Launching a new flagship on education for rural people

Background

The Sustainable Development Department of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) are inviting member countries, United Nations agencies and civil society to join in the establishment of a new partnership on Education for Rural People.

The initiative seeks to address rural-urban disparities, which are a serious concern to governments and the international community as a whole. About 70 per cent of the poor live in rural areas. Despite the fact that education is a basic right in itself and an essential prerequisite for reducing poverty, improving the living conditions of rural people and building a food-secure world, children's access to education in rural areas is still much lower than in urban areas, adult illiteracy is much higher and the quality of education is poorer.

In this regard, FAO and UNESCO are joining efforts in the establishment of a new flagship within the Education for All (EFA) initiative with a focus on Education for rural people. The flagship is a call for collaborative action to increase the coordination of efforts targeting the educational needs of rural people. The partnership is open to members committed to working separately and together to promote and facilitate quality basic Education for rural people.

Objectives

The flagship's objectives are to:

- Build awareness on the importance of Education for rural people as a crucial step to achieve the Millennium goals of eradicating extreme poverty and hunger and achieving universal primary education (www.un.org/millenniumgoals/)
- Overcome the urban/rural education gap
- Increase access to basic Education for rural people
- Improve the quality of basic education in rural areas
- Foster the national capacity to plan and implement basic education plans to address the learning needs of rural people

Activities

At the national level

- Technical support to countries willing to address the basic educational needs of the rural people by formulating specific plans of action as part of the national plans on Education for all.

At the international level

- Advocate and mobilize partnerships for Education for rural people by concentrating on strategic global, regional and international events, and encouraging the same within countries.
- Identify the capacity for different substantive components on Education for rural people within partner institutions
- Support the exchange of good practices and knowledge on Education for rural people.

Meetings

The new FAO/UNESCO flagship was officially launched at a side event during the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, South Africa, 3 September 2002.

The following are some examples of other international events presenting the flagship:

- Regional workshop on Education for Rural Development organized in partnership with FAO, UNESCO and UNESCO-International Institute for Educational Planning (IIEP), Bangkok, Thailand, 5-7 November 2002
- Aid Agencies workshop on Education for Rural people, organized by FAO with the technical collaboration of UNESCO and UNESCO-IIEP, Rome, Italy, 12-13 December 2002
- Youth employment summit 2002, Alexandria, Egypt, 7-11 September 2002

Members of the flagship programme

International Organizations and Governments

1. FAO - Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
   ester.zulberti@fao.org, lavinia.gasperini@fao.org
2. UNESCO - United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization
   mj.pigozzi@unesco.org
3. ICRAF - World Agroforestry Centre
   g.denning@cgiar.org
4. IPGRI, International Plant Genetic Resources Institute
   e.goldberg@cgiar.org
5. WFP - World Food Programme
   Allan.Jury@wfp.org
6. CIAT - International Center for Tropical Agriculture
   E.HESSE@CGIAR.ORG, ciat@cgiar.org
7. Commonwealth Secretariat, United Kingdom
   v.goel@commonwealth.int
8. USAID, United States Agency for International Development, USA
   (contact: Mr. J. D. Hatch) Email: JHatch@usaid.gov
9. ADEA, Association for the Development of Education in Africa, France
   (contact: Mr. Mamandou Ndye) Email: adea@iiep.unesco.org
10. DGCS - Italian Directorate General for Cooperation
    (contact: Mr Raffaele de Benedictis) Email: raffaele.debeneditis@esteri.it
11. ETF – European Training Foundation, Italy
   (contact: Claire Morel for central Asia and Barbara Paya for Eastern Europe) Claire.Morel@etf.eu.int
12. The Government of Egypt
   Email: May.hani@fao.org
13. The Government of San Marino
   ambasciatasanmarino@tin.it

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs), foundations and others

14. Terre des hommes, Italia
d.vergari@tdhitaly.org
15. CELIM - Centro Laici Italiani per le missioni, Italy
   info@celimbergamo
16. ACRA - Associazione di Cooperazione Rurale in Africa e America Latina, Italy
   acra@acra.it
17. UCSEI - Ufficio centrale Studenti Esteri in Italia, Italy
   ucsei.roma@flashnet.it
18. CISP - Comitato Internazionale per lo sviluppo dei popoli, Italy
   cisp.pro@cisp-ngo.org
19. OPAM - Opera di Promozione dell’Alfabetizzazione nel Mondo, Italy
   opam@opamprog@tiscalinet.it
20. ISCOS - Istituto Sindacale per la Cooperazione con i Paesi in via di sviluppo, Italy
   simonecirulli@iscos-cisl.org
21. AiFO - Associazione Italiana Amici di Raoul Follereau, Italy
   simonecirulli@iscos-cisl.org
22. FOCSIV - Federazione Organismi Cristiani Servizio Internazionale Volontario, Italy
   foсsiv@fосsiv.it
23. CTM - Centoinfoformazione Terzo Mondo, Italy
   info@ctm-lecce.it
   progetti_italia@ctm-lecce.it
24. C.V.C.S - Centro Volontari Cooperazione allo Sviluppo, Italy
   cvcspo@tin.it
25. CIDE - Centro de Investigación y Desarrollo de la Educación, Chile
   s.martini@cide.cl
26. EDC - Education Development Center Inc, USA
   jwong@edc.org
27. Universidad Nacional de Salta, Argentina
   ferretti@ciunsa.edu.ar
28. Social Development Forum 2000, Pakistan
   sdforum2000@yahoo.co.uk
29. FOCA - Fundação Oásis Cidade Aberta, Brazil
   president@foca.org.br
30. Association SAHEL DEFIS, Bamako, Mali
   saheldefis@yahoo.fr (contact Seydou Sanou)
31. APEAN - Asia and Pacific Association of Educators in Agriculture Education and Environment, Thailand
   apean@larmc.net.ph
32. ONGDERPREA, Cameroun
   ongderprea@yahoo.fr
33. BUNYAD, Lahore, Pakistan
   bunyad@brain.net.pk
34. APPEAL - Pacific Programme for Education for All
   a.hakeem@unescobkk.org
35. RSPN - Rural Support Programmes Network, Pakistan
   faisal@rspn.org.pk
36. PASSAGE, The Philippine Association of Agriculture Educators, Philippines
   passage80@yahoo.com
37. Anamorphose, France
   anamorph@imaginet.fr
38. ZOE - Center for Rural Heritage Preservation from Zagreb, Croatia
   ivana.laginja@zg.tel.hr
39. Iowa State University, USA
   dacker@iastate.edu
40. LABE, Literacy and Adult Basic Education, Uganda
   LABE@africaonline.co.ug
41. FEC - Fundação Evangelização e Culturas (contact person Catarina Lopes)
   lopes_catarina@yahoo.com.br
42. ESE - Escola Superior de Educação, Portugal (contact Júlio Gonçalves dos Santos)
   jsantos@ese.ipvc.pt
43. PRWSWO - Secretary General. Pakistan Rural Workers Social Welfare Organization (contact SABIR FARHAT)
   farhat2@mul.pknet.com.pk
44. Learning Channel, India (contact: Geeta Sharma)
   Geeta.Sharma@oneworld.net
● Aasthan Latif Welfare Society, Pakistan (contact: Riaz A.Memon) 
   alast@mail.com

● Fantsuam Foundation, Nigeria (contact: Mr R. Tariya Yusuf) 
   fantsuamfoundation@fantsuam.com

● CCID - Community Colleges for International Development, Inc, USA (contact: Mr. John Halder) 
   jhalder@kirkwood.cc.ia.us

● INRULED - International Research and Training Centre for Rural Education, China (contact: Dr. Zhai Haihun and Mr. Fuzeng Yu) 
   Yufuzeng@china.com; haihunzhai@yahoo.com

● Caldas Coffee Growers Association (contact: Pablo Jaramillo), Colombia
   Email: Pablo.Jaramillo@cafeedecolombia.com

● FNCC, Federación Nacional de Cafeteros de Colombia (contact: Alfonso A. Uribe).

● ARED, Associates in Research & Education for Development, Senegal (contact: De Sonja Fagerberg-Diallo) 
   Email:Ared@enda.sn

● ENESAD, France (contact: Mr. Alain Jaze) Email:a.jaze@enesad.fr

● Nelson Mandela Foundation (contact: Ms Merlyn Van Voore) Email: Merlyn@nelsonmandela.org

● SMART - Association for Civil Society Development, (contact: Sladana Novota) Email:sladana@smart.hr

● Fundación Manuel Mejia, Colombia (contact: R. Gómez) Email: richygomez@hotmail.com

● Global Connection, UK (contact C. Alkanaan) Email: cathryn@globalconnections.org.uk CAlkanaan@aol.com

● Global Connection, Zanzibar (contact C. Alkanaan) Email: cathryn@globalconnections.org.uk CAlkanaan@aol.com

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**Focal Points**

**Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)**

**United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)**

Lavinia Gasperini
The Extension, Education and Communication Service
Research, Extension and Training Division
Sustainable Development Department
FAO, Via delle Terme di Caracalla, 00100 Rome, Italy
E-mail: lavinia.gasperini@fao.org
Tel. +39 06 57056253
Fax: +39 06 5705 3801

Shigeru Aoyagi
Section for Literacy and
Non-Formal Education
Division of Basic Education
Education Sector
7, Place de Fontenoy, 75352, Paris, France
E-mail:s.aoyagi@unesco.org
Tel: +33 1 45 68 21 29
Fax: +33 1 45 68 56 26 or 27