

ANNUAL REPORT

2020





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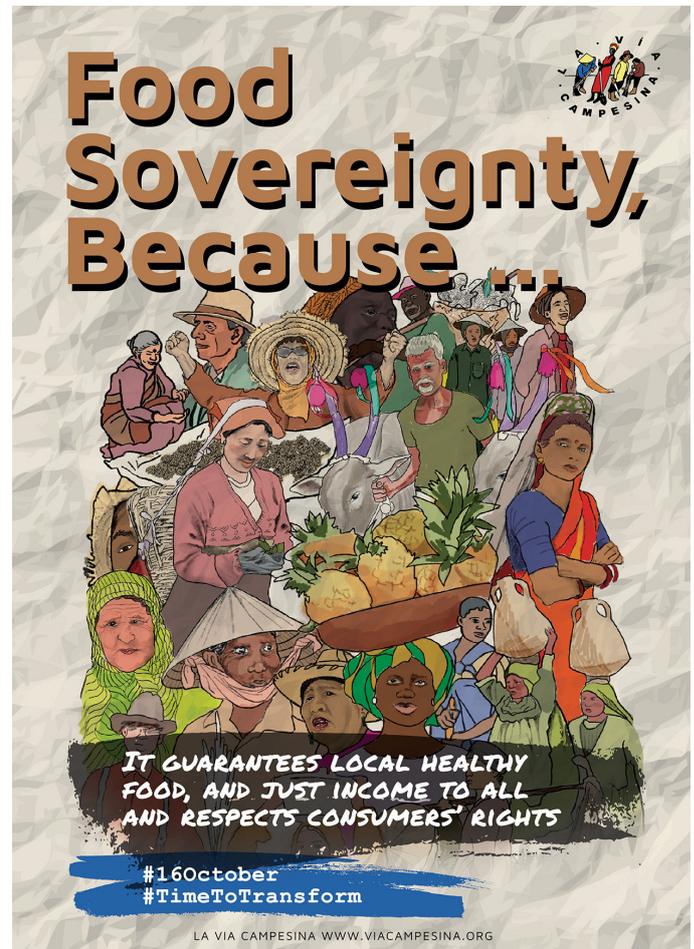
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Introduction

2020 was one of the most challenging years of the last half century. No one ever anticipated that by March, the world would face a pandemic that would bring life as we know it to a halt. The Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic did that. The pandemic exposed two things: (1) the rotten core and the cracks in the global neoliberal economy and (2) the urgent need for radical policies to usher in change and bring relief, dignity, and equity to billions of people whose survival is hanging by a thin thread. With each crisis desperation has increased leading to unintended outcomes, for instance, the recent rise of the extreme right, fascism, and jingoistic-nationalism. Global inequality is at its peak. Empathy is at its lowest, and destructive economic, social, ecological, and environmental policies are more prevalent than ever. This pandemic is rooted in capitalism and strongly connected to the industrial agriculture model, and is one of the many recent outcomes of such destructive policies.

Over 80 million infected and nearly two million dead.

It was clear by the year's end that COVID-19 shows humanity's existential crisis. The poor by far the most affected disproportionately. The pandemic exposed the injustices committed against peasants, wage workers, and the poor by governments across the globe. Neglect of, and insensitivity to the situation faced by these groups were and are still appalling. The hyper-industrialized society built around cities has for so long denied workers their right to work closer to home and have sufficient food.



Migrant and urban workers, the cheap labour of this society, were forced to walk hundreds if not thousands of miles to return home as businesses and factories around the world closed when governments imposed lockdown measures and restrictions.

However, the big corporations continued to operate and exposed many of their workers to infection - one such case is the example of big slaughterhouses in the US, Germany, and other European countries. Migrant workers continued to work without adequate protection in big farms in Europe and the United States of America, and many were infected. Why should workers trust this system anymore?

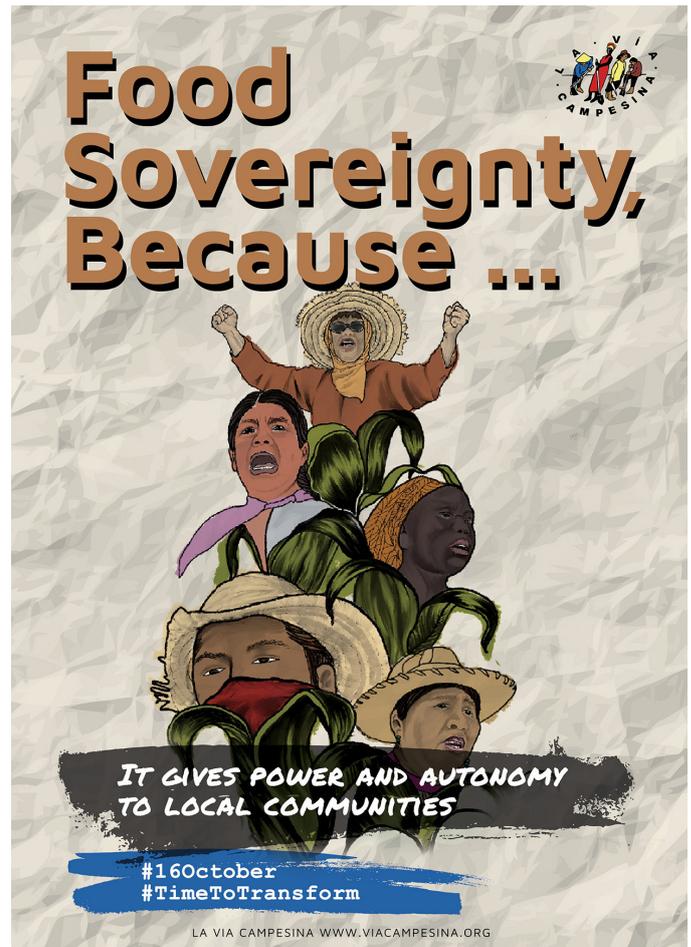
Inequality deepened as millions of people lost their jobs while billionaires increased their wealth by over \$10 trillion, further concentrating wealth in the hands of a few. The pandemic pushed hundreds of millions of people to starvation and poverty, adding to over a billion people already living in poverty. In Africa and some parts of Asia, the impacts of recent droughts and severe flooding, and the worst desert locust invasion further worsened the situation for the poor. If one considers the cumulative effects of these extreme weather events and natural shocks and the ongoing global economic crisis, this pandemic has undermined international efforts to bring down global poverty.

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) estimates, the pandemic would add between 83 and 132 million people to the total number of undernourished. A cruel irony here is that this increasingly hungry world also loses or wastes 1.3 billion tons of food a year- enough to feed 2 billion people.

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) estimates, the pandemic would add between 83 and 132 million people to the total number of undernourished. A cruel irony here is that this increasingly hungry world also loses or wastes 1.3 billion tons of food a year- enough to feed 2 billion people. The waste has worsened during the pandemic. COVID-19 is causing significant challenges in global food production and distribution. Crops were left to rot in the fields, while countless livestock were killed to depopulate as slaughterhouses shut down and big industrial farms cleared space for new animals.

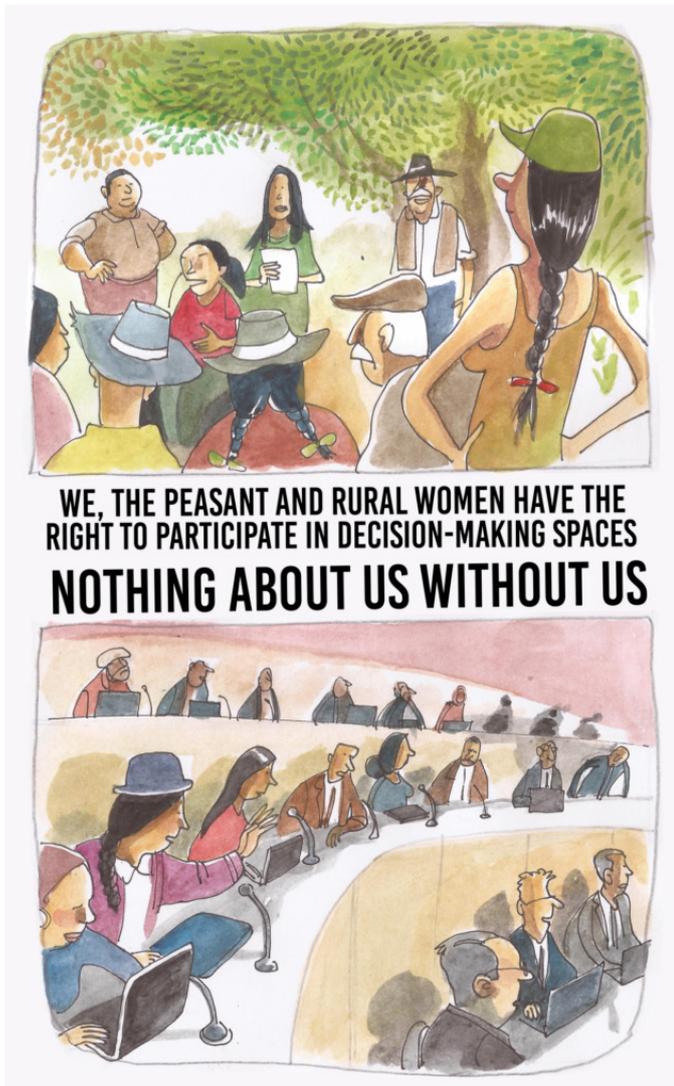
Many import-dependent nations worried about their food security and violated the human rights of their most vulnerable people: migrant workers, women, youth, and children. They allowed agribusiness corporations to exploit and force migrant farmworkers to work under risky conditions, with inadequate protection, little access to healthcare, and no regard for their well-being.

For decades, governments have done little to protect small farms and local food producers, instead promoting and supporting dysfunctional corporate food systems. They continued to do so during the pandemic. Their support measures for peasants have been inadequate and late despite peasants producing the bulk of the food consumed globally. Local farmers' markets were closed abruptly following lockdown restrictions to stop the spread of COVID-19.



Authorities confiscated and destroyed peasants' produce in an attempt to dissuade movement. However, corporate-owned retail chains continued to operate! Is anything more ironic and enraging than the news of peasants forced to dump their produce, appearing alongside the increased reports of hunger and starvation? Yet, amidst all this chaos, local agriculture systems based on agroecological peasant production proved their resilience and became a lifeline for many developed and developing countries.

During the year, amidst the pandemic, the agribusiness and corporate lobbies increased its efforts to capture



**WE, THE PEASANT AND RURAL WOMEN HAVE THE RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE IN DECISION-MAKING SPACES
NOTHING ABOUT US WITHOUT US**

democratic global governance spaces. Citing the worsening hunger, some called on governments to lift the ban on the use of GMOs. While some big businesses, under the cover of the pandemic, worked with policymakers to relax laws that protect natural resources.

We witnessed deliberate attempts to close civil society participation in in global policymaking processes and UN spaces. Shifting Human Rights Council meetings and other events online meant limited participation from peasants and indigenous communities. The indifference shown by the interim Government in Bolivia to follow up on the UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas (UNDROP), made it extremely difficult for La Via Campesina and its allies to advance the international strategy towards supportive procedures for UNDROP implementation.

Meanwhile, at the FAO, corporate lobbies accelerated their attempt to capture the UN Food System Summit (UN FSS) planned for 2021. They infringed on the work of the Committee for Food Security (CFS) and Civil Society Mechanism (CSM), consequently undermining the voice of social movements. If anything, this pandemic has given us clearer reasons to resist such corporate capture and instead accelerate our demands for a Binding Treaty that can hold corporations accountable for human rights and peasants' rights violations.

In La Via Campesina, we believe in, and defend, food sovereignty as peoples' right to healthy and culturally appropriate food produced with ecologically sustainable methods. The COVID-19 pandemic has shown us the importance and the resilience of local food systems that keep many people from hunger and starvation.

La Via Campesina mobilized on April 17th (International Day of Peasant Struggles) and October 16th (International Day for Peoples' Food Sovereignty and Against Transnational Corporation [TNCs]) and pushed for the food sovereignty of every community around the world. The movement used its key messages of "Stay Home, But Not Silent" and "It is Time To Transform," to call for the principles of food sovereignty to be implemented and upheld. Our joint efforts and solidarity throughout the year were and continue to be the platform from which we survive the pandemic together.



As La Via Campesina, we believe that no systemic transformation is possible without recognizing and protecting the rights of those who are at the heart of the food systems: peasants, fisherfolk, indigenous people, pastoralists, forest dwellers, agricultural workers, as well as consumers in the cities and rural areas.

The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants offers a clear, rights-based roadmap to building and strengthening food sovereignty and shifting away from market-based food systems which destroy the environment, pollute communities, and promote over-consumption.

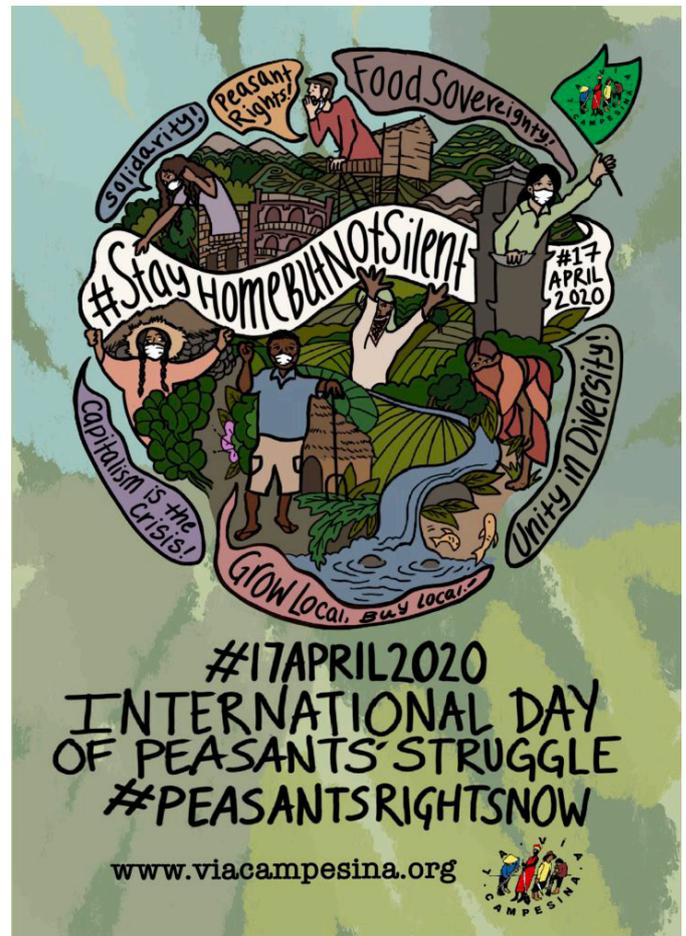
Guaranteeing the rights of peasants and rural workers is essential to mitigate the pandemic's impacts and bring systemic and transformative changes that put human health and welfare before profits. The Declaration provides a framework to build public policies that are diverse, resilient and rooted in the wisdom, culture, and customs of local communities and their visions for food sovereignty.

Globalizing the Struggle and Hope during the COVID-19 pandemic

The year 2020 presented new challenges and opportunities for La Via Campesina to further its struggles and mobilize its members' interests. The COVID-19 restrictions, particularly on travel within and outside national borders, imposed enormous challenges on the movement in terms of participation and continuity of struggles built around physical meetings. The peasant movement had to adapt to new demands to access online spaces to continue its mobilization and presence in national, regional and international policy processes. In some regions, South America for instance, various radio programs of "Voz Campesina" ("The Peasants' Voice") were produced in collaboration with Radio Mundo Real, and broadcast through the social networks of Via Campesina South America, Coordination of Latin American and Caribbean Peasant Organizations (CLOC) and Radio Mundo Real. These were important to keep the struggles going.

Most regions of La Via Campesina convened online meetings between member organizations to maintain and improve coordination. Such meetings, however, generated a series of problems concerning the participation of social movements, challenges of simultaneous interpretation into native languages, differing time zones between countries and continents, internet connection problems, fatigue emerging from online activities and so forth.

Some countries in South-east and East Asia, South Asia, Europe, Southern and Eastern Africa, North and South America, with relatively better internet



access participated in the online meetings. Even in these regions, not all members participated because of various reasons such as language barriers, lack of interpreters (most sessions were limited to 3 common colonial languages: English, French and Spanish), time differences, etc.

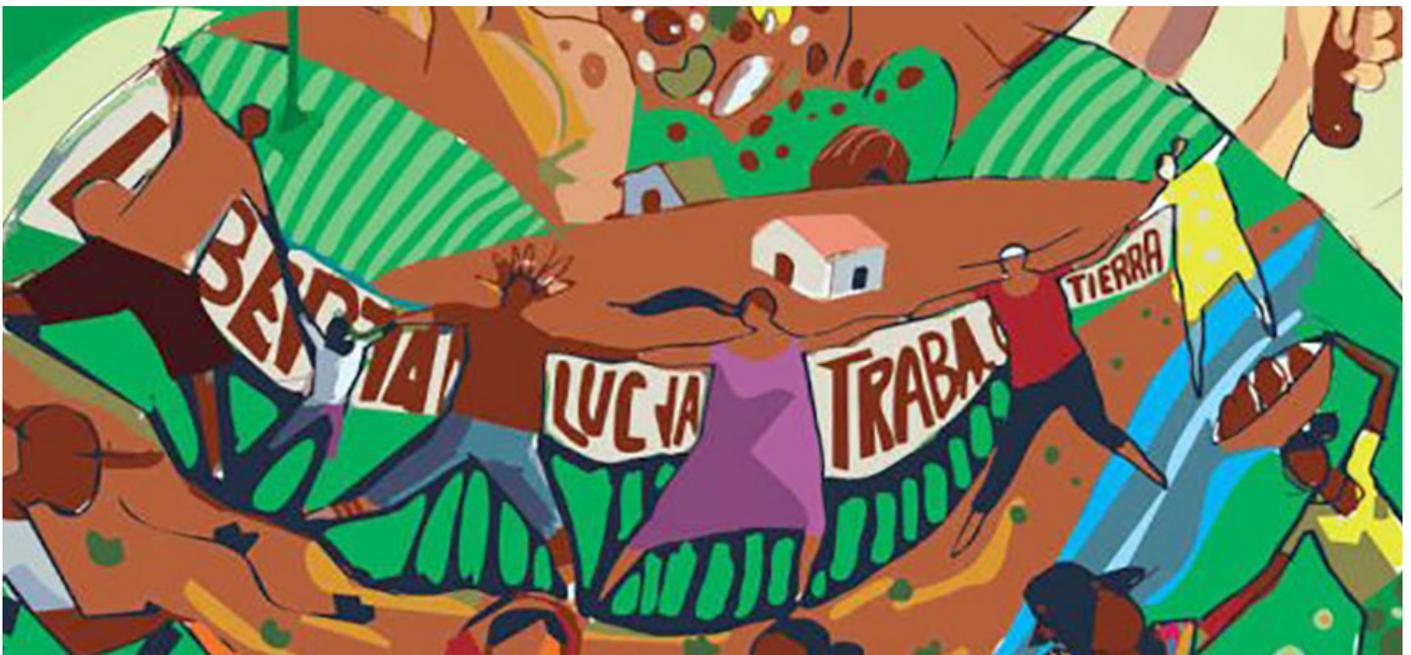
Members in North America and Asia, formed collectives of volunteer translators and interpreters to enable better and meaningful participation from peasant members.

La Via Campesina's international working collectives used video-conferencing tools to coordinate and carry out some of their activities despite the difficulties of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The movement put significant efforts to continue following the various international processes linked to Global Food Governance and the Rome based agencies and maintain a continuity of work and actions within its Public Policies collective. Despite these efforts to engage online, our interventions in global institutions, particularly at the UN bodies such as the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in Rome, Human Rights Council (UN HRC) in Geneva, were significantly affected. Corporations took advantage of the pandemic to advance their interests, especially around the Food Systems Summit and on nutrition issues.

Our solidarity actions highlighted the situation of peasant communities and small-scale food producers during the pandemic. A solidarity mission to Venezuela was organized in January (from 20 to 27) to understand in-depth the consequences and impacts caused by the United States and European blockade against the Venezuelan people. Mission delegates consisted of La Via Campesina representatives from Europe, North America, South America and Central America, and journalists from Africa and South America.

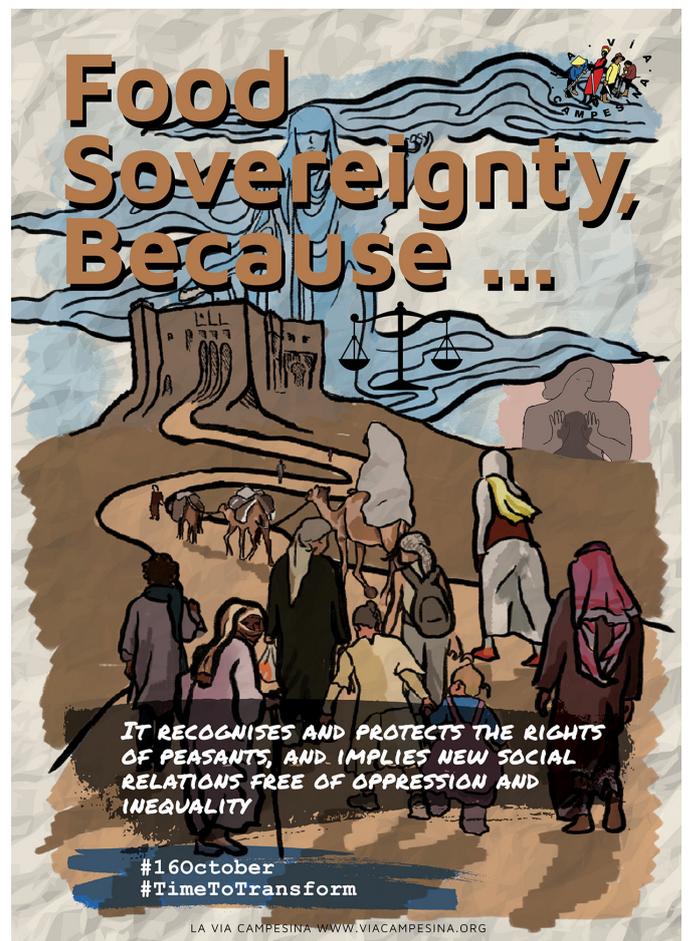
We also brought to attention the criminalization and persecution of peasant leaders and migrant farmworkers in Colombia, Indonesia, Ecuador, Brazil, Mali, Palestine, Spain, Thailand and elsewhere. Despite the challenges of operating in a virtual world, peasant organizations kept each other updated about the situation on the ground through news bulletins and other forms of virtual communication. In times of heightened danger, marginalization and crisis among the grassroots base of the movement for food sovereignty in North America for instance, the region adapted by creating various social media platforms in order to stay connected and coordinate efforts among organizations.



Advancing Implementation of UNDROP: Lessons and Challenges

The peasant rights collective continued to coordinate and carry out its activities despite the difficulties posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Collective organized many online meetings and consultations, including joint meetings with the public policies collective. Many regions (South-east and East Asia, South Asia, Europe, Southern and Eastern Africa, North and South America) with capacities to access virtual infrastructure participated in the online meetings convened at the regional and international levels. For instance, in April, LVC Southern and Eastern Africa (LVC SEAf) region together with LVC international and allies participated in a webinar on UNDROP organized by FIAN International on The New Rights of Peasants Declaration: A Landmark for the Right to Food Struggle and Climate Justice; and in November three delegates from the region (ZIMSOFF, ESAFF Uganda and Kenyan Peasant League) participated in an international webinar organized by Rosa Luxemburg Czech Republic where they shared their experiences on UNDROP implementation, obstacles, challenges and opportunities.

An online plenary was held on December 17th – marking the second anniversary of UNDROP adoption. The event was limited to members of La Via Campesina and attended by over 180 participants from the ten regions. The plenary was a moment to learn and share lessons and challenges peasants face in implementing UNDROP. Each region presented on their progress in implementing UNDROP.



Since the beginning of the year, together with FIAN International, the peasant rights collective organized numerous online meetings to discuss the proposal to develop popular materials on UNDROP. A questionnaire was developed and circulated to all the Via Campesina

regions and allies in July to gather inputs for elaborating popular and pedagogical materials on UNDROP that are useful to all right-holders. Feedback from the members was received until early September. A detailed proposal based on the right-holders' inputs was developed and submitted for funding in November. Work on developing popular materials will commence in 2021 until 2022.

At the international level, plans to advance implementation included (1) pushing for the creation of special procedures in UN human rights system to appoint a UN Special Rapporteur or a UN working group on the rights of peasants, and (2) mainstreaming UNDROP in all the mechanisms and procedures of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).

In March, La Via Campesina and its allies mobilized at the UN Human Rights Council meeting in Geneva and organized a follow-up to lobby for creating special procedures in the UN human rights system. Bolivia, which at the time was led by an interim right-wing government, did not support our initiative and made it difficult for our delegation to conduct exchanges with the Member States in Geneva. However, the newly elected Bolivian Government's promise to support the UNDROP is a welcome sign. La Via Campesina sent a letter to President Luis Arce's new Government to offer our support in advancing peasants' rights.

La Via Campesina's delegates also met in March with OHCHR officials to continue mainstreaming UNDROP in the body's mechanisms and procedures.

The movement also connected with the UN Special Rapporteurs, especially the UN Special Rapporteur on the right to food, Michael Fakhri. In November 2020, two members of the Collective participated in Mr. Fakhri's virtual consultation to discuss his work mandate. During the year, the peasant rights Collective contributed valuable inputs to two reports by the UN Special Rapporteur, one on the right to food and trade and the other on the right to food and workers' and migrants' rights.

In other international spaces, we continued the ongoing work to mainstream UNDROP in the Rome Process of the Food and Agriculture Organization, especially in CFS-CSM spaces, and the UN Decade of Family Farming. The Collective, through its member National Farmers' Union (NFU), is conducting research on the rights of peasants in Canada, to propose a framework on the lines of UNDROP. This work will also guide how and why the UNDROP can and should be applied in states with highly industrialized and neoliberal food systems.

Two publications were published in 2020: (1) *Peasants Rights Explained: An illustrated version of the UN Declaration (UNDROP)* by La Via Campesina, and (2) a book by our ally CETIM - "*The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants: A Tool in the Struggle for our Common Future*". Work on translating the peasant rights declaration into other languages is ongoing in the regions. LVC SEAf, in effort to reach as many grassroots organizations as possible in the region has supported the translation of UNDROP

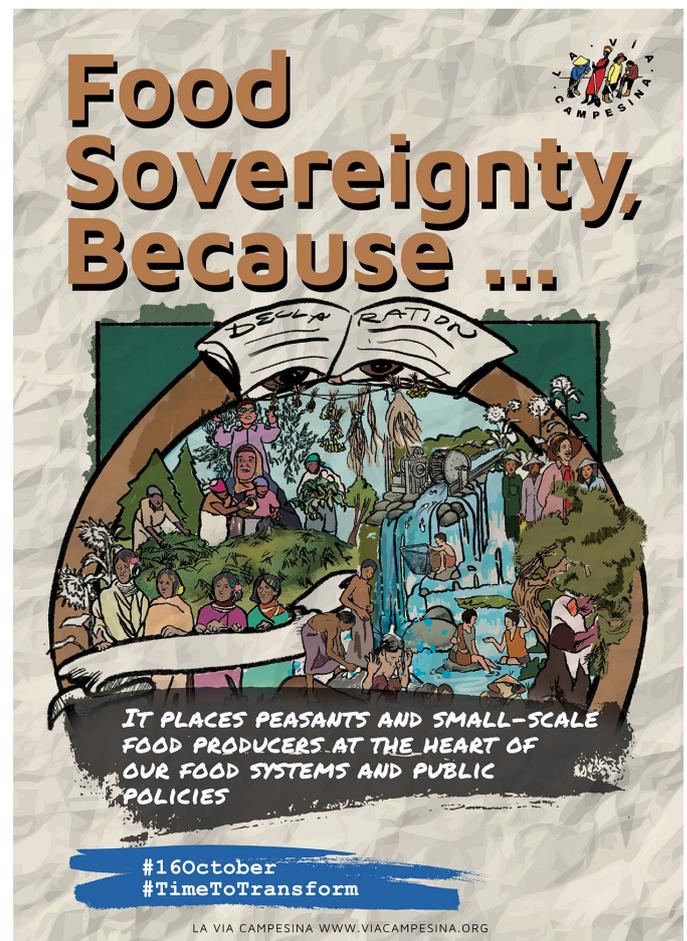
into nine local languages (Kenyan Swahili, Kikongo, Lingala, Shona, Ndebele, Luganda, Acholi/Ateso and Tanzanian Swahili). Each language is a main language of each member organization's country.



Public Policies and Global Food Governance

The work linked to public policies and global food governance was significantly impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. In particular, the travel restrictions imposed by governments begun in March, led to cancellation of many in-person events that were planned at the Rome-based agencies. In January and February, La Via Campesina delegates attended the last in-person meetings held in Rome. Delegates participated in two sessions of the Open Ended Working Group (OEWG) for the Committee for Food Security (CFS) Negotiations on Agroecology and other innovative approaches, the Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition, and the CFS Advisory Group and bureau meeting at the end of January.

La Via Campesina participated in these meetings as part of a delegation of members of the Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples' Mechanism (CSM) Coordinating Committee. Then in February, nine LVC delegates participated in the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) Farmers Forum, which included a preparatory meeting organized on February 5th together with the allied organizations, members of the International Planning Committee (IPC) for Food Sovereignty present at the Forum. A side event on the United Nations Declaration on the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas, with the participation of IFAD and FAO members, as well as allied organizations was organized.

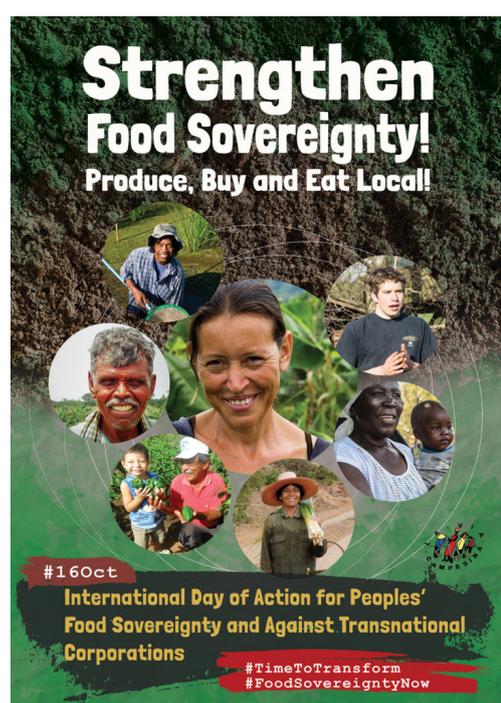


La Via Campesina ensured that the draft of the final synthesis of deliberation reflected the primordial role of and the rights of peasants and small-scale food producers.

From March onwards, some meetings and events that were scheduled to take place in Rome were either postponed (e.g. the CFS plenary, etc.) to 2021 or held online (Chart 4.1 below).

Chart 4.1 Rome meetings and events

Activity	Held Online/When	Postponed/When
Committee on World Food Security (CFS)		
• CFS Plenary		• February 2021
• CFS High-Level Special Event on Food Security and Nutrition	• October	
• CFS Advisory Group meetings	• Seven virtual meetings between March and December	
• Policy recommendation on Agroecology and other innovative approaches- planned 2 weeks of negotiations in May and June	• First meeting in April • Five virtual informal meetings between May and June	• Some processes moved to 2021
• Negotiations Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition	• April and May • September (1st of negotiations) • October-December (2nd of Week of negotiations) • Series of meeting held Friends of the Chair of OEWG	
• Policy negotiations for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment	• October and December	
CSM Coordination Committee • Discussions on CFS work streams and activities	• April and October	
International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty (IPC) 1. Operative Facilitation Committee meetings 2. Facilitation Committee meetings 3. Working groups and regional articulations	• Every month	
Decade of Family Farming 1. Multi-actor global exchange meeting" on the development of a Modular training program on Public Policy Cycles for Family Farming 2. Second meeting of the Farmers' Organizations/Platforms members of the International Steering Committee of the UN Decade of Family Farming	• July • September	
IFAD- Farmers' Forum • Informal Consultation - IFAD Management and Civil Society Partner Organizations on the Directions of the Twelfth Replenishment	• October	



International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty (IPC)

Despite the many challenges linked to the pandemic and moving activities online, the International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty (IPC) succeeded in maintaining a work flow all year long and was able to start several important processes. In particular, a process leading to the next Nyeleni forum was initiated in the second semester of 2020 and will constitute one of LVC priorities for the next few years. The working group on youth was restored. A letter of exchange was signed with the FAO at the end of the year, concerning the Decade of Family Farming and the Youth contribution. The IPC facilitation committee also decided to create a working group on finances, in order to reflect on fundraising and financial management in a more collective way.

LVC Africa, on behalf of the IPC organized the 2020 FAO regional Civil Society consultation, which took place in Harare, Zimbabwe in February 2020, hosted by ZIMSOFF, NANGO, and the Government of Zimbabwe. The consultation produced a statement, and three representatives were elected to represent civil society in the FAO Africa Ministerial meeting (which was later cancelled due to COVID-19).



Committee on World Food Security (CFS) and Civil Society Mechanism (CSM)

La Via Campesina participated in most of the activities of the CFS through the Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples' Mechanism. The movement has nine members in the CSM Coordination Committee and 2 members in the CFS Advisory Group. The working group on global governance worked since March on two main issues: (1) the preparation of a report on the Covid-19 pandemic and its impact on small-scale food producers, workers and consumers, and (2) the reflection and actions around the process towards the UN Food System Summit in 2021.

The work on women's constituency scheduled to kick-off in November 2020, immediately after the CFS 47th Plenary Session, was postponed. However, the sessions of the OEWG to discuss and agree on the draft terms of reference (TORs) for the Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in the Context of Food Security and Nutrition took place on October 30th and December 9th.

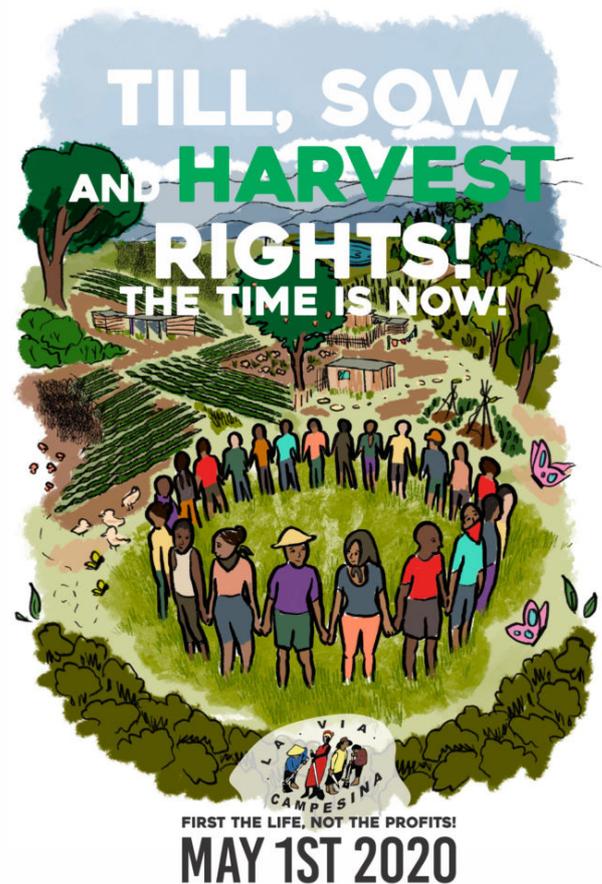
Internally, the public policies collective organized several virtual meetings throughout 2020. In particular, in line with LVC's objective of strengthening its struggles by articulating collectives. The Collective organized 3 joint calls with the Peasants' Rights collective in June and July. The meetings discussed the priorities for the Collective, updates on the work and actions carried out in the different spaces (Rome, Geneva, New York), agencies (FAO, IFAD, CFS) and platforms (IPC in particular), a joint analysis of the challenges raised by the COVID-19 pandemic for the work at international level, the relation with the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, and the UN Food System Summit.

The Collective deliberated all year on many issues and challenges linked to the UN Food System Summit preparations. A task group was formed to define LVC's political position and course of action in relation to this controversial event. A position paper entitled "A Summit under Siege" was prepared and published. The paper presents LVC concerns, and analysis related to the Summit, both in terms of process and content, pointing out in particular the issue of corporate capture of the Summit and the UN institutions in general. It also highlights LVC's commitment and demands related to food system transformation guided by the principles of food sovereignty and agroecology. 2020 has been a peculiar year for activities linked to public policies at the global level, due to the pandemic. The virtualization of the activities, including complex processes such as negotiations and decision-making bodies, has led to many challenges and weakened the impact of the civil society, and in particular of social movements, in spaces like the CFS and the FAO. While struggling to follow the global food governance agenda, the Collective was able to focus on a few main work areas and objectives. The combined calls within the Public Policies collective and with the Peasant rights collective has allowed the development of an important joint analysis of the situation and to define some priorities and axes of work. More particularly, the process led by the Collective on the Food Systems Summit has enabled the development of a strategy and a firm political position, not only on the summit itself, but on Food Systems in general and on the dangers of corporate capture. The work in the IPC has been particularly rich all year long. LVC leaders and staff have committed to follow all the main processes initiated in 2020 and that will lead up to a big event focused on food sovereignty and provide the occasion to strengthen and develop this space of allies.

Internationalizing the Plight of and Solidarity with Migrants and Wage Workers

2020 was a crucial year for the Migrants and Waged Workers collective in terms of building relations of support and solidarity between organizations of La Via Campesina and providing high international visibility to migrants and wage workers. Despite the difficulties imposed by the physical isolation between the organizations and their members due COVID-19 restrictions, the Collective utilized virtual platforms in April and May to discuss the necessary and priority actions for 2020, and then did everything possible to bring the voice of struggling migrants to all corners of the world. Two international calls were organized between April 26th and May 3rd to activate the plans into actions.

Almost at the beginning of the pandemic, in March 2020, the world witnessed several demonstrations - from Palestine to Puerto Rico, the border between Mexico and the US, and the encounter between African and European peoples that is the Mediterranean Sea - of peasant and migrant movements fighting for their rights in a context of crisis of historic proportions. A few weeks later, in the framework of the International Workers' Day (May 1st, 2020), La Via Campesina international and its North America region issued profound statements on the link between the struggle of the working class and the peasants, whether they are workers in the fields or in the food system, and highlighting unity among all as the key to the full realization of their collective and individual rights. In mid-June, La Via Campesina released a video message of



solidarity with migrants, emphasizing unity among peoples for the full realization of the rights of all. At the same time, the peasant movement developed other important audiovisual materials about the terrible effects of the Covid-19 on its members, including but not limited to migrants.

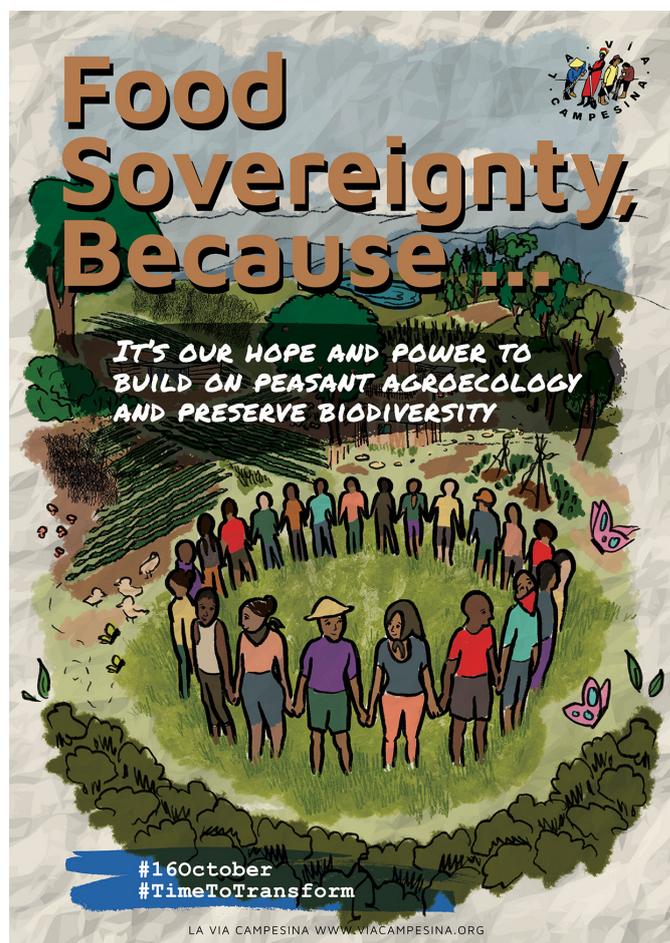
By the end of 2020, the Collective proposed and obtained the support of all of La Via Campesina to join a new global articulation towards a 'Global Pact of Solidarity for the Rights of Migrants and Refugees';

a collective construction in convergence with allied movement, that was born, in part, from conversations within the peasant movement that took in Marrakech, Morocco in November 2018.

Agroecology, Seeds and Biodiversity

The Agroecology, Seeds and Biodiversity collective lived a year 2020 of increased articulation and visibility. Firstly, because of its capacity to respond - at the grassroots and in their territories - to the multiple challenges arising from the COVID-19 quarantines imposed by national governments. Then, by actively participating in the moments of articulation of the Collective itself as well as in the International Days of Action that La Via Campesina developed during the year. The collective raised the voice and cause of peasant agroecology within the movement's communication strategy, in the virtual plenaries, and in the lobbying and convergence spaces organized by the movement to advance Food Sovereignty.

The Collective began 2020 by organizing two important virtual meetings. Later in the year, a combined collective meeting with the Land, Water and Territories collective took place. On all three occasions, the members of the Collective reinforced the central role of the articulation of agroecological experiences - both in terms of food production as well as formation and training. In the first virtual meeting on April 14th, the Collective exchanged a series of important exemplary organizational experiences of peasant agroecology to counter the socioeconomic effects of the COVID-19 quarantines. Faced with a pandemic of historic proportions, multiple member organizations of La Via Campesina energized their production, distribution and consumption processes, giving priority to the most in need and strengthening the role of peasant agroecology in the struggle against hunger and for Food Sovereignty.

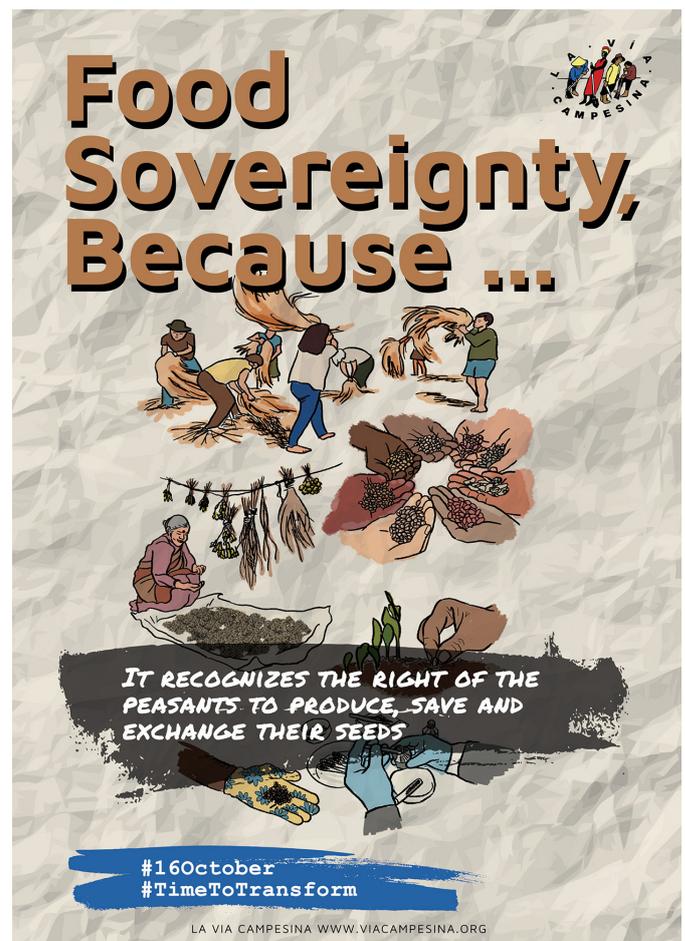


As a Collective, members committed themselves to increase and deepen the sharing of such experiences so as to mutually strengthen each other's efforts. A month later, on May 12th, the Collective had its second virtual meeting focused on refining the participation and monitoring of LVC in international lobbying

processes such as the Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples Mechanism (CSM) of the World Committee on Food Security (CFS). The third and last virtual meeting of the year was held on October 29th, together with the International Working Collective 'Land, Water and Territories', to develop a broader reflection on the many opportunities that exist - plus those that must be built between LVC collectives - to join efforts and maximize the impact of La Via Campesina in the spaces where both collectives carry out their political, formative and communications efforts. A very important example of such articulation between these and other collectives was the December dissemination of LVC's Political Position on the planned the United Nations Food Systems Summit (scheduled for September 2021). In collaboration with allies, members of both Collectives also contributed to new editions of the Nyeleni Bulletin¹ and an open response to the corporate capture and co-optation of institutions such as the FAO, which signed an agreement with the agribusiness CropLife in November.

Lastly, the Collective made progress on commitments made in previous years. Examples include the translation and dissemination of training materials such as the video "Sow to Resist" on peasant seeds, the 'COMMON Contents on Peasant Seeds' - to be published in April 2021 - and the updating and internationalization of Multimedia Peasant School on the peasant-to-peasant training method. These efforts, like many in various collectives of La Via Campesina, are part of a new wave of integration that is taking place at the political, formative and communication processes of the movement. This made it possible to adapt effectively to the new context where communication and social media play an even more important role, as well as the fact that the online meetings have had to replace the face-to-face meetings of the past.

The Southern and Eastern Africa (LVC SEAf) region has been actively promoting agroecology within the context of climate justice. Two delegates from LVC SEAf region participated in an international webinar on Scaling up Food Sovereignty and Agroecology which was organized by Rosa Luxemburg Czech Republic in November. Various LVC SEAf members held national training sessions on Climate Justice and agroecology in Uganda, South Africa, Kenya and Democratic



Republic of Congo. An ESAFF Uganda training was held in March during which small-scale farmers developed a call for action demanding attention to agroecology and climate justice. In South Africa, Food Sovereignty Campaign for Agrarian Reform (FSC) and the Landless People's Movement (LPM) held a three-day training on Climate Justice and Agroecology in November.

Kenyan Peasants League (KPL) held a two-day training with 20 young peasants from eight clusters to enhance their engagement in the Climate Justice and Agroecology issues. The region also helped members to strengthen their agroecology schools. For instance, in DRC support included the establishment of an agroecological kitchen/restaurant in DRC, in Tanzania renovations were made to a classroom of the MVIWATA's Training Centre to be used for agroecological learning activities, and in South Africa a Community Garden was established in the Western Cape as a centre for experimental practices of agroecology.

In North America, delegates participated in the Advanced Course with the People's Agroecology Process (PAEP) and the Agroecology and Livelihoods Collaborative of the

1 <https://viacampesina.org/en/ten-years-of-nyeleni-newsletter-much-to-celebrate/>

University of Vermont (ALC-UVM). This course represents a major step in political education around agroecology in North America, led by leaders of Black, Indigenous and People of Color-led organizations.

In November, ESAFF Uganda organized the Seed Celebration Week (from 23rd to 27th) in the different regions of Uganda to celebrate peasants' contributions towards improving seed access and control for small-scale farmers in Uganda.

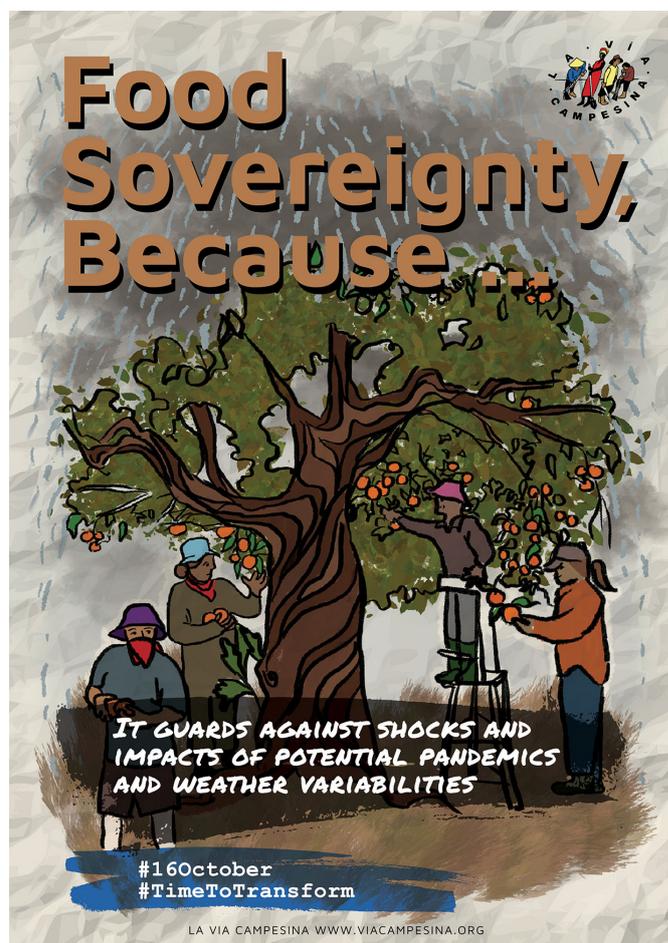
As part of the Celebrations, ESAFF Uganda launched Orungo Community Seed Bank in Orungo County in the Amuria district to contribute to seed sovereignty of small-scale farmers.

Climate and Environmental Justice

After an unprecedented COP25 Conference in December 2019 - first cancelled by a repressive government that could not hold down its people (Chile) and then taken over by another that prioritized a possible political election harvest (Spain) - the International Working Collective on Climate and Environmental Justice began 2020 with its eyes on a COP26 (Scotland) with high possibilities of popular mobilization in favour of climate justice rooted in Food Sovereignty. But the arrival of COVID-19 forced us to move online. In constant dialogue with and convened by LVC member in the United Kingdom, the Land Workers Alliance (LWA), the Collective actively participated in numerous processes throughout the pandemic year of 2020 - both its own and those of allies.

Throughout the year, LVC member organizations active in the Collective developed local and national initiatives that set the international standard. In February, for example, one of LVC's Canadian members, the National Farmers' Union (NFU), released an insightful report² on the direct links between the agricultural and climate crises. In May, LWA mobilized virtually to demand that the Parliament include protections for farmers when legislating agriculture.

In June, multiple LVC member organizations on the African continent, launched a webpage (<http://www.africaclimatejustice.com/>) on climate justice. LVC Africa along with allies also published a declaration from organizations working for climate justice in the face of COVID-19. In La Via Campesina Southern and



Eastern Africa region (LVC SEAf), member organisations conducted national trainings on climate justice (see section 6.0). In Europe, Confédération Paysanne in France continued to denounce EU-Canada Free Trade Agreement (Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement - CETA), in part because it violates the basic

premises of the Paris Climate Agreement. The Climate and Environmental Justice collective contributed to the globalized peasant response to the causes and effects of COVID-19 by developing specific analysis regarding climate issues that were integrated in the call, "La Via Campesina: We sow seeds of struggle and resistance, we harvest rights! It's Time to Transform³.

Later in the year, as part of the COP26 Coalition, the Collective and LWA played a leading role in the Coalition's pre-COP 'Global Meeting', which took place online from November 12th to 16th. In the opening panel was Edgardo Garcia, member of the LVC's International Coordination Committee (ICC) for Central America, while other LVC participants spoke in other panels about the peasant struggle in Indonesia, France, and the United Kingdom itself. In November La Via Campesina also raised its voice in solidarity with the people of Mesoamerica in response to Hurricane Eta. Already in December, commemorating the International Day for Life and Against Toxic Agrochemicals (3rd of December),

LVC released new audio-visual material⁴ developed with allies of the Heinrich Böll Foundation defending the urgent agroecological transition to confront and overcome agribusiness. A week later, LVC was present at the opening of the 'Global Commitment Summit' "50 by 40"⁵ through the participation of Jyoti Fernandes (LWA) and Carlos Marentes (ICC for North America) as well as other members of LVC from Palestine and Puerto Rico.

Finally, the Collective concluded the year by contributing to, and ratifying as its own (in consultations with the ICC), a new publication from our allies on the dangerous and problematic 'carbon markets' that continue to be promoted by agribusiness transnationals as another false climate solution. Such a strategic publication, produced by Friends of the Earth International (FOEI) and scheduled to be published in the first months of 2021, will see La Via Campesina re-join multiple allied movements denouncing what is likely to be the main theme of COP26 (scheduled for November 2021).

3 <https://viacampesina.org/es/la-via-campesina-sembramos-semillas-de-luchas-y-resistencias-cosechamos-derechos-estienpode-transformar/>

4 <https://viacampesina.org/en/03-dec-peasant-agroecology-nurtures-life-agrotoxicskill-international-day-of-action-for-life-and-against-agrotoxics/>

5 <https://50by40.org/>

Trade

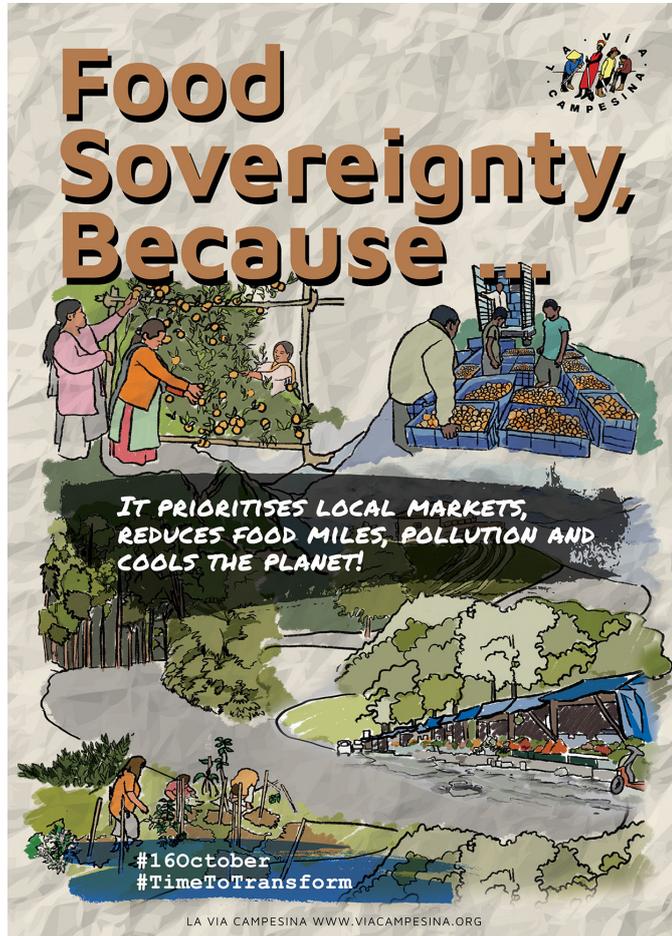
The Trade Collective organized an online meeting on August 12th to plan and mobilize in preparation for September 10th virtual action against the World Trade organization (WTO) and Free Trade Agreement (FTAs), on the commemoration of the International Day of Action against WTO and FTAs. A webinar entitled “Globalize Solidarity, Localize Agriculture» was organized and attended by over 200 participants from the different regions of La Via Campesina. The discussions focused on the Collective’s response to the planned WTO ministerial meeting in Kazakhstan; the current FTAs in many regions and countries, what actions/mobilizations could be done to respond to current situations, etc. The participants asserted in their discussions that food sovereignty and the right to adequate food could only emerge from family farming and peasant-agriculture using agroecological means.

La Via Campesina participated in the consultations of the UN Special Rapporteur report on the right to food and trade and provided important inputs on the impacts of the trade agreements on agriculture and food systems. The report of the Special Rapporteur highlighted that WTO policies have marginalized people’s human rights and recommended in its conclusion to “wind down the WTO Agreement on Agriculture”. In September, Europe’s family farmers from 43 farmer organizations in 14 countries issued a joint declaration calling on their governments to reject the EU-Mercosur Agreement and put in place a trade policy that ensures fair, cost-covering prices, protects the environment, and upholds human rights.



The EU- Mercosur FTA will increase international trade in agricultural products and competition between producers and push more farmers out of agriculture, while promoting large-scale, export-oriented industrial agriculture at the expense of biodiversity, climate justice and quality agricultural employment.

Some countries such as Germany are proposing small cosmetic changes to accommodate countries that have reservations and push them toward ratification of the agreement.



In Belgium, the peasant farmers' movement and its allies also mobilized against the EU-Mercosur free trade agreement and the proposed reforms to the EU Common Agricultural Policy by putting rubber boots in front of the European Commission. More than 200 pairs of boots, each representing the farmers who have been too discouraged and have left/quit farming in Belgium. Every week an average 18 farms in Europe close their doors and quit farming.

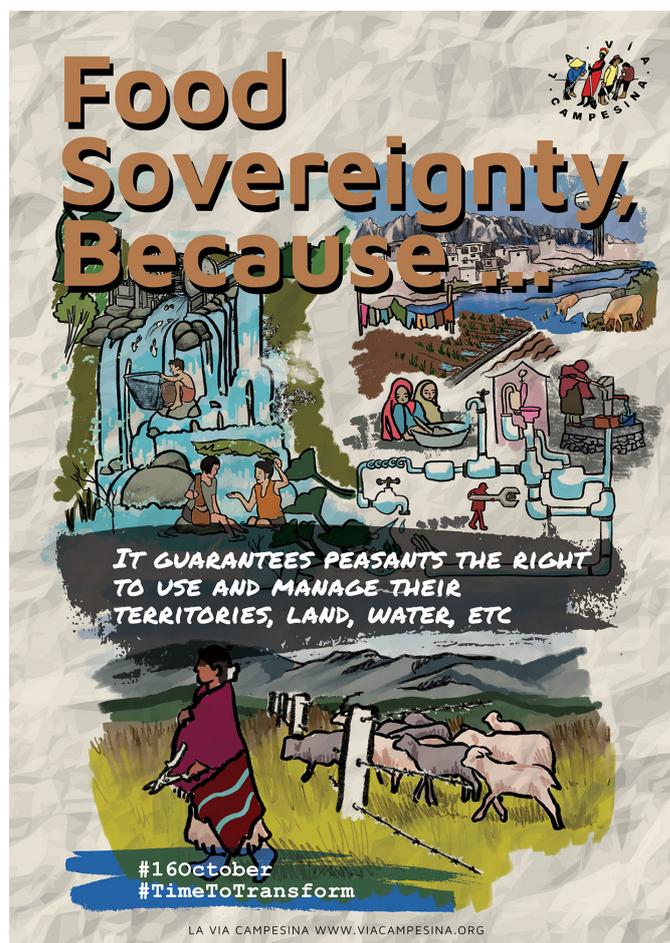
In France, Confédération Paysanne, Greenpeace and Attac called on the Government to suspend the EU-Canada FTA (CETA). Activists from these organizations covered the offices of Members of Parliament (MPs) who had endorsed the trade treaty with posters with a slogan "Climate hypocrite". Across the country, local groups mobilized to ask senators to challenge CETA, and MPs to review their copy. In the United Kingdom (UK), the Landworkers' Alliance launched a campaign calling on MPs to support two amendments to the Agricultural Bill to ensure high welfare food and fair pay for farmers and secure a commitment to an environmentally-friendly UK food supply.

In Asia and the Pacific, countries such as Japan, New Zealand and Australia are making every effort to convince India to come back to the negotiating table and re-join the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP). India withdrew from RCEP in November 2019 after immense pressure from the farmers. India is considering a Free Trade Agreement with the US. This proposed FTA, farmers allege, could affect the country's dairy market.

Land, Water and Territories

It has been 15 years since the International Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (held in Porto Alegre, 7-10 March 2006) where Member States agreed the strong belief *"in the essential role of agrarian reform and rural development to promote sustainable development, which includes, inter alia, the realization of human rights, food security, poverty eradication, and the strengthening of social justice, on the basis of the democratic rule of law"*. Little progress has been made to implement agrarian reform in most countries. The number of people who are hungry and lacking social justice continue to increase globally. The COVID-19 pandemic has only deepened the agrarian crisis.

It is in this context that the Land, Water, and Territories collective of La Via Campesina planned and utilized all the virtual opportunities to push for the implementation of Comprehensive Agrarian Reform using the UN Declaration of Peasants Rights (UNDROP). The Collective took advantage of the launching of Emergency Proposals for Agrarian Reform in some countries such as Brazil and Paraguay in June 5th and 15th respectively, to agitate for agrarian reform using various communication materials (videos, publications, etc.). On June 5th, International Environment Day, the Collective disseminated an emergency plan for a popular agrarian reform. A study and knowledge-sharing session on Agrarian Reform was organized together with the Formation Collective and over 150 participants attended.



Several virtual thematic meetings were organized by the Collective, some as joint meetings with other collectives. On October 29th a joint call of the Land, Water and Territories and Agroecology and seeds collectives was held. At the international level, the Collective renewed its coordination of the IPC Working Group on Land, Water and Territories.

La Via Campesina participated in the webinar on “The Global Campaign to Demand Climate Justice” organized in November by the Asian People’s Movement on Debt and Development.

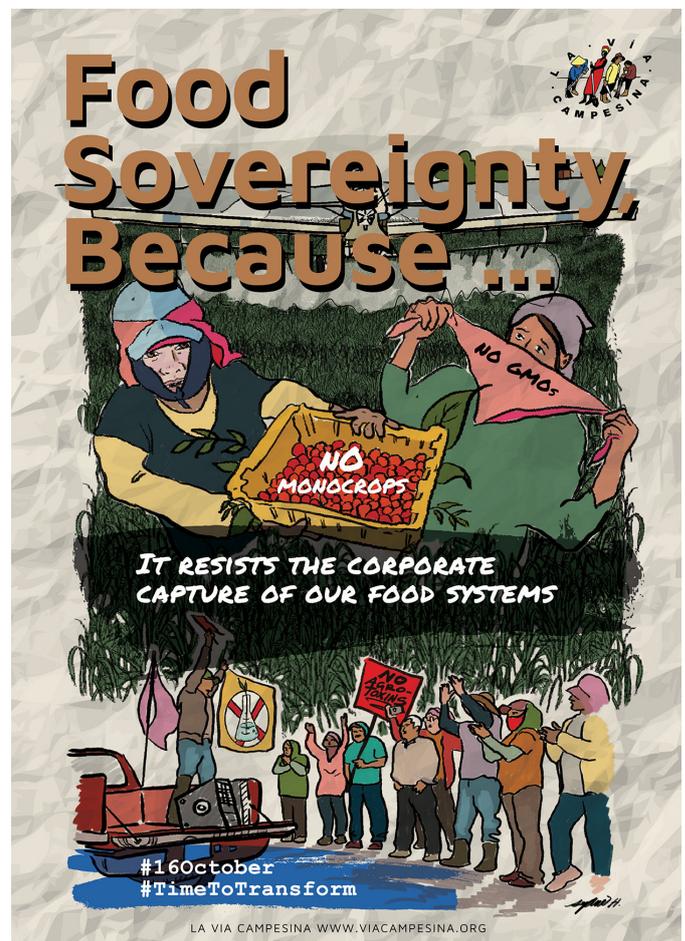
The movement contributed to discussions on the rightful, inclusive, and equitable approaches to food, land, and water in the context of climate change and towards achieving climate justice.

Campaign for a Binding Treaty to Dismantle Corporate Power

The sixth round of negotiations of the United Nations (UN) Open Ended Inter-Governmental Working Group (OEIGWG) mandated to develop a legally binding instrument on “transnational corporations and other business enterprises with respect to human rights”, took place in Geneva from 26th-30th October 2020. La Via Campesina spoke during the session on October 26th, warning that the second draft does not reflect the purpose of the mandate created by resolution 26/9 and therefore moves away from the path of developing a robust, ambitious and effective treaty.

The current draft no longer appears to be focused on Transnational Corporations (TNCs), but rather a general instrument that states the obligations of States concerning companies. Therefore, the second draft shifts the focus from the core of the problem – the impunity of TNCs along their global value chains, made possible by the complex transnational architecture that allows these entities to evade democratic and legal control. The mechanisms foreseen in the current project are insufficient, it will hardly be successful addressing the asymmetries of power, and it will deny justice for those affected.

On October 21st and December 7th, 2020, virtual meetings were organized with the team working on the negotiations of the Binding Treaty under the Campaign global to Dismantle Corporate Power and Stop Impunity. The members of the collective have made three proposals for the Campaign. The first is to prepare a popular manual on the proposed Binding Treaty to raise awareness



among our members and serve as an important training/formation material. The second is to map human rights violations by TNC across regions. And the third is to create strong solidarity response mechanisms for those who are criminalized and persecuted for their struggle against corporate land grabbing.

In Southern and Eastern Africa, the struggle to dismantle corporate power and reclaim peoples' sovereignty was one of the themes of the 2020 Southern Africa People's Summit held in August. A webinar series on "No to Corporate Power, yes to the

Right to Say No!" was organized during the Summit and LVC SEAf, which is a member of the reference group of the Southern Africa TNC Campaign, participated in the Summit to bring the peasants' voices against corporate impunity.

The Women's Articulation



The pandemic imposed enormous challenges on women in terms of participation in several virtual meetings organized by the articulation (chart 11.1). This affected the continuity of some of the planned activities foreseen by the women articulation in 2020. Many of the regions were seriously challenged to continue organizing regional processes of their articulations. Limited access to the internet hampered communication and made it difficult to organize virtual processes where women could participate in training/formation processes/activities as an articulation, but also of other collectives.

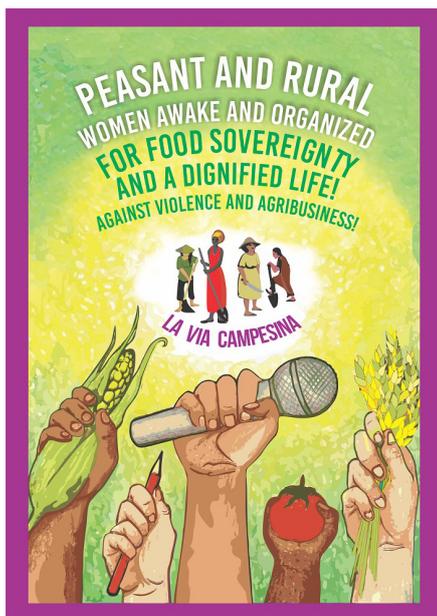
Chart 11.1 Selected virtual meetings

Date	Topics	No. of participants
February 28	Organize the positioning of LVC on March 8	12
May 19	Dialogue on our current reality and search for virtual forms of action How to confront violence in times of social distancing? How to activate protection mechanisms? What visual, virtual instruments can we create against violence and for food sovereignty in the framework of our Campaign?	50
November 25	Stop violence against women - webinar	13

The articulation had planned to hold its first 8-day training school for women leaders in October in Brazil. This training event was suspended due to COVID-19 and it could not be held online as many participants had no internet access and an appropriate alternate methodology did not seem possible.

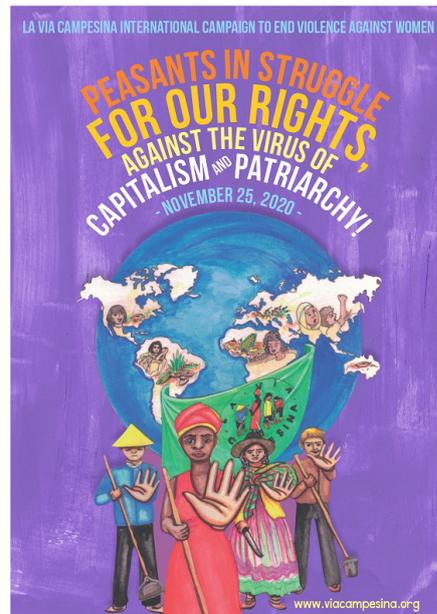
Despite the above challenges, the women’s articulation managed to organize and mobilize during the two important international action days, March 8th - International Women’s Day and November 25th - the International Day to Eliminate Violence against Women. On March 8th, La Via Campesina issued a call for women to mobilize, launched a comic book “Peasant and Rural Women with Rights” to amplify the voices and demands of women peasants around the world. In Japan and Thailand, the women of Nouminren and the Assembly of the Poor organized street actions demanding gender equality and dignity and an end to violence against and harassment of women. The women of Nouminren also demanded their Japanese government not to reform the Seeds and Seedling Act which if done, will prohibit multiplication of seeds by farmers.

Over 150 participants attended a webinar held on November 25th. In their reflections, women denounced patriarchy and sought attention to the violent evictions, persecution, and murder of women in their territories, often carried out to aid the expansion of agribusiness and extractive



industries. The slogan “Peasants Fighting for their Rights, and Against the Virus of Capital and Patriarchy” resonated in all the participants’ interventions in the webinar. It was a moment to remind everyone of the detrimental effects that the industrial food system has had on the health and well-being of

rural families. Governments were called on to defend the food sovereignty of their communities, as a way to create stronger roots for our societies. The participants also insisted that the governments uphold Article 4 of the UN Declaration on Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas, which guarantees equality and social justice for women. The articulation conducted interviews with the women to better understand the



dynamics of the construction of rural and popular feminism. It is also setting up a brochure to aid formation/training sessions in regions. The regional women’s articulations were also active throughout the year, organizing several meetings and trainings. For instance, in the Southern

and Eastern Africa region, peasant feminism trainings at the national level were held in Tanzania and Uganda in March and November respectively. Although the region had planned to hold three trainings, the last one was cancelled due to the outbreak of COVID-19. These training sessions aimed to bring together peasant women at the national level to discuss and debate the concept of feminism within the regional context so that they contribute to the international debate.

The Youth Articulation

The work of the LVC youth articulation was mainly based on virtual meetings, except for the face-to-face LVC Asia Youth Meeting (see Box 12.1) in Sri Lanka at the beginning of the year. Due to the pandemic most of the physical meetings of the youth articulation foreseen at regional and national levels were cancelled. However, some of the trainings took place online. Due to the workload at the regional and national levels in the context of the pandemic, it has been difficult to identify dates to organize a youth articulation meetings.

The strengthening of the regional youth articulations was a priority throughout the year. In Southern and Eastern Africa, young peasants from ZIMSOFF and the Kenyan Peasant League created a WhatsApp platform to overcome internet connectivity challenges faced by most youths in the region to keep exchanges of ideas on how to empower themselves as youth within their communities as well as in their organizational level going.

FOR LIFE, NOT PROFIT!



Box 12.1 - First Asian Continental Youth Assembly of La Via Campesina

La Via Campesina Southeast and East Asia region along with South Asia region held the First Asian Continental Youth Assembly of La Via Campesina in Sri Lanka from 11 to 14 January 2020, facilitated and hosted by LVC member Movement for Land and Agricultural Reforms (MONLAR). More than 60 peasants participated in the Assembly, including youth from 6 grassroots organizations in the SEEA region - Serikat Petani Indonesia, Korean Peasant League, Korean Women Peasants Association, Paragos Philippines, Assembly of Poor and the Northern Peasants Federation in Thailand. During the four-day Assembly, the young activists attended lectures, presentations, workshops, and field visits, learning about the capitalist political economy that surrounds young peasants in the world, and our powerful tool to stand up to the dominant power - the UN Declaration on Rights of Peasants and Other people Working in Rural Areas, and our alternative way of farming - peasant agroecology. The Youth Assembly concluded with a joint declaration written by the participants expressing their will to strengthen internationalism and solidarity for the food sovereignty. Following the face-to-face meeting, youth in the Asian continent met regularly via zoom calls - on May 15, June 19, July 17, and August 14 - to share their challenges and the build alternatives during pandemics.

In North America, the youth articulation successfully completed a rotation in coordination after its powerful regional encounter in New Brunswick, Canada that was held November 2019. This Encounter proved to be a crucial space for the youth articulation to expand and consolidate its processes, through a popular education format in which youth trained themselves on topics including agroecology, climate justice, popular peasant feminism, and land reform. The space also provided for the rotation of leadership and participation in international spaces (such as the Rome processes and UNDROP implementation discussions), as well as to develop a closer relationship with indigenous nations in Turtle Island (North America) and other movement spaces such as the People's Agroecology Process, producing a more vibrant, regional youth articulation process in 2020.

In Asia, we have witnessed an increase in youth involvement from Asia. Again, youth leaders actively participated in most of virtual events organized during the year. For instance, on November 25th, the youth articulation organized the mistica during the webinar to denounce violence against women; and on December 17th, youth leaders participated in the moderation and discussions of the webinar on UNDROP.

The youth articulation organized a virtual meeting on April 14th to plan and prepare actions for the April 17th, the International Day of Peasant Struggles. They organized many actions on this day in line with the #StayHomeButNotSilent (Box 12.2). Below are some of actions:

Box: 12.2

- In Europe, the ECVC youth in alliance with activists participating in the climate strikes and, the Swiss movement "Agriculture for Future" sent a letter to the Agriculture ministry in Switzerland. The action was part of a solidarity network between farmers and consumers.
- In Asia virtual actions were undertaken such as videos, blogs, translate statements to national languages; screening of LVC video in many languages including Bahasa; online campaign and education; online study circles.
- In North America: advocacy activities in support of migrants and farm workers.
- Southern and Eastern Africa, the youth organized online seminars and also where situation permitted, they engaged in the distribution of food to the needy.

An international webinar was organized on 20th October by SPI youth on "Youth struggle for food sovereignty – No peasant, No food! No youth, no change!" The webinar was attended by 18 youths (with interpretation in Bahasa, Thai, and English) from most Via Campesina regions. Like the rest of the movement, the youth contributed to the dissemination of the LVC campaign #TimeToTransform campaign and to the initiatives of October 16th.

In online meetings the youth articulation reflected on the impact of the covid-19 pandemic on youth and the regional youth responses and activities in the context of the pandemic. Some of the issues included: the situation of peasants' markets, workers and migrants, and the increasing domestic violence in many regions during COVID pandemic restrictions, and how to increase the participation of youth in LVC.

In the international processes, a team of youth leaders from different regions also engaged in the Youth Working Group of the Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples' Mechanism (CSM). They contributed to the zero draft of the High Level Panel of Experts' (HLPE) Report on "Promoting youth engagement and employment in agriculture and food systems".⁶ The youth also discussed and reflected on LVC engagement in the CFS process on Promoting Youth Employment and Engagement in Agriculture and Food Systems (2020-2023) and the initiative of the Youth Council in Rome. In general, the youth articulation agreed to fight against corporate capture of global governance spaces in Rome through the creation of the Youth Council. There was a proposal to create a "working group" to continue discussing these issues.

Formation: Globalizing the Struggle and Hope through Learning and Training

The pandemic accelerated the formation process of the peasant movement. The collective planned and organized four virtual study sessions, three virtual plenaries to advance the training process at the international level, along with thematic collectives and the women's articulation (Chart 13.1).

The virtual study sessions focused on diverse topics and were intended to deepen the movement's understanding of today's peasantry and the current forms and mechanisms of imperialist domination of the world. Such understanding is important in shaping and building the movement's strategies and tactics to advance the cause for food sovereignty.



Chart 13.1 Studies Organized by Formation Collective

Date	Study Topics	No. of participants
Study Sessions		
July 21st	The agrarian question, land, water and natural goods in dispute in the world with panelists - Silvia Ribeiro - ETC Group	118
August 13th	The current state of agrarian reform as a strategic project of the working class - tasks Panelist - Joao Pedro Stedile from Brazil	109
August 25th	New Strategies for the Domination of Imperialism with panelists - Vijail Prashad - from Tricontinental Nepal and Dr ^a Amira Silmi - Palestine	123
September 15th	Geopolitics and the Resistance of the Peoples with panelists - Pramesh from Nepal, Eduardo Vilorio Daboín- Venezuela, and message from Rilma Roman from Cuba	94
Plenaries		
October 16th	The Struggle for Food Sovereignty - Historical Construction and Current Functions of La Via Campesina	209
November 25th	Structural violence against the women	150
December 17th	study session commemorating the proclamation of the Declaration on the Rights of Peasants	180

The plenaries were organic spaces for internal reflection, information sharing, strengthening solidarity and continuing the momentum of political and organizational mobilization for the construction of food sovereignty. The formation collective is currently building the methodology for conducting training within the movement. Additionally, a video based on interviews conducted during the 2019 Mid-Term conference on how peasants understand and define training is being finalized and will be launched in 2021.

Some regions of La Via Campesina also organized and participated in formation/training activities on agroecology and climate justice (LVC SEAf and North America- see section 6.0). In North America, delegates participated in the National Political Education Course of the United States Food Sovereignty Alliance in March.

This week-long course took place just before the effects of the pandemic were felt across North America and included the participation of one delegate each from Canada (Union Paysanne) and Mexico (UNORCA), as well as 12 people from five US member organizations of La Vía Campesina. LVC organizations held caucus meetings throughout the course, allowing people to get to know each other better and build relationships to support regional processes.

In South America, various training/formation activities were organized on (1) the agrarian question, (2) popular communication, and (3) forms and mechanisms of domination of Imperialism in Latin America. Each topic was organized in sessions (Box 13.1)

Box 13.1 – Formation Activities in South America

Agrarian question study sessions held on the 6th and 21st of August

- 1st session: The agrarian question, land and the goods of nature: the projects in dispute
- 2nd session: The actuality of Agrarian Reform as a strategic project – tasks and challenges

Imperialism study sessions held on the 3rd, 16th and 24th of September

- 1st session: The historical strategies of domination of imperialism in Latin America.
- 2nd session: The new strategies and doctrines of domination of Imperialism in Latin America
- 3rd session: Geopolitics and the resistance of the peoples against imperialism, scenario and per-spectives post pandemic.

Communication study sessions held on the 15th, 22nd and 29th of October

- 1st session: Communication and geopolitics
- 2nd session: Popular communication, seeds of the community for good living
- 3rd session: Communication and challenges in the organizations of the CLOC – LVC

Attendance to these training sessions ranged from 110 and 158 militants from South America region, with the participation of approximately 10 continental guests.

Internal Functioning and a Year of Adapting to Newer Ways of Working

The key challenge for LVC in 2020 was without doubt how to function as a global movement in the context of the global pandemic. Face-to-face meetings were not possible and the main concern of the member organizations was how to deal with the situation in their countries and communities. This was especially an issue in countries with weak public health systems, with governments that denied the seriousness of the pandemic, governments that imposed brutal lockdowns or used the context of the pandemic to increase authoritarian and repressive policies.

LVC shifted in a period of 1-2 months to a virtual way of functioning, organizing regular meetings of the International Coordinating Committee (ICC) in order to remain able to take key decisions and plenaries for the membership with up to 200 persons participating to remain connected and keep up the spirit in the movement. This required a re-organization of the support staff and the creation of the mechanisms to make possible virtual meetings in up to 9 different languages. We think that this successful shift has added a way of working that we may need still for 2021 and that will partly remain once the pandemic is under control and face-to-face international meetings are again possible. They will partly remain as they allow increased information sharing, consultation, and timely decision-making but knowing that face-to-face meetings will remain essential and necessary for an effective and full-fledged functioning of the movement. In-depth face-to-face exchanges on the many complex issues we have to deal with in a very diverse and broad movement such as LVC can never be replaced by virtual meetings only.

Another important shift we made was communications. In this virtual context the communications strategy became more central as a possibility to reach out, “stay at home but not silent”, and to mobilize on our agenda. The pandemic led us into a period where the understanding of the importance of local food production and the need for public health has increased. Together with the need to act swiftly in the still deepening climate crisis, the possibilities for deeper change are emerging and it is key that a movement like LVC remains present in the public eye and in public opinion to mobilize for the right changes! We have adapted our communication strategy, shifted resources towards communication actions, and intensified our presence in social media. As part of our internal functioning, we have given more space to collective analysis and formation through regular online sessions in order to increase our capacity to understand the impact of the pandemic in the current context, and in order to respond in a more effective way. We have continued our formation process related to UNDROP, to Popular Peasant Feminism and the participation of youth and women remained a priority in this virtual context. The fact that virtual meetings only require access to the internet, but do not require such large financial resources and traveling far away from home may have even improved the participation of youth and women in some of the virtual plenary spaces.

LVC continued to prepare the transition of its International Operative Secretariat (IOS) that will move in 2021 from Harare-Zimbabwe to Paris-France, bringing new opportunities to the movement. LVC has also continued to dedicate time to its strategy to increase financial autonomy and improve its internal processes allowing a further strengthening of the movement.

Concluding Remarks

As the turbulent 2020 drew to an end, many hoped that 2021 would be a better year. The surge in new infections in most countries in Europe and the Americas at the beginning of 2021 do not show return to the “normalcy” of the pre-COVID times. Urgent actions are needed from the grassroots to the state level to transform and rebuild hundreds of millions of lives pushed to starvation and poverty by the COVID pandemic. Thus, in November, La Via Campesina’s political leadership, the International Coordinating Committee (ICC), set key priorities to keep our struggles unified as peasants by strengthening our formation/learning processes and solidarity.

Looking Ahead

Despite the year 2020 being a challenging year, it presented Via Campesina opportunities to reflect on challenges and how the movement could respond and keep the peasant struggles and hope alive in different contexts. The ICC started discussions in November on the priorities for 2021. Below is a summary of the priorities:

- 2021 marks the 25th anniversary of our struggle for Food Sovereignty, a political concept and vision coined by La Via Campesina and publicly presented to the world during the 1996 World Food Summit in Rome. Over the past 25 years, the Food Sovereignty movement has significantly grown, and we need to make it more visible, lifting up Food Sovereignty as a systemic solution during the whole year of 2021 in our mobilizations against WTO and FTAs, for Agrarian Reform, for Climate Justice and in all the others upcoming mobilizations. Food Sovereignty must also be part of all our campaigns, formation sessions, political demands, strategies, etc.
- The realization of peasants’ rights and those of migrant and seasonal workers by promoting UNDROP also remains a priority for the peasant movement. In 2021, we will develop popular materials accessible to our communities to promote UNDROP (including providing training to communities, working with allies etc.) and working at national and local levels. With the arrival of a new Bolivian government that supports this initiative, we believe that strengthening the international push for UNDROP’s implementation will once again gather momentum.
- In 2021 we will continue combating the criminalization and repression of peasant leaders. We will explore different ideas of creating our own spaces of solidarity support, while at the same time strengthening solidarity networks with other social movements and allied NGOs.
- The formation collective will work to improve the methodologies of our virtual sessions for 2021. We will provide more technical training to our members on using the virtual spaces and communications technologies effectively and mitigating concerns about privacy and digital security. We hope to increase our youth and leadership’s political formation to counter the adverse scenario, such as the one we have in the world today.

- In terms of communications, we want to strengthen the communication collective, develop new communication tools, and build regional communication capacities. Because of the increased use of virtual platforms within the movement, we intend to dedicate special attention to support the development of translation and interpretation capacities in the regions to ensure broad and inclusive participation in our debates. This helps us to interact beyond the three main colonial languages we usually use within LVC.
- We need to continue to strengthen our movement through alliance building and developing a stronger rural-urban linkages. At the global level the International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty (IPC) remains the most significant space of alliance for us, where the social movements, organizations of small food producers have the leadership and can develop joint strategies. In that space, we are starting to plan the next Global Food Sovereignty Forum, an autonomous and self-organized space to discuss and develop strategies regarding agriculture and food issues, probably in late 2022.
- Another important aspect is the continuous strengthening of our women's and youth articulations. Last November 25th, the women's articulation conducted a powerful and touching online action. For 2021 the youth articulation is preparing a strong video material on the youth's work and actions in LVC.

Annex

Annex 16.1: Selected Publications

No.	Title of Publication	Available in Which Language
Books and Other Publications		
1	Peasants Rights Explained: An illustrated version of the UN Declaration (UNDROP)!	EN , ES , FR
2	Position Paper: "A Summit Under Siege" Corporate control of 2021 UN Food Summit endangers food sovereignty!	EN , ES , FR
3	La Via Campesina: 2019 Annual Report	EN , ES , FR
Press Releases, Declarations and Statements		
4	Negligence, injustice, and insensitivity – Peasant situation under coronavirus crisis	EN , ES , FR
5	01 May 2020: Building Solidarity, Resistance and Hope among peoples	EN , ES , FR
6	#17April2020 – Till, sow and harvest transformative ideas for the future!	EN , ES , FR
7	#StayHomeButNotSilent – In times of pandemic, peasants are united to feed the people!	EN , ES , FR
8	Via Campesina denounces UN Special Envoy for the UN Food Systems Summit for diminishing peasants and their rights	EN , ES , FR
9	Negotiating the Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition: our concerns and proposals	EN
10	"Food Sovereignty is the flame that will show us the way", insists La Via Campesina as it marks #16October in a pandemic year	EN , ES , FR
11	#16October: Let's strengthen Food Sovereignty: Produce, Buy and Eat local products	EN , ES , FR
12	Social Movements and Civil Society express concerns over the exclusionary nature of virtual meetings	EN

13	"Protect peasant and agroecological production." La Via Campesina at the meeting of the UN Decade for Family Farming	EN
14	Sow the seeds of struggle and resistance, and cultivate our rights! - #TimeToTransform	EN , ES , FR
15	Local food production proved resilient in a pandemic year, yet governments fail to guarantee peasants' rights!	EN , ES , FR
16	It's time to transform. It's time to Globalize Solidarity, Localize Agriculture!	EN , ES , FR
17	La Via Campesina backs the UN Special Rapporteur's observation that WTO policies have marginalised people's human rights concerns	EN , FR
18	People's Mobilisation for a #BindingTreaty gathers steam	EN
19	The winds of change are blowing harder: COVID-19 update on peasants, rural workers and other marginalized groups	EN , ES , FR
20	03 Dec: Peasant Agroecology nurtures life! #AgrotoxicsKill International Day of Action for Life and Against Agrotoxics	EN , ES , FR
Region and Members		
21	This May Day stand with every food system worker. Essential workers' rights are peasants' rights" Via Campesina North American Region	EN
22	To change the world, support peasant agriculture! reminds ECVC through #17April actions	EN
23	In times of pandemic, Indonesian peasants upholds food sovereignty and solidarity	EN
24	COVID emergency funds for agriculture can help build a more robust future food system	EN
25	CLOC- Via Campesina: Returning to the Countryside	EN , ES
26	Responding to COVID-19 in Palestine: A report about UAWC's emergency response	EN
27	Protect the market access of small and medium-scale farmers and peasants in these difficult times: ECVC	EN
28	Why Peasant Farmers are Key to the Success of Farm to Fork	EN
29	NFU announces new report: Tackling the Farm Crisis and the Climate Crisis	EN
30	United against COVID-19: An ongoing emergency campaign launched by UAWC	EN
31	Millennium Challenge Corporation: Peasant movements warn that US-backed Aid Agency threatens people's sovereignty	EN
32	What kind of Africa and world should emerge from this crisis?	EN
33	India: Social Movements upset that the government is exploiting the pandemic to push through corporate-friendly reforms	EN
34	Indonesia: Police crackdown on peasants protesting land-grab by a Michelin subsidiary	EN , ES
35	Green New Deal and Farm to Fork Strategy : Time for another narrative in Europe	EN
36	UK: The Landworkers' Alliance calls for urgent amendments to the Agriculture Bill	EN

37	"Namdu" – a producers' cooperative run and managed by farmers in Karnataka, India	EN
38	ECVC's contribution for the EU Long Term Vision for Rural Areas	EN
39	Envisioning a Post-Pandemic Agriculture and Food System a note from Canada	EN
40	Sovereignty over Food Production: A Palestinian Approach towards Developing the Rural Economy	EN
41	Cap Reform: good objectives, insufficient measures,says ECVC	EN
42	France: peasants and activists denounce the hypocrisy of the vote in favour of CETA	EN
43	Joint Declaration: Europe's family farmers call for a rejection of the EU-Mercosur Agreement	EN, ES
44	Brazil: 5 years of injustice in the Doce River basin!	EN
45	Farmers' Movements in India mobilise in large numbers to protest 'pro-corporate' reforms	EN
46	Corporate Lobbies have their boot on the neck of Europe	EN
47	La Via Campesina Mexico issues letter in defense of seeds and peasant and indigenous agriculture	EN
48	Resisting RCEP from ground up: Indian movements show the way	EN
49	Why Peasant Farmers are Key to the Success of Farm to Fork	EN
50	"In 2020, Brazil did not sow rights; instead the country took lives, with violence and impunity": MAB	EN
51	Open letter to the EC: Strengthen EU GMO policy to achieve EU Green Deal objectives	EN
52	Global Campaign Statement on the Second Revised Draft of the Binding Treaty	EN
53	Seed industries continue to push for deregulation of GMOs	EN
Citizen and Community Medi		
54	"Neoliberalism and finance capital have been defeated by coronavirus"	EN
55	"A nation that cannot feed itself is not free"	EN
56	Massacre at Eldorado do Carajás 24 years ago: "A day not to be forgotten"	EN, ES
57	"Time to Claim Food Sovereignty"	EN
58	Social Movements From Latin America Share Their Thoughts on COVID-19 Crisis	EN
59	The solution to food insecurity is food sovereignty	EN
60	The corona crisis harms those who feed us	EN
61	Nepal: Now is time for Socialist Economic Reforms	EN
62	Keeping the Struggles of Peasant Women Alive	EN
63	Peasant Women Feed the World Real Food Media Podcast	EN
64	MST Quilombo Campo Grande camp resists eviction in the midst of the pandemic	EN, ES

65	Save lives to save the economy, says Via Campesina Brazil	EN
66	Venezuela: Farmers Resist Economic Blockade by Increasing Food Production	EN FR
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67	Statement to the Extraordinary Meeting of G20 Agriculture Ministers	EN , ES
68	Social Movements From Latin America Share Their Thoughts on COVID-19 Crisis	EN
69	MST offers Centro Paulo Freire as a field hospital for patients with COVID-19	EN
70	First Declaration: La Via Campesina International Solidarity Mission in Venezuela	EN , ES , FR
71	La Via Campesina in Venezuela: a mission for the brotherhood, solidarity and truth of the people	EN , ES , FR
72	MST's Internationalist Brigades and the fight against COVID-19 and for life in Africa and Latin America	EN , ES
73	La Vía Campesina Colombia Peace Agreement "Ceasefire" Bulletin III Edition 2020	EN , ES
74	#6Dec -Venezuelan Democracy and Sovereignty should be respected	EN , ES
75	India's farmers seek urgent solidarity. Globalise the Struggle, Globalise Hope!	EN , ES , FR
76	Sign the Call for German EU Council presidency to stop the EU-Mercosur Agreement	EN
77	Despite Covid-19 limitations civil society drives momentum for the historic UN treaty on TNCs and human rights	EN
78	Geneva: Via Campesina and allies intervene at the #BindingTreaty negotiations virtually	EN
79	Indonesia: SPI calls for urgent solidarity with imprisoned peasant leader	EN , ES
80	La Via Campesina supports Saharawi people's demand for self-determination!	EN , ES , FR
81	La Via Campesina expresses its solidarity with Massa Kone and all human rights defenders	EN , ES , FR
82	LVC Bulletin: Monitoring Implementation of the Peace Agreement in Colombia	EN , ES , FR
83	La Via Campesina: Colombia Peace process characterized by non-compliance and surge in violence	EN , ES , FR
84	Hurricane Eta & Iota devastates Central America. La Via Campesina calls for urgent support and solidarity	EN , ES , FR
85	Chevron's Impunity in Ecuador: Urgent Call from International Civil Society	EN , ES , FR
86	Colombia Peace Process: Forum in November 2020 calls for Comprehensive Agrarian Reform	EN
87	La Via Campesina denounces assassinations and persecution of social activists in Colombia	EN , ES , FR
88	La Via Campesina Africa joins global voices denouncing assassinations and persecution of social activists	EN , FR
89	La Via Campesina Solidarity Statement with UAWC	EN , ES , FR

Nyeleni Newsletters		
90	Food Sovereignty in an era of authoritarian and fascist resurgence	EN , ES , FR
91	Ten Years of Nyeleni Newsletter: Much to Celebrate!	EN , ES , FR
92	Nyeleni Newsletter #41: "Beyond Land – Territory and Food Sovereignty" #16October	EN , ES , FR
93	Nyeléni Newsletter: Land grabs and land justice	EN , ES , FR
Women and Youth		
94	Violence against women and agricultural workers of the Italian food system	EN
95	#8March2020: Peasant and Rural women, organised for food sovereignty and a dignified life!	EN , ES , FR
96	"End systemic violence that criminalises the peasant struggle and women": CLOC, Central America	EN , ES
97	#25Nov: Actions for life and against violence!	EN , ES , FR
98	#25Nov – Seize this day and every day: NFU, Canada	EN
99	#Nov25: Peasants in the Struggle for our Rights, against the Virus of Capital and Patriarchy!	EN , ES , FR
100	08 March 2020: La Via Campesina releases illustrations amplifying the voices and demands of rural women	EN , ES , FR
101	Women of MST occupy the Ministry of Agriculture in Brasilia	EN , ES
102	"No Peasant, No Food! No Youth, No Change" Peasant Youth from South East and East Asian region calls for food sovereignty!	EN

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. The movement comprises 182 local and national organisations in 81 countries from Africa, Asia, Europe and the Americas.

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