

Wednesday, March 24, 2010

CUARESMA **40** días para cambiar el mundo

Capital: Ouagadougou  
Population: 14,042,328 h.  
Adult literacy: 22%  
Life expectancy: 52 years

## Burkina Faso



## More Than a Grain of Truth

### Something is changing in Burkina Faso

Agriculture is the most important productive sector in Southern countries such as Burkina Faso. Millions of people depend on it as the sole source of income. And in some cases it amounts to some 70% of the wealth of a country. But global agriculture is in crisis. Why? Because international trade rules are unfair. How? The markets are flooded with subsidized agricultural products from rich countries, products that are sold at prices below the cost of their production (a practice known as dumping). This causes the market prices of raw materials, like cotton, coffee, cocoa or sugar to plummet



Cotton is a major source of income for Burkina Faso. A drop in its value on the global market causes havoc. A peasant family in this country with two hectares of cotton earns an annual income of 330 euros, not enough to cover the family's basic expenses; they are forced to take their children out of school for part of the year.

On top of that, the rich countries close their borders to exports from poor countries, denying them the opportunity to compete with other vendors and forcing them to sell more cheaply to other poor countries.

All this means that millions of farmers can not escape poverty or make a living from the dignity of their work. The only solution that remains to them is to plant different crops, opt for a rural development program and move towards ecogriculture.

In the southern sector of the country, with the support of the NGO, Intermón Oxfam, the Wouol Association of Bérégadoudou promotes diversified agricultural production and advocates for establishing the food production industry as an engine for development.

The result of its effort is very significant: between 2001 and 2004, mango production increased from 150 to 485 tons, brush fires have decreased by 70% and the reforest-

ed area increased by 15 hectares. Thanks to these developments, the community has been able improve education, health care and literacy programs, among other things.

[www.intermonoxfam.org](http://www.intermonoxfam.org)



### You can change your world

The rules of the global market are stifling the economies of the poorest countries. What can you do? First, learn more and then learn how to use your opinion and your vote to have influence in changing unfair trade practices and structures.

Modify your patterns of consumption and use your purchasing power to back up what you believe.

On the website of this Campaign you will find useful suggestions as to how you might learn and do more.

**Prayer: «If you remain in my word, you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free»**

Lord, we toil at seeking «truth» which does not fluctuate, that is not refracted by the prism of our views. That truth is in your Word, which is lucid and incontrovertible. Lord, don't let us settle for half-truths to define who we are or to decide what makes us happy.

*John 8, 31-42*