

16 DAYS OF GLOBAL ACTION ON AGROECOLOGY 2020

OCT. 1-16



#Hungry4Change

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Rural peoples around the globe are suffering due to the COVID-19 crisis. It is estimated that 130 million more people will go hungry by the end of 2020. Loss of jobs and incomes have especially impacted the poorest and most marginalised sectors—small farmers, agricultural workers, fisherfolk, indigenous peoples, rural women and youth.

The current food and agricultural systems under monopoly capitalism has caused environmental destruction and the poisoning of ecosystems. This has contributed to the rise of novel pathogens such as COVID-19. Farming that is dependent on commercial seeds and hazardous inputs controlled by a few agrochemical corporations has failed to “feed the world.” Instead, it has disempowered, debilitated the health and quality of life, and impoverished food producers, as well as resulted to the alarming loss of biodiversity. Furthermore, neoliberal policies have undermined local and sustainable food production in order to cater to demands by richer countries or big industries. As a result, rural peoples are losing their rights and access to land and natural resources.

Policy shifts in agricultural production and rural development are more urgent than ever. States and multilateral institutions must support the practice of biodiverse ecological agriculture to address domestic food needs and ensure environmental sustainability. Policies that encourage agrochemical-intensive farming—which harms health and the environment and drives small farmers into bankruptcy—must be discontinued. Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHPs) must be strictly regulated with the view of phasing them out. Sharing, breeding and conservation of traditional seed varieties that are more resilient and less dependent on inputs must be encouraged and supported.

Genuine agrarian reform must be pursued as a matter of social justice. Corporate or landlord monopoly control over land must be dismantled. States must provide substantial support for local production, and ensure a domestic market for local agricultural produce. Such are the conditions that would make agroecology truly viable and beneficial.

These demands are still just the initial steps in building a food and agriculture system that is fundamentally different from the prevailing one. The pandemic is providing opportunities to advance people’s food sovereignty and long-term rural development that truly promotes the interests and welfare of food producers. We need to end this vicious cycle of destruction through structural changes that will transfer the ownership and control of the means to produce food to those who directly produce food to feed the world.

Uphold people’s food sovereignty!
Fight for food systems change!
Agroecology now!

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