

# Seminar on Agrarian and Rural Issues in Africa

## Context/short summary:

In the world around 1 billion people suffers from hunger. 75% live in the countryside. The majority is poor peasants or farm-workers with weak wages, and their family. The consequence of that situation is the rural-urban migration of 50 to 60 millions of people each year. The African continent where the demographic growth increases quickly, is particularly concerned.

The African agriculture does not feed the people and not allow the peasantry to live in good conditions. Most of the countries imports cheap food (rice, chicken, milk) whereas the local production is more expensive and competed by those goods from developed or emerging countries, which have better outputs.

The structural adjustment programs of liberalization and reduction of the state power implemented in the eighties and nineties by the international financial institutions have promoted the export culture ignoring the food-producing. Investments in agriculture have decreased. The public aid to development has turned away from it.

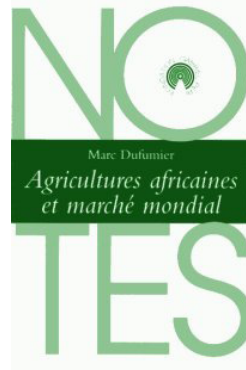
But nowadays in a context of a food, environmental and even global crisis, the agriculture and the issue of the land, come back in the top priorities. Why African countries experienced such situations? How can we characterise their agriculture? Which ways can we imagine to get out of deadlocks?

## Partners:

The seminar has been realised in partnership with the review Recherches Internatio-

nales, with the participation of African and French researchers and professors.

The restitution of the seminar has been led during the international conference of Dakar (January 2008) organised by the **Gabriel Peri Foundation**, the PIT (Party of Labour and independence of Senegal) and the laboratory of philosophical and social contemporary researches and studies on Africa and the world, of the university Cheikh Anta Diop of Dakar.



## Publications

ON THE LEFT: African agricultures and world market, Marc Dufumier, 2007; ON THE RIGHT: Proceedings of the seminar, published in the review Recherches internationales, December 2007.

## Objectives:

The objectives were to:

- Organize a program of conferences and draw a serious attention on crucial issues of the present and for the future.
- Propose various analyses from the general problematic in terms of scales and underline the link between them: local issues to international questions.
- Compare and confront points of view thanks to the participation of speakers involved in different fields: research, NGOs, Trade unions, political parties, private institutes,

public institutions, international organisations.

- Publish the proceedings of the seminar and a notebook of political recommendations.
- Report the result at the international conference of Dakar organised by the foundation in front of an audience composed of students, political parties, trade unions, associations, etc.

## Expected results:

The expected results were to contribute in an original way to the political debate concerning the future of African countries, the responsibilities of developed countries in the evolution of international trade and its consequences on African agriculture, and in their cooperation with foreign countries.

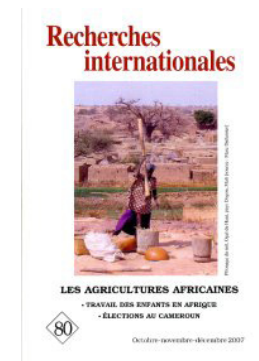
The foundation also wanted to put forward the African analysis of the issues by inviting to the conferences researchers, peasants member of Union trade from Africa.

## Activities:

Abstract of the program of conferences:

- *From the family farming to the agrobusiness: is the transition possible? What is the future of the African agriculture?* Marc Dufumier, agronomist (France), and Ibrahima Sène, agro-economist, member of the PIT (Senegal).
- *Issues and actors of farming and rural development policies in Africa.* Vincent Ribier,

## Europe: France, Paris Africa: Senegal, Dakar



agro-economist CIRAD (France), and Me Amadou Tiéoulé Diarra, professor of law (Mali).  
• *Cross analysis on peasant struggles in West Africa.* Dihyé Amoakon, peasant and member of ANOPACI (Ivoiry Cost)

et Ibrahima Coulibaly, agronomist, union activist of ROPPA (Mali).

• *The African agriculture in the France-Europe-Africa partnership and in the international trade.* Florence Lasbennes, ministry of foreign affairs (France), and Mustapha Sadni Jallab, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (Ethiopia).

**Funding:** Gabriel Peri Foundation

**Website:** [http://gabrielperi.fr/spip.php?page=rubrique&id\\_rubrique=29](http://gabrielperi.fr/spip.php?page=rubrique&id_rubrique=29)

## ENoP MEMBER FOUNDATION:

### Fondation Gabriel Peri

 FONDATION GABRIEL PERI  
[www.gabrielperi.fr](http://www.gabrielperi.fr)