

Commission environnement

Question: An eco-farming revolution

Country: Afghanistan

Good-morning,

The delegation of Afghanistan takes great pleasure in attending this conference, and we are happy to tell you that our position on this eco-farming revolution is one in which we shall participate on certain conditions.

Afghanistan is an agricultural country as a majority of its people are farmers and earn their livelihood by farming. The trend started changing with the restoration of democracy in 2001 but still the majority of its population depends on agricultural products to feed their families. Farming is mainly intensif farming of opium poppies couple by subsistance farming for family food staples.

The project of an eco-farming revolution, changing our agricultural methods is a very good initiative, "saving" the environment from the devastation industrial agriculture brings us.

The Afghan population, still recovering from the war and terrorist raids, can not permit itself the leisure of abruptly changing agricultural systems. Although permaculture and agro-ecology seem like plausible alternatives for countries already accustomed to industrial farming, the delegation of Afghanistan sees difficulties in adopting their characteristics.

An other angle of approach to this situation is that Afghanistan's first crop is the opium poppy, representing more than 90% of heroin world wide. This trade is of course illegal but highly lucrative for farmers. The economical factor of this production is an undeniable source of income the the country. Whereas if the country of Afghanistan was to change its system, therefore obviously changing products, would potentially loose a huge economical input from the exportation of this plant. But this would tie in with a change fo power away from the illegal militias. The key factor to this change would have to be the income received by farmers, which would have to overcome the one from the drug trade, thus heralding an agricultural system orientated towards exports to rich countries.

For this we must accept the worldwide agricultural reform

Thank you, I give the floor back to the presidency.

