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India Committee of the Netherlands

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EEC milk out of india!

Appeal for participation

Utrecht, July 1986

Dear Madam or Sir,

The India Committee of the Netherlands, a non-governmental voluntary organization, started in dec. 1985 with the campaign: 'EEC MILK OUT OF INDIA!' The campaign is meant in the first place to stop the vicious circle of EEC dairy aid to, and animal feed imports from India. It is directed at the European Parliament, the European Commission (the 'executive board' of the EEC), the parliaments and governments of the EC-member countries and the compound feed industry in these countries. We are asking you to support this campaign.

For 15 years already the EEC is supplying India with large amounts of dairy aid for the national dairy development programme called Operation Flood. One of the official aims of this programme is to make India self-sufficient in milk production by 1985. Instead India is now more dependant on imports than ever. At the same time India is exporting large amounts of highly nutritive animal feed to the EEC, while there is a serious shortage in India itself. With this feed India could produce six to ten times the amount of milk that it has received in the form of EEC dairy aid during Operation Flood II (1978 - 1985)!

Dairy aid also plays an important role in the production of commercial babyfood, to the detriment of hundreds of thousands of babies. As part of Operation Flood a cross-breeding programme of Indian cows with western dairy animals is being implemented. This programme will lead to a reduced availability of coarse foodgrains, concentrate animal feed and animal draught-power for agriculture.

For the period 1986-1990 India has asked the EEC for new dairy aid. A decision on this will not be taken before december 1986.

We are urging:

- phase out dairy aid to India within two years
- no dairy aid for bottle feeding
- no aid for exotic cross-breeding in India
- stop EEC animal feed imports from India

More information on the above-mentioned issues you will find in the enclosed campaign manifesto 'EEC MILK OUT OF INDIA!' The manifesto is based on a book which is published in the Dutch language. 'India as EEC Milch Cow' is the translated title.

The four chapters of the book on the main 'points for action' (see above) have been translated in English. An update of the results of the campaign up to July 1986 you will find enclosed.

Suggestions to how you can support the campaign 'EEC MILK OUT OF INDIA!' you will find on page 11 of the campaign manifesto. Your participation is very important for succes. Please keep us informed on activities you are undertaking in relation to this campaign.

If you have specific suggestions and/or information or if you want more information from us, we would appreciate to hear so.

Yours sincerely,

Gerard Oonk
on behalf of the India Committee of the
Netherlands

Liaison Committee of Development NGOs to the European Communities

Comité de Liaison des ONG pour le Développement auprès des Communautés Européennes

Verbindungsausschuß der Nichtregierungsorganisationen für Entwicklungsfragen bei den Europäischen Gemeinschaften

RESOLUTION OF THE NGO GENERAL ASSEMBLY, 22-24 APRIL 1986

N° 11

We consider the progress of Operation Flood in India in introducing modern dairy technology and milk marketing infrastructure and call upon the EEC member States, the European Commission and the European Parliament carefully to review the conditions under which any new aid may be given. Taking into account the central responsibility of the Indian Government and project authorities for implementation, we call for the incorporation of these 4 main principles and 10 specific recommendations:

1. Full return to the original OF objectives, especially those aiming to improve the nutritional status of the poorest groups and the incomes of small farmers and landless people.
2. Specific reference in evaluation of OF to its effects on the rural poor.
3. Recognition that, although OF has represented imaginative use of food surpluses, it could equally benefit from imaginative use of cash aid.
4. Redefinition of dairy development strategies away from an emphasis on capital and technical inputs and in favour of labour-intensive activity by the poor.

Specific areas of concern for NGOs are:

1. Promotion of development models adjusted to socio-economic conditions of producers and regional circumstances.
2. Use of most of the proceeds of EEC dairy aid to promote organisation and training of small milk producers, especially women, geared towards effective influence of these producers on their co-operatives.
3. Promotion of use of indigenous resources, especially the buffalo (through local breeding and genetic selection), and avoidance of large-scale exotic cross-breeding.
4. Promotion of optimal use of crop wastes and herbage as animal feed policy and avoidance of cattle feed cultivation competing with human food cultivation. (...)

5. Encouragement of the use in India of Indian animal feed which is currently exported, without losing sight of India's need for foreign exchange.
6. Generation of sufficient price and credit incentives to producers and avoidance of the present practice of differential pricing which subsidises urban consumers and milk factories.
7. Diversification of use of counterpart funds to include other income-generating activities, benefitting sub-marginal farmers and landless people by involving NGOs and non-OF co-operatives.
8. The bringing to the attention of the Indian Government of co-operatives which violate the international and Indian codes for the promotion of healthy baby-feeding; and implementation of the WHO code in the form of directives to EEC-based firms.
9. Establishment of improved monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, involving both EEC and Indian NGOs; in particular, the reconstitution by the Food Matters working group of its previous working party on OF, to consist of 3 members of the working group and 3 representatives of Indian NGOs.
10. Special attention by the EEC, during the evaluation of the proposed third phase of OF, to the need for progressive reduction of commodity aid and its possible replacement by financial aid, within a predetermined time-frame.

VOIE: unanimity