

EDITORIAL

The United Nations has proclaimed 1996 for The International Year for the Eradication of Poverty. While it may not mean much for the eradication of poverty in the short run, the proclamation will help keep poverty issues on the international agenda for a long time to come.

For those of us working with poverty research, the Year for the Eradication of Poverty may be quite important. Every country will be expected to come up with some kind of program which will tell the world how poverty is viewed in their country and what national plans there are in the pipeline for poverty alleviation. Since politicians and bureaucrats are likely to have less insight in the complexities of poverty than do the researchers, there will be a demand for poverty expertise.

This is a golden opportunity not to be lost. With only four months left before the Year for the Eradication of Poverty tunes in, many of those responsible for presenting activities in the field are running out of time. Several of us, including CROP as an organisation, have already been asked by national as well as by international agencies to give advice, write papers and arrange seminars on poverty issues in 1996.

My suggestion to all those poverty researchers who are interested in participating in giving a professional content to the UN proclamation, is to call on your national authorities, NGO's and international agencies and find out what they need to make the UN Year successful. Some of you are likely to find funding for projects. Others will be invited to arrange conferences or give policy advice, which can open doors for further cooperation. Research projects on poverty which for a long time have been left in the drawer, due to the lack of financing, may now see the daylight again.

One of the spin-offs of pushing ourselves forward will be a broader exposure of the qualities of poverty research which can legitimate future investments in poverty studies. It may also serve to demonstrate that advancements towards poverty alleviation can better be achieved if they are based on good and sound research.

Personally I am convinced that the UN International Year for the Eradication of Poverty will be more successful if as many poverty researchers as possible get into the preparations for the Year, and carry the knowledge accumulated past the Year and into the future.

Else Øyen, Chair of CROP

CROP DATABASE

Enclosed in this newsletter you will find a CROP Database Questionnaire. In our efforts to increase the flow of information between poverty researchers all over the world, are asked to fill it in, and return it to the CROP Secretariat. The information will be made available through a joint publication with IDIN and ICSSD (see Publications). In filling in the space for «project description», please be as precise as possible. This will increase the usefulness of the data base, and decrease the number of irrelevant hits.

SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS

☞ **Poverty and the Environment:** Association of Development Research and Training Institutes of Asia and the Pacific, ADIPA, together with CROP and UNCTAD are organising a seminar on "Poverty and the Environment" in Sabah, Malaysia, October 28th and 29th, 1995, as announced in the previous CROP newsletter. 15 papers will be presented. For further information, contact the CROP Secretariat.

☞ **Urban Problems in Developing Countries: Shelter for all and Sustainable Cities?** Centre for Development and Environment (SUM), Norwegian Institute for Urban and Regional Research (NIBR) and CROP will, provided that funding is secured, convene a two days workshop on urban issues in March 1996. The workshop is primarily meant to establish a Norwegian network, but foreign researchers will also be invited to share their experience/knowledge of the field. For further information please contact Desmond McNeill at +47 22 85 89 91 or Eva Irene Falleth on +47 22 95 88 00 (both at NIBR).

CROP PUBLICATIONS

☞ **England:** *Environment and Urbanization Vol. 7 No. 1 April 1995*. This volume of the IIED journal is dedicated to the issue of "Urban Poverty". Most of the papers were presented at a the CROP workshop by the same name (October 1994). The papers include micro-case studies, and studies of urban poverty at a national or global level. This issue of the journal is also available from the CROP secretariat. It is prized at USD 15, including postage.

☞ **The Netherlands:** *"Poverty: Research Projects, Institutes, Persons"*, by Tinka Ewoldt-Leicher & Arnaud Marks (Eds.). IDIN, CROP, ICSSD, Tilburg, Bergen, Amsterdam 1995. The book with data on poverty research projects and poverty researchers, collected by the three authors. The book is prized at USD 50 and available from the CROP secretariat. *NB: There is a limited number of copies.*

The two above mentioned publications can be purchased by mailing the CROP secretariat a cheque drawn on a **US bank**. (It must be a US. bank)

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

☞ **Sri Lanka:** *"The Watta-Dwellers: A Sociological Study of Selected Urban Low-Income Communities in Sri Lanka"* by Karunatissa Athukorala and Kalinga Tudor Silva, (1995), University Press of America. This is a sociological anthropological study which discusses the settings of the low-income-urban communities, their economy, social organisation, culture literacy/education and community health. 224p.

☞ **England/USA:** *"Urban poverty in affluent nations"* Research in Community Sociology, Vol. 5, 1995. ed. Dan A. Chekki. JAI Press inc.

NEW OFFICE FOR THE CROP SECRETARIAT

Since the last issue of the CROP newsletter, the Secretariat has changed its address. The Secretariat and its coordinator Mr. Einar Gilberg is now co-located with the Chair of CROP, Professor Else Øyen, at the University of Bergen. The new address is :

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We would like to use this opportunity to thank our colleagues at the Christian Michelsens Institute for their kind hospitality and warm support during the two years CROP has had its offices there.

GLOSSARY ON POVERTY

¶ **France:** Professor Eric de Grolier, c/o ISSC Secretariat, 1 rue Miollis, F- 75015 Paris, France, is preparing a *GLOSSARY on the poverty concept* for CROP. Please contact him if you want to include basic documents in this project.

VACANCIES

The International Food Policy Research Institute, invites applications for the position of Research Fellow or Post Doctoral Fellow. Field of work: Design, implementation, analysis, reporting and dissemination of results of a field-based poverty research project in the Amazon. A Ph.D. or equivalent in agricultural or natural resource economics and fluency in English and Portuguese and/or Spanish and/or Italian is essential. Contact: Dr. Stephen Vosti at: +1 202 862 8138. Closing date: September 15th, or until qualified candidates are identified.

CORRECTION

At the CROP /IISL seminar in Oñati Dr. Shyama Nand Sing presented a paper called: «Law, distribution of power and social justice in India». This information was unfortunately left out in our Oñati «report» in our last newsletter.

CROP POLICY OF DISTRIBUTION

Please note: There has been a change in CROP's policy of distribution. We can no longer answer the increased demand for copies of single papers, presented at CROP

seminars. However, if you have the patience, most of the papers become available through the publications that follow the seminars and will be duly announced. We still supply the authors addresses, phone & fax numbers.

CROP IN BRIEF

CROP is a world-wide network of researchers and experts on poverty. The aim of **CROP** is to establish an arena for interdisciplinary and comparative research on poverty in developed and developing countries. **CROP** organises regional workshops, symposia and international conferences, promotes joint research projects, links poverty researchers and disseminates information about poverty research. **CROP** is developing an international database on poverty researchers, and documentation of ongoing research.

If you wish to have your name listed in **CROPNET**, you are welcome to write the **CROP** Secretariat and request a copy of the **CROP Database Questionnaire**

For further information please contact:

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