

Working Groups from November 1-2: Key Action and Follow up Points

During the first and second conference day, several working groups were held. By giving the participants of this conference the chance to discuss their work and ideas in smaller groups, the conference could provide a forum for a broad dialogue without losing a connection to the discussion of special issues.

Some key points of the discussion in the **working groups** and the consecutive discussion panel on the second day will be presented briefly here:

A) Climate and Food Crisis

- Political problems with new terminology being used to describe agriculture practices that are also climate-friendly, for example: “Climate smart agriculture” (CSA) and “sustainable intensification”
- There is a need to focus on key countries that are influential in the climate and agriculture debate at the UNFCCC, but also the international institutions that are pushing false solutions. The following strategic targets seemed important: the FAO, the World Bank and the EU.
- We need to find a common platform b/w social movements and NGOs on these issues.

B) Role of Biomass

- Need to develop a common vision between CSOs engaged on food, energy and climate on the role of biomass
- CSOs working on climate and energy and those working on food and agriculture must improve communication amongst each other—do internal reflection about why collaboration so difficult.
- They should coordinate on engaging with special interest groups in key areas i.e. the automobile industry; petrol companies, but ensure their independence is not compromised.
- Establish closer links to institutionalized research on food and energy systems

C) Unsustainable Subsidies

- There is a need for a common new narrative on corporate control over the energy sector that leads to unsustainable fossil fuel subsidies
- Improve North-South knowledge sharing
- Establish a forum for monitoring the phase-out of unsustainable subsidies
- Establish South/South analysis on this issue
- Campaign focused on German elections to phase out compensation of high energy intensive companies

D) Climate Policy Transformation - Can there be a China-India-EU-Alliance?

- Development and unification of different 2030/ 50 visions at the national level with a national narrative about quality of life in the context of climate change
- Working areas could include urban transformation with focus on the middle class, the access to energy and the right to food with a focus on renewable energy and farming practices that are agroecological
- Creating a platform for exchange and interaction among different actors including best practice examples and technology cooperation

E) Agriculture at the Crossroads

- Development of a strong and coherent narrative, based on practical evidence, that agro-ecology and its distributional ways is the only opportunity to feed all people.
- Creating a stronger and institutional cooperation between local food producers and researchers.
- Broaden the support base by reaching out to groups who have an interest in food: consumers, public health, eco-retailers etc.

F) “Energiewende”/ Energy transition

- Serious lack of knowledge and exchange about best practices related to the energy transition. What is an affordable, appropriate and sustainable energy supply system for those without energy access? Each country has to decide what would be an appropriate form of the “energy transition”.
- Platform for data sharing and exchange about different nation-wider initiatives such as Germany’s “Energiewende” or Japan etc.
- Analysis of the financial sector driving unsustainable energy production is needed.

G) Democratize Production

- Build global “collaboratives” and solidarity around successful “collectives”. This can be done through documenting and sharing existing best practice examples or processes in the making. Highlight the knock-on multiplier effects of these practices by energy saving and efficiency, women’s leadership
- Documentation of best practice examples should include the type of policy needed (or that which hinders) to enable these collectives to thrive. These examples follow non-negotiable standards such as coherence with agro-ecology etc.
- Support the transfer of knowledge between farmers.

H) Power Politics

- Map existing campaigns and join and create campaigns on corporate control of land/grabbing and resources, corporate capture of politics; rights-based approaches
- There is a need to understand investment flows towards destructive energy and agriculture production and to make them transparent; highlight who gains from the food crisis

I) Planetary Boundaries and Over-Consumption (Changing Consumption Patterns)

- Need to balance personal choice and freedom with equity and solidarity
- Community building: rediscovering ourselves as citizens and not consumers and celebrating the sacred
- Community festivals to bring back ceremony, ritual and celebrate life outside of consumption and to introduce social action plans people can do together.
- Creation of a “New Narrative of the Great Transition”- storytelling to communicate an alternative vision for society, for wellbeing, for a transformed global civilization.
- Campaigns for Regulations