

## **Global to local**

The group discussed the need to create a strategy in which globally active people like the RLA laureates can cooperate to effectively counter the forces of globalization. There is a tsunami of centralized power and money in the form of corporate influence, aid dollars and misinformation that is dividing people around the world from one another and from their resources. There is a rowing anti-globalization movement. What is needed now is a powerful pro-localization movement. The concept of decentralization and local control is under attack everywhere. There is the need for complementary efforts to simultaneously strengthen local knowledge and production systems while resisting further globalization.

Since every local community is threatened by the same global system, there is tremendous potential for meaningful and effective collaboration to jointly resist the rush to homogenization, the loss of culture and biodiversity. We need to distinguish economic globalization from useful international political collaboration, solidarity and exchange of ideas. But people of good will who wish to help must be attentive to the subtle forms of western technological imperialism, and find ways to provide the sort of support that local actors genuinely need. Northern experts cannot sit at computers at Harvard and presume that they have enough knowledge about the biodiversity of the planet to sustain it. Local knowledge includes experience: the smell and touch and whole human capacity that enable people to nourish biodiversity.

Cooperation towards localization can include consumer/producer links for local production and marketing of food, seed preservation efforts, local community banking and credit unions, establishment of indigenous rights, local manufacturing technologies, decentralized renewable energy strategies, local water protection efforts, biodiversity protection, and much more.

By linking together we can create the space to enhance community and locally adapted, sustainable ways of living.