



La Via Campesina share this newsletter of December 2015, which is the collective effort of organizations that are part of our movement worldwide. Subscribe [HERE](#). [Support Via Campesina work. DONATE!](#)

HIGHLIGHTED ARTICLE

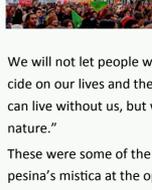
Wolf in sheep skin: WTO reinvents and seeks legitimacy in Africa



(Nairobi, December 15, 2015) After many years of ignoring African challenges posed by global trading system, the WTO- one of the principal instruments of global economic governance- comes to the continent to seek legitimacy. The WTO is trying to reinvent itself to appear as if it cares about Africa and has solutions to a myriad of problems (increasing poverty, unemployment and under-employment, collapse of social institutions, etc). African economies most of which are agro-based were ruined by the WTO which promotes developed countries and transnational corporations.

By hosting the 10th ministerial meeting, Kenya thinks it will increase its income from tourism and foreign investments in other economic sectors. It tries to hoodwink other African governments to embrace WTO. Kenyan government seems to have taken the WTO bait. Kenya and Africa should not be hoodwinked but pull out of the WTO. If they don't, the only real deal they will get is a raw deal to further kill their economies, peasants, consumers, industries and livelihoods. [Read more...](#)

COP21: The curtain falls on a masquerade



La Via Campesina, European Coordination Via Campesina, Confédération Paysanne Press release
(Paris, 12th of December 2015) After two weeks of heads of states taking centre stage to save their consciences, COP21 has come up with an agreement that many worried in advance would offer nothing good for the peoples of the world. There is nothing binding for states, national contributions lead us towards a global warming of over 3°C—and multinationals are the main beneficiaries. It was essentially a media circus. However states know how to make binding commitments when it comes to signing free trade agreements. Those agreements threaten the democratic functioning of countries by merely serving the interests of multinationals. Once more, it is clear that money dictates the law, even taking precedence over the future of humanity. [Read more...](#)

ARTICLES FROM THE REGIONS

COP21: La Via Campesina brings peasant voices to People's Climate Summit



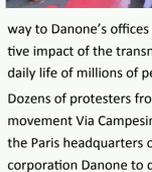
"We are the main victims of climate change—victims of an unjust system that is cruel, patriarchal and unresponsive.

We will not let people wearing suits and ties to decide on our lives and the fate of the earth. Nature can live without us, but we will not survive without nature."

These were some of the words of La Via Campesina's mistica at the opening ceremony of People's Climate Summit, a Global Village of Alternatives in Food and Agriculture held at Montreuil, parallel to COP21, in Paris. Surrounded by products from peasant agriculture and stalls from farmers of Confédération Paysanne, a French member organization of La Via Campesina, the movement's international delegation denounced false solutions to the climate crises. The world needs peasant and people's voices to be heard, just as the world needs climate justice.

In Paris, at the 21st Conference of the Parties (COP21), where representatives of corporations negotiated "false solutions" for climate change, La Via Campesina made it clear that Food Sovereignty and peasant agriculture are the real solutions to global climate crisis, by feeding the world and cooling the earth. While large-scale agricultural production uses 70 percent of the world agricultural resources to produce only 30 percent of the global food supply, peasant-based food systems provide 70 percent of global food supply while using only 30 percent of agricultural resources. [Read more...](#)

COP 21: Migrant Justice Action: Over 200 Activists March In Solidarity

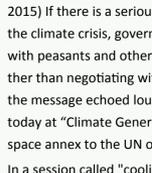


(Paris, December 9, 2015) Nearly 200 grassroots activists converged and marched, chanted, and sang with colorful banners, posters and outside the Vincennes detention center in Paris where several immigrants are illegally detained by the French government.

The Vincennes detention center where grassroots communities gathered is of particular significance, as it was the site of an historic uprising after the death of a Tunisian man while in custody in 2008.

This uprising brought national attention to the inhumane treatment of migrants and refugees in detention in Paris. [Read more...](#)

COP21: Social movements and allies call for transformation of food systems

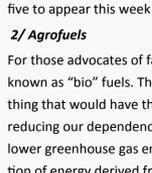


Global Convergence of Land and Water Struggles event on December 10, 2015 Venue: Salle Olympe de Gouge, Metro Voltaire (line 9)

(Paris, December 10, 2015) Small-scale food producers and consumers, including peasants, indigenous peoples, hunters and gatherers, family farmers, rural workers, herders and pastoralists, fisherfolk and urban people – the frontline communities – are increasingly confronted by the grabbing of natural resources and by systematic violations of human rights. They are also directly affected by the impacts of climate destruction. The climate change mitigation schemes of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) which are presented as "solutions" to the man-made climate crisis are false solutions given that they are intrinsically linked to these resource grabs and human rights violations.

The Global Convergence of Land and Water Struggles is an initiative initiated and led by grassroots organizations and social movements in order to link and strengthen the struggles for food and peoples' sovereignty and human rights. [Read more...](#)

Via Campesina Defies Ban, Holds Protest in Paris Against Danone



Originally published by [teleSur English](#)

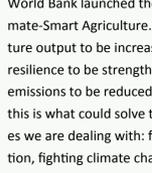
The activists painted the entrance way to Danone's offices red to denounce the negative impact of the transnational corporation in the daily life of millions of peasants.

Dozens of protesters from the international peasant movement Via Campesina protested Wednesday at the Paris headquarters of the international food corporation Danone to denounce the negative impact the transnational company has had on the daily life of millions of farm workers who have been forced to abandon their fields.

The activists painted the main entrance to the company's offices in red and placed banners, while chanting slogans such as "Danone is the enemy."

The rally was brief as participants were forced to abandon the demonstration before the police arrived, to avoid arrest and confrontation. The French government banned all public protests and rallies as part as the three-month state of emergency declared after the Paris attacks, which left over 130 people dead and hundreds injured.

"We have no other way out than winning Food sovereignty", Via Campesina at COP 21



Via Campesina Communication team at COP21

(Paris, 8th of October, 2015) If there is a serious commitment to solving the climate crisis, international would be working with peasants and other small-scale producers, rather than negotiating with corporations. This was the message echoed loudly among peasant leaders today at "Climate Generations", the civil society space annex to the UN official summit venue.

In a session called "cooling the planet through peasant agriculture and food sovereignty", peasants from several countries in Africa, Americas, Asia and Europe made it clear to some 200 people who attended the session that the world needs to adopt agroecology and food sovereignty to save the planet. [Read more...](#)

Climate: Real problem, false solutions. 1. GMOs

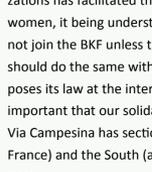


To solve the global warming crisis, multinationals are suggesting false solutions. Far from solving the problem they are contributing with their share of damages. A brief overview follows. This article is the first in a series of five to appear this week.

According to those who promote them, they are a wonderful dual-power technology. To start with, GMOs would have the ability to slow down climate change by: reducing the use of pesticides, which constitute a significant source of Green House Gases when they are produced and used; and by reducing tillage, which releases carbon emissions. What's even better is that GMOs would allow us to have plants that resist droughts and floods, which therefore adapt to climate change!

Really? [Read more...](#)

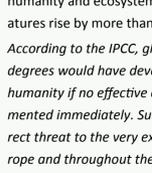
Climate: Real problem, false solutions. 2: Agrocarburants



To solve the global warming crisis, multinationals are suggesting false solutions. Far from solving the problem they are contributing with their share of damages. This article is the second in a series of five to appear this week

2/ Agrofuels
For those advocates of false solutions, they are known as "bio" fuels. The goal is to produce something that would have the very worthy benefit of reducing our dependence on oil, and in so doing lower greenhouse gas emissions, through the creation of energy derived from plants, a limitless resource by all accounts, which is certainly not the case with fossil fuels! [Read more...](#)

Climate: Real problem, false solutions. No.3: REDD+



To solve the global warming crisis, multinationals are suggesting false solutions. Far from solving the problem they are contributing with their share of damages. This article is the 3rd in a series of five to appear this week.

3/ REDD+
"Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation" a very worthwhile aim, and a + too which is the icing on the cake! The system is simple: the country (or local population, associations etc.) owning any substantial resources located within forests assesses the financial loss of not carrying out deforestation and the quantity of carbon that will therefore not be introduced into the atmosphere. Then industrialised countries (or collectives, NGOs, multinationals etc.) pay these forested nations to avert the destruction of their forests. In exchange for their forest saving investment, they are offered a means of offsetting their emissions and/or carbon credits. A fair deal then! And the + is for when we're also talking about the enhancement of carbon stocks, sustainable forest management and forest conservation. [Read more...](#)

Climate: Real problem, false solutions. No.4: Climate-Smart Agriculture



To solve the global warming crisis, multinationals are suggesting false solutions. Far from solving the problem they are contributing with their share of damages. This article is the 4th in a series of five to appear this week.

4/Climate-Smart Agriculture
On 23 September 2014, at the UN Climate summit convened by Ban Ki-moon in New York, the FAO and World Bank launched the Global Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture. This should enable agriculture output to be increased, agricultural systems' resilience to be strengthened and greenhouse gas emissions to be reduced all at the same time! So, this is what could solve the three of the major challenges we are dealing with: feeding the global population, fighting climate change and guaranteeing the sustainability of agricultural systems

Really? [Read more...](#)

Peasant agriculture-a true solution to climate crisis



5/Peasant Agriculture and Agroecology
Political projects from La Conf* and La Via Campesina, peasant agriculture and agroecology are approaches that address social, societal and environmental issues. They promote cultivation methods that: are in line with natural environments, preserve biodiversity, improve soil fertility, aim to achieve farm autonomy and where the number of animals correlate to the size of the farm.

Is it true? [Read more...](#)

Bangladesh: The peasant associations BKF-BKS in the struggle against the effects of climate change and for solidarity

First published by Europe Solidaire Sans Frontières (6/6/2015)
By Badrul Alam and Pierre Rousset

Badrul Alam, a representative of the BKF-BKS movement in Bangladesh, was in France in June 2015 and was interviewed by Pierre Rousset.

Pierre Rousset – You came to France at the invitation of the Confédération paysanne to participate in the mobilization in Amiens on June 17, in defence of peasant activists on trial for their action against the "farm of a thousand cows".

Badrul Alam – We wanted to affirm an international solidarity with the Confederation and its members dragged before the courts for a struggle – in the face of giant industrial farms - which we fully support. Like the Confederation, we are a member of La Via Campesina. I represented in Amiens our twin associations, the BKF-BKS comprising some two million peasants in Bangladesh, half men (in the BKF) and half women (in the BKS). Having two parallel organizations has facilitated the integration of peasant women, it being understood that the husbands cannot join the BKF unless they accept that their wives should do the same with the BKS. Agro-industry imposes its law at the international level and it is very important that our solidarity is stated at this level. Via Campesina has sections both in the North (as in France) and the South (as in Bangladesh). [Read more...](#)

A farmers' climate appeal to policy

(Berlin, November 26, 2015) With the UN climate talks in Paris approaching, farmers in Europe are calling for more effective measures to protect the climate.

Industrialized countries such as Germany must take the lead towards achieving the goal of keeping the global warming below 2 degrees. Chancellor Angela Merkel has warned of the devastating effects for humanity and ecosystems if average global temperatures rise by more than 2 degrees.

According to the IPCC, global warming from 3 to 5 degrees would have devastating consequences for humanity if no effective countermeasures are implemented immediately. Such consequences are a direct threat to the very existence of farmers in Europe and throughout the world. [Read more...](#)

Nyeléni Newsletter 24: Forests, Foraging and the Commons

The new edition of the Nyeléni Newsletter is now online!
(Harare, December 9, 2015) About 75 percent of the world's poor live in rural areas in developing countries. Most survive on subsistence farming, artisanal fisheries and/or nomadic herding and many are landless, working as seasonal labour on farms, plantations, in fisheries and industry. [Click here to download the English edition](#). Their daily food needs are met primarily through local production, foraging, hunting and fishing - often by women - on small farms, common grazing lands and in woods, forests, streams, rivers and lakes. [Read more...](#)

VIACAMPESINA TV

New Videos!

La Via Campesina action against Danone

La Via Campesina and its allies action against Danone
(Paris, December 9, 2015) The international peasant movement La Via Campesina and the French union Confédération Paysanne farmers protested today outside the headquarters in Paris of the food multinational Danone, amid COP21 climate conference.

This action at the headquarters of Danone denounced the role of the multinational in promoting false solutions to climate change. False solutions (including a policy of compensation and not of actual emissions reduction) endangering peasant farming. [Watch this video](#)

Movements denounce dangerous deal obtained at COP21

Social movements and civil society in the Paris's street to say: Stop Climate Crisis.

Interviews with Chantal Jacovetti LVC, Nnimmo Bassey Friends of the Earth Nigeria, Cloe student from France, Genevieve Azam Attac France, Laurent Pignatier Conf. Paysanne / France, Eberto Diaz La Via Campesina/ Colombia, Giovanna Furlan Alab-LVC / Italia, Christiana Louwa El-Molo / Kenya, Paula Gioia La Via Campesina / Brasil, Pablo Solon Solon Foundation / Bolivia. Video realized by Focupuller. [Watch video](#)

La Via Campesina and Kenya partners denounce WTO in Nairobi

Press Conference, December 16, 2015. Peasants, men and women call for an End to WTO

[Watch video](#)

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