ISSC - 29th General Assembly
Montreal, Canada. October 9-12, 2013

Thomas Pogge, Chair of the Scientific Committee
Alberto D. Cimadamore, Director
CROP is a 20 year old **programme** of the ISSC, integrated in the academic and administrative environment of the University of Bergen (Agreement between the ISSC and UiB, 2013 - 2017).

CROP is also an international **network** of institutions and scholars who share a common interest in poverty and poverty related research, as well as in the dissemination of research results. CROP's networking uses traditional (face-to-face meetings) and electronic (online) communication means. Membership is free. Members are mainly researchers of Universities and research centers from all over the world. The focus is on young researchers working in the South.
Governance and main activities

**CORE PROJECTS**

**WORKING GROUPS**

**INITIATIVES with LOCAL AND REGIONAL PARTNERS**

**ISSC**

**UiB**

**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE**

**SECRETARIAT**

**PUBLICATIONS**

**COMMUNICATION & MEDIA**

**SPECIAL ACTIVITIES**
CROP’s Mission
To generate and disseminate critical and rigorous knowledge useful for the prevention and eradication of poverty

Key objectives
• Promote critical inter-disciplinary and comparative research on the nature, extent, depth, distribution, trends, causes and effects of poverty,
• Produce knowledge with relevance to diverse policy communities and create spaces for dialogue with various policy actors at national, regional and global levels,
• Contribute to building and enhancing global comparative research capacities,
• Undertake critical analysis and monitoring of national and international policy responses to poverty worldwide.
Key Activity Areas & Products: where the Network meets the Programme

- Developing a critical global poverty research network.
- Promoting and coordinating interdisciplinary South-South and South-North critical research.
- Developing an effective outreach and information strategy.
- Extending the global reach and impact of the CROP network, facilitating knowledge exchange.
- Promoting dialogue with policy and decision makers, opinion shapers, activists and civil society.
- Strengthening of poverty research capacities through educational activities.

Workshops, Seminars, Panels & Roundtables.

CROP Poverty Briefs

Working Groups

Thematic Projects

Newsletters

Books

Website
Summary of main activities 2011-2013

• 13 International Workshops
  (carried out in four continents: Africa, America, Asia and Europe)

• 25 Other Academic events: Seminars, Panels & Roundtables
  (NorLARNet, CODESRIA, NOLAN, LASA, 5th World Congress for the Rights of Children and Adolescents, ASAP, Yale’s Global Justice Program, amongst others)

• 3 Working Groups were initiated
  (themes include: «Social Policies»; «Religion & Social Justice»; and «Child Poverty»)

• 2 New Projects were externally funded
  (PoLAMe and Sustainability Science/WUN)

• 24 books published

• 8 books currently in production

• 14 Poverty Briefs published

• 4 bi-annual Newsletters published
Activities 2011-2013

13 International Workshops

25 Other Academic Events
Where the participants came from

2011 = 59
2012 = 103
2013 = 110

272 Presentations at CROP's workshops and academic events
Lessons and the way forward

CROP has not been able yet to measure the changes produced, direct or indirect, as the result of its activities over the previous two decades ("impact"). This is one of the challenges for the future to be addressed by the next Strategy & Communication Plan (2014-2020), with the help of the ISSC Secretariat.

However, impacts can be inferred from the quantity and quality of the activities reported. See:

Geographical reach & impact: relevant changes occurred during the last 2 years in the composition and level of participation of Network members. CROP Active Network Members in:

- **2011:** 125. 30% of them from the South
- **2013:** 591. 80% of them from the South

(Source: Active Member D-Base, Secretariat, 2013)

Steps taken to increase impact:

- Strengthening of key publications (Books & Briefs) as an integral part of the new communication plan
- Research presented in new formats, to reach a wider audience, etc. (See CommPlan)
Communication Plan 2014 - 2020
To Increase Scientific and Policy Debate about Poverty Eradication

By using various dissemination tools, CROP shall convey its messages to the target groups and increase the impact of its scientific production.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>External Goals</th>
<th>Internal Goals</th>
<th>Target Groups (audiences)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Disseminate high quality critical knowledge</td>
<td>Facilitate Cooperation with UiB Research Centers</td>
<td>UiB Units &amp; ISSC Membership</td>
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<td>Reach effectively both scientific &amp; non Scientific audiensens</td>
<td>Improve Member’s and Interested Parties Interactions</td>
<td>Scientific Committee &amp; Fellows Networks</td>
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<td>Increase the Potential for New Projects &amp; Scientific Productions</td>
<td>Institutions &amp; Independent Academic Members</td>
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<td>Cooperation with UiB &amp; Issc Units &amp; Members</td>
<td>Decision Makers</td>
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<td>Activist &amp; Social Movements</td>
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<td>Media</td>
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<td>Non-Governmental Actors &amp; Organizations</td>
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<td>International Org &amp; UN Offices</td>
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Strategic Plan for 2014-2020: axis to be discussed and approved by the SC

Creating and Disseminating knowledge to end poverty.

Collaborative Projects and Working Groups

Niches (Priority Themes and Topics)

DISSEMINATION CRITICAL BASED-RESEARCH COMMUNICATION PLAN

- MDG’s and Post-MDG’s Agenda / SDG.
- Social policies and welfare state.
- Human Development and Sustainability Science.
- Poverty and Media.
- Child Poverty and Inequalities.
- Global Justice & Law.
- Feminization of Poverty.
- Climate Change and the Poor.
- Structural & Institutional change for Development.
Current Priority Projects 1: Health

- International Workshop on Health in New Delhi, Oct. 2011
- Resulting book *Protecting the Health of the Poor*, co-edited by Geeta Sodhi and Abraar Karan for the ZED series *CROP International Studies in Poverty*
- Health Impact Fund measurement pilot with the new TB drug Sirturo (bedaquiline) in India and (we hope) also South Africa – strong support from patent holder J&J, major funding applied for from the Australian Research Council
- Cell Tower project to improve the cold chain with pilot projects in India and Zimbabwe, additional funding applications pending.
Current Priority Projects 2: MDG Successors

- Critique of the MDG enterprise: shifting definitions and methods, politically exposed agencies (FAO, World Bank) put in charge of tracking progress, crucial to beef up the role of independent experts.

- Concluded major empirical project with field work at 18 sites in 6 developing countries (Mozambique, Angola, Malawi, Fiji, Indonesia, the Philippines) toward developing new indices for tracking poverty and gender disparity; important potential contribution by social scientists.

- Institutional reform goals to replace conventional «goals» which, leaving responsibilities open, are really wishes.

CROP brief.
Sample Institutional Reform Goals

- Tax on trade-distorting subventions for poverty eradication
- Tax on greenhouse gas emissions for poverty eradication
- Tax on arms exports to LDCs for poverty eradication
- Alternative Minimum Tax on MNC profits for poverty eradication
- End accounts with unknown owners or beneficiaries
- Only minimally representative rulers to assume nat’l debt burdens
- Tax on natural resource purchases from unrepresentative rulers
- Option to have new medicines rewarded according to health impact.

- IBAHRI Report by the Task Force on Illicit Financial Flows, Poverty and Human Rights; combatting tax dodging by corporations and individuals, embezzlement, int’l crime.

- Book project (Oxford UP) featuring 20 reform proposals by world-leading experts.

- Norwegian Research Council grant application pending with support from Global Witness (USD 2.5m each) for follow-up project with key international partners in Nairobi, Buenos Aires and Delhi. CROP would organize 8 workshops in other key developing countries to provide a reality check: to test and refine proposals, and also to build continental networks of experts and policy makers interested in the topic.
Thank you for your attention

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