

Workshop 5: Educating for Food Security – the Contribution of ESD

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Conference Objective 1: To Highlight the Essential Contribution of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) to All of Education and to Achieving Quality Education

Why is ESD relevant?

Education, and specifically Education for Rural People (ERP), is essential for reducing poverty and hunger, improving living conditions of rural people, enhancing agriculture and building a sustainable and food-secure world. In particular, education is important for populations in rural areas, as four out of five children that do not have access to school live in rural areas. Education for Rural People is an essential part of Education for Sustainable Development and Education for All (EFA). Research has shown that there is a direct correlation between ERP and food security. ESD thus needs to offer educational opportunities for rural populations.

Conference Objective 2: To Promote International Exchange on ESD

What can we learn from each other?

People – not institutions or technology – are the driving force of development. Education for Rural People is the neglected key to food security and to achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Food security is a key element for ensuring a sustainable world, and for our own survival. This requires enhancing Education for Rural People. ERP offers opportunities for partnerships and important exchange between Governments, the private sector, farmers' associations, producers' groups, civil society and academics in order to promote sustainable rural development.

Conference Objective 3: To Carry out a Stock-taking of DESD Implementation

What have we achieved so far, what are the lessons learnt?

Education for Rural People is a key component for sustainable development. The 2005 Education for All High-Level Group meeting in Beijing identified ERP as one of the 3 priority areas for promoting and advancing EFA. The positive impact of Education for Rural



Benedikt Haerlin
explaining
the work plan

People on food security and on achieving universal primary education (MDG 2) has been recognized, showing that the correlation between food security and primary education for rural people is very high.

The education expert groups of the G8 also identified Education for Rural People as a key element for addressing the various crises our world is facing, as well as for promoting sustainable development. The key lessons learnt are the importance of intersectoral and interdisciplinary work and of political will to tackle the educational needs of rural populations. These populations are those that play a central role in ensuring the world's food security.

Conference Objective 4: To Develop Strategies for the Way Ahead

Where do we want to go from here?

The ongoing financial and economic crisis could draw even more people into hunger and poverty. The structural problems of hunger, undernourishment, illiteracy, lack of access to land, credit and employment, combined with high food prices remain a dire reality. Thus international actions aiming at contributing to eradicating extreme poverty and hunger, and promoting sustainable development by increasing access to quality education need to be reinforced. There is in particular a need to develop a strong positive empowerment programme to promote Education for Rural People as a key component of ESD. This programme should not just focus on formal education, but also focus on non-formal and informal education, taking into account all those who live in rural areas. This educational programme needs to focus on basic skills, as well as skills for work and for food security.

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