

YOUTHWORKS



Volume 15

In Support of Rural Youth Development Worldwide

October 2002

«As we begin commemorating the International Year of Mountains, conflict may be the single greatest obstacle to achieving our goals. Without peace, we cannot reduce poverty. Without peace, we cannot ensure secure food supplies. Without peace, we cannot even consider sustainable development.»

This was one of the points Jacques Diouf, Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) made in his keynote address to the 11 December 2001 global launch of the International Year of Mountains (IYM) at UN headquarters in New York.

The aim of IYM is to ensure the well-being of mountain and lowland communities by promoting the conservation and sustainable development of mountain regions. FAO, the lead agency for IYM, is working closely with UN and other organizations to make sure the broadest possible range of expertise is focused on reaching the goals of sustainable mountain development.

Mountains come in all shapes and sizes. Found on every continent, from the equator to the polar regions, they rise to different altitudes, in a great variety of climates and particu-

lar combinations of ecosystems. For millennia, mountains have served as vast reserves of valuable resources – such as water, energy and biological diversity – as well as key centres of culture and recreation.

Today, however, the rapid pace of globalization, urbanization and mass tourism are threatening mountain communities and the resources they depend on. Worldwide, mountain areas face increasing marginalization, economic decline and environmental degradation.

International Year of Mountains and Youth

A key objective of the IYM is to help young people learn about the mountains, their environment and the people that live in them.

To achieve this, the coordinating unit of the International Year of Mountains is developing an education programme

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for youth and children in collaboration with UN organizations, International Year of Mountains national committees, government agencies and non-government organizations.

The official International Year of Mountains Web site provides information on the many IYM educational activities that children and their teachers can be involved in. An educational become kit that can be used by International Year of Mountains national committees and other organizations interested in initiating educational activities can also be found on the site:

www.mountains2002.org.



FAO Contributions to Chapter 25 of Agenda 21 Children & Youth in Sustainable Development

Since 1992, FAO has been involved in a wide variety of programmes, projects and activities that contribute to building the capacity of children and youth to contribute effectively to sustainable development.

FAO's Rural Youth Development has a broad-based programme of action that includes assisting member countries strengthen and expand existing programmes and create new ones that empower young people to become active partners in food security and sustainable development.

Since 1993, there have been many projects and activities supported by various FAO technical departments. For example, the Nutrition Programmes Service of the Economic and Social Affairs Department has been involved in many projects, both in-school and community-based, around the world that deal with education and training in the areas of health and nutrition for food security and sustainable development.

FAO's Forestry Department has been producing the *EarthBird* environmental educa-

tion series of comic books. Of the first four booklets, more than 25 000 copies have been distributed worldwide in English, French and Spanish. The newest additions to the *EarthBird* series are the *Future Forest* environmental educational materials produced in English, French, Spanish, Arabic and Chinese and including a 24-page colour cartoon magazine, a teacher's guide, a classroom poster and a supplement for using *Future Forests* to teach English. *Future Forests'* message is that we are all dependent on our forests and need to work together to ensure that there are forests in the future.

Another major contribution is the Agricultural Department's environmental and life skills education for children from rural communities through the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Student Field Schools carried out in Bangladesh, Cambodia, the Philippines and Thailand. This discovery learning process where schools, communities and local NGOs are involved in collaboration with ministries of education and agriculture. Farmers, trained through adult Farmer Field Schools play a key role in providing education to help children understand the ecological system and the IPM methods to using chemical pesticides.

AGENDA 21

The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), also known as the "Earth Summit", was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in 1992. A major achievement of UNCED was the writing of **Agenda 21**, a programme of action demanding new ways of reaching global sustainable development in the 21st century. The critically important role young people play in sustainable development was considered as **Agenda 21** was written. Chapter 25 deals specifically with children and youth.

As a ten-year follow-up to the Earth Summit, the World Summit on Sustainable Development held in Johannesburg, South Africa from 26 August to 4 September 2002, assessed progress in accomplishing many of the objectives of Agenda 21 to focus again the world's attention and direct action towards meeting the difficult challenges of improving people's lives and conserving our natural resources in a world that is growing in population, with ever-increasing demands for food, water, shelter, sanitation, energy, health services and economic benefits.



FAO Rural Youth Development Programming Updates

NAMIBIA – Training Youth for Sustainable Livelihoods

The Namibian Ministry of Higher Education, Training and Employment Creation (MHETEC), through their Youth Development Directorate, has established six regional Multi-purpose Youth Centres. Seven more will soon be built, to provide youth facilities in each of the 13 regions of the country. Three of these centres will specifically target rural young people with programmes in agriculture.

The Government of the Republic of Namibia requested FAO to help establish an out-reach component for their new Integrated Rural Youth Development Programme that

eventually will become part of each of the 13 regional centres. The initial phase of the development of the Programme, through FAO's Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP/NAM/0066) project *Training Youth for Sustainable Livelihoods in Rural Namibia*, is taking place in Oshana Region in the northern part of the country at the MHETEC Multi-purpose Youth Centre at Oshakati.

The project is working to develop a community-based programme that will provide training, education and income-generating opportunities to out-of-school youth from the ages of 15 to 30. By taking



Frank Wertheim, the FAO project's International Horticultural Consultant, works with youth volunteer leader trainers to establish a demonstration vegetable garden.

education and training to even the remotest villages, large numbers of rural youth will be able to make an economically rewarding and satisfying life for themselves and their families in rural Namibia.

CAMEROON – Adolescent Reproductive Health. Participatory Curriculum Development

As part of a national UNFPA Programme in Cameroon, FAO is involved in providing technical support for the development of sets of leader guides for rural youth on selected subjects in the area of adolescent reproductive health. The purpose of the project is to improve the utilization of reproductive health services in 50 health district offices in the five pilot provinces.

According to the project document, one way to accomplish this is not only to have

young people become aware of reproductive health issues through communication strategies, but to bring about a significant change in their knowledge, skills, attitudes and behaviour through non-formal educational programming at the village level.

The project is being implemented through the Directorate of Agricultural Engineering and Community Development, Ministry of Agriculture with FAO as the executing agency. Project staff include the Chief Technical Adviser (CTA), the

National Project Coordinator and government-appointed six-person technical team in Yaoundé, five provincial coordinators, 50 district community development agents and 500 village facilitators.

Youths and adults work together at a workshop in Obala, Cameroon to write HIV/AIDS curriculum materials.



Publications of interest

Rescue Mission 2002: Global Mobilization of Youth for the World Summit for Sustainable Development

Pease Child International, an international NGO based in the United Kingdom is coordinating a major project to involve youth people around the world to become aware of and support the Rio +10 event – the World Summit for Sustainable Development took place in August 2002 in Johannesburg, South Africa. With over three hundred youth groups in 80 countries now registered in the project, several tens of thousands of young people are becoming aware of the important long-term tasks that face their generation to achieve sustainable development.

The goal of Rescue Mission 2002 is to create a new edition of the immensely successful youth version of Agenda 21 and update it to show how far we have come since Rio. It will also summarize the Johannesburg Programme of Action. To begin to get ideas from young people, 15 000 copies of a workbook were sent to youth groups around the world. The President, Mr David R. Woollcombe, writes “we are getting some fascinating contributions that give amazing per-

Discovering the Natural Resources of the Hindu Kush-Himalayan Region

FAO, with the support and collaboration of the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), has developed a package of materials for 10 to 14-year-olds to help them learn about biodiversity and agricultural practices in the Hindu Kush-Himalayas.

The package, «Discovering the Natural Resources of the Hindu Kush-Himalayan Region» consists of a comic book, a teacher’s guide, a certificate of participation and an evaluation form.

Already 8 000 copies of the comic book and 2 000 copies of the teacher’s guide have been prepared for distribution to schools in Bhutan, Nepal and Pakistan. An electronic version of the package will be available for free download at the official International Year of Mountains Web site.

To receive your own free International Year of Mountains educational materials and to learn more, visit the International Year of Mountains Web site at: www.mountains2002.org.



spectives on how different aspects of the Agenda have been implemented – from a kid’s uncluttered perspective”. The first draft of the book will be created by an international team of young people. There will also be a Johannesburg Youth Manifesto. The new book and accompanying CD-ROM will be ready for the Summit in September 2002.

For further Information about Rescue Mission 2002, please contact Peace Child International at the following address:

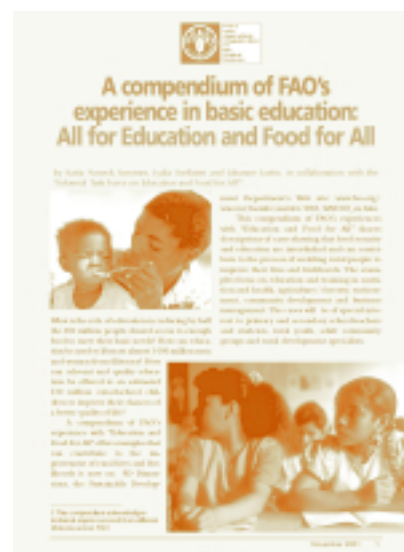
Peace Child International
The White House
Buntingford
Herts. SG9 9AH, UK
david@peacechild.org
Website: www.peacechild.org

A Compendium of FAO's Experience in Basic Education: All for Education and Food for All

Food security and education are interlinked. What is the role of education in reducing by half the 800 million people denied access to enough food to meet their basic needs? How can education be used to lead almost one billion men and women from illiteracy? How can relevant and quality education be offered to out-of-school children and those who are undernourished in order to improve their chances for a better qua-

lity of life? This compendium of FAO's experiences with «Education and Food for All» shares descriptions of cases that can contribute to the process of enabling rural people to improve their lives and livelihoods. The examples focus on education and training in nutrition and health, agriculture/forestry, environment, community development and business management. The cases will be of special interest to primary and secondary school teachers and students, rural youth programme staff, adult community groups, and rural development specialists. The compendium is available on the FAO Web site: www.fao.org/waicent/

faoinfo/sustdev/2001/kn1003_en.htm. A brochure with information about the compendium is available in English free of charge by contacting the Editor, YouthWorks.



Savannah Lifestyles: Environmental Issues for Schools in East Africa

This publication is an illustrated story booklet targeting primary schools. It is designed to encourage active learning for sustainable savannah management in East Africa, but could be adapted to other regions of the world. Using exercises and activities, the booklet offers insights into East African grassland environmental management and practices. It demonstrates the links between humans, plants and animals. It discusses the fragility of the ecosystem, and ways that it can become damaged and it provides an

opportunity to discuss possible ways to improve relationships between groups involved and the management of change. A separate teacher's guide is available for use with the booklet.

The aims of the booklet are to explore the links between people's activities and the natural resources of the grasslands and to help people appreciate their own environment – to become actively responsible for it; to enable them to protect and improve their fragile ecosystem; and to share what they will learn with their communities.

For further information or to obtain copies of the booklet and/or teacher's guide, please write to the Crop and

Grasslands Service, FAO, Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, Rome 00100, Italy or e-mail:

- caterina.batello@fao.org
- stephan.baas@fao.org
- sheila.edwards@unep.org



FAO Collaboration with YES

As part of its effort to help rural youth become active partners in food security, FAO is collaborating with the Youth Employment Summit (YES) that will take place in Alexandria, Egypt from 11-15 September 2002. This is a global event involving young people and youth organization participation from around the world. The Goal of the Youth Employment Summit is to launch a Decade Campaign of Action so that an additional 500 million young adults, especially youth facing poverty, will have productive and sustainable livelihoods by the year 2012.

Holding the Summit is not the ultimate goal. The Summit

will be an opportunity for getting organized, solidifying partnerships, seeking media attention and alignments, creating public awareness and placing the burning issue of youth unemployment on the global agenda. Over 2000 people are expected to attend, of which 1 000 will be youth.

There are several ways youth and youth organizations can join the YES Global Campaign for Youth Employment. Through your organizations, school, youth groups or as an individual, young people can be active in promoting the issue of youth employment.

The YES 2002 is open to all persons with youth employment



YOUTH EMPLOYMENT SUMMIT 2002

from governments, the private sector, NGOs, education and training institutions, donors and multilateral agencies, and most importantly, youth organizations themselves. Registrations from youth between the ages of 15 and 30, especially among women, indigenous or minority groups are strongly encouraged.

For more Information on the Youth Employment Summit 2002 and related activities, check their Web site www.youthemploymentsummit.org.

FAO hosted a global meeting at its Rome headquarters from 10-13 June 2002 to review progress towards ending hunger. The meeting, the **World Food Summit: five years later**, tracked progress achieved since the 1996 *World Food Summit* and considered ways to accelerate the process. More than 180 countries attended.

“The purpose of this event is to give new impetus to worldwide efforts on behalf of hungry people,” says Dr Jacques Diouf, Director-General of

FAO. “We must raise both the political will and the financial resources to fight hunger. The international community has repeatedly declared that it is dedicated to the eradication of poverty. Eliminating hunger is a vital first step.”

Unfortunately, current data indicate that the number of undernourished is falling at an average rate of only 6 million each year, far below the rate of 22 million per year needed to reach the World Food Summit target. Although headway has been made and some striking



WORLD FOOD
SUMMIT
five years later
10-13 June 2002

success stories exist in individual countries and communities, much remains to be done.

World leaders discussed and agreed to measures needed to achieve the goal, and made suggestions on how to accelerate progress. They also considered how to increase resources available for agricultural and rural development.

FAO Launches e-Mail Version of YouthWorks from Rome

A new text-only e-mail version of YouthWorks is available to meet the needs of a growing number of rural youth organizations who now have access to the internet. This electronic newsletter will provide more frequent information in greater detail than is possible with the hard copy. The hard copy will continue to be published and distributed by regular mail. To subscribe to this electronic version, address your e-mail to :
mailserv@mailserv.fao.org
leaving the subject blank and entering the following one-line message:
subscribe YouthWorks-L.

FAO Asia-Pacific Youth e-Mail Newsletter

To meet the special needs of the region and encourage regional networking among rural youth organizations, the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok is publishing the Asia-Pacific Youth e-mail newsletter. You are invited to subscribe to this newsletter by sending an e-mail message to:
mailserv@mailserv.fao.org
leaving the subject blank and entering the following one-line message:
subscribe AsiaPacYouthWorks-L. To contact the list owner or if you wish to contribute inputs to the newsletter, please address an e-mail message to: AsiaPacYouthWorks-L@mailserv.fao.org. We look forward to your active participation in this project of the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific.

FAO Global Directory of Rural Youth Organizations

The FAO Rural Youth Programme database template has just been completed. It will be used to create a directory of government and non-government rural youth organizations around the world with the purpose of encouraging networking and the exchange of knowledge, information and resources. It will also give us at FAO vital information that will help us to improve support to rural youth development programming around the world. We strongly encourage your organization to become a part of this network.

If you wish your organization to be included, please complete the coupon below and send it to the Rural Youth Officer, FAO, Rome. You may also make the request by fax or by e-mail. You will be sent a brief survey form to be completed and sent back. The directory will be published and distributed in hard copy after January 2003. It will also be available on-line through the FAO rural youth web site beginning July 2003.

Yes, we wish to have our organization included in the FAO Rural Youth Programmes Database and Directory

Your postal address:

Send to:

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FAO, SDR
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
- 00100 Rome, Italy
e-mail: ruralyouth@fao.org
FAX: (+39) 06 5705 3801

Upcoming Events of interest. . .

6–10 October 2002	Expert Group Meeting on Global Priorities for Youth	Helsinki, Finland
16 October 2002	World Food Day	Rome, Italy
20–27 October 2002	North-South Training Course for Youth	Mollina, Spain

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This version of YouthWorks and additional information on FAO's rural youth development work can be found at: <http://www.fao.org/ruralyouth>

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