


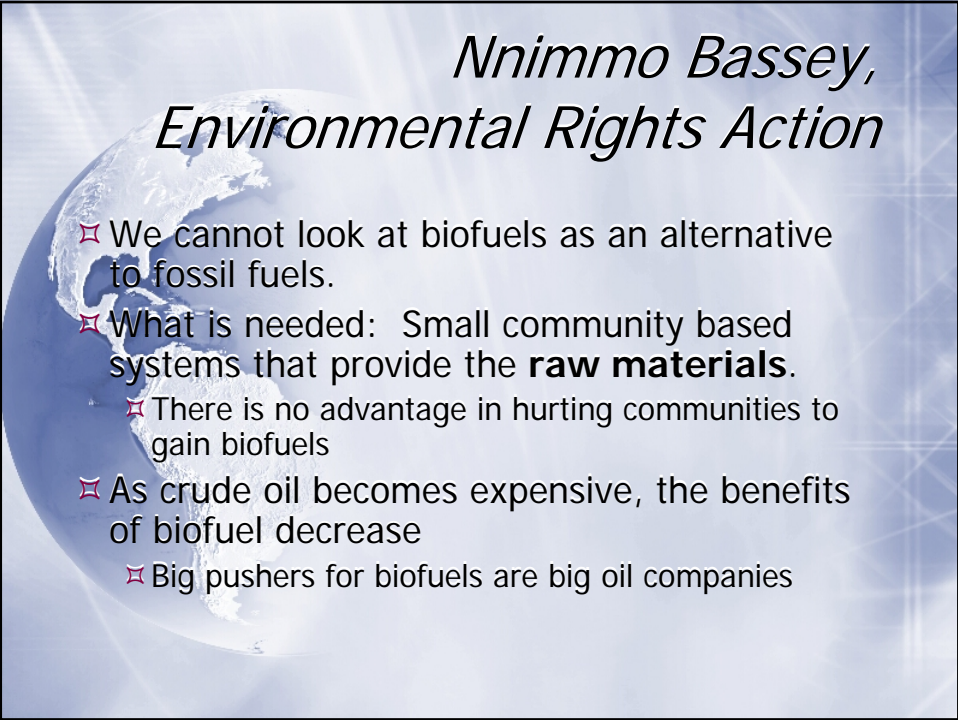
*Nienke Smeets, Dutch Ministry
of Environment*

- ✧ Sustainability Criteria
 - ✧ Cramer Commission Criteria
- ✧ EU Renewable Energy Directive
 - ✧ Netherlands' Drive to do more
- ✧ Policy Initiatives Should be Taken Internationally, not only Domestically
- ✧ Sustainability criteria of the Cramer Commission are more like sustainability principles.



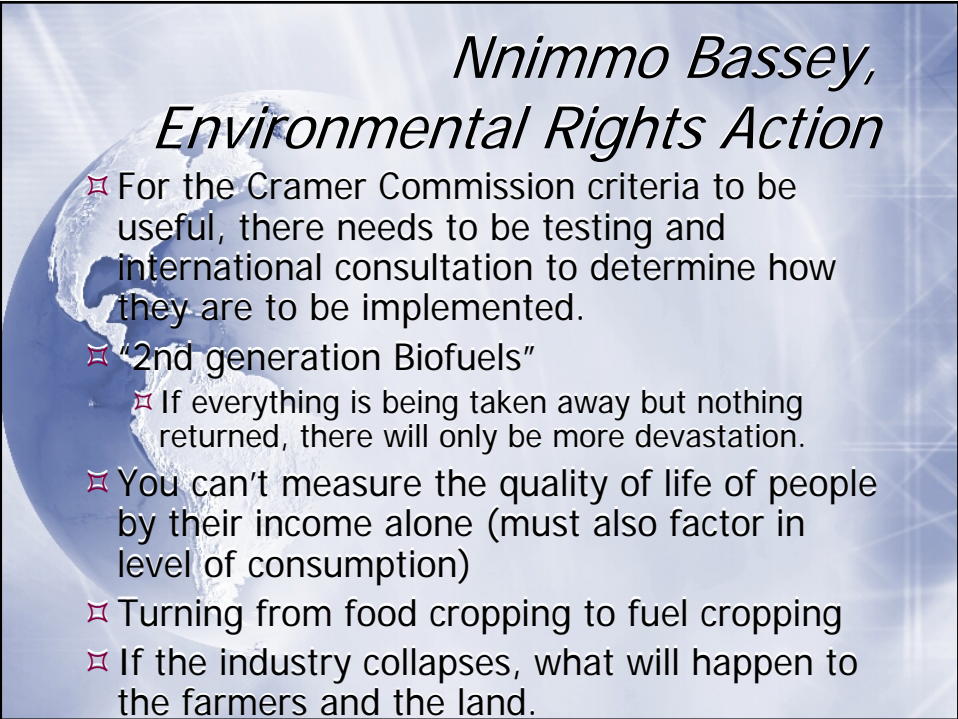
*Nienke Smeets, Dutch Ministry
of Environment*

- ✧ Challenges:
 - ✧ Consensus on what it means to produce biofuel while maintaining sustainability
 - ✧ Real-life application of criteria
 - ✧ Monitoring that the criteria are being maintained



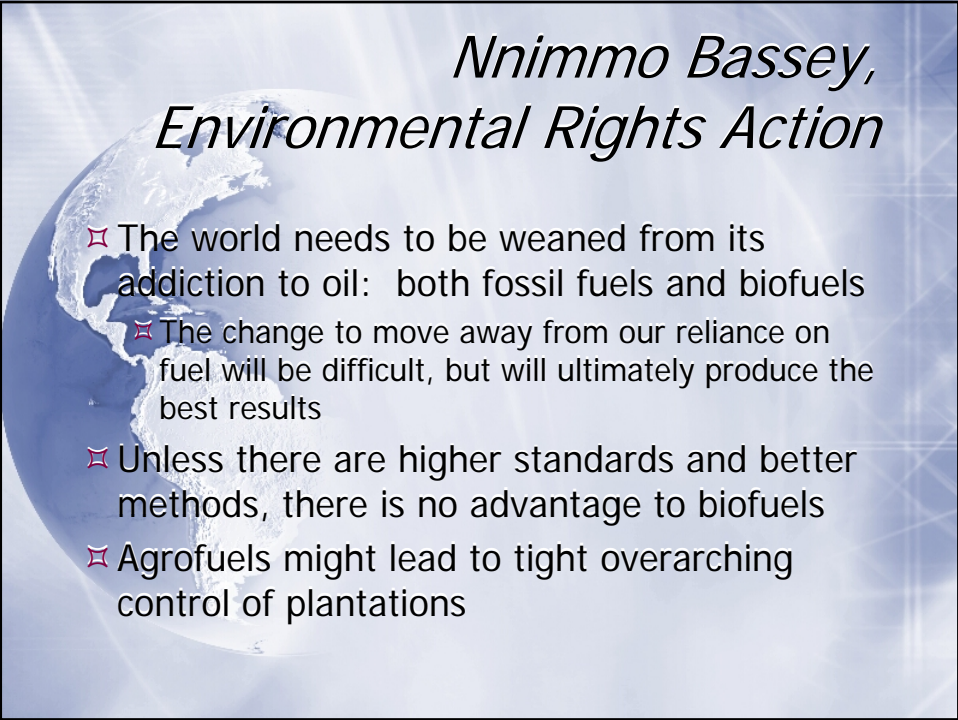
Nnimmo Bassegy, Environmental Rights Action

- ✧ We cannot look at biofuels as an alternative to fossil fuels.
- ✧ What is needed: Small community based systems that provide the **raw materials**.
 - ✧ There is no advantage in hurting communities to gain biofuels
- ✧ As crude oil becomes expensive, the benefits of biofuel decrease
 - ✧ Big pushers for biofuels are big oil companies



Nnimmo Bassegy, Environmental Rights Action

- ✧ For the Cramer Commission criteria to be useful, there needs to be testing and international consultation to determine how they are to be implemented.
- ✧ “2nd generation Biofuels”
 - ✧ If everything is being taken away but nothing returned, there will only be more devastation.
- ✧ You can’t measure the quality of life of people by their income alone (must also factor in level of consumption)
- ✧ Turning from food cropping to fuel cropping
- ✧ If the industry collapses, what will happen to the farmers and the land.



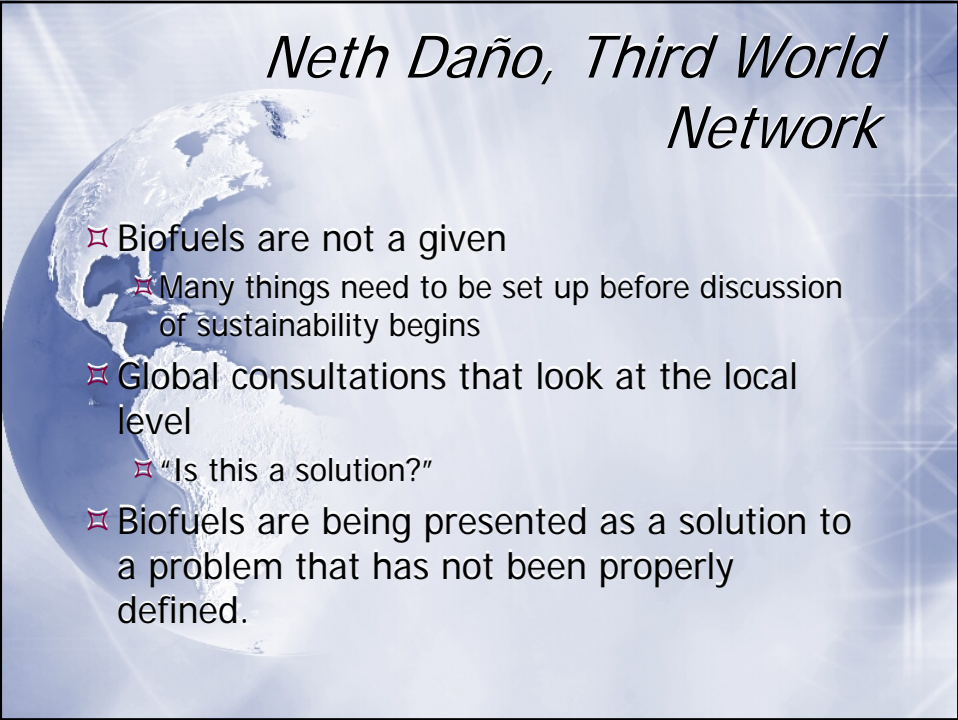
Nnimmo Basse, Environmental Rights Action

- ✧ The world needs to be weaned from its addiction to oil: both fossil fuels and biofuels
- ✧ The change to move away from our reliance on fuel will be difficult, but will ultimately produce the best results
- ✧ Unless there are higher standards and better methods, there is no advantage to biofuels
- ✧ Agrofuels might lead to tight overarching control of plantations



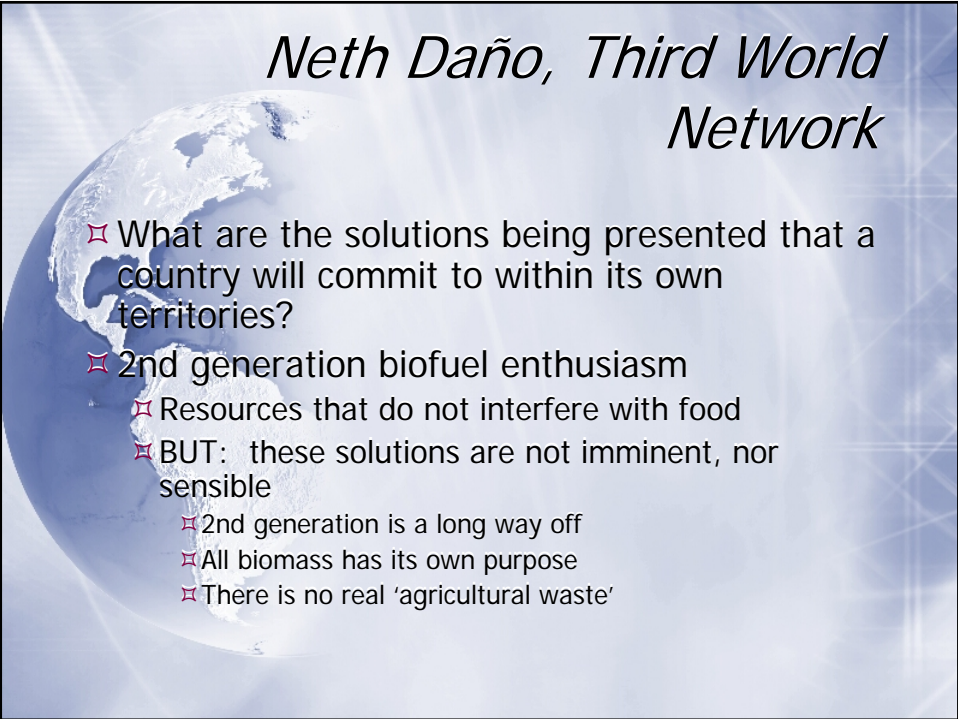
The Third Challenge: Monitoring

- ✧ Nnimmo: Criteria were set up without involving the stakeholders
- ✧ Nienke: Make existing production more sustainable, not create new production




Neth Daño, Third World Network

- ✧ Biofuels are not a given
 - ✧ Many things need to be set up before discussion of sustainability begins
- ✧ Global consultations that look at the local level
 - ✧ “Is this a solution?”
- ✧ Biofuels are being presented as a solution to a problem that has not been properly defined.



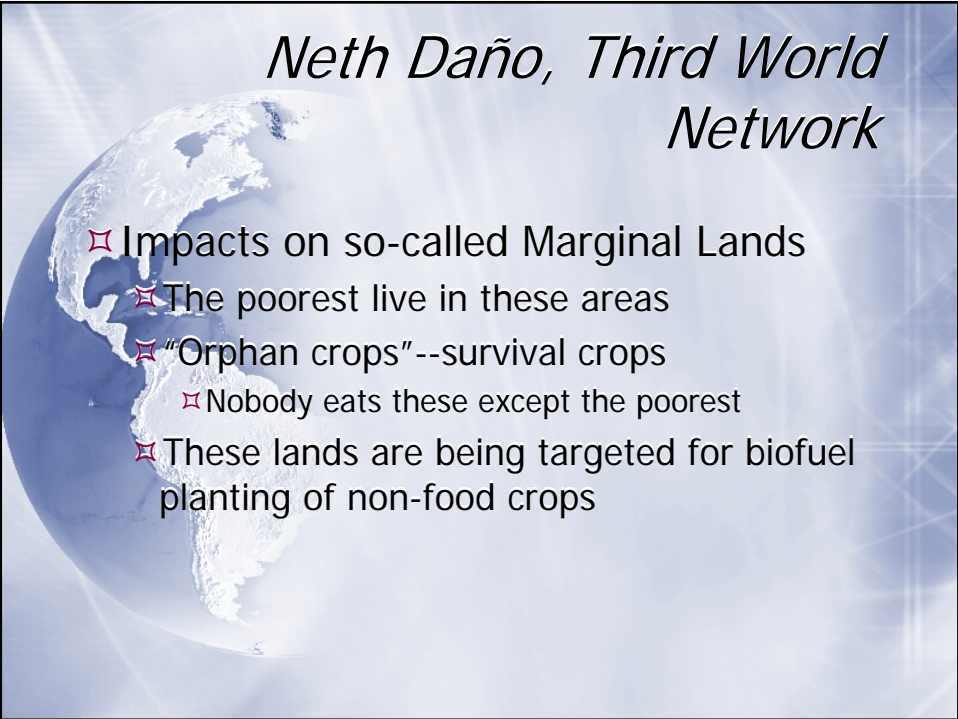
Neth Daño, Third World Network

- ✧ What are the solutions being presented that a country will commit to within its own territories?
- ✧ 2nd generation biofuel enthusiasm
 - ✧ Resources that do not interfere with food
 - ✧ BUT: these solutions are not imminent, nor sensible
 - ✧ 2nd generation is a long way off
 - ✧ All biomass has its own purpose
 - ✧ There is no real ‘agricultural waste’




Neth Daño, Third World Network

- ✧ Socio-Economic Impacts
 - ✧ What are the real impacts on situations when social difficulties already exist?
 - ✧ Ex: Phillipines and sugar cane plantations
 - ✧ Take into account the existing relationship to land
 - ✧ Land (Re)Concentration
 - ✧ Labour



Neth Daño, Third World Network

- ✧ Impacts on so-called Marginal Lands
 - ✧ The poorest live in these areas
 - ✧ "Orphan crops"--survival crops
 - ✧ Nobody eats these except the poorest
 - ✧ These lands are being targeted for biofuel planting of non-food crops



Neth Daño, Third World Network

- ✧ Companies are to be the Monitors?
 - ✧ Will they give an objective report of the social and economic impacts that benefit them?
 - ✧ This should be done by independent stakeholders
- ✧ Do not only monitor what is seen on the large scale



Responses and Discussion

- ✧ We need to look at the effects of biofuel production on the local community
- ✧ 2nd generation biofuels are so far off, they should be altogether eliminated from the conversation



Responses and Discussion

- ✧ The argument on biofuels needs to be less emotional
- ✧ Response (Nnimmo): "If you are being destroyed by this you can't help but be emotional."
- ✧ Response (Neth): An issue that is a matter of survival needs to be handled with emotion



Responses and Discussion

- ✧ Austrian Representative: It may not be the ideal response, but at least the Netherlands has broken continuity with the rest of the European community and is working to face the challenges of biofuel development.



Responses and Discussion

- ✧ Italian Representative: If the EU could produce its own biofuels, then it would solve a great deal of problems.
Transport costs need to be factored into the argument. It is not profitable to waste extra money on transport.



Responses and Discussion

- ✧ Local viewpoints are important.
- ✧ Biofuels are not worth the local community falling apart
- ✧ Turning aside the urgency of the food crisis to look at possible developments in 2020 is not sensible.
- ✧ Do not turn farmers into the enemy by putting them in a vulnerable situation



Responses and Discussion

✧ Response by Nnimmo:

- ✧ Because the demand for biofuels is export-driven, farmers are seeing it as an opportunity to make money. They are therefore not planting as many food crops.
- ✧ Farmers in Africa are still part of the community
- ✧ One needs to examine the context of poverty, not just dollar amounts.



Responses and Discussion


✧ Response by Neth:

- ✧ If only the market is taken into account, biofuels will trump all social considerations, since there is demand for biofuels.
- ✧ It would be good to develop local markets, but does the technology for this exist?
 - ✧ Even if it did, who would control it?



Responses and Discussion

- ✧ Response by Nienke:
 - ✧ Even if the EU could produce the resources for biofuels on its own, this would not solve the problem.
 - ✧ Many countries import biofuels, not only the EU
 - ✧ The 10% target cannot be eliminated. It may be risky, but without it, sustainability criteria cannot be established.



Closing Remarks

- ✧ There is no one solution that fits every situation.
- ✧ High prices for farmers encourage them to produce more
- ✧ Biofuels are good for rural areas, because they encourage farmers.
- ✧ The land issue and access to land is a big threat for farmers.



Closing Remarks

- ✧ This proposal would result in a radical change, but we are in a crisis and we need a radical response.
- ✧ Instead of thinking about how to produce more fuel, we should be thinking about how to decrease our dependence on fuel.