



Family Farmers Call Out U.S. Ambassador for Pushing Agribusiness Agenda and Attacking Agroecology at the United Nations

NFFC asserts that agroecology is urgently needed to stop climate change, ensure access to food for all

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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October 2, 2020: National Family Farm Coalition (NFFC) and allies in the U.S. Food Sovereignty Alliance (USFSA) released a [letter](#) today condemning Ambassador Kip Tom, Permanent Representative to the United Nations Agencies for Food and Agriculture (UNFAO) and the U.S. government's efforts to "dismiss, coopt, ... demonize, and actively discredit agroecology." Agroecology is the science of sustainable agriculture, along with social commitments and political education.

NFFC president Jim Goodman, a retired organic dairy farmer, said, "Farmers want to farm within their means, matching their local context and diets. The industrially based Green Revolution, which Mr. Tom says we need instead of agroecology, has wreaked havoc on people's lives and the environment across the world."

Following his appointment as U.N. ambassador, Tom pledged taxpayer support for initiatives to promote food security and global peace, but soon broke those promises. In statements in August 2020, Tom -- who owns 25,000 acres of farmland in the U.S. and Brazil on which he grows seed for Syngenta and Bayer -- derided the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization for promoting agroecology and the peasant communities that practice it.

Iowa farmer and NFFC member Patti Naylor, the North American representative to the Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples' Mechanism of the United Nations, says, "The conflict between corporate agriculture -- based on profit -- and agroecology -- based on defending human and peasant rights, nature, and food sovereignty -- will determine the kind of world we leave the next generations. Agroecology threatens the power and influence of the global agrifood industry, which expects Ambassador Tom to defend and expand its dominance."

The upheaval of the coronavirus pandemic has exposed the fragility of profit-driven and industrialized food, economic, and healthcare systems, through climate disruption, farmer bankruptcies, land grabs, evictions, and worker exploitation. While Ambassador Tom and the U.S. government ignore these realities, NFFC and USFSA assert that this is a moment for institutions, including the U.N. and the U.S. government, to stop serving the interests of transnational corporations and instead uphold their obligations to human rights, social peace, and environmental biodiversity.

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Representing 30 farmer, rancher, fisher, and rural groups in over 40 states, National Family Farm Coalition mobilizes family farmers and ranchers to achieve fair prices, vibrant communities, and healthy foods free of corporate domination.