

Affected Populations: Farmers

Submitted by Pien Metaal, CSTF Representative Affected populations: Farmers

This consultation was held in the Netherlands in January 2016 involved over 60 representatives from 16 countries that in most cases were selected by their communities to speak on their behalf, reaching a representation of several thousands of farmers and their communities from Asia, Africa and LATIN America And the Caribbean region.

Best practices

- ✓ Involving communities with crops used for illicit purposes in all phases of development plans: funding, planning, design and implementation.
- ✓ Putting an end to forced eradication and reducing crops on the condition that the affected population has given its consent.
- ✓ Allow cultivation of cannabis, coca and opium poppy for traditional and modern uses of the three plants in its natural form, including medicinal uses not controlled by the pharmaceutical industry.
- ✓ Small scale sustainable projects with guarantees and control by communities regarding access to land, natural resources management and labour.

Main challenges

- Development strategies for rural areas and communities with crops for illicit uses have little to no results because of the irrational sole focus on crop reduction.
- Forced eradication of crops as a supply control tool is counterproductive.

- The full and unconditioned participation of affected communities in development strategies, policies and plans for their communities.
- State interventions are mostly of a repressive nature, causing violence and distrust.
- Traditional and modern use of plants is considered illegal in many places and people are prosecuted for it when they grow plants for this purpose.
- Disproportional criminal prosecution and discrimination of farmers' communities.
- Territorial control of armed groups and multinational corporations limiting access to land, natural resources and labour, and provoking violence.

Action-orientated recommendations for the UNGASS roundtables

What follows are the recommendations of the Consultation as referred to in the final declaration:

Coca, cannabis and opium poppy should be removed from the lists and articles in the 1961 UN Single Convention and the 1988 Convention. No plant should be a controlled drug under the UN Conventions or national legislation.

We claim the right to cultivation for traditional and modern uses of these plants.

We call for the elimination of all forms of non-voluntary eradication.

We demand that all affected communities should be involved in all stages of drug policies and

development, from the design to its implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

In case crop reduction is desirable and feasible it needs to be gradual and reached in dialogue and agreement with the affected communities, based on mutual respect and confidence.

The conditioning of development assistance on prior eradication is unacceptable. The proper sequencing of development interventions is fundamental to its success.

Integrated sustainable development should be the main intervention for crop producing communities. Such development should promote and protect the livelihoods of small scale farmers and rural workers, and should guarantee access to and control over land and common goods.

The state and its institutions will need to assume responsibility to address the needs of the communities involved in cultivation of coca, cannabis and opium poppy.

We demand that the farmers and their families involved in the cultivation of coca, cannabis and opium should not be prosecuted by criminal law and discriminated against.

Coca, cannabis and opium poppy and their use should not be criminalized.

The expansion of licit markets of coca, cannabis and opium poppy should become part of development strategies.

We support the peace process in Colombia and Burma.