

Solidaridad

INVESTING IN BIORESOURCES, A REVOLUTIONARY OPPORTUNITY FOR AFRICA

SPEAKER NOTES MONIQUE VAN DE VIJVER

ABOUT SOLIDARIDAD:

- INTRODUCTION MONIQUE: WHY HEALTH PERSPECTIVE: LOSE HEALTH, LOSE IT ALL
- SOLIDARIDAD ORGANIZATION (WWW.SOLIDARIDADNETWORK.ORG)
- KNOWN FOR FAIR TRADE LABELING
- LESSONS LEARNT
- NEW MASP: RECLAIMING SUSTAINABILITY:
 - SSI: PROSPERITY, BALANCE WITH NATURE, INCLUSIVITY
 - BETTER BALANCE BETWEEN GLOBAL AND LOCAL MARKETS
 - VALUE ADDING AT SOURCE

TODAY'S CHALLENGES:

- DESTROYED, DEGRADED AND POLLUTED NATURAL RESOURCES
- LEADING TO CLIMATE CHANGE, BROKEN ECOSYSTEMS
- INEQUALITY AND EXCLUSION
- RAPIDLY GROWING POPULATION

ROLE OF AGRICULTURE:

- GREEN REVOLUTION: BENEFITS AND DOWNSIDES
- PRODUCTION SYSTEM AND EFFECTS ON HEALTH: USE OF SYNTHETIC INPUTS AND PESTICIDES AFFECTING SOIL HEALTH (MICROBIAL LIFE), PLANT HEALTH, ECOSYSTEMS
- ALSO: SMALLHOLDER RESILIENCE: MONOCULTURE, SINGLE CASH CROP DEPENDENCY, HIGH AND INCREASING PRODUCTION COSTS

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HEALTH BECOMING MAJOR CONCERN WORLDWIDE

- HUMANS PRETTY MUCH IN SAME CONDITION: 'WELFARE DISEASES'
- DEFINITION OF FOOD SECURITY SHIFTED FROM CALORIES TO MICRONUTRIENT DEFICIENCIES
- NUMBERS:
 - 1.9 MILLION ADULTS OBESE
 - ALMOST 40% OF CHILDREN UNDER 5 OVERWEIGHT OR OBESE
- NON COMMUNICABLE DISEASES:
 - ACCOUNT FOR MORE THAN 70% OF ALL DEATHS WORLDWIDE
 - 60% OF PEOPLE IN NL HAS SOME KIND OF CHRONIC DISEASE
 - IMPACT OF PESTICIDES ON HEALTH, E.G. CALL LEADING DUTCH PROFESSOR PD: CALL TO EAT ORGANIC; PATIENTS WITH ALZHEIMER HAVE HIGHER CONCENTRATIONS OF PESTICIDES IN BLOOD
- IMPACT HUGE: PEOPLE, ECONOMIES: EARNING CAPACITY DOWN, COST UP.

WHERE DO NATURAL INGREDIENTS COME IN?

- TRENDS:
 - NATURAL (FOOD SCANDALS, HEALTH CONCERNS, COVID)
 - TRADITIONAL (CULTURAL, ACCESSIBLE, AFFORDABLE, PRIDE)
- WHO STRATEGY FOR TRADITIONAL HEALTH CARE
- MAGIC OF PLANTS: POTENTIAL IS MANYFOLD

REVOLUTIONARY POTENTIAL 3-FOLD:

IT'S TIME TO CARE FOR AFRICA FIRST - SSI PILLARS:

ECONOMIC - PROSPERITY:

- NEW AGRICULTURAL AND INDUSTRIAL ERA IS BASED ON BIO-RESOURCES
- EUROPE BETTING HEAVILY ON BIORESOURCES TECHNOLOGY:
 - REPLACE FINITE (MINERALS, FOSSIL FUEL BASED) AND SYNTHETIC (HARMFULL, NON-DEGRADABLE) BY NATURAL / RENEWABLE
 - REPLICATING CURRENT BUSINESS MODEL: HIGH TECH, HIGH INVESTMENT, PROFIT DRIVEN, DOWNSTREAM PROFIT ACCUMULATION
- MANY INGREDIENTS/RAW MATERIALS GROWN IN LOW-MIDDLE INCOME COUNTRIES
- AFRICA: FROM SUPPLIER OF RAW MATERIALS TO DEVELOPER AND PRODUCER OF OWN
- BALANCE LOCAL VS EXPORT: BRAINWASHED FOR MINDSET TO SERVE EXPORT MARKETS / IMPORTING BACK: HIGH COST (PRICE AND ENV., DEPENDENCY, VULNERABILITY)

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- INVEST IN RESEARCH, PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT AND BUS. DEVT.
- TURN WASTE INTO VALUE
- HYBRID HEALTH SOLUTIONS
- POWER OF TRADITIONAL HEALTH SOLUTIONS: LOW COST (TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE; NO IP; LOW COST TECHNOLOGY)

GREEN - BALANCE WITH NATURE:

- MAGIC OF PLANTS = MULTIPLE WIN SOLUTIONS FOR HEALTH
 - PRODUCTION: MAKE PART OF DIVERSE PRODUCTION SYSTEM
 - MEANS TO STIMULATE HEALTHY PRODUCTION SYSTEMS
 - RESTORE ECOSYSTEMS AND EVEN CLEAN UP MESS

POTENTIAL FOR INCLUSION:

- SERVE PEOPLE'S NEEDS
- WOMEN & YOUTH INCLUSION: LOW TECH, LOW INVESTMENT, LOW COST

I WOULD SAY:

AFRICA: TIME FOR REVOLUTION

NOT WITH VIOLENCE NOR ANGER

WITH CARE FOR NATURE AND PEOPLE: GREEN AND INCLUSIVE

FROM INEQUALITY TO COLLABORATION ON EQUAL TERMS, IN THE BENEFIT OF ALL:

- SHAKE OF COLONIAL MINDSET:
 - TIME FOR EQUAL RELATIONSHIPS: ALSO IN INTEREST OF EUROPE
 - TIME TO SERVE AFRICA FIRST: YOUR OWN CURRENT AND FUTURE NEEDS
- TAKE LEAD IN GREEN ECONOMY DEVELOPMENT: EUROPE WILL NOT TAKE LEAD. AFRICA IS THE BUSINESS CASE OF AGRI-INPUTS, PHARMA AND FOOD INDUSTRY
- TAKE CARE OF YOUR HABITAT: STOP DESTROYING, PROTECT AND INVEST: WHEN WE INVEST IN MOTHER NATURE, SHE WILL TAKE CARE OF US
- BE PROUD OF YOUR TRADITIONS: MUCH KNOWLEDGE AND WISDOM IS THERE
- CALL TO WOMEN: TAKE LEAD
- TRANSITION TO VALUE BASED IN ALL SENSES OF THE WORD