

October 16th, World Day of Action For Food Sovereignty and against transnational corporations



Food Sovereignty is the right of the world's peoples to produce and consume healthy food. Food cannot be reduced to a commodity in the hands of the transnational corporations

The international peasant and family farmer movement, La Via Campesina, is calling upon its member organisations across the world, and on grassroots organisations, allied social groups, and concerned consumers to be part of the World Day of Action for Peoples' Food Sovereignty and against transnational corporations, this coming October 16th, 2014. Every year La Via Campesina organizes this Day of solidarity,

resistance, and mobilization in order to make citizens aware of the current threats to Peoples' Food Sovereignty. To this end, we believe that it is important, and absolutely necessary, to strengthen the alliance between those who work in the countryside and those who work in the city. The human right to food should not only refer to availability; it should also ensure that the available food is wholesome, healthy, and culturally appropriate. [Read more....](#)

CFS in Rome: The majority of governments remain blind to the challenges of global food security

La Via Campesina Press Release

(Italy, Rome, October 15, 2014) The delegation of La Via Campesina, gathered in Rome for the 41st session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), recognizes the CFS as the major international forum for debate and decision making on agricultural and food issues. LVC urges governments to take urgent action in favor of peasant and indigenous agriculture, which is the only model capable of feeding the world. On the occasion of World Food Day, we restate our commitment to struggle for Food Sovereignty as a solution to the multiple crises affecting our societies. We reaffirm our commitment to the recognition and enforcement of peasant rights. The celebration of the 10th anniversary of the Guidelines on the Right to Food has shown a huge gap between rights and their priority, respect, and application in reality. In this sense, LVC expressed deep disappointment with the lack of commitment to the application of the Guidelines.



[Read more....](#)

Rome: STOP TTIP, CETA and other destructive trade policies



(Italy, Rome, October 11, 2014) The delegation of La Via Campesina, gathered in Rome for the meeting of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), reiterates its rejection of the ongoing negotiations of several free trade agreements such as the TTIP[1], TPP[2] and CETA[3]. We do this within the framework of the Global Day of Action against TTIP and in solidarity with the 16th October, the Global Day of Action for Food Sovereignty. The delegation is participating in the 41st session of the CFS where the 10th anniversary of the Right to Food Guidelines is being celebrated. For small-scale farmers, there is no reason to celebrate however as the implementation of the Guidelines has not advanced at all.

Conversely, trade negotiations, contrary to the Right to Food, are advancing at a concerning pace. The promotion of competition through the suppression of tariffs and standards is strengthening an agricultural and food system increasingly controlled by multinationals. The neoliberal trade paradigm is blind to social, environmental, and human rights standards and only benefits the profits and control of a few transnational corporations. The increased commodification of food does not respect or support the right to food. [Read more....](#)

Rome: World Meeting of Popular Movements

Press Statement from the Popular Movements, October 27-29th

In conjunction with the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace and the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences, and with the express support of Pope Francis, a variety of movements representing those who are most disadvantaged and most excluded from society are taking the lead in organising the World Meeting of Popular Movements, which will be held in Rome from October 27th to 29th. We are very glad of this unique occasion to give visibility to the excluded and to let their voices be heard within the Vatican itself. We are deeply grateful to Pope Francis for this opportunity, which is one more demonstration of his constant accompaniment and closeness - not only to those of us who suffer injustice but also to those among us who are uniting to struggle against it. [Read more...:](#)

International Solidarity Campaign Statement

AGAINST GMOs which Destroy Biodiversity and Rob Peasants of their Rights! ENSURE Peasants' Right to Save Indigenous Seeds and Maintain Food Safety!

(Pyeongchang, Korea, October 2, 2014) MOP-7 (the 7th Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety) is being held in Pyeongchang from September 29th to October 3rd. We are here to address the government delegations of all of the countries, on behalf of the peoples of the world.

We are against GMOs, as they only benefit a few corporations and capitalist interests!

GMO seeds only exist to benefit a few corporations. GMOs were invented solely as profit-making products. It is claimed that GMOs are the result of scientific hybridization technology that has been developed in order to solve the food and climate crises. However, these assertions are not true. GMOs destroy biodiversity and people's livelihoods. Moreover, transnational corporations try to gain a monopoly over seeds by means of intellectual property rights and patents. However, it is the hands of peasants that have nurtured seeds, and it is the right of peasants to have access to seeds and control over their use. We are opposed to all types of development and commercialization of GMOs carried out by transnational corporations. [Read more...](#)

The People's Caravan for Seed and Food Sovereignty- MONLAR, Sri Lanka

LVC South Asia



(Sri Lanka, Colombo, October 16, 2014) During World Food Week, the Movement of National Land and Agricultural Reform (MONLAR) held an island-wide Seed Caravan for Food Sovereignty. This campaign stems from the need to address core issues related to the food system in Sri Lanka around the themes of Justice, Equality and Regeneration. More than 50 farmers, women, plantation workers, fisheries and other civil society organizations based across the country participated. The journey of the caravans started from Murukundi in the Northern province in the island and concluded in Colombo after covering a total 25 cities. [Read more....](#)

Research and support for innovation must be at the service of an agricultural model and food system that is healthy, sustainable and socially fair

Press Release, Brussels, 28th October 2014

Innovation is a key element to maintaining small-scale and family farming and to creating a model for food and agricultural production that is socially fair, sustainable and healthy. This model endures over time and is viable, but it needs clear support from policies that acknowledge and highlight its commitment to innovation. The future of rural areas lies within a specific focus and correct solutions to the issues that male and female peasant farmers face on a daily basis through innovative processes that will allow agriculture to develop in accordance with the environment and surroundings where it is located. That is why the European Coordination for Via Campesina is holding the seminar "Small-scale farms and better food systems: what is the best way to include local innovation actors in European policies and research?" Its main goal is to forge the necessary paths so that research and innovation policies that can reverse the necessary innovation in rural areas, in close connection to farmers, consumers and other actors of civil society and for a quality food system that is more local, sustainable, and within the framework of the Common Agricultural Agreement (CAP). [Read more...](#)

'Usurpation of the Soil': The III International Conference of Farmers

(Mozambique, Maputo, October 1, 2014) –The III International Conference of Farmers and Soil, hosted by the National Farmers Union (UNAC) started today and will run for 2 days. About 250 participants participated in the conference held at the Conference Centre of TDM in Maputo. The conference focuses on the usurpation of the land, implementation of mega-projects with a direct impact on the day-to-day life of the farmers, poor access to credit and the lack of markets for farm produce among other issues. "Our production will fall because we are running out of land," said Costa Estevão, the representative of the northern region. According to him the phenomenon [usurpation of the land] will reduce production, and "push" many farmers to hunger and poverty. Estevão claimed that many farmers are becoming landless. For instance, he said that the company Agro-alpha in Monapo grabbed 10 hectares of land from a citizen who had the documents of ownership, access and use of such land. This situation happens uneventfully and trivially. On megaprojects, Costa Estevão claimed that they are being implemented without any prior consultation with the communities. Costa believes that large projects can guarantee employment, but "the farmer without land is sad." [Read more...](#)

We Condemn the Rural Development Administration which Promotes GM Crop Development

Korean Women Peasants Association- Press Release

(Pyeongchang, Korea, October 1, 2014) The CBD COP MOP7 (the 7th Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety), which started on September 29th, is being held here in Pyeongchang, Korea. Right in front of the conference venue, there is an exhibit of GM fluorescent silkworms that have been developed by the Rural Development Administration. These GM fluorescent silkworms, the subject of a Rural Development Administration study in 2011, were created from the eggs of silkworms into which genes from South American jellyfish were injected; these genes give rise to fluorescence green silk thread. As the Rural Administration has a plan to diversify the colors of silkworms, the GM green fluorescent silkworms are just a beginning.



Last February, the GM Commercialization Team organized by the Rural Development Administration held a discussion meeting on how to apply agricultural biotechnology. When describing the national and international situations with regard to GM crop commercialization, they made ludicrous remarks, echoing those of GM developers in the US, such as "GMOs mean less pesticides", and "The US would not have grown GM crops if there were any danger to the environment from GM crops". There was a great deal of criticism from farmers' organizations and civil society organizations. At the very moment that we are speaking, there is ongoing GM development in Korea, and the volume of imports of GMOs for research and study is growing. We, women peasants from all over the country, have gathered here in Pyeongchang, to raise our voice in opposition to GMOs and to support the struggles of the farmers who are preserving indigenous seeds. [Read more...](#)

Palestinian Farmer Spotlights Food Sovereignty

UAWC Accepts Food Sovereignty Prize

By Julia Burke (Original article published by The Progressive), October 27, 2014

Ali Abd El Rahman has been in the United States for only a few days, but it's the longest he's ever lived without having to go through a military checkpoint. El Rahman lives in Jerusalem, and as a Palestinian, his actions, resource use, transportation, and work are under Israeli government control. He doesn't even have a legal passport; the Israeli government issues Jerusalem Palestinians travel documents that require a lot of explanation when he attempts to cross international borders. Most poignant for him, however, is the fight for a right that most Americans take for granted: land sovereignty for the farmers in his homeland, who are attempting to continue their heritage as stewards of the land despite egregious obstacles. From their water use to transportation throughout the territories, Palestinian farmers are subject to the authority of the Israeli occupying military. [Read more...](#)

Keeping Land Local: Reclaiming Governance from the Market

Keeping Land Local: Land Struggles III: LRAN Briefing Paper Series

The governance of land, forests, water bodies and associated "natural resources" has always been a deeply contested terrain, and one that has frequently resulted in conflicts among different actors who claim authority, legitimacy and/or expertise in making governance decisions. While local communities demand respect and protection of their rights to lands, resources and livelihoods, most official governance systems do not recognize the traditional, customary and collective rights of local users and their institutions to manage and protect lands and territories. Instead, transnational corporations, multilateral bodies, international financial institutions and many governments are increasingly promoting and putting into place market-led governance mechanisms for land, forest and water use and management, and environmental protection that prioritize short-term financial gains for a few over long term, multi-generational and multi-dimensional benefits for the majority. These governance mechanisms deny local peoples and communities access to crucial life-sustaining resources, advance the commodification of nature, and entrench an ecologically unsustainable, high carbon, economic growth-driven model of production and consumption. [Read more...](#)

Shashe farmers demonstrate practical food sovereignty

Zimbabwe, Masvingo, October 20, 2014) Food sovereignty as a concept is under debate by various actors in the academia, activists and governments. The focus has been on its meaning and implications, some of which is still contested by some actors. This year a "Critical Dialogue on Food Sovereignty" was held at the Hague in January, attended by various actors to debate this important concept. It's various outcomes have been published recently by the Journal of Peasant Studies (JPS), of which some of the articles are freely available (<http://www.tandfonline.com/loi/toc/fjps20/41/6>) though for a short time.



According to Elizabeth Mpofu in her opening speech ([Via Campesina at the colloquium "Food Sovereignty: a critical dialogue"](#)) at The Hague, she said that "We are not trying to create the perfect definition, for a dictionary or for a history book but we are trying to build a movement to change the food system and the world". This has been the case with farmers at Shashe, where food sovereignty, its various pillars, is alive. The farmers have over the years developed ways to make food sovereignty a reality. These farmers produce adequate food for own consumption, the surplus traded locally, value addition processes are underway and are trying to remove the chains of dependence on agro-inputs by adopting agroecology.

[Read more....](#)

Shashe Smallholder Farmer Organisation (SFO): a true centre of agro-ecology

(Zimbabwe, Masvingo, October 20, 2014) Zimbabwe Small Organic Farmers Forum (ZIMSOFF) represents smallholder farmers practicing organic agriculture in Zimbabwe, a practice promoted through participatory ecological land use planning and management, and encourages value addition to uplift the welfare of members. The organization has about 19,000 smallholder farmers organized in four clusters, namely the western, eastern, northern and central. These clusters are made up of 64 Smallholder Farmer Organizations (SFOs) which nurture dynamic alliances. Shashe SFO, where the Agroecology School is located, is under the central cluster. Shashe farmers are beneficiaries of the Fast Track Land Reform Programme implemented by the Government of Zimbabwe in 2000. They are part of the 380 official land beneficiaries resettled in 2000 at the Shashe block of farms, which covers about 15,020 hectares. Of this area, about 23% was allocated for residential and arable purposes, the rest is grazing. The area is generally dry, receiving about 400mm of annual rainfall, and has deep soils (sandy loams, red clays and a mixture of the two). It was mainly used for ranching by the former white farmers. The new farmers have broadened the land use as they are now producing both crops and livestock

At Shashe farmers employ various agroecological practices to ensure food sovereignty, mitigate climate change effects and reduce dependence on bought-in agro-inputs thus retaining farm income within the family's purse. These practices include the use of organic manure, mulching, minimum tillage, multiple cropping, exchange and use of traditional seeds and open pollinated varieties, among others.

[Read more....](#)

New videos on Via Campesina TV

- [The Jakarta Documentary](#) [click here to watch](#)
- [No Land No Food Life No Life](#) [Click here to watch](#)
- [Lower Aguán - Cry for the Land](#)

