

CLEAR Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 1



The Centre for Land,
Economy and Rights of Women

Among the many tools of terror in the modern world are:

- Monocultures that destroy social and biological diversity;
- The terror of food and water contamination;
- The terror of loss of livelihood;
- The terror of losing home, homeland, family and community and becoming a refugee;
- The terror of losing our children to a culture of violence;
- The terror of increased violence, in all forms, against women;
- The terror of patriarchy, racism, and casteism which affects the vast majority;
- The terror of living in a society where basic human rights for women are not respected.

We, Diverse Women for Diversity, pledge to overcome this capitalist patriarchal terrorism. We will work towards a world free of war, hunger and social and economic injustices.

We ask all peoples of the world to stand with us in defending and celebrating diversity, peace and hope.

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The World Social Forum: 'Another World is Possible'

Mumbai, India, January 16th -21st, 2004

CLEAR's Executive Director was supported by the Eastern African Sub-Regional Support Initiatives for Advancement of Women (EASSI) to attend the World Social Forum (WSF) held in Mumbai, India. This was an experience in a lifetime. Perhaps never again will any of the delegates participate in something so colourful, so emotion-charged, so anarchic yet organized at the same time. And so necessary!

Over 100,000 people took part in the activities at the WSF. The Forum intended to provide a framework for developing strategies and building alternatives to the neo-liberal model, for sharing experience and for strengthening North-South alliances among N G O s , m a s s organisations, people movements and other social movements. It came together in order to provide a concrete endeavour to construct another world, one where the economy is at the service of the people and not the other way around.

In one way, the WSF became a reflection of many of the social problems facing the world: too little space for too

many people; too few facilities for those who most need them; too many groups marginalized; too much noise and too few listeners; and never enough food or water. Yet, with all this, the event can still be seen as a resounding success because of the number and diversity of its participants. We shouted ourselves hoarse, we beat drums, we danced, we sang, and we carried placards, candles and banners- all in the hope that another world is possible! Indeed we return to our country, city or village, but with the knowledge that we have participated in a significant event.

At the WSF, people from all walks of life came together to declare to the powers on high that things must change. People must come before profit. Political prisoners must be freed. Tibet must be made a zone of peace. The United States must get out of Iraq. India and Pakistan must let Kashmiris decide their future. Israel must stop building its "apartheid separation wall". Child labour and abuse must end. It is a long list of demands, but the commitment of those who have taken part makes it seem possible.

Another World is Possible! Another Africa is in the Making!

The WSF was opened with a bevy of colours and music. The stage was lit with a map of the globe where Africa stood out as a major continent, the seat of humanity. The African Social Forum (ASF) is an emanation of the WSF and proceeds from a dual approach aimed at strengthening organizations of the social movement in Africa and consolidating the world social movement. Two ASF have been held – Bamako (Mali, 2002 and Addis Ababa (Ethiopia) 2003. In these Forums it was unanimously agreed that the globalisation process, dominated by the giant translational corporations from the

....people from all walks of life came together declare the powers on high, that things must change. People must come before profit.

North, is impacting negatively on the people in the region. They reject the role played by the World Bank (WB), International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Trade Organisation (WTO) in imposing the agenda of the governments and corporations of the North. At the WSF, Africa adopted the following positions.

- We reject PRSPs as nothing other than the continuation of structural adjustments. The debt owed to the WB, IMF and the Northern creditors must be unconditionally cancelled
- Privatisation has put social services out of reach of the majority and must be vigorously opposed.
- We must go beyond the demands for debt cancellation, put an end to structural adjustment conditionalities, reverse privatization and WB/IMF must make reparation for the damage caused by their disastrous economic policies.

We must abolish inequality with regard to gender, and governments must introduce clear policies on gender equality.

- On HIV and AIDS, the governments in the region must have comprehensive policies to address the issues of stigmatization, discrimination, prevention, treatment and care.
- We insist on the right

to free education.

- We demand youth participation at all levels of society in the region
- We must put a stop to gun-running and mercenary business
- There must be a significant distribution of land to the poor, and in particular to women who also must be involved in decision-making in this regard.

We must develop our sub-regional resource base to ensure agricultural capacity to achieve food security, including developing our human resources, protecting our natural resources, developing infrastructure and ensuring access to finance.

At the Forum, Africans argued that they will take the task of building strong social movements to challenge the global system and the way it manifest in the region. The gathering in the Social Forum is an initial step in that process. The activists proclaimed:

“Another Africa is in the making! This is our Time. Enough is Enough”

Cry the Beloved Third World

Invoking the sentiments of Alan Paton in his book ‘Cry the Beloved Country’, some African delegates to the World Social

Forum 2004 have used the meetings and networking events, to address issues close to home.

Their main concerns: the imbalance in the world political and social systems, and the continued exploitation of the Third World by the powers that pull the global strings. How fair developed countries have been in their relations with the less developed South, in terms of trade and economic relations are a sore issue which has sparked debates and demonstrations here in Mumbai. They also recognised the fact that poverty, corruption and ineffective public enterprises pervade the regions that have produced this large Mumbai gathering, and going home after this historic event will bring back to the stark realities of the enormous work to be done towards effecting the various recommendations of this Forum with scanty civil voices that need great amplification. It was agreed that there is need to find effective and creative ways of engaging our various civil society groups, movements and individuals towards finding a common ground from where our voices can be heard forcefully.

Yes, a World without Poverty is Possible. Millennium Campaign

A most remarkable pledge in the history of humankind was made in September 2000. Leaders

of 189 nations came together at the United Nations to take a vow to free humankind of “the abject and dehumanizing conditions

of extreme poverty.” And thus were born The Millennium Goals (MDGs), to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger, eliminate gender inequality and environmental degradation, and ensure access to all education, health care and clean water. And all this needs to be done not later, not at leisure, but now-by 2015.

It is only through the combined, unrelenting and focused efforts of the millions of ordinary individuals across the globe that the Millennium Goals will become a reality. The civil society, who carry the vision of world of plenty not for a few but for its six billion and more, who hold the belief that another world is possible-are the millions who can and must push their governments toward the Millennium Goals. It is for civil society to build creative, political and moral pressure to hold our Governments accountable to their Millennium pledges.

So from Mumbai, although it will probable take a long time to get rid of the dust in one’s lungs, or the drum-beats echoing in one’s head, many delegates went home with the conviction that another world is not only possible but that it has already begun.



Statements from the World Social Forum, Mumbai

On Food Security

Food Security in Women's Hands:

Food Sovereignty for All,

No to Novel Food And

No Patents of Life



For thousands of years women have produced their own food and guaranteed food security for their children and communities. Even today, 80 percent of the work in local food production in Africa is done by women, in Asia 50 to 60 percent and in Latin America 30 to 40 percent. And every where in the world, women are responsible for food security at the household level. In patriarchal society, however, this work has been devaluated.



All societies have survived historically because they provide food security to their people. This policy however has been subverted by the globalisation, trade liberalization, industrialization and commercialization of a agricultural products under the auspices of the Word Trade Organization (WTO) and the World Bank/IMF:

Word-wide, women are resisting the policies which destroy the basis of their livelihood and food sovereignty. They are also creating alternatives to guarantee food security for their communities based on different principles and methods than those governing the dominant, profit-oriented global economy. They are:

- Localization and regionalization instead of globalisation.
- Non-violence instead of aggressive domination
- Equity and reciprocity instead of competition
- Respect for the integrity of nature and her species
- Understanding humans as part of nature instead of as masters over nature



Food security for all is not possible within a global market system based on the dogma of free trade, permanent growth, comparative advantage competition and profit maximization. On the other hand, food security can be achieved if people within their overall and regional economies feel responsible, both as producers and as consumers for the ecological conditions of food production, distribution and consumption, and for the preservation of cultural and biological diversity where self-sufficiency is the main goal.

Our food security is too vital an issue to be left in the hands of a few transitional corporations with their profit motives, or up to national governments that increasingly lose control over food security decisions, or to a few mostly male national delegates at UN conferences, who take decisions affecting our lives.

Food security must remain in women's hands everywhere! And, men must share the necessary work, be it paid or unpaid. We have a right to know what we eat! No to Novel Food and No to Patents on life. We will resist those who force us to produce and consume

On Biodiversity

Biodiversity is a gift of nature.

We have used our biodiversity and knowledge cooperating with other life forms. We have created and sustained the basic knowledge, which meets our societies, needs for food, health, clothing and shelter.

Our knowledge is now being pirated and locked up in patents. Our relationships with the Earth and all its beings is being ruptured and poisoned and our community rights destroyed.

Biodiversity deprived of this local roots and rights is being turned into a commodity. We will resist with all our talents and strengths and imagination this destruction of our biological and cultural diversity.

We will rebuild our connections with the earth and her species, and we will rebuild our communities for the well being and happiness of all.

In the face of corporate takeover, such defence and recreation of community rights requires solidarity and COOPERATION BETWEEN a people.

We call upon governments to abolish patents on life and recognize community rights and strengthen the Convention on Biological Diversity for this purpose.



On Water Resources

Water is life. It is a gift of nature.

The access to water is a natural and fundamental right. It is not to be treated as a commodity and traded for profit. People shall have the right to freedom from thirst, and shall have adequate access to safe water for their living needs.

The increased work of women to access water and the pollution, depletion and diversion of water have undermined women's ability to keep their families healthy and their homes clean.

Citizens across the world are committed to work globally in solidarity for the defence of community rights to local water resources.

For us, the "global water commons" means the global solidarity of defending and recreating such rules, rights and responsibilities.

Diverse women of the world will not allow our water to be made a commodity for profit.

We demand that governments acknowledge community rights to water protect them globally and initiate an International legally binding framework for such protection at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002.

The 47th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)

Recommendations

Goals:

- Celebrate B+10 and IWY +30
- Mobilise and re-energize women's movement at all levels, particularly grassroots.
- Hold a 10 year Review on the implementation of Beijing Platform for Action.
- Link Beijing Platform with MDGs (review of both) and other areas/processes of UN Agendas.
- Hold governments and multilateral institutions accountable for gaps in implementation.
- Put review in context in examining global forces affecting women,
- such as militarism and globalisation.

AFRICAN WOMEN'S CAUCUS STATEMENT ON THE BEIJING +10

African Women's Caucus at the 47th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women met and deliberated on: Regional Perspectives; Discussions on Strategies for CSW 2005; MDGs at General Assembly 2005; Strategies and Plans for the Future; and the Fifth World Conference on Women.

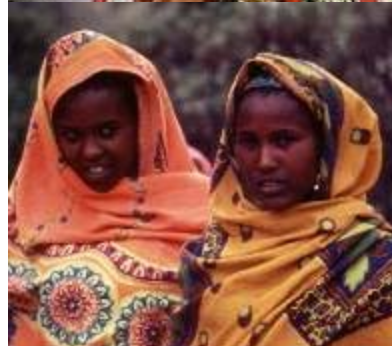
It was resolved that no new negotiations should be opened on the Beijing Platform for Action but rather focus on the following:

- *The evaluation process which should take into account review of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action by Governments.*
- *Accountability by Governments in order to hold them responsible for the*

identified gaps.

- *Re-energise and re-mobilise women at all levels.*
- *Highlight new issues that are affecting women in the world today.*

The participants also agreed to utilise existing regional processes e.g. African Union and NEPAD. The women would take advantage of the peer review mechanism therein to assess the implementation of gender mainstreaming and to bring any identified gaps to the attention of defaulting Governments for necessary action. *NGO Brainstorming Session on the CSW Review of the Beijing Platform for Action (BEIJING +10) 2005 of Millennium Development Goals & the 5th World Conference on Women.*



- Strive for equal voice in all areas of global and regional policy of the UN and other institutions like the WTO, etc (bringing women's perspectives to these issues.)
- Assess the impact of and problems with gender mainstreaming.
- Create a permanent monitor of gender mainstreaming at all levels.
- Identify new issues and challenges that women face. The targeted time-bound indications for implementation.
- Linking all UN processes with CEDAW
- Strengthening CEDAW

Measurable Goals.

- Increase the participation of and access of young women.
- Linking other multiple oppression.
- Press for more resources from gov-

ernment/parliament

- Increase men's participation in the process of B+10

Strategies: Leading up to 2005

- Monitor and lobby government processes. Government should request inputs from women's NGOs, making their reports available.
- NGO alternative reports at national and regional levels to be compiled globally.
- Use existing regional processes/look in gaps in regional processes.
- Increase the participation of young women.
- Develop strategies around the 5th World Conference on Women.
- Establish a Fund
- Focus on women's buying power and election activities.
- Matrix-Compile and make available early
- Wide dissemination of information

through Internet/Media.

- Examine laws that discriminate women working with formal institutions/ and Faith based organisations in relationship to gender equality.
- Focus on do-able goals.
- Be more proactive at national/regional levels and not reactive.
- Involve universities/women's studies departments in Preparing the alternative reports.
- Make relevant documents available to NGOs.
- Examine legal mechanisms are being used.
- Develop a Strategy for organising the 5th World Conference on Women (Set in Motion).
- Mobilise Resources for NGOs Process.
- Reform adoption of resolutions and high level government representation and participation at CSW.

- Rank and score own governments
- Full NGOs participation and dialogue in the process
- Specific mechanisms to link MDGs

Beijing Review:

- No negotiated text or re-negotiation of Beijing Platform for Action.
- Make use of MDGs Review, use task force reports, influence and expand targets, etc.
- Assess mainstreaming strategies.
- Use Beijing Platform for Action in electoral process.
- CSW to review implementation.
- Discuss budgets
- Hold Interactive Panels/Debates with NGOs as full participants.





Feature Article: The Cultivation of *Jatropa curcas*



Introduction : The "Greening" represents a huge challenge for the Indian Government. Afforestation has a very important role in meeting this challenge. Several initiatives have been taken in recent years in different parts of the country to promote afforestation. The Indian Administration is now taking up cultivation of *Jatropa curcas* in many sites of the country, especially due to use of *Jatropa curcas* oil for the fuel manufacture.

Botanical Features : It is a small tree or shrub with smooth grey bark, which exudes a whitish coloured, watery, latex when cut. Normally, it grows between three and five meters in height, but can attain a height of up to eight or ten meters under favourable conditions.



Ecological Requirements

Jatropa curcas grows almost anywhere – even on gravelly, sandy and saline soils. It can thrive on the poorest stony soil. It can grow even in the crevices of rocks. The leaves shed during the winter months form mulch around the base of the plant. The organic matter from shed leaves enhance earth-worm activity in the soil around the root-zone of the plants, which improves the fertility of the soil. Climatically, *Jatropa curcas* is found in the tropics and subtrop-

Leaves : It has large green to pale-green leaves, alternate to sub-opposite, three-to five-lobed with a spiral phyllotaxis.

Flowers : The petiole length ranges between 6-23 mm. The inflorescence is formed in the leaf axil. Flowers are formed terminally, individually, with female flowers usually slightly larger and occurs in the hot seasons. In conditions where continuous growth occurs, an unbalance of pistillate or staminate flower production results in a higher number of female flowers. More number of female flowers are grown by the plant if bee keeping is done along with. More female flowers give more number of seeds.

Fruits : Fruits are produced in winter when the shrub is leafless, or it may produce

several crops during the year if soil moisture is good and temperatures are sufficiently high. Each inflorescence yields a bunch of approximately 10 or more ovoid fruits. A three, bi-valved cocci is formed after the seeds mature and the fleshy exocarp dries.

Seeds : The seeds become mature when the capsule changes from green to yellow, after two to four months from fertilization. The blackish, thin shelled seeds are oblong and resemble small castor seeds.

As one of the most important oilseed grower, producer, importer and exporter, India is one of the four major players in the vegetable oil scenario of the world. Vegetable oil scenario is complex and is highly influenced by market sources, conflicting interests, policies of the government, income of the consumers, demands of industry, economies of production, correction and processing vagaries of weather, technology and various biotic and abiotic problems. For mitigating climate change by reducing emission of green house gases, meeting rural energy needs, protecting the environment and generating gainful employment, *Jatropa curcas* has multiple role to play. All attempts to increase its production and productivity, oil extraction by application of appropriate technology, product development and diversification and policies that will protect and promote national interest would be welcome.





Business Lines

The 4 business lines:-

1 *Plantation of Jatropha curcas*

2 *Collection of Oil bearing seeds*

3 *Processing of seeds to produce oil and seed cake.*

Processing of cake to get Bio Gas and Bio Fertilizer

4 *Manufacture of bio-diesel*

The oil cake is rich in nutrients and will give bio-gas and very good bio fertilizer for our soils which are getting increasingly deficient in carbon and nutrients. Every component of the program

will generate massive employment for the poor belonging to the Scheduled Tribes, Scheduled castes and other under privileged categories living mostly in backward areas which have experienced the adverse impact of forest degradation, and loss of natural resources.



Types of Land where It can grow with Advantage and Potential of Plantation

The list of advantages mentioned above make Jatropha plantation very attractive on the kinds of lands mentioned below. The potential for coverage of each kind of land in India, is as follows.

- Forests cover 69 Million hectares of which 38 million hectares is dense forest and 31 million hectares is under stocked. Of this 14 million hectares of forests are under the Joint Forestry Management. About 3.0 million hectares (notional) of land in forests should easily come under *Jatropha curcas* plantation.
- 142 million hectares of land is under agriculture. It will be reasonable to assume that farmers will like to put a hedge around 30 million hectares of their fields for protection of their crops. It will amount to 3.0 million hectares (notional) of *Jatropha curcas* plantation.
- The cultivators are expected to adopt it by way of agro forestry. Considerable land is held by absentee land lords who will be attracted to *Jatropha curcas* as it does not require looking after and gives a net income of Rs 15,000 per hectare. Two Million Hectares of notional plantation is expected.
- Culturable fallow lands are reported to be 24 million hectares

of which current fallow lands are 10 million hectares and other fallows are 14 million hectares. Ten percent of such land (2.4 million hectares) is expected to come under *Jatropha curcas* plantation.

- On wastelands under Integrated Watershed Development and other poverty alleviation programs of Ministry of Rural Development a potential of 2 million hectares of plantation is assessed.

On vast stretches of public lands along railway tracks, roads and canals. One million hectares of notional coverage with *Jatropha curcas* is a reasonable assessment.

On the basis of above analysis it should be reasonable to assume that with proper extension, research, availability of planting material and funds, plantation of *Jatropha curcas* on 13.4 million hectares of land is feasible in the immediate future. Institutional finance for private plantation and governmental allocation for public lands will have to be provided. Once success is achieved on the lands described above it should be possible to include very low fertility soils which are classified unculturable in this program. A significant proportion of such lands can also be brought under *Jatropha curcas* plantation in an economically feasible manner. It will result in their (degraded lands) rehabilitation also.

Nursery Raising and Plantation

You can set up nurseries which will supply plants to the beneficiary to ensure success of plantations and quick return. It will also result in seed production at the end of the

first year itself. Nurseries will supply seedlings to the farmers in their village. A seedling will start yielding seeds after a year of its plantation. It is planted at a spacing of 2m X 2m and 2500 plants will be grown in 1 hectare of Jatropha plantation. Although using a seedling of 4 to 6 months grown in a nursery should not result in the usual rates of mortality of plantations, it will be reasonable to assume that 20% of the plants will need replaced.

A nursery can produce 20 lakh plants a year. Hence over a period of 3 years it will produce 60 lakh plants and will be sufficient to cover 2000 Hectares of plantation. For the non-forest area 1500 nurseries will be required. For the plantation in forest and adjoining areas one thousand nurseries will be established These nurseries may be developed by the individuals.

Cost of Plantation

The cost of plantation has been estimated to be Rs. 25,000 per hectare, inclusive of plantation and maintenance for one year, training, overheads etc. It includes elements such as site preparation, digging of pits, fertilizer & manure, cost of sapling and planting, irrigation, weeding, plant protection, maintenance for one year i.e., the stage up to which it will start seed production etc. The cost of training, awareness generation, monitoring & evaluation is also included.

For more information regarding the this project contact the CLEAR Newsletter editor for more details.

April 2004

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May 2004

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June 2004

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Schedule of Events

- April 28th– May 9th:
Southern Sudan
- May 30th– June 4th:
Kigali, Rwanda: Decade Review of Dakar and Beijing Platform for Action in Eastern Africa
- June 29th
Fredrich Ebert: "Effects of Globalization /Liberalization on Women's land Rights and Household Food Security in Sub-Saharan Africa"

Editorial Note

I have particular interest in this issue as it is where we as an organization begin to cover articles from the public at large that fall within CLEAR's niche. In this feature article we introduce a project regarding the planting of the *jatropha curcas* of which has several uses. I long to hear your feedback on this issue. We are open to receive your articles for the next issue.

The Newsletters will be available on our website too!

Visit us on www.clearwomen.org

Email us on info@clearwomen.org

Compiled and Edited by Linda Mbatha,

