

## Final Comment

**From Lylian Rodriguez**

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### **Comments for the conference**

I would like to make some comments on different aspects that have been mentioned during the last days of the conference.

We, as people involved in development of feeding systems using local resources, should think more deeply. I have been working in different projects in Colombia and Vietnam. In Colombia, with CIPAV, mainly on a 35 ha integrated farm, and now in "Finca Ecologica" in Vietnam, a small 0.35 ha integrated farm.

After having lived in the mountainous central part of Vietnam and having visited some places around Vietnam, Cambodia and Bangladesh, I have the feeling that work load is not the problem when the question "What will we eat today?" comes every day for the poorest people. It is the reason why these people have to go to work "really hard" in the forest to get even "war metals", risking their own lives. Therefore, if someone shares with them ideas and gives them some opportunities as credit and some technology and if they can afford to have some chickens, pigs and sugar cane, cassava and why not an "integrated farm", this means a lot of work but this also means building an enterprise that will give them food security. Then I don't believe that in that case work load is a major problem. For example, work is not a problem for the Cambodian farmers who climb the sugar palms to get the juice twice a day because if they stop doing it, may be the next day the palm stops juice production. It is different for someone working for someone else.

Integrated farming means work but means recycling and means biodiversity and low inputs from outside. It is the same with

knowledge, to try to understand situations from an interdisciplinary point of view means hard work and hard thinking.

Again the "basket of choices" must be full of alternatives for different places, different socio-economical and socio-ecological conditions and even different seasons because we have to realize that we should develop appropriate systems even for different periods of the year according to harvest times, agro-ecological conditions, market, policies, etc.

Technology transfer is definitely an important aspect and we should look for the way to get farmers to know these technologies all over the world. Without going so far, in this excellent conference, there have been many interesting papers and discussions around many aspects. We have the responsibility to reach farmers. "On farm research" is very important in this field because it is a real way to know farmer's situation and usually farmers will get rid of the technologies that are not useful for them under certain circumstances. On farm research is also excellent to get scientists down to the field and try to exchange ideas with farmers and develop systems.

We have to change, to be open-minded and to contribute to change people specially the young people, who will be the future of the world. The potential of the tropic is so big; we just have to try to live in harmony with it and to **WORK HARD!**

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