

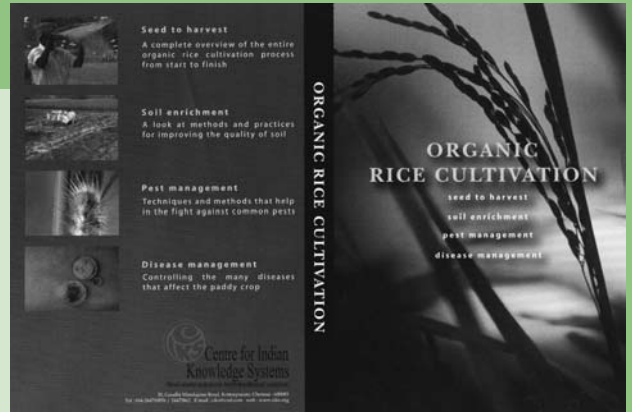
Compas Partner News

CIKS, India

Publication: Organic rice cultivation DVD and booklet, 2006

This booklet has been produced by the Centre for Indian Knowledge Systems (CIKS) in India, and complements earlier publications on the same subject. The publication provides clear how-to-do information on irrigated organic rice cultivation, including seed selection techniques, seed treatment and use of organic manures to improve soil fertility. Pests and diseases affecting rice are also described in detail, including organic control measures for these. The approach combines time-tested traditional organic practices with modern insights in organic rice cultivation.

For copies and more details: info@ciks.org



Cecik, Ghana



Dr Millar promoted to Associate Professor

We are pleased to announce that in June 2005, Dr David Millar of CECIK, one of the Compas partner organisations in northern Ghana, was promoted to the status of Associate Professor of the University for Development Studies (UDS) of Tamale. Professor Millar's specialisation

has largely resulted from his work with Compas on indigenous knowledge, cosmologies of indigenous peoples, culture and development, and more recently on endogenous development and African Sciences. Professor Millar's promotion is an expression of the increasing official recognition within the formal university and policy environments, of the work we have been doing with local communities within Compas for many years.

For more info: cecik@africaonline.com.gh

SAEDP, South Africa

Council to be inaugurated

The Southern African Endogenous Development Programme (SAEDP), based at Vaal University of Technology (VUT) in South Africa, has now been registered as a formal NGO. At the launch of SAEDP on 26 August 2005, the nine Leaders of SAEDP resolved to constitute themselves into the SAEDP Council. This council, comprises of five Chiefs of rural communities and four Vice-Chancellors of the Universities from Lesotho, South Africa and Zimbabwe.

For more info: Abraham Mwadiwa, at mwadiwa@vut.ac.za

FRLHT, India

Unique workshop on traditional orthopaedic practices

A survey done by FRLHT (the Foundation for Revitalisation of Local Health Traditions) amongst traditional bonesetters in 25 districts revealed that there are more than 400 active bonesetters in Tamil Nadu. Bone setting is one of the key specialties of local health traditions in rural India. It is estimated that there are approximately 60,000 bonesetters in rural India, whose work includes fracture and dislocation management, management of injuries and their complications, as well as congenital anomalies. FRLHT also studied the efficacy of traditional fracture and dislocation management methods, which revealed important strengths and weaknesses in the work of the traditional bonesetters.

In order to initiate an intercultural dialogue between traditional bonesetters and modern orthopaedic doctors, a unique workshop entitled 'Tamil Nadu State Level Consultative Workshop of Traditional Bone Setting Practices' was organised in Vellore, Tamil Nadu, on the 18th and 19th of May 2006, in collaboration between FRLHT and the Christian Medical College. The main objective of the workshop was to share the documentation and experiences, and to formulate a participatory training programme for traditional bonesetters.

During the two days the participants experienced an overwhelming enthusiasm. As a result, a training module for young traditional bonesetters is being designed as part of the community healthcare programmes, for large-scale dissemination of positively assessed traditional bone-setting practices.

For more info: Unnikrishnan.P.M, at unni.pm@frlht.org



The participants of the workshop on traditional orthopaedic practices included traditional bonesetters, eminent experts in Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani systems of medicine, modern orthopaedic doctors and community health workers.

Photo: Poochi Venkat

Fundecam, Chile

Mapuche territory threatened

The Institute of Indigenous Studies of the University de la Frontera, and the Foundation of Indigenous Development (Fundecam), are engaged in supporting indigenous Mapuche communities in southern Chile. The territory of the Mapuche population is presently under threat due to government plans to construct a highway, which has not been agreed upon with the local communities. The government plans also include the construction of an international commercial port, which threatens the Mapuches' possibilities for religious expression in relation to the sea.

Fundecam has worked with the Mapuche communities to carry out a participatory diagnosis of their local resources, with the objective of supporting the local communities and their territorial organisation. A central element in this work is the *guillatun*, a Mapuche ritual performed by local indigenous leaders and with presence of all communities involved. Using the insights and the unity gained in this ritual, a joint plan for territorial organisation has been drawn up. This plan is now serving in the dialogue between the communities and the state authorities about the future of the Mapuche territory.

For more info: Jaime Soto, at jasoto@ufro.cl



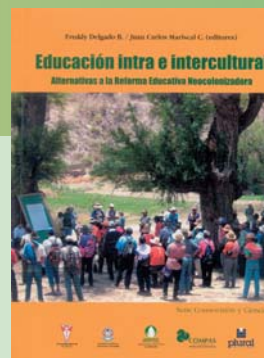
The Mapuche guillatun ritual performed by local leaders.

Agruco, Bolivia

New book: Intra- and intercultural education - alternatives to the neocolonial education reform

In this new book, the vision of Agruco, other Latin American Compas partners and like-minded organisations on reform of the formal university education system of Bolivia and Latin America is presented. The book presents important insights on conventional western, as well as Andean and other non-western forms of learning. The learning experiences presented from Bolivia and various other Latin American countries, provide insights in ways to stimulate reforms of the formal education system. One of the most important conclusions is that intra- and intercultural dialogue need to form the basis of a new university system that can play a role in poverty alleviation and support of social movements on the continent.

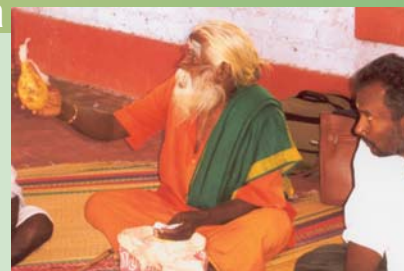
For more info: Cesar Escóbar or Freddy Delgado, at agruco@agruco.org or go to www.agruco.org



Sri Lanka, India

Folk Healers Exchange

Six Sri Lankan Folk Healers, practising medical astrology, bone setting, ayurveda, ethnoveterinary and snake bite treatments, compared their healing practices with South Indian healers during an exchange visit (21-28 August 2005). The healers' knowledge is eroding due to many factors. Recognition, documentation, sharing and assessment will have to reverse this trend. (See also p. 32). For more info: Unnikrishnan at FRLHT: unni.pm@ftrlht.org



IDEA, India

New tribal networks created

IDEA is creating new networks at various levels, in order to upscale its efforts with endogenous development in tribal communities in the Eastern Ghats (southern India). Thematic forums have been created on forest health, human health, cattle health, crop health and women and children health, bringing together the tribal knowledge specialists from about 35-40 communities. These thematic forums are clustered at regional level in federations, called *Naik Gotna*. This started with about 2,000 members in 1998, and by 2005 the membership had increased to around 26,000.

After this successful organisation of village-based associations of traditional functionaries in the North Eastern Ghats, IDEA decided to replicate the approach in other regions: the Eastern Ghats, Andhra Pradesh, Chattishgarh, Orissa and Madhya Pradesh. So far, three regional Naik Gotnas and one regional Naik Gotna have emerged, as well as one tribal federation for endogenous development at national level.

At the level of support organisations, the IKREF forum was created - the Indigenous Knowledge Research, Conservation and Development Forum. IKREF is a national network to promote endogenous development of tribal communities. For operational convenience, the national network is divided into 5 regional networks covering the entire tribal belt, including 13 states and 1 Union Territory. IKREF now has 265 members, varying from NGOs, research institutions, and universities, to community networks like the Naik Gotnas. For more info: Mr. K.J.N. Gowtham Shankar, at gowtham_shankar@hotmail.com

