



MIJARC WORLD COORDINATION MEETING 2009 IN ASSESSE/ BELGIUM

A seminar about "International Property Rights and seeds" in India in 2010, Latin America as the host for the World Assembly in 2012, a research group about MIJARC's micro-credit system "landfund", and further decisions were taken at the "Training and Working Seminar for MIJARC continental leaders".

Assesse / Brussels, 5th of August 2009. From July 25th to August 5th MIJARC continental leaders and the World Team of MIJARC, the International Movement of Catholic Agricultural Rural Youth, assembled for their annual World Coordination meeting, this year in Assesse/ Belgium.

Based on the evaluation of the movement's work on continental level and the financial reports the World Coordinators and the World Team of MIJARC discussed on the future proceedings of the movement. The focus lies on achieving autonomous working on sustainable and solidarity economy, forming responsible and competent rural men and women, participating in decision making processes, taking environmental protection as a national policy and on empowering women at all levels in relation with their rights and their participation to take leadership. These five objectives will be used by MIJARC as a guideline for all their activities and programmes of the next year.

The places for the World Coordination meetings until 2012 were chosen. MIJARC's World Coordination 2010 will take place in Asia. The meeting will be combined with a seminar about "International Property Rights and seeds". Besides inviting the Coordinators MIJARC will also invite representatives of the national movements of MIJARC Asia to this seminar. In 2012 the World Assembly meeting which is taking place every four years will be hosted by MIJARC Latin America.

The "landfund" concept, a micro-credit system developed by MIJARC itself that would help to improve the access to land for young rural small-scale farmers, was introduced to the Coordinators and positively welcomed by the majority. Nevertheless and due to some concerns the Coordination agreed on setting up a working group for one year that will engage in deepening the knowledge about possible advantages and disadvantages of the project. Based on this information the Coordination will vote on the implementation of the "landfund" project during the meeting in India in 2010.

The poster and working material for the World Food Day 2009 was presented to the Coordination members. The slogan MIJARC will campaign with on this years World Food Day on the 16th of October will be "Agrofuels and Climate change - Even more threats for Rural Poor". A Call for action was formulated and will soon be sent out to the national movements of MIJARC all around the world to ensure that the youth of every

country will contribute to the World Food Day 2009 by taking actions for a better world.

In advance to the Coordination meeting the Coordinators met in expert groups about women, food sovereignty, and solidarity economy. The Women Commission members decided to organize themselves to publish a training manual on civic education for women within the next years. The outcome of the Food Sovereignty Commission meeting is to concentrate on lobby work in the upcoming year in order to build a well working network and cooperate with influential organisations. Preservation of seeds and agrofuels will play an important role in the next years for this Commission. The main result of the Commission on Solidarity Economy is a comprehensive description of solidarity economy and a definition of economic projects in regard of MIJARC concerns. In the future they want to proceed by developing a database on solidarity economy projects which can be found on the website of MIJARC (www.mijarc.net). Furthermore the Solidarity Economy commission created the slogan "Stay Rural, Start a Project" to motivate rural youth all around the globe to be active and to bring changes for the better for themselves as well as for the rest of the world.

"Stay rural, Start a Project" need not be limited to the regards of solidarity economy but can and should as well be seen as the slogan for the whole of the MIJARC movement and the results of the previous days hopefully can contribute to enhance the development of rural areas and improve the situation of young rural people. In order to ensure a successful transition of the decisions taken in theory during the Coordination meeting three days of training on project development and communication for the Coordinators took place afterwards.

MIJARC, the International Movement for Catholic Agricultural and Rural Youth was founded in 1954 by six national European movements. Today it consists of 60 member movements in Latin America, Africa, Europe and Asia. In these movements young rural people commit themselves to contribute to a sustainable rural development. Through a variety of campaigns and activities the movement succeeds in representing the interests of the rural youth within society and the Church. MIJARC enjoys recognition by the Vatican and holds consultative status in UNESCO, ILO, ECOSOC as well as collaboration with the Conference of ICOs, CIDSE/Caritas International and IPC, the International Planification Committee.

The MIJARC World Coordination is composed of two elected leaders per continent and the likewise elected World Team, President George D. Fernandez, Secretary General Carolin Grieshop and Chaplain Fr. Florencio Dubé.

Once a year the Coordinators meet for several days in order to hold their Commission and Coordination meetings. The last meeting of the MIJARC World Coordination took place in May 2008 in Kampala/Uganda. During the meetings the leaders present the state of affair of their continents and according to that the commission tries to develop guidelines on future strategies.

Please contact:

Nanine Lilla, n.lilla@mijarc.net

Tel: +32-(0)2-7349211

Text by
Nanine Lilla

Carolin Grieshop, c.grieshop@mijarc.net

Tel: +32-(0)2-7349211

www.mijarc.net