



Initiatives of Change
Farmers' Dialogue

FARMERS' DIALOGUE International

Where farmers renew their calling
to feed the world

-Claude Bourdin / October 2018

Farmers' Dialogue and « Initiatives of Change »

Be the change you want to see in the world!

There is enough on earth for everyone's needs, but not for everyone's greed.

As a farmer I commit myself to take decisions on a basis of openness and honesty.

We are stewards of the soil and plan to pass it on in better condition to coming generations!



Ove Jensen

FARMERS' DIALOGUE

How it started

'Ove and Ingalill Jensen Swedish farmers'

“Ingalill, my wife and I were happy with our lives. We considered farming to be an exciting profession although Ingalill at times said, “I think something is missing, but I don’t know what?” In 1960, we received an invitation to a New Year’s conference at Caux in Switzerland. Ingalill said, “Perhaps we could find there, what I think we’re missing.” We learned about the goal to rebuild the world and we were struck by the honest ways people related their experiences in life. One comment impressed us: “if we want to change the world, we must begin with ourselves”. The 4 absolute standards of honesty, purity, unselfishness and love, became guidelines for our lives.”



Ove and Ingalill Jensen

Exchanges between farmers



Farmers' Dialogue - Approach

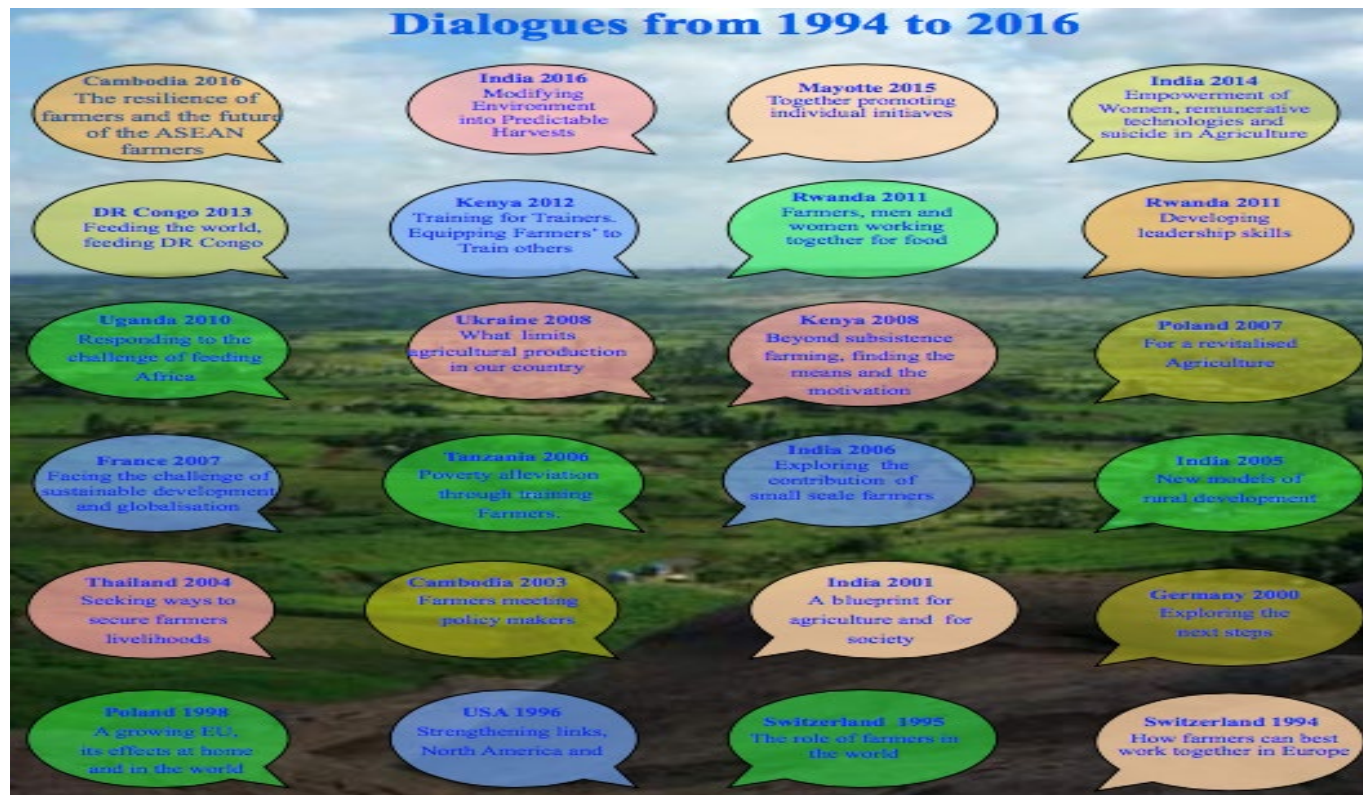
- Farmers share their experiences
- Field visits
- Dialogues
- International network of farmers
- Tools for information and communication

Be the change you want to see in the world!

Field Visits



International Dialogues



Personal Stories

FARMERS' DIALOGUE

INDIA

Shailendra Mahato and his wife Sushila live in the northeast of India, in an industrial region. The farmers are among the poorest of India, they have no irrigation and are not able to cultivate rice outside the monsoon season, mid-June to mid-October.

After his studies, Shailendra wanted to find a job in a business. It meant leaving his village. This raised the question: 'Why leave my village to make a living? I am farmer; I should be able to earn my living from my land and help others too'. To do this it would be necessary to solve the problem of the irrigation.



He decided to create reservoirs. The plan he had in mind was, for financial reasons, spread over five years. But he was invited to a meeting

of industrialists in his region, organized by Initiatives of Change. This accelerated his project! He was invited to present it. An engineer from a big industrial group offered them to put an excavator at his disposal, free of charge. In three months, 50 ponds were dug around the village. This made irrigation possible and raised ground water levels, resulting in improved production of vegetables, wheat, potatoes and rice, and fish farming.

For Shailendra, this success is the fruit of an experience that he had through meeting Initiatives of Change where he was challenged to apologise to his wife and to a political opponent in his village, allowing them to fulfill their long-held desire to bring development to their village.



His new attitude also resulted in his wife, Sushila, working with the women and the children. She was also affected by what she had learnt during a Dialogue between farmers in Tanzania in 2005: when she got home she helped the women develop a number of projects, involving poultry, culture of mushrooms, a course in sewing etc.

Two years later, when she was invited to a Farmers' Dialogue in France, the women in the group asked her what she would take back home. She answered: 'I could take sweets but once they are eaten they are finished. I could take clothes, but they wear out. I shall take the spirit and methods that enable you to stand on your own!'

**Shailendra and Sushila Mahato
An Indian farmer and his wife**



KENYA

Making a difference

I am Jacinta Wanja Giomiti. I live in Kinangop in Kenya. I and my six brothers and sisters were brought up in a single room. I was educated in a local school where I learnt about Agriculture. I started farming with Ksh. 500 and 1/8 of an Acre my mother gave me. There were many challenges; but I believed I could succeed. I planted flowers for export. The first harvest made Ksh 5000 enabling me to rent 2 acres and enabled me to expand. Within the first year a large number of people, especially young people followed what I was doing. I have helped many of them get started.



Jacinta Wanja Giomiti



Mama Sophie

One person I helped was Sophie who was 70, when I met her in 2010 she was desperate. She had a family but they had abandoned her in the village. She was alone with nothing to eat depending on well wishers who visited her occasionally. She had lost hope, and often went to bed hungry. After I attended a course in Bio Intensive Agriculture in Manor House in Kitale in 2012, I learnt I did not require a big farm to grow vegetables and have chickens. I thought of Mum Sophie, she has a small plot of land where she lives. I trained her starting with two chickens that she reared in her small house. After two months they started laying eggs, which we agreed she would not eat but sell to me so that she could buy food. After six months she was able to construct a chicken house and now has over thirty chickens, she can go to the market and is able to buy what she needs. She is now one of my trainers and has trained three women of her age in chicken rearing. They are now able to support themselves



Sophie's Chickens



Funds given to a member of the Table Banking programme

I am proud of Farmers Dialogue, it has helped me change many people's lives. I am training women in Table Banking. This brings together farmers and those with small businesses. We have formed a group of ten and started by contributing small amounts of money, we lend to one or two women to start something, at the next meeting they tell us what they have done and pay back what we gave them. We are then able to loan funds to others. When we are together we help each other spiritually and emotionally changing our way of seeing things helping them understand how they can make it in life.

MISSION

- To produce the food needed.
- To care for natural resources.
- To receive a fair return for their work.
- To have their voices heard.
- To contribute to global decision-making process.

Farmers' Dialogue General Framework

Millenium Development Goals

(MDG of United Nations)

- n°1 : Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
- n°7 : Ensure environmental sustainability
- n°8 : Global partnership for development

The Principles and Aims of the Association

« Initiatives of Change International »,

and particularly its « Initiative for Land, Lives and Peace »

To rehabilitate through agriculture, to feed the world



The Major Current Issues

- Poverty
- Food production for an increasing global population
- Care for the environment

***Farmers are in the front line
to contribute with solutions
to each of these challenges***

Farmers Facing Their Calling

- Teamwork between farmers
- Professional common organisations
- Simple and practical technical solutions
- Marketing

What hinders the farmers?

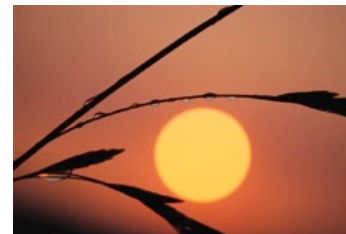
Where are the resistances?

What obstacles are there?

SILENCE, I am thinking!



I take time in silence,
I look at my life,
I compare it with my ideals, ...



Need of light ?



Useless? Get rid of it!



What needs to be unlocked?

HUSH ...! ! !

Quiet !

Change – Motivation – Commitment

It's my turn !

So many needs!



Which decision?



COMMUNICATION

- FDI email : Internationalfd@iofc.org
- Site Internet : www.farmersdialogue.org
- Facebook DEA : www.fb.com/FarmersDialogue