

Postcards from the field



Members of the ileia team get out into the field regularly, to be in touch with farmers, farmers' organisations, and other stakeholders in agriculture. Often, ileia is asked to contribute as documentation expert at workshops and multi-stakeholder meetings. Last year, ileia consultants were out in the field several times. Here are some excerpts from the reports they sent us:



'My trip to Cuba was part of the impact study of LEISA Revista de Agroecología, our partner magazine in Latin America. Although I was there for a very short time, I was able to see some amazing successes of Cuban urban agriculture (the production of horticultural crops in and

around the cities). It shows what small scale agriculture can achieve - official statistics now report that more than 60% of the food produced and marketed in Cuba is grown by small scale farmers! As seen in this video [link : <http://www.youtube.com/user/ILEIAfoundation#p/u/7/DFkkK2Cp6UM>], I spoke to some readers and writers of the magazine who expressed their satisfaction with it, and also pointed at some potential improvements which could improve the impact in Cuba and elsewhere. Gracias, amigos!'

Posted by Jorge Chavez-Tafur in Cuba on April 24, 2009

'Niger has a history of bad famines that some people call "free-market induced famines" - shops are full of food but people have no money to buy it. What is the long-term solution for this? Should people produce for the market, and make money to buy food, should people try producing their own food or, should people care for trees and feed cattle? (...) As partners in AgriProFocus, (a Dutch network of organisations engaged with farmers' organisations and entrepreneurship (ed)), we want to figure this out so that we can look at how the range of expertise in the network can be best used to solve food problems, particularly for the poorest.'

Posted by Frank van Schoubroeck and Safi Fall (our colleague from IED Afrique) in Niger on June 8, 2009

"Food sovereignty can be achieved by building upon people's knowledge on traditional agriculture in a community-owned process." This is just one of the major conclusions to emerge from our recent documentation exercise with some of Misereor's partners in Bangladesh and India, which I attended with Radha, our colleague from AME Foundation (based in Bangalore).

Posted by Jorge Chavez-Tafur in India on July 9, 2009

Seventy two people from all over Brazil have been carefully chosen to participate in the workshops I am attending right now, in the outskirts of Brasilia. They are just a few of the many men and women from all over the country, who

work in schools, research institutions, farmers' organisations or NGOs who are contributing to the generation of new ideas, concepts and approaches.(...) We have looked at the processes by which they build knowledge, discussing issues such as the participation of all stakeholders, the importance of considering the context in which every experience takes place and the steps which are needed in order to sustain a documentation process. As one of them said, "a meeting like this one gives us the fuel to continue."

Posted by Jorge Chavez-Tafur in Brazil on July 22, 2009

'One citizen in the US is responsible as many emissions as 107 Bangladeshis. So how fair is it to ask developing countries to reduce their emissions? A representative from the Indian government, present at the conference on climate change in South Asia that I attended last week, was very clear on the issue: it is not, and India will not allow it.'

Posted by Petra Rooijackers in Delhi, India, on October 7, 2009

