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**HIGHLIGHTED ARTICLE**



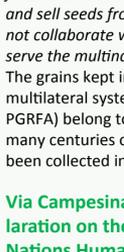
**16th October - International Day of Action for Peoples' Food Sovereignty and against transnational corporations**

**Call for action: As the world marks World Food Day on the 16<sup>th</sup> October, we call for true solutions to climate change, for Food Sovereignty, and for an end to the corporate control of our food and our lives.** (Watch the video "[Together we can cool the planet!](#)") launched this October (16)

(Harare, October 12, 2015) La Via Campesina calls its members and allies, and civil society organizations to mobilize and organize actions on October 16<sup>th</sup>, the **International Day of Action for Peoples' Food Sovereignty and against transnational corporations (TNCs)**. The current climate, hunger and migrant and refugee crises affecting millions of peasants, small farmers, families, especially women and youth show that corporate solutions are false and won't yield human dignity. TNCs displace and dispossess millions of peasants and family farmers, women and men of their land, forests, water and territories to set up profit seeking destructive enterprises. Globally, over 1.2 billion peasants and their families : ensure food sovereignty and the right to food by providing up to 80% of locally consumed food and cool the planet and conserve biodiversity and seeds. On October 16th, let us raise our voices and resist land grabbing, so-called *climate smart agriculture* laden with agro-toxins and genetically-modified seeds; and call for a radical transformation towards a fair and decent food system for all. **We continue to propose wider adoption of agroecology and the construction of people's food sovereignty.** [Read more...](#)

**ARTICLES FROM THE REGIONS**

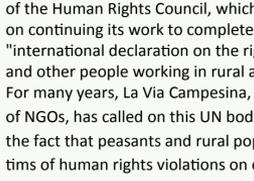
**You are destroying the Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources**



**To member governments of the governing body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources (IT PGRFA), Meeting in Rome 5-9 October 2015**

We want to tell you that you are in the process of destroying the treaty. It is organising the theft of our seeds and our knowledge. We can no longer continue to give them to researchers and other prospectors that come and collect them in our fields, to then put them in the Treaty's gene banks. *As long as you do not ban all bio-pirated patents, as long as farmers do not have a right to keep, use, exchange and sell seeds from their own harvests then we will not collaborate with research and gene banks that serve the multinational seed companies.* The grains kept in genetic resource banks run by the multilateral system of the Treaty on Plants (IT PGRFA) belong to us: they are our inheritance from many centuries of peasant selection, and they have been collected in our fields. [Read more...](#)

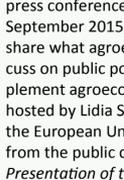
**Via Campesina promotes international declaration on the rights of peasants in United Nations Human Rights Council**



(Geneva, September 24, 2015) A delegation of La Via Campesina peasant men and women from Africa, Asia, Latin America and Europe have come to Geneva for the 30th session of the Human Rights Council, which is soon to vote on continuing its work to complete an "international declaration on the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas". For many years, La Via Campesina, with the support of NGOs, has called on this UN body, denouncing the fact that peasants and rural populations are victims of human rights violations on every continent, though exclusion, land grabbing, repression of peasant leaders and the effects of agrochemicals on health. [Read more...](#)

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**European Coordination Via Campesina highlights from the public debate "Agroecology in the EU"**



**Information Note, Brussels, 23 September 2015 (Download PDF)**  
European Coordination Via Campesina organised a public debate and a press conference on "Agroecology in the EU", on 17 September 2015, at the European Parliament, to share what agroecology means to farmers and discuss on public policies needed to support and implement agroecology in Europe. This debate was hosted by Lidia Senra, GUE MEP, and co-funded by the European Union. Here below some highlights from the public debate speakers panels. *Presentation of the declaration of the International Forum for Agroecology*  
Andrea Ferrante, ECVC Coordination Committee member, presented the [declaration of the International Forum for Agroecology](#). Food producers organizations from all over the world have recently met in the international forum for Agroecology (Mali, February 2015) to develop a common understanding of Agroecology. The outcome is a milestone Declaration that ECVC thinks can be supported and developed within the EU. [Read more...](#)

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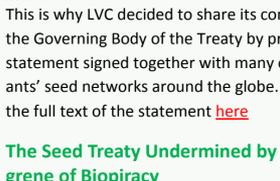
**Via Campesina and other social movements in Rome to warn against threat of new patents**



**Media Release (Rome, October 5, 2015)**  
La Via Campesina and other social movements came to Rome from 5-9 October for the Sixth Session of the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (IT-PGRFA) to warn the Governing Body against the threat of new patents on native seeds. The Seed Treaty is the only international agreement that clearly recognizes the right of farmers to save, use, exchange and sell their seeds. The Member States of the Treaty have the responsibility of realizing farmers' rights, but so far nothing has been done. Until now, the Treaty has not been able to guarantee the promised sharing of benefits. The industry, which has been using our seeds for breeding, has never paid anything. Quite to the contrary, more than 10 years after it entered into force, we have seen a shift towards the patenting of our native seeds' genes, thereby turning the Treaty into a tool of biopiracy, serving industry's interests. This is why LVC decided to share its concern with the Governing Body of the Treaty by presenting the statement signed together with many other peasants' seed networks around the globe. You will find the full text of the statement [here](#)

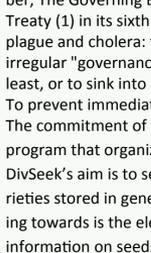
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**The Seed Treaty Undermined by the Gangrene of Biopiracy**



**La Via Campesina Press Release (Harare, October 15, 2015)**  
After a week of arduous debates at the FAO headquarters in Rome, on the 9th of October, The Governing Body of the International Seed Treaty (1) in its sixth session had to choose between plague and cholera: to accept as fait accompli its irregular "governance arrangements", to say the least, or to sink into an open crisis. To prevent immediate burst, it has declared valid: The commitment of its secretariat to the DivSeek program that organizes biopiracy at a global level. DivSeek's aim is to sequence the genomes of all varieties stored in gene banks. This program is working towards is the electronic publication of genetic information on seeds entrusted to the gene banks for which the Treaty is responsible without including any prohibition to patent nor to share benefits, thus violating the rules of the Treaty. [Read more...](#)

**Victory of the peasants' movement in the struggle for the recognition of their rights within the UN**



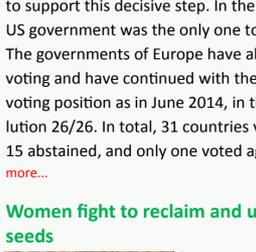
**Press Release - La Via Campesina (Geneva, October 5, 2015)**  
On the afternoon of October 1st 2015, the United Nations Human Rights Council adopted by majority a resolution where it decides that the open-ended intergovernmental working group, with the mandate to negotiate, finalize and submit to the Human Rights Council a draft United Nations declaration on the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas, shall continue the process for the next two years. The resolution was presented by the governments of Bolivia, Ecuador, Cuba and South Africa and sponsored among others by Switzerland, Brazil, Eritrea and Argentina, in a joint effort from all regions to support this decisive step. In the final vote, the US government was the only one to vote against. The governments of Europe have abstained from voting and have continued with the same bloc voting position as in June 2014, in the vote on resolution 26/26. In total, 31 countries voted in favor, 15 abstained, and only one voted against.\* [Read more...](#)

**Women fight to reclaim and use traditional seeds**



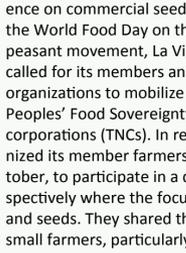
(Harare, October 20, 2015) Women from Zimbabwe Smallholder Organic Farmers Forum (ZIMSOFF) continuously fight to reclaim and use traditional seeds, and break dependence on commercial seeds. As the world celebrated the World Food Day on the 16th, the international peasant movement, La Via Campesina, on this day, called for its members and allies, and civil society organizations to mobilize and organize actions for Peoples' Food Sovereignty and against transnational corporations (TNCs). In response, ZIMSOFF organized its member farmers on the 16th and 17th October, to participate in a dialogue and festival respectively where the focus was on traditional food and seeds. They shared the plight faced by many small farmers, particularly women and youth under the current climate and hunger crises. Over 12 smallholder farmers (from four ZIMSOFF clusters: northern, eastern, western and central) participated in the festival. Of these farmers, 8 were women and were selected from the best farmers, the winners, at ZIMSOFF cluster food and seed fairs, to represent their clusters at the national level. The cluster food and seed fairs were held in August and September this year. They brought their own seeds and processed farm produce to showcase at the national festival. They brought also seeds and processed farm produce randomly selected from other cluster members. [Read more...](#)

**Via Campesina condemns the attacks against Brazilian Via Campesina and MST Leader, João Pedro Stedile**



**Via Campesina expresses its solidarity with João Pedro Stedile and with our Sisters and Brothers in the MST (Harare, October 13, 2015)**  
Once again, we see that the Landless Workers Movement (MST), the largest peasant farmer movement in Brazil, a founding organization and active member of the Via Campesina, is the target of a campaign by Brazilian and transnational capital to deter its historic struggle for popular agrarian reform and authentic political reform - a struggle which runs counter to the interests of agribusiness and the multinationals. Once again, our comrade João Pedro Stedile of the MST, has been the target of attacks on the part of the conservative oligarchy that has ties to financial capital. On September 22nd, in the Pinto Martins Airport in Fortaleza, Ceará, a group of trouble-makers hurled curses and insults at João Pedro Stedile, as he arrived to take part in a conference and in other union activities related to the struggle for popular agrarian reform. [Read more...](#)

**Food Justice and Food Sovereignty in USA**



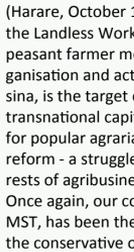
The new edition of the Nyeleni newsletter is now online! **Read the first edition of the newsletter about the situation of one region! This edition explores the relation between Food Justice and Food Sovereignty in the United States.** Food Sovereignty emerged as La ViaCampesina's bold response to the "free trade" regimes destroying livelihoods around the world. It's been taken up widely by communities around the World reeling from the spread of agrofuels, GMOs, land grabs and the "privatization of everything." Food Sovereignty reflects the deep resistance of people's historical struggles against exploitation, oppression and colonization. When communities fighting for their rights discover the principles of food sovereignty, their reaction is often "Yes! That's what we're doing!" Food Justice is one such struggle. The radical roots of the United States are deep in the movement for Black Liberation. [Click here](#) to download the English edition or read it directly in the website at [www.nyeleni.org](http://www.nyeleni.org)

**Small Scale Food Producers Launch the first ever Joint Vision for Agroecology**



**Report of the International Forum for Agroecology, Nyeleni, Mali is now available**  
In a new report launched today, small scale food producers present their first ever common vision on agroecology for Food Sovereignty to Governments assembled at the Committee on World Food Security. Representing the producers of 70% of the world's food, they call for an immediate transformation of food system towards agroecology. "Agroecology practised by small scale producers generates local knowledge, promotes social justice, nurtures identity and culture and strengthens the economic viability of rural areas," states the Report (<http://www.foodsovereignty.org/agroecologynyeleni2015>) of the International Forum for Agroecology at the Nyeleni Center, Mali. "Agroecology is political; it requires us to challenge and transform structures of power in society. We need to put the control of seeds, biodiversity, land and territories, waters, knowledge, culture and the commons in the hands of the peoples who feed the world." [Read more...](#)

**Brazil: MPA holds a historic peasant congress to build food sovereignty**



More than 4 thousands people, from all Brazilian States, have left their homes and farms to join caravans from different regions of the country towards Sao Paulo, to attend the First National Peasants Congress of MPA, the Small-Farmers Movement of Brazil, member of La Via Campesina. The symbolic Pavilion of Vera Cruz, the same place where the biggest trade union in Brazil, the CUT, and the Workers Party (Partido dos Trabalhadores) were founded, decades ago. MPA has mobilised thousands of rural women and men to come together and consolidate all the work the movement has been doing in the last 20 years and reaffirm their class identity as peasants. MPA is re-affirming at this congress the strategic alliance between rural peasants and urban workers. [Read more...](#)

**Peasants' rights belong to peasants! Don't take a single one away!**

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**Thank you Mr. Chair. Ladies and Gentlemen,** 30 years ago, in this very same room, civil society already suggested the debate on farmers' rights to the FAO. Now, 30 years have gone by; an entire generation. Finally, the Treaty was approved but in reality, its implementation is still incomplete. Together with many farmers' seed networks from across the world, La Via Campesina has warned about the risk of abuses created by the collaboration between the Secretariat and Divseek regarding the access to plant genetic resources and Farmers' Rights. The time has come to reiterate our warning: it must not be allowed that the violations of the principles and rules of governance of the Treaty lead to its destruction. Now, it seems that the Treaty is becoming a "gigabyte treaty" which does not defend farmers' rights, in situ conservation, nor peasant seeds. [Read more...](#)

**Black farmers' lives matter: Defending Afro-American land and agriculture in the deep south**

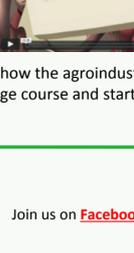


By Beverly Bell, Other Worlds\*  
October 5, 2015  
The 2015 [US Food Sovereignty Prize](#) goes to two organizations that are demonstrating just how much Black lives matter, as they defend their ancestral lands for community-controlled food production. The [Federation of Southern Cooperatives](#), primarily African-American farmers across the deep South, shares the prize with the [Black Fraternal Organization of Honduras](#), Afro-indigenous farmers and fisher-people. The prize will be presented in Des Moines on October 14, 2015. Food sovereignty goes beyond ensuring that people have enough food to meet their physical needs. It asserts that citizens everywhere must reclaim their power in food systems by rebuilding the relationships between people and the land, and between food providers and those who eat. The US Food Sovereignty Alliance upholds the right to food as a basic human right and works to connect our local and national struggles to the international movement for food sovereignty. [Read more...](#)

**No TTIP For Food Sovereignty**

**Press Release Brussels, 13 October 2015**  
Faced with an increased offensive from European Union political leaders in issues like free trade agreements, austerity measures and social dumping, the European Coordination Via Campesina (ECVC) is mobilizing and joining Brussels' action days the 15, 16 and 17 October. In concert with civil society and labor unions from across Belgium and Europe, peasant farm organizations are denouncing the policies of the EU, inclined towards big capital and multinational corporations. The secretive negotiations around the TTIP free trade agreement (FTA) with the United States are an example of such policies. Our members are raising the alarm, underscoring the threats this FTA represents to the environment, peasant livelihoods and our health. [Read more...](#)

**Small grains are an important food crop, says Miss Mutema**



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In view of the humanitarian crisis that we are living in Europe, the peasants of La Via Campesina Europe want to show their sincere solidarity with all refugees who were and who are forced to leave their villages and their countries. We show our solidarity especially with Syrians, Iraqis, Afghans, Kurds, those coming from all different regions of Africa dying by the hundreds on their way to Europe. We would like to denounce the current cruel European migration policies, as well as all measures put in place to prevent or to complicate the free access to Europe. [Read more...](#)

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**An Open Letter - Threats in Colombia: Serious Concern regarding lack of guarantees To the President of Colombia To the Governments of the European Union, the countries of Europe, and the United States To Public Opinion**

October 13th, 2015  
**Subject: Threats in Colombia: Serious Concern regarding lack of guarantees**  
The government of Juan Manuel Santos and the FARC guerrilla movement recently announced that they had reached an agreement on the topic of Justice, one of the subject under discussion in their ongoing talks in Havana. This is an important step, allowing us to look forward with optimism to the possible signature of an agreement that will bring to an end the armed conflict between the Colombian government and the FARC guerrillas after more than 60 years of war, we believe that this is a possibility that must not be lost. Furthermore, we hope that talks, leading to an eventual agreement, will soon be started with the ELN guerrilla movement. [Read more...](#)

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**"Together, we can cool the planet!" - full video**



(Harare, October 16, 2015) For many years, La Via Campesina and GRAIN have been telling the world about how the agroindustrial food system causes half of all greenhouse gas emissions. But the world's governments are refusing to face these problems head on, and the Paris Summit in December is approaching without any effective commitment to doing so on their part. This new video ([Together, we can cool the planet!](#)) by La Via Campesina and GRAIN gives you the information you need to understand how the agroindustrial food system is impacting our climate, and at the same time what we can do to change course and start cooling the planet. And every single one of us is part of the solution! [Read more...](#)

**VIACAMPESINA TV**



**New Videos!**

**"Together, we can cool the planet!" - full video**

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October 13th, 2015  
**Subject: Threats in Colombia: Serious Concern regarding lack of guarantees**  
The government of Juan Manuel Santos and the FARC guerrilla movement recently announced that they had reached an agreement on the topic of Justice, one of the subject under discussion in their ongoing talks in Havana. This is an important step, allowing us to look forward with optimism to the possible signature of an agreement that will bring to an end the armed conflict between the Colombian government and the FARC guerrillas after more than 60 years of war, we believe that this is a possibility that must not be lost. Furthermore, we hope that talks, leading to an eventual agreement, will soon be started with the ELN guerrilla movement. [Read more...](#)

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**Small Scale Food Producers Launch the first ever Joint Vision for Agroecology**

**Report of the International Forum for Agroecology, Nyeleni, Mali is now available**  
In a new report launched today, small scale food producers present their first ever common vision on agroecology for Food Sovereignty to Governments assembled at the Committee on World Food Security. Representing the producers of 70% of the world's food, they call for an immediate transformation of food system towards agroecology. "Agroecology practised by small scale producers generates local knowledge, promotes social justice, nurtures identity and culture and strengthens the economic viability of rural areas," states the Report (<http://www.foodsovereignty.org/agroecologynyeleni2015>) of the International Forum for Agroecology at the Nyeleni Center, Mali. "Agroecology is political; it requires us to challenge and transform structures of power in society. We need to put the control of seeds, biodiversity, land and territories, waters, knowledge, culture and the commons in the hands of the peoples who feed the world." [Read more...](#)

**Brazil: MPA holds a historic peasant congress to build food sovereignty**

More than 4 thousands people, from all Brazilian States, have left their homes and farms to join caravans from different regions of the country towards Sao Paulo, to attend the First National Peasants Congress of MPA, the Small-Farmers Movement of Brazil, member of La Via Campesina. The symbolic Pavilion of Vera Cruz, the same place where the biggest trade union in Brazil, the CUT, and the Workers Party (Partido dos Trabalhadores) were founded, decades ago. MPA has mobilised thousands of rural women and men to come together and consolidate all the work the movement has been doing in the last 20 years and reaffirm their class identity as peasants. MPA is re-affirming at this congress the strategic alliance between rural peasants and urban workers. [Read more...](#)

**Peasants' rights belong to peasants! Don't take a single one away!**

Final Statement of La Via Campesina during the Sixth Session of the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. Rome, October 9th, 2015  
**Thank you Mr. Chair. Ladies and Gentlemen,** 30 years ago, in this very same room, civil society already suggested the debate on farmers' rights to the FAO. Now, 30 years have gone by; an entire generation. Finally, the Treaty was approved