



# **Opportunities and limits to promote civil society in combatting hunger in Asia**

**Welthungerhilfe Asia Regional Conference**

**13<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> July 2013**

**Islander Centre, Anuradhapura, Sri Lanka**



***Conference Report***

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## List of Abbreviations

CS:	Civil society
CSA:	Civil Society Academy
CSO:	Civil Society Organisations
CSR:	Corporate social responsibility
DRR:	Disaster Risk Reduction
EU:	European Union
IDP:	Internally displaced people
IFOAM:	International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements
INGO:	International Non-Governmental Organisations
LSLI:	Large Scale Land Investments
MHP:	Maenyng Huamjai Phattana
NGOs:	Non-Governmental Organisations
NPAs:	Non-Profit Associations
PGS:	Participatory Guarantee Systems
RBA:	Right based approach
SFNS:	Sustainable Food and Nutrition Security
SHGs:	Self Help Groups
SLF:	Sewalanka Foundation
UN:	United Nations
WHH:	Welthungerhilfe

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 Background

The third Asian Regional Conference<sup>1</sup> of Welthungerhilfe took place at the Islander, Anuradhapura, Sri Lanka, from Sunday 13th until Thursday 18th July 2013; under the theme of "Opportunities and Limits to Promote Civil Society in Combatting Hunger in Asia". The workshop focused on enhancing the exchange between partner organisations, overseas structures represented by ten Asian countries and headquarters in Germany. The countries represented were: Afghanistan, Cambodia, the Democratic Republic of Korea, India, Laos, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Tajikistan (see list of participants at the end of this report).

**Civil society organisations in the Welthungerhilfe context** CSOs play a key role for social progress and sustainable development. Welthungerhilfe aims to assist partner organisations to reach their goals through more professional and substantial contributions, and to promote their capacities for the long term. **Welthungerhilfe firmly believes that only the development actors in the partner countries themselves are able to fashion and ensure societal change** and development in a sustainable manner. Although civil society exists in all countries, the space and freedom to operate at local, national and international level depends on the political context of each respective country.

### 1.2 The objectives of the conference

The objectives of the conference were the following:

- (i) To develop a shared understanding of civil society partnership in Asia.
- (ii) To identify the opportunities and challenges faced by civil society in different contexts.
- (iii) To share best practices.
- (iv) To feedback on or develop new ideas for promoting civil society.
- (v) To exchange and intensify networking on issues of common interest.
- (vi) To identify mutual expectations and clarify contributions.

### 1.3 Methodology

A diverse methodology was used to ensure maximum participation. This included a Gallery Walk on the 1st day, where all countries represented their work on posters. The participants got an opportunity to "visit" the country and be briefed on the program and challenges faced. A debate with a panel of speakers who presented their points of view on civil society in their own context and the possibility of collaboration was held with responses from the plenum. An Open Space where the participants could discuss any topical matter that related to the overall discussion was also conducted. A "World Café" where topics related to advocacy were discussed was incorporated on the 4th day.

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<sup>1</sup> First Regional Conference Asia was held 2010 in Cambodia on "Improving nutrition through food security interventions in Asia". The second Regional Conference Asia was held in 2012 in Myanmar in "Climate Change – Climate proofing".

## 2. Civil Society in the global context

Barbara Zilly, the country representative of Welthungerhilfe Sri Lanka, opened the conference on behalf of Welthungerhilfe and Sevalanka – foundation. She explained the history of the Islander Centre, where the conference took place and thanked Sevalanka foundation, which runs the centre and supported the organization of the conference.



Mathias Mogge, the director of the department programmes and projects of Welthungerhilfe, welcomed the participants. He highlighted why a discussion around Civil Society is important: In the last few years Welthungerhilfe has been witnessing a series of very important discussions and events, which are leading to transformative shifts. A new global partnership is developing with

CSOs as main actors and drivers for change. However on a global trend the space for CS is rather shrinking than increasing. Welthungerhilfe has a longstanding experience in partnership: it has tried to work with and through CSOs since its foundation.



***"We need to know our partners better and renew our approach."***

Global challenges today are so big that they cannot be solved through a temporary presence. CSOs are present in the countries all along and can have a strong voice in the discourse on climate change, governance, corruption and much more. We need to get to know our partners better and renew our approach. Nowadays there are more and more

innovative tools: best practices should be exchanged and possibly replicated. We should focus on building strategic partnerships to go beyond the traditional project implementation agreements and stress on the cooperation among program staff, advocacy teams and partner organizations.

Jochen Kenneweg, a representative of the Welthungerhilfe board of advisors for Asia, gave a presentation about "Civil society in the global context – approach to an overview" (see Annex 1). He stressed the complexity of the subject in connection with its global nature and historical and political implications. There is a difficulty to find a unique definition for the term: the Welthungerhilfe position paper (see Annex 2) gives a good one, although it may be not even fruitful to look for an all-encompassing definition – a better approach is to consider nature, types, delineations, particular focus of research attention.



### 3. Different approaches and contexts in Asia to promote Civil Society

#### 3.1 Welthungerhilfe approaches in different Asian contexts – GALLERY WALK

All 10 represented country teams were asked beforehand to prepare a poster based on two leading questions: (i) What is the Welthungerhilfe partner approach in the country, what are best practices, what are challenges? (ii) What opportunities exist for strengthening the role of civil society? What are the constraints?



During the gallery walk the participants were grouped into six working teams to discuss one specific question given to each of the group. After the gallery walk the results of the **working groups** were visualised on flip charts (see following flipchart transcriptions):

### What is common and different about civil society in each country?

(Flipchart transcription WG I)

#### Common:

- Lack of funding
- Lack of capacity
- Limiting / shrinking space
- Tougher legislation.

#### Different:

- Size / scope / influence
- History (grass roots, individuals, governmental)
- Approaches
- Vision

### What is common and what is different about the opportunities that exist for strengthening the role of civil society in different contexts?

(Flipchart transcription WG II)

- Countries like Nepal, Pakistan and India are liberal and have favourable conditions for a rights based approach. CSOs in these countries are able to use media to bring up concerns from the grass-roots.
- In fragile countries like Afghanistan, local CSOs have less security problems than international organisations.
- In restricted countries such as DPRK and Lao PDR, the only way to support CS is to built up human capital. Here co-operatives / unions can be an entry point for civil society.

### What is common, what is different about the challenges faced by civil society in different contexts?

(Flipchart transcription WG III)

#### Common:

- Need for capacity development.
- Strong influence by the government limiting CSO activities / development / organizational set-up / legislation.
- Strong presence and dominance of INGOs, and dependency by local organizations. Often the funding opportunities shape the agenda.
- Limitations in addressing human rights issues. There are friendly and non-friendly CSOs vis-a-vis human right.
- Lack of a long term financial perspectives.

#### Different:

- Addressing gender issues.
- Language problems.
- Restrictions.
- Security issues.
- Dependency on WHH.



### What is common, what is different about the role that civil society plays in each country?

(Flipchart transcription WG IV)

#### Common:

- The activities, service delivery and rural community development are similar.
- Donor dependency and driven.
- There is a orientation toward needs and filling gaps.
- There are restraints such as functioning within multi-dimensional social and power structures.
- There is low awareness and different conceptions of civil society as a whole.
- The lack of funding, shrinking space and the legislative challenges are also similar in the countries.

#### Different:

- The number of NGOs is very different (e.g. several millions in India and 30 in Lao PDR).
- There are also disparities in the skills and ability to work in the sectors.
- The linkages with government, sense of ownership of the work and ability to sustain are also very diverse.
- The size of NGOs, the scope / influence, approaches and vision are also different across countries.

### What is common, what is different about WHHs partner approach in different contexts?

(Flipchart transcription WG V)

#### Common:

- WHH has good relationship with partners.
- WHH invests in capacity building
- WHH works at different levels (NGOs, grass-root CBOs).
- WHH focusses on livelihood improvement and food security.
- WHH generates own resources.

#### Different:

- Different approaches (DRR, LRRD).
- The interaction with government structures is different in each context.
- Various levels of partners strengths.
- Advocacy depends on political circumstances.
- Gender aspects are unevenly represented.

## What is common, what is different about best practices in different contexts?

(Flipchart transcription WG VI)

### Common:

- Engagement in capacity building at different levels of civil society,
- building partnerships,
- strong community empowerment approach,
- systematic assessment of partners and CBOs.

### Different:

- Knowledge exchange programme on national and south-south,
- wide variety of approaches in engaging with government and donors,
- different levels of integrating gender.

### Assumptions:

- There is little adaptation capacity / flexibility for organizational change under transforming conditions.
- The perception of CSOs in society is questionable (e.g. the acceptance, activist).
- Peace, stability and security
- Conductive political and environmental / legal grounds for civil society.

### Doubts:

- How to make better use of local knowledge and experiences of the global debate and advocacy.
- Seriousness of international donors/INGOs on support to civil society.
- Interest of national governments on CSOs.
- How far CSOs truly represent civil society or their own financial interests.
- Working with similar organisation. Are we copying western NGO models?
- Are we truly representing civil society?



### 3.2 Best practices – PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS

**Mathew John** from **Keystone Foundation**, International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM) gave a presentation focussing on the genesis of Participatory Guarantee System and on how the concept is promoted by IFOAM (see Annex 3).



#### **The participatory guarantee system (official IFOAM definition):**

**Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS)** are **locally focused quality assurance systems**. They certify producers based on active participation of stakeholders and are **built on a foundation of trust, social networks and knowledge exchange**.

In the discourse on organic the emphasis is all on certification by a third party, which is inaccessible to most. PGS brings in groups that are looking at things differently, and seeks simplicity and clarity in certification.

Some features of PGS

- PGS groups are composed of a minimum of 5 farmers.
- All is done in local languages.
- Documentation is a flexible concept: putting everything in writing is not always the best solution. A collective pledge can be "signed" also with a photograph of an oath by all parties.
- Integration with non-timber forest products.
- Does not forget people.
- Looks at sustainability of products such as roots, mapping the ancestral domain, checking what is collected and what products are in decline.
- Values traditional knowledge, collecting and farming techniques
- Emphasis on seeds conservation.
- Builds on local market, although the definition of local varies among countries (e.g. big distances in the US).

PGS is not a solution for everything – its effectiveness depends on the context, on the groups, on the market, as it caters to the domestic market. Another focus is consumer's participation in visiting farms.

PGS standards approved by IFOAM enter in the IFOAM Family of Standards. IFOAM is also involved in PGS promotion, production of material on PGS, trainings etc. IFOAM is a global movement, active in all continents in the world.

**Aloysius Fernandez** from the Indian NGO **Myrada** gave another presentation about a best practice. The presentation focused on the 25 years of experience Myrada has with Self help groups (SHG) (see Annex 4).

#### **The self-help-group approach:**

**SHGs are presented as a place where poor create their space for livelihoods and then find their way to the political debate/engage in lobbying and advocacy activities.** Saving groups initially lent money at no interest, only later was introduced an interest rate, following the sharia principle of sharing the profit. To achieve food security in a sustainable way a change must happen in the society. Some factors that contribute to food insecurity are:

- Lack of power: the poor do not have access to credit and to adequate inputs because of obstacles of class, corruption, power. In the 80s it was realized that it is not enough to teach "to fish" because the poor were not reaching the river, and when they did the fishing rights were already sold. CSOs can do a lot to change these oppressive power relations.
- Biased gender relations: women (and girl child) only eat what is left by men. Here NGOs step in to change this bias. E.g. Myrada sanctioned those who were not sending girl children to school and intervened in cases of domestic violence.
- Some government programs: Indian government focuses more on hunger than malnutrition. With the food security ordinance more cereals are offered but not much is done to keep milk, chicken and pulses price low. These foods are also needed to combat malnutrition. Policy makers should reflect more on power and market relations.
- With regard to WHHs strategy for CSO involvement, CSOs/NGOs fall mainly in three categories: (i) - Activists – these are more difficult to support, but WHH should consider at least working with those tackling food security nutrition issues. (ii) - Actionists – involved in program implementation, this includes many larges NGOs. (iii) Institutionalists – those "working for a better world". Many actionists are also institutionalists, like Myrada. They have the objective of promoting people institutions which can influence power relations and sustain the impact of livelihood interventions. Working is becoming more and more difficult: national regulations limit NGO work and funding is also hard to secure as their work sometimes does not fall into donors frameworks.

To answer the question whether CSOs can have an impact on food security, Aloysius Fernandez presented data on Myrada SHGs loans. Loans become bigger and bigger and people start to shift from agriculture only loans to loans for gold and land purchase, which indicated that they were into investments.

## 4. Limits and opportunities to promote civil society in Asia – PANEL DISCUSSION AND DISCUSSION IN PLENUM

Four representatives of the partner organizations were invited to discuss the following questions:

- (i) What role should civil society currently play in Asia?
- (ii) How can civil society be effective under difficult political conditions?, and
- (iii) Where do we see civil society in 10 year time?

At the beginning they had the chance to give a **short statement about civil society in their contexts.**

**Dr. Harsha Navaratne** (Sewalanka foundation, Sri Lanka): Started as an activist in his student years, but now, he/SLF are no longer perceived as civil society (CS) – they are seen as “paid by foreign countries and working for their agenda”. With the foreseen new legislation, he sees that many NGOs will be no longer registered in 10 years’ time. The government view is influenced by the China, Malaysia and other Asian states with limited space for NGOs, so there will be difficulties but it is difficult to see how the future will look like.

**Dr. Junejo** (Fishermen foundation, Pakistan): Pakistani CS is less strong than the CS in neighbouring India. However, access to information is increased following the Right to Information Ordinance. To give an example, CS was able to contribute in the law for the protection of women from sexual harassment together with the UN and INGOs. CS is not always strong enough to influence at policy level. An NGO bill is foreseen with more restrictive measures. This may affect an already fragile CS. Religious extremism threatens progressive CSOs. Thanks to the input of international organizations, the discussion on policies is lively and there would be an opportunity to advocate and lobby.

**Ms. Vansy Senyavong** (MHP, Laos): CSOs are a new concept in Laos. Non-Profit Associations (NPAs) have been allowed since 2010, and currently 140 of them operate under the ministry of home affairs. The main issue is lack of recognition. With the Asia Europe People’s Forum held in Vientiane in 2012, NPAs had an opportunity to work jointly with the government and this helped strengthening the relationship. NPAs currently play the role of community workers, alongside with social enterprises and farmers groups. As to international relations they are allowed to attend conferences but have to report back and inform the authorities.

**Mr. Aloysius Fernandez** (Myrada, India): Civil society will do what it has to do. The Arab spring is a classic example. No analyst could foresee the events. CS will emerge, no matter if the government clamps down. Perhaps there will be a limited space for the next generation but CS will always exist.



## Panel discussion and discussion in the plenum:

### *Is there a space for Asian Civil Society? What are the future perspectives?*

- *Real CSO are subnational with cross-national interaction. A point is to see INGOs not only as a source of expertise but as a way to exchange and mutual learning.*
- *Currently in Sri Lanka INGOs are not liked by the government. All decision making has been centralized. Government is not keen to accept western funding for a number of reasons, and has China as a good sponsor. In this situation, playing the real role of CS is dangerous.*
- *In India CS is on the edge of change. A new mandatory Corporate social responsibility (CSR) (2%) may pass soon: how will this influence the development agenda? These companies may influence it unless there is a clear vision.*
- *The issue of vision exists also with donor grants because also donors have their own priorities.*
- *Educating people on their rights will help people to catch existing opportunities. **Information is empowerment.** Pakistan also lacks a strong and vibrant network on important issues such as food security, climate change etc.*
- *Do not forget the importance of trade unions which in history have been big drivers for change and are sometimes neglected by NGOs. NGOs cannot do everything. In view of changing circumstances, do we have a plan?*
- *Many local NGOs worked as implementers because of donor requirements that pushed for partnerships. **Change management should be an important part of capacity building as NGOs need to be prepared to react to the challenging environment.***
- *Recommendation to work on the issue of constituency. In Asia the membership component/representation structure is not so common. Including professional, activists, middle and upper classes could be a way forward, moving on from the grant/project only mode.*
- *We should also include active citizens as a concept, without only focusing on group formation. **Think about youth people and social media:** without any funding or formal set up they can play an important role for the future of their country.*
- *Even during the repression (in Myanmar) CS always resisted in informal settings and in a very dynamic way. Let's take the example of China where there are a lot of groups even if we are not connecting with them*
- *Each of us represents a very different reality. **South-south cooperation is to be promoted:** southern nations do not want to be completely dependent on northern ones. However a triangulation would be also possible to keep the north-south cooperation going. For CSO it is important to enter in the political discourse and challenge the political system.*
- *Shift the level from livelihood to higher focus; foresee that north-south cooperation may end.*

***Is the future in south-south and subnational cooperation?***

- *Groups are formed and somehow NGOs tend to consider the groups formed as their own possession. However groups need to grow and find their own way in the cooperation world even if different from their initial purpose.*
- *NGOs in the south face big challenges. One is capacity building: SLF started a capacity building program by Myrada in 1994. Its staff of 50 became 250 with the war and had a peak of 1200 with tsunami. How can a local NGO keep up with capacity building when the growth is so fast? Southern NGOs will still need a strong Northern CS that stands up and tells its government that what is happening in the South is wrong and influence political processes*



## 5. Exchange on specific topics related to the promotion of civil society

### 5.1 Civil society academy – Presentation and discussion

**Stefan Banach** - an external consultant – and **Joachim Schwarz** gave a presentation on the "Welthungerhilfe Civil Society Academy Asia, Baseline assessment and next steps" (see Annex 5). The presentation includes the results of the feasibility study.

#### **Welthungerhilfe Civil Society Academy (CSA) - Keeping the thought of the triangulation for a South-South-North dialogue**

The CSA want to be a second way to support the partners, besides program activities. It aims to involve people who act within programs and need to be mandated by their organisations. All training courses and conferences will be organized within Program countries of Welthungerhilfe Asia. **CSA is a people to people initiative that needs a vision.** When we speak of CSA we take into consideration the part of CS Welthungerhilfe works with, in an open way. It presumes a shared vision among the CSOs involved.

#### **Discussion:**

- *The CSA project should issue recognized certifications for their training modules.*
- *Q: Why is the participation limited to Welthungerhilfe program countries only? A: In the longer term there is openness to work with any CSO.*
- *Generation of new resources should be included in the planning.*
- *Alliance2015 partners and other INGOs working closely with WHH should be included.*
- *A lot is happening in the areas of intervention of WHH, especially for advocacy.*
- *We should also think how North Korea could be included (through paper material sent by mail or courses on site at the local university which are much appreciated).*
- *A: Costs for networking with other organizations are budgeted. A think tank/academic space for researching and developing new ideas was included in the initial proposal with funds for action research and publications. At the moment we are in a 2-years phase with a limited activity plan and limited structure, too.*
- *Since we are not competing with the many other courses, the CSA should be more specifically related to our work or anyway carry an added value for WHH and partners.*
- *Everything in the CSA should be related to the Welthungerhilfe mandate because we must be accountable to private donors for the use of their funds.*
- *Will CS be in the board? Which decentralization at country level can we apply to tailor made the content according to the country context and to get closer to CS? What about ownership from partners' side? A: Courses will provide a framework and food for thought but it will be the participants to bring in country specific experience and analysis.*
- *According to the evaluation, the CSA may be extended also to other Welthungerhilfe regions.*

At the end of the discussion the participants voted their prioritized module: 22 votes for "Strategy and advocacy", 10 for "Analysis, program development and monitoring", 0 for "Organizational development and leadership".

## 5.2 Welthungerhilfe approach to promote civil society – Presentation and discussion

**Jeannette Weller** and **Petra Kueper** gave the presentation "Welthungerhilfe approach to promote Civil Society" (see Annex 6). They explained the relevance of this topic for Welthungerhilfe especially in connection with the Welthungerhilfe Strategy 2012-14, the definition and approach of Welthungerhilfe and explained two new instruments which were developed to promote civil society in the Welthungerhilfe overseas structures: (i) The development of new partnership agreements, and (ii) The Organisational Assessment Tool.

### Welthungerhilfe approach to promote Civil Society

The position paper (published in 2012) states the **Welthungerhilfe commitment towards a strong promotion of civil society** very clearly: "...civil society capacities are present everywhere. They must be identified and self-help capacity must be strengthened as part of the collaborative effort. ... Welthungerhilfe firmly believes that only the humanitarian aid and development actors in the programme countries themselves are able to fashion and ensure societal change and development in a sustainable manner."

### Discussion:

- *Q: For the contract option 1 only 1.000 EUR is too little. How to deal with the reality of existing partners (little capacities) and the little time to arrange a partnership when there is a call for proposal? Is there any money allocation to the local offices for strengthening CSO? A: The 1.000 EUR are a sort of pocket money for small expenditure, regulations are and must be stricter for higher batches.*
- *Q: There was the impression that the tool Organisational Assessment is very much from the Welthungerhilfe perspective. The idea in Myanmar is that the assessment should be mutual to evaluate whether the partnership fits on both sides. Need to be self-critical about the capacity of Welthungerhilfe in the country as well. A: These tools want among others to give a better visibility of what is happening within the organizations so to categorize and take note of what is already in place. We are also considering legal issues and donor requirements (e.g. how to work with unregistered NGOs).*



### 5.3 Open space for further exchange: six topics – six working groups

Six different topics of special interest, of which the participants expressed their will to have in depths discussion, were suggested and hosts of the topics shortly introduced into the topic (see the following flipchart transcriptions):

**Participatory guarantee system in India**  
(Flipchart transcription WG I)

**Peer Approach**

- Developing the question to find out the organic product

**Maximum knowledge exchange**

- Visiting each other
- collective action and thinking
- exchange between 2 PGS
- rotating discussion points
- ensuring participation

**Advocacy point of view**

- Initial meetings with different stakeholders
- Try to reach the ears of the government
- Impact on the attitude of the government department
- Sustainability: lead the government to think (working together PGS, NGO, Government)

**Needs based**

- Seed production

**PGS standard**

- National standard with many countries versus IFOAM standard with new countries
- Focus: not the certified product but the process
- Councils: contains 14 groups or more
- No individual certificates, only collective (5-20 farmers)
- Once a year inspection visit
- After 18 months validity

**Civil Society Academy**  
(Flipchart transcription WG II)

- Make more explicit: awareness of right to food and adapted tools
- Long term
- Make sure the knowledge is shared within organizations of partners
- English skills
- Biased audience? Which module?
- Contract with sending partner: give time during work and resources to participants
- Have off line version
- Academy should digest other course modules before
- Partners/WHH/HQ need to contribute time and know how
- Make it customized
- Share assignments and status with sending partner
- Selection: partner sends participants with defined development plan/mandate

## Organizational assessment tool (WHH Manual No 6)

(Flipchart transcription WG III)

- Joint revision of the partner assessment tool.
- What are options for the first step to identify CSOs?
- If local NGOs have their appraisal system to select CBOs/CSGs they should keep using it.
- When we expect the partner to be transparent we also need to be transparent.
- Include feedback from partner in the assessment process.
- Welthungerhilfe needs to give feedback on the assessment process to each assessed partner (be sensitive if assessment is negative!).
- Define better "low", "medium", "big" in evaluation part.
- Anonymous questionnaire is foreseen to give feedback from partners to Welthungerhilfe.
- Flexible use of the tool is crucial.
- MoU foreseen for longterm partnership or strategic partnership?

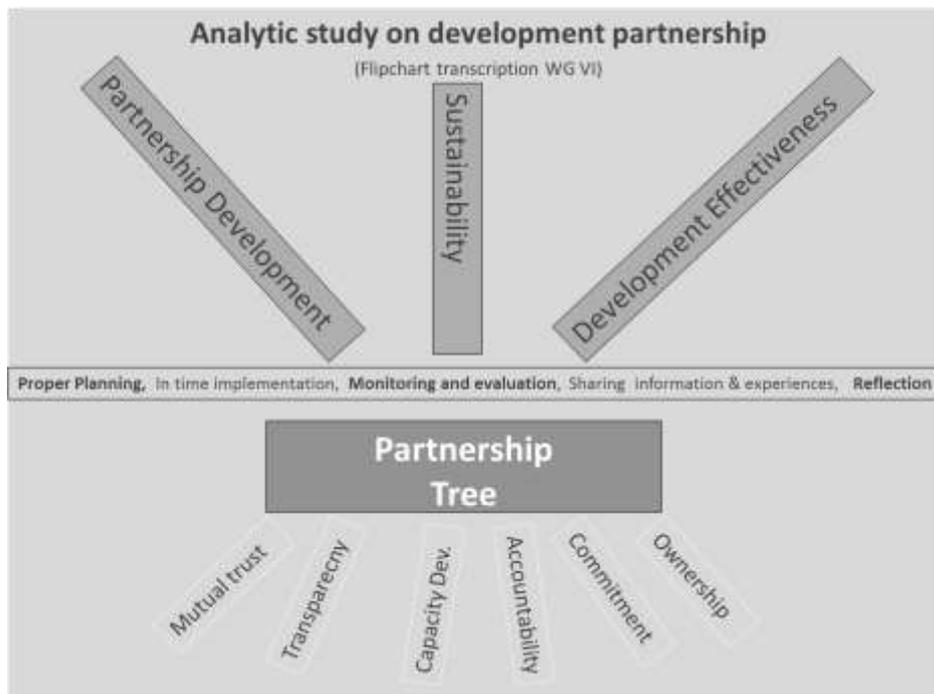
## Do we want to become agents of change? YES, WE WANT!

(Flipchart transcription WG IV)

**There are different approaches to achieve change:**

- Grassroots level: inform, organize, best practices
- Scaling up
- Connecting to international processes
- Balance development and rights based approach
- Coordinate with others – labour sharing?
- Policy level: advocacy, lobbying, networking, international pressure
- Needs based work can also bring about large scale change.





## 6. Advocacy: Introduction and stock taking

### 6.1 Advocacy and Right based approach in the Welthungerhilfe context

To introduce into the complex topic **Michael Kühn** first gave a presentation about "The importance of advocacy work in the development context" looking at advocacy from a very general point of view (see Annex 7).

#### The importance of advocacy work in the development context

Advocacy describes a **method or approach** used to create a bigger impact than is possible with grassroots programs alone, to try to **make program impacts more sustainable**, and to **defend communities and programs from adverse policy changes**. It also **strengthens civil society and expand democratic space** by encouraging consultation and the participation of citizens in all levels of policy-making, by building and strengthening cooperation between NGOs and other civil groups, and by establishing through interactions with decision-makers the legitimacy and credibility of civil groups.

#### Discussion:

*Even if conventions are in place and signed that does not have such an impact as the pressure from below. The government wants to keep the power and needs to react to this pressure. Therefore civil society is crucial for changes in the country.*



After the discussion about Advocacy and "Right based approach" (RBA) in general, **Katrin Radtke** introduced into the "Welthungerhilfe Advocacy Strategy", which has been developed only recently (see Annex 8).

### **The advocacy Strategy of Welthungerhilfe**

The **Overall Goal of Welthungerhilfe** is "A world in which all people can exercise their right to lead a self-determined life in dignity and justice, free from hunger and poverty." The **purpose of the advocacy strategy** is to give our advocacy work a clear focus and make sure that our political work is more impact oriented, more international, more tangible and is carried out coherently by designated staff at headquarter and in program countries as well as by partners. The **topics relevant for advocacy** therefore are : (i) Limited access to food due to irresponsible use of scarce resources, (ii) Shrinking availability of food due to climate change and increasing disaster risk, (iii) Inadequate use and utilization of food at consumer level (nutrition), and (iv) Future of (non governmental) cooperation for global development. The **key principles** on which advocacy in the WHH context is based on are the rights-based-approach, the partnership- and team-approach, dialogue and impact orientation, and the context specific and evidence based approach.

### **Discussion:**

- Q: Why have IDPs not been considered in the advocacy strategy? They cannot be left beside.  
A: IDPs are left out and other focal points have been chosen for the strategy due the huge amount of topics on the political level and the need to prioritize. That does not mean that on project level we do not work with IDPs.
- Q: At advocacy one can look from two perspectives: one perspective are the people who suffer, the other perspective is the organisation, who wants to support people for a change. In the advocacy strategy the first perspective is missing. A: The focus of the strategy should not be in Germany anymore, at the moment the focus needs to be broadened and Welthungerhilfe is in the process to operationalize and to figure out how to come forward.
- Q: Rights also imply duties and obligations if we promote "help for self-help". This is missing in the strategy. A: There is no contradiction between RBA and the Self-Help-approach: Through RBA the people get empowered to help themselves.
- Q: There is a level between the national and international level and that is the regional level (e.g. ASEAN, SARC). These are very important and need to be considered as well. A: The sub-levels like ASEAN are also considered as well as the grass root and district levels. The difficulty will be to link these levels.
- Q: If we are looking for CSR-funds we need to be critical where they come from. A: WHH is sceptical in regard to some CSR funds but there is also the need to be open
- Q: On the one hand WHH promotes the right-based-approach (shift to the perspective of the right holders), on the other hand the target group of the strategy does not consider the people in the countries. Joachim: The target group, the local state governments and the CBOs in our programme-countries need to be included into the strategy. A: WHH aims to work hand in hand with the people in our programme countries, also with politics and enterprises and cooperated with our partners based on a mutual learning process.

## 6.2 Stock taking of advocacy work in Asia

The participants of the conference were asked to choose one of the three following advocacy topics with most relevance for his/her region. Each working group was hosted by the respective person in the policy department of Welthungerhilfe HQ:

- Food and Nutrition security, hosted by Nathalie Demel
- Large Scale Land Investment, hosted by Katrin Radtke
- Disaster Risk Reduction, hosted by Michael Kühn.

At the beginning of the working group sessions the hosts gave a short presentation on the specific topic and the relevance within the advocacy context. Afterwards the participants started to take stock of the existent advocacy-activities taking already place in their region, identified overlaps and gaps and future steps to be taken were discussed and presented to the plenum.



## 6.2.1 Food and nutrition security

### Introduction of FNS in the advocacy-context

In the context of **Food and Nutrition Security**, **four dimensions** can be distinguished: (i) Availability of Food, (ii) Access to Food, (iii) Use and Utilization of Food, and (iv) Stability of Food. As an organization with a strong background in agriculture, Welthungerhilfe's focus has been mainly on the first two dimensions, although nutrition at household level has played a role in many projects. In the future, WHH will put more emphasis on the dimension of use and utilization of food at household level including adequate care-giving practices and the creation of a hygienic environment.

Related to nutrition two categories of interventions can be distinguished: **1) Specific Nutrition Interventions** (such as support for exclusive breastfeeding up to 6 months; treatment of severe malnutrition, micronutrient supplementation; fortification of food) and **2) Nutrition Sensitive Interventions** (such as supporting agriculture and small farms to make nutritious food more accessible at household level and promote a healthy diet, Clean Water and Sanitation, women's empowerment etc.). As Welthungerhilfe is not a health based organization and does not have medical technical expertise, emphasis lies on nutrition sensitive interventions by promoting a healthy diet at household level including adequate care-giving practices (e.g. LANN – Linking agriculture, Natural Resources and Nutrition). In some countries, Welthungerhilfe and partners are also engaged in nutrition specific interventions (such as CMAM - Community Based Management of Acute Malnutrition or promotion of adequate breastfeeding practices).

The **new advocacy strategy** points out that "in addition to limited access and availability of food, inadequate use and utilization of food poses a huge challenge for food security. The "double burden of malnutrition" (1 billion chronically undernourished people – 700 million obese) pays evidence to the fact that the current global food system is not equipped to enable all people to realize their right to adequate food." In more concrete terms this means that there is inadequate access to quantitatively and qualitatively appropriate food, too little knowledge about a food-based, healthy diet (in particular for small children), too little knowledge about the creation of an enabling environment and basic hygiene and care-giving practices. The **overall objective** of WHH's advocacy work for nutrition is **to improve the quantity and quality of food consumed at household level** and make clear that an increase in the GDP and food availability do not automatically lead to improved nutrition). **Two specific objectives are defined:** (i) The German Government's has enhanced its engagement on nutrition, and (ii) debates, policies and strategies regarding nutrition at international level (CFS – Committee on World Food Security of the UN, SUN – Scaling up Nutrition) and national level in selected WHH countries are influenced in a way that a holistic and rights-based perspective on nutrition is gaining importance.

First of all a **mapping of advocacy related activities** in the field of SFNS in the different regions was elaborated (see Annex 9) and overlaps and gaps identified.

#### Overlaps:

- Most countries and many partners work on LANN and integrated farming systems → need for exchange.
- Most partner's focus lies on activities at local level.

#### Gaps:

- The link between the local and the global level is missing.
- Lack of access to policy processes on Regional level (i.e. ASEAN, SAARC).
- Lack of connectedness of partners and Welthungerhilfe internationally/ regionally (Asia-level).
- Lack of knowledge on international frameworks and Initiatives on Nutrition.
- Need for evidence and experience on nutrition-sensitive action for advocacy.
- Laos: restriction for Civil Society to get engaged in advocacy at national level; so far no cooperation of stakeholders on nutrition at local level.
- Tajikistan, Sri Lanka: so far little experience in nutrition-related activities.

#### Future actions to be taken:

What can Welthungerhilfe and partners do at country/regional level to work together on SFNS?

- Clarify which country can engage to which extent (e.g. context in South-Asia is different from countries in South-East Asia) agree on commitment
- Develop and operationalize a clear strategy at country level taking into account the regional framework
- Link the country's strategy up to the regional and international level → establish connections/ network with specific purpose

What can Welthungerhilfe HQ do to promote advocacy in the field of SFNS?:

- Provide information about international frameworks and initiatives on nutrition
- Clarification and information about main processes/ platforms Welthungerhilfe will engage;
- Information about strategic partners in advocacy.



## 6.2.2 Large scale land investments

After a short **introduction** by Katrin Radtke, participants were asked to describe the problems related to land in their respective countries and give an overview about how their organization address these issues and in cooperation with whom. The results were then presented at the board and clustered in different levels (global, regional, national, local). Subsequently, participants identified overlapping between the work of Welthungerhilfe HQ and partners (overlapping are marked in different colours in the table). It turned out that there are numerous overlapping and therefore also potential opportunities for stronger cooperation between partners and Welthungerhilfe HQ. Another important result was that the Welthungerhilfe overseas structures that were represented in the WG– with the exception of Cambodia – have had a different (rather technical) focus so far and found it difficult to contribute to the exercise.

In comparison with other working groups it was remarkable that several partners are already working on international level and that the link between local, national and global level is at least partly there.

**Mapping of advocacy interventions for Large Scale Land Investments (LSLI):** see Annex 10

In a second round the working group members identified – on the basis of the overlapping – **priorities** for a possible joint work in future

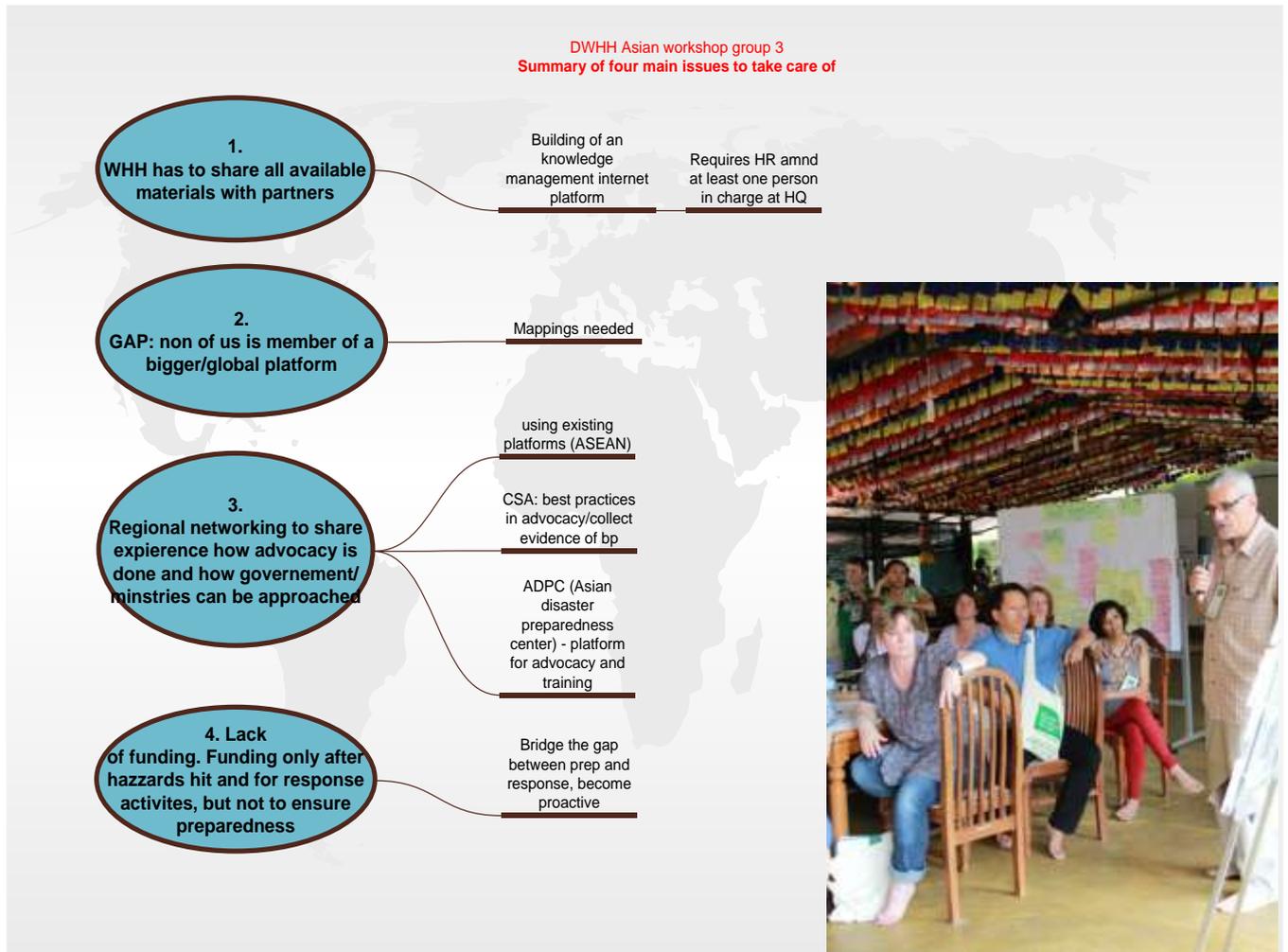
1. Enhance basis of knowledge:
  - Joint studies to identify investors at the regional and country level.
  - Joint studies to identify potential business interests.
  - Risk assessments at country level.
  - Collect briefing/position papers on land issues by partners.
  - Conduct country level consultations.
2. Networking
  - Mapping of Welthungerhilfe partners working on land.
  - Find out about already existing networks.
  - Identify possible lead organizations.
  - Take opportunity to participate in Sri Lanka event on RAI.
  - Engage with international processes on side of both partners and Welthungerhilfe.
3. Capacity building
  - Raise awareness of partners on VGGT.
4. Financing
  - Allocate certain percentage of funding by Welthungerhilfe for advocacy work.



### 6.2.3 Disaster risk reduction

Mapping of advocacy interventions for DRR: see Annex 11.

The following chart shows the results of the working group session "Possible future actions to be taken in the field of advocacy activities related to DRR:



## 7. Where to from here:

### Clarification of future expectations and contributions to be taken

In a first section two working groups – divided into overseas structures (OS) and headquarters (HQ) - worked on the question ***"What can Welthungerhilfe do to promote civil society and strengthen partnerships with civil society?"***

A third working group composed by the partner representatives (PG), worked on the question: ***"What can partners do to promote civil society and strengthen partnerships with other civil society groups?"***

The following table shows the results of the three working groups (transcription and clustering from flipcharts):

	WHAT CAN Welthungerhilfe DO TO PROMOTE CIVIL SOCIETY AND STRENGTHEN PARTNERSHIPS WITH CIVIL SOCIETY?	WHAT CAN PARTNERS DO TO PROMOTE CIVIL SOCIETY AND STRENGTHEN PARTNERSHIPS WITH CIVIL SOCIETY?
<b>General</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Allocate more resources to this area of work (OS)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>
<b>Partnership principles</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Partnership on equal terms (PG)</li> <li>Adhering to Paris/ACCRA/Busan/Aid effectiveness principles (PG)</li> <li>Accountability to each other</li> <li>Innovation and creativity (OS)</li> <li>Be more serious about mutual learning</li> <li>Clarity in roles (OS)</li> <li>Open to criticism (OS)</li> <li>No instrumentalisation of partners.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Be realistic in expectations</li> <li>Given feedback and be demanding of HQ (HQ)</li> <li>Accountability each other and to other stakeholders (OS)</li> </ul>
<b>Expand and diversify partner portfolio</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Widen and expand engagement with stakeholders in civil society</li> <li>Work with unorganized sector e.g. farmers, fisherfolk associations (OS)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not be possessive and be creative with CBO (OS)</li> </ul>
<b>Program development</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Welthungerhilfe needs proper understanding of CS landscape in program countries - mapping, analysis... (OS)</li> <li>Raise awareness of existing limitations/restrictions of participation of CS in some countries (OS)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mobilise/facilitate project to program approach</li> </ul>
<b>Build the capacity of partners</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote and support partners on sustainability through institutional support, PBA and capacity development with international processes (PG)</li> <li>Facilitate capacity building – OD, technical (OS)</li> <li>Building NGO capacity not based on WWH needs (OS)</li> <li>Contribute to CSA with expertise</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Build vision and normative values (OS)</li> <li>Build their constituency/membership</li> <li>Mobilise own domestic resources (HQ)</li> <li>Contribute to civil society academy (HQ)</li> </ul>

	(OS).	
<b>Facilitate networking between partners</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exchange platforms</li> <li>• Promote networking with partners e.g. regional conferences and/or international events (HQ)</li> <li>• Facilitate networks between CBOs at national and international levels to (OS)</li> <li>• Encourage networking at different levels (OS)</li> <li>• Engage with media, social media, use IT</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exchange platforms</li> <li>• Healthy cooperation and alliances between partners (OS)</li> <li>• Knowledge/experience sharing between partners (PG)</li> </ul>
<b>Enhance the role of civil society in advocacy work</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote and support CSO alliances (PG)</li> <li>• Provide more space for partners and civil society in policy matters (PG)</li> <li>• Lobby donor governments on global injustices and harmonized donor practices (PG).</li> <li>• Inform partners and civil society about processes on international political level (HQ)</li> <li>• Engage with media, social media, use IT</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide information about domestic political processes and activities on national level which have linkages with international processes (HQ)</li> <li>• Facilitate dialogue among all stakeholders (HQ)</li> <li>• Produce research reports/evidence which contribute to policy change of ruling government</li> </ul>



In a second step the participants - grouped into the 4 regional teams Central Asia (CA), South Asia (SA), South-East-Asia (SEA) and Headquarters (HQ) – discussed and visualized the question: **"How can we contribute to strengthen the partnership with the Civil society?"**. The following transcriptions show the results clustered under thematic topics:

## Exchange / Networking

(clustered from the 4 flipchart-transcriptions)

### ...at regional level

- To build up regional networks among Welthungerhilfe & partners for selected topics and link with existing networks as well (e.g. LSLI, SFNS, coordination of advocacy) (SEA).
- Prioritize regional exchange and involve partners (SEA).
- Joint SEA brochure and DPRK presenting Welthungerhilfe, partners & CSO (SEA).
- To get prepared for ASEAN – food security forum, 2015 ASEAN integration/free trade zone (SEA).
- Establish a core team on Advocacy on food & nutrition security with participants from Nepal, India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Afghanistan (SA).
- Participation in regional processes (SA).
- Formulate advocacy strategy at country and organizational level and meet at regional level (SA).

### ...at global level

- Establish a Disaster Risk Reduction Network (S04) (HQ).
- Follow up the topic land rights with identified partner organizations (S04) (HQ).
- Promote networking between partners, identify and concretize options (HQ).
- Institutionalizing Partnership via Workshops/Orientation/Reviews/Events (CA).
- Information sharing with Alliance2015 partners (CA).

## Enhance basis of knowledge, Knowledge Management

(clustered from the 4 flipchart-transcriptions)

- Develop mechanism to share all relevant materials with partners/CSO and WHH OS (SEA)  
-> direct channelling? (HQ).
- Mapping of civil society actors and share within the region and HQ (CA, SEA).
- Mapping of existing networks and alliances, associations, unions (SA).
- Regional focal person for partner liaison (CA).
- Establish a Core Team to follow up on the actions to be convened by Welthungerhilfe/ Region (SA).

## Capacity development

(clustered from the 4 flipchart-transcriptions)

- Support for the actors mapping for Civil Society Actors (t.b.d) (HQ).
- Support setting up of Civil Society Academy based on partner needs coordinated with S04, other HQ trainers (HQ).
- Capacity development of partners according to the needs assessment (SEA, SA).
- To be included more into budgets: funds for capacitation (HQ).

## Develop tools and give guidance

(clustered from the 4 flipchart-transcriptions)

- Design country specific partnership guidelines (CA):
  - > Building up credibility through transparency and participation in civil society.
  - > Apply HAP as a tool and framework for accountability.
  - > Include innovative/creative elements in programming.
- Accompany overseas structures in expand and diverse partner portfolio (HQ).

## Funding

(clustered from the 4 flipchart-transcriptions)

- Establish instrument to raise domestic resources/funding of CSOs (WG).
- Exploration/mapping of funding options for advocacy/CSO (S04) (HQ, SA).
- To be included more into budgets: funds for exchange (HQ).

## Change Attitude

(clustered from the 4 flipchart-transcriptions)

- Improved sensitisation for civil society actors/mutual learning (HQ):
  - > Recruitment of Welthungerhilfe staff.
  - > Management, instruments.
- Adaptation of the organizational assessment tool for more transparency and mutuality (FG10) (HQ).

## 8. Field trip

Three groups were formed, with a maximum of 20 people in each, to visit one of Sevalanka's field operations. The following projects were visited:

Group 1	Group 2	Group 3
<i>LKA 1085 GOING GREEN</i>	<i>LKA 1083/1084</i>	<i>LKA 1083/1084</i>
Socio – economic measures	Economic and social rehabilitation/ Social forestry	Economic and social Rehabilitation/Social forestry



## 9. Evaluation and Closure

For a short wrap up of the field visit the participants were asked to discuss the following question in teams of two and four.<sup>4</sup>

- How does Welthungerhilfe and Sevalanka promote Civil Society?
- How does Sevalanka act as a change agent?

### **Discussion:**

- *Sevalanka does a lot related to institutionalism and collectives (women group, farmers group etc.)*
- *What is unique are the plant clinics which have been visited by group 1.*
- *Sevalanka links up very good between people and government*
- *It has been impressive how efforts were made to develop joint forest plants together with the government. Additionally reconciliation takes place between the honey hunters (Tamil) and honey buyers (Sinhalese)*
- *The ownership of the plant clinic may become a problem at a later stage, once it will be handed over*
- *Through the training of the extensions workers the sustainability is guaranteed.*
- *The paddy farm was very interesting because it combined the income orientation (company-structure) with the government.*
- *Q: How can the sustainability of the livestock centre, the fooder production and the cattle breeding centre be ensured? A: At the end of the project will be a MoU signed between Welthungerhilfe, Lipco, Sevalanka, and the department of animal production where Sevalanka commits itself to supervise the project 3 more years after the project finishes.*

For a short **final evaluation** the participants were asked to line up from 1 (bad) to 10 (good) concerning the following questions:

- Did the conference cover your expectations? Positive with some mixed opinions
- Did the conference enabled exchange on best practices? Mixed opinion
- Did the conference enable a critical dialogue? Mixed opinion
- How was the conference as a whole? Extremely positive.

At the end Barbara Zilly gave a short farewell speech. She highlighted the very active participation and expressed the wish, that next time more participants from partner organisations and women should join. She excused for some inequalities in terms of accommodation, but she also appreciated that everybody has been very patient and did not complain... thanks for that! Finally she thanked Chris Adams and Sheila Richards for the excellent moderation and facilitation and the team of Sevalanka.

Regina Feindt finally thanked Barbara Zilly and the whole Sevalanka team for the organisation of the workshop and handed over a present from Myanmar.



## Programme

<b>Day 1, Sunday, July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2013</b>	
<b>18:00</b>	<b>Get together:</b> Introductions, Expectations and ways of working, Clarification on the agenda, Logistics
<b>20:00</b>	<b>Dinner</b>
<b>Day 2, Monday, July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2013</b>	
<b>09:00</b>	<b>Welcome and Introduction</b> – speeches by Barbara Zilly and Mathias Mogge Background of the workshop Objectives and outputs Agenda for the day
<b>09:40</b>	<b>Civil Society in the global context</b> – Input by Jochen Kenneweg
<b>10:00</b>	<b>Get to different approaches and contexts in Asia</b> – Poster Session and discussion Gallery Walk along one poster per country (to be prepared beforehand, for instructions pls. see Annex) and reflection based on the questions: What is the Welthungerhilfe partner approach in the country, what are best practices, what are challenges? What opportunities exist for strengthening the role of civil society? What are the constraints? How could these be addressed?
<b>13:30</b>	<b>Best Practices of civil society promotion</b> – Inputs and discussion (i) "Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) and its development in India" – Mr. Mathew John (Keystone Foundation, IFOAM) (ii) "The concept of Self-Help Groups" – Mr. Aloysius P Fernandez (Myrada)
<b>15:00</b>	<b>Where are limits and opportunities to promote civil society in Asia to combat hunger</b> – panel discussion Representatives of our partner organisations discuss the questions: What role can civil society organisations play in the Asian context? How can civil society act under difficult given political conditions? What approaches in regard to partnerships have been effective in combatting hunger? Where do we see the civil society in 10 years?
<b>16:30</b>	<b>Closing and Outlook</b>
<b>Day 3, Tuesday, July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2013</b>	
<b>09:00</b>	<b>Introduction:</b> Recap of the last day, Agenda for the day
<b>09:30</b>	<b>Exchange on civil society academy</b> – Presentation and discussion
<b>11:00</b>	<b>Exchange on Welthungerhilfe strategic project "Promote civil society"</b> – Presentation and discussion
<b>13:30</b>	<b>Exchange on topics of interest</b> - World Café / Open space
<b>16:00</b>	<b>What can Welthungerhilfe do to enhance the role of Civil Society in combatting hunger?</b> - Clarify the mutual expectations and contributions in working groups
<b>16:30</b>	<b>Closing and Outlook, farewell Mathias Mogge</b>
<b>Day 4, Wednesday, July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2013</b>	
<b>08.30</b>	<b>Introduction:</b> Recap of last day, Agenda for the day
<b>09:00</b>	<b>Introduction to the themes</b> Input and discussion "What is advocacy and why is it important? Working with a rights based approach, what does that mean for the work of Welthungerhilfe? – Michael Kühn "Welthungerhilfe`s new advocacy strategy and its`implications for the work in Asia" – K. Radtke
<b>10:30</b>	<b>Provide an overview about national and international policies and identify concrete opportunities for advocacy work</b> – working groups
<b>13:00</b>	<b>How to collaborate in future?</b> Working groups
<b>15:00</b>	<b>Presentations, Flashlights and conclusions</b> – plenary session
<b>16:00</b>	<b>Evaluation, closure and plan for the field trip</b>
<b>Day 5, Thursday, July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2013</b>	
<b>08.30</b>	<b>Field trip</b>
<b>16:00</b>	<b>Evaluation and closure</b>

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