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## **Annual Report 2008 of MIJARC/IMCARY**

Mouvement International de la Jeunesse Agricole et Rurale Catholique  
International Movement of Catholic Agricultural and Rural Youth

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## 1. Introduction

The year 2008 was characterized by many changes. All continental movement have held their General Assembly and also the World Assembly has taken place in Uganda. The assemblies brought many new faces to our organisation in new responsibilities, a new action plan, a declaration towards the hunger crisis and a strong commitment to deepen our work in the field of economic projects was made.

The struggles for food sovereignty, solidarity economy and gender equity are still important elements of the work of MIJARC, during the last year we strengthened our work in these areas with trainings, seminars, networking and lobby work. This showed the importance of involvement of young people from rural areas which have significant impact on various policy making institutions and politicians, since rural youth is seldom recognised in politics; however they are the future, since most of the world wide existing land is considered as rural area. It is important and essential that young people from rural areas receive attention in politics and opportunities to develop their own well-being.

See-jugde-act is the methodology MIJARC is working with, which helps to discover and indicates problems rural youth is faced in order to take up action to build up a new rural world. During the seminar "Daring to build a new rural world" in Kampala participants learnt new methodologies and discussed how to improve their commitment. Members of MIJARC movements have been creating agricultural cooperatives, are collectively farming, are engaged in the production and marketing of handicrafts etc. Apart from that MIJARC member movements are constantly in the reflection regarding the economic model dominating the world and the alternatives to it.

Towards the World Food Day 2008 MIJARC launched the campaign "Seeds-Foundation of global food security, Access to seeds is a fundamental right of farmers", posters were distributed to our movements and partners. A lot of movements took up actions around that international day. Seminars, press releases and panel discussions were organised by MIJARC national or diocesan movements which helped to up the topic on the public agenda.

The relationship between FAO and MIJARC is undertaken a long time, thus we invest a lot of time in order to use the political space FAO is offering us directly or through IPC (International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty). This is one indicator of a lot that our work and knowledge is accepted in the field of agriculture. Our participation in the FAO meetings, e.g. the High-level-meeting in June 2008, as well as in the IPC has strengthened our lobby work on food and agricultural issues and increased the network and cooperation with various organisations from both north and south.

In may 2008 the first MIJARC Young rural women conference took place in Kampala/ Uganda, national women representative discussed women's work on world level with the background of own experiences in their countries and formulated their demands into the action plan of MIJARC in order to strengthen women's work in the international catholic rural youth movement. Recognising that in all parts of the world man and women have not equal rights and opportunities MIJARC foresee to deepen gender work in MIJARC to support young rural women in their commitments to change the society.

Even we managed to organise the World Assembly of MIJARC in 2008, we recognise that organising funds in order to arrange a structural meeting is not easy. We are sure that these meetings have an important output on the work of lower levels, since knowledge will be received and networks are built and hope that relevant actors see the same necessity of these meetings as we do.

World Team in April 2008

## **2. Activities**

### **2.1. International Women Commission and Women Conference**

#### **Background**

The world assembly in Madras decided to create an international working group of women and the world assembly in 2004 in Germany reaffirmed the need to have women commissions at the local, national, international level. Moreover the new statutes recognize 2 world coordinators, of which one is a woman and which has the same responsibilities. The international commission of the women is composed of one representing of the women of each continent, plus a member of the world team. 2007 was decided to organise the first young rural women conference just before the World Assembly in 2008.

#### **Goals:**

- to enable women living in rural areas to take responsibilities in the movement
- to enable women to analyse gender differences, especially in the movement and in rural areas
- to provoke changes with regard to stronger participation of women within the movement, in the villages/society and in development projects
- to enable women to elaborate plans of action with groups and organize the follow up

#### **Activities:**

Preparing the international women conference agenda - fund raising - organising the International Women Commission - facilitating a stronger participation of women during the statutory meetings and other activities - facilitating meetings of women representatives within continental seminars and meetings - establishing stronger communication among the women representatives - evaluating and drafting reports - follow-up.

#### **Results/Impact:**

The international commission of women (IWC) 2008 met during the World Assembly and

- ◆ evaluated the action plan 2007 with a gender approach
- ◆ had a meeting with Mrs Mary Theresa Mafumbo, Secretary, Women's Desk of the Uganda Episcopal Conference
- ◆ had a discussion on political participation of women
- ◆ worked out proposals for the action plan 2008-2012 and included strategies of enhanced communication between local, national and international level
- ◆ prepared the women conference 2008

The women conference had an objective to carry out the reflection on gender equity in connection with the topic of the conference. This conference worked specifically on the political participation of the women, their role in the society, access to productive resources and developed an action plan in this regard. The actions on gender equity within MIJARC especially at the local, national and international level were presented. Women leaders from different walks of life shared their experiences in this regard.

#### **Outlook:**

The first young rural women conference was fruitful, so it is planned to organise every four year this conference to give space to the national women leaders in order to define actions for the future.

A lot of improvement has made in regard of gender justice in the past but women participation is still limited, often linked to questions how women can attain leadership in the movement where especially in south countries men have much more facility to get recognized as leaders.

Finally little women participation is also connected to the importance given inside the movement to the meetings of women and how intensive the preparation and mobilization has been organized by the leaders in general. More support and attention from male side is recommendable as well as active support from the upper levels.

## **2.2. FAO High level conference, climate change**

MIJARC has the status of a special observer within the UN, it is invited as an observer to the FAO Council and Committee Sessions to the FAO High level meeting.

The High-Level Conference on World Food Security: The Challenges of Climate Change and Bioenergy opened at FAO Headquarters in Rome, Italy on 3 June 2008. Throughout the three days of events, forty-two Heads of State and Government, one hundred high-level Ministers and sixty non-governmental and civil society organizations from one hundred eighty-one member countries discussed the challenges that climate change, bioenergy and soaring food prices posed to world food security. George Dixon Fernandez, Jose Kalayil and Carolin Grieshop participated for MIJARC in the High-level-meeting of FAO (Food and agriculture Organization of the United Nations) hold in the beginning of June in Rome/ Italy.

Following discussion and negotiations, the Conference concluded with the adoption by acclamation of a declaration calling on the international community to increase assistance for developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and those that are most negatively affected by high food prices. The timeliness of the Conference was widely acknowledged by participants and countries agreed that the issues of food, energy and climate change are all closely linked. While many analyses were presented, there was general agreement that agriculture would once again play a prominent role on the international agenda, and that increased agricultural investment and enhanced agricultural productivity would be crucial. This commitment was strengthened by proposed financing. Although the Conference was not a pledging conference, many donors announced firm financial contributions aimed at countries most affected by the world food crisis.

### **Results/Impact:**

The conference gave a good opportunity to meet and challenge all the major donors, key actors and thinkers in the debate on hunger crisis. Especially the interventions of the state representative showed up their own commitments.

The political space for civil society and social movements to interact/negotiate with FAO (both the secretariat and the members) inevitably tends to be under attack. The regular participation in FAO related activities gave MIJARC especially in the last years good recognition of being the voice of young people in rural areas. Access to land for young people will be the main interest for MIJARC to work with the ICARRD department of FAO.

### **Outlook**

Being the movement working in this working field, the presence of MIJARC is quite relevant for conferences like this. We have to keep an eye on the follow up of this event.

## **2.3. International Campaign on access to productive resources - access to seeds**

### **Background**

From 2001 - 2004 MIJARC worked on the Campaign "MIJARC for food for all". Different topics like the right to food, dumping, IMF, World Bank and food security, women and food sovereignty have been dealt. The objectives have been to inform the public and the members of MIJARC movements and to advocacy for the right for food. Each time the International Secretariat elaborated posters and information material which was distributed to the member movements and local groups. A lot of movements translated the material in their local languages. The local groups have been called upon doing actions during the world food day 16<sup>th</sup> of October and each year a lot of activities took place.

The World Coordination 2005 evaluated the campaign "MIJARC for food for all" and decided to start another campaign related to food sovereignty from a young people's perspective. The focus of the last three years campaign was on Access to Productive resources; In 2006 we have launched the campaign on access to land and in 2007 it was on access to water and last year it was on access to seeds.

### **Objectives**

- Men and women of the movements realise the importance of seeds as the founder of global food security
- They take up concrete actions to protect and preserve traditional seeds in their locality
- Men and women of the movements analyze the situation of access to seeds in their country and continent
- Men and women of the movements inform the public about the difficulties related to seed access for young people and initiate or strengthen activities to advocacy for more and easy access to seeds
- Create seed banks
- Debate and awareness on GMO's and corporate control over seeds
- Lobbying and advocacy on patents and Intellectual property rights related to living organisms

### **Activities**

A call for action was published before the WFD 2008. MIJARC produced and disseminated the World Food Day material on "Access to seeds, foundation of global food security" to the member movements and local groups as well as to the institutions that have contacts with the movement. Different public events have been organized during the World Food Day, 16<sup>th</sup> of October 2008 according to the reality of the movements like manifestations, debates and interviews with local political leaders, meeting with Agricultural departments and ministries, seminars, fairs, exhibitions, political meetings. Articles on the topic of access to seeds were published in MIJARC News.

### **Results/Impact:**

- More and more farmers are aware of the importance of traditional seeds to store, exchange and reuse in their locality to ensure the generational transfer
- awareness rising among the members of MIJARC and public in general and realising the importance to maintain biodiversity
- attention by partners and politicians
- Collaborative projects with Agricultural departments in some countries on exchange and preservation of seed varieties

- Some farmers are aware and get organised against the interventions and control of the transnational seed companies

#### **Outlook:**

The topic for 2009 will be on Climate change and agrofuels and hence it has a real link with the topic on seeds. As an educative movement we can do a lot in various countries to support the governments and people in order to mitigate the climate change effect as well as to work for the behavioural formation of the consumers and producers to opt for renewable form of energies and to the less contribution of the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Campaign is a good instrument to enhance MIJARC's internal and external visibility but it is necessary to motivate with various dynamics to encourage the movements to take up actions at various levels.

### **2.4. International Coordination Meeting of Youth Organisations (ICMYO)**

#### **Background**

The International Coordination Meeting of Youth Organizations (ICMYO) is an informal network of membership-based, democratic, representative and accountable. MIJARC is one of the founding member of ICMYO. International Youth NGOs (INGYOs) and Regional Youth Platforms (RYPs). The main objectives of ICMYO are the strengthening of cooperation among youth organisations at the regional and global levels and the coordination of political inputs to global youth policy processes such as Youth Employment Network (YEN), the World Bank Youth Dialogue and the "World Programme for Youth to the year 2000 and Beyond" evaluation process (WPAY). Since its inception in 2004, ICMYO has gained international credibility with UN agencies, the World Bank, and other international institutions; and its successes have included ensuring youth voices are heard in high level policy frameworks such as the World Development Report 2007 and the World Programme of Action for Youth

#### **Activities**

##### **Fifth International Coordination Meeting of Youth Organizations Cairo, Egypt, 14-17 June**

ICMYO meets at least once a year. High-level representatives of youth organisations from all continents met with several UN agencies and other intergovernmental institutions in Cairo, for the 5th International Coordination Meeting of Youth Organisations which took place between the 15 and the 17 June 2008. George Dixon Fernandez represented MIJARC in this important gathering. Major conclusions of the meeting is stated below

- Letter to Ban Ki-Moon The organisations gathering in the International Coordination Meeting of Youth Organisations (ICMYO) raised the following concerns in a letter to the UN Secretary General.
- Strengthening the UN Youth Programme: Promoting the goals and targets presented to the UNGA in 2007 to the Member States .Ensuring funding for Youth Delegates to the UN from developing countries through the UN Youth Fund
- Involvement of Youth Organisations One of the conclusions from the meeting is that UN Agencies must take the democratic principles of the UN into account when establishing mechanisms for youth participation. It is important that the UN works with democratic and representative organisations and not individuals.
- One UN Reform: With the implementation of the One UN Reform the UN must also ensure mechanisms for youth participation on the national level.
- Meeting with Alliance of Civilisations: During the International Coordination Meeting for Youth Organisations (ICMYO) in Cairo (15-17 June 2008 ) Mr. Daanish Masood from the Alliance of Civilisations presented the future plans of the alliance to work with youth.

- Youth one of four priorities: Working with young people is one of the four priorities of the alliance; further covering migration, education and media.
  - Youth Solidarity Fund The Alliance of Civilisations recently launched its own youth fund.
  - Youth-led and youth-selected The fund does not grant projects run by adults for youth, only truly youth-led projects.
  - Youth Advisory Committee When selecting projects to get grants from the Solidarity Fund a gender balanced Youth Advisory Committee was established with representatives nominated by the Regional Youth Platforms, all gathering in ICMYO.
- League of Arab States: The ICMYO was hosted for a session at the Headquarters of the League of Arab States. The representatives of the LAS briefed the participants on the different processes related to youth undertaken by them: Arab Youth Declaration on youth empowerment, Reports and Research on youth, Arab Youth Forum & other initiatives.
  - Commonwealth Youth Programme: The Commonwealth Youth Programme (CYP) is an international development agency that is dedicated to empowering young people (aged 15-29) in its 53 member countries. Three broad programmes of CYP: Youth Enterprise and sustainable livelihoods, Governance Development and Youth Networks, Youth work education and training
  - Statement on Volunteering: ICMYO work on a joint statement on volunteering from a youth perspective in connection with 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the International Year of Volunteers 2001 (IYV+10) as an opportunity to support volunteering in youth organizations.

### **Results and Impacts**

- Exchange information and best practices
- To become stronger and overcome individual limitations (financial, geographic...)
- To influence political processes and decisions of international institutions working/impacting youth issues
- To work together in our common thematic priorities
- Increase our access to international institutions working/impacting on youth issues
- Share information about ongoing global youth issues and processes

### **Outlook**

MIJARC will give input on the letter to Ban Ki-moon as well as on the joint statement on Volunteering. For ICMYO network MIJARC is the focal organization to the Rome based UN agencies thus as a task updates on food and agricultural issues has to be disseminated to the other members. MIJARC should try to build up partnership with UN alliance of Civilisation programme as well as with Common Wealth Youth Programmes. In 2009 the UN General Assembly will adopt a new resolution on youth. ICMYO will work on this topic.

## **2.5. World Youth Day Sydney/ Australia**

### **Background:**

23<sup>rd</sup> World Youth Day took place in Sydney, Australia in July 2008. The World Youth Days organised by the Vatican under the leadership of Pontifical Council for Laity gather millions of

young people from all over the world. It was Pope John Paul II who founded World Youth Day, and he has been regularly extending invitations to participate since 1986. The motto of the XXIII World Youth Day, which runs from 15 to 20 July 2008, was "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses" (Acts 1:8). This passage occurs after the death and resurrection of Jesus, just before his ascension to the Father. It represents the birth of the Church. Around 500000 young people came to Sydney from 170 countries. After over 200,000 pilgrims slept overnight at the venue following the WYD '08 Evening Vigil, 400000 filled Randwick Race course in Sydney for WYD final mass. MIJARC has been participating officially in the last World Youth Days and has organized in the past seminars and other events related to Global issues and young rural people's concern. Thousands of young people from MIJARC participated in this World Youth Day coming from all over the world.

#### **Objectives:**

- to enable the young people to meet share and understand the different realities of the world
- to encourage young people from the rural world to take up concrete projects which could give sustainable solution for their problems
- to increase the visibility of specialized Catholic action movements, especially MIJARC
- to make the link between faith and society, spirituality and social /political action
- to involve young people outside of MIJARC in the dynamic, the reflections and actions of MIJARC

#### **Activities:**

World Youth Day 2008 took place in Sydney Australia from 9-20 July 2008 with various programmes. Days in the dioceses, Youth festival Events, Catechism, Way of the cross, Vigil, Mass with Holysee were some of the highlighted events during the World Youth Day. MIJARC organized different activities in Australia in connection with World Youth Day youth festival event. A work shop on Young people and Millennium Development Goal was organized jointly by MIJARC, IYCS, IYCW and Caritas Australia. Hundreds of young people from different parts of the world took part in this conference and made commitment of declaration to work for the achievement of MDG. George Dixon Fernandez was a speaker for this event on the topic of poverty reduction and employment with regard to MDG 1. Press release took place on the outcome and conclusions of the workshop. MIJARC also installed an Exposition Stall to promote our actions and the movement at the Vocation Expo Hall arranged by WYD authorities in Darling Harbour, Sydney. Thousands of young people visited our Exposition stall. Even though MIJARC didn't send a big delegation for the WYD, many of our members had been there through their national Episcopal conferences or by personal initiatives. MIJARC, IYCS, IMCS and YCS/YCW Australia had prepared a questionnaire prior to the WYD in order to enhance the engagement of young people in spirituality of action and in the debates about globalization, poverty and hunger. George Dixon Fernandez, MIJARC Asian Team members Anil Jose, Fr. Sunny Uppan and other delegates of MIJARC had a mass with with Pope Benedict XVI during the World Youth Day in Sydney 2008.

#### **Results/Impact:**

- Hundreds of young people from various countries participated in our workshop and committed to work for the realisation of MDGs
- More visibility for MIJARC and its actions during the exposition
- Awareness among young people to get organised
- New contacts

- The members of our movement from both north and south had a great opportunity to meet and share their ideas, visions and projects.

**Outlook:**

MIJARC consider WYD as a great opportunity to speak with young people about our projects and positions on food and Agricultural issues. It is also a space to give awareness to the young people to take up commitment based on the catholic social teaching of the church and practice it in their daily life. It also gives opportunity to meet with different other youth organisations as well as young people who are interested to work for a better world. MIJARC will participate in the evaluation and preparation meeting of World Youth Day in Vatican in April 2009. We are also planning and preparing for the participation in the next WYD at Madrid, Spain in 2011.

**2.6. Niederalteicher Agrartagung**

**Background:**

The Landvolkhochschule Niederalteich (Germany) organises together with other organisations every year a conference related to question on agricultural policy. In November 2008 the conference was dedicated "climate change, energy crops and rising hunger".

The aim of this conference was to raise the awareness of stakeholders in the agricultural sector, such as local governments, experts, activists from agricultural syndicates etc about the impacts of producing energy crops in order to avoid climate change and with relation to the amount of people who suffer from hunger.

For the conference Carolin Grieshop, Secretary General of MIJARC, was chosen, thus she was invited to speak about "Food sovereignty- an exit from hunger and poverty. A method to a self-determined agriculture for all countries". Among the other speaker their were representative from other NGOs, Bavarian regional office for Agriculture, Network for marketing of energy crops, Eco-social Forum Europe and consumer service Bavaria.

**Outcome:**

The need to organise an eco-social framework for agricultural policy was highlighted. For small farmers and peasants access to land is needed in every part of the world. As individuals in industrialised countries saving energy is the most important in order to struggle against climate change.

**2.7. Expert discussion on foreign direct investment**

In the beginning of December FIAN, Misereor, GTZ and the federal ministry for Economical cooperation and Developemnt (BMZ) invited to an expert discussion: Protecting the Human Right to Food in the context of foreign direct investment - a challenge to the African Human Rights System. MIJARC participated through Carolin Grieshop. Speakers focussed on economic, social and cultural right and responsibilities of non-state actors and representatives of different initiatives gave examples from their own countries, such as from Ghana concerning loss of access to land and water in the mining sector and from Uganda a forced eviction for large-scale agricultural investment projects.

It was ascertained, that investments of non-state-actors affects often local economy and causes loss of land and sometimes to violence. Thus a monitoring of foreign direct investment is needed.

## **2.8. Policies against hunger, Berlin**

### **Background**

On the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Federal Ministry held its seventh "Policies against Hunger" conference in Berlin, this time under the title of: "The Right to Food is a Human Right". At the conference, over 250 international participants discussed different courses of action and recommendations for securing the right to food. The conference is part of a high-ranking series of conferences that have been addressing important topics to do with global food security on a yearly basis since 2001.

Carolin Grieshop, Secretary General of MIJARC, participated in this conference, to which stakeholders of the civil society, parliamentarians, representatives of ministries from all over the world and scientists were invited.

It was highlighted, that security of land tenure and access to land as a productive resource are essential for the protection of the right to food.

### **Outlook:**

In order to support the security of land tenure developing and strengthening the legal framework on human rights is necessary. More efforts should be made to ensure that the Voluntary Guidelines to support the progressive realization of the Right to adequate food in the Context of national food security are known and used as a reference in the large set of policies they address. Civil society should be equipped to play a role in furthering the implementation of the Guidelines.

## **3. Organs of MIJARC**

### **3.1. World Assembly**

#### **Background**

The world assembly takes place every four years. The previous assembly took place in Germany in 2004 and celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> year of existence of MIJARC and its Jubilee and analysed the impact of our work in during the last decades; Most of the member movements participated in that assembly with various activities. The year 2008 marked with another mile stone in the history of MIJARC by organising a great assembly in the continent of Africa; The last world assembly took place at Pope Paul VI Memorial Hotel in Kampala, Uganda from 15-28 of May 2008. A study visit was organised with the help of CARYM UGANDA to experience, the culture, agriculture and life of the people in the country. Debates, training sessions, Public conference, Conference of Adult collaborators and Women, Cultural entertainments etc were also part of the Assembly programme

#### **Objectives**

- To reinforce the internal networking of MIJARC
- To strengthen the contacts between south-south movements and south-north movements
- The evaluation of the last four years work done by MIJARC world and Continents
- Planning of the next four years for all the levels and drafting and adopting a new Action Plan for 2004-2008 (national movements, continental coordination's, world team )
- Financial reporting and planning with member movements
- Election of new world team
- Introduction of territorial analysis
- Orientation for gender work and work with adult collaborators
- Strengthening the communication, functioning and the movements
- Experience the life of the hosting country and the involvement of the national movement

there

- Carrying out a reflection about the way of improving our work and the follow-up of the movements
- Carrying out a reflection about the identity of MIJARC
- Presenting and adopting the budget for 2009
- Affiliating new movements
- Adopting a new Political Declaration on the world food crisis

## **Results**

28 movements participated in the world assembly, almost all with two participants (One man and a woman). More people from Uganda and Kenya also participated together with their official delegates as observers in the assembly as well as in all the other programmes. Representation from other youth organisations were there for the training session and study visits. This helped the people to get to know each other and established new contacts. The assembly worked on a four years action plan which was revised again during the world coordination which held just after the assembly. Financial statements of the last four years have been discussed and adopted as well as the financial planning for the coming year; A new world team was elected with George Dixon Fernandez (Kerala, India) as president for the second term and Carolin Grieshop (Germany) as Secretary General.

## **Out Look**

Some of the active member movements didn't participate in the assembly especially from Europe and Latin America due to the problems of time, availability, transit, visa etc; We have taken into account this in future to ensure the full participation of the member movements. The next world assembly is foreseen in 2012 and if possible according to the rotation principle it might takes place either in Asia or in Latin America. The assembly in Uganda was quite successful with respect to content and finance due to the fact that we received a great support. We have to maintain a good relation with IFAD and involve in their activities.

## **3.2. World Coordination**

### **Background:**

The MIJARC World Assembly, which is the highest statutory body, takes place every four years. The last Assembly took place in Kampala/ Uganda in May 2008. The world coordination being the decision making body in between two World Assemblies meets once a year. World coordination is the body that takes the important decisions for the good running and the improvement of our movement. 2008 world co-ordination was held after the World assembly in May in Kampala.

### **Members of the World Co-ordination:**

Asia:	Sarita Minz, Anil Jose
Africa:	Melanie Fayé, Hona Tiboshokona
Latin America:	Luz Mery Benavides, Nivaldo Ramos
Europe:	Gergana Nydenova, Jürgen Westermann
World Team:	George Dixon Fernandez, Carolin Grieshop, Fr.Floricien Dube

### **Objectives:**

- ❖ Evaluation of the activities (training sessions, consolidation and/or extension of movements, political work, women work etc.) at continental and world levels
- ❖ Financial reporting and planning of MIJARC

- ❖ Checking the fulfilment of criteria set up for the distribution of the solidarity fund
- ❖ Enforcing the role of women within MIJARC
- ❖ reinforcement of the internal networking of MIJARC
- ❖ Evaluation and planning for the next International Campaign

#### **Results/Impact:**

Since the last Assembly members of the World Coordination changed, the main issue of the World Coordination 2008 was to introduce themselves, getting information about functioning of the different continents and at the world level.

The General Assembly was evaluated and the financial statement of the last year has been discussed and adopted as well as the financial planning for 2009 also. The different commissions explained their activities and presented their future planning's.

#### **Outlook:**

The next world coordination will take place in Germany. Most of the world coordinators stopped and a lot of newly elected people started working for MIJARC on international level. Therefore we have foreseen a training on fundraising and on communication skills at the end of the world assembly. Finally we will establish strategies to enhance the team spirit within the world coordination with less hierarchy between world team members and continental coordinators.

### **3.3. World Team**

The World Team consists of the President (since August 2004 George Dixon Fernandez who was re-elected during the last GA in Uganda 2008) and the Secretary General (Carolyn Grieshop elected in May 2008) and the international chaplain who was assigned by the Vatican in 2006 for 3 years, Florencio Dube from Peru, national chaplain of JARC Peru. The World Team meets regularly once a month. The President and General Secretary are working on a full-time basis. We would like to acknowledge our gratitude to the outgoing Secretary General Mrs. Christine Brandmeir for the great service that she rendered for MIJARC during her mandate.

### **3.4. International Secretariat**

In 2008 MIJARC faced a lot of personal changes. After reorganisation of the International Secretariat in the End of 2008 MIJARC employed from April 2008 onwards Nicolas Leger as project officer. His task is to accompany and develop the ideas of our member movements in this field. Nubia Alvarez works since middle of 2008 as bookkeeper for MIJARC.

Nubia Alvarez is working for MIJARC since June 2008 with 10 h/ week as secretary and bookkeeper for MIJARC.

Christine Brandmeir didn't run again for the office as Secretary General, her successor is Carolyn Grieshop. George Dixon Fernandez has been re-elected as President for the next four coming years.

### **3.5. Food Sovereignty commission**

#### **Background:**

The World Coordination 2003 decided to adopt the concept of «food sovereignty». And then in 2004, the General Assembly decided to work more deeply on the concept of food sovereignty. Member movements of MIJARC are working on the specific objective "Food Sovereignty is accepted as a national political proposal". As part of the activities, to achieve these goals, the

General Assembly decided to create a commission on food sovereignty which should follow up in a regular way the work on food sovereignty. This commission started its work in January of 2005 after the World Social Forum. It is constituted by one person from each continent, one person of the world team. The second sitting of this International Commission on Food sovereignty was held in France from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> august 2005, the third meeting of the food sovereignty commission was held in Rome from 13<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> of September, 2006 and the fourth meeting was held at Brussels, Belgium from 10-12 may 2007 and after that Commission had online discussions as well as a physical meeting of commission representatives in Brussels to finalise the pedagogical document on Food Sovereignty. More over there was an informal meeting of the then commission during the World GA in Uganda.

**Objectives:**

- to study current local reality that affect the food sovereignty
- to strengthen the lobbying and advocacy capacity
- to enable our members to have a thorough understanding of the topic
- to educate the young people in the rural world and to provide them with information and help them
- to take positions on current policies which are the barriers to achieve Food sovereignty
- think tank, animation and pressure group about FS inside the movement
- defining political orientations and strategies on FS
- to raise public awareness with regard food sovereignty by publishing materials
- to address our concerns to the politicians, partners and international institutions

**Food Sovereignty Commission Members:**

	<b>2004-2008</b>	<b>2008-2012</b>
<b>Asia</b>	Rakesh Singh (India)	John Sunil Palashery (India)
<b>Africa</b>	Joseph Kayondo (Uganda)	Melanie Faye (Senegal)
<b>Europe</b>	Carolyn Grieshop (Germany)	Still to be defined
<b>Latin America</b>	Nivaldo Ramos Silva (Brasil)	Nivaldo Ramos Silva
<b>World Team</b>	George Dixon Fernandez	George Dixon Fernandez

MIJARC is very much thankful to all the commission members who actively rendered their service for the FS commission during the last 3 years

**Activities:**

The first meeting of the FS Commission was held in Porto Alegre, Brazil and drafted the objectives, tasks and action plan. The second meeting which held in France and specifically focussed on the discussion of the topics such as land issues, WTO, sustainable agricultural model, concept of food sovereignty, regional markets etc. The third time, Food Sovereignty commission met in Rome from 13<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> of September, 2006 and the fourth meeting which held in Brussels, Belgium from 10-12 may 2007 made an evaluation and analysis of the Access to land Campaign, Special Forum on World Food Security and Committee on FS, World Social Forum and Seminar on Access to land in Kenya, Nyeleni Forum & IFAD general council and there was also complimentary discussion on Regional markets, Food Sovereignty Paper, Communication etc. After that until the GA May 2008 Commission had online discussions as well as a physical meeting of commission representatives (George Fernandez and Carolyn Grieshop) in Brussels in January 2008 to finalise the pedagogical document on Food Sovereignty. An ICARRD lobby

letter that has been finalised by the FS commission was circulated to all Ambassadors of FAO especially to EU. More over there was an informal meeting of the then commission during the World GA in Uganda.

#### **Results/Impact:**

During the last three years the food sovereignty commission put a lot of energy and commitment to draw a clear and sound analysis of the food and agricultural issues and policies with the perspectives of the vulnerable group especially the rural youth; It brought global point of view from both north and south on key issues such as models of Agriculture, small scale production etc; It has prepared various declarations and lobby letters which encouraged movements at different levels to take up actions; It produced pedagogical documents on certain topics which helps to give information and formation for the young people of the movement as well as the large public in general. Commission also helped the International secretariate to prepare and launch the campaigns especially on Access to land and Access to water

#### **Outlook:**

MIJARC should continue its work more and more actively with rural youngsters in order to face the current challenges of global food and economic crisis by taking up a key role with other civil society actors to derive a global governance on food and agricultural systems all over the world. The FS Commission has to watch keenly the International policies and moves which threatens the life of the vulnerable sectors. We have to keep an eye on Global partnership for Agriculture, second green revolution in Africa, Aid for Agriculture, and more over we have to support FAO to take up its lead in Food and Agricultural matters. Food Sovereignty commission will have to invest more energy in lobbying advocacy with FAO and especially with the department of ICARRD, IFAD, WFP, IAASTD etc. An encouragement is needed for the national movements to take up initiatives to establish and strengthen their contacts with regional and national level organs of the same. A guideline document about the functioning of UN bodies related to food and agricultural matters can be made for the movements.

Moreover each of our national movements should work with the national governments and institutions to defend food sovereignty and genuine land and agrarian reform process in the countries. It will continue also to carry out its research to make an update of the document on regional markets which is still not finalised. Commission will also be able to assist the world team to do the follow up of the MIJARC International campaign on access to seeds and the upcoming campaign on Climate change and Agrofuels.

## **4. Movements and Continental Coordination**

### **4.1. Situation and activities of MIJARC Africa**

#### **Situation of the movements:**

MIJARC has member movements in Western Africa (Togo, Senegal, Mali, Burkina-Faso, Benin), in Central Africa (Cameroon, R.C.A, Congo Brazzaville), (Congo Kinshasa: associative movement) and in East Africa (Zambia, Kenya, Uganda, Madagascar).

The following issues continuously accompany the work of the national movements in Africa: formation of second generation of leaderships for MIJARC, regular statutory meetings at national levels and continental level, democratic decision-making, inclusion of women and the ownership of young people and still not solved . Many national movements have very strong grass root groups and leadership up to the diocesan levels but in most cases not coming up to take the responsibility at national levels. This leads to prolong the leadership at national levels. Financial crisis and lack of training are the major causes for this situation

**Situation of Pan African coordination:**

Syprien Essong Ze, the pan African coordinator was called back in 2007 from his responsibilities by the World coordination as he was not available to work for MIJARC through out the year 2007. Hona Tibashoboka (Panafrikan Coordinator) from Uganda and two sub regional coordinators, Jean Jacques Ndewana (French speaking region) Joseph Kayondo (English speaking region) and Fr. Obino Mulenga (ecclesial assistant) from Zambia were all working at their own respective regions on voluntary basis.

**Activities:**

In May 2008 MIJARC Africa hold their General Assembly just in prior to the World Assembly in Uganda. Thus African movements participated well in the World Assembly 2008 in Kampala/ Uganda. They showed up a confidence to improve the bad situation of the Pan African coordination in the last years. Here new leaders were elected. Hona Tibashoboka (Uganda) goes on working for MIJARC Africa and Melanie Faye (Senegal) is newly elected.

In December a small delegation of MIJARC Africa visited the new associated member movement of Congo-Kinshasa. They have had meetings with several politicians and responsible of the church. African movement are very active in writing economic projects in order to create cooperatives.

**Outlook:**

Since 2007 MIJARC Africa has no office anymore.. It is fundamental to think well of a better operation of continental coordination, especially in Africa, considering the past experiences of two coordinators working at different and distant places. Panfrican Assembly decided to close the office in Yaoundé and settle at another place. Both coordinators are working on finding finances in to settle an office. It is essential, that MIJARC Africa create an office in order to guarantee good work. Also an active communication and commitment is necessary. MIJARC World Team decided to help improving the work of the panafrikan coordination.

MIJARC Africa has to put its energy and synergy to build up alliances with like minded organisations working at national and continental levels as well as to join in various networks and platforms which are having the similar objectives.

**4.2. Situation and activities of MIJARC Latin America and Carribbean****Situation of the movements:**

At present there are eight member movements belonging to MIJARC in Latin America: Brazil, Ecuador, Guadeloupe, Haiti, Martinique, Paraguay, Nicaragua and Peru. In Bolivia we had some local groups working in the spirit of MIJARC but they stopped working. Thus a national coordination is not existent.

Other contacts exists to rural youth groups Chile, Uruguay and Argentina, but are still not at a level to be affiliated to MIJARC.

The communication between the national movements are faced several problems, one is the of the language and the other one is the not defined responsables in national movements who are in charge of communicating with the Latin American coordination.

**Situation of the Latin American coordination:**

Latin American team consisted until May of Carol Bolivar from Peru and Nivaldo Ramos from Brazil. In May 2008 MIJARC Latin America hold their Assembly in prior of the World Assembly.

Carol Bolivar stopped working and Luz Mery Orillo from Peru was elected to take over her responsibilities.

MIJARC Latin America does not have a permanent office at the moment and the last experience made evident that the office is necessary and that it should be established in Peru soon after the election 2008. The Latin American coordination is working on settling an office in Lima for the moment. But due to lack of finances they are faced problems. For the moment they drafted several projects in order to get finances to settle an office and also to organise seminars.

#### **Activities 2008**

As decided in 2008 the Latin-American team undertook accompaniment visits to the national movements in order to know about the situation of the movements and in order to undertake a review of solidarity economy initiatives existing in the different movements. In 2008 MIJARC Latinamerica was quite active in involving of the work of IPC in Latinamerica, the network of civil society organisations working on food sovereignty. Finally the team also participated to various meetings of the network of religions for peace.

#### **Outlook:**

There is a clear necessity of settling the office for the Latin American coordination. We hope that the started way forward in improving accompaniment with the movements and working with them on concrete projects will be followed by the successors. It is necessary to financially consolidate the continental coordination and to establish a good working basis including a continental office.

### **4.3. Situation and activities of MIJARC Asia**

#### **Situation of Asian coordination:**

The new Asian team was elected during the MIJARC Asian Assembly held at Colombo Srilanka in May 2008. Anil Jose and Fr.Sunny Uppan were re-elected for a second mandate and Sarita Minz from Orissa was elected as a new team member to replace Barre Manikayam. Team work in the MIJARC continental office in Chennai. The three team members shared their tasks with regard to functioning, projects, follow up of the movements, communication etc. financial management is done by three of them together with the support of an internal management committee. Fr.Kuriakose Mambarakatt, Daniel Clement Royan and Irlandie Vishara Thamel are the members of the management committee. The Asian office has been functioning in the building of Chennai Arch bishop for a long time. Since the bishop wanted to use this building as seminary for the priests, MIJARC Asian office had to shift from here. Hence the Asian team put energy to renovate the house of MIJARC Asia in Kodingayure, Chennai which was bought few years back and shifting the office over there.

#### **Activities 2008**

- Follow up of the chaplain and animators training programme: Many national movements organised the follow up meeting of the chaplain and animators training programme
- Follow up of the solidarity economic projects: Asian team is doing a follow up with solidarity economy initiatives in various movements
- Visits to the various movements/ Kerala, Karnataka, Orissa, North East, Nepal, Andhra Pradesh: Asian team together with George Dixon Fernandez, World president of MIJARC made a visit to these movements from 27 February 2008 until 31 March 2008
- Asian Assembly in Srilanka: MIJARC Asian assembly took place in Colombo Srilanka from 5-12 May 2008. George Dixon Fernandez participated in this assembly

- Round table on climate change: A round table conference at continental level on Climate change was organised with different stake holders including Caritas in Srilanka
- Peace building music ministry in Srilanka: A music ministry for peace building was organised in order to raise awareness to maintain peace for development in the country
- Participation of the team in various assemblies: Asian team participated in some of the statutory meetings of the national movements in 2008
- Participation in the WYD 2008 in Sydney and participation in the workshop on MDG: MIJARC Asia participated in the WYD 2008 in Sydney with a small delegation headed by the Asian team members Fr.Sunny Uppan and Anil Jose; They have helped to arrange the Exposition stall of MIJARC in Sydney. They also participated in the workshop on MDGs organised by MIJARC, IYCS, IMCS and Caritas Australia.
- One week orientation with MIJARC President: The newly elected team members had one week orientation programme with George Dixon Fernandez (World President, MIJARC) in August 2008 at Asian office, Chennai, India
- Meeting with MIJARC President: Asian team had a second meeting with MIJARC world president in October 2008 at Kerala
- Renovation of MIJARC House: MIJARC Asia is started the renovation work in order to shift their office there in 2009
- Asian Women Commission met in Colombo: The Asian women commission met in Colombo in May 2008
- national movements from Asia participated in the World General Assembly of MIJARC held at Uganda in May 2008

#### **Outlook:**

MIJARC ASIA has to put its energy and synergy to build up alliances with like minded organisations working at national and continental levels as well as to join in various networks and platforms which are having the similar objectives. The commissions on Food sovereignty and Solidarity economy has to be strengthened in both national and continental levels. More over MIJARC Asia has to draw good strategies to work with national governments and Institutions and to increase the visibility and capacity of lobbying and advocacy work with respect to the UN institutions and other political bodies at Continental level

#### **Situation of the movements:**

Nine member movements were part of MIJARC in Asia: India (Tamilnadu, Kerala, Andra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, North-East, Karnataka, Orissa), Sri Lanka, and Pakistan but the last continental and world general assemblies gave affiliation for Nepal as a full member of MIJARC which was an associated movement for the last few years. The movement from Philippines participated in the last Asian Assembly held at Colombo, Srilanka and been approved as an associated member of MIJARC. Because of the political reasons the contact and participation of Pakistan movement is not often positive. Contact movements from Bangladesh and Thailand will participate in the upcoming Asian Coordination in 2009 and probably seek an associated membership.

#### **4.4. Situation and activities of MIJARC Europe**

**Situation of the movements:** There are 10 member movements affiliated to MIJARC: Rumania, Germany, France, Spain, Catalonia, Portugal, Flanders, Netherlands, Poland and Bulgaria. Also contacts exist with movements in Hungary and Austria for a long time. The new contacts established with the rural youth movement in Croatia; Existing contacts with Switzerland and

Ireland has to be improved much. The assembly of MIJARC Europe took place in Netherlands prior to the World GA of MIJARC in May 2008.

**Situation of the European Secretariat and European Team:** There were several changes in the European team during the last year. MIJARC European Assembly held in Netherlands elected a new team for MIJARC Europe as Christian Schärtl (KLJB Germany), Berta Vizcarra (MJRC Spain) finished their mandates as team members. Hence Jurgen Westermann (KLJB Germany), Gergana Naydenova (NAFLAP Bulgaria) were elected as the new team members together with Gaetan Vallee (MRJC France) who continue his mandate up to the next Orientation GA in 2009 of MIJARC Europe. Emilie Durochat who has been working on full-time basis at the European Secretariat since April 2008. Now the working office is shifted to the office of MRJC France keeping the secretariat in Brussels itself.

#### **Activities:**

**Questionnaire on realities of youngsters living in the rural areas :** At the beginning of 2008, a questionnaire was launched by MIJARC Europe in order to gather a European picture of rural youngsters' realities around the following four categories: services, education, socio-economic reality, cultural and religious aspects of your rural areas for building the specific proposals address to the candidates to the European Parliament of June 2009.

**Promotion of Rural Youth participation in Europe:** In May 2008, a seminar entitled "Increasing the Participation of Rural Youth in Youth in Action Programme" was organised by MIJARC Europe in cooperation with our Dutch organisation, Plattelandsjongeren in Oosendrecht, Netherlands.

Due to a lack of fund received from the European Youth Foundation (Council of Europe) a Seminar on "Common agricultural Policy and Food sovereignty" and the other on "Summit on Global Development: Rural Youth Participation in the Democratic and Social - Economic Development of their Global Communities", was cancelled.

**"Agriculture youth exchange"- September 2008:** In September 2008, the German movement of MIJARC (KLJB) organized a study visit to Spain in collaboration with MIJARC Europe and the Spanish movement of MIJARC (MRJC Spain).

**European Workshop on lifelong learning organized in cooperation with MRJC - August 2008:** In order to develop and spread the concept of "lifelong learning" in France, the French organisation of MIJARC Europe MRJC organised a European workshop opened to the European partners of MIJARC for building a common vision about the lifelong learning policies based on existing practices and the different education system in Europe.

**Summer Camp - July 2008:** From the 21<sup>st</sup> to the 28<sup>th</sup> of July 2008, MIJARC Europe organized an international summer camp in Middelkerke (Belgium) in cooperation with its Belgian member organization KLJ.

**Local youth exchanges in Europe:** More than 10 bilateral and multilateral youth exchanges between MIJARC Europe member organizations and various contact organizations took place in 2008. Moreover, the European Secretariat offers assistance: in

- preparing exchanges: identification of partners, identification of European themes of work, etc
- planning and running exchanges (including trainers, if wished).
- supporting and advising about the writing of grant applications

**Make the voice of European Youth heard:** Together with KLJB, MIJARC Europe participated to the "International Green week" which took place in Berlin at the beginning of 2008 and presented the ideas to the international public.

**Communication:** In 2008, MIJARC Europe published 4 issues of Info Europe on "Youth Participation in rural areas" "Education and Lifelong learning policies in Europe", "Inclusion of rural youth". "European active citizenship and its concrete meaning"

**Improved website:** In 2008, the website of MIJARC Europe ([www.mijarc.info](http://www.mijarc.info)) was improved by including:

- Regular articles on the home page about the current activities of MIJARC
- Presentation of our different thematic works: working groups, non formal education, etc
- Short presentations of MIJARC's national movements

**Exhibition about MIJARC Europe and its movements:** In 2008, an exhibition about MIJARC Europe, its national movements and its activities was published including: 2 different versions, 4 languages, 7 panels and version downloadable on our website (section "Publications")

**General Assembly 3-4 May 2008 (Netherlands):** The 2008 General Assembly of MIJARC Europe took place in Ossendrecht (Netherlands) from the 3<sup>rd</sup> to the 4<sup>th</sup> of May 2008.

**European team meetings:** In 2008, the European team (President, Vice-President and Treasurer) and the Secretary met 6 times (in Brussels, Paris, Bonn) for a whole week-end of work. They have also had one Skype meeting per month.

**European Youth Forum:** In 2008, MIJARC Europe participated to the General Assembly of the EYF which took place from the 13<sup>th</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup> of November in Rotterdam (Netherlands). The secretary of MIJARC also participated to the "Grant information day" organized on 24<sup>th</sup> of October 2008 with representative of EACEA and European Youth Foundation.

**European Coordination Via Campesina:** In June 2008, MIJARC Europe participated to the General Assembly of the European Coordination Via Campesina which took place in Madrid. And also participated in the International meeting of Via Campesina in Maputo, Mozambique.

**MIJARC World Assembly:** 8 delegates from MIJARC Europe participated to the GA which took place in Uganda from the 16<sup>th</sup> to the 26<sup>th</sup> of May 2008. In November 2008 in Brussels, a meeting with the executive board of MIJARC World was organised in order to exchange our views, perspectives and work plans for the next years.

## Outlook

The two experienced leaders Christian Schaertl and Berta Vizcarra finished their mandates during the last European assembly and all the three new leaders at the moment is working as volunteers. More coordination and engagement is needed especially with the movements who are affiliated recently and also with Spain, Romania, Portugal and Catalunya. MIJARC Europe has to invest more in extending the movements in Switzerland, Croatia and Ireland where recent contacts have been established. MIJARC Europe has to put more energy to extend and strengthen the movements in Eastern and Southern Europe as European funding is getting more and more difficult with criterias such as Number of movements present in Eastern Europe. Last year, due to lack of finances a seminar on Food sovereignty and the Working group meetings

have been postponed. The working groups on Agriculture, Glocal and Youth Participation has to meet regularly to ensure proper exchange of informations as well as to make update analysis

## **5. Publications**

### **5.1. MIJARC News**

MIJARC News was published 3 times in 3 languages in 2008. This review is used as instrument of formation and information, contacts and relations with our member movements, our partners and of the institutions with which we come into contact.

There is always a central article on a topic of thought written by an external person. The topics of 2008 were:

- 01/ 2008: Climate change and food sovereignty
- 02/ 2008: Daring to build a new rural world
- 03/ 2008: Solidarity economy: towards lively rural areas

One also finds in the review reports of the movements and continental coordinations as well as articles of thought or work in the grass root levels on the broad topics that MIJARC works: food sovereignty, gender, solidarity economy and finally activities of lobby and advocacy undertaken by the world team.

#### **Results:**

- ◆ Formation and information of our movements members
- ◆ Presentation of the concrete activities of the MIJARC at our partners and donors
- ◆ Networking between movements and partners
- ◆ Creation of a spirit of unity and solidarity through MIJARC News

#### **Outlook:**

It seems fundamental to continue to publish the review and it is necessary to have hard copies as the movements especially in Africa and Asia have problems to download and print MIJARC News while receiving it by email. Indeed, we have a good return on behalf of the movements, as well for the sending of articles as of comments on the articles published.

### **5.2. MIJARC INFO**

MIJARC Info is an electronic instrument of communication between the world office and the movements and continental coordinations. It explains into 2 or 3 pages the activities of the world office, which have been done, what we are preparing, and recalls to the movements the tasks they must undertake and the documents they must send to the world office, etc. In 2008, 3 numbers have been sent. It is a good instrument of communication which bears its fruits and improves the relationship to the movements. It allows us to timely communicate and to be in contact.

### **5.3. Website**

In 2008 we continued working with the new Website. The content management system allows the world team and also the continental coordinators to publish regularly new information and we use it quite well.

The continents also have their own sites and the continental coordinators received again training, in order to be able to introduce information. Unfortunately, until now, they did not make a lot use yet of it. The new World coordinators will receive a training on how to use the website.

The following announcements (News) were published on the website by MIJARC World level:

21.02.2008 In the run up to the World Youth Day 2008  
26.06.2008 Young people and the millenium Development Goals  
26.06.2008 High-Level Conference on World Food Security  
27.06.2008 Let's join with MIJARC ACTIVITIES at WYD 2008 Sydney  
01.07.2008 MIJARCs Annual report 2007  
14.08.2008 World Youth Day 2008  
25.09.2008 MIJARC News 2/ 2008 is available  
11.10.2008 World Food Day 2008  
13.10.2008 Resolution on Food Crisis  
24.11.2008 35th (special) FAO Conference 18-22 November 2008  
27.11.2008 George Dixon Fernandez participated in the expert group on Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land and other Natural Resources  
21.12.2008 MIJARC News 3/ 2008 is available  
24.12.2008 You are heaven- sent

During the year MIJARC changed also other parts of the website in order to make it clearer. These changes shall go in the next year, since the website is a good medium to spread easily current issues of MIJARC.

## **6. Cooperation with Partners**

### **6.1. Cooperation with international catholic organisations (CICO)**

George Dixon, World President of MIJARC participated in the Extra ordinary General Assembly of CICO which held at Paris from 18-20 June 2008. This assembly took an important decision to dissolve the conference of CICO. A committee was formed in order to make the follow up in this regard.

### **Visit to FOCSIV**

George made a visit to the national office of FOCSIV which is the platform of Catholic civil society organisations in Italy

### **Outlook:**

As the extra ordinary assembly of the CICO took decision to dissolve the Conference of ICO's , the only possible arena where most of the catholic organisations can come together will be the Vatican Forum of Catholic inspired NGO's. As a follow up of the first Vatican forum the Apostolic Nuncios in Geneva (Mission to UN & WTO), Paris (Mission to UNESCO), Brussels (Mission to European Union), Nairobi ( East African Mission) had much involved in gathering ICO's in their respective fields or region; Vatican state secretariat did a good job in this regard in Rome coordinating the organisations working with Rome based UN agencies. The Catholic centres in Paris, Geneva and New York can offer great space and support for the ICO's with regard to their advocacy and lobbying in the future. In general we hope further to strengthen the collaborations with the Youth ICOs and also with FIMARC in the field of food sovereignty, participation to World Social Forums and other thematic areas and international conferences. We will participate in the forthcoming Vatican forum in 2009.

## **6.2. Cooperation with CIDSE**

CIDSE is the international coalition of Catholic development organisations. CIDSE agencies aim at coordinating their advocacy and lobby work in the following key policy areas: trade and food security, social justice, resources for development and global governance. This work is being done in partnership with Caritas Internationalis, Centre of Concern and international Catholic movements such as MIJARC. MIJARC is always participating actively in the Working Group on Trade and Food Security and representing the ICOs. This group meets 3-4 times a year to discuss advocacy work on WTO Agreement on Agriculture, TRIPS, Common Agricultural Policy and trade relations between EU and ACP countries etc and recently started more discussion on Agricultural development as a key topic due to the stagnation of WTO negotiations.

George Dixon participated in the TFS meeting in Brussels in March 2008. George Dixon Fernandez had a meeting with Cliona Sharkey, the new CIDSE advocacy officer to discuss about how could we work more deeply on key issues and support each other. Organised also specific meetings with various member organisations of CIDSE such as Broederlijk Delen, Entraide Fraternelle, MISEREOR, CCFD etc; In 2008, due to the organisation of the World assembly of MIJARC we couldn't participate in one of the meetings in Brussels and due to lack of finances we were not been participated in the meeting held at Zambia even though we wish to. George together with Alberta from FOCSIV represented CIDSE in the CONCORD working group meeting on Trade in December 2008.

### **MIJARC and FIMARC meeting with CCFD**

Even though some of the Catholic donors withdrew from the strategic alliance partnership with International Catholic organisations, CCFD continued their support in the same manner as before until 2008. This financial back up was indeed a great support for all members of the strategic partnership as it covers around 25 to 50 % and even more of the budget of ICOs. and moreover it has been an assistance to support the structure too. Thanks to CCFD for the endless support given to social movements so far. As the situation regarding the support from CCFD for 2009 was unclear until the end of the year, MIJARC and FIMARC requested for a meeting with CCFD in November 2008. Thus a meeting was arranged on 23<sup>rd</sup> of December 2008. During this meeting we received a shocking decision of the Council of Administration of CCFD that in 2009 the global support for the ICOs will be reduced to 50% and moreover this support will not be merely for the structure but for the coordination of actions. The second decision was about the general envelop of fund which was accessible for ICOs in the past for the specific projects will have the specific priority on International Migration and will be open for everybody. These two decisions were quite shocking as well as make a lot of impact to the life of all the movements who receive support from CCFD. For MIJARC, the immediate effect is the reorganisation of the International Secretariat by ending the contract of one of our staff member.

### **Outlook:**

MIJARC will participate actively in the external evaluation process of the CIDSE trade and food security working group as well as give contribution for the strategic planning of CIDSE; We also contribute on elaborating the CIDSE /IATP paper on food crisis. We still want to further promote the discussions on model of agriculture, global governance of the food and agricultural systems, aid in agriculture, climate change and biofuels in the Working group with food sovereignty as. Even if the strategic alliance finished, we as MIJARC have the impression that we are still continue working with the spirit of alliance looking forward the support from CIDSE member agencies to ensure our participation in the working group meetings and for other actions.

### **6.3. Cooperation at the IPC/FAO**

As MIJARC has the status of a special observer within the UN, it is invited as an observer to the FAO Council and Committee Sessions. As rural development and the eradication of hunger in rural areas are the main goals of MIJARC, the MIJARC team decided to make stronger efforts to lobby for the interests of rural youth and established a permanent representative of MIJARC towards FAO. The representation towards FAO is accompanied by the participation of the representative in the meetings and activities of the NGO community such as the IPC (International Planning Committee on Food sovereignty) and the ad hoc group of International NGOs. During the last three years, George Dixon Fernandez was the permanent representative of MIJARC towards FAO.

#### **IPC /International Planification Committee for Food Sovereignty**

The International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty (IPC) is a self-organised and autonomous mechanism to facilitate the cooperation of the social movements and NGO/CSO's that are fighting for food sovereignty. It is a platform that was created in the follow up process of the WFS/NGO Forum 1996. Its main task was the preparation of the NGO Forum on Food Sovereignty in June 2002. After the NGO Forum/WFS:fyI it defined its new role as a kind of catalyst for strong NGO/CSO representation towards FAO and for powerful actions of NGOs in the field of world food. About 500 organisations working on food sovereignty are member of IPC. The IPC has focal points of 6 regions, thematic focal points (right to food, agri-ecological model, GMO's) and the focal points of the constituency farmers groups, rural workers, fisher folk, indigenous people and youth. Since MIJARC is the only international youth movement working on world food sovereignty MIJARC is representing the youth constituency. MIJARC is the International youth focal point within the frame work of IPC. For the last three years, being the spokes person of the youth focal point George Dixon Fernandez (President, MIJARC) has been committed to the work of IPC on a regular basis and doing the follow up of IPC and FAO related issues and events; In Latin America Nivaldo Ramos Silva, continental coordinator of MIJARC is the Latin American Youth focal point for IPC.

#### **35th (special) FAO Conference 18 - 22 November 2008,ROME**

The special session of the 35<sup>th</sup> FAO conference has been convened to accelerate the implementation taken by the member nations on the recommendations of the Independent External Evaluation (I.E.E) of FAO. In this important reform process Member nations, management and staff of FAO shared their vision of a world that is free from hunger and malnutrition and underlined the fact that Food and agriculture must contribute to improve the living standards of the people particularly the poorest and thus to ensure sustainable economic development. Based on IEE a conference committee was formed an year ago with Mr.Noori Neini (Chairman) and Mrs.Van Arden, Mr.Ngirwa (Vice chairpersons). After various consultations and consensus, the conference committee drafted an Immediate Plan of Action (IPA) which is the ambitious roadmap for FAO renewal. This plan sets out a vision of FAO, its priorities and its programmes. It defines its governance and its administrative procedures. It invokes cultural change and organisational restructuring. In the frame work of FAO reform with Growth,the bulk of the savings resulting by various measures will be ploughed back to the techical programmes. Member countries also agreed to form a trust fund in order to carry out the immediate plan of action without touching the budget for FAO regular programmes. A committee on culture change is also formed in order to facilitate the reform in all levels. After this special conference FAO will implement this IPA in the coming years from 2009-2011; And also will focus on formulating the new stratergic objectives based on reform process expecially during the FAO conference in 2009; Medium term stratergic planning with a horizon of 4 years and 15 years will

be worked out in the coming years. 35th session of the FAO Conference approved by acclamation the document "Adoption of the immediate plan of action (IPA) for FAO renewal 2009 - 2011", without any amendments.

### **Call for a global food summit**

FAO Director-General Jacques Diouf appealed to world leaders during the 35th FAO special session to meet together in 2009 to "correct the present system that generates world food insecurity on account of international market distortions resulting from agricultural subsidies, customs tariffs and technical barriers to trade, skewed distribution of resources of official development assistance. Diouf emphasised the need for a new world agricultural order which offers farmers in all countries the means earnings for a decent living and also to have the intelligence and imagination to devise agricultural development policies together with rules and mechanisms that will ensure not only free but also fair international trade.

### **Lobbying for Civil Society consultation Process**

Since the Immediate plan of action (IPA) document doesn't have any references on civil society consultations, a group of civil society representatives (MIJARC, CIDSE, IPC, ActionAid, Food Security WG of CONCORD, ROPPA, Via Campesina, Crocevia International, etc...) decided to demand the chairperson of the conference the possibility to have at least three persons that could speak on behalf of in the plenary. But we obtained only one chance. So we the above mentioned organisations prepared together a statement and presented during the FAO Conference. In this intervention it was highlighted the fact that civil society has been excluded from any kind of consultations since the beginning of the reform process. Yet the external evaluation underlined the importance of reinforcing partnerships with civil society and asked the Conference to take all the necessary action to allow us a dialogue space and a clear role in the context of the process of FAO reform and the work that the Conference Committee will carry out in 2009.

### **Intervention of MIJARC in the CIVIL SOCIETY SIDE EVENT at FAO**

An IPC (International NGO/CSO Planning Committee) side event was organised at the lunch time on 21st November in order to give the chance to different IPC delegates to speak about the FAO renewal process and to express the civil society point of view concerning the current food crisis. George Dixon Fernandez (President of MIJARC) was one of the speaker together with Pat Mooney (etc group) Saro Rangam (PAN-AP Network), Ibrahim Coulibaly (Via Campesina). Antonio Onarati (IPC Coordinator) moderated the panel discussion. Country delegations and FAO staff attended in this important meeting organised by Civil Society organisations.

### **Meeting with Thomas Price**

IPC also organised a meeting with Thomas Price from the FAO - ODGS Secretariat who illustrated the work and the documents of the Committee engaged in the FAO reform process. He explained briefly the content of the resolution on Immediate plan of action (IPA) which is to be discussed in the FAO special session (Document C 2008/LIM/3 which you can find online on the FAO website: [http://www.fao.org/unfao/bodies/conf/c2008/index\\_en.htm](http://www.fao.org/unfao/bodies/conf/c2008/index_en.htm))

### **Meeting with ERP**

George had also meetings with Lavinia Gasperini (Coordinator of Education for Rural People in FAO) as well as with Rosa dela Rosa (Responsible for Civil society organisations) to discuss about the involvement of MIJARC in FAO activities and programmes. MIJARC will continue participate in the FAO flagship programme of Education for Rural People.

### **Meeting with ICARRD Department**

George Dixon Fernandez was part of the delegation of IPC to meet the ICARRD chair Mr. Parvees Khan and his colleagues at FAO to discuss on the process and follow up of Technical Cooperation Programmes (TCPs ) in Asia and Latin America on Agrarian reforms.

### **Results and Impact**

MIJARC made a good lobby during the last special conference of FAO to get space for consultation in the FAO reform process. MIJARC was asked to be in the delegation to meet the ICARRD department on behalf of IPC. FAO Director General will organise a civil society consultation meeting to discuss about the problems related to food and agriculture and the role of CSO's to solve this good contact with ERP department of FAO and NGO section. Raised the voice and perspectives of young people with regard to the strategic objective and priorities on FAO reform.

### **Outlook**

After the special conference in 2008, FAO will implement the Immediate Plan Of Action (IPA) in the coming years from 2009-2011 and also will focus on formulating the new strategic objectives based on reform process especially during the FAO conference in 2009; Medium term strategic planning with a horizon of 4 years and 15 years will be worked out in the coming years. Even though this process will be long but 2009 will be a crucial year because of the several committee meetings and FAO General Conference that will finalise the strategic objectives of FAO. Jacques Diouf, Director General of FAO specially invited MIJARC for the Civil society consultation meeting in Bellagio/ Italy in May 2009. It is strategically important to invest in FAO in the current context in which agriculture and food issues have still prominence on the world agenda due to food and financial crisis and in which the UN system - and FAO in particular - appears as the only alternative to the WTO/Bretton Woods institutions as a multilateral locus for addressing these issues. The move for global partnership in food and agriculture is welcomed but creating a new agency to deal this is not needed. The regular participation in FAO related activities gave MIJARC especially in the last years good recognition of being the voice of young people in rural areas. The role of MIJARC is quite vital in the coming years regarding the whole process of FAO reform with Growth and also a partner to combat hunger and poverty in the world

### **Expert Group Meeting on Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land and other Natural Resources (FAO Head quarters- Rome)**

#### **Background**

FAO Land Tenure and Management Unit took an initiative to prepare volunteer guidelines for good governance in land and natural resources tenure. There are a lot of Land tenure conflicts and related violations of human rights taking place in various parts of the world. The highly unequal distribution of land ownership in many countries remains an issue of concern in a number of regions around the world. Land issues are at the center of the climate crisis. Land use and land use changes are responsible for greenhouse gas emissions and play a key role in policy responses to climate change. But policies to address climate change or food crisis have not sufficiently taken into account land and natural resources tenure issues yet. Hence FAO initiative to adopt guidelines for land and natural resources tenure is timely as it would fill a serious policy gap in the current context. In addition, the Global Land Tool Network (2008), hosted by UN-Habitat, has similarly committed itself to the development of such guidelines as part of the need to develop pro-poor and gendered tools.

### **Activity**

The Expert Group Meeting on "Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of land Tenure and other Natural Resources" was held at the FAO Head Quarters in Rome from 24-25<sup>th</sup> November 2008. It was organised by FAO Land Tenure and Management Unit in collaboration with the Government of Finland and UN HABITAT as a preliminary meeting to launch the Voluntary Guidelines on Land tenure and other Natural resources. This proposal will be further presented to the next FAO committee on Agriculture (CoAG) for the approval. Once it is approved there will be an Intergovernmental process to be put up in 2009 with various consultation meetings with different stakeholders at different levels which includes regional consultation process too. World Bank, IFAD, GTZ Germany, SIDA (Sweden), CGIAR, experts, Private Sector, few governments and Civil society organisations (IPC, International land coalition, Global Land Tools Network) were present for the meeting. George Dixon Fernandez (Youth-MIJARC), Sofia Monsalves (FIAN), Herman Kumara (Fisher folk -WFFP), Beatrice Gasco (IPC), Tui Ahora Warmenhoven (Maori Indegeneous People), Ibrahim Coulibali and Daniel Pascual (farmers-Via Campesina) were the representatives of Civil Society from IPC sector.

### **Results and Impacts**

- MIJARC will be one of the key actor in this process
- Ensure the follow up of ICARRD principles
- Contacts with new organisations working on land and other resources issues

### **Outlook**

The lack of adequate and secure access to land and natural resources by the rural and urban poor is one of the key causes of hunger and poverty in the world. The International Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (ICARRD), organized by the FAO in close collaboration with the Brazilian government in March 2006, has raised great expectations among civil society organizations about the renewed commitment of FAO and its member states to land reforms aimed at combating poverty and hunger. MIJARC will support this initiative if and only if it covers the principles of ICARRD. MIJARC was part of the working group which prepared the volunteer guidelines on right to food. We expect the same participatory mechanism and human rights framework in the process of adopting guidelines on governance of land tenure and other natural resources.

## **6.4. Cooperation with UNESCO**

### **Background**

MIJARC has consultative status in UNESCO and MIJARC was very much involved in different committees and activities of UNESCO especially since George Dixon Fernandez took up initiative to do the follow up with UNESCO. Contacts have been established to the Youth Section of UNESCO, to the programme "Education for all", to the gender section, to the NGO liaison committee and to the Catholic Centre gathering all International Catholic Organisations working with UNESCO.

More over MIJARC is one of the founding member of the Joint Programmatic Commission on YOUTH (JPC on Youth). The Joint Programmatic Commission on Youth (JPC on youth) was created during the International Conference of NGOs that took place from 14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> December 2005 in Paris, with the explicit support of the UNESCO Youth Section. In UNESCO, the Joint Programmatic Commission on Youth of the UNESCO-NGO Liaison Committee federates youth organizations in official relations with UNESCO.

## **Activities**

- DPI/NGO conference: First time in the history of the DPI of UN, the Annual Conference was held outside New York from 3-5 September and was attended by more than 1000 delegates from different NGOs accredited with DPI. This conference was to commemorate the 60<sup>th</sup> years anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human rights. Due to registration complications MIJARC was not able to participate in this event.
- The NGO Day: The NGO day was organized on 21<sup>st</sup> of November and it was the day for the celebration of UDHR for the NGOs working with UNESCO.
- JPC on youth: There were many meetings of the JPC on youth Last year and many different Activities were done. During every meeting there used to be some activities on Human rights Training. The biggest event was the midday workshop organized by the JPC on youth during the Annual DPI/ NGO conference in September. The theme was the Non formal Educational and conflict Resolutions. It was organized in collaboration with the Pax Christi. Last year MIJARC could only participate in one of the JPC meetings.

## **Outlook:**

As we were engaged much in the organisation of our General assembly in 2008, our involvement in UNESCO was not that much compare to the previous years. Until the beginning of the year 2008, George Dixon Fernandez, President of MIJARC have been regular contact with UNESCO and participating in almost all activities which is important for both MIJARC and UNESCO. It is relevant to have regular representation in UNESCO activities. MIJARC will continue its advocacy for an education for food sovereignty, fostering youth involvement that guarantees better education for rural population and especially better vocational training in agriculture. The proposed dates for the 35th Session of the General Conference of UNESCO is from Tuesday 6 to Friday 23 October 2009. MIJARC will participate in this conference.

## **6.5. Cooperation with IFAD**

### **Background**

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), a specialized agency of the United Nations, was established as an international financial institution in 1977 as one of the major outcomes of the 1974 World Food Conference. The Conference was organized in response to the food crises of the early 1970s that primarily affected the Sahelian countries of Africa. The conference resolved that "an International Fund for Agricultural Development should be established immediately to finance agricultural development projects primarily for food production in the developing countries". One of the most important insights emerging from the conference was that the causes of food insecurity and famine were not so much failures in food production, but structural problems relating to poverty and to the fact that the majority of the developing world's poor populations were concentrated in rural areas. IFAD's Mission is to enable poor rural people to overcome Poverty. IFAD is dedicated to eradicating rural poverty in developing countries. Seventy-five per cent of the world's poorest people - 1.05 billion women, children and men - live in rural areas and depend on agriculture and related activities for their livelihoods. Working with rural poor people, governments, donors, non-governmental organizations and many other partners, IFAD focuses on country-specific solutions, which can involve increasing rural poor peoples' access to financial services, markets, technology, land and other natural resources. IFAD's goal is to empower poor rural women and men in developing countries to achieve higher incomes and improved food security.

## **Objectives**

- improved networking and collaboration between MIJARC and IFAD
- give contribution on the situation of rural youth especially in relation to access to land and other productive resources in the IFAD policy paper
- Deepen the involvement of MIJARC in IFAD farmers forum to have more collaboration with other farmers and rural producers organisations

## **Activities**

MIJARC started to contact and collaborate with IFAD since 2006 onwards. International food sovereignty commission met with the policy division and gender division of IFAD and organized a short workshop on the issues of young farmers and rural youth and the actions of MIJARC in this field. Later MIJARC was invited for the Governing body meeting of IFAD in 2007 to be an Intervient for the round table on employment opportunities in Rural Areas. George Dixon and Christine Brandmeir made a visit to IFAD to discuss more closely about the possible collaboration of MIJARC with IFAD on rural development and poverty eradication in rural areas. Gaetan Valle from France participated in this meeting on behalf of MIJARC. MIJARC was invited for first time for the global farmers forum organized by IFAD in February 2008. George Dixon Fernandez represented MIJARC in this great event and given much contribution in the working groups on land reform and climate change. George also had various meetings with Sappho Haralambous, Philip Audinet of the Policy Division and with Maria Hartl of the gender division to convince the need to get the IFAD small grant for our General assembly in Uganda 2008.

## **Results and Impacts**

- Good collaboration with IFAD is existing
- MIJARC become the member of IFAD farmers forum
- MIJARC is invited for different meetings organized by IFAD
- Recognition of rural youth in IFAD policy discussions

## **Outlook**

The main objective of IFAD is to ensure that poor rural people have better access to, and the skills and organization they need to take advantage of Natural resources, especially secure access to land and water, and improved natural resource management and conservation practices, improved agricultural technologies and effective production services, transparent and competitive markets for agricultural inputs and produce, opportunities for rural off-farm employment and enterprise development. And for MIJARC as well this is the great priority and concern in our work. Hence there is lot of scope is possible to work and collaborate with IFAD in the eradication of Poverty in Rural areas. Thanks to IFAD for providing us the support for Rural youth Conference held in Uganda, May 2008. IFAD provides us a global platform to discuss important policy issues that influence the lives of rural poor people, as well as to draw attention to the centrality of rural development to meeting the Millennium Development Goals.

### **6.6. Cooperation with Vatican**

#### **Meeting with Madam Dottassa Fermina Alvarez (Vatican State Secretariat)**

George Dixon Fernandez, President of MIJARC had a meeting with Madam Dottassa Fermina Alvarez from the Vatican State Secretariat to discuss about the follow up of Vatican forum of Catholic Inspired NGO's as well as the offer from Vatican to have an office for MIJARC in Piazza San Calisto.

**Meeting at Apostolic Nunciature in Brussels**

George participated in the meeting organised by His Excellency Mgr. Andre Dupuy, Apostolic Nuncio to European Commission at his residence in Brussels; Most of the Brussels based ICO's were present for this meeting. We had a good discussion with Mario Mauro, one of the Vice president of the European Parliament.