

Annual Report 2007

MIJARC/IMCARY

Mouvement Internationale de la Jeunesse Agricole et Rurale Catholique

International Movement of Catholic Agricultural and Rural Youth



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1. Introduction

The Year 2007 marked with the tremendous engagements of MIJARC to the fight for Food Sovereignty. During last year we have strengthened our work with various political actions, representation, trainings as well as networking and lobbying and had a significant impact on various politicians and policy making institutions; At the world social forum in Kenya we were able to present with a big delegation from all the four continents. International seminar on access to land for young people, the joint work shop with FIMARC on Land, Water and Trade (Promises & Realities) and massive mobilisation during the WSF were the first ever organized activities of the year. Secondly the Joint venture together with FIMARC for the International Seminar on Solidarity Economies was a real tribute through the people oriented economic initiatives in order to share, consolidate and to find out new sustainable best practices in this regard. MIJARC movements are not only focusing on the education of young rural people but also encouraging youth in rural areas to put into practice and to set up alternatives to the economic problems collectively discussed .Members of MIJARC movements have been creating agricultural cooperatives, small projects on microfinance, 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.

The political space for civil society and social movements to interact/negotiate with FAO inevitably tends to be under attack. It was strategically important to invest in FAO in the current context in which agriculture and food issues have once again gained prominence on the world agenda 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 according to a logic in which human rights and equity take precedence over liberalizing markets. 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. Our participation in the FAO general council 2007 as well as in the IPC general body meeting has strengthened our lobby work on food and agricultural issues and increased the network and cooperation with various organisations from both north and south.

Being an educative movement, last year we have synergised our actions with UNESCO on a regular basis as in the previous year. We have involved in different committees and activities of 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 .More over being one of the founding member of the Joint Programmatic Commission on YOUTH(JPC on Youth) ,we were much involved in the organisation of various events such as youth fair ,NFE day and so on . Another bench mark of our actions of the year was the release of our World Food day Material on access to water .Posters and information material which was distributed to the member movements and local groups have been motivated them to take up actions during the world food day 16th of October .

The future of agriculture and rural areas especially in developing countries depends on today's rural children and youth. It is essential that these young generations are given the necessary attention and opportunities to develop and contribute to the well-being, economy and improvement of their communities and nations. Young people are vital and valuable partners in the development process, and their opinions and needs must be mainstreamed into agricultural and rural development policy, nationally and internationally. Let us work together with rural youth for the realisation of this goal to create a just and fair global society

The World Team, Brussels March 2008

2. Activities

2.1. World Social Forum 2007/ International Seminar on access to land

Background

The world social forum is an open meeting place for reflective thinking, democratic debate of ideas, formulation of proposals, free exchange of experiences and interlinking, networking for effective action, by groups and movements of Civil society that are opposed to neo-liberalism and to domination of the world by capital and any form of imperialism and are committed to building a planetary society directed towards fruitful relationships among mankind and between it and the earth. It up holds respect for human rights, the practices of real democracy, participatory democracy, peaceful relations, equality and solidarity among people, ethnicities, gender and contemns all forms of domination and all subjection of one person by another.

Being promoting the above ideologies and actions MIJARC find it appropriate to participate in the World social forum in many years. MIJARC participated in the World social forum which held in Nairobi, Kenya from 20-25 of January with 20 delegates from the 4 continents of ASIA, AFRICA, EUROPE and LATIN AMERICA.

There were around 50000 people participated in the World social Forum in Kenya. We were able to organise a great number of activities and actions of our own and with others, especially with FIMARC as presented in the following:

Objectives

- Analysis of the situation access to land and rural youth of the member organisations of MIJARC (laws, evaluation of agrarian reforms, heritance laws, cooperative forms of access to land etc.)
- Reinforcing the network of organisations which work on the topic of land and agrarian reform
- Elaboration of a common declaration
- Mobilize rural youth in order to campaign and lobby for the recognition of the problem on access to land and also to initiate concrete projects on local level where access to land is realized

Activities:

- International Seminar with the participation of 4 rural youth from four continents and some partner organisations like FIMARC, FIAN
- Common workshop during the world social forum on access to land
- Participation to activities and public events during the world social forum
- Participation to workshops which are related to food sovereignty and access to land during the WSF
- Evaluation meeting
- Common stall with FIMARC in order to inform about our work
- Distribution of MIJARC publications and material

Results:

- Analysis and declaration

The seminar on access to land made it possible to elaborate a sound analysis on the question of land access looking into different countries of the world. This analysis is the basis of elaboration of actions which will respond to the question in future and the heart of the international campaign on access to land. The declaration which was established during the seminar in a participative way was the basis of the presentation during the world social forum public events.

- Networking

As for our joined participation in the WSF with FIMARC, it was quite interesting and fruitful. Enthusiasm, courage, strength and youthfulness of MIJARC were there together with FIMARC as adults with their experience. Actions that we developed during the Forum allowed us for the reinforcement of the contacts with other movements and networks, first of all with FIMARC at both international levels as well as in the regional levels. The reinforcement of the bond between both the organisations benefit each and we foreseen to organise together a seminar on solidarity economy in MAY 2007 as well as the joint world coordination of both the organisations to analyse common strategies for the way forward.

During one of the day MIJARC delegates from India and Uganda participated in the vanilla meeting organised by FIMARC. FIMARC since three years is organising farmers who are producing vanilla. As a follow up there will be a meeting in India in October 2007 to define the concrete strategies organising by FIMARC, which could be another venue where we could work together. Networking was also possible with a lot of organisations linked to CIDSE, the catholic platform of aid agencies.

- Strengthening the national movements

Especially the movements in Africa participated actively to the world social forum program and have been benefiting from the moments of exchange and discussion between the different leaders. It gives also motivation to the people to see a world wide network of social organisations meeting in Africa in order to address the world's problems.

We are very much thankful for the practical support from our movement in Kenya (CARYM - KENYA) especially for the organisation, arrangement and logistics for all our programmes in Kenya in connection with WSF and the seminar on access to land.

Outlook

MIJARC will continue to work on the topic of access to land. One idea is to create on international level a fond for land which can be used by rural youth in order to buy land as it is most often the only way young people can get access to land as social security systems are lacking and the parents depending on their land.

2.2 Empowerment of women - International Women Commission

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, but 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.

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 commission 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 (CIF) 2007 was organized before world coordination and

- ◆ evaluated the action plan 2006 with a gender approach
- ◆ had a meeting with DIMITRA gender project of FAO based in Brussels
- ◆ had a meeting with the Belgium member organisation of the World March for Women
- ◆ had a discussion on political participation of women on community level
- ◆ evaluated the state of women's commissions at national level
- ◆ evaluated the first pedagogical material for the women commissions and grass root groups and planned new editions on education and money
- ◆ worked out proposals for the action plan 2007/2008 and included strategies of enhanced communication between local, national and international level
- ◆ prepared the women conference and women commission meeting 2008

Outlook:

2008 MIJARC will organise its first women conference where from all member organisations women will meet and define actions for the future. A lot of improvement has made 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.

2.3. Commission of Solidarity Economy and Seminar on Solidarity Economy

Background:

MIJARC movements are not only focusing on the education of young rural people but also encouraging youth in rural areas to put into practice and to set up alternatives to the problems collectively discussed. As a consequence members of MIJARC movements have been creating agricultural cooperatives, small projects on microfinance, 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. Therefore the World Assembly 2004 decided to focus on solidarity economy and created a commission which is working on this issue.

Objectives:

- Young people know about solidarity initiatives and want to engage themselves
- The movements analyze productive projects including a gender perspective
- Young rural people make proposals in order to improve the functioning and the impact of the organizations
- Solidarity economy initiatives are organized within the national movements
- analyse of economic context in the different continents
- exchange about concrete initiatives of solidarity economy
- develop a definition of solidarity economy in MIJARC/FIMARC
- mobilize to undertake initiatives of change
- reinforce the coordination between FIMARC and MIJARC

Activities:

Fundraising - establishing agenda for commission meeting - common preparation with FIMARC of the agenda and methodology - organisation of inputs with external experts - organisation of round table discussion - invitation of participants and logistical organisation - elaboration of a political declaration - elaboration of a comprehensive report

Results/impact:

- participants from the different countries of the world deepened their understanding of economics and approach of solidarity economy
- exchange about concrete initiatives was motivating and some movements have started implementing pilot projects in their country e.g. Sri Lanka and the cow bank project of Uganda
- common action plans of MIJARC and FIMARC have been established on continental level
- some initiatives of the rural youth movements have been identified and analyzed
- network between the two movements has been reinforced
- Political declaration was elaborated
- Good understanding and networking between FIMARC and MIJARC members
- Adults have dominated the debates

Outlook:

MIJARC will continue to work on solidarity economy in a way where we especially want to promote initiative on local level. Exchanges are planned for the future which will motivate young people to use the inspirations from other rural youth movements in their local context. It is also

foreseen to elaborate some pedagogical material which helps rural youth leaders to work with their groups on the topic of solidarity economy.

2.4 Food Sovereignty commission

Background:

The World Co-ordination 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 3rd to 6th august 2005, the third meeting of the food sovereignty commission was held in Rome from 13th to 19th of September, 2006 and the last meeting was held at Brussels ,Belgium from 10-12 may 2007

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:

Asia: Rakesh Singh (India)

Africa: Joseph Kayondo (Uganda)

Europe: Carolin Grieshop (Germany)

Latin America: Nivaldo Ramos (Brazil)

World Team: George Dixon Fernandez (World President MIJARC)

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 13th to 19th of September, 2006 and the last meeting which held in Brussels ,Belgium from 10-12 may 2007 discussed the following topics such as Updates from the continents and from the World office, Evaluation and Analysis of the Special Forum on World

Food Security and Committee on FS, Evaluation and Analysis of World Social Forum and Seminar on Access to land in Kenya, Evaluation and analysis of Nyeleni Forum & IFAD general council, Access to land Campaign, Regional markets, Food Sovereignty Paper, Communication etc.

George Dixon Fernandez(MIJARC President), Joseph Kayondo (Africa), Fr.Florencio Dube (MIJARC Chaplain, Peru), Anil Jose (India, Asia), Gaetan Valle(France, Europe), Anthony Saina (Kenya, Africa) were the members present but Rakesh Singh (Asia), Carolin Grieshop (Europe), Nivaldo Ramos Silva (Latin America) were absent for this meeting. Commission proposed to draft an ICARRD lobby letter that has to be circulated to all Ambassadors of FAO especially to EU.

Results/Impact:

Commission made some updates and discussion on the two documents Food Sovereignty Pedagogical Paper and Regional Markets which will be publishing soon. A strategy was drawn to study clearly and document the functioning of UN bodies and guidelines be made for Movements for collaboration. On conclusion, members of the FS commission felt that MIJARC should take up a common strategy towards these institutions at national levels but coordinated at International level. To encourage the movements in this regard commission decided to draft a letter / Small document addressing the national governments with the following aspects

- A) What is MIJARC/ what we do
- B) Our relation ship with different institutions
- C) The reason why we are approaching the country reps
- D) Short note on our actions

Commission also decided to send a letter to the movements encouraging them to work more closely with FAO. This letter may contain,

- A) What is FAO/Function & Challenges
- B) Relation ship between FAO & MIJARC
- C) Intimation to meet FAO in national levels to defend our point of view on Food Sovereignty

Commission members are updated on Nyeleni Forum, IFAD governing council, Access to land seminar and WSF in Kenya

Outlook:

MIJARC should take up a common strategy towards UN institutions at national levels but coordinated at International level. More over each of our national movements would be able to meet the national government officials to talk about the need of Food Sovereignty. National movements can try to build up network and alliances with landless movements in their countries and also Support and monitor genuine land and agrarian reform process in the countries. MIJARC world can provide guidelines for call of actions and also can draw success stories within and outside our movement in the struggle to have access to land, water etc It will continue also to carry out its research to make an update of the document on regional markets. Commission will also be able to assist the world team to do the follow up of the MIJARC International campaign on access to land, water and seeds

Food Sovereignty commission will have to invest more energy in lobbying advocacy with FAO and especially with the department of ICARRD and IFAD. The Commission will encourage national movements to take up initiatives to establish and strengthen their contacts with regional and national level organs of the same.

2.5 International Campaign on access to productive resources – access to water

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 16th 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. In this regard the topic after access to land in 2006 was access to water in 2007.

Objectives

- Men and women of the movements analyze the situation of access to water in their country and continent
- Man and women of the movements initiate or strengthen activities to advocacy for more and easy access to water
- Men and women of the movements inform the public about the difficulties related to water access for young people

• Activities

MIJARC News was publishing articles on the topic of access to water. A call for action was published in June 2007. MIJARC was also producing and disseminating the material 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, 16th of October 07 according to the reality of the movements like seminars, fairs, exhibitions, political meetings and interviews with local political leaders. We would like to specifically highlight the campaign of Indian movements against the privatisation of water and against Coca Cola buying water resources, which was followed up by the German movement. They produced pedagogical material and also launched a national campaign against Coca Cola together with all the catholic youth organisations.

Results/Impact:

- awareness rising among the members of MIJARC and public in general
- international cooperation on Coca Cola which has led into Coca Cola contacting the German movement of MIJARC in order to make a common study visit
- attention by partners and politicians

In general we think that the campaign is a good instrument to enhance MIJARC’s internal and external visibility but it is necessary to motivate still the movements who are doing little in this regard and it is necessary to better coordinate the activities on international level.

Outlook:

The topic for 2008 will be access to seeds and GMOs will be the main focus on that, but also the positive experiences existing like for example seed banks and others preserving the biodiversity.

2.6 Second EU conference on rural development in Berlin /June 18-21, 2007

Back ground

In the course of its EU-presidency, the German government hosted the Second European Forum on Sustainable Rural Development from June 18 to 21, this year in Berlin and MIJARC participated. The aim of this conference was to raise the awareness of governments, national and European parliamentarians, as well as of experts in European and international development cooperation about the importance of rural development for poverty reduction and to discuss experiences and strategies in this field. A regional focus was on Africa.

15.-17.06.2007: International Civil Society/NGO Pre-Conference to the EU-Forum on Sustainable Rural Development

To accompany the above event, the German Forum on Environment and Development and an international organizing committee coordinated a pre-conference for the NGOs and organisations of civil society, which took place in Berlin, too, from 15-17 June 2007, the weekend before the official conference. This pre-conference served as an independent and self-organized space for the civil society organisations to discuss the strategies and policies of the multi- and bilateral donors in the diverse fields of rural development from our own perspectives, which puts the livelihood of poor rural producers, of ecology, of human rights and of equity in the center. George Dixon Fernandez represented MIJARC in the civil society forum and was selected as one out of the 15 delegates to the official EU rural development conference

Results

The conference gave a good opportunity to meet and challenge all the major donors, key actors and thinkers in the new debate on rural development, as all of them have been invited: the Northern state donors, international organizations like the World Bank and the FAO, the GDPRD, the big foundations, CGIAR, the science community of the agricultural economists, and even some representatives of agribusiness.

NGO pre-conference was helped to prepare the civil society/NGO participants, who are taking part in the official conference. It also planned for the side events during the official forum. It was a great occasion for the civil society organizations like MIJARC in order to exchange experience, meet the decision makers and to speak out for the rural people. The civil society forum prepared a final declaration and later presented it in the official forum

Outlook

Being the movement working for and of Rural people, the presence of MIJARC is quite relevant for this conference. We have to keep an eye on the follow up of this event

3.1. World Co-ordination

Background:

The MIJARC World Assembly, which is the highest statutory body, takes place every four years. The last Assembly took place in Germany, Hardehausen in August 2004. 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. 2007 world co-ordination was held in May in Brussels.

Members of the World Co-ordination:

Asia:	Manyakam Barre, Anil Jose
Africa:	Syprien Essong Ze, Hona Tiboshokona
Latin America:	Carol Bolivar, Nivaldo Ramos
Europe:	Berta Vizcarra Mir, Christian Schärtl
World Team:	George Dixon Fernandez, Christine Brandmeir, 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
- ❖ Preparation for the World Assembly 2008
- ❖ Financial reporting and planning of MIJARC
- ❖ Checking the fulfilment of criteria set up for the distribution of the solidarity fund
- ❖ Reflection on the Identity of MIJARC in preparation for the World Assembly
- ❖ Enforcing the role of women within MIJARC
- ❖ reinforcement of the internal networking of MIJARC
- ❖ Continental co-ordinations and World Team revised their action plan which was made in the last GA
- ❖ Evaluation and planning for the next International Campaign on Access to Land

Results/Impact:

As every year the Coordination worked on the evaluation and revision of action plan at both Continental and World level. Main issue of the World Coordination 2007 was the preparation of the World Assembly program 2008 including continental assemblies, seminar, women conference, animators training and world coordination. Anthony Saina from CARYM Kenya was present as a guest in order to report of the local preparations undertaken. The financial Statement of last year has been discussed and adopted as well as the financial planning for 2008 also. The different commissions explained their activities and presented their future planning's. Also the world team and the continental teams presented their action plans for 2007/2008 and they have been adopted.

Outlook:

The next world coordination will take place in the context of the world assembly 2008 in Uganda. Most of the world coordinators will stop and a lot of newly elected people will start working for MIJARC on international level. Therefore we have foreseen a training at the end of the world assembly where roles and tasks will be clarified and the new members of the world coordination will receive training in strategic planning, project management and financial administration. Finally we will establish strategies to enhance the team spirit within the world coordination with less hierarchy between world team members and continental coordinators.

3.2. World Team

The World Team consists of the president (since August 2004 George Dixon) and the secretary general (Christine Brandmeir, re-elected in August 2004), the treasurer (N.N.) and the international chaplain who was assigned by the Vatican in 2006, Florencio Dube from Peru, national chaplain of JARC Peru. Christine Brandmeir was on maternity leave from January to April 2007 and joined again in May 2007. The World Team meets regularly once a month. The President and General Secretary are working on a full-time basis.

3.3. International Secretariat

Cecile Bulens, administrative director, was employed in 2003 for the management of projects, book keeping and general administration. She has been working until November 2007 in the office in Brussels and supports the President, the chaplain and the Secretary General. Unfortunately we had to end the contract of Cecile Bulens due to reorientation of the organisation of the International Secretariat. In future we would like to employ a project officer who is especially responsible for economic projects.

4. Movements and co-ordinations

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: contact movement) and in East Africa (Zambia, Kenya, Uganda, Madagascar). Benin also has relaunched its contact with MIJARC world.. 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 from his responsibilities by the World coordination as he was not available to work for MIJARC through out the year 2007 .Hona Tibashoboka (Panafrican women 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 and they are all working at their own respective regions on voluntary basis.

Activities:

- African movements participated well in the International seminar on access to land
- A seminar on Community based Marketing was organised by the Pan African MIJARC in Uganda for the East African Region
- MIJARC organised a workshop on Land, water and trade (Promises and realities)with FIMARC during the World social forum in Kenya January 2007. Representatives from different African countries benefited from this event and also they could actively participate in the social forum activities.
- African team met with FIMARC to discuss and make follow up on Vanile Campaign
- George Dixon Fernandez, International president of MIJARC visited Congo Brazzaville from 22-29 of October 2007 in order to strengthen, to support and to extend the solidarity to the national movement of MIJARC ,MJARC Congo. . George Dixon met also different responsables of the Congolais Government as well as the authorities of the church. A specific preparation meeting for the World General assembly was organised with Mouvla Berthelemi, the national coordinator MJARC Congo

- Visit to Cameroun (29 October-6 November 2007): George Dixon visited the catholic secretariat and national office of JAC cameroun in Yaoundé . He had meetings with Apostolic Nuncio of Cameroun Mgr. Antonio Eliseo Asioti and Vice secretary General of Cameroun Episcopal conference CENC. Panafrican women coordinator Hona Tibashoboka accompanied with him for the visit. The main purpose of the visit was to settle and arrange the things in Panafrican office as panafrican Coordinator Syprian Essongze stopped working for MIJARC

Outlook:

The Visit in Cameroun really helped to arrange the Panafrican office and to strengthen the contact with national catholic church and the movement. Congo Visit paved a way for our national movements to have more collaborative Projects with Government programmes. Regular visits to the national movements are quite urgent in order to support and strengthen them. Direct contact with the movements would allow getting timely feed back and real experience. More time, resources, energy and coordination is needed to organize different regular visits either by the world team or by the continental team. The need for formation of the movements to ensure a good renewal of the movements is felt very extremely in this continent. There is still a special need to strengthen women participation and women ownership within the national movements but also at pan African level. More accompaniment and timely statutory meeting is quite relevant; Since Syprien EssongZe has called back from his responsibility, there is no body working physically at the continental office in Yaoundé. 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 will take place In Kampala, Uganda from 15-16 of May 2008 and elect a new Panafrican team.

4.2 Situation and activities of MIJARC Latin America

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 have some local groups working in the spirit of MIJARC but at the moment national coordination is not working and it will be necessary to relaunch the movement. The Latinamerican Team is working in this line and made two visits in 2007 in order to help rural youth leaders in Bolivia to meet, to exchange and to restructure. Other contacts are existing to rural youth groups Chile, Uruguay and Argentina, but are still not at a level to be affiliated to MIJARC.

Situation of the Latin American coordination:

Latin American team consists of Carol Cristina Bolivar from Peru and Nivaldo Ramos from Brazil. MIJARC Latin America does not have a permanent office at the moment and the experience of the last clear made evident that the office is necessary and that it should be established in Peru soon after the election 2008.

Activities 2007

- Accompaniment and Training

As decided in 2007 the Latin-American team undertook various 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. Carol Bolivar went to Brazil and Haiti. Nivaldo Ramos visited the movements in Nicaragua, Ecuador,

Paraguay and Peru. The visits have been also composed of trainings in relation with solidarity economy, MIJARC in general and leadership.

- Networking and Advocacy

In 2007 MIJARC Latinamerica was quite active in re-establishing the contacts to IPC in Latinamerica, the network of civil society organisations working on food sovereignty. Carol Bolivar took also part to the meeting of FLAJ, the platform of latinamerican youth organisations which has established a collaboration with the European Youth Forum. Finally the team also participated to various meetings of the network of religions for peace.

Outlook:

The elections foreseen for 2008 will also bring some change to 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 the movements:

Nine member movements are part of MIJARC in Asia: India (Tamilnadu, Kerala, Andra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, North-East, Karnataka, Orissa), Sri Lanka and Pakistan. Nepal which is an associated movement for the last few years will probably become an effective member during the forth coming General Assembly. New relationships have been established with movements in Bangladesh, Thailand, and Philippines which will lead to an affiliation during the world assembly 2008.

Situation of Asian coordination:

The team works in Chennai. The three people in charge Manikyam Barre, Anil Jose, and Father Sunny Uppan distributed between themselves the movements to make a better follow up. The situation of the office raises questions because the archbishop wants to sell the building where is the continental office. As the MIJARC Asia has a house with Chennai the question arises how to better use this house for the operation of the MIJARC in Asia.

Activities 2007

- ❖ The Asian Team Visited Orissa ,North East and Karnataka
- ❖ Asian Women Commission met in Chennai and undergone a training
- ❖ The reflection with the movements on the rural aspect continued in particular during continental coordination in April at Kandwa ,Madhya Pradesh
- ❖ MIJARC Asian Chaplain Fr.Sunny Uppan and Mijarc Kerala Chaplain Fr.Sebastian Puthen Participated in the national meeting of KLJB ,Germany and also had special meeting with World team in Brussels
- ❖ In April the MIJARC Asian Coordination took place in Madhya Pradesh. George Dixon participated in the coordination.
- ❖ Chaplains and Animators training programme was held in Banglore ,India from 22-25 August 2007. A special training session on rural development and SHG's was organised

Outlook:

Considering the majority of the movements are in India, the visits can be done systematically. The extension of movements in other parts of Asia should be the key priority for the future. A sub continental office could be quite helpful in this regard. It is important to continue to look further into the topic of the specificity of the MIJARC as rural movement and laymen. The forth coming assembly of MIJARC Asia will take Place in Sri Lanka will elect a new continental team

4.4 Situation and activities of MIJARC Europe

Situation of the movements:

In Europe there are seven member movements affiliated to MIJARC: Rumania, Germany, France, Spain, Catalonia, Portugal and Flanders. Contact movements such as Poland, Bulgaria, and Netherlands were also affiliated to the European MIJARC during the European assembly in Poland 2007 June. There is contact exist with movements in Hungary, and Austria too. In 2004 the contacts to Hungary and Romania have been improved and new contacts have been established with the rural youth movement in Switzerland as well as with the rural youth in Ireland.

Situation of the European Secretariat and European Team:

The European Team is made up of: Gaetan Vallée (MRJC France), Christian Schärtl (KLJB Germany), Berta Vizcarra Mir (MJRC Spain). Vanessa Savioni who was on full-time basis at the European Secretariat stopped working since January 2008. Thus European office is looking for a new staff at the moment

Activities:

- European commission met in Brussels
- The General Assembly took place in Poland
- MIJARC Europe organised workshops during the G8 meeting at Rostock
- The European team with Rural Youth Europe had an audience with the council of Europe to present the results of the research action "change the village" and to establish tracks of work for the future

Outlook

There were changes took place in the MIJARC European office during last year. Venessa Savioni who was working as European Secretary of MIJARC left the office in January 2008. The joint project of MIJARC Europe with Rural Youth Europe ("Change the village - Challenge yourself - You(th) can make a difference!") has ended and the results published. This could be used further to encourage the movements to make the follow up. The two experienced leaders Christian Schärtl and Berta Vizcarra Mir will finish their mandates during the upcoming European assembly. A good transition and support is needed for the new team .MIJARC Europe has to put more energy to extend and strengthen the movements in Eastern and Southern Europe

5. Publications and communication

5.1. MIJARC News

MIJARC News was published 3 times in 3 languages in 2007. 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 2007 were:

- Agrarian Reform
- Access to water and food sovereignty as it was the main topic of the international campaign 2007
- Struggle against hunger and poverty

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 2007, 2 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. The website

In 2007 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.

6. Cooperation with Partners

6.1. Cooperation with international catholic organisations

Co-operation with ICO, International Catholic Organisations

George Dixon, World President of MIJARC participated in the General Assembly of CICO which held at Paris from 18-23 June 2007. George also Participated in the 80th anniversary celebration of the foundation of CICO.

Meeting with Pontifical Council for Laity and Vatican

George Dixon Fernandez, President of MIJARC and Fr. Floricien Dube , Chaplain of MIJARC had a meeting with Mgr. Galindo Delgado to discuss about the statutes of MIAJRC. They met with Mgr. Francis Kohn, head of the Youth desk as well as the secretary of Mgr. Martino (President of Justice and Peace Commission). George participated in the Papel audience given for the FAO delegation during the General conference meeting in 2007

Vatican Forum on Work

George Dixon Fernandez, President of MIJARC participated in the Vatican Forum on Work which held at Rome from 26-30 march 2007. Two people from MRJC France also participated in this conference

First Vatican Forum of the catholic Inspired NGO's

The first Vatican Forum of the Catholic inspired Non Governmental Organizations (NGO's) was held from November 30th till December 2nd 2007 in Rome ,Italy. Aware of the enlarging importance of the civil society at the international scenario, 85 major catholic NGO's having consultative status in various United Nations organs responded positively to the invitation of the Holy see and were present for this forum. George Dixon Fernandez, International President of MIJARC represented our movement in this great event. More over he was invited by Vatican as a panellist on the topic of our involvement in the field of Agriculture and Rural development and the engagements in various UN organisations. This gave an opportunity to explore and draw the attention of the forum on the painful reality of the current agricultural situation of the world and the challenges for rural development as well as the alarming future of the rural youth and to put on board our major demand for food sovereignty

Meeting with Pope Benedict XVI

Pope Benedict XVI invited the whole delegation of the forum at the city of Vatican on 1st of December for the papal audience . During this auspicious occasion George has a great opportunity to meet the holy father in person

Outlook:

Last general assembly of the CICO was quite critical as it was the last meeting of the conference .Mean while most of the members showed their interests to continue by regrouping the existing structure ; An interim committee was formed to come up with strategic paper on regrouping .An extra ordinary meeting is forseen in June 2008 to take the final decision on whether this platform will continue or not. Many thought that Vatican forum may become a permanent structure but the decision was not to make so.

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

George Dixon participated in the TFS meeting in Brussels in March 2007. He also participated in the Brussels meeting in November 2007 in conjunction with the Forum on Trade and Agricultural development. George Dixon had a meeting with Hedelen, the new CIDSE advocacy officer to discuss about how could we work more deeply on key issues and support each other.

George was part of the delegation who met the office of the DG for Trade in Europe in March 2007. Organised also specific meetings with various member organisations of CIDSE such as Broederlijk Delen, Entraide Fraternite, MISEREOR, CCFD etc

Outlook:

We want to further promote the discussions on FAO issues, model of agriculture, climate change and biofuels in our different levels with political orientation. Since the WTO negotiations as well as EPA negotiations were blocked, Agriculture and rural development issues got back the prominent place again in CIDSE discussions. At this context CIDSE has to give equal importance for this like trade. Even if the strategic alliance finished, we as MIJARC have the impression that we are still continue working with the spirit of alliance and agencies recognize our work and will also support us in the future.

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.

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 does not pretend to be the only space at the international level where the advancement of food sovereignty is discussed. But its unique mechanism of strict representativity to include focal points from all regions and all constituencies has proved to be the most effective mechanism to include the most marginalised - and most misunderstood! - regions and constituencies and their unique issues.

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: 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, agroecological 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.

In 2006 and 2007, George Dixon Fernandez was the permanent representative of MIJARC towards FAO. George made several visits to FAO Headquarters in Rome to acquaint itself to the various departments. He met with Anna Rapazzo of IAAH, Lavinia Gasperini, Coordinator of education for rural people and the department head of the Strategic division and brief about our current involvements and future programmes . Some one from IAAH or ERP may participate in the forth coming assembly of MIJARC. ERP promised to give us the tool kit of materials that they prepared. IAAH proposed that MIJARC can publish our event in Kenya on their website as we are one of the international partners of IAAH.

FAO General conference 2007 17-25 November, Rome, Italy

FAO general conference took place in Rome, Italy from 17-25th November 2007. George Dixon Fernandez, President of MIJARC represented our movement in this conference. MIJARC made lobbying for ICARRD follow up. George met with various country delegates during conference and tried to convince them to support the ICARRD follow up process and distributed the ICARRD lobby letters to the Ambassadors .

FAO delegates met with Pope Benedict XVI

Pope Benedict XVI gave a special audience to the delegates of the FAO General conference 2007. George was part of this delegation.

Meeting with Norwegian Agricultural Minister

Axel Naesrtad, Coordinator of more and better campaign invited George Dixon Fernandez to meet with the Norwegian Agricultural Minister together with Antonio Onorati, Coordinator IPC and Beatrice Gasco, Secretary of IPC. Other than the General evaluation of the work of FAO, George mainly demanded the Norwegian delegation to lead and motivate EU on ICARRD matter and also to pressurise FAO to relaunch the youth desk

International Plannification Committee for Food Sovereignty (IPC) General Meeting 15-17 November 2007 Rome, Italy

International General body meeting of IPC took place in Rome Italy from 15-17th November 2007. During this meeting IPC finds itself in a moment of crucial decisions to take for the validity of its work and the political vision for the coming years based on the evaluation and deep reflection of the work that carried out so far as well as the analysis of the current global context and trends. George Dixon Fernandez, International President of MIJARC participated in this important meeting. All the members who attended the General meeting admit that IPC has to continue its mission being the unique mechanism that brings majority of the social organisations who defends Food sovereignty. IPC is a competent partner when FAO speaks about

civil society involvement.. Reorganization of regional groupings will be a major focus in the coming years. A training team also was formed in order to prepare training materials and manuals to organize various training programmes for IPC members during various events. It was also decided to involve in the FAO conference on climate change 2008. Another major decision was to draft various documents such as

- IPC and its function

- Political synthesis document

- Analysis of present global context and potential of IPC

- Proposed action plan until 2009, alternative summit in 2009

- Code of conduct for IPC members

IPC members had a special Meeting with Sappho Haralambous (Policy division of IFAD) and Thomas Price (External relations officer FAO)

Outlook:

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. it is strategically important to invest in FAO in the current context in which agriculture and food issues have once again gained prominence on the world agenda 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 according to a logic in which human rights and equity take precedence over liberalizing markets. Powerful players (like USA and EU governments, Agribusiness, TNC, etc) which had more or less ignored FAO as an international forum over past years have returned in force to bring their interests to bear on the decision-making processes of the organization. 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. MIJARC will have a central role in the preparation and organisation of a Parallel forum on climate change which will take place in Rome in June 2008

6.4 Cooperation with UNESCO

MIJARC has consultative status in UNESCO and MIJARC was very much involved in different committees and activities of UNESCO especially since George Dixon 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 14th to 16th 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

The UNESCO Youth Forum 2007

UNESCO youth forum 2007 took place from 12-13 October 2007 in Paris. Held just before the 34th General Conference of the Organization, this year's Youth Forum gave its young participants the opportunity to exchange views, share experiences, reflect together and, above all, detect common preoccupations and problems and contribute to the work of the two Ministerial Roundtables that took place during the General Conference, on: Education and economic development and The contribution of science and technology to sustainable development - the role of UNESCO. MIJARC was part of the organisation of a youth fair By JPC during the youth forum in order to present the work of member youth organisations in the field of UNESCO activities especially related to the theme of the forum. George Dixon participated in the Youth Forum too.

34th UNESCO General Conference 16th October -3rd November:

The 34th UNESCO General Conference took place from 16Oct -Nov 3 ,2007.

Two ministerial round tables were held during the General Conference. 19/20th October: Round Table on Education and Economic Development. 26/27th October: Round Table on Science and Technology for Development. During the General Conference the sexennial report (34C/27) was discussed. It reported on the evolution of the relation between NGOs and UNESCO between 2001 and 2006 and also contains important recommendations with regards to the future relations between NGOs and UNESCO. George Dixon Fernandez participated in the programmes took place in the first week of the General Conference

UNESCO Day on Non formal education

The JPC on youth organised a Day on Non Formal Education (NFE) on 4th December 2007 in UNESCO Headquarters MIJARC has been asked to be one of the working group member on this topic. One of the aims was to introduce the concept of NFE, from the perspective of the JPC on Youth. Another important aim of this conference was to convince the member countries of UNESCO about the significance of Non Formal sector as like Formal education sector as well as the urgent need to support it. It also underlined the vision of NFE as a means to foster every day life skills, life long learning, active citizenship and other capacities, which is much larger than the vision of NFE as a means to replace formal schooling for those who did not have a chance to benefit from. George Dixon was one of the panellists for the conference

International NGO Conference (Dec 5 -7)

The International NGO conference of UNESCO took place from 5-7 Dec 2007 in Paris. George Dixon took part in this conference

Outlook:

The 34th general conference of UNESCO discussed the topic of the relation between UNESCO and NGO's based on the sexennial report and it is clear that the NGO's which are not involving in UNESCO activities on regular basis will loose their status in UNESCO last years George Dixon Fernandez ,President have been regular contact with UNESCO and participating in almost all activities which is important for both MIJARC and UNESCO. Hence it is relevant to have regular representation in UNESCO activities to maintain our official status. 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. George Dixon will continue doing the follow up of UNESCO.

The following are the elements that we have to taken into account in our future dealings with UNESCO

- promote a vision of youth as a positive force, capable of shaping today's world
- highlight the financial and legal frame conditions to successfully implement youth and volunteer projects
- ensure a continuous dialogue between UNESCO and NGOs on youth issues;
- support the diffusion of UNESCO's programmes amongst youth and youth organisations from the international to the local level;
- promote the implication of youth in the functioning and in the decision making processes of UNESCO.

6.5. Cooperation with ILO

MIJARC has consultative status in ILO. We have not been that much present in the ILO conferences on a regular basis during the last few years. In 2001 MIJARC together with JOCI and MMTC presented a common declaration on rural workers. In 2005 Markus Schrader, MIJARC Europe, was present at to the International Labour Conference. During the last labour conference, we work with JOCI to make an intervention but unfortunately can't attend the meeting. George has been trying to re launch the contact as well as our involvement recently. There has been already some discussion with JOCI in this regards.

Outlook:

George will do the follow up of ILO and together with JOCI we are still planning to have different interventions. We have to invest more energy and time to coordinate our work with ILO. This year rural employment is one of the theme for the working group during the general conference and it is quite relevant for our involvement