



September 28, 2021 - Ecological and social transition from theory to practice: Challenges here and elsewhere

During this session, several panelists discussed the challenges of ecological and social transition from a local and international point of view.

Following the discussions between the panelists and with the participants, several elements were highlighted:

- Everyone agrees that we are at the heart of a global ecological emergency. The ecological social transition crosses all of our actions and operations, all the dimensions of our organizations, whether they are farmers' organizations, savings and credit unions or women's associations or cooperatives.
- As part of the ecological and social transition, we must take into account the challenge of the 4 Fs: "Fuel, Food, Forest and Finance" which represent 4 dangers but also 4 transitions:
 - Fuel: to switch from fossil to renewable energy
 - Food: move from industrially intensive agriculture to ecologically sustainable agriculture
 - Forest: stop deforestation and move to sustainable forest management
 - Finance: stop funding only those who can afford it and switch to solidarity finance.
- There are also political challenges in some regions (terrorism, instability...)
- Identify the main actors in the implementation of TES
 - Farmer organizations

- Workers' unions
 - Cooperatives
- We should not neglect the place of both local and international movements. We have to think of the economy at the meso scale, at the level of networks and federations. There is an internationalization of our organizations with a certain weight which may vary historically in international institutions, but the combination means moving both from local to international and from international to local. It is unavoidable today, given that these are not only local issues and international issues, but which are closely linked. The transition is experienced locally, it is experienced at the national level, it is experienced at the international level. The micro, the mezzo and the macro that come into play, the top-down and bottom-up from the bottom, but not stay there. Start from above, on some occasions, but not glued to the top. Because there are many initiatives which, when they start from the top, do not take into account the participation of the population.
- Increasingly, economic incentives must be linked to sustainability, to responsible projects
- The challenges of state support for the fossil fuel industry when we need to start the energy transition and move from fossil fuels to renewable energies.
- Significant importance of citizen actions for this purpose which can influence government decisions in relation to environmental issues. We also need a change in behavior at the individual level.
- Solidarity finance must have concrete actions in terms of its investments. It is a finance that accepts a certain level of risk that others do not take. And it is cheap finance, that is to say with interest rates that are lower than what a private bank can offer.
- Climate change brings new challenges such as displaced populations. We have displaced people, terrorism and political instability. We displaced people for economic reasons, and we have more and more displaced people for climatic reasons and in some cases, it is the announced disaster insofar as we can combine the three things, that is to say the terrorism, political instability and climate change and poverty.

- We must support communities in the ecological and social transition process
- Before tackling the issue of SET, it is important to understand energy issues (renewable energies and energy sobriety). Today, in renewable energies, we have decentralized micro-grids which allow local and regional development. And that is very important, particularly in solar energy, but also in the biomass of bio digester on family farms. These are important elements to ensure the development of income-generating activities or more income.

Links shared in the chat:

PNUD

<https://www.undp.org/news/un-development-programme-and-duke-university-launch-online-course-foster-private-investments>

<https://sdgimpact.undp.org/#what-we-do>

<https://sdginvestorplatform.undp.org/>

Ecotierra

<https://www.ecotierra.co/>

<https://www.urapi.co/>

<https://www.projetforestierpivot.com/>

Richard Simard

<http://www.fao.org/3/ca4672fr/ca4672fr.pdf>

<https://missioninclusion.ca/produisons-pour-construire-le-bien-vivre-2/>

Viviane Vandemeulebroucke

<https://cap2030.be>