



CLARION

THE NEWSLETTER OF ASIAN COMPAS PARTNERS

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MOVING WORLDVIEWS – European Workshop on Reshaping Sciences, Policies and Practices for Endogenous Sustainable Development

A European workshop on reshaping sciences, policies and practices for endogenous sustainable development was held between 28th – 30th November 2005 in the Netherlands. Compas had facilitated this workshop in collaboration with Centre for Development and Environment of the University of Bern, The Foundation for Environmental Consciousness (Stim) and The European Centre for Development Policy Management (ECDPM). The worldviews held by the general public, policy makers and scientists were becoming increasingly diverse, reflecting the growth of multiculturalism, new scientific insights, globalisation and individualisation. More and more people were finding it difficult to accept conventional, materialistic and science-based approaches for the development. Compas partners concluded that the traditional worldviews and practices were weakening under the influences of other cultures. They observed that this creates serious problems for sustainable development and cultural diversity and accepted that the economic and cultural influences from the West were threatening. For Compas, this had raised the need for further analysis of relations between moving worldviews, sustainable development, innovative practices and effective partnerships. Compas, in collaboration with other innovative organisations, was organising a series of workshops. In the second half of 2005, three continental workshops were held in Africa, South America and Europe



Discussion during European Workshop

The participants of the conference agreed that the western worldviews were biased in its dualistic and materialist orientation, and this bias contributes to the existing ecological, social and spiritual problems of the globe. Participants presented the experiences and views from other cultures, where not only the duality but also the connectivity between living and non-living were the ordering principles of the worldviews. In most of the non-western societies, the human world, the material world and the spiritual world are inseparable. Traditional knowledge and values have been subjected to erosion, where some had gone underground, and many had lost their vitality and power. The participants provided important insights in the fundamental difference between western worldviews and knowledge and those of their own cultures.

The voices from the South felt the challenge to revitalize their own knowledge, to make the link with their own culture and to bring about a development path which was not just repeating the western model, but also had taken advantage of the strengths of the own values, worldviews and expertise. In 2006, a meeting on Asian worldviews and knowledge would be held in Bangalore and an International Synthesis Conference would be held in Switzerland and this conference would build on the outcomes of the four continental workshops and would suggest practical ways of dealing with moving worldviews, reshaping science, policies and practices and improving the relationships between the stakeholders in a global perspective.

Compas IMM Meeting in Holland

A meeting of the International Management Group of the Compas programme was held in Holland between 5th - 9th December 2005. The meeting was attended by all the regional and sub regional coordinators from Africa, Asia, Latin America, Europe and also by the Compas international coordination team. During the meeting, there was a detailed exercise to review the progress of Compas field projects in various regions. Informations regarding the regional activities in Asia, Africa, Latin America and Europe were also presented and reviewed. In continuation of overall progress of the Compas project, discussions were held regarding future activities including a forthcoming meeting of all the Compas partners to be held in September 2006 and also an international conference on the Compas UC programme which was being planned in Switzerland in October 2006.



Compas International Management Meeting

During the course of the IMM meeting, the Compas group also met the health sub group of ETC Netherlands and the two groups exchanged views about work related to traditional healthcare. A meeting with representatives from some donor agencies was also arranged during the course of the programme.

Coordinated Research on Use of Animal Products in Traditional Agriculture.

A research project regarding the use of animal products in traditional agriculture is being carried out as a coordinated programme involving the four Indian partners namely CIKS, FRLHT, KPP and IDEA. The project consists of multiple components encompassing – survey of literature regarding farmers practices from the fields, survey of literature on Ayurveda and Vrکشayurveda, field survey in one selected locality, laboratory study of short listed animal products (being undertaken by FRLHT) and field trials being carried out by three of the partners.

During the current project period, field trials have been commenced in three of the project areas. CIKS is involved in experiments for testing the use of modified Panchagavyam and its variations on the growth of paddy crop in Nagapattinam district of Tamilnadu. KPP is involved in testing the effect of cow and buffalo urine on paddy, amaranthus and cucumber crops in Shimoga district of Karnataka. IDEA is involved in testing the use of goat manure as a growth promoter for some selected winter crops in the Vishakapatnam district of Andhra Pradesh.



Inception Meeting on Use of Animal Products

Besides this, IDEA has also commenced the field survey regarding the use of animal products in traditional agriculture in the selected areas of Andhra Pradesh. As part of the literature survey, eight selected Vrکشayurveda texts are being studied by CIKS team.

Compas Research Programmes in India

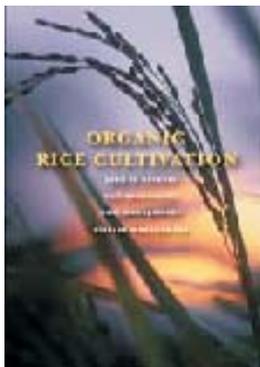
Bertus Haverkort - International Coordinator of the Compas UC Research Programme, visited India between 26th February and 18th March 2006. The objective of the visit was to have an overview of the research being carried out by the Indian partners. Initially he visited IDEA to have an overview of activities and research in the Vishakapatnam district of Andhra Pradesh. During the second phase of his travel he visited FRLHT, Bangalore as well as Mysore and Cochin to take part in a series of meetings with scholars involved in work related to traditional medicine, folklore and various allied areas. During the last part of this trip, he visited Chennai and met with the research team of CIKS. He also had meetings with various other experts and scholars who were involved in work related to traditional medicine, yoga traditional textiles and natural dyes etc. During the concluding part of his trip, a planning meeting was held in Chennai for the forthcoming Asian regional meeting on traditional sciences and technologies.

Compas Programme at the Gandhigram Rural University

The Gandhigram Rural University at Gandhigram in Dindigul district of Tamil Nadu is collaborating with the Compas Universities Consortium Programme for teaching a series of courses on traditional agriculture. These are short term courses which will be taught during the course of this year to various kinds of trainees including – students of agriculture at B.Sc Agriculture and Diploma levels, NGOs, farmers and extension workers. The first meeting of the Programme committee for this project was held in Gandhigram on 6th January 2006. The meeting was attended by Professor T. T. Ranganathan, Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry, Gandhigram Rural University, A. V. Balasubramanian, Compas Asian Coordinator and other members of the committee, which included agricultural experts from other institutions, Department of Agriculture of the Government of Tamil Nadu and representatives of farmers and NGOs. The committee decided on an overall structure of the course content for each of these courses and a schedule of programmes to be carried out through the year.

CIKS PUBLICATIONS

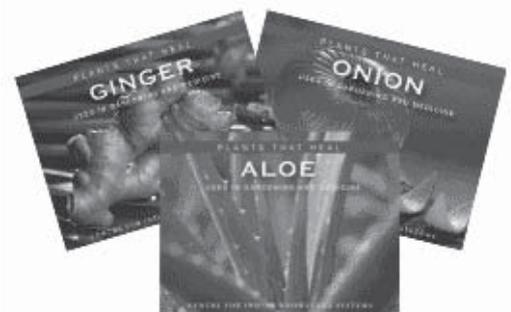
Organic Rice Cultivation



It is a set of four films on organic rice cultivation. The first film gives an overview of organic rice cultivation from seed to harvest. The second film goes into the details of organic soil enrichment. The third discusses in detail the organic methods of pest management. The final film discusses the important diseases affecting paddy and their control measures.

The total duration of these four films is 110 minutes in English and 99 minutes in Tamil. These films are available in both DVD and VCD formats.

Plants that Heal



“Plants that Heal” is a set of eight booklets that highlight everyday uses of some common plants with extremely valuable properties. Each booklet contains details and instructions on various aspects of cultivation of a particular plant and its uses in agriculture, gardening, human health and animal health. These booklets cover plants such as Aloe, Garlic, Ginger, Turmeric, Adhatoda, Kalmegh, Custard Apple and Onion.

For Copies : e-mail : info@ciks.org / ciks@vsnl.com

FRLHT PUBLICATION

A User's Manual on Ethnoveterinary Health Practices



This booklet contains detailed information from the folk knowledge as well as from modern veterinary medicine regarding 18-health condition as well as their remedies. A user-friendly index of plant names along with colour images (60) is available in this manual.

For copies : email: medplan@frlht.org.in.

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