



FOOD SOVEREIGNTY

*Join the local, national and international movement
to regain control of our food and farm system*

All people have the right to decide what they eat and to ensure that agriculture in their community is fair and healthy for everyone. If you're a farmer who wants to support domestic food security by producing healthy food at a fair price and you believe that farmers should have the first right to local and regional markets, then food sovereignty is for you.

The global food and farm system is broken. In the middle of one of the most productive agricultural periods ever, farmers can not earn a fair price for what they raise. Meanwhile, the number of hungry people worldwide has risen from 850 million in 2007 to more than 1 billion people today. As corporate-controlled agriculture spreads across the globe, the social and the environmental costs weigh heavy on our own communities.

The system no longer values healthy, delicious food, productive and sustainable rural communities or the people's right to make decisions about running their communities and farms. Profits for a few seed, agrichemical and food processing corporations seem to outweigh the needs of the rest of us.

The National Family Farm Coalition, an advocacy group representing family farm and rural organizations nationwide, is a member of La Via Campesina, the largest international movement of family farmer, fisher, forester, worker and indigenous groups in the world. Grassroots International works with social movements like NFFC and La Via Campesina to build a global movement that supports food sovereignty and to defend human rights to land, water and food. Together they are working on local, national and international projects and policies to defend food sovereignty: the right of all people to choose where and how their food is produced.



NFFC FOOD SOVEREIGNTY VISION STATEMENT

“We envision empowered communities everywhere working together democratically to advance a food system that ensures health, justice and dignity for all... Farmers, ranchers and fishers will have control over their lands, water, seeds and livelihoods [and] all people will have access to healthy, local, delicious food.”

For More Information Visit:

National Family Farm Coalition - www.nffc.net;

Grassroots International - www.grassrootsonline.org; La Via Campesina - www.viacampesina.org;

Food for Thought and Action Food Sovereignty Curriculum - www.foodforthoughtandaction.org



VOICES FROM FARMERS & FISHERS

“Food sovereignty is about fair trade, international security, energy independence, all that, but it really starts with you – where you buy your food, how you take care of your neighbor. It’s that simple.” – Joel Greeno, Wisconsin

“My first rule of farming is to feed yourself and your family. Forget national production, forget about export production. All that means nothing if you can’t feed yourself and help feed your neighbors.” – Dena Hoff, Montana

“If we eat locally, then we can sustain communities and support our neighbors instead of corporations that are trying to own biology. A paradigm shift is happening – buying direct from small producers whether they be farmers or fishermen ensures better quality food and a better price.” – Kim Libby, Maine

“The current agricultural system destroys rural communities in the south, forcing millions to migrate, risking their lives at the border. Food sovereignty is our alternative. Instead of building walls, we should fight for healthy rural communities so people can stay on their land and produce their own food.” – Carlos Marentes, Texas

“The right to food does not include ‘Green Revolution’ monoculture; it embraces sound ecological practices, fair pricing, fair trade policy and local food distribution systems.” – Ben Burkett, Mississippi

“Much of the traditional ways are about maintaining a healthy balance within ourselves, our relationships, our families, our communities and our lands.” – Chako, Oklahoma

“We need real solutions that do not give corporations control over our food supply and produce food damaging to our health. The whole fabric of rural life – and our entire society – is at stake.” – George Naylor, Iowa

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Producers around the world see first-hand the disastrous consequences of our current systems. From reforming food, farm, and trade policy to supporting local farmers, everyone can be a part of the solution:

Building Farm to Cafeteria projects: They bring locally grown food into the school lunch program, encouraging children to eat healthy food while buying from independent, small-scale farmers.

Consumer to producer: Purchasing food directly from farmers/fishers at local markets or through a CSA/CSF ensures they receive a fair price and keeps our money in the local economy.

Creating an alternative to the U.S. Farm Bill: The Food from Family Farms Act is designed to ensure fair prices for family farmers and healthy food for rural communities in the U.S. and worldwide.

Neighbor to neighbor: Farmer-led organizations worked to rebuild Haiti’s agricultural economy by raising funds for seeds, tools and training even before the devastating 2010 earthquake.

Each one teach one: U.S. farmers travel across the world sharing knowledge with family farmers and hosting family farmers from abroad to exchange policy and farming techniques.

Support the TRADE Act: Fight free trade agreements that undermine the ability and rights of people throughout the world to grow and harvest food for themselves, their families and local markets.

- Join the Movement for Food Sovereignty -

Call the National Family Farm Coalition at 202-543-5675 or visit www.nffc.net