



MORE and BETTER

An international network for support of food, agriculture and rural development to eradicate hunger and poverty

Newsletter N.5 | 2012

ARTICLES

- African Green Revolution Forum
 - The Coordination Committee of More and Better elected in Rio
 - Civil Society and social movements gathered in Rome for the CSM /CSF
 - Welcome Asian Farmers Association for Sustainable and Rural Development!
 - Agricultural Transition | Bamboo binding in Bangladesh
-

African Green Revolution Forum

by Aksel Naerstad, International Co-coordinator of More and Better

The second African Green Revolution Forum was held in Tanzania on September 26-28th with about 1000 participants. Most of the participants were from private companies, institutions and governments. There were only a few representatives of farmers organizations, and some NGOs. More and Better took part despite that we disagree with the main messages from the organizers.

The largest fertilizer company in the world, the Norwegian based Yara, started these global conferences on African green revolution. The first three conferences were held in Oslo, Norway in 2006, 2007 and 2008. After that it shifted name from 'Conference' to 'Forum' and was moved to Africa. The first forum was in Ghana in 2010, and this year it was in Tanzania. Yara still has a huge influence in the conference.

Read the full article: <http://www.moreandbetter.org/en/news/african-green-revolution-forum>

The Coordination Committee of More and Better elected in Rio

The Coordination Committee of More and Better is elected every two years by the General Meeting. The members of the More and Better network who attended our General Meeting in Rio de Janeiro, in June, agreed to keep the Coordination Committee and the two co-coordinators (Aksel Naerstad and Elisabeth Atangana) unchanged, except for Susan Walsh, director of USC Canada who joined as a new member and Nori Ignacio, Executive Director of SEARICE; Nori has replaced Whilelmina Pelegrina who no longer works for Searice. We welcome them both and wish to the elected Committee a fruitful, challenging and inspired work until the next General Assembly in 2014. Full list with members is available here:

<http://www.moreandbetter.org/en/about/the-coordination-committee>

Civil Society and social movements gathered in Rome for the CSM/CFS

A number of organizations from civil society and social movements gathered in Rome in the occasion of the 39th session of the World Committee on Food Security - CFS (15-20th October). The Committee session was preceded by the Annual Forum of Civil Society Mechanism on Food Security and Nutrition – CSM (13-14th October). Several members of the More and Better network intensively contributed to the important work of CSM / CFS; their commitment was crucial within the process that led, among the other things, to the approval of the Global Strategic Framework (GSF) by the Committee on World Food Security. Although we are willing to complement the current version of GSF with a number of key issues which are not addressed in the document (i.e. food sovereignty) we welcome it as an important achievement in the progress of coordination and coherence in decision making on food and agricultural issues. In this regard, the More and

Better Network, together with other NGOs and social movements endorsed the statement that can be read at this link: <http://www.csm4cfs.org/news/?id=86>

Photo gallery: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/faonews/sets/72157631759121119/>

Welcome Asian Farmers Association for Sustainable and Rural Development!

We are pleased to inform that The Asian Farmers Association for Sustainable and Rural Development (AFA) joined More and Better in October. AFA is a regional alliance of national federations and organizations of small scale women and men farmers and producers from Asia Region based in Quezon City, Philippines. To know more, you can visit their website: www.asianfarmers.org

Agricultural Transition | Bamboo binding in Bangladesh

The community of Sonatoni and Ghorjan union of Sirajgoni district is living on the bank of Jamuna river. The river faces continuous threat of erosion; village and households are at risk of disappearance. Since 2010, however, the community used local knowledge of Bamboo binding to redirect the water of Jamuna river and save the community from river erosion.

The story of the Bamboo binding project is one of the stories collected on the Agricultural Transition website. There, it is brought to us by LIBRD, an acronym that stands for Local Initiatives for Biodiversity, Research and Development. Follow the link to read it all: <http://ag-transition.org/?initiative=bamboo-binding-in-bangladesh> (English only)

DOCUMENTS

The State of Food Insecurity in the World (SOFI) 2012

This year the report presents new estimates of undernourishment based on a revised and improved methodology. According to FAO: "The new estimates in the report show that progress in reducing hunger during the past 20 years has been better than previously believed, and that, given renewed efforts, it may be possible to reach the MDG hunger target at the global level by 2015."

We have noticed that the report has some interesting additional information on the calculation of the number of hungry people. The number is based on a minimum calorie intake for not starving. If the number had been based on the necessary calorie intake for an active life, the number of people in the world suffering from hunger had increased from 870 million to 1,5 billion! If one add also people who get enough calories but are suffering from malnutrition, the figure will be 2 billion.

You can find the report here: <http://www.fao.org/docrep/016/i3027e/i3027e00.htm?>

Securing small-scale fisheries

The Special Rapporteur contributed his views this month to the ongoing work of the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) to draw up 'International Guidelines on Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries'. He will present an official report on fisheries and the right to food to the UN General Assembly in New York on October 30, in which he will discuss the right to food implications of over-fishing, the role of small-scale and industrial fisheries, aquaculture and other aspects. Read the Special Rapporteur's [comments on the COFI guidelines](#).

Source: <http://www.srfood.org/>

Statement of social movements and other civil society organizations on the Global Strategic Framework of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS)

<http://www.csm4cfs.org/news/?id=86>

If you have feedback on articles, suggestions of content for future issues or other thoughts please write to: secretariat@moreandbetter.org

More and Better International Secretariat NEW ADDRESS!!

c/o Terra Nuova, **Viale Liegi, n.10, 00198 Rome** (Italy); Tel.: + 39 06 80 70 847; Fax: + 39 06 80 66 25 57; Mob. + 39 3406741705 www.moreandbetter.org; secretariat@moreandbetter.org