



upcoming issue

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The six-monthly Endogenous Development Magazine is free of charge for those individuals and organisations interested in the role of culture, indigenous knowledge and worldviews in agriculture, natural resource management and rural development.

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Photo back cover: Fieldworkers of the Southern African Endogenous Development Programme use participatory video techniques to document the impact of newly established community gardens in KwaZulu Natal, South Africa.

Endogenous development is no different from other participatory development approaches

Motion for debate in Endogenous Development Magazine No 5, Dec. 2009

Explanation of the motion

The main difference between endogenous development and other participatory approaches is its inclusion of spiritual aspects in the development process. ED is based on local strategies, values, institutions and resources. Key concepts are: local control of the development process; taking cultural values seriously; appreciating worldviews; and finding a balance between local and external resources. **The next issue of the Endogenous Development Magazine will be devoted to methods used in ED.** In anticipation of this we asked Wolfgang Bayer, an independent advisor on livestock systems development, for his view on whether there is any difference between ED and other participatory development approaches.

'Thirty or so years ago, development paradigms were almost exclusively top-down. Governments, donors and investors determined what 'development' was. Many projects were not in line with local peoples' aspirations, demanded investments beyond their means, or failed for other reasons. When some 'developers' started looking into what local people were already doing despite 'development', participatory approaches emerged. Local people were initially only allowed to participate in outsiders' initiatives but, over time, gained a bigger say in many small-scale projects. A range of concepts and terminologies for 'participatory development' were coined, endogenous development being a relatively late addition. In my view, the main difference

between ED and other forms of 'participatory development', such as Participatory Technology Development (PTD), is that ED stresses the internal motivation in development, whereas PTD stresses the processes of interaction of multiple stakeholders with differing interests. ED is based on a notion of a homogeneous community, whereas PTD recognises and tries to involve different interest groups from within and outside a community. According to many development practitioners, however, the differences between ED and PTD are very small when compared with the still dominant paradigm of top-down, large-scale development approaches. And we must admit that neither ED nor PTD has thus far had major impact on mega-projects such as industrial schemes, dams, large-scale irrigation and other major infrastructure development. So we still need to promote participatory and endogenous development as much as possible, without trying to differentiate too much between them.'

Join the debate

We invite readers to respond to the motion *Endogenous development is no different from other participatory development approaches*. A selection of the responses will be published in the INteracting section of the next issue of ED Magazine. Please restrict your contribution to not more than 200 words.

Post your views on www.compasnet.org or send an email to compas@etcnl.nl