



La Via Campesina's Open Book: Celebrating 20 Years of Struggle and Hope

Introduction

Looking from a distance, La Via Campesina is like a rainbow. It springs up from an open field and dives into the earth once again, a forest or a river. All of its colors radiate out in dazzling diversity, from dark red to light green, merging and blending under heavy rains and bright sun.

We write these pages of this open book to collectively reflect on Via Campesina, the international farmers movement, 20 years after its birth.

We invited women and men who have taken part in the movement and observed its evolution to contribute to this publication: farmers, academicians, leaders, friends and staff from around the world.

Those who took up the challenge are sharing their ideas and memories in this text, including the history of farmers' struggles in various parts of the world, current analysis and testimonies. They also confront the main challenges of our social movement for the years to come.

This online compilation does not represent the official voice of Via Campesina. Rather, it reflects the analysis and opinions of each of the writers. It is a sharing and learning space for all of our members, leaders, friends and supporters for the 20th anniversary of the movement that will be celebrated in June 2013 in Jakarta during the 6th International Conference of Via Campesina.

We hope that this Open Book generates enthusiasm among our members and allies and inspires them to keep writing this living history with their own hands.

Henry Saragih
Jakarta, May 2013

Most articles in this compilation are published in their original languages; only a few of them have been translated so far. We hope that in the coming months we will be able to publish more translations thanks to the tireless commitment of the volunteer translators supporting our movement on a daily basis.

