

Biographies for some of the members of the La Via Campesina COP21 delegation

1) **Edgardo Garcia**, 58, General Secretary of ATC, Association of Workers of the Earth Nicaragua. This association is the largest agricultural workers union in Nicaragua and has over 47,000 members, men and women. Edgardo has been member of the International Coordinating Committee of La Via Campesina since June 2013. He is particularly involved in Via Campesina's international collective: "Environmental and Climate Justice".
Speaks: Spanish

2) **Badrul Alam** is president of the Bangladesh Krishok Federation (BKS-BKS), an organization member of La Via Campesina in Bangladesh. BKF and BKS (twin associations where BKS is represented by women and BKF by men) account for nearly two million peasants and farmers. Bangladesh is one of the most immediately affected countries by the effects of global warming. The most part of its territory lies less than 12 meters above sea level - 10% of which is located below sea level, under the protection of dikes and with a particularly high population density. For four years, Badrul has participated, among others things, in organizing caravans for climate justice, food sovereignty and the rights of women.
Speaks: English, Bengali

3) **Jocelyne Riffaud** is a peasant from Romagna, a small village of « entre deux mers » in the Gironde. With her partner and her daughter, she grows flowers, herbs, vegetables and they raise laying hens. The farm is managed according to the principles of organic peasant agroecology and its products are sold in short food supply chains. She represented Europe at the International Coordinating Committee of La Via Campesina between 2004 and 2013. It is in this context that the climate issue became a part of her work and activism. She has participated in several major mobilizations (Copenhagen, Cancun, Cochabamba). After leaving the Coordination Committee in 2013, she remained heavily involved on climate for the Peasant Confederation and for the COP21 in Paris.
Speaks: French

4) **Paula Gioia** was born and grew up in Rio de Janeiro (Brazil). For more than 15 years she has been living in Germany, where she discovered that peasant life as one of the biggest solutions for the multiple crisis our world is facing today. She did an apprenticeship in bio-dynamic agriculture and now lives in a collective farm close to Berlin, where she is responsible for the apiculture sector of the farm. The farm uses horses and ponies in the agriculture and forest work. They have milk goats, cows and produce vegetables, which are mostly distributed in Berlin. Paula is a founder member of the Bündnis junge Landwirtschaft, an association of young farmers in her region (Brandenburg), struggling for access to land and the installation of young farmers. She is member of the Arbeitsgemeinschaft bäuerliche Landwirtschaft (AbL), the German peasants organisation, and of the Coordination Committee of the European Coordination Via Campesina (ECVC). She is also the youth representative from Europe in the International Coordination Committee of La Via Campesina (LVC). Her main areas of work within LVC have been Youth, Climate Justice and support in the establishment of a new region in Via Campesina made up of Arabic countries.
Speaks : German, Portuguese, Spanish

5) **Henry Saragih** was born in Petumbukan, North Sumatra- Indonesia on April 11th 1964. His

father worked in a rubber plantation and his mother was a small farmer. He has been involved with the peasant struggles since he was young, particularly on the struggle for land reform in favour of the landless and agricultural workers in the plantation areas in North Sumatra. He has been the chairperson of the Indonesian Peasant Union (Serikat Petani Indonesia/ SPI) since its foundation in 1998. He has also been strongly involved with the international peasant's movement Via Campesina and he was named as the general coordinator of La Via Campesina in 2004 for four years. His mandate was extended for another 4 years in 2008. He is married and the father of two. He lives with his family in Medan, Capital city of North Sumatra. However, as a peasant activist, he spends most of his time with small farmers around the world and working with farmers organisations in villages across the country.

Speaks: Indonesian, English

6) Mamadou Fayinkeh . Actual president and founding member of the National Coordination of Farmers Associations of Gambia (NACOFAG). He is a Farmer by profession and has participated in the establishment of many organizations in Gambia and West Africa. Currently he is producing certified seeds from maize and groundnut. He's also actively contributing in the establishment a beekeeping cooperatives and a forestry platform to engage communities on tree planting and environmental protection. Since January 2015, he's been advocating for land tenure revision in Gambia using the Voluntary Guidelines in order to ensure small farmers's right on land ownership. His advocacy work has enabled us up to now to minimize land grabbing by investors in Gambia.

Speaks: French, English

7) Laurent Pinatel is a farmer in the Loire (France) and national spokesperson of the Peasant Confederation (Confederation Paysanne). He keeps dairy and beef cows with his sister and sells the production (milk, yogurt, meat) within the sector and in short supply chains . He applies on a daily basis the peasant agricultural project defended by Conf '.

Militant for Confederation Paysanne for 20 years, he quickly took up local and national responsibilities. He's been the national spokesman since 2013. His mandate was particularly marked by the struggle against the industrialization of agriculture and its symbol: the 1000 cows complex in Picardy. This phenomenon lies at the heart of the agricultural world's downward slide, both at the environmental and climate level as well as in the social level by the destruction of peasant livelihoods.

Speaks: French

8) Annie Sic is a peasant in the Alpes-Maritimes (France) and General Secretary of the Confederation Paysanne. With her husband she runs a pastoral farm with goats and sheep. They produce cheese which they sell directly to consumers.

Zealous activist for la Conf ', she became their national secretary in 2015 and took the Climate debate under her arm in this year of the COP21. She is convinced that the fight against climatic disturbances involves a system change, and that the negotiators- once again gathered to defend the interests of financial lobbies- will not arrive at any satisfactory measure, nor for the people of the world, nor for peasants.

Speaks: French

9) Riba-Christine Vernier is peasant in the Drôme and member of the National Peasant Confederation Committee. She produces table grapes which she later sells directly to consumers and welcomes and accomodates tourists in her country cottage. She began her activism at the local

level in her department and later moved to the national level. After working on land rights and fruits & vegetables, she became aware of the importance climate change had in the lives of farmers and the fact that they were essentially the result of the actions of the agro-industry and of a system with profit as the only rule, and thus she became aware of the need to denounce this system. Riba then became committed specifically on this issue. She participated in the People's Summit at the COP20 in Lima and then in the Social Forum in Tunis, two events during which she was able to share the mobilization of the world's peasants on this subject.

Speaks: French

10) Geneviève Savigny (57 – 2 adult children): Born near Paris, Geneviève Savigny studied agriculture and graduated in 1980. She started farming in 1992, with her companion, a family farmer in the South East of France. He grows wheat, lavender and fodder crops on a hill farm of 60 hectares of arable land and a hundred hectares of woodland. She produces free range poultry, killed and prepared on the farm for direct sale on a local market.

Involved in the french peasant union « confederation paysanne » for over 20 years (and member of the board for some years) she joined the coordination committee (CC) of the European coordination Via Campesina in 2009, the european component of la Via Campesina.

In South of France, weather is becoming increasingly unpredictable, and it's often difficult to sow cereals at the right time of year. Mild periods, followed by very cold temperatures or persistent drought at the growing seasons followed by heavy rainfall in summer, result in severe loss of yield.

Speaks: French, English, Spanish

11) Rupert Heindl (age 26): Student at the technical university of Munich (Master of Education). In the board of the KLJB (catholic rural youth) in Bavaria. Since 2014 also official German youth delegate for sustainable Development and was therefore at the SDG summit in New York.

As Youth Delegate Rupert is a member of the official German Delegation to the United Nations for the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. As representative of the KLJB Germany, he worked a lot for MIJARC Europe and represented the MIJARC at different conferences on European Level.

Speaks: German, English

12) Ole Faergeman is 77 years old and a retired physician and professor of preventive cardiology at the university of Aarhus in Denmark. In 2003 he published a small book about the connections between heart disease and agriculture, and since then he has involved himself in the debates about human health, climate change and farming. He lives with his wife on a small hobby farm, and he is vice chairman of Frie Bønder Levende Land (“Free peasants, living countryside”), which is the Danish chapter of La Via Campesina.

Speaks: Danish, English, French

13) ADNAN ÇOBANOĞLU is one of the founders of the Grape Producers' Union (ÜZÜM-SEN) and general secretary for the Farmer Unions' Confederation of Turkey (ÇİFTÇİ-SEN). Grapes are one of the products that are the most affected by climate change in Turkey. Peasants there are facing freeze, frost, frostbite, and flood as natural disasters. They face snows in the spring, even though they don't have them in winter in the Aegean region. Moreover, energy projects, such as wind turbines and coal power plants have a serious impact on turkish peasant families. ÇİFTÇİ-SEN's work is also oriented in helping organize the distinct peasant families in the region.

Speaks: Turkish (will be assisted by an interpreter)

14) Ramona Duminicioiu is a peasant focused in the production of vegetables seeds in Romania. She worked for over 6 years on GMOs and since 2 years she coordinates the Seeds Campaign of Eco Ruralis, a peasant association that brings together almost 2000 families from all around the country . Through the years, she was also involved in the work of Eco Ruralis on the CAP Reform and also supporting the strategic alliances of Eco Ruralis. Starting with 2016, Ramona will take over the responsibility of coordinating a new campaign for Eco Ruralis - on Market Rights for peasants in Romania.

Speaks: Romanian, English

15) Adam Payne is an organic market gardener, producing a mix of vegetables for direct sales for customers in a workers cooperative on the edge of London. Adam is a young farmer that has been in agriculture for 4 years, was involved in a local agricultural project in Poland. Work is focused on supporting new entrants to farming and developping resilient agro-ecological systems as well as urban agriculture and direct supply to customers (short supply chain).

Member of the coordinating group of Land Workers Alliance which is a UK-wide union of small scale producers and family farmers.

Speaks: English

16) Hiba AL-Jibeih was born on November,18, 1991. From Tulkram, a rural city in Palestine, she works and studies in Ramallah. Her father was a sheep breeder and her mother is a teacher. She has been involved with different kinds of voluntary work through her life. Her family suffered a lot from the consequences of the on-going Israeli occupation. Now she is UAWC's advocacy coordinator, she has been involved in several workshops and meetings aimed at preparing the national plan for climate change adaptation strategy.

Speaks: Arabic, English