

'Meaningful Involvement of Farmers and Affected Communities'

Proposal for side event at Conference part of ICAD 2
Monday 23 or Tuesday 24 November 2015

The Transnational Institute (TNI), the Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA), and the Colombian Observatory of Crops Declared Illicit would like to organize a side event on the 'Meaningful Involvement of Farmers and Affected Communities'.

The aim of this event is to raise the voices from farmers and local communities who are involved in the cultivation of crops that have illicit uses. Until now local communities and peasant organizations have been excluded from any of the decision-making processes on drug control policies that have a direct negative impact on their lives and livelihoods. Illicit cultivation is strongly linked to poverty, which is not just a function of income, but is driven by a range of socio-economic and security-related factors.

Alternative drug policy options on the demand side have received great attention in international drug policy debate, and consumers have been able to voice their concern in various platforms. On the production side this has hardly been the case. Until now farmers growing opium poppy, coca bush and cannabis have not had a voice in this debate.

This side event will include speakers from Latin America, Africa and Asia who will share key values and concerns and alternative policy options that take into account experiences and insights from farmers' communities.

The organisers feel this is highly relevant for the discussion on Alternative Development (AD) as well as the broader development agenda, especially in relation to the upcoming UNGASS 2016 and the post 2015 development agenda.