

# ANNUAL REPORT 2014

**La Via Campesina**  
International Peasant Movement



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Caption : On the Cover : La Via Campesina Youth meeting, Senegal, June 2014

NB 1 : To activate the links in the text, place the cursor on the text and click left.

NB 2 : You can find more information on a specific topic in the corresponding section of our website at [www.viacampesina.org](http://www.viacampesina.org) or by using the "search" function.

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# INTRODUCTION

This 2014 annual report describes the key activities and the advances made during the year towards strengthening the international movement and achieving its goals.

The annual report is divided into five sections. Section One gives a background to the overall work of La Via Campesina by describing the international political and economic context during 2014 and its implications for the movement. Section Two presents the key achievements of La Via Campesina in 2014. Section Three discusses the movement's main thematic areas of policy work and its concrete struggles and actions, highlighting the various activities undertaken, the victories won, and other important outcomes of 2014. Section Four provides information on the international functioning of the movement. Finally, Section Five presents the various media and communication initiatives.

## 1. INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT

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In a world where corporate power increasingly dominates almost all political and economic processes, little space is left for humanity to determine its destiny. The neo-liberal agenda continues to create major global problems, which particularly affect billions of small farmers and peasants and rural workers. Multiple crises persist: hunger and poverty are growing; economies are in decline; there is a drastic increase in unemployment; the climate is becoming more unpredictable. Foreign investors continue to take over land for large-scale industrialised agricultural production, natural resource extraction, and speculative investment. Free Trade Agreements are proposed and negotiated behind closed doors, and they are moved forward despite evidence that they exacerbate the plight of many peasants and rural workers. Left with few livelihood options, peasants migrate from the Global South to the Global North - in North America (to the USA from Mexico, Central America, the Caribbean, South America and Asia) and to Europe (from Africa and Asia), a situation that has resulted in serious humanitarian crises. Rather than finding decent employment in the "receiving" countries, most migrant workers are subjected to extreme forms of exploitation in sub-standard working environments.

**Many international institutions and nation states are still adopting solutions promoted by the corporate sector.** The very same corporations that are part of the problem are pushing their "false solutions", which can only lead to a worsening of the existing situation. In order to increase their profits by intensifying their promotion of transgenic technologies involving even more dependence on agro-chemicals, global agribusiness corporations are proposing "climate smart" agriculture – under the false pretext of enhancing global food security. In numerous countries, there is continued land grabbing for agro-fuel and agro-export production as well as for the extractive industries. Millions of peasants are losing

their livelihoods. Global inequality is worsening, and peasants and rural peoples are the most affected. Poverty afflicts more and more people, in many regions resulting in increased maternal and child mortality, and in stunted growth due to malnutrition.

In some countries, **peasants and their leaders who are engaged in struggles for basic human rights, such as access to land, are increasingly subjected to criminalisation** and harassment on the part of the State and private militias. Political instability and violent conflicts are also on the rise in South America, the Middle East, North Africa and some parts of Asia. Millions of peasants have been displaced, and their livelihoods affected, by these violent conflicts.

However, in the midst of this picture of gloom, a ray of hope exists. **Peasant communities continue to struggle to remain on their land and to defend peasant-based agroecological production.** Resistance to agro-industrial production is increasing at both national and international levels. In addition, at the United Nations Human Rights Council, we find hope in the support on the part of several States for the process that is working towards a United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and People Working in Rural Areas, as well as for the new initiative to develop an international legally binding instrument on transnational corporations (TNCs) with respect to human rights.



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In Geneva, at the Human Rights Council, intense lobbying by La Via Campesina and our allies resulted in a majority vote in support of the Peasant Rights declaration process.

## 2. KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2014

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In 2014, significant progress has been made with regard to several key priorities which were identified at our 6<sup>th</sup> International Conference in Jakarta and documented in our strategic lines of action. In Geneva, at the Human Rights Council, intense lobbying by La Via Campesina and our allies resulted in a majority vote in support of the Peasant Rights declaration process. Again, at the Human Rights Council in Geneva, LVC worked with allies to push for an international legally binding instrument to regulate transnational corporations (TNCs). A strong majority of the governments present at the Council session voted in favour of starting the process of developing this proposed instrument.

On April 17<sup>th</sup>, the International Day of Peasant Struggles, La Via Campesina successfully organised actions across the globe to highlight our struggle to defend peasant seeds. The actions, approximately 131 of which were documented and recorded, included demonstrations/street protests, campaigns, debates and lectures, popular theatre, occupation of certain spaces, planting and exchange of seeds. In an effort to build solidarity and to provide a wider platform for others to see and join the peasant struggles, these actions were captured on a map. (<http://viacampesina.org/map/17april/map.html>)

Many member organisations are actively opposing corporate-driven seed law initiatives at the national level, and in certain countries this has led to a ban or a moratorium on GMOs. At the meeting of the parties to the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD), in a landmark decision, governments agreed to regulate synthetic biology.

La Via Campesina has actively engaged with international institutions such as the FAO, IFAD and CFS, pushing forward the peasant agenda and pressing for policy change on issues that are important to small farmers. LVC delegates participated in numerous events and symposia organised by the FAO, IFAD and the CFS, including the FAO Symposium on Agroecology for Food Security and Nutrition. Our movement took part in the Colloquium on Food Sovereignty, organised for the research community by the International Institute of Social Studies at The Hague (ISS), in order to convey the diversity of this key concept.

La Via Campesina advocated for grassroots-led climate alternatives and real solutions to climate change during the People's Climate Summit, which was held in New York at the time of the UN Climate Summit. At the Social Movement Pre-COP events in Venezuela and at the COP 20 People's Summit in Lima, Peru, we clearly unmasked the false solutions, such as so-called "climate smart agriculture". At all of these major events, LVC proposed our own climate solutions based on sustainable agroecological food production; we called for system change not climate change.

Many La Via Campesina farmers have participated in regional and international fora which provide them with a platform to learn from other farmers and to share their experiences with them. La Via Campesina continues to publicise the struggles of peasants and to express its solidarity with those struggles. We issued solidarity statements in support of our member organisations that have been affected by political instability, as in Venezuela, or by the institutional repression of social movements, as has been the case in Thailand, Colombia, Paraguay, Palestine, Honduras, and Mozambique, among other countries.

La Via Campesina improved its internal functioning under the guidance of the International Coordinating Committee (ICC), which met in March in Nicaragua and in November in Portugal. This year youth delegates have been integrated into the ICC as formal representatives. La Via Campesina youth have expanded and strengthened their work within the movement, becoming more actively involved. As of this year, they are now formally represented in the ICC.

### 3. POLICY AREAS - CAMPAIGNS AND ACTIVITIES

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#### Opposing Transnational Corporations

La Via Campesina continues to resist corporate control over the food chain as well as to call for an end to the impunity of transnational corporations – and for TNCs to be punished for the human rights abuses for which they are responsible. Together with 250 other organisations, La Via Campesina signed a call in support of a legally binding regulation for TNCs. As referred to earlier, La Via Campesina participated, in June, in a week of mobilisation in Geneva - part of a globally coordinated campaign to support the call for a binding treaty to regulate transnational corporations (TNCs) that had been introduced in the UN Human Rights Council by the Ecuadorian government. (see the call and program.) Numerous public activities, including a tribunal, were organised by the global coalition conducting this campaign, in which LVC plays an important role. As a global movement, we strongly lobbied governments to support the resolution put forward by Ecuador. Finally, on June 26<sup>th</sup>, a resolution to move toward legally binding regulation for TNCs was adopted by the UN Human Rights Council, with the support of over 80 governments. La Via Campesina welcomed this major step forward as a great victory in the campaign, the successful result of our joint mobilisation.



La Via Campesina continues to resist corporate control over the food chain. Mobilisation week in Geneva, June 2014.

On November 29<sup>th</sup>, in Geneva, we participated in the treaty alliance's follow-up meeting to plan for the upcoming negotiations and to work on the Peoples Treaty on TNCs and Corporate Power. La Via Campesina mobilised in opposition to the nomination of John Ruggie (author of the very corporate-friendly voluntary Ruggie principles) to be chair of both the Intergovernmental Working Group (IWG) and the business sector in the IWG. In Africa, LVC Africa 1 continues to work closely with the Campaign against Corporate Power and Impunity to launch the campaign in southern

Africa. LVC Africa 1 is also taking part in the Campaign to organise the Southern Africa TNC tribunal in 2015. On October 16th, La Via Campesina launched a call to mobilise for an International Action Day for Food Sovereignty and against TNCs. In response to this call, there were a number of actions in different parts of the the world, including the Dominican Republic (ANC), Uruguay, El Salvador, and Puerto Rico, and a seed exchange was held in Chile. Some of the actions were reported on the news in Costa Rica and Argentina and some were broadcast by Radio Mundo Real and on a new programme of Voice of the Movements (Voz de los Movimientos).

## **Free Trade Agreements**

It is becoming very clear that the EU's legislated high standards for agriculture and food would be compromised dramatically by the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP). If the TTIP is signed, European consumers would begin to see Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs), hormone-treated beef, pork, and milk on the store shelves. Some pesticides that are now forbidden in Europe but continue to be used in the US, where authorised acceptable residue levels are still very high, could be found in products exported to the EU under the TTIP. In addition, European small-scale farmers will be exposed to greater competition from larger US agribusiness.

In 2014, La Via Campesina intensified its work against two free trade agreements (FTAs): Canada-EU Free Trade Agreement (CETA) and Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership EU-US Free Trade Agreement (TTIP). Both of these agreements include the Investor State Dispute Settlement Mechanism (ISDS). We campaigned jointly with Friends of the Earth International (FOEI), Corporate Europe Observatory (CEO), World Development Movement (WDM), ATTAC, Seattle2Brussels (S2B) and other allies to stop the agreements. In Germany, a very strong mobilisation against TNCs-TTIP and industrial food production was organized by our German member ABL with the support of many allies. Elizabeth Mpofo, the Via Campesina International Coordinator, spoke at the rally in Berlin, which took place on January 17<sup>th</sup> and was attended by approximately 50,000 people.

In July, S2B held a workshop, in which we participated, to develop a broad strategy to resist TTIP. Various rallies and actions were organised to increase awareness of, and resistance to, these FTAs. As a result of this mobilisation, these FTAs are now hotly debated and challenged; thus their adoption is less likely. We analysed the potential effects of TTIP on the agricultural sector. In order to mobilise against TTIP and its potential negative consequences for farmers, the European Coordination of La Via Campesina (ECVC) published a 4-page leaflet on the findings of this analysis. With NFFC, NFU and ECVC we produced a video, "Why do we say no to FTAs and TTIP". The LVC member organisations in the United States (US) are working with allies and with the Citizens Trade Campaign to fight the "fast track" legislation which would give broad powers to the president to move forward the trade negotiations with little or no congressional or public review. If fast track can be stopped, the trade negotiations can be stopped. Currently there is opposition to fast track from some representatives of both major political parties as well as from a broad coalition of social organisations.

The Taiwan Rural Front and the Taiwan Farmers Union, member organisations of La Via Campesina in the East and Southeast Asia region, launched an emergency appeal for international solidarity in their opposition to the current administration's rush toward the



Cross Straits Services Trade Agreement (CSSTA), a new free trade agreement, and in condemnation of the excessive use of police force against Sunflower Revolution protesters.



In September, the Confederation Paysanne, occupied the offices of Cargill as a protest against the TTIP.

In September, the Confederation Paysanne, the Via Campesina member organisation in France, occupied the offices of Cargill as a protest against the TTIP (see pictures). Hundreds of activists unfurled a large banner (25m x 10m) in front of the head office, with the following message: "Hollande, Juncker, Obama: don't offer up farmers and citizens to the multinationals, Stop TTIP /CETA". As a result of this action, the Secretary of State in France agreed to meet with farmers to discuss their concerns about the trade agreements. On October 11 and 13<sup>th</sup>, LVC participated in the European Day of Action (see press release). LVC also carried out an action against the TTIP during the CFS week in Rome. On December 10<sup>th</sup>, together with Friends of the Earth, CEO and the Green Group, we organised a Conference on the TTIP in the European Parliament (see video). For this event, LVC, CEO, FOEE, Compassion in World Farming and Arc2020 jointly prepared a text entitled "TTIP recipe for disaster". We also participated in an event on the TTIP and the CETA organised by the Left Group of the European Parliament. On December 19<sup>th</sup>, we and our allies organised an action and mobilisation in Brussels to say STOP the TTIP. This was a prelude to the actions and mobilisations that we will organise for April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015 (see video).

## **Peasant-based Agroecological Production**

As part of LVC's commitment to promoting agroecology and ending hunger in the world, in many countries in Asia, Africa, Latin America and Europe we have established schools for agroecology (see an article on school in Shashe-Zimbabwe) for food sovereignty.

In 2014, in order for us to develop a cadre of trained promoters who will help to create even more farmer-to-farmer agroecology training and exchanges, dozens of LVC farmer activists and agroecology promoters from all LVC regions participated in exchanges and cross-training opportunities in the countries/regions where we have more advanced experiences.

Several member organisations of the Coordinadora Latinoamericana de Organizaciones del Campo (CLOC-LVC) conducted training for youth on Agroecology and Food Sovereignty. This training is in contrast to conventional agricultural education which supports agro-industrial production models. La Via Campesina Honduras successfully conducted post-secondary level training workshops on agroecological organic agriculture, which were attended by 45 farmers from different peasant organizations. However, women's participation in training has been low, due to the predominance of a patriarchal culture that still needs to be addressed and challenged. In order to break this barrier, and to ensure that women are able to participate fully in training opportunities and to make a greater contribution to the struggles to expand agroecology and food sovereignty, the Chilean women members of CLOC-LVC are establishing a parallel agroecological school for rural women (Agroecology Institute for Rural Women – IALA) In June, La Via Campesina Brazil organised the 13<sup>th</sup> Campaign in Support of Agroecology, in order to continue the process of developing agroecology as an alternative to agribusiness and of building a Popular and Sovereign Model of Agriculture. This annual event, in which thousands of peasants and teachers participate, provides training on agroecology and promotes an exchange of experiences, so as to encourage peasants to innovate and to adopt new practices.

In Norway, during the European Coordination of Via Campesina (ECVC) General Assembly, about 50 people from 10 LVC farmers' organisations and allied organisations (FOE Europe, Urgenci, Crocevia) participated in information exchanges on different agroecological practices for various types of climates and conditions. At this same time, the ECVC members developed a position statement to be used in lobbying the European institutions. During the July encounter in Spain on agroecology, we carried out specific work on peasant seeds. In Galicia, from September 26<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup>, the European Coordination of Via Campesina (ECVC) organised a seminar on agroecology focussing on how to bring agroecological food to the citizens, with the participation of AIAB, URGENCI, Nekasarea, Cooperative Ribeira do Navia, Nature and Progress, and many other organisations. The information exchange focussed among other things on the Participatory Guarantee System and Short Marketing Circuits as ways of moving towards and building food sovereignty.

In LVC Africa Region 2, the Malian farmers' movement CNOP (Coordination Nationale des Organisations Paysannes) together with LVC and other members of the International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty (IPC), organised an International Forum on Agroecology held from February 24<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup>, in order to evaluate and to share various peasant experiences and initiatives. In addition, there was a meeting of 4 LVC agroecology schools in Africa: two from LVC Africa Region 1 (Zimbabwe and Mozambique) and two from LVC Africa Region 2 (Mali and Niger). The national member organisations that host these schools are planning to increase the numbers of field experiences and to bring new field training opportunities to areas in their countries that are distant from their respective organisational headquarters.

Throughout 2014, La Via Campesina prepared a series of articles, to be published as a collection, describing concrete agroecological success stories from different member organisations across the world. This publication will be available in the spring of 2015. The agroecological experiences documented in the publication are based on the work of member organisations in Brazil, Nicaragua, Colombia, Cuba, USA, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Italy, Thailand, India, Indonesia, and Sri Lanka. We also prepared in-depth documentation

and analyses of the Zero Budget Natural Farming movement in India and of the respective experiences of our peasant agroecology universities (IALAs) in South America. These new documents on agroecology, once they have been translated into 3 (or 4) languages, will be used as key tools for training in our agroecological schools in all regions.

## **Peasant Seeds and the Struggle against GMOs and Seed Privatisation (Monsanto) Laws**

La Via Campesina campaigns to defend peasant seeds and farmers' rights through our participation in the FAO Seed Treaty, the International Treaty on Plant and Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) process, and through seed advocacy work at the national level with member organisations. We are working with the FAO's International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty (IPC), a global network of key small-scale food producer organisations, to prepare a study on the state of agro-biodiversity. The study will be presented to the next meeting of the FAO Committee on Genetic Resources in 2015. During the CFS week in Rome in October, we organised a side event on the implementation of Farmers' Rights within the FAO Seed Treaty.

In Africa, Asia, across Latin America and the Caribbean, in North America and Europe, LVC members and allies are strongly involved in debating, and in struggling against, the legislative and policy changes that have been designed to create a favourable environment for the introduction and imposition of GMO seeds.



Rally against GMO in Buenos aires

The Convention on Biodiversity (CBD)-COP2014 was held in Pyeongchang, South Korea from October 6th to 17th. Our Korean member, the Korean Women's Peasant Association (KWPA), organised activities and actions to defend the small farmer's agenda, in addition to publishing a position paper. During the formal CBD negotiations, the KWPA organised a

march against GMOs and it also protested against the display of a new GMO fluorescent silkworm developed by the Korean Rural Development Administration. We lobbied, with ETC and other allies, for regulation of synthetic biology, a technology which combines genetic engineering with other industrial technologies in order to “build” industrial foods. After many days of negotiations with and among various actors (including biotech-friendly governments), 194 countries unanimously decided during the CBD conference to formally regulate synthetic biology. As a result, the bans on Terminator and geo-engineering were maintained, and, in addition, the final declaration recognised indigenous peoples and local communities as key actors in preserving biodiversity resources.

In a number of fora, members of La Via Campesina conducted campaigns against repressive seed laws and strengthened LVC solidarity around these struggles. In Africa, campaigns focussed on the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the Common Market for East and Southern Africa (COMESA) draft regional seed protocols (LVC Africa 1 participated in the 2014 SADC Peoples Summit held in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe, from August 14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup>).

In Canada, the Dominican Republic, the EU, and Chile, our members are engaged in struggles against new proposed seed laws that would limit peasants’ and farmers’ rights over their seeds and harmonise seed laws internationally – for the sole benefit of the large transnational seed and ag-biotech companies.

In Chile, our member organisation’s mobilisation led to the government’s withdrawal of the Protection of Plant Breeders’ Rights Bill. In Guatemala, our members, together with allies, defeated the proposed Monsanto seed law. In Brazil, the Federal Court of Appeals, on the basis of the lack of risk assessment studies, unanimously annulled the Technical Committee for National Bio-Security’s decision to authorise the marketing of GMO Liberty Link maize by the multinational Bayer. Actions against GMOs in India and Mozambique went on throughout the year. At the national training centre of the Farmer Movement in Papaye (MPP) in Haiti, our Latin American member organisations held a two day seminar to strengthen their seeds initiatives and training and to develop strategies to stop land grabbing.

In Zimbabwe, ZIMSOFF is building and strengthening its regional network to fight against proposed regional seed laws (COMESA and SADC). Various national meetings and two seminars (one on June 2<sup>nd</sup> to review the implications of proposed regional seed laws and the other on June 3<sup>rd</sup> to draft a call to the government to design smallholder-specific seed laws) were held in Zimbabwe in order to develop a national strategy for strengthening and expanding smallholder farmers’ seed systems. ZIMSOFF, in collaboration with the African Centre for Bio-safety (ACB) and Third World Network (TWN), engaged with stakeholders on the potential negative implications of the new regional seed laws on smallholder farmers in Zimbabwe. In November in Harare, Zimbabwe, we participated in the regional workshop on the draft African Regional Intellectual Property Organisation (ARIPO) Protocol for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants. These meetings were attended by private companies, ARIPO, the Seed Trade Association, Agricultural Research Council, Seed Services Zimbabwe, civil society organisations, and the Ministry of Agriculture. In a meeting between the Zimbabwean government, ZIMSOFF, allied organisations, and Vandana Shiva, we lobbied for a ban on GMOs, and for support for indigenous seeds. Zimbabwe has maintained its stance against GMO crops. Some members of ZIMSOFF participated in exchange visits on seed and knowledge initiatives that were held in Zimbabwe and in South Africa (Limpopo and KwaZulu Natal Provinces) and in Italy (Rome). In addition, some

of its members attended important seed deliberations at the African Union level in Ethiopia. In September 2014, ZIMSOF held several local seed and food fairs, followed by a national food festival in Harare in which government representatives also participated.

In Nicaragua, in conjunction with the March ICC meeting, the CLOC-LVC members organised a seed fair to celebrate the 27<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Association of Rural Workers (ATC). This event, an International Meeting of La Via Campesina's Seeds Campaign, provided an opportunity for peasant farmers to exchange seeds and information; it included demonstrations on various types of foods that could be prepared.

UAWC, our member in Palestine, was awarded the Equator prize for its seed saving and biodiversity conservation work. La Via Campesina is also accompanying an initiative, started by members of the German farmers' organisation AbL and other activists, to help Syrian peasants within the war-torn country, as well as Syrian refugees in neighbouring countries, to obtain access to peasant seeds, in order to maintain food production and to try to avert extreme food insecurity.

Since January 2014, the National Farmers Union of Canada (NFU) has increased its lobby and advocacy work against Bill C-18, the Agricultural Growth Act that would put Canadian farmers under the UPOV '91 Plant Breeders' Rights regime. The NFU has proposed a New Vision for Canadian Seed Ownership, based on the FAO International Plant Treaty of which Canada is a signatory, for a Farmers' Act which recognizes the inherent rights of farmers to save, reuse, select, exchange and sell seeds, while protecting public domains related to plant seeds. They disseminated a sign on letter to be sent to the Canadian government on this topic.

In Africa, La Via Campesina worked with allied organisations to send an open letter on this issue to the governments that are part of ARIPO calling upon those governments not to join UPOV '91. In September, together with more than 60 allied organisations, we sent an open letter to the Secretary of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA), Mr Shakeel Bhatti, raising important concerns regarding UPOV and the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO).

La Via Campesina is preparing a booklet on how neo-liberal seed laws will potentially harm local seed systems. The booklet will be published in the spring of 2015.

In 2013, the European Commission published a proposal to reform the 12 seed "Directives" into one regulation. Although the proposal took some of our ideas into consideration and has some positive aspects, it also permits further liberalisation and increases corporate control over seeds. However, through coordinated pressure and lobbying for recognition of farmers' right to exchange their seeds, openings do exist.



Brussels, January 20th : a farmers' mobilisation was organised in front of the European Parliament for the recognition of peasants' rights to select, preserve, use, exchange, and sell their own seeds

On January 20<sup>th</sup>, a farmers' mobilisation was organised in front of the European Parliament in Brussels by the European Coordination Via Campesina, together with the Belgian member organisation MAP. The demonstrators called for the recognition of peasants' rights to select, preserve, use, exchange, and sell their own seeds. In the end, the Agricultural Committee of the European Parliament rejected the reform proposal and asked the new European Commission to abandon it (see press release).

## **Violations of Peasant Rights, and Solidarity with Victims**

Particularly in Latin America, peasant movements that are struggling for access to land have been increasingly subjected to human rights violations, legal irregularities, criminalisation and harassment. La Via Campesina reacted to the abuses suffered by members in countries such as Paraguay, Peru, Colombia (we demanded the release of Huber Ballesteros), Honduras (we condemned the assassination of a veteran campesino leader), Thailand (we issued a number of statements (Statement one and two, Open Letter), Syria (we sent a letter of solidarity to Syrian farmers), Indonesia (our member organisation SPI condemned violence against peasants). Abuses were documented in Guatemala, Brazil, Argentina, and the Philippines. Despite torture, harassment and threats from the State security forces, and in some cases from armed militia, we continue to put pressure on governments to end land dispossessions and evictions, to take effective measures to prevent the assassination of peasant leaders, and to implement popular comprehensive agrarian reform programmes respecting the rights of peasants.

La Via Campesina issued solidarity statements in support of its members in these cases, calling on the governments involved to bring an end to such grave violations of human rights. La Via Campesina continues to support its Palestinian member organisation, Union of Agricultural Work Committees (UAWC), whose farmer members are subjected to a number of human rights violations, including imprisonment (Palestinian prisoners' hunger strike; UAWC Urgent appeal) by the Israeli government and its security forces. We issued two solidarity calls (Urgent Call to Action in Solidarity; Solidarity call with the people of Palestine) in condemnation of the killing of Palestinians by the Israeli government. In Europe (France: Call for support to Confereration Paysanne), land rights activists and landless rural workers have also been imprisoned for their activism.

La Via Campesina issued statements of solidarity and support for member organisations that are affected by political instability. During the peace negotiations and the formation of new governance structures in Colombia, we showed our support for the rights of peasants and rural workers by expressing our solidarity with the large-scale mobilisation organised by the Colombian popular movement. Our member organisation the Mozambiquan Peasants Union (UNAC) issued an International Statement on the current situation in Mozambique, and, as the armed conflict intensified, it published a declaration calling for respect for, and protection of, the rights of Mozambican peasants. La Via Campesina South East Asia and East Asia issued an appeal in solidarity and support of its member organisation in Thailand, the Assembly of the Poor (AOP), calling on Thai social movements to refrain from feeding the violent confrontation and to support elections as a solution to political strife.

La Via Campesina is working with our Palestinian member organisation UAWC to strengthen our work in the Mashrek region. We supported, for example, a solidarity campaign and an international visit to Palestine organised by EHNE Bizkaia. In March, trade union organisations, peasant movements (including members of LVC) and social movements from Morocco, Tunisia, France, Palestine and Senegal met in Agadir, under the banner: For the land and the sovereignty of our peoples! In solidarity and in struggle!



In March, trade union organisations, peasant movements and social movements from Morocco, Tunisia, France, Palestine and Senegal met in Agadir

The participants issued a declaration calling for the reinforcement of local, national and international solidarity and for the establishment of collective negotiations, as well as for an end to racism towards Sub-Saharan migrants and guarantees for their human rights. The declaration also expressed support for the struggles of the world's peoples for liberation, freedom, dignity, social justice and equality.

## **UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and People Working in Rural Areas**

Together with allied social movements, La Via Campesina continues to strengthen its network on the rights of rural peoples. We worked with the following international groups and coalitions: WFFP (fisher folk); IITC (indigenous people); WAMIP (pastoralists); FIMARC (International Federation of Rural Catholic Adults); ROPPA and PROPAC (African regional farmers organisations); and IUF (International Union of Farmworkers-agricultural workers). Several experts also provided support for this work.

La Via Campesina, together with FIAN and CETIM, made a major contribution to the ongoing work on the adoption of a UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and People Working in Rural Areas, a process that has been before the UN Human Rights Council (UNHCR) for several years. In 2014, we organised various actions and also developed a strategy to increase support for this declaration. In April (8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>), together with CETIM, FIAN and the Geneva Academy on Human Rights, we organised an experts' meeting in Geneva. NGOs, governments and human rights experts attended this meeting, providing important support for our work in relation to the UN Human Rights Council.

Our work towards the adoption of an international instrument on Peasant Rights also included building mass support for this effort, not only in Geneva, but also at the national level – in Europe, Asia, Africa and Latin America – in order to persuade national government delegations to vote in favour of the second resolution at the Council session in June. Following our intense lobby work ([see our release](#)), the resolution was adopted ([see the Resolution](#) and [our press release](#) about the outcome) with twenty-nine governments voting in favour, 13 abstentions and only 5 voting against. (This result is in contrast to that of 2013, when there were 23 votes in favour, 16 abstentions, and 9 votes against.) The adoption of this resolution confirmed the mandate of the Working Group to begin the process of developing a Declaration, with increased support from the governments concerned.

The consultation and drafting process began in November 2014. Through the mechanisms of consultation, we gave input to the drafting process. The draft document will be used to guide the negotiations that will start in February 2015. In November (9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>), we organized a seminar with our allies to prepare for these negotiations. On November 12<sup>th</sup>, following the seminar, we participated in an informal UN consultation organised by the Bolivian ambassador, during which we presented our contributions. Many of the governments present (Venezuela, Ecuador, South Africa, Egypt, Brazil, Argentina, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Russia, Bolivia, and Switzerland) supported the advancement of the work towards a UN declaration.

In November, in preparation for the negotiations, we held consultations to enable us to elicit, and to take into consideration, the opinions of our members and of other social movements with regard to critical issues concerning the rights to land, seeds, and



biodiversity, as well as state obligations. These consultations have also strengthened our mobilisation process at the grassroots level. Some of our members wrote letters to, and organised formal discussions with, their own governments in order to lobby for the inclusion of the peasant rights in their respective national agendas.

A special blog <http://defendingpeasantrights.org> has been set up in order to build a repository, "Body of Knowledge". It will store all of the relevant materials on peasant rights, including the results of consultations, expert texts, existing legislation at national and UN levels, etc.

### **Agrarian Reform and Struggles against Land Grabbing**

In a number of countries – Brazil, the Philippines, Colombia, and Honduras among many others – we organised actions calling upon governments to undertake comprehensive and inclusive agrarian reform programmes. In Brazil, the MST organised marches and also prepared a document to explain the struggle for People's Agrarian Reform. In the Philippines, peasants continue to pressure the government to implement a Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Programme (CARP). A summit on land was organised in Colombia at which a declaration outlining specific requirements for agrarian policy was prepared. This declaration was published in the context of the new national peace initiative, with the goal of strengthening the peasants' mobilisation and their demands for land and for their other socio-economic rights to be respected. In Honduras, on International Women's Day, peasant women mobilised, demanding land rights and comprehensive integrated development. In Haiti, our members together with other CLOC members organised a two day meeting, to discuss Land, Native Seeds, and the Environment. They published their reflections, in which they resolved to increase their efforts to build more unity and to engage in the struggle for national sovereignty and food sovereignty. They urged the Haitian government to put an end to land grabs.

A number of other member organisations of La Via Campesina, such as the Union of Agricultural Work Committees in Palestine (Together to Protect Farmers' Rights) and farmers organisations in Latin America and in Asia, continue their struggles for land. In addition to providing solidarity by publicising the plight of farmers globally through its various information dissemination tools, La Via Campesina issued international solidarity



statements in support of specific struggles: in the Philippines, small-scale farmers are struggling against land grabbing; in Mozambique, the National Farmers' Union (UNAC) is opposing (see Assembly in Nampula press release) the ProSavana project, which is being pushed by the Mozambican, Brazilian and Japanese governments, and which would lead to a massive land grab.

In Mozambique, the National Farmers' Union (UNAC) is opposing the ProSavana project

UNAC is also mobilising the support of other La Via Campesina members in its struggle against the project by holding an international conference on land rights and against land grabbing. In March, there was a large mobilisation against land grabs in Mali. During 2014, in collaboration with the NGO GRAIN, we released reports highlighting the land grabbing issue and exposing the role of corporations.

La Via Campesina member organisations are currently using the FAO Voluntary Guidelines on Land Tenure as a means to push for better land tenure policies that would be favourable to the rights of small farmers and peasants. In May, five representatives of La Via Campesina member organisations (UNAC from Mozambique, AIAB from Italy, ANPFA from Nepal, MCNI from Argentina and ATC from Nicaragua) met in Rome to kickstart the process of developing regional strategies to engage with and/or lobby the European Union and national governments. The strategies, which have their basis in the FAO Guidelines, will be used to influence policy. In the case of Mozambique this will be in the direction of stopping land grabs. In the case of Europe, it will be directed towards the regulation of land markets, by lobbying the European Commission and member states to adopt adequate policies to stop and to reverse the concentration of land.

### **International Public Policies: FAO – IFAD – CFS**

La Via Campesina joined over 120 organizations to send a letter to the Food and Agriculture Organization on March 21<sup>st</sup>, the UN International Day of Forests, demanding a change in the current FAO definition of forests in order to reflect among other things, the communities that depend on them. This effort is supportive of a consultative process led by forest communities to formulate such an inclusive definition.

La Via Campesina actively participated in the FAO International Symposium on Agroecology that was held in Rome on September 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. This conference was intended to strengthen the FAO's work on peasant-based agroecological production. Our contributions received expressions of support, which we expect will be reflected in more concrete support at national levels.

On October 29<sup>th</sup>, we held a meeting with different departments of the FAO (seeds, land, agroecology) to develop a concrete plan for the FAO to support our work on land, seeds and agroecology issues at national and regional levels. This was a follow-up to the agreement that La Via Campesina signed with the FAO in 2013.

In November, La Via Campesina and URGENCI, together with other social movements, participated in the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2), during which Member States of the FAO and the World Health Organization (WHO) discussed and adopted a framework for action on nutrition. We issued a statement that nutrition is not for profit and we called upon delegates to adopted food sovereignty in order to address global nutritional challenges.

La Via Campesina is one of the key actors in the Farmers' Forum of IFAD. The peasant movement has used this space to gain support for our positions on investment in agriculture. A delegation of 15 LVC representatives led discussions on our issues at the IFAD Farmers' Forum held in Rome in February. Our central demand (see press release) was that IFAD should develop programmes and policies to strengthen small scale food producers and develop and implement public policies for food sovereignty. During the Forum, LVC also issued a statement to IFAD and the governments highlighting key

proposals to strengthen the involvement of small holder producers' organisations at the national level and in operational activities as well as to enhance collaboration in other global policy forums.

La Via Campesina participates in the Steering Committee of the Forum and will work towards a change of the Farmers Forum, making it more autonomous and independent from IFAD and more focussed on smallholder's interests.

Together with other small-scale food producers and NGOs, La Via Campesina participated actively in the Civil Society Mechanism's (CSM) Working Group on Responsible Agricultural Investment in preparation for the negotiations on the principles for responsible agricultural investment. In a joint meeting in April in Rome, we collaborated with other CSOs in developing a position and negotiating strategy. From May to August, La Via Campesina played an active part in intense negotiations on Responsible Agricultural Investment (RAI) at the UN Committee on World Food Security (CFS) (see table below). The "Principles on Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems" were later adopted by governments during the CFS plenary session from October 13<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> (see the [final statement in the CFS plenary](#) by our representative). Our inputs ensured that smallholder issues and their role in investment remained part of the negotiations.

The final text does not meet some of our key demands, even though, by stopping the takeover of the negotiations by the private sector – which was supported by the World Bank and the United States and Canadian governments among others – we managed to avoid a much worse result. In order to prevent the corporate sector from using the adopted principles to "green wash" their large-scale investments, we issued an alert, a [critical reaction](#) to publicise the deficiencies in the final text.

## **Migration and Rural Workers**

La Via Campesina continues to campaign against the exploitation of migrant workers and for their working conditions to be improved. We have strengthened our work with rural migrant workers in North America, Europe, the Middle East, Asia and North Africa.

Together with the Union of Agriculture Work Committees (UAWC) in Palestine, and in cooperation with the Confederation Paysanne in France, we initiated a research paper to document the human rights violations suffered by Thai workers in the Israeli settlements in the occupied territories of the West Bank. Since 1995, thousands of Thai workers, mostly peasant families from the north of Thailand negatively affected by corporate industrial rice production in their region, have been hired by Israeli corporate farms as agricultural workers – with no labour rights. As well as being subjected to poor working conditions, these workers are faced with numerous violations of their contracts. They have no means of redress.

In the US, our member organisations have conducted a variety of activities including: marches; caravans to the national capital and state capitals; lobbying days; petitions; and many other actions at the state and local levels to push for reforms of immigration law and for new proposed legislation to protect labour rights, and health and safety standards for migrant farm workers in the US. Canadian members of LVC are beginning to take up this struggle alongside migrant farmworkers organisations in Canada.

## Our Solutions to the Climate Crisis



La Via campesina participated to COP 20 in Lima, Peru, in December 2014

La Via Campesina, together with allies, held planning and preparatory meetings to strategize for peoples' participation in COP20 in Lima, Peru, in December 2014, as well as to begin planning for the COP21, to be held in Paris, France in 2015. The objective is to build and strengthen a global movement to push for system change as the way to address climate change. Our goal is to develop a coordinated global movement linking the various ongoing initiatives and struggles that are focussed on environmental, economic, social and cultural issues related to climate change. In July and August, we participated in several pre-COP social meetings held in Venezuela. A number of farmer leaders who are members of the LVC Collective on Climate and Environmental Justice have been taking an active part in these pre-COP social movement strategy sessions. During the United Nations Summit on Climate Change organised by Ban Ki Moon in New York City in September 2014, LVC North American region worked with US-based allies of the climate justice movement and the indigenous environmental movement to organise side events at the parallel People's Climate Summit. During the year of 2014, we continued our protests and mobilisation against the corporate take-over of the climate summits. Together with CEO, TNI, and FOEI, we participated in an initiative to draft and publish a widely-supported [statement](#) in which we strongly opposed so-called Climate Smart Agriculture, a concept that is being promoted by the TNCs and certain Northern governments in an effort to capture the climate debate and to impose false, corporate-owned solutions. We also organised protests against [Climate Smart Agriculture](#) during the New York UN Climate Summit and the People's Climate Summit. In collaboration with GRAIN, we published articles on alternatives: the [five steps to cool down the planet and feed its people](#). During the COP 20 in December, in Lima, where we actively participated in the [Peoples' Summit](#), a social movements' alternative conference organised parallel to the UNFCCC governmental summit, we continued our [struggle against Climate Smart Agriculture](#)

## Women's Articulation

The women's Articulation met in Porto, Portugal (November 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>). Women from all over the world discussed strategies to strengthen their voice within the movement. They shared successful experiences of tackling gender-based violence and exclusion of women in farmers' organisations. A public seminar was also organised in Porto on violence against women.

On March 8<sup>th</sup>, International Women's Day, La Via Campesina issued a call to mobilise against patriarchy and for the recognition of women's rights. A peasant vision on feminism is in a continuous process of development.

The women peasants of the European Coordination Via Campesina (ECVC) issued a Declaration affirming their commitment to a number of human rights, in particular the rights to: healthy, adequate and good quality food; agroecological production and distribution; equal participation by all farmers; guaranteed access to land, seeds and other resources. They also expressed their rejection of all forms of discriminatory policies, and their support for the defence of sexual and reproductive rights.

In South East and East Asia, the Via Campesina issued a declaration calling upon the Japanese government to issue an Official Apology to the Victims of Military Sex Slavery in World War II. Many women from the Asia-Pacific countries, including China, North and South Korea, Taiwan, Japan, Indonesia, Timor Leste, Myanmar, the Philippines, Malaysia, Brunei, Guam, were victims of human rights violations committed by the Japanese military, who forcefully moved them to combat areas in order to use them as sex slaves. The peasant movement, commemorating International Women's Day, called upon the Japanese government to open up all files and materials related to sex slavery, to cease the distortion of history and to abandon the revival of militarism. The movement has now widened these demands to include the institution of a memorial day for the victims, in order to remember the painful history of war for humankind.

Members of Via Campesina in Southern Africa and the Rural Women Assembly (RWA) participated in discussions and street marches to build alternatives. They proposed a regionalism that prioritises people and not corporations, and they demanded that national governments pass laws that promote the seed rights of smallholder farmers as opposed to the rights of seed breeders.

Real World Radio interviewed, and aired the voices of, rural and urban women activists from different parts of the world, among whom were women leaders of Via Campesina from Europe, Africa, Latin America and Asia. Various issues were highlighted, including women's struggle against corporations and neoliberal policies, and their fight for the right to land (see March 8: Special Report on the International Women's Day).

Efforts to eliminate gender-based violence in organisations and communities continue in different LVC regions. La Via Campesina Honduras trained 30 women farmers to promote measures to prevent violence against women and children within their organisations and communities, and in so doing to work towards transforming culture and practice. The acute epidemic of femicide in El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala is a major source of worry (Femicide and Impunity: A humanitarian crisis in Central America, and a growing problem worldwide) that is related to historical patterns of violence and abuse in Central America, where death squads and civil wars have left a legacy of violence, intimidation and ongoing impunity. On the November 25<sup>th</sup>, the International Day of Action against

Violence towards Women, La Via Campesina called for an end of all forms of violence against women.



Women's Meeting during the Regional Meeting of LVC South Asia in Wardha, Maharashtra. Parvati from KRRS (Ramnagar District) distributes materials.

The movement called for the creation of spaces of debate and exchange, where valid tools to work toward a diverse and pluralistic society can be developed – tools to create awareness within our communities regarding the political and cultural frameworks that are blocking progress in gender equality. In 2013, La Via Campesina developed a set of campaign tools: post cards of the campaign, which was printed and circulated again in 2014; videos about Women on Via Campesina TV; and the shared publication of the Campaign to stop violence against Women. In some parts of Mozambique, women have been denied access into the Nacala Corridor, of the Prosavanna project, and consequently they are no longer able to fetch firewood and other forest products that they need for cooking and for feeding their families. In Chile, in order to overcome gender-based barriers in training programmes normally dominated by men, indigenous women launched an Agroecology Institute for Rural Women, a first of its kind in Latin America, exclusively directed towards women farmers in South America.

## Youth Articulation

La Via Campesina recognises the importance of providing space for youth in all processes and actions of the movement. At its meeting in Zimbabwe, the ICC decided that the Committee should include 4 youth representatives (one per continent). By November 2014, three continents (Europe, Americas and Africa) had chosen their ICC youth representatives (two females and one male). Two youth representatives participated in the second ICC meeting that was held in November in Portugal. The youth are also setting up their own national and regional structures, in order to strengthen their collective actions

and their participation in the movement as a whole at the national, regional and international levels.

The Youth Articulation met in Senegal in June, 2014; the meeting was hosted by the CNCR, the LVC national member organization. Coming after the 6<sup>th</sup> International Conference and the 4<sup>th</sup> International Youth Assembly held in Indonesia in 2013, the Senegal meeting was an important occasion to further develop and implement the Jakarta action plan. The Nyeleni newsletter, issue No. 17, published in March, was written by LVC youth. It focusses on Food Sovereignty and Youth related issues in an effort to give visibility to the steps that LVC youth have taken with regard to training and education processes. It highlights young people's important role in the global movement to promote peasant-based agroecology and in the struggle for food sovereignty.

La Via Campesina Youth are actively participating in technical and political activities, as well as in decision-making, in their respective organisations and movements in Africa, Europe, Asia and the Americas. Their activities include taking part in demonstrations in support of social projects and protesting against social and economic ills. In Haiti, for example, youth are being welcomed into the activities of the member organisations as a way of ensuring that, as they grow and learn, they will receive mentoring and support from the organised farmers. In Africa 1 region, the member organisations are seeking suggestions and advice from other allied organisations/networks as to how to revise their local leadership structures in order to include more youth in decision-making. In an effort to enhance youth participation in the peasant movement, Africa Region 1 has been developing the capacity of its youth to engage and participate in continental and regional dialogues. Young people have been thrust into the foreground to articulate their issues at various national, regional, and international spaces.

In Latin America, a number of training camps have been organised to build the capacity of the youth to lead the movements. One such youth event in 2014 had approximately 2,000 participants, illustrating how youth are becoming ever more active in the movement (see for example the video of the Latin American youth camp). In Colombia, Taiwan, and Europe the youth organised and participated in demonstrations to highlight the peasant agenda and to protest against the corporate control of agriculture and rural life. La Via Campesina continues to urge member organisations to build youth capacity, in order to maintain and sustain the various struggles. In January, in North America, a framework was created to ensure that there is effective youth participation.

## **International Year of Family Farming – 2014**

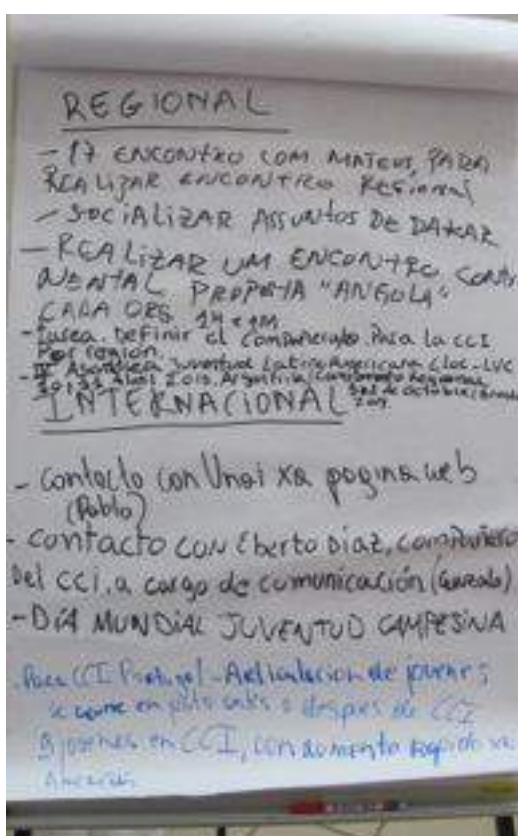
2014 was declared the International Year of Family Farming (IYFF) by the United Nations. La Via Campesina was part of the official steering committee (together with FAO, IFAD and several other governments) that organised the IYFF activities. Ibrahim Coulibaly of CNOP (National Coordination of Farmers' Organisations of Mali)-La Via Campesina was one of the IYFF official ambassadors. As part of the committee, we negotiated the final text that was presented in Manila during the closing event of the IYFF (see programme of the event) on November 27<sup>th</sup>. In the presence of high level representatives of the FAO, IFAD, the World Food Programme, and national governments, our representative, S. Kannaiyan of the South Indian Coordination Committee of Farmers Movements (SICCFM), gave a keynote speech reaffirming our LVC priorities.

La Via Campesina participated in various IYFF conferences, including the International Forum on Communication (October 23<sup>rd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>) and the Global Dialogue (October 27<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>). At the European Union level, our international delegation unmasked the "official" discourse of the European Commission (EC) which favoured large scale agribusiness interests, even in the context of family farming. La Via Campesina worked in cooperation with the governments of the Philippines and of Bolivia to organise a side event, which took place on June 12<sup>th</sup> in Geneva, in support of peasant rights. In April, three LVC North America member organisations (the National Farmers Union [NFU] of Canada, the National Family Farm Coalition of the United States, and the Union Paysanne of Canada) participated in the North American Dialogue on Family Farming in Quebec City. The LVCNA representatives expressed their concern about the space used by corporations to promote their own corporate interests – while using the name of family farming. In November, in Portugal, LVC International held a joint press conference on the IYFF with our Portuguese member the National Confederation of Agriculture (CNA).

### World Meeting of Popular Movements Seminar with the Vatican

From October 27<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup>, La Via Campesina leaders were among the more than 60 social movement delegates participating in a seminar at the Vatican with the new Catholic Pope Francis. This event constituted an exciting opportunity to establish a dialogue with the Pope and the Catholic Church in support of our struggle against land grabbing and corporate take-overs. In his speech to the seminar participants, Pope Francis emphasised many of the issues that are crucial to our struggles.

## 4. International Functioning of La Via Campesina



The International Coordination Committee (ICC) met twice this year (2014), first in Nicaragua (March 27<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>) and later in Portugal (November 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>nd</sup>). They discussed a number of issues including: the work of the thematic collectives; political priorities; information sharing; research and training; a review of the activities on the international calendar; and the movement's financial status and fundraising plans.

The youth now have space within the ICC – after a long struggle for recognition and representation within the international coordination of the movement.

La Via Campesina Youth are actively participating in technical and political activities, as well as in decision-making. Paperboard from their meeting in Senegal, June 2014.



In order to be able to create a bigger impact through the dissemination of information on our struggles and campaigns, La Via Campesina organised a media training session for the ICC members. The session took place in November in Portugal and was conducted by the LVC Communications team, with the assistance of a media expert – a former professional journalist. The training focussed on how to communicate information on the movement's struggles effectively and concisely in our TV interviews and presentations.

## **5. Communications and Media Work to build Solidarity**

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La Via Campesina uses various media tools to communicate with different audiences. The peasant movement has increased the use of social media such as Facebook and Twitter as a means of disseminating our messages more widely. By the end of December 2014, there were 10,200 followers on Facebook and 12,000 followers on Twitter.

LVC works in partnership with its allies and friends, through their respective media tools, to reach a wider audience – including peasant members at the local level. One such partnership opportunity is between the peasant movement and the FAO communication team. On May 22<sup>nd</sup>, La Via Campesina had a follow-up meeting with the FAO to evaluate the implementation of the agreement that was signed in October 2013. The FAO agreed to disseminate publications from the movement, including audio material, on its worldwide radio platform (community-radio and local radio networks), which has a much greater reach than our own communications media. Our participation in the Global Forum on Communication, which was organised by the FAO in October in Rome, was part of this collaborative effort. An opportunity exists to widen our communication reach by establishing contact with the World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters (AMARC), an international network of community radios. These initiatives are creating a platform to share information and publishing materials (both audio and text), particularly where goals and objectives are aligned. The Communications team focussed on developing an effective communication strategy, including event planning, web tools and training. This led to an improvement in our preparation, in collaboration with other movements, at the December 2014 Climate Conference in Lima, Peru, where our communicators and leaders from Latin America were very active in the communications work.

The challenge remains to improve outreach to the peasant members of our national organisations. Limited access to internet and a shortage of translators into local and national languages – other than English, French, Spanish or Portuguese – are some of the difficulties that we face. La Via Campesina continues, however, to make efforts to address these challenges.

### **La Via Campesina Website**

Over 200 articles (some of them in three languages) were posted on the LVC website. These included press releases, solidarity messages, reports of struggles and actions, all aimed at achieving the overall goal of LVC: to unify the peasant struggle through

globalising it and creating hope. In May 2015, La Via Campesina plans to launch an updated, more dynamic website (in English, Spanish and French) that will be better adapted to the new situation of our movement and to all of our diverse themes of work.

Below you will find a list of the key documents published:

Hereunder you will find a list of the key documents published:

| <b>Title</b>   | <b>Language</b> |
|--|-----------------|
| <b>A.1 Books, Chapters and Reports</b>   |                 |
| 1. Land Conflicts and the Criminalization of Peasant Movements in Paraguay: The Case of Marina Kue and the "Curuguay Massacre" | EN, ES          |
| 2. "Hidup petani, Hidup!"* Report of the VI international Conference of La Via Campesina, Jakarta, 9 to 13 June 2013           | EN, ES, FR      |
| 3. Revisiting Vietnam Rice: moving towards industrialisation   | EN              |
| 4. La Via Campesina: 2013 Annual report  | EN, ES, FR      |
| 5. Portugal small and medium farmers feel abandoned by their government  | EN              |
| <b>A.2 Press Releases</b>  |                 |
| <b>Agroecology</b>   |                 |
| 6. La Via Campesina Press release on International Symposium on Agroecology for Food and Nutrition security                    | EN, ES, FR      |
| <b>Climate change</b>  |                 |
| 7. Food sovereignty: 5 steps to cool the planet and feed its people  | EN, ES, FR      |
| 8. Fight climate change with food sovereignty  | EN, ES, FR      |
| 9. Peasant and Small-Scale Agriculture vs. Climate-Smart Agriculture   | EN, ES, FR      |
| 10. UN-masking Climate Smart Agriculture   | EN, ES, FR      |
| 11. Call for mobilization towards the Lima Peoples' Summit   | EN, ES, FR      |
| 12. Position Paper of La Via Campesina: Environmental and Climate Justice Now!   | EN, ES, FR      |
| <b>Agrarian reform</b>   |                 |
| 13. Hungry for Land. Small farmers feed the world- with less than a quarter of all farmland                                    | EN, ES, FR      |
| <b>Free Trade Agreements and TNCs</b>  |                 |
| 14. Rome: STOP TTIP, CETA and other destructive trade policies   | EN,ES,FR        |
| 15. October 16th, World Day of Action For Food Sovereignty and against transnational corporations                              | EN, ES, FR      |
| 16. A victory on our path to an international declaration on the rights of peasants  | EN, ES, FR      |
| 17. La Via Campesina welcomes the UN Human Rights Council move to challenge corporate impunity                                 | EN, ES, FR      |

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| <b>Family farming and food sovereignty</b>  |            |
| 18. La Via Campesina's position on the International Year of Family Farming - 2014  | EN, ES, FR |
| 19. In the Year of Family Farming: Food Sovereignty is the Framework for Family Farm Resilience   | EN, ES, FR |
| 20. IFAD'S Investments should strengthen family, peasant and indigenous farming as well as public policies for Food Sovereignty                   | EN, ES, FR |
| 21. CFS in Rome: The majority of governments remain blind to the challenges of global food security   | EN, ES, FR |
| 22. Speech of Elizabeth Mporfu, General Coordinator of La Via Campesina at the Hague Conference on Food Sovereignty, January 2014                 | EN         |
| <b>Women</b>  |            |
| 23. International Women's Day: We struggle against capitalism, patriarchy and for our rights! (8 March)   | EN, ES, FR |
| 24. La Via Campesina: Day of Action Against Violence Towards Women (25 November)  | EN, ES, FR |
| <b>April 17, LVC International Day of Peasant Struggle</b>  |            |
| 25. April 17th: International Day of Farmers' Struggles in defence of Peasants' and Farmers' Seeds  | EN, ES, FR |
| 26. April 17: Resistance Grows in Defense of Peasant Seeds  |            |
| 27. Farmers mobilize in Brussels: "Reclaiming peasants' rights over our own seeds"  | EN, ES, FR |
| <b>Solidarity messages</b>  |            |
| 28. Urgent Call to Action in Solidarity with the Palestinian People: We Condemn the Murder of Family Members of UAWC Leader and Call for Justice! | EN, ES, FR |
| 29. Solidarity call with the people of Palestine  | EN, ES, FR |
| 30. Call to Action in Solidarity with the Bolivarian Revolution and the Venezuelan Peasant Movement   | EN, ES, FR |

### Periodic newsletter



LVC Communications team prepares a monthly newsletter in three languages.

In order to keep its numerous members and allies abreast of its many activities – including actions, campaigns, and struggles – LVC Communications team prepares a monthly

newsletter in three languages, which is circulated to the large LVC mailing list. It is also circulated via social media, and thus has broadened its reach. A total of ten newsletters in English, French and Spanish were prepared and circulated.

### TV and Video Work

Our new communication tool, La Via Campesina TV (<http://tv.viacampesina.org/>) has been proving to be a useful hub of sound, images and music from the broad food sovereignty movement. The number of visitors is increasing daily. A total of 108 videos and 38 audios were posted on La Via Campesina TV. The videos included a new documentary, 38 minutes long, called "The Jakarta Call", which was launched on April 17th to celebrate the International Day of Peasant Struggle. The documentary captures the proceedings of La Via Campesina VI<sup>th</sup> International Conference held in Jakarta, Indonesia. It also features highlights of the peasant agenda, reflecting the multitude of local struggles in defence of a food system by and for the people. In addition to this documentary, several videos (see table 2) on seeds issues were circulated by La Via Campesina as part of its mobilisation strategy in preparation for the International Day of Peasant Struggle, in order to build solidarity in defence of farmers' seeds.

Table 2: Selected videos published on TVCampesina

| Title   |  | Language   |
|---|--|------------|
| Jarkata Call  | <a href="http://tv.viacampesina.org/The-Jakarta-call?lang=es">http://tv.viacampesina.org/The-Jakarta-call?lang=es</a>  | EN, FR, ES |
| <b>Selected videos for the 17 April: International Day of Peasant Struggles</b> |  |            |
| Argentina the bad seeds   | <a href="http://tv.viacampesina.org/Argentina-the-bad-seeds?Lang=en?">http://tv.viacampesina.org/Argentina-the-bad-seeds?Lang=en?</a>  | EN, FR, ES |
| The world according to Monsanto   | <a href="http://tv.viacampesina.org/The-World-According-to-Monsanto?Lang=en">http://tv.viacampesina.org/The-World-According-to-Monsanto?Lang=en</a>  | EN, FR, ES |
| Of peoples seeds indigenous breeds  | <a href="http://tv.viacampesina.org/Of-peoples-seeds-indigenous-breeds?lang=en">http://tv.viacampesina.org/Of-peoples-seeds-indigenous-breeds?lang=en</a>                                  | EN, FR, ES |
| 10 years of failure farmers   | <a href="http://tv.viacampesina.org/10-Years-of-Failure-Farmers?lang=en">http://tv.viacampesina.org/10-Years-of-Failure-Farmers?lang=en</a>  | EN, FR, ES |
| Resistant seeds   | <a href="http://tv.viacampesina.org/Resistant-seeds?lang=en">http://tv.viacampesina.org/Resistant-seeds?lang=en</a>  | EN, FR, ES |
| Plant local seeds harvest global  | <a href="http://tv.viacampesina.org/Plant-local-seeds-harvest-global?lang=en">http://tv.viacampesina.org/Plant-local-seeds-harvest-global?lang=en</a>                                      | EN, FR, ES |
| Peasants seeds interview with Jose  | <a href="http://tv.viacampesina.org/Peasants-seeds-interview-with-Jose-Manuel-Benitez=?lang=en">http://tv.viacampesina.org/Peasants-seeds-interview-with-Jose-Manuel Benitez =?lang=en</a> | EN, FR, ES |

## Conclusions: walking towards food sovereignty

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In 2014 La Via Campesina continues working towards the realisation of its vision of a new kind of food system: a system where land, water and seeds are in the hands of small scale farmers and are not high-jacked by large corporations. The international movement has brought the farmers' voice to a variety of international policy spaces such as the United Nations Human Rights Council, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Committee on World Food Security (CFS) and its Civil Society Mechanism (CSM) and others in order to defend food sovereignty. La Via Campesina is increasingly recognised as a social and policy leader in those spaces and is asked to contribute to a variety of debates. As a result, it is getting more and more challenging for the movement to identify the institutions where farmers can really win battles and where it should focus its energies.

Via Campesina members and their allies have also increased their organizing and mobilization to oppose corporate natural resource grabs and control over markets. Land occupations, resistance to land grabbing, and protests against harmful trade policies have been organized in all continents. An increasing number of groups are inspired by the strength of the farmer's movement and of the model it proposes. It has prompted hundreds of organisations and local groups to organise actions during the international day of peasant's struggle on April the 17th.

In the field, successful practical examples of sustainable peasant agriculture and agroecology are contributing to a major groundswell that cannot be ignored, even though the industrialisation of agriculture is growing at a rapid pace. Local food production using sustainable practices is spreading all over the world, with large sectors of society asking for safe food favouring local production for local markets and produced while respecting the livelihood of local producers. La Via Campesina members have continued to develop agroecology schools all over the world. The movement has continued to promote this model of production that offers a real solution to the climate and hunger crises.

La Via Campesina is an international grassroots movement that defends small-scale sustainable agriculture as a way to promote social justice and dignity. It brings together millions of peasants, small and medium-size farmers, women farmers, landless people, indigenous people, migrants and agricultural workers and youth from around the world. It strongly opposes corporate driven agriculture and transnational companies that are marginalizing people and destroying nature.

It counts 164 member organisations in 73 countries around the world.



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