayurveda and one faculty member each from ten colleges of Ayurveda from the states of Karnataka, Tamilnadu, Maharashtra as well as the London school of Ayurveda. The course was conducted by a core faculty of the trust and some visiting faculty who spoke on special topics. A.V. Balasubramanian gave two talks, one on Vrکشayurveda and another on the social organisation of traditional Indian knowledge and the relationship between folk and classical knowledge, particularly in the context of traditional medicine.

**Editorial Team :** A.V. Balasubramanian & R. Sridevi

**Typesetting :** S. Ramesh

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