



**NO LAND
LIFE!**

LAND & RIGHTS WATCH

2021 Report

PANAP
Land & Rights Watch
2021 Report

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Contents

1	Introduction
11	In Numbers
25	Cultivating Resistance A look back on the people's summit vs. the global food empire
32	Annex 1 Number of cases and victims of human rights violations related to land conflicts and struggles, By country, region, and violation
36	Annex 2 Number of cases and victims of killings related to land conflicts and struggles, By sector
40	Annex 3 Number of identified women victims of human rights violations related to land conflicts and struggles, By type of violation
42	Annex 4 End corporate monopoly control! Fight for people's rights to just, equitable, healthy, and sustainable food systems!

Introduction

2021 was a significant year for food sovereignty advocates, including those fighting for the people's rights to land and resources. The United Nations (UN) held its Food Systems Summit (FSS) to chart the path towards supposedly transforming the global food systems. Meanwhile, the UN also convened the Climate Change Conference of the Parties or COP 26 to accelerate the global response to the climate crisis, in which food and agriculture play a crucial role.

Unfortunately, in both these major events, the agenda of big monopoly corporations prevailed, and the people's issues and demands were sidelined. Expected to continue and even worsen are the ongoing displacement of rural communities and the violation of their human rights.

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic heightens the contradictions between the monopoly capitalists and the farmers, farmworkers, fishers, indigenous people, and other rural sectors. The health crisis that the novel coronavirus created has spawned new levels of global poverty and hunger that primarily impact rural peoples.

According to the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2021 report, 768 million people faced hunger in 2020 or around 118 million more than in 2019. Amid the pandemic, the number of food-insecure people globally swelled by 320 million in just one year - equivalent to the increases in the previous five years combined.

At the same time, the COVID-19 crisis made new opportunities for big corporations and the economic elite to grab farmlands, forests, fishing grounds, and other resources for greater profits amid the crisis.

All this fuels more conflicts and struggles for land and resources worldwide. But with economic and political power at their disposal, the land and resource grabbers resort to even more repression of rural communities that are defending their rights. The result is a deteriorating human rights situation for the rural peoples who face extrajudicial killings, arrests, and detention based on trumped-up charges and other forms of persecution. (See the section "By the Numbers" of this report)

Social movements, however, are mobilising to demand accountability from corporations and policymakers. Communities assert their rights for food systems and climate crisis response that respect and promote their legitimate claim to their land and resources. They bravely stand up to the land grabbers and human rights violators to defend their land and life.

¹ Refers to the middle of the projected range of between 720 million and 811 million people who faced hunger in 2020


² In Brief to The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2021. Transforming food systems for food security, improved nutrition and affordable healthy diets for all. FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO. 2021. Rome, FAO. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cb5409en>



**Food systems,
climate crisis, &
the corporate
agenda**



Indonesian police arrest eight activists protesting in front of the presidential palace in Jakarta in time for the UN Food Systems Summit.

 Suara.com

After 18 months of dialogues, the UN FSS culminated on Sep. 23, 2021, with nearly 300 commitments for food systems transformation.³ Since its inception, civil society and social movements have heavily criticised the UN FSS for its ties to big corporations, including those behind the massive displacement of rural communities from their lands.

For farmers, indigenous, and other rural peoples, land ownership and effective control over resources are the keys to any radical transformation of the food systems and attempts to achieve genuinely sustainable development. But big farms linked to the expansive production and supply networks of monopoly corporations heavily control most of the world's farmlands. According to data, the largest 1% of farms operate more than

70% of farmlands globally, with land concentration significantly rising in Asia and the Pacific while picking up again after previous declines in Africa and Latin America.⁴

Such a lack of access to and control over land creates gross inequalities within countries. Based on one study, the top 10% of rural populations in the 17 countries it sampled capture 60% of agricultural land value, while the bottom 50% of rural peoples, who are generally more dependent on agriculture, capture only 3% of land value.⁵

For all its stated noble goals of addressing hunger and poverty and contributing to sustainable development targets through food systems transformation, the UN FSS was a significant coordinated push to systematise and accelerate the further consolidation and

³ Nearly 300 commitments from civil society, farmers, youth and Indigenous Peoples and Member States highlights Summit's inclusive process to accelerate action. United Nations Food Systems Summit 2021. Press Release. Sep. 24, 2021. <https://cutt.ly/jT8nxeN>

⁴ Land inequality at the heart of unequal societies. Research findings from the Land Inequality Initiative. Uneven Ground, Executive Summary. International Land Coalition (ILC) and Oxfam. November 2020. <https://cutt.ly/8T0k7RQ>

⁵ Ibid.



A farming community in Tamil Nadu, India, organises a mobilisation to call for the end of corporate control over food systems.

© Tamil Nadu Women's Forum

expansion of corporate monopoly control over the world's food and agriculture. With the World Economic Forum's (WEF) strategic partnership with the UN, for instance, the neoliberal and corporate agenda in agriculture has found its way in multilateral policy platforms like the UN FSS.

Many of the agricultural, environmental, and social protection policy reforms governments enforce in Asia, like India's Three Farm Laws and Indonesia's Omnibus Law, among others, are consistent with the neoliberal push to liberalise, deregulate, and privatise food and agriculture. Monopoly corporations from

industrialised countries advocate these through the New Vision for Agriculture (NVA) of the WEF.

The UN FSS echoes the vision of the NVA - that achieving the goals of food security and environmental sustainability "requires a transformation of the agriculture sector, leveraging market-based approaches through a coordinated effort by all stakeholders" (led, of course, by the corporations). Market-based approaches are part of the neoliberal dogma, emphasising the central role of markets and the importance of capital in policymaking.

Some of the world's most extensive land and resource grabbers are among the corporate giants that partner with the WEF's NVA and bankroll the groups that led the discussions on food systems transformation in the UN

FSS. They include the US-based Cargill, the undisputed largest agribusiness firm globally, with revenues of more than US\$113 billion in 2020.⁶ CARE, a US-based non-profit, chaired the UN FSS action track on advancing equitable livelihoods. Cargill has been funding CARE's strategic projects, such as the Rural Development Initiative I and II, from 2008 to 2016 worth US\$17.5 million and the US\$7.2 million PROSPER project from 2016 to 2019.⁷

Meanwhile, through its private equity firms Proterra and Black River dedicated to farmland buyouts, Cargill consolidated more than US\$3 billion in farmland assets worldwide, according to a 2020 study by the non-profit group GRAIN.⁸ In addition, Cargill has also used its investment firms to buy up lands in Asia and circumvent restrictions on foreign ownership of land. In the Philippines' Mindanao, for instance, through Black River investment, Cargill was able to control more than 1,400 hectares of banana, rice, and oil palm plantations in partnership with a Filipino-Chinese comprador.⁹

Another prominent partner of the WEF's NVA and a leader of UN FSS discussions on financing food systems transformation is the World Bank. Its private sector arm, the International Finance Corporation (IFC), is notorious for lending its development funds

to commercial banks and private equity funds financing projects worldwide that cause the displacement of hundreds of thousands of rural and indigenous communities. A 2017 study carried out by the Inclusive Development International, for example, disclosed that in Africa, IFC bankrolled 11 projects that have transferred about 700,000 hectares of land to foreign investors.¹⁰

Finally, Bill Gates - the fourth wealthiest man on earth with a net worth of about US\$127.5 billion¹¹ - is seen by many as the powerbroker of the global food system and wields tremendous influence in the UN FSS. Through his Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Gates has deep ties with the organisations leading the UN FSS action tracks on safe and nutritious food (Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition or GAIN); sustainable consumption (EAT Foundation); and nature-positive production as well as resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks, and stress (Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research or CGIAR). These are Gates-funded groups involved in shaping the world's food and agriculture programs and policies. Another such group is the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), where Agnes Kalibata, the UN FSS point person, is president.

Gates has various interests in the food

⁶ *Top 5 agribusiness companies in the world*. Sep. 15, 2020. <https://cutt.ly/PT0c6UL>

⁷ *A decade of impact: CARE-Cargill partnership*. CARE Food and Nutrition Security Unit. September 2018. <https://cutt.ly/vT0v00N>

⁸ *Barbarians at the barn: Private equity sinks its teeth into agriculture*. GRAIN. September 2020. <https://cutt.ly/UT0v3Yr>

⁹ *Food and finance: Toward life-enhancing food and agriculture*. World Council of Churches Publications. 2017. <https://cutt.ly/XT0bwKu>

¹⁰ *Unjust enrichment: How the IFC profits from land grabbing in Africa*. Oakland Institute. 2017. <https://cutt.ly/VT0Qb7>

¹¹ *World's billionaires list: The richest in 2021*. Forbes. <https://cutt.ly/zT0Q9Wv>

systems, including investments in digitalization of agriculture, promotion of genetic engineering, etc. But it appears that Gates is now also directly controlling farmlands through various investment vehicles. According to reports, Gates has quietly consolidated almost 98,000 hectares of farmlands in the US, making the man who initially built his fortune in digital technology America's largest farmland owner.¹²

Expansion and consolidation of corporate control over land and resources also loomed large in the COP26 negotiations. As part of their purported climate action, corporations and the governments that represent them, such as the US, Europe, and other rich

countries, for instance, pushed for so-called "nature-based solutions" or NBS. The contentious NBS did not make it to the final text of the COP26 meetings - the Glasgow Climate Pact.¹³ However, the advocacy of big business for NBS shows how the corporate agenda undermines real climate action and creates conditions for more displacement of peasant and indigenous communities worldwide.

Climate activists in the Philippines denounce the environmental practises of foreign corporations.

© International League of Peoples' Struggles



¹² Top 5 agribusiness companies in the world. Sep. 15, 2020. <https://cutt.ly/PT0c6UL>

¹³ A decade of impact: CARE-Cargill partnership. CARE Food and Nutrition Security Unit. September 2018. <https://cutt.ly/vT0v00N>

Broadly, NBS includes three actions: ecosystem conservation, restoration, and land management techniques.¹⁴ Monopoly corporations ranging from food and consumer goods to the technology and oil industry tout that they can achieve "net-zero" greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by investing in conservation efforts such as tree planting and forest protection. They partner with and finance big conservation groups in enclosing forests or expanding monoculture farms and tree plantations that drive away people who live on these lands and territories and rely on them for livelihood. Instead of reducing GHG emissions from their business operations, giant corporations use NBS investments to offset the pollution they cause supposedly.

This distorted climate action is also driving the increased interest of asset management firms, pension fund managers, and private equity funds in purchasing farmlands across the globe as food and agriculture become increasingly financialized. As noted by the international non-profit group GRAIN in a report, investors are rushing to buy up farmlands as a way "to achieve net-zero carbon emission targets and are investing heavily to quantify the emissions that can be reduced or carbon that can be captured in the soil by tweaking their industrial agricultural practices."¹⁵

These include investments linked to land grabs, deforestation, and environmental devastation. One such case is US-based pension fund manager Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association of America (TIAA), which manages a portfolio of almost a million hectares of farmland globally worth around US\$8 billion. Its portfolio includes land deals in Brazil fraught with accusations of illegal foreign land ownership, burning and clearing thousands of hectares of farms, and land grabbing and conflicts with local communities.¹⁶

The NBS was also prominent in the UN FSS discussions on food systems transformation as one of the action tracks (i.e., nature-positive production). If allowed to thrive, corporations will not only be able to skirt their accountability in the destruction of the world's ecosystem as well as in the worsening climate crisis. They will also fuel more land grabs, rural conflicts, and poverty and hunger as their supposed carbon offset schemes demand an absurd land size. For example, the international NGO Oxfam estimated that the planned carbon removal to realise the net-zero targets of corporations could require all the farmlands in the world. Four of the world's largest oil and gas companies (Shell, BP, Total, and ENI) alone would need more than 48 million hectares of land to meet their net-zero targets.¹⁷

¹⁴ *Ibid.*

¹⁵ *The global farmland grab goes green. GRAIN. May 10, 2021. <https://cutt.ly/uT3eT7C>*

¹⁶ *TIAA's farmland funds linked to fires, conflicts and legacy deforestation risks in Brazil. Chain Reaction Research. Jan. 23, 2020. <https://cutt.ly/MT3tczO>*

¹⁷ *Net zero targets 'unrealistic' says Oxfam report. BBC News. Aug. 4, 2021. <https://cutt.ly/LYr702l>*

For land, life, and planet



Photo by Gabriel Pancho

Amid the severe threats of more displacements and repression, rural communities and their organisations are fighting back to defend their rights to land and life. Movements of peasants, agricultural workers, indigenous peoples, and rural women and youth were at the forefront of the Global People's Summit for Just, Equitable, Healthy, and Sustainable Food Systems or the GPS campaign. (See the section "Cultivating resistance: A look back on the people's summit vs. global food empire" of this report)

Through online and physical mass mobilizations, consultations, discussions, and planning, social movements and advocates of food sovereignty, agroecology, and genuine agrarian reform forged the people's demands and action plans for the radical transformation of food systems, founded on the people's rights to land and resources, as opposed to the corporate agenda peddled by the UN FSS and COP26.

In its Declaration, the GPS outlined the people's commitment to "advance with unwavering enthusiasm the people's demands for a food systems transformation that is truly built on justice, equitability, health, and sustainability" through the collective vigor and resolve of communities and movements. Five hundred sixty-six groups, including 496 primarily rural grassroots organisations from 78 countries, endorsed the Declaration.¹⁸

Part of the GPS Declaration read:

"We believe that a just food system can only be built on the people's right to own and effectively control land, seeds, water, and other productive resources. We will continue to assert that land belongs to those who directly till and enrich the land to produce food and other needs of societies, and not to the landlords or corporations that enormously profit from its wanton exploitation. Water resources shall be accessible at all times to communities that rely on them for food and livelihood. We will resist all forms of land and resource grabbing and labour exploitation that massively displace farmers, indigenous peoples, workers, fishers, and other rural peoples. We demand accountability from those who plunder and destroy the environment and grossly violate the people's rights to land and resources."

In response to the climate crisis, the GPS Declaration asserted that "farmers and other small food producers can feed the world in a manner that is mindful of our planetary boundaries by maximising and combining their indigenous knowledge and practices with socially responsible science and technology supported by public resources and appropriate, pro-people, and pro-planet government programs. Amid a worsening climate crisis, support for smallholder farm production is more urgent and necessary than ever."

¹⁸ GPS Declaration: List of endorsers. Global People's Summit. Nov. 5, 2021. <https://cutt.ly/rT3RmPI>

Indeed, the farmers, landless peasants, indigenous communities, and other rural peoples are desirous more than ever of food and agriculture systems and climate action that put their rights and interests at the centre of all policies and programs. The challenges are daunting, and the recent corporate-dominated global initiatives on

food systems transformation and climate change offer no hope of meaningful reforms coming from policymakers anytime soon. But the people are hungry for change, and as evidenced by the grassroots-led Global People's Summit, they are ready to consolidate and expand their movements for land, life, and the planet.

IN NUMBERS

Monitored Human Rights Violations Related to Land Conflicts and Struggles in 2021*

*January to November only

FIGURE 1
 NUMBER OF CASES AND VICTIMS OF
 HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS, BY SECTOR

JAN-NOV 2021

TOTAL CASES: 145



KILLINGS

45 CASES



55
 VICTIMS



**ARRESTS, DETENTION
 LEGAL PERSECUTION**

67 CASES



642
 VICTIMS



**THREATS, HARASSMENTS,
 PHYSICAL ASSAULT**

17 CASES



351
 VICTIMS



DISPLACEMENT

16 CASES



44,430
 VICTIMS

From January 1 to November 30, 2021, PAN Asia Pacific (PANAP) monitored a total of 145 cases of human rights violations related to land conflicts and struggles in 37 countries worldwide.

As seen in Figure 1, arrests, detention, and legal persecution are the most prevalent human rights violation, with over 67 cases and 642 victims. The second most frequent of the violations are killings, which accounted for 45 cases and 55 victims. Meanwhile, 17 cases of threats, harassment, and physical assault were recorded with 351 victims. Finally, 16 cases of displacement were monitored, with a count of 44,430 individuals.

A significant portion of the victims come from unspecified sectors (meaning, reports did not specify the particular sectors the victims belong to). But relative to the total number of victims who come from specific or identified sectors, a common trend among all recorded human rights violations, including this year's data, is that farmers and farmworkers remain the most affected. Among the victims of killings, farmers and farmworkers comprised almost 43% of the total number of victims in the last five years. They also accounted for 43% of total victims of arrests, detention, or illegal persecution; 76% of threats, harassment, and physical assault; and almost 66% of displacement.

See Annex 1 for the per country breakdown of each of the monitored violations.

FIGURE 2

NUMBER OF CASES AND VICTIMS
OF KILLINGS, BY SECTOR

JAN-NOV 2021



TOTAL VICTIMS: 55*

*Including unspecified sector

Among the 55 victims of killings recorded from January to November 2021, indigenous people recorded the highest number, with 18 victims. The second most affected sector is that of farmers and farmworkers, with 16 victims. On the other hand, 15 out of the total number of victims accounted were land activists. Lastly, six victims came from unspecified sectors.



“Is being a social leader a crime?”
 Protesters in the Cauca state of Colombia gather in public to denounce the deaths of peasant organisers.

📷 Reuters

Similar to reports from previous years, specific countries remain the most vulnerable to land-related human rights abuses. Colombia and the Philippines, for example, remain two of the most targeted in the last five years. Among the total number of victims of killings, Colombia took up nearly a third with 16 victims, while the Philippines comprised over 11 victims in the period covered.

For instance, in the northern Antioquia state of Colombia, two killings were recorded among farmworkers belonging to peasant unions. The remaining 14 victims of killings from Colombia were identified in the southern Cauca state, where state forces target farmers and land activists.

Indigenous people, too, remain vulnerable to attacks related to land disputes. In 2021, 18 victims were members of indigenous tribes as well as community organisations defending ancestral lands.

See Annex 2 for the per sector breakdown of each of the monitored killings.



Indigenous advocacy groups mobilise in the capital city of Manila, Philippines, to demand justice for three Lumad people killed in police raids.

📷 Kodao Productions

A case in point is the Southern Tagalog region of the Philippines, where two indigenous people from the Dumagat tribe were killed for their involvement in community organising.¹⁹ In the Lumad-Manobo tribe of the Philippines’ Davao region, three indigenous people were killed for their organisational affiliations, one of the victims being a 12-year-old child.²⁰

¹⁹ Philippines: Dumagat Tribal members bury 2 killed in police raids. June 16, 2021. <https://cutt.ly/9Yr5lyj>

²⁰ 3 lumads, including 12-year-old, killed by military in Surigao – karapatan. <https://cutt.ly/mYr5uya>

FIGURE 3

NUMBER OF VICTIMS OF KILLINGS RELATED TO LAND CONFLICTS AND STRUGGLES, BY COUNTRY



JAN-NOV 2021



While human rights violations have been recorded in over 37 countries in 2021, overall, the Global South remains the most exposed to killings related to land conflicts and struggles, as seen in Figure 3.

Cases in Latin America, for example, are heavily connected to the Amazon Forest and environmental rights. Killings in Colombia, for one, are related to social leaders and activists contesting environmental violations as well as rural land grabs, claiming 16 victims. In Mexico and Honduras, killings revolved around logging issues and transgressions on indigenous communities, respectively.

As for countries in the African region, cases and victims revolved around increased numbers of paramilitary forces. One such example is in Sudan, where three casualties were recorded due to clashes between rural

communities and mercenaries. State forces, however, remain repressive in Africa as one death in Tunisia is attributed to the dispersal of a protest by police forces. Killings have become appallingly commonplace among forcefully evicted communities defending their rights to land in the Africa region.

In the Asia Pacific region, killings have been linked to indigenous peoples asserting their rights and protest movements. In India, for instance, four out of the seven victims were due to otherwise peaceful protests turning deadly at the intervention of the government.²¹ In Indonesia and the Philippines, killings have been linked to social leaders and activists voicing protests against mining projects and against the oppression of marginalised sectors.

See Annex 2 for the per country breakdown of each of the monitored killings.

²¹ Minister's car runs over 4 protesters in Lakhimpur Kheri, farmers blame son; 4 more die in violence. October 4, 2021. <https://cutt.ly/0Yr5b9Q>

FIGURE 4

NUMBER OF VICTIMS OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS RELATED TO LAND CONFLICTS AND STRUGGLES, BY ALLEGED PERPETRATOR

JAN-NOV 2021

TOTAL VICTIMS: 45,478

TOTAL CASES: 145

POLICE, MILITARY, PARAMILITARY

115 CASES



Killings

33



Arrests, Detention
Legal Persecution

642



Threats, Harassments
Physical Assault

92



Displacement

44,430

PRIVATE SECURITY

4 CASES



Killings

1



Arrests, Detention
Legal Persecution

0



Threats, Harassments
Physical Assault

10



Displacement

0

UNSPECIFIED

26 CASES



Killings

21



Arrests, Detention
Legal Persecution

0



Threats, Harassments
Physical Assault

249



Displacement

0

As shown in Figure 4, police, military, and paramilitary state forces continue to commit the most human rights violations against farmers, farmworkers, indigenous peoples, and land activists. These forces were responsible for 82% of the cases, with 119 recorded instances - a continuation of the trend in the last five years of monitoring which shows that state-sponsored violence produces the most significant number of victims.

All in all, state forces accounted for 45,197 victims of land-related human rights atrocities, personal security for 11 victims, and unspecified perpetrators for over 270 victims. The harrowing statistic of over 270

casualties with unidentified perpetrators presents additional barriers to communities, families, and loved ones seeking justice and accountability.

A noticeable increase in arrests and state intervention has been identified this year. Whereas in 2020 and 2019, arrests made up 34 and 32 cases, respectively, the data in 2021 has doubled, with a total of 67 cases and 642 victims (shown in Figure 1). The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, heightened government measures, and strict lockdowns supposedly for public health and safety created an environment where state forces can more easily commit such violations.

FIGURE 5

NUMBER OF CASES AND VICTIMS OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS RELATED TO LAND CONFLICTS AND STRUGGLES WORLDWIDE, BY INDUSTRY

JAN-NOV 2021





Community members from Bandayi were forced to evacuate their homes as bulldozers entered the premises to make way for gold mining projects.

France24

Figure 5 indicates that while atrocities were committed upon more than forty thousand victims, the industries behind these violations were largely unknown. Of the 145 land-related human rights cases recorded in 2021, 80 of these cases involved no identified industry based on monitored reports.

Among cases with identified industries, mining projects and plantations are the highest sectors causing violations, with each involved in 18 cases with over 7,824 victims and 19,634 victims, respectively. Due to the expansiveness of mines and plantation fields, such industries necessitate the forced evacuation of thousands of communities to embark on projects. Mining, in particular, also accounts for the deaths and arrests of several victims who have resisted mining operations.

In the Mondulakiri province of Cambodia alone, 1,000 displaced Bunong ethnic families (4,000 individuals) accounted for 20% of the total number of victims under the plantation industry.²² Forced evacuations have also been recorded in the Democratic Republic of Congo, where the homes of 1,500 families (7,500 individuals) from the Bandayi

province were destroyed to make way for a gold mining operation.²³

The energy sector, such as dams or power plants, accounted for 12 cases, with 148 victims. Victims involving this industry were mainly protesters arrested during rallies, as well as journalists, who publicly exposed anomalies within dams and other hydropower projects.

On the other hand, logging and real estate development accounted for six cases each, producing 44 victims in total. In a similar fashion to the atrocities committed in the energy industry, most of these victims belong to protesters as well as whistleblowers disclosing details on illegal logging and real estate land grabs.

Lastly, industrial development and tourism make up two and three cases, respectively. Tourism projects were behind the displacement of 560 victims. On the other hand, industrial development caused human rights violations against 33 victims by destroying rural communities to develop metropolitan structures, such as airports.

²² *Indigenous communities in Mondulakiri forced off land - khmer times. Khmer Times - Insight into Cambodia. July 14, 2021. <https://cutt.ly/gYr5E0W>*

²³ *Homes bulldozed to make way for gold mining in DR Congo. The Observers - France 24. October 27, 2021. <https://cutt.ly/aYr50qv>*

FIGURE 6

NUMBER OF IDENTIFIED WOMEN VICTIMS OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS RELATED TO LAND CONFLICTS AND STRUGGLES, BY TYPE OF VIOLATION* JAN-NOV 2021



**Excluding displacement*

In 2021, 60 victims of human rights violations monitored involved cases in which women were killed, detained, assaulted, or displaced due to land conflicts, as shown in Figure 6 - the highest recorded number of women victims since the first publication of this report in 2017.

Among the women victims recorded, the most common human rights violations are arrests, detention, and legal persecution, with 38 victims. These violations are often linked to women activists and social leaders who are attacked by state forces.

For instance, in Kashmir, India, at least three

women from the Gran village were arrested for their involvement in an anti-land encroachment campaign. Legal persecution also occurred in Cambodia, involving three activists who had been sentenced to prison for their participation in an environmental organisation.

The second most prevalent human rights violation faced by women is killings. With 11 victims in 2021, women accounted for 20% of the total victims of killings. A majority of women victims killed this year were from Colombia and the Philippines, while the remaining casualties were monitored in various regions of the Global South.

NOTE

Land & Rights Watch (LR Watch) is an initiative of PANAP and our partners and networks under the No Land, No Life! Campaign to closely monitor and expose human rights abuses against communities opposing land and resource grabbing. PANAP culls the data and information from online news and articles, and reports from our partners and networks. Because of this limitation, the LR Watch does not claim to represent the true global extent of human rights violations related to land and resource grabbing and similar conflicts in the rural areas. However, the compiled data through the LR Watch help provide a glimpse of the dire state of human rights confronted by indigenous peoples, farmers, farmworkers, and others in the rural communities worldwide that are defending their right to land and resources. If you have corrections and/or clarifications about our data or want to share a case in your country that has not been reflected in our monitoring, please contact us at nolandnolife@panap.net.

A person wearing a woven hat and a plaid shirt, holding a sign that says "KMP" and "¡VAMOS!". The image is overlaid with a dark red tint.

Cultivating resistance

A look back on the
people's summit vs.
the global food empire



Rome, Italy—Asian migrant agricultural workers, Italian labour groups, and other CSOs held a protest action in front of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) headquarters last July 25, a day before the official start of the UN Food Systems Pre-Summit.

Building momentum

PANAP’s “No Land, No Life!” campaign and its partner organisations played a crucial role in building momentum for the GPS by organising various events and mobilising rural communities and advocates of people’s rights to land and resources.

Before the GPS in September, buildup activities tackled the issues, aspirations, and demands of various sectors, and created action plans to achieve their vision for just, equitable, healthy and sustainable food systems. In April, the Asian Peasant Coalition (APC), a co-organiser of the GPS, and PANAP’s No Land, No Life! campaign launched the Peasants Rise Up broadcast series. The PRU series became a venue to share and call attention to particular issues related to land and resources, livelihood, and human rights facing peasant communities in Asia.

On July 25 to 27, the GPS organised the #SiegetheSummit mobilisations to counter the pre-summit of the UNFSS. Various groups

held public rallies in Manila, Jakarta, Phnom Penh, and Rome, where the UN pre-summit took place.

All in all, the GPS organisers and participating groups held more than 20 national (Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Pakistan, Philippines, and Sri Lanka, among others), sectoral (agricultural workers, fisheries, rural women, youth, and consumers), thematic (sustainable consumption and production, localisation of food systems, and genetic engineering), and regional (Africa, Latin America) workshops and fora in the months leading to the September people’s summit.

With preparations in full gear and benefitting from the numerous pre-summit discussions, the GPS proper began on a solid footing with participants composed mostly of small food producers, the real stakeholders in food systems transformation—in contrast to the UNFSS dominated by suit-clad billionaires.

Facing challenges of global food systems

On September 21, PANAP executive director Sarojeni Rengam officially opened the people's summit. "Through the GPS, we were able to mobilise and work with old and new friends and allies who share our aspirations for food sovereignty, agroecology, genuine agrarian reform, and human rights; those who believe in the land to the tillers; those who reject monopoly control, plunder, and destruction of our natural resources for corporate profits," said Rengam in her remarks.

The summit began with a communal dance video from women farmers in a community in Sumatra, Indonesia. The upbeat and fluid movements of Seruni (Indonesian Women's Organisation) members impressed the participants as the community ended their presentation with a call to assert food sovereignty.

Afterwards, discussions on the challenges facing global food systems were held. The Consumers Union of Japan pointed out that

gene-edited foods are a new frontier for corporations to monopolise food systems. Helena Norberg-Hodge of Local Futures echoed this sentiment, underscoring the effects of mass food production, monocultures, and pesticides on crop diversification and human health. "The global food system is a major cause of toxic chemicals and the insecurity of livelihood," said Norberg-Hodge.

A short video on the life of a tea plantation worker in Sri Lanka underscored the marginalisation of women agricultural workers and the need for government action. Another video on Greek plantations highlighted the need for collaborative efforts for food self-sufficiency and agroecology.

Sylvia Mallari, global co-chairperson of PCFS, led a panel discussion on the initial outcomes of the UNFSS and their implications to food sovereignty. Mallari underscored the role of increasing food prices, the pandemic, and monopoly-controlled food systems in



Jakarta, Indonesia—Despite the local lockdown in place, people's organisations led by Front Perjuangan Rakyat-FPR Indonesia (People's Struggle Front of Indonesia) protested in front of the Menara Thamrin Building, where the UN FAO office in the country resides. This was held July 25.

worsening global hunger and food security crises. The panel discussion concluded with a resolve to strengthen the campaign against neoliberal policies in food and agriculture that the UNFSS perpetuates.

Youth climate activists, including Greta Thunberg, also expressed their solidarity with the GPS via recorded video messages, highlighting the role of sustainable food systems in addressing the climate crisis.

Members of the peasant movement Pakistan Kissan Mazdoor Tehreek (PKMT) physically gathered in Karachi to join the GPS and express solidarity with farmers worldwide.

The Association Welfare Togo, Centre for Development Programmes in the Cordillera (CDPC) from the Philippines, and Aliansi Gerakan Reforma Agraria (AGRA) from Indonesia also talked about the current state of food systems in their countries, and stressed the need for farmers to control the means of production.

Wrapping up the first day of the GPS was a solemn memorial for both fallen and living peasant leaders and lands rights defenders worldwide, including the millions of Indian farmers staging the massive and historic protests against the neoliberal Three Farm Laws.

Pillars of transformation

The second and third days of the GPS further deepened the discussions and planning on the key pillars of food systems transformation.

PANAP, together with PAN North America and MASIPAG (a Philippine-based farmers-scientists network), organised a global workshop on “Transforming Food Systems through People-Led Agroecology.” The workshop reaffirmed the basic principles of agroecology from the perspective of small food producers and rural communities; provided updates on vital global discussions related to agroecology; identified challenges

and potential areas of advocacy or campaigning; highlighted inspiring stories and best practises by communities advancing agroecology; and proposed initial action plans for food systems transformation through the lens of agroecology.

“Local Food First – Challenging the Techno-Trade Dogma,” organised by Local Futures, meanwhile, tackled the role of technology and the corporate food system in overtaking agricultural production. Azra Sayeed, director of Roots for Equity in Pakistan and chairperson of Asia Pacific Research Network (APRN), discussed the

history of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and its effects on small farms. In particular, Sayeed focused on the proliferation of genetically engineered seeds, the complexity of intellectual property rights and technical barriers faced by smallholders. On the other hand, Brazil-based researcher and climate negotiations analyst Camila Moreno highlighted the rise in power among technocrats and their firm control of food systems.

The PCFS-led workshop “Asserting Food Sovereignty, Transforming Food Systems” brought corporate control issues over agricultural lands to light. Land and resource grabbing and human rights violations against

farmers and rural peoples were among the most prevalent concerns. Alongside these issues were shared stories of struggles and victories of communities asserting their food sovereignty. The workshop served as a venue to revisit the basic principles of people’s food sovereignty and how it challenges the corporate agenda in the UNFSS. It identified concrete action plans on how food sovereignty can be further advanced and drive the radical transformation of food systems through global and local campaigns.

Meanwhile, national summits on food systems in Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, and Sri Lanka tackled needed policy reforms at the national level.

Beyond the people’s summit

A Global Day of Action was held on September 23, the final day of the GPS and the official opening of the UN FSS. A protest action was held in front of the UN Headquarters in New York, where the UN FSS was taking place. In Manila, fisherfolk group Pamalakaya held a lie-in protest in front of the environment ministry. Meanwhile, the arrest of eight activists joining the Global Day of Action by the Indonesian police derailed

the planned rally in Jakarta. Delegates of the GPS held a social media rally and pressed the Indonesian police to free the “Jakarta 8.” The inspiring display of global people’s solidarity eventually led the police to release the detained activists.

At the closing plenary of the GPS, the organisers and participating groups presented the various Action Plans produced

by the different national, regional, sectoral, and thematic workshops, discussions, and consultations organised in the many months leading to the summit.

A key output of the GPS is the People's Declaration, where civil society organisations (CSOs) and social movements from around the world outlined the people's demands for food systems transformation. It was presented at the GPS plenary by Malcolm Guy, chairperson of the International League of People's Struggles (ILPS).

The People's Declaration expressed the commitment to struggle for just, equitable, healthy, and sustainable food systems. "We believe that sustainable food systems can only be built on the people's right to a healthy planet and environment capable of adequately producing all the food needs of the world's population. Building a solid foundation for sustainability in our food systems requires food sovereignty and agroecology, people's rights to land and resources, decent working and living conditions, and a nutritious diet," part of the Declaration read.

The People's Declaration was subsequently endorsed by 566 groups from 78 countries,

representing 45 global formations and 25 regional groups, and 496 national and local organisations worldwide.

The GPS concluded with a vow to work collectively to implement the Action Plans along the four pillars of food systems transformation, namely (1) Food sovereignty and democracy at the core of food and agricultural policies; (2) Agroecology and sustainability in production, distribution, and consumption; (3) People's right to land, production, and resources; and (4) People's right to adequate, safe, nutritious, and culturally appropriate food.

The struggle for the radical transformation of the world's food systems does not end with the GPS. On the contrary, the people's summit has laid out the path towards even more struggles to realise the people's aspirations for a food system that truly protects the planet and serves the interests of majority of the world's food producers, who continue to be marginalised and oppressed.

The challenges are certainly formidable, but as PANAP's Rengam declared during the GPS, "We are the resistance, and we shall prevail!"



Manila, Philippines—Peasant, indigenous groups and agroecology advocates highlight the call to end neoliberal food systems in a protest action on July 26, the official start of the UN Food Systems Pre-Summit. A giant peasant effigy was depicted as chasing down agrochemical transnational corporations and foreign and local landgrabbers.

ANNEX 1

**Number of cases and
victims of human rights
violations related to land
conflicts and struggles**
by country, region, and violation

Jan-Nov 2021

Asia Pacific	Killings		Arrests, Detention, and Legal Persecution		Threats, Harassment, and Physical Assault		Displacement	
	Cases	Victims	Cases	Victims	Cases	Victims	Cases	Victims
Afghanistan	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	2,800
Cambodia	0	0	12	53	0	0	1	4,000
India	4	7	8	38	0	0	2	9,200
Indonesia	1	1	2	29	0	0	1	160
Jordan	0	0	1	36	0	0	0	0
Myanmar	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0
Palestine	0	0	0	0	1	3	1	2
Philippines	7	11	11	28	6	16	2	48
Thailand	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vietnam	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Asia Pacific Total	14	21	36	186	7	19	8	16,210

Latin America	Killings		Arrests, Detention, and Legal Persecution		Threats, Harassment, and Physical Assault		Displacement	
	Cases	Victims	Cases	Victims	Cases	Victims	Cases	Victims
Argentina	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
Brazil	1	1	0	0	1	240	0	0
Bolivia	0	0	0	0	1	7	0	0
Chile	1	2	1	1	1	1	0	0
Colombia	14	16	0	0	2	2	1	4,800
Costa Rica	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
Ecuador	2	2	2	39	0	0	0	0
Guatemala	0	0	3	75	0	0	1	400
Honduras	1	1	2	8	0	0	0	0
Mexico	3	3	1	1	0	0	1	400
Nicaragua	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
Paraguay	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3,120
Peru	2	2	1	2	0	0	0	0
L. America Total	24	27	12	128	6	251	6	8,720

Africa	Killings		Arrests, Detention, and Legal Persecution		Threats, Harassment, and Physical Assault		Displacement	
	Cases	Victims	Cases	Victims	Cases	Victims	Cases	Victims
Benin	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
Congo	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	7,500
Kenya	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nigeria	0	0	1	1	1	76	0	0
Sudan	3	3	0	0	0	0	1	12,000
Tunisia	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Uganda	1	1	2	7	1	1	0	0
Zimbabwe	0	0	1	29	0	0	0	0
Africa Total	7	7	6	39	2	77	2	19,500

North America	Killings		Arrests, Detention, and Legal Persecution		Threats, Harassment, and Physical Assault		Displacement	
	Cases	Victims	Cases	Victims	Cases	Victims	Cases	Victims
Canada	0	0	3	71	0	0	0	0
United States	0	0	3	137	0	0	0	0
N. America Total	0	0	6	208	0	0	0	0

Europe	Killings		Arrests, Detention, and Legal Persecution		Threats, Harassment, and Physical Assault		Displacement	
	Cases	Victims	Cases	Victims	Cases	Victims	Cases	Victims
Kosovo	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
Scotland	0	0	1	70	0	0	0	0
Romania	0	0	0	0	1	3	0	0
Russia	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0
Europe Total	0	0	3	72	2	4	0	0

Australia	Killings		Arrests, Detention, and Legal Persecution		Threats, Harassment, and Physical Assault		Displacement	
	Cases	Victims	Cases	Victims	Cases	Victims	Cases	Victims
Australia	0	0	4	9	0	0	0	0
Australia Total	0	0	4	9	0	0	0	0

GRAND TOTAL	Killings		Arrests, Detention, and Legal Persecution		Threats, Harassment, and Physical Assault		Displacement	
	Cases	Total	Cases	Total	Cases	Total	Cases	Total
	45	55	67	642	17	351	16	44,430
CASES TOTAL	145							

ANNEX 2

**Number of cases and
victims of killings
related to land conflicts
and struggles**
by sector

Jan-Nov 2021

Asia Pacific	Killings					
	Cases	Indigenous people	Farmers, farm workers	Land activists	Unspecified	Victims
Afghanistan	1	1	0	0	0	1
Cambodia	0	0	0	0	0	0
India	4	0	6	0	1	7
Indonesia	1	0	0	0	1	1
Jordan	0	0	0	0	0	0
Myanmar	0	0	0	0	0	0
Palestine	0	0	0	0	0	0
Philippines	7	5	2	3	1	11
Thailand	1	0	0	1	0	1
Vietnam	0	0	0	0	0	0
Asia Pacific Total	14	6	8	4	3	21

Latin America	Killings					
	Cases	Indigenous people	Farmers, farm workers	Land activists	Unspecified	Victims
Argentina	0	0	0	0	0	0
Brazil	1	0	0	1	0	1
Bolivia	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chile	1	2	0	0	0	2
Colombia	14	5	4	6	1	16
Costa Rica	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ecuador	2	0	1	1	0	2
Guatemala	0	0	0	0	0	0
Honduras	1	1	0	0	0	1
Mexico	3	2	0	1	0	3
Nicaragua	0	0	0	0	0	0
Paraguay	0	0	0	0	0	0
Peru	2	2	0	0	0	2
L. America Total	24	12	5	9	1	27

Africa	Killings					
	Cases	Indigenous people	Farmers, farm workers	Land activists	Unspecified	Victims
Benin	0	0	0	0	0	0
Congo	1	0	0	0	1	1
Kenya	1	0	0	1	0	1
Nigeria	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sudan	3	0	3	0	0	3
Tunisia	1	0	0	0	1	1
Uganda	1	0	0	1	0	1
Zimbabwe	0	0	0	0	0	0
Africa Total	7	0	3	2	2	7

Grand Total	Killings					
	Cases	Indigenous people	Farmers, farm workers	Land activists	Unspecified	Total
	45	18	16	15	6	55

ANNEX 3

Number Of Identified Women Victims Of Human Rights Violations Related To Land Conflicts And Struggles, by type of violation*

*-Excluding displacement

Country	Killings	Arrests, Detention, and Legal Persecution	Threats, Harassment, and Physical Assault
Argentina	0	1	0
Australia	0	5	0
Bolivia	0	0	5
Cambodia	0	7	0
Canada	0	2	0
Chile	0	1	0
Colombia	4	0	1
Ecuador	0	1	0
Guatemala	0	0	0
Honduras	0	2	0
India	0	7	0
Kenya	1	0	0
Kosovo	0	1	0
Mexico	0	1	0
Peru	1	1	0
Philippines	5	8	4
United States	0	1	0
Total	11	38	10

*Excluding displacement

ANNEX 4

End corporate monopoly control! Fight for people's rights to just, equitable, healthy, and sustainable food systems!

We are organizations of smallholder farmers, landless peasants, agricultural workers, fisherfolk, pastoralists, plantation workers; groups representing indigenous peoples, local communities, youth, women, urban poor, and consumers; and advocates of food sovereignty, agroecology, and genuine agrarian reform and rural development. We represent the global regions of Asia and the Pacific, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, Europe, and North America.

We make up the Global People’s Summit for Just, Equitable, Healthy, and Sustainable Food Systems.

In 2020, about 2.37 billion people worldwide suffered moderate or severe food insecurity, according to the 2021 report on the state of food security and nutrition. The number of food-insecure people swelled by 320 million in just one year – equivalent to the increases in the previous five years combined.

Further, the raging COVID-19 pandemic has devastated millions of jobs and livelihoods worldwide, including those directly involved in food production, worsening the already alarming and deteriorating state of global hunger and poverty. Worldwide, the number of people facing hunger reached about 768 million in 2020, around 118 million more than in 2019. This includes those who are likely to have experienced hunger as a result of the pandemic.

We stress, however, that the COVID-19 pandemic is just one of several drivers of worsening hunger and food insecurity. Long before the coronavirus, a pandemic of systemic and perpetual hunger being perpetrated by big business through the globalized food economy – a system characterized by unsustainable monoculture production, environmental plunder, and waste; as well as wars and conflicts fueled by imperialist competition for resources, land, and markets.

The worsening climate crisis – highlighted in

the 2021 report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) – has been pushing hundreds of millions to famine and deprivation. Like many other environmental crises, the climate crisis is deeply rooted in the inherently destructive monopoly capitalist mode of production, including in food and agriculture.

Amid these multiple and interrelated crises of health, climate, environment, and economy and their many impacts on hunger and poverty, it is indeed very urgent to radically transform the global food system.

The nature of this transformation should be a subject of open and honest debate, with people’s rights at the center of all discussions. But the oligopolies of agribusiness including the agro-industrial livestock industry, agrochemicals, genetic engineering, and digital technology in cahoots with research institutions, foundations, and token civil society groups, have dominated and dictated the discussions on food systems transformation, as can be clearly seen in the United Nations Food Systems Summit (UNFSS).

We find it unacceptable that the UNFSS is proclaiming itself as a so-called “people’s summit” when the aspirations and demands of the world’s peoples for a truly radical transformation of food systems are being met with lip service while being sidelined by the profit-seeking interests of monopoly corporations. As the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food pointed out, the UNFSS turned a blind eye to structural causes of failed food systems, ignored the worrisome

corporate concentration of power, and diluted the right to participation in decision-making through the so-called multistakeholder approach. While supposedly encouraging the contribution of grassroots movements and civil society, the UNFSS lacked transparency and meaningful opportunities for people to participate. Those who took part in UNFSS events and meetings have become cynical as there was no clear connection between people's input and the Summit's outcomes.

The path that UNFSS has charted is towards the further promotion of “techno-fix “solutions”, including digital farming or precision agriculture; harmful technologies like agrochemicals and genetic engineering; and market-based approaches anchored in neoliberal policies of privatization, deregulation, and trade liberalization, pushed by corporations and implemented by governments – all for the narrow benefit of big business at the great expense of people and the planet, including fragile ecosystems already suffering unprecedented forest fires to make way for agro-industrial production.

It is highly concerning that powerful industrial livestock agribusinesses, which are among the worst emitters of GHGs and destroyers of forests, have gained space in the UNFSS while small-holder farmers have been almost erased from the process. The UNFSS thus serves this destructive industry by greenwashing its harmful practices and giving them free passes to continue as usual with their dirty business. Meanwhile, governments and multilateral development banks continue to invest in unsustainable

livestock farming, especially in the Global South, when the real solution is to divest from factory farming and redirect those resources towards small-scale diverse farming, agroecological practices, and overall cleaner food systems.

We say to the UNFSS and its big business patrons, “Not in our name!”

Not in our name shall you peddle unsafe GM foods on the pretext of addressing the climate crisis when your real intention is to deepen and expand corporate monopoly control of our seeds and resources.

Not in our name shall you push more toxic pesticides from the Poison Cartel of big agrochemical companies in the guise of improving farm productivity, when these expensive inputs merely shove small food producers into the pits of debts and bankruptcy, while damaging our health and environment.

Not in our name shall you displace and threaten indigenous peoples and local communities and deforest their lands to make way for agro-industrial livestock farming, plantations, mining, and other so-called development projects, which are already taking a huge toll on the world's forests.

Not in our name shall Big Tech mine, privatize, and monopolize data about our farms and crops so that corporations can

consolidate their position as the command and control of food production while making it easier for the finance oligarchs to determine which are the most profitable farmlands for their parasitic speculation.

Not in our name shall governments use their levers of power to subsidize and orient food production towards exports rather than towards feeding their own citizens.

Thus, we have gathered as the Global People's Summit to expose and strongly counter the devious corporate agenda of the anti-people summit that is the UNFSS.

More importantly, as the Global People's Summit, we declare that through the collective vigor and resolve of our communities and movements, we shall advance with unwavering enthusiasm the people's demands for a food systems transformation that is truly built on justice, equitability, health, and sustainability.

We commit to the struggle for just food systems.

We believe that a just food system can only be built on the people's right to own and effectively control land, seeds, water, and other productive resources. We will continue to assert that land belongs to those who directly till and enrich the land to produce food and other needs of societies, and not to the landlords or corporations that enormously profit from its wanton exploitation. Water resources shall be accessible at all times to communities that

rely on them for food and livelihood. We will resist all forms of land and resource grabbing and labor exploitation that massively displace farmers, indigenous peoples, workers, fishers, and other rural peoples. We demand accountability from those who plunder and destroy the environment and grossly violate the people's rights to land and resources.

In building just and healthy food systems, the contributions of indigenous and local communities, including women, who play an essential role in the sustainable management of natural resources and restoration of ecosystems, must be recognized. Indigenous and genuinely sustainable local initiatives to produce food must be supported instead of the destructive and unsustainable agro-industrial food production. Recognition of Indigenous Peoples' self-determination over their ancestral land and diversified food system is critical to promote just and equitable food systems.

A just food system entails that people's rights and human dignity be upheld at all times. No community, social class, or nation shall be ever deprived of access to food because of poverty, wars, or conflicts.

We commit to the struggle for equitable food systems.

We believe that an equitable food system can only be built on the people's right to land and livelihoods, and to decent working and living conditions for all. This means that food

production must be decided by the sovereign will of the people, based on their particular circumstances, priorities, and needs. Profit motives of corporations – euphemistically called market forces – should not determine what food to produce, how to produce it, and for whom. Meanwhile, we assert that agricultural workers and all workers in the food sector must enjoy living wages, job security, maximum social protection, and other rights and benefits, and the incomes of smallholder farmers must be guaranteed through various forms of state support and protection to allow them and their families to live decently. Women farmers, who make up much of the global farming population, must be accorded the respect they have earned, and their rights protected.

We commit to the struggle for healthy food systems.

We believe that healthy food systems can only be built on the people’s right to have access at all times to nutritious and sufficient food. Food that is produced in an agroecological manner must be promoted and be made widely available and affordable to all in order to protect the health and wellbeing of both the food producers and consumers. We assert that food production that relies on heavy doses of poisonous agrochemicals or uses questionable technology – like genetic modification – must be halted. Corporate-controlled farms and plantations and intensive, large-scale animal farming are creating conditions for the spread of killer diseases and pandemics and must be held accountable for damaging

We believe that healthy food systems can only be built on the people’s right to have access at all times to nutritious and sufficient food. Food that is produced in an agroecological manner must be promoted and be made widely available and affordable to all in order to protect the health and wellbeing of both the food producers and consumers. We assert that food production that relies on heavy doses of poisonous agrochemicals or uses questionable technology – like genetic modification – must be halted. Corporate-controlled farms and plantations and intensive, large-scale animal farming are creating conditions for the spread of killer diseases and pandemics and must be held accountable for damaging the environment and harming public health.

We commit to the struggle for sustainable food systems.

We believe that sustainable food systems can only be built on the people’s right to a healthy planet and environment that is also capable of adequately producing all the food needs of the world’s population. Building a strong foundation for sustainability in our food systems requires food sovereignty and agroecology, for people’s rights to land and resources, for decent working and living conditions, and for a nutritious diet. We assert that our farmers and other small food producers can feed the world in a manner that is mindful of our planetary boundaries by maximizing and combining their indigenous knowledge and practices with socially responsible science and technology supported by public resources and

appropriate, pro-people, and pro-planet government programs. Amid a worsening climate crisis, support for smallholder farm production is more urgent and necessary than ever. Unlike large-scale corporate farms that drive significant GHG emissions, smallholder farmers are motivated to practice agroecology and are more resilient to severe climatic events. Unlike industrial mono-crop plantations and factory farming, small-scale farmers practice integrated farming and diverse crop production. They are the custodians of the diversity of crop species and varieties that are crucial in maintaining rich and healthy biodiversity, which is very important for global food security and indispensable for resilient food systems, in particular in the face of the growing climate crisis.

We commit to the struggle for diverse local food systems.

We believe that a single, globalized food system imposed everywhere can never be healthy, sustainable, or equitable. Those goals can only be met by local food systems that are reflections of cultural and biological diversity, and that put local needs before export. Local food systems are the key to food sovereignty, dignified land-based

livelihoods, and the health and wellbeing of both people and the planet. We reject and oppose the globalization and corporatization of our food systems, and call for the political mechanisms – regulations, subsidies, and taxes – that currently favor the big, global and techno-industrialized, to be shifted so that they support sustainable local food systems instead.

We vow to work collectively to carry out the national, regional, sectoral, and thematic People’s Action Plans that were produced from the workshops, public forums, and consultations organized under the Global People’s Summit. These Action Plans represent our concrete and particular demands and campaigns along the four pillars of food systems transformation – (1) Food sovereignty and democracy at the core of food and agricultural policies; (2) Agroecology and sustainability in production, distribution, and consumption; (3) People’s right to land, production, and resources; and (4) People’s right to adequate, safe, nutritious, and culturally-appropriate food.

We are the Global People’s Summit and we are hungry for change.

Join the struggle for just, equitable, healthy, and sustainable food systems!

About

PAN Asia Pacific (PANAP) is one of the five regional centres of PAN, a global network dedicated to eliminating the harm caused to humans and the environment by pesticides and promoting biodiversity-based ecological agriculture. PANAP's vision is a society that is truly democratic, equal, just, and culturally diverse; based on the principles of food sovereignty, gender justice and environmental sustainability. It has developed strong partnership with peasants, agricultural workers, and rural women's movements in the Asia Pacific region and guided by the strong leadership of these grassroots groups, has grown into a reputable advocacy network with a firm Asian perspective. PANAP's mission lies in strengthening people's movements to advance and assert food sovereignty, biodiversity-based ecological agriculture, and the empowerment of rural women; protect people and the environment from highly hazardous pesticides; defend the rice heritage of Asia; and resist the threats of corporate agriculture and neoliberal globalisation. Currently, PANAP comprises 105 network partner organisations in the Asia Pacific region and links with about 400 other civil society organisations and grassroots organisations regionally and globally.

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