Food production and conflicts
Land use not land exhaustion

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Threats to food production

- Water scarcity
- Droughts
- Declining biodiversity
- Soil degrading and erosion
- Unpredictable climate changes
- Land grabbing
- Economic model
- => causes conflicts, hunger, migration,
IAASTD

• International Assessment of Agricultural Knowledge, Science and Technology for Development

• approved by the Intergovernmental Plenary in Johannesburg, South Africa (7-11 April 2008)
Main Points IAASTD

• Hunger and Poverty is a distribution problem
• Problem of wrong agricultural practice
  -> regional and global
• Step out
  of the concept of multifunctional agriculture with high technological input, unification for industrial production, feasible for global markets, high energy and land consuming
AGRICULTURE & FOOD PRODUCTION

The CHALLENGE before us:
Competing (economic) models of land use

Locally different systems, tailored to environment, low input, low tech – sustainable
Closed cycles, local direct marketing, subsistence

Uniform industrial production system – one model fits all, environmental differences are made to fit the needs of industrial agriculture. High input, high tech - unsustainable
Extraction/mining – industrial value chains
Proposal of the IAASTD

• Reconnection of agriculture to the regional cultural, societal and ecological conditions and circumstance
• Using traditional knowledge and crops
• Varying crops, crops rotation
• Producing for local markets not for the uniformed international markets
• Increase the amount of calories per hectares instead the amount of crops
• Agriculture similar to gardens, urban gardening
• Food sovereignty for countries
Water – Conflicts 1/2

- Water is necessary for agriculture
- Traditional industrialized agriculture exhausted water
- Pollution of water by chemical fertilizers
- High technology and GMO seeds need more water than traditional seeds
- Power control over the seed is by the transnational not by the local people
Water - Conflicts 2/2

• Water is used for energy production
• => Dams
• Energy production in which interests – mostly not for regional agriculture and subsistence
• Examples - Conflicts around the Nil or Tigris,
• => Dams shorten the water in other parts and damage the fertility there
Virtual Water
Land grabbing

• Investment from outside
• Buying land for agricultural production for export and agro fuels
• Banish the traditional communities
• Industrialized agriculture, GMO, unified, exhausting land
• => destroying forests, degradation, erosions, droughts
Agro fuels

“Corn prices ... are intimately tied to energy prices, because corn is used to make ethanol, an additive in gasoline.”

http://www.wikinvest.com/commodity/Corn
Migration

• Migration from the rural areas to the cities
• No jobs, no social security
• Destroying the existing communities and solidarity
• -> violence
Alternative Example

• Trees for the desert
• Koutal / western Senegal
• Planting trees in degenerated, salted ground
• Work done by women – men migrated to cities looking for jobs
• Additional traditional plants for daily food (vegetables and sorghum)
• Green wall project – working only with local participation
AGRICULTURE & FOOD PRODUCTION
The CHALLENGE is global:

URGENTLY needed:
Simultaneously paradigm shift to sustainable, modern agricultural systems functioning WITHIN ecological limits, local ecological intensification within a global context and connection.

Developed bottom-up with farmer participations