



CLARION

THE NEWSLETTER OF ASIAN COMPAS PARTNERS

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ENDOGENOUS LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP

The international ELD initiative

An international workshop on Endogenous Livestock Development was held in Yaounde, Cameroon between June 12 -18, 2005. Compas partners at the workshop included Mr. David Millar, Regional Coordinator, West and East Africa, Dr. M.N. Balakrishnan Nair, FRLHT, Bangalore, India and Ms. Katrien van't Hooft, ETC, The Netherlands. The ELD initiative was begun by a group of people involved in various international networks related to livestock development. The initiative seeks to create a global umbrella for exchange and networking on ELD, to deepen the understanding of ELD approaches, to support field-based ELD initiatives, and to influence policies, research and education related to livestock for poverty alleviation.

ELD in Africa : Life in Africa is fast changing, has a diversity of lifestyles, practices, values, religions and knowledge systems. African livestock systems are also extremely complex. The basic elements of African worldviews, and our ways of perceiving life, are not only centered on those living today, but also the relationship with our ancestors and the yet unborn. The cosmivision also encompasses the perception of poverty and wellbeing, the relationship between man and nature, and the human-animal relationships.

Objectives of the writeshop/workshop

This was organised jointly by Heifer International/Cameroon, Agromisa and ETC/Compas with an aim of pulling together the experiences and insights from both farmers groups and NGO's within Cameroon about ELD. It also focused on inter-cultural exchange, by means of participation of NGO's from India and Ghana. The objectives include:

- ⌘ The various groups of participants gain better understanding in the potentials and methodologies for ELD, as well as insight in what this can mean within their respective communities and organisations.
- ⌘ Stimulating further networking and lobbying amongst the participating organisations towards more 'people centered livestock approaches'.



ELD Workshop, Cameroon

- ⌘ Jointly produce a document with the temporary title: *Exploring Endogenous Livestock Development in Cameroon* (within the Agromisa Agrodoc Series), which highlights the farmers experiences, as well as the relevance and methodologies of ELD within Cameroon.

Participants

There was a total of 39 participants from three groups which includes:

- ⌘ Farmers in 4 groups from the North West Region of Cameroon supported by Heifer Cameroon.
- ⌘ Staff from Heifer and government in Cameroon
- ⌘ International facilitators and representatives of NGO's

The farmer groups and NGOs involved presented their experiences on Livestock development. There was a field visit to a neighbouring village, where farmers from the workshop exchanged ideas with community members supported by Heifer, proved crucial for the insights. Suddenly it became clear that development can only come 'from within' – also because of the relatively rich environment of the communities visited compared

to the communities of the participants. The common attitude of 'waiting for what comes from outside' observed in the communities visited was now questioned, as was the attitude of support organisations of 'we are bringing you development'. During the rest of the week, experiences and insights were exchanged on how to support ELD based on peoples' own environment, resources and experiences. Many technical elements were discussed as well as methodologies of ELD support. Several farmers' groups felt re-assured in their own initiatives, and plans which had been on the background, were now revived. The farmer groups started looking within themselves where the major possibilities for (livestock) development are lying, instead of only waiting for outside support. This was a major step.

The event also stimulated the interest of the NGO's involved to make their approaches more 'people centered' rather than 'commodity/livestock centered'. The exchange between various countries and continents was also very positive – the similarities between local practices in India and Cameroon were striking, which greatly boosted the confidence in these practices and concepts

Cross-cutting elements for supporting ELD (strategy, methodology, and facilitation of ELD)

Strategy

1. Consider whole farming system (system focus

instead of looking only at animals)

2. First look at local options available within farming system
3. Balance between local resources, knowledge and resources from outside (breeds + all other aspects)
4. Recognise and acknowledge people's spiritual + cultural practices and include them in actions (where applicable)
5. Consciousness about gender aspects
6. Involve local institutions (e.g. village elders)
7. Include people's time management, risk management, coping system
8. Supporting local experts within the communities
9. Support local groups to influence policy (creating an enabling environment)
10. Reflection how to leave a community / maintain relationship (weaning strategy)
11. Support networking + strategic partnerships at various levels
12. Include Intellectual Property Rights aspects / define strategy for this
13. Include (non-conventional) forms of research to evaluate local practices
14. Enhance cross-generational learning
15. Be conscious of group dynamics within the communities
16. Support people to make informed decisions

17. Sharing amongst all stakeholders (farmers, NGOs, government universities, research centres).

Methodology

1. In community entry: be sensitive to local culture
2. Community diagnosis à analysis of all local resources available
3. Group formation on basis of thematic areas of major interest
4. Base-line survey of each thematic area
5. Joint action research to improve local practices (instead of formal training)
6. Farmer to farmer exchange
7. Documentation of local practices + re-dissemination
8. Develop methodologies for joint assessment of local practices
9. In case of controversial issues (e.g. gender roles): provide information + exposure to other realities
10. Include process of self-reflection for all involved

11. Importance of participating in cultural-social-spiritual events (where applicable)

12. Joint monitoring of outcome of action research – for example during community festivals

13. Joint sharing of experience - positive and negative within community and outside

14. Support groups to do things themselves

Facilitating issues

1. Flexible funding within community (where possible)

2. Different approaches in different cultural contexts

3. Support communities to access multiple opportunities for development (banks, NGO's)

4. Long-term commitment

Report by Dr. M.N. Balakrishnan Nair, FRLHT, Bangalore, India



Discussion at the workshop

INTERNATIONAL MANAGEMENT MEETING

The IMM was held in Cochabamba, Bolivia between 31st January - 2nd February, 2005 and hosted by Agruco, the Agroecology department of the University Mayor de San Simon. The programme consisted of three days of intensive reporting and discussions, one day field visit, to the communities where Agruco works within the Compas programme, an open seminar on Inter – and Intraculturality in education and visit to UNESCOs intangible heritage site: the Carnival of Oruro. The meeting was opened with a traditional Andean ritual with coca leaves as well as a libation for Pacha Mama (Mother Earth) to have a good meeting. This was followed by an opening address by Mr.Wim Hiemstra (Team Leader, Compas).

Institutional Development (ID) of Compas was one of the main topics for discussion in this meeting. Dr. Vijay Padaki (Principal Consultant) made a presentation, referring to the reports on ID from different continents. Based on the reports and discussion, various action implications were agreed for follow-up (by regional studies and/or ICU).

The other topic dealt with was the University Consortium (UC). Compas UC was heavily negotiated with donor as the fear is that the relevance for development is not recognized. It was argued that for the future of ED, young professionals need to be trained in the new paradigm. Secondly it was felt important that research topics could also address culture and spirituality.

A proposal was presented by Mr.Bertus Haverkort on regional and international conferences for 2005 and 2006. The proposal was accepted and Mr.Bertus Haverkort and Mr. Stefan Rist were given the mandate to prepare for the international conference in October 2006 in Geneva. A concept note on an international M.Phil course on Endogenous development will be formulated by Mr.Stefan Rist, Mr. Abraham Mwadiwa (Regional co-ordinator, South Africa) and Mr. Nelson Tapia (Agruco) and circulated among UC members.

As for LENDEV – Learning to support Endogenous Development, Mr. Laurens van Veldhuizen (ETC) is supporting the LENDEV resource book contributions from Africa and

Asia, Mr. Stefan Rist for Latin America. The aim is to show how we as Compas partners learned ED in different situations and to develop a learning guide for inspiring others. Mr. Stefan Rist explained the proposed sections of the LENDEV guide. Write-workshops were planned for the different regions. The meeting ended with review of action plans and agreements. The group then traveled to the city of Oruro to witness the traditional Carnival, a day, night and morning of traditional dancing and costumes and a colourful closure of the Bolivian IMM meeting.

Report by Mr. Wim Hiemstra, ETC, The Netherlands

WORKSHOP ON ORGANIC RICE CHAIN

A workshop on ‘Organising the Organic Fairtrade Rice Chain, Building Grassroots Competency’ was held in Thailand between 8 – 25 June 2005. This was an eighteen day long comprehensive training and exposure on the different components of organic and fairtrade rice chain for the NGOs in South and South-East Asian nations working largely on rice. The workshop was hosted by Earthnet Foundation, a bangkok based NGO with assistance from HIVOS, The Netherlands. The overall

goal was to improve the livelihood of the rural producers through organic and fairtrade rice chain activities. The specific objective of the project was to capacitate and increase the competency of grassroot organizations in the Asian region in organising organic and fairtrade rice chain projects.

About 20 participants, from 13 organisations in 5 Asian countries participated in this training programme. Mrs. Subhashini Sridhar and Ms. R. Sridevi, Centre for Indian Knowledge Systems and Mr. Mahadeva, Green Foundation were among the Compas

partners to have participated in the workshop.

The curriculum included theory sessions,

practical training and study visits of actual rice chain activities operated by grassroot groups in Thailand as well as other institutions working on different aspects of rice chain. Participants were guided to make an analysis of their own rice chain project’s strengths /



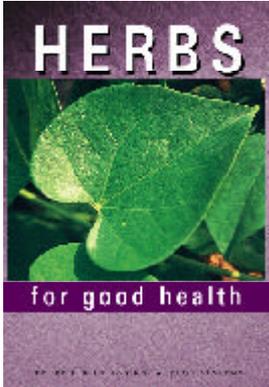
Participants at the Workshop

weaknesses, and to develop intervention measures to improve its operation.

Report by Ms. R. Sridevi, CIKS, India

NEW PUBLICATIONS FROM CIKS

“ Herbs for Good Health ”

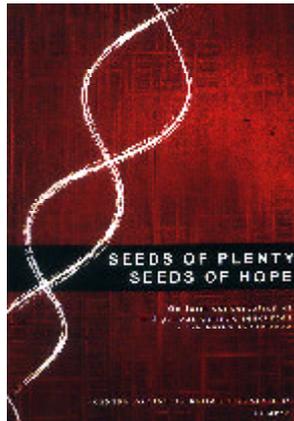


Our country harbours a rich source of medicinal plants which are used in the treatment of a wide range of diseases. More than 8000 species of plants found in our country are used in medicine. This book “Herbs for Good Health” provides details of 20 most commonly used medicinal plants. It provides cultivation details of these plants and simple recipes for use of these plants in treatment of common ailments. The colour photographs of

each medicinal plant helps in easy identification.

“Seeds of plenty Seeds of Hope ”

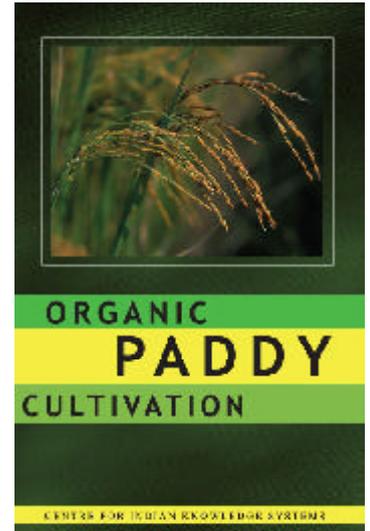
The book “Seeds of plenty Seeds of Hope” is a recent compas publication brought out by the “Centre for Indian Knowledge Systems”. This is a compilation of the work done by various organizations in Asia on the ‘On-farm conservation of indigenous genetic resources’. A large number of grass root efforts are in progress for the on farm conservation of indigenous genetic resources. The list of



organisations covered in this book is only a representative sample of this effort and is by no means exhaustive. The book will help in sharing and exchange of information on biodiversity conservation.

“ Organic Paddy Cultivation ”

The Centre for Indian Knowledge Systems has brought out a publication titled “Organic Paddy Cultivation”. This book provides detailed information on the organic cultivation of paddy – seed selection techniques, seed treatment, use of organic manures to improve soil fertility, list of pests and diseases affecting paddy along with their organic control measures, pests of stored grains and their control measures. There is also a mention on the list of indigenous paddy varieties with their special characteristics in the book. The book also has colourful illustrations of the major pests and predators in paddy ecosystem.



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