

Workshop on Agriculture and Food Security



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COUNTRY EXPERIENCES

Thailand

- one best practice- crop rotation --intensive chemical farming, thereby reducing the annual yields
- the vulnerability of farming is greatest as 60% of the population are in poverty
- fisheries: decline in fish catch, but not sure if it is because of CC or over fishing
- coral reefs are dying
- rainfall pattern is very erratic

COUNTRY EXPERIENCES

Philippines:

- 80% of the people live below poverty line among farmers, primary reason for poverty is landlessness
- up to now, there have been no significant studies made, that link between CC and agriculture
- extreme weather conditions, heavy and untimely rainfall, rising temperatures, floods, erosion and landslides deforestation, mining make the impacts more severe
- in the recent typhoon –Frank (Sept 2008), houses were completely submerged in Iloilo, crops worth millions were damaged, worsen the rice crisis
- government infrastructure --coal power plants up thru foreign capital -- sea water pollution --loss of fish
- Biofuels Act enacted in 2008 -- conversion of farmlands to **biofuel plantations**

COUNTRY EXPERIENCES

India:

- People in the villages do not describe any specific instances, but observe that the weather pattern have changed-- cropping period is reduced--diversity of crops that farmers can grow is reduced
- fisher folk fear displacement (especially after tsunami)
- the commonly owned beach and fish drying areas are getting out of the people's hands, government grow *casuarinas*, on the name of protecting the shoreline, but the plantations are being used to make these otherwise common property unavailable and inaccessible to the community
- privatization of beach --beach resorts and factories
- mechanized boats introduced by the government as rehabilitation plan after tsunami-- the loss of local knowledge in sustainable fishing using catamaran boats
- mountainous people --loss of biodiversity and livelihoods from the nearby forests

COUNTRY EXPERIENCES

Indonesia:

- recent forest fire was caused by a palm oil company (known to many)-- to be used for palm oil plantations
- fisherfolks are in extreme poverty, 70% of the ff have earnings only to pay debts
- farmlands are being converted to housing, mining, plantations and food farmlands are decreasing
- Paddy Field Land Conservation policy-- land consolidation, loss of farmlands from the small and marginal farmers hands-- monopolization of land control by the government.
- hybrid rice-- heat resistant, water resistant are being introduced on the name of CC.
- Small food producers are most vulnerable and most effected, because they have the least ability to adapt

COUNTRY EXPERIENCES

Pakistan:

- wheat crises affected many farmers and consumers in the country, however, no concrete linkage established to CC
- patterns of agricultural production is contributing to climate change-- cash cropping, canal systems and the promotion of crops that need more water-- resulted in increased soil salinity and decrease in productivity
- soils are inherently rich in phosphates, but the advertisements and agricultural input companies are promoting the used of DAP, damaging the soils
- bt-cotton (Monsanto) was given permission by gov't to release it in the market-- 8-10mos. to grow, displacing food crops, farmers getting hungry
- government policies: promote large dams and mega projects which do not benefit the small farmers.
- Corporate Farming Act was enacted- leasing land to corporations for 99 years.

COMMON CONCERNS AND PRIORITIZING OF ISSUES

1. It was observed that the language and the jargons used in the dominant discourse on CC is very people alienating and unjust. For instance the 'Adaptation', the local communities habiting some of the harshest climatic regions and elsewhere have always worked along the changes in natural conditions and natural climatic changes. However, the aspect of adaptation in the current CC discourse arises from the colonial approach to CC. Whereby we in the South are to adapt to the climatic crises created by the Northern countries. And especially as these are being bargained under trade negotiations, making Adaptations an easy way out for the northern countries, while the focus needs to be on Mitigation.

COMMON CONCERNS AND PRIORITIZING OF ISSUES

2. There is urgent need to do grassroots research and fact finding about the primary causes of climate change. Especially, if agriculture is believed to be one of the GHG contributing factors, than we need to explore – which form of agriculture caused this. It is the intensive, monoculture and corporate kind of agriculture and food supply systems and markets, that leads to CC, but not the traditional agriculture. Ecological agriculture is not the problem, than to make the local communities knowledge of ecological agriculture and local food production and consumption system should become the basis, for an approach to solution finding for CC impacts.

COMMON CONCERNS AND PRIORITIZING OF ISSUES

3. At present, CC is already being used by the big corporations as an another arena to extract profits, like in the – biofuels, which resulted in land acquiring and conversions of food producing lands to plantations; the researches being done on the drought and water resistant crops by the agrochemical corporations (using hybrids and genetic engineering). For which we should be constantly monitoring and be vigilant.

COMMON CONCERNS AND PRIORITIZING OF ISSUES

4. The issue of common property resources is critical and integral to peoples food production system, the loss of CPRs and their conversion to industrial and commercial ventures is on the one hand divesting people of their productive resources and on the other hand giving rise to practices which contribute to climate crisis.



WHAT IS TO BE DONE?

Suggestions for Collective Action and Campaigns

The regional cooperation shall be promoted, local actions enhanced and strengthened --

- The issues need to be properly understood and documented from the peoples perspectives. It should be culturally, socially and scientifically valid.
- At the policy level we should not fall into the trap of adaptation since it can be never ending, and focus more on mitigation demanding a change in lifestyle and policies that promote excessive consumption.
- The climate concerns must be addressed through peoples own knowledge systems, experiences and best practices which provide unlimited and diverse mitigations [adaptations] options for solutions at the local and national levels. Hence, action plans must develop from indigenous knowledge.

WHAT IS TO BE DONE?

Suggestions for Collective Action and Campaigns

- Ecological agriculture as part of local food production system should be promoted along side the campaign to ban the TNC products, as modern food consumption and distribution system that is adding to the CC.
- Indigenous people have special peoples rights and privileges which must be protected and strengthened in order to mitigate the impacts of CC.
- We have to be vigilant against the privatization of common property resources, loss of livelihood security and the opportunity and enabling capacity of the community to mitigate the effects of CC impacts.
- Monitoring the government decisions and actions so that these reflect genuine people's concerns and ground realities rather than developed merely for fund acquisition and providing TNCs backdoor entries.
- The national and international discourses on CC must be communicated to the community at the local level in their own terminology, as currently people are not able to connect and relate to.