La Via Campesina is a grassroots mass movement whose vitality and legitimacy come from peasants’ organizations at the grassroots. The movement is based on the decentralization of power between all its regions. The international secretariat rotates according to the collective decision made every four years by the International Conference. It was first located in Belgium (1993-1996), then in Honduras (1997-2004), Indonesia (2005-2013), and since 2013 is based in Harare, Zimbabwe.

The International Conference, held every four years, is the movement’s highest body for political discussion and decision-making, where future actions and agendas are defined. Since 1993 six such International conferences have been held.

Contributions from members, private donations, and financial support from some NGOs, foundations and public authorities make this work possible.

A DECENTRALIZED STRUCTURE

JOIN THE ACTIONS!

MARCH 8
International Women’s Day

SEPTEMBER 10
International day against WTO and Free Trade Agreements**

NOVEMBER 25
International Day for Elimination of Violence against Women

DECEMBER 3
Global Day of Action against Pesticides

On all of the above dates direct actions, cultural activities, conferences, film screenings, community debates and rallies are organized by a wide variety of groups, communities or organizations, including but not limited to members of La Via Campesina.

**In memory of Mr. Lee Kyun Hae, a South Korean farmer who sacrificed himself during a mass protest against the WTO in Cancun, Mexico in 2003. He was holding a banner saying “WTO kills farmers”.

Visit www.viacampesina.org for more information, to subscribe to our news updates, and to make a donation.

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LA VIA CAMPESINA
The International Peasants’ Movement
policies and agribusinesses were becoming globalized and small farmers needed to develop a common vision and struggle to defend it. Small scale farmers’ organisations also wanted to have their voices heard and to participate directly in the decisions that were affecting their lives.

**OUR STRUGGLES**

1. **Defending Food Sovereignty, Struggle for Land and Agrarian Reforms**

La Via Campesina launched its political vision of "Food Sovereignty" at the World Food Summit in 1996. Food sovereignty is the right of peoples to healthy and culturally appropriate food produced through sustainable methods and their right to define their own food and agriculture systems. It develops a model of small scale sustainable production benefiting communities and their environment. Food sovereignty prioritizes local food production and consumption, giving a country the right to protect its local producers from cheap imports and to control its production.

2. **Promoting Agroecology and Defending Local Seeds**

La Via Campesina promotes Agroecology as a key form of resistance to an economic system that puts profit before life. It recognizes that small farmers, including peasants, fisher folk, pastoralists, and indigenous people, who make up almost half the world’s people, are capable of producing food for their communities and feeding the world in a sustainable and healthy way.

Seeds are an irreplaceable pillar of food production and the basis of productive, social and cultural reproduction. La Via Campesina promotes farmers’ rights to use, develop and reproduce peasant’s seeds and struggles against attempts by corporations to control our common heritage.

3. **Promoting Peasant Rights And Struggle Against Criminalization Of Peasants**

There is an increase in displacement, criminalization, and discrimination affecting peasants globally. Transnational corporations continue, with full impunity, to violate basic rights, while people struggling to defend the rights of their communities continue to be criminalized and at times even killed.

La Via Campesina promotes a UN Declaration on the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas, which includes right to life and adequate standards of living, the right to land and territory, to seeds, information, justice and equality between women and men.