

EUROPE NEEDS MORE FARMERS

WE NEED FOOD SOVEREIGNTY FOR A FAIRER AND MORE JUST AGRICULTURAL MODEL

THE PROBLEM

INDUSTRIAL FOOD SYSTEMS TREAT FOOD AS A COMMODITY

- **WORLD POVERTY** has been increased by the globalisation of the world economy, and a lack of accountability of transnational corporations, the financialisation of agriculture and spreading patterns of overconsumption.
- **TODAY'S GLOBAL ECONOMY** is characterised by unemployment, low wages, destruction of rural economies, and bankruptcy of small-scale family farmers and peasants.
- **POLITICAL FORCES** have worked for many years to regulate all aspects of food production systems and favour centralised and increasingly privatised control of the cycle of food production, from seeds, inputs, land access and other necessities.
- **THE INDUSTRIAL FOOD SYSTEM** and extractive industries are the primary causes of climate change, biodiversity loss, increased health risks and the destruction of ecosystems.
- **THE EU** already employs market measures, supports and subsidies – but many of these are targeted towards maintaining the agro-industrial model of agricultural production that is failing people and the planet.



SUCCESS IN EUROPE: AT WHAT PRICE?

The European Union's Common Agriculture Policy (CAP) has turned Europe into an industrial food and agriculture power-house. Unfortunately, the original objectives of the CAP are being largely ignored to serve a more geopolitical and globalized agenda - with impacts far beyond European borders. Increasing industrialised production and processing capacities have been accompanied by massive increases in the market share of large distributors like supermarkets.

However, these successes have come at a huge price for farmers and citizens. European agriculture has lost hundreds of thousands of farms, farmers and farm livelihoods - one third of farms have disappeared in Europe in the last ten years, leaving rural areas deserted.

The industrial food systems are linked to issues such as pesticide and anti-microbial use, excess fertilization, biodiversity loss, labour exploitation, and the promotion of unhealthy diets. Small-farmers and citizens have little control or understanding of the 'how', 'where' and 'what' of producing food.

WHO FEEDS US ?

POPULATION FED BY:

PEASANTS : 70 % INDUSTRY

RESSOURCES USED TO PRODUCE FOOD:

PEASANTS INDUSTRY : 75 %

CONCENTRATION OF POWER:

THERE WERE 10.5 MILLION AGRICULTURAL HOLDINGS IN THE EU IN 2016, 65% OF WHICH ARE LESS THAN 5 HA IN SIZE.

LESS THAN 5HA : 65 %

HOWEVER LARGE CORPORATIONS HAVE CONCENTRATED POWER IN THE AGRI-FOOD SUPPLY CHAIN. OF THE TOP ACTORS IN EACH SECTOR, 10 COMPANIES CONTROL 73% OF SEEDS MARKET, 5 COMPANIES CONTROL 84% OF AGROCHEMICALS MARKET, 10 COMPANIES CONTROL 65% OF FARM MACHINERY AND DATA.



LOCALISING FOOD VS. INTERNATIONAL TRADE?

It is not a choice between localising food or stimulating international trade. The goal is not to ban trade but to avoid putting farmers around the world in competition with each other through exploitative trade agreements. Instead, we should get rid of exploitative global chains such as the cheap GMO soy that is imported for feed and used to subsidise export chains of milk powder to Africa, where it is sold at prices below local production costs. Another example is Europe's dumping of processed potatoes to South America at moments when South American farmers are harvesting. We ask for international trade to be regulated, and not to be used to push agricultural prices down through lower social and environmental standards.



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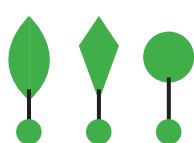
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THE SOLUTION

FOOD SOVEREIGNTY – FOOD FOR ALL NOT PROFIT FOR FEW

- **COINED BY LVC IN 1996**, Food Sovereignty is the right of peoples to healthy and culturally appropriate food produced through ecologically sound and sustainable methods, and their right to define their own food and agriculture systems. **Food Sovereignty platforms struggle for systemic change, to give peoples direct, democratic control** over the most important elements of their society: how we feed and nourish ourselves, how we use and maintain resources the benefit of current and future generations, and how we interact with other groups, peoples and cultures.

- **THERE IS NO ONE-SIZE-FITS-ALL SOLUTION** to the myriad of complex problems we face in today's world. Instead, Food Sovereignty – which encompasses **organisations with different areas of focus, from all continents and across different social and economic sectors** - is **a process that adapts to the people and places where it is put in practice**. Food Sovereignty means solidarity, not competition, building a fairer world from the bottom up and empowering peoples to organise their societies in ways that transcend the neoliberal vision of a world of commodities, markets and selfish economic actors.



EMPOWERING THE PEOPLE THROUGH POLICY

Public policies, particularly the F2F and CAP, should **challenge the current model and nurture diverse and decentralised forms of agroecology-based food production**. This will guarantee access to quality food, the survival of European farms, fair income for farmers, and protect agricultural workers.

Both urban and rural European citizens need be empowered to take control of their food supply system, tackling social, economic and logistical obstacles which have, to date, allowed industrial farming to prosper.

Trade needs to be approached from a perspective of solidarity, not competition – both to guarantee fair income for European producers but also to respect our obligation not to interfere in correspondent processes in other regions, **allowing trading partners to develop food policies and programmes for their own realities**, free from dumping and external interference.

The EU must ensure that food and agricultural policies are **in line with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and other people working in rural areas (UNDROP)** to avoid discrimination and prevent the violation of the human, economic and social rights, of small-scale farmers agricultural and migrant workers.

6 PILLARS OF FOOD SOVEREIGNTY

FOCUSES ON FOOD FOR PEOPLE

VALUES FOOD PROVIDERS

LOCALISES FOOD SYSTEMS

PUTS CONTROL TO LOCALS

BUILDS KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS

WORKS WITH NATURE

INFO - DOCS: <https://www.eurovia.org/main-issue/food-sovereignty-trade>
SOURCES FOR STATS: Eurostat, 'Farms and farmland in the European Union', 2018 / ETC Group, 'Who will feed us', 2017 / IPES food, 'Too big to feed', 2017

