

Rebuilding soil fertility could capture 30 to 40 percent of the current excess of carbon dioxide in our atmosphere every year.

Climate change

The Earth's atmosphere has a natural greenhouse effect that makes life possible. But the amount of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere has increased significantly since the start of the Industrial Revolution. Industrialized countries are responsible for 7 of every 10 tonnes of the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide emitted during this time. This has led to rising global temperatures, reflected in dramatically changing weather patterns. Nations such as our own have developed at the expense of the world's poorest people in the Global South. These same people are the ones most adversely affected by the unpredictable weather patterns. We owe the people of the Global South a tremendous ecological debt, and working for ecological justice is our urgent responsibility.

The damage done

About half of all greenhouse gases emitted are caused by industrialized agriculture and global food systems. Industrial agriculture practices have

led to a massive loss of organic matter from the soil. Much of this has ended up in the atmosphere as carbon dioxide. In the Global South, huge tracts of forests and wetlands are destroyed to create plantations, often for export crops. This releases large quantities of greenhouse gases. Plantations also consume excessive fossil fuels.

Earth matters

It is urgent that we find ways to slow down climate change. Some of the world's poorest small-scale farmers feed themselves and their communities in ways that respect the Earth and water, and minimize transportation of food and agricultural inputs. If the global temperature continues to rise, changing weather caused by climate change will reduce their crop yields significantly.

Small-scale sustainable farming, if practised widely in the Global South, could reduce agriculture's global greenhouse gas emissions noticeably. This would take time, and other supports, including adequate land and water.

Help to cool the Earth

Sign our message of solidarity for small-scale farmers today

The effects of climate change are already a daily reality for many people, especially the poorest and most vulnerable, and for small-scale farmers around the world. Industrial agriculture contributes in part to climate change through:

- land conversion and deforestation
- the processing, packaging and transport of food
- production models that require extensive use of fossil fuels

We support small-scale farmers around the world who are working for sustainable small-scale agriculture, genuine land reform, and a change in production and consumption patterns.

We affirm our responsibility to future generations to seek genuine solutions to the problem of climate change that are viable, truly sustainable and do not sacrifice the poorest people on the planet.

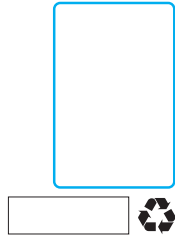
By signing this card, you are expressing your solidarity with small-scale farmers who urgently request the promotion of agricultural models that will enable them to feed their communities, participate in the fight against climate change, and improve their living conditions.

This message of solidarity will be sent to DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE partners who are working with organized groups of small-scale farmers in the Global South. It will help to strengthen their advocacy and education work with their governments and their communities.

Learn more about this campaign or sign the action card at www.devp.org



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Together, we hold the future in our hands

We are looking for a faster way to make compost for our organic rice," says Ignatius Purwanto. Surrounded by lush green rice fields, Ignatius is part of a group of small-scale rice farmers in a densely-populated rural area of Java, Indonesia. Members of this group farm on their own tiny plots of land. They also experiment with 40 kinds of rice on one communal plot no larger than a tennis court. They are trying to find a natural predator to reduce the rats feasting on these new crops. Poison would be easier, but "we don't want to damage the water," says Ignatius.

Ignatius and his group practise this kind of sustainable farming because of their commitment to living in harmony with their local environment. In Asia, Africa and Latin America, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE partners help groups of small-scale farmers such as this one, because these methods provide nutritious food and livelihoods for some of the world's poorest people.

Sustainable farming could also help cool down the Earth's rising global temperatures and reduce the effects of climate change.

To find out more, turn the page...

Credits: Abbie Traylor-Smith/Panos Pictures; Illustration: Lillian Chan; Graphic design: Lillian Chan & Andrew Morinaga

Time for Ecological Justice

Ecological justice is a celebration of the interconnection and interdependence of all beings and recognizes our human responsibility to co-exist in harmony for the well-being of the Earth community. It promotes human dignity, the self-determination of all persons, and the development of sustainable economies with justice for all within a finite world.

Sustainable farming

More than two billion rural men and women in Asia, Africa and Latin America earn livelihoods from small plots of land. Those who practise sustainable farming raise a variety of livestock and crops in close proximity. This facilitates composting, which increases the organic matter in soil, rebuilds soil fertility and crop health, and reduces the need for agrochemical fertilizer and pesticides. Sustainable farming also preserves local habitats, such as forests and wetlands.

“The Earth is sacred. Creation has its own intrinsic value. We have a responsibility to protect and to cherish the Earth’s ecological diversity, beauty, and life-sustaining processes.”

- Development and Peace 2011 - 16 Principle

“Look after the soil, and everything else will look after itself.”

-Farmers’ proverb

How organized groups of small-scale farmers are helping to cool the Earth

Fresh and nutritious traditional foods for local people

“When I first planted cassava,” says Lejaryono, a teacher in a small community in Indonesia, “the neighbours said I was crazy because it is not ‘modern’. Even my wife was doubtful.” A visiting agricultural officer told him to uproot the tubers and replace them with mango trees, whose fruit could be sold elsewhere. Lejaryono ignored him, and continued planting traditional foods. With the support of DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE partner the *Indonesian Founda-*

tion on Popular Education (YPRI) he introduced them to his school. Today they are the basis of many parts of the curriculum.

From the school the plants were introduced to the community, and soon to nearby villages. Today, many of the small-scale farmers plant and use traditional foods such as sweet potato, cassava and arrowroot. Arrowroot was chosen because it could be grown on the villagers’ small plots under existing trees. “We didn’t want to add to global warming by cutting the trees” says Lejaryono.

Small plots, careful cultivation, no chemicals

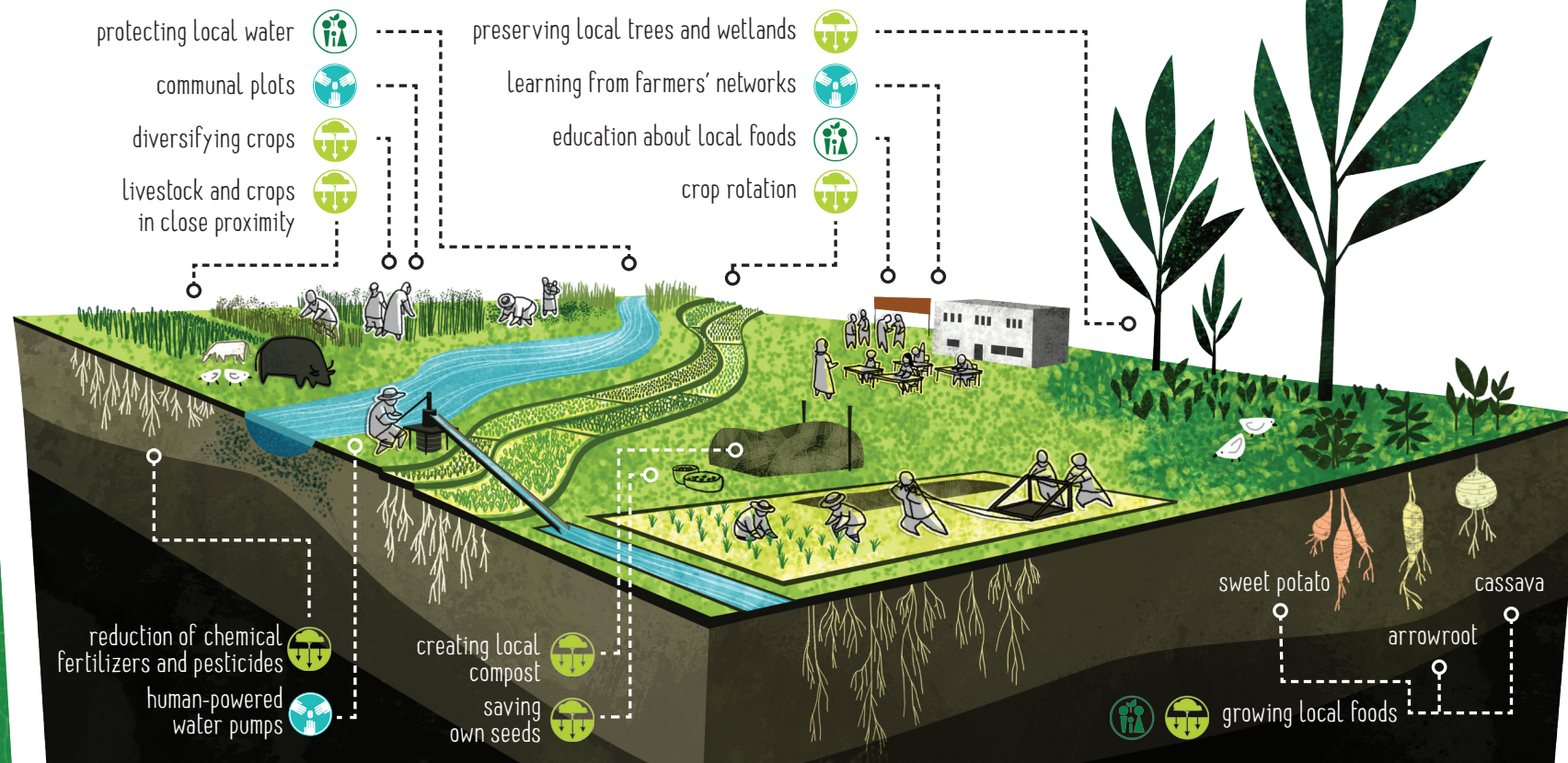
DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE’s Indonesian partner *Cindelas* helps Ignatius Purwanto and his group of small-scale farmers practise sustainable farming (see cover story).

Organized small-scale farmers spread the word

In Madagascar, off the southern coast of Africa, a group of small-scale farmers discovered that replanting younger and younger plants dramatically increased rice production. Today, they teach this process, called the System of Rice Intensification, to other

Malagasy farmers. This technique could quadruple the country’s rice production without the use of agrochemicals. DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE partner *The Office Linking Rural Education Organizations (BIMTT)* has helped small-scale farmers share their knowledge with small-scale farmers in other parts of Africa and now Asia.

The *Small-scale Farmers’ Coalition of Madagascar (CPM)*, another Malagasy DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE partner, helps member organizations of small-scale farmers influence national policies that affect them. Their concerns include financing, markets and how to form co-operatives - all necessary to small-scale farmers’ survival.



The results include:



Reduced Greenhouse Gases

sustainable soils capture greenhouse gases; reduced use of fossil fuels for transportation, chemical inputs, and farm machinery; trees and wetlands preserve carbon.



Organized Farmers

able to advocate for their needs and assist other farmers.



Strong Local Communities

local livelihoods; nutritious locally grown food; clean water; healthy soils; food sovereignty.