

Welcome...

The partners within the Compas network are engaged in a continuous process of action-research, with important learning and training components. Learning stands at the heart of endogenous development. Learning is a cultural process; it can take the form of formal education (classroom teaching), non-formal education (e.g. evening schools, the shepherd schools of Ghana or various other forms of organised pedagogy) as well as a wide variety of informal learning situations (e.g. at home, from family members, learning by doing, observation and unconscious learning). Over the past ten years, important lessons related to learning have emerged within the Compas network, which have been documented, systematised and published in this magazine as well as in other publications.

During 2005 and 2006 the Compas network in Latin America, Africa, Asia and Europe has organised regional workshops on worldviews and sciences, in a systematic effort to assess the ways of knowing and learning in each of the continents. During 2005, LENDEV (Learning for Endogenous Development) workshops were organised, in which the various ways of 'Learning from within' were analysed and documented. Later in 2006, we will publish the LENDEV Resource Guide, which describes in more operational terms how the work of field staff in supporting endogenous development can be enhanced (see back page).

This issue, Compas Magazine 10, presents experiences of learning and education within endogenous development, both from within the Compas network as well as from like-minded organisations. The articles present examples and practical experiences of how local ways of learning can be strengthened, and where possible and relevant, be complemented by conventional ways of learning. We hope the examples may inspire you to take them into account in your own situation. It is quite possible that you will need to re-invent the methodologies presented, in order to find your own appropriate ways to learn and work towards endogenous development.

The editors

How do you see the future of the Compas Magazine?

Compas Magazine 11 will mark the end of this programme phase (2003-2006). During this phase, Compas partners have developed operational methodologies for supporting endogenous development, with financial support from a number of sources including the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The regional Compas networks have developed proposals for the period beyond 2006. Interestingly, each phase builds on the insights gained in the previous phase. 1996-1998: **documentation** of case studies in a few countries; 1999-2003: deepening understanding by engaging in practical **fieldwork** on endogenous development; 2003-2006: developing **operational methods** for supporting endogenous development and engaging universities; 2007-beyond: **mainstreaming** the approach of endogenous development through national multi-stakeholder platforms, policy dialogue, education and regional networking. From 2007, the Compas Magazine will also report on the mainstreaming experiences in addition to the more familiar topics.

We are interested to know how you see the future of the Compas Magazine, and we therefore invite you to fill in the Reader's Survey and send it back to Compas.

Compas partners will meet in September 2006 in Poland to 'peer review' their learning experiences and document the findings. From 3-5 October 2006 an international conference 'Endogenous Development and Biocultural Diversity - The interplay of worldviews, globalisation and locality' will take place in Geneva. It is being organised by Compas and the University of Berne together with a number of international organisations. On the website www.bioculturaldiversity.net you can find more information on the programme and organisers. Workshops will address nine different themes, and if you are interested in contributing a paper related to one of the themes, please let us know: haverkort@etcnl.nl and compas@etcnl.nl.

Compas Magazine 11 will summarise the main lessons from the Poland Compas partner meeting and the Geneva International Conference. **We look forward to receiving your views on the Compas Magazine!**

www.compasnet.org



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Compas (Comparing and Supporting Endogenous Development) is an international network, designed to understand the diversity of rural peoples' knowledge, encourage local experimentation within farmers' worldviews, and enhance inter-cultural dialogues on farmers' knowledge and indigenous learning. The Compas Magazine hopes to stimulate development agencies and individuals to take indigenous knowledge seriously and support endogenous development. The magazine aims to be a forum for exchange on testing field methods, on-farm research and participatory approaches, based on farmers' own concepts, indigenous institutions and cosmovision. Compas presently works with 26 partner organisations in 12 countries and is funded by DGIS, the Netherlands.

SUBSCRIPTION

The six-monthly Compas Magazine is free of charge for those individuals and organisations interested in the role of culture, indigenous knowledge and cosmovision in agriculture and rural development. Active participation in the form of articles that document experiences, reactions to publications, opinions, theoretical reflections and suggestions for future initiatives are welcomed.

A Spanish version of the Compas Magazine can be ordered from AGRUCO, Casilla 3392, Cochabamba, Bolivia, E-mail: agruco@agruco.org

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All pictures are made by Compas unless mentioned otherwise. The editors encourage readers to photocopy and circulate Compas Magazine articles. Please mention the Magazine if you do so. Magazine articles are also available on the Compas website: www.compasnet.org

The Compas website is available in English and Spanish for reading about the Compas partner organisations, their field activities, Compas publications, regional and international events, as well as articles of Compas Magazine and books.

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