



## **Tebtebba**

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### **TEBTEBBA Intervention on the Workshop on Agriculture at the 5<sup>th</sup> Session of the AWG-LCA**

Bonn, 4 April 2009

Thank you Madame Chair for allowing indigenous peoples to make a presentation at this workshop. As you are aware, many indigenous peoples in all parts of the world are still very much engaged in traditional livelihoods in agriculture and agroforestry. These include rotational agriculture or swidden agriculture, high mountain agriculture, hunting and gathering, and pastoralism. These are very sustainable livelihoods which continue to provide food and cash for millions of indigenous peoples. Indigenous peoples from Asia, Africa and Latin America just finished their regional summits on climate change and agriculture has been extensively discussed because it is in this sector where indigenous peoples have contributed to mitigation and have also shown their capacities to adapt. Indigenous agricultural and agro-forestry practices are some of the best examples of agro-ecological agriculture.

Rotational agriculture, for example, is an indigenous agricultural practice embedded with complex and sophisticated systems of resource management and knowledge of land use and cultivation, soil types and fertility and adaptation to climatic variations. Many case studies were presented at the Asia Summit on the rotational agriculture and agro-forestry knowledge and practices of indigenous peoples in the Philippines, Malaysia, Thailand, Viet Nam, Bangladesh, India and Indonesia. Concerns were raised about how swidden agriculture has been included as a driver of deforestation in the World Bank slide presentations on the FCPF. This misrepresentation of an ancient agricultural practice which has ensured survival of generations of indigenous peoples should be rectified.

Indigenous pastoralists like the Maasai of Africa, the Sami reindeer herders of the Arctic and the llama and alpaca herders in the Andes, also have sophisticated traditional knowledge which allows them to graze their herds in the most fragile ecosystems. All these are low-carbon livelihoods but these are very much under threat because of climate change impacts and also because of the potential effects of solutions to climate change. At the Africa Summit, the pastoralists in Africa raised their concern, that with the increasing support for REDD, their grazing lands are under threat of being afforested which will mean the end of pastoralism and the cultures around this.

The reports of these summits will be submitted to the Secretariat for further dissemination.

In this light, we support fully the statement of the Third World Network which called for sustainable ecological agriculture to be recognized as a key mitigation measure for climate change and as a key element for sustainable and low carbon development. We further recommend the following:

- **Further studies on the contributions to mitigation indigenous peoples agriculture and agroforestry practices should be undertaken and these potentials should be included in monitoring of mitigation measures.**
- **Finance and technology transfer which potentially undermine indigenous agricultural systems should be stopped.**
- Because of the fact that indigenous peoples' concerns in climate change cut across various issues, including agriculture, forestry, technology transfer, adaptation, mitigation, finance and long term shared vision, we propose the following;
  - **That an Expert Workshop on Indigenous Peoples and Climate Change be held to look into how indigenous peoples can effectively contribute to mitigation measures, which includes the mitigation potentials of indigenous agriculture and agroforestry practices, and how they can be supported to adapt to climate change. This can be held before the AWG-LCA session in Bangkok in September 2009. We hope some Parties can support this so that a fruitful dialogue between indigenous peoples and governments can take place.**

Thank you very much Madame Chairperson.

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