The Decolonization of Philippine Agriculture: A worth reading post by Umendra Dutt.

In this post he talked about decolonization of Philippine agriculture and here we need decolonization of Indian agriculture.

THE DECOLONIZATION OF PHILIPPINE AGRICULTURE

Western technology and commercial companies in the agricultural fields have bannered western technologies and products into our mainstream consciousness for a long time, we have been made to believe that they are better than our native and indigenous practices. We have been taught that “better” farms means we must use foreign fertilizers, pesticides, seeds, and even cause “upgrades” of our existing indigenous plants and species if we were to have a rich harvest. Our young people, specially those in the academe have grown hearing all these from their mentors, professors, government technicians, academic resources, and almost everyone involved in the agriculture sector repeats these, that it has become almost mantra inculcated in the minds of our people.
Days ago the DA came up with a summit on Native Animals of the Philippines. There we heard our scientists and leading technologists from our own DA say, that they are learning from Japanese and Taiwanese scientists on the relevance and need to protect,nurture and defend our own indigenous stocks of fauna and flora against the onslaught of “upgradings” schemes using foreign brands and genes.
Climate change have made scientists look again at the indigenous and native species, those who have withstand the harshness and difficulties of nature in their present habitats, knowing that the upgrades and foreign animals and plants could not keep up with the increasing vagaries of nature changes around us. Can native species be the answer to the food crisis of the future?
Sadly during that summit we learned that in the many decades of existence of our own DA, they have failed to focus on this, and has even allowed bias favoring the foreign genes against the native ones, to develop its culture at the foremost food animal and plant agencies of our government.
And who doesn’t feel the same? We grew up always wanting for the hamburgers, rather than the native meat dishes. We salivate for the apples, when our own bananas and mangoes are likewise are delicious and succulently tasting than those foreign fruits? This bias for the foreign-sourced and produced has been ingrained in our cranies that we could not seem to make decisions at all without considering whether it is foreign sourced/produced or not. The usual look at our native and indigenous species is that these are inferior to the “superior” brands and genes and consequently our government and past farmers have always opted first to use the upgraded ones, rather than our own seeds and animals.
That practice has emasculated our own agricultural development for a long time. Our farmers now face the prospects of having to buy, using difficult to raise capitals, seeds and animals to maintain their farms. We have relegated age-old wisdoms, today we are once again relearning through our Natural Farming programs, that our old farmers of generations past have been practicing in their farms, in favor of foreign technology, protocols and practices, that were developed in western environments, against our own ways of doing things in our nativeenvironment. We have been misled to believe that western fertilizers and pesticides are good for our farming, and just today realizing that these have brought longterm damages to our now quickly acidifying soils, incapable of producing more unless we buy and use these foreign fertilizers. Our dependence on these costly foreign chemicals has become the bane of our farmers, causing agriculture to become a costly enterprise for our provincial farmers. The loss of our own wisdoms and knowledges borne out of our ancestral farming practices, has emasculated our farmers, specially in the provinces, to rely solely on the western type of chemical agriculture. Today learning Natural Farming is causing us to refocus on our own, using our own native ways and learnings, to keep our farms healthy and productive long-term.
The rise of GMO is also an appalling realization for us. Today, GMO is quickly taking over most agricultural practices and resources worldwide. Yet the use of GMO has become replete with major controversies even of deaths and suicides in India and other lands, for dependence on this costly practice has made the farmers beholden to the western technologies resulting to costly capitalizations of native farms. The loss of biodiversity, specially of the native species which have survived naturally from the travails of nature in each country, is becoming significant.
Our country must rely on our own plants and animal species, use of our own scientific researches and develop once again a bias favoring our own native indigenous species, if we are to survive the coming food crisis in the world. Plants and animals must be adapted to changing environments, allowing us to nurture our own agriculture to our resources, rather than depending on other countries’, for our future must be in our hands.
For a long time, our minds have become colonized in all aspects of our works. Our scientific minds and laboratories have been captured minds believing and hitching onto the beliefs and biases of foreign scientists and commercial companies selling the products of such scientific works. The time to refocus on our own resources, native and indigenous, without necessarily leaving behind current existing works on already exsting foreign fauna and flora breedings, must now take the driver’s seat in our national consciousness. We are not inferior, nor are our breeds and indigenous native resources. The time has come for us to nurture and develop this thoughts, allowing the continuing de-colonization of the Filipino mind. Our independence has to be fought for, nurtured, developed, sustained and internally controlled.
We owe it to our progeny and the posterity and prosperity of our future. by Rene Pamintuan, member of Natural Farming in the Philippines