

Welcome...

This year, the network of Compas partner organisations took community diagnosis - or the assessment of community strengths and needs - as its common focus point. We planned to share and analyse experiences with community diagnosis within the Compas network for our mutual learning, and to add methodologies to our tool box for facilitation of endogenous development. At present, the network is still in the middle of the process of digesting and understanding the experiences with community diagnosis.

But what is community diagnosis exactly? And how do people perceive the various elements in their local world? Is there a difference between the conventional participatory approach of community diagnosis, and the one for endogenous development? How can the outcomes be used for action planning? What are the experiences in this field?

This issue of Compas Magazine tries to find some answers to these questions, and present interesting cases, both from within and outside the network of Compas partner organisations. Some of the conclusions so far are that community diagnosis can be an empowering process for the community. It enhances dialogue within the community, and between the community and organisations of development support. In this ongoing process of communication, cultural awakening, creation of unity, community assessment and participatory action are important elements. We hope that this issue provides interesting insights for you, and welcome all reactions and further experiences with endogenous development.

The Editors

Upcoming issues

Readers of the Compas Magazine are invited to share their views and experiences with endogenous development. For the coming two issues, the following themes have been established. Send your outline to, or ask for the guidelines for authors at: compas@etcnl.nl

Compas Magazine No. 8: Strengthening local economies (January 2005)

Endogenous development is aimed towards poverty reduction and increases in overall well-being based on people's own cosmovision and concept of wealth. Local ways of optimising well-being include barter and reciprocity in various forms that - in addition to a material aspect - also express the social and spiritual dimensions of exchange. This is often combined with local marketing based on monetary exchange. This issue will look at approaches to strengthen local economy and ways to address poverty in a cosmovision perspective. What are the different visions on economy in various cultures? What are the threats and benefits of globalisation, and how do communities protect themselves or use it to strengthen local economies? What are the economic benefits of endogenous development? These and other questions will be addressed in issue No. 8 of the Compas Magazine.

Compas Magazine No. 9: Experiences with endogenous development (September 2005)

In this open issue, readers are invited to share their insights on and experiences with endogenous development.

PLEASE NOTE NEW ADDRESS COMPAS WEBSITE:

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@entelnet.bo

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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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