LA VIA CAMPESINA
International Peasant Movement

E-NEWSLETTER
June 2015

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HIGHLIGHTED ARTICLE

Both sides of the Pacific- Via Campesina members oppose TPP

Joint Press Release against Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP)
On both sides of the Pacific, peasants, family farmers, and rural workers reject the extension of neoliberal policies
(June 15, 2015): We, members of La Via Campesina on both sides of the Pacific, jointly express our opposition to the TPP. This so-called partnership is in fact an extension of the neoliberal policies that are being promoted by transnational corporations (TNCs) with the support of the governments at their service.
Neoliberal policies and trade agreements have already caused catastrophic damage to peasants and family farmers and to agricultural workers, who are more and more at the mercy of the transnational corporations. The increasing control of global commodity markets exercised by these corporations constitutes a threat to the livelihoods of peasants, family farmers and rural workers, to the well-being of indigenous communities, and to the health of consumers. Their power is an affront to food sovereignty and social justice, and a threat to ecological integrity. As more than twenty years of experience with neoliberal trade agreements has shown, increases in agricultural exports serve only to increase the profits of transnational corporations; they do not raise the net incomes of peasants and farmers. Read more...

ARTICLES FROM THE REGIONS

Save our seeds and save rice: National Peasant day celebrated in Nepal

(Nepal, June 30, 2015) All Nepal Peasants' Federation, the largest peasants' organization in Nepal organized various programs including a paddy plantation program on the occasion of national peasants'/ paddy day/Ashar 15(A day in Nepali calendar that falls on June 29/30). The program was devoted to all the peasants' and their families victimized by earthquake and "*Save our seeds and save rice*" was the motto for this year. ANPFa Chairperson and deputy prime minister and home minister of Nepal, Hon. Bamdev Gautam inaugurated the paddy plantation program in Kathmandu and such programs were organized in more than 40 districts of Nepal including Sunsari, Morang, Kavre, Dhading, Rupendehi, Lalitpur.
In the program organized in Kathmandu, Hon. Gautam highlighted the role of ANPFa in professionalization of agriculture. "*Forming should be a profession. We need to change the face of agriculture from subsistence to commercial*," He added. Minister for energy, Hon. Radha Gyawali was special guest of the program where ANPFa leadership including Sarada Prasad Subedi, D.B. Karki, Baburam Thapa were present. Balram Banskota deputy General Secretary of ANPFa, explained the importance of rice in the Asian societies. He said, "*Rice is our culture. In every occasion whether it is a birth ceremony or death ritual even the marriage, rice is used. It is our staple food. We need to conserve rice to conserve our identity*". Read more...

We who come from Africa, the Maghreb and other countries

La Via Campesina Africa Region II
(July 6, 2015) We, who have been evicted from our land and territories, and dispossessed of our natural resources,
We, young women, men and communities,
We farmers,
We, who live permanently impoverished, in conflict-ridden areas and under threat by armed groups,
We, who are unemployed and desperate,
We, who leave our land and our families, we who face all possible risks including death because we are left with no other choice than to believe that El Dorado can be found on the other side of the Mediterranean. Read more...

Israeli Violations against the Palestinian Farmers, 2015

The Union of Agricultural Work Committees (UAWC) followed up intensely the Israeli violations against the Palestinian farmers to expose the brutality of the occupation to the local and international world. In addition, UAWC supported the affected Palestinian farmers and their families to strengthen their resilience on land – the land of the parents and grandparents. The violations mentioned in the report are just a part of the Israeli violations against the Palestinian agricultural sector for not all of the violations are reported and documented.
In the first six months of 2015, the Israeli army and Israeli settlers uprooted more than 9910 trees most of them were olive trees. In comparison the total number of trees uprooted in 2014 was 9400. Thus, there is a tangible increase in the number of trees uprooted in 2015. Download and read the Semi Annual Report

GM Free Coalition Warns GEAC Against GM Mustard Commercialisation

La Via Campesina South Asia
Coalition For A GM Free India
Press Release
(India, New Delhi, June 17, 2015): "Bt Brinal then, GM Mustard now – will GEAC repeat the mistake of thrusting Genetically Modified food onto our plates? We will strongly oppose any attempt to approve commercialization of GM mustard," warned the Coalition for GM Free India. The Coalition while releasing a Briefing Paper on Delhi University's GM mustard at a press conference in the capital reminded the GM regulator about the flood of concerns that rocked the entire country when Bt Brinjal, the first GM food crop that was approved by the regulator and later had to be put under an indefinite moratorium by the government during 2009-10. GM mustard is the first genetically engineered food crop being considered for commercial approval by GEAC since the Bt Brinjal fiasco. Read more...

African civil society slams Monsanto junk GM maize deal

Press Release by: African Centre for Biodiversity (ACB), Tanzania Alliance for Biodiversity (TABIO), União Nacional de Camponeses (UNAC), Kenya Biodiversity Coalition (KBioC), Kenya Food Rights Alliance (KeFRA), Eastern and Southern African Small-Scale Farmers Forum Uganda (ESAFF, Uganda)
19 June 2015 Johannesburg, Dar es Salaam, Maputo, Nairobi, Kampala
Non-governmental and farmer organizations from South Africa, Tanzania, Mozambique, Kenya and Uganda strongly condemn the go-ahead given by the South African GMO authorities for Monsanto to commercially sell its genetically modified (GM) "drought tolerant" maize seed for cultivation in South Africa. According to the groups, there is no evidence showing that the drought tolerant trait even works. Read more...

Recognize current crisis and implement public regulation tools for dairy market, says the European dairy farmers

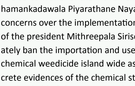
Press release

European dairy farmers call for immediate recognition of current crisis and for implementation of public regulation tools for the dairy market
(Brussels, 30/06/2015) On the occasion of the 7th meeting of the Milk Market Observatory, which was taking place in Brussels today, we – the European Coordination Via Campesina (ECVC) and the European Milk Board (EMB)– jointly call for an immediate recognition of the current crisis and for the implementation of measures to prevent future crises. These demands follow up on the latest report of the Committee of Regions as well as on observations made in the European Parliament's Nicholson Report. The persistence with which the European Commission maintains its liberalisation policy, regardless of the future of European dairy farmers, seems unacceptable to us. Read more...

1000 Cow Factory Farms- Milk crisis

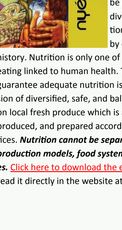
Press Release – Brussels, 16th June 2015
European Coordination of Via Campesina stands in solidarity with the farmers protest taking place around Europe.
European Coordination Via Campesina (ECVC) supports the demonstration of farmers that will take place on 17 June in Amiens, France, and is in solidarity with the activists put on trial there. The struggle against the "1000 cow factory farm", for which those on trial are being persecuted, has become an important symbol of the global fight against the industrialization of the agriculture.
The distorted competition created by factory farms holds multiple risks for farmers livelihoods, rural employment, food quality and the environment. Factory farms drive down prices by exploiting workers, livestock and the environment – costs for which they do not pay. In addition their investments drive up the cost of land, denying local farmers and new entrants access to agricultural land. These crimes are paid for by European taxes and supported by public policies such as CAP subsidies, investment support and prices guaranteed for the energy from bio-gas and photovoltaic all while destroying the peasant family farming. Read more...

Sri Lanka: Implement the Glyphosate Herbicide ban immediately! - National Movement Against Poisons



La Via Campesina South Asia
(Sri Lanka, June 14, 2015) The National Movement Against Poisons (NMAP) demanded the government of Sri Lanka to immediately implement the ban on Glyphosate, at a news conference held today at Center for Society and Religious. NMAP is a coalition that includes MONLAR, an LVC member.
The co-convener of the movement, Ven. Mahamankadawala Piyarathane Nayaka thero raised concerns over the implementation of the decision of the president Mithreepala Sirisena to immediately ban the importation and use of Glyphosate chemical weedicide island wide as there are concrete evidences of the chemical still available in the market behind the scene. He also stresses out that the powerful agribusiness mafia is trying to overturn the decisions of the president that was taken for the sake of farmers, consumers and future generations of the country that has been already affected with various unknown diseases including chronic kidney disease epidemic. . Read more...

Nutrition and Food Sovereignty



The new edition of the Nyéléni Newsletter is now online!
Human nutrition refers to the interaction between food and the human body, and the resulting health and wellbeing of individuals. The best source of nutrition continues to be breastfeeding and diversified rich traditional foods developed by cultures throughout history. Nutrition is only one of the dimensions of eating linked to human health. The best way to guarantee adequate nutrition is through the provision of diversified, safe, and balanced diets, based on local fresh produce which is agroecologically produced, and prepared according to cultural practices. ***Nutrition cannot be separated from food, production models, food systems or eating practices.*** Click here to download the english editionor read it directly in the website at www.nyeleni.org!

VIACAMPESINA TV

New Videos!

People's Expo Milan 2015: Conclusions

Listen to Giosue de Salvo, Italy Coordinator of People's Expo Hanny van Geel, Netherland European Coordination for La Via Campesina Maria Salgado, Indigenous People's Council Mani Stanley Panama Nassgh Jaffer, South Africa Word Forum of Fisher People Tristram Stuart , Writer Carlo Petrini, Slow Food Movement Elisabeth Mopfu Global Coordinator of La Via Campesina Peter Rosset, agroecologist and rural development specialist Ibrahim Coulibali, National Coordination of Peasant Organisations of Mali (CNOP) La Via campesina Roberto Sensi, ActionAid Andrea Ferrante, farmer and Via Campesina Representative Biraj Patnaik, Comissioners of the Supreme Court of India Deborah James, Center for Economic Policy Research Giosue de Salvo, Italy Coordinator of People's Expo. Video produced by focuspuller. Click here to watch

UAWC in the Field

Watch UAWC's new short film titled: UAWC in the Field, Al-Sileh Al-Harithyeh ,Jenin.

Click here to watch

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