

WE FEED THE WORLD!





**PEASANTS FEED 70% OF THE WORLD'S POPULATION,
DESPITE HAVING ACCESS TO LESS THAN ONE THIRD
OF THE AGRICULTURAL LAND AND RESOURCES.**



Edition: 2022
Artist: Annelise Verdier
Produced by: La Via Campesina

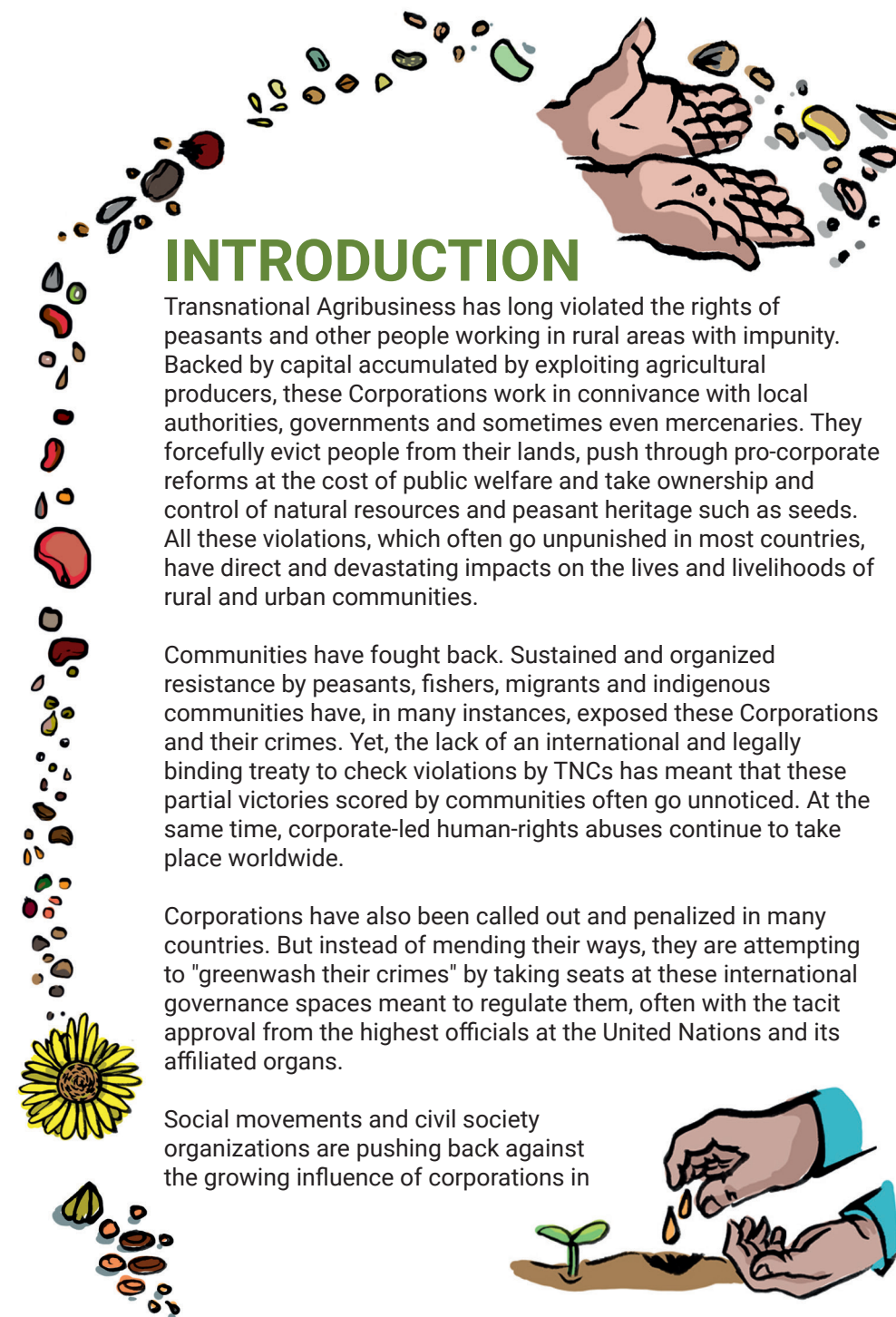


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Drawing based on a photo of a demonstration in Rome, Italy, on 22 July 2021, against the UNFSS summit. On the banner: «this summit is illegitimate» «food systems for people»



INTRODUCTION

Transnational Agribusiness has long violated the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas with impunity. Backed by capital accumulated by exploiting agricultural producers, these Corporations work in connivance with local authorities, governments and sometimes even mercenaries. They forcefully evict people from their lands, push through pro-corporate reforms at the cost of public welfare and take ownership and control of natural resources and peasant heritage such as seeds. All these violations, which often go unpunished in most countries, have direct and devastating impacts on the lives and livelihoods of rural and urban communities.

Communities have fought back. Sustained and organized resistance by peasants, fishers, migrants and indigenous communities have, in many instances, exposed these Corporations and their crimes. Yet, the lack of an international and legally binding treaty to check violations by TNCs has meant that these partial victories scored by communities often go unnoticed. At the same time, corporate-led human-rights abuses continue to take place worldwide.

Corporations have also been called out and penalized in many countries. But instead of mending their ways, they are attempting to "greenwash their crimes" by taking seats at these international governance spaces meant to regulate them, often with the tacit approval from the highest officials at the United Nations and its affiliated organs.

Social movements and civil society organizations are pushing back against the growing influence of corporations in



the international and national food and nutrition policy arena. The stiff resistance put up by civil society against the UN Food Systems Summit in 2021 is among the recent examples of this pushback. Despite such clear and united opposition from the global civil society, corporate grip continues to expand in international, regional, and national policy places. This increasing influence of corporations and their "sustainability-talk" at the international fora hides the reality on the ground: rising global food prices and farm inputs aggravated by the speculation on commodities, deterioration of soil health, destruction of biodiversity, criminal levels of greenhouse gas emissions that emanate out of industrial food chain and blatant attempts to privatize and patent native seeds that are the heritage of the people! Today, transnational corporations are behind the main threats and violence experienced by peasants and rural workers all along the food production chain.

All is not doom, though.

This unrelenting push for the Corporatization of our food systems has faced stiff resistance everywhere from peasants, waged workers and indigenous peoples. La Via Campesina is one expression of this resistance. For nearly three decades, the global peasant movement has advocated a counter-vision on how to feed the world. In this vision built on the principles of food sovereignty, people and local communities are the principal actors in the fight against poverty and hunger. It demands autonomy and objective conditions to use local resources and calls for agrarian reform. It defends the rights of peasant communities to use, save, and exchange seeds. It stands for the rights of people to eat healthy, nutritious food. It encourages agroecological production cycles, respecting climatic and cultural diversities in every community. It defends the rights of peasants, indigenous peoples, waged workers and migrants at all levels of the global food system.

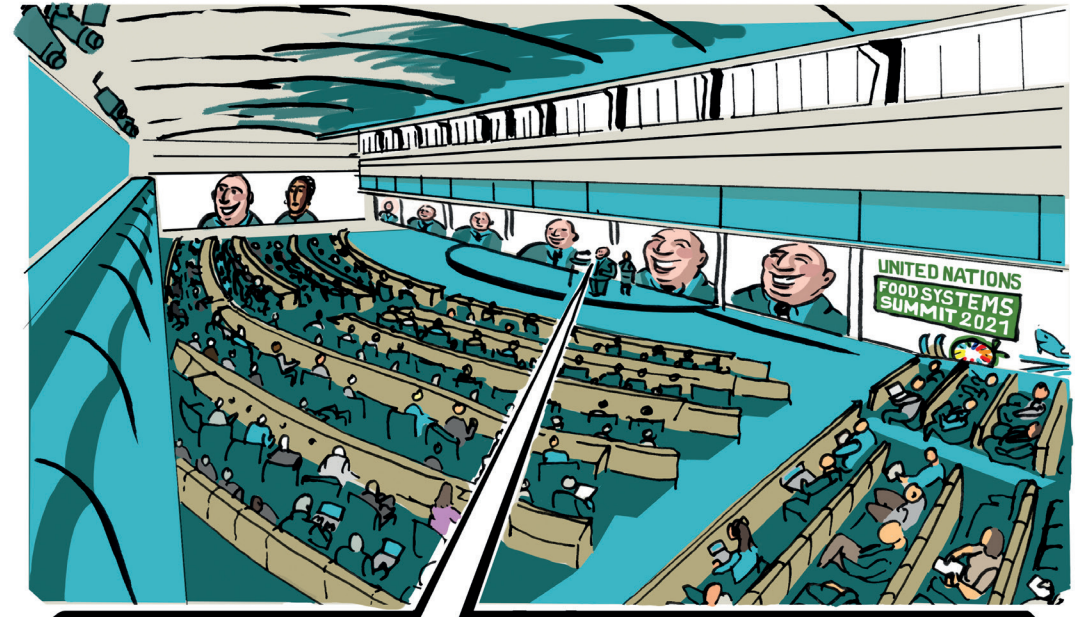
Social justice, gender justice and solidarity economies are essential pre-conditions for realizing food sovereignty. La Via Campesina calls for an international trade order based on cooperation and human rights instead of competition and coercion..

In this illustrated book, "Let us Feed the World", artist and activist Annelise Verdier collaborates with La Via Campesina to demonstrate the contrast between agribusiness-led and peasant-led visions of producing, distributing and consuming food. It captures the attempt to corporatize agriculture and food production and expresses the brave resistance of peasants, workers and indigenous peoples. It advocates for a food system with the interest of the people and the planet at its very core. It denounces the industrial food system, exploiting cheap labour and encouraging cutthroat competition for profits.

La Via Campesina reiterates that a legally binding global treaty coherent with the Articles of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas is urgently necessary. These instruments, alongside other International Conventions and treaties, will apply brakes on corporate control and its undue influence on the food systems.

LA VIA CAMPESINA
Bagnolet, France
2022



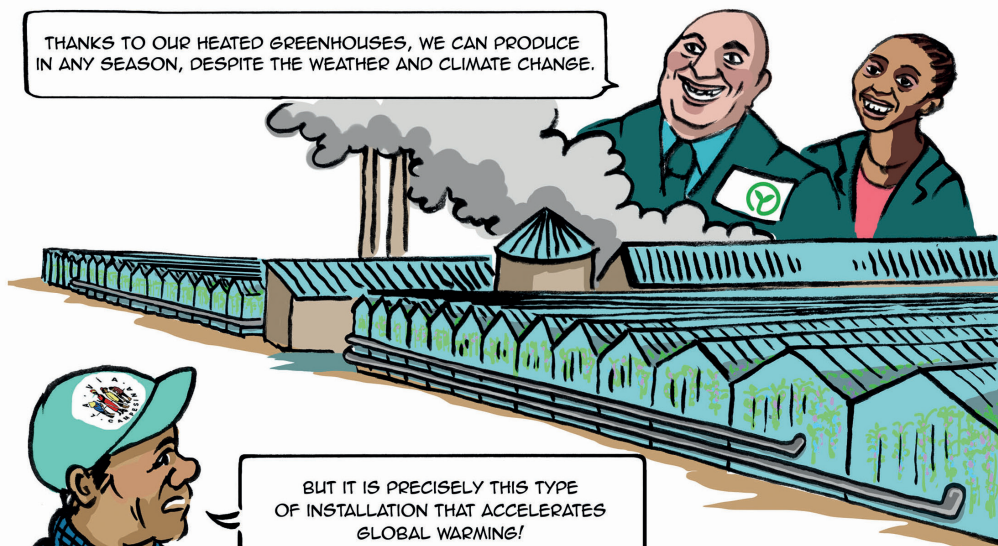


**LET US FEED
THE WORLD!**



WHAT THE BOSSES OF THE FOOD INDUSTRY ARE SAYING...

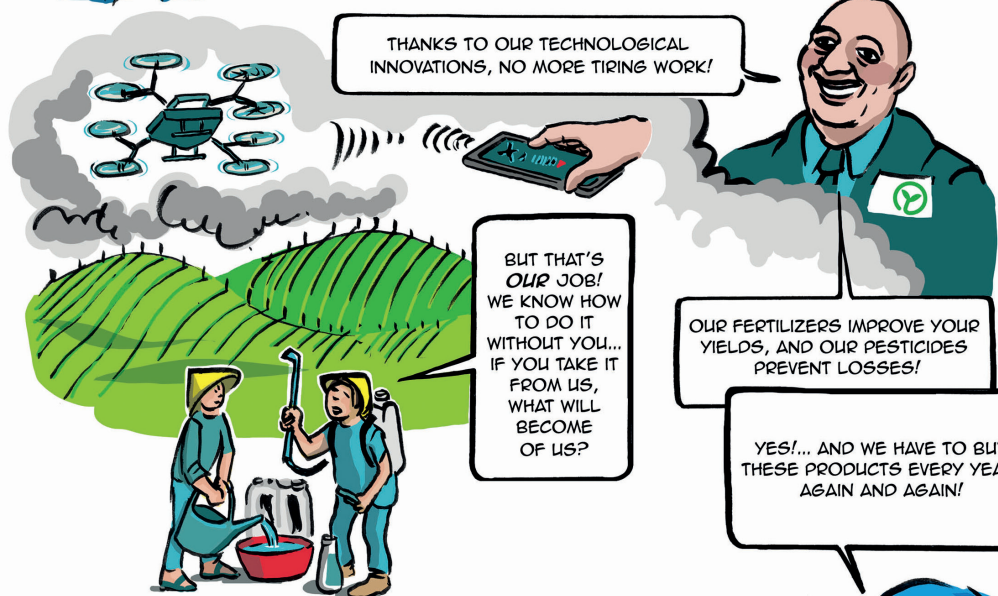
THANKS TO OUR HEATED GREENHOUSES, WE CAN PRODUCE IN ANY SEASON, DESPITE THE WEATHER AND CLIMATE CHANGE.



BUT IT IS PRECISELY THIS TYPE OF INSTALLATION THAT ACCELERATES GLOBAL WARMING!



THANKS TO OUR TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATIONS, NO MORE TIRING WORK!



BUT THAT'S OUR JOB! WE KNOW HOW TO DO IT WITHOUT YOU... IF YOU TAKE IT FROM US, WHAT WILL BECOME OF US?

OUR FERTILIZERS IMPROVE YOUR YIELDS, AND OUR PESTICIDES PREVENT LOSSES!

YES!... AND WE HAVE TO BUY THESE PRODUCTS EVERY YEAR, AGAIN AND AGAIN!



THANKS TO OUR RESEARCH, SEEDS ARE MORE RESISTANT AND PRODUCTIVE!

TRIPS (WTO AGREEMENT ON TRADE-RELATED ASPECTS OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS) ALLOWS SEEDS TO BE PATENTED.

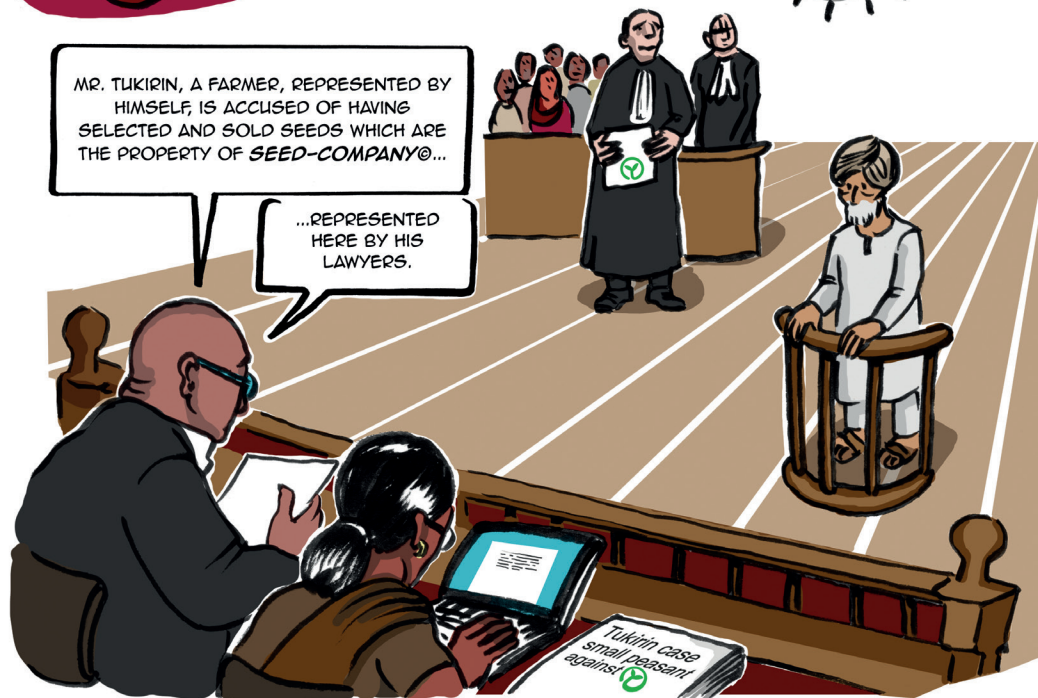


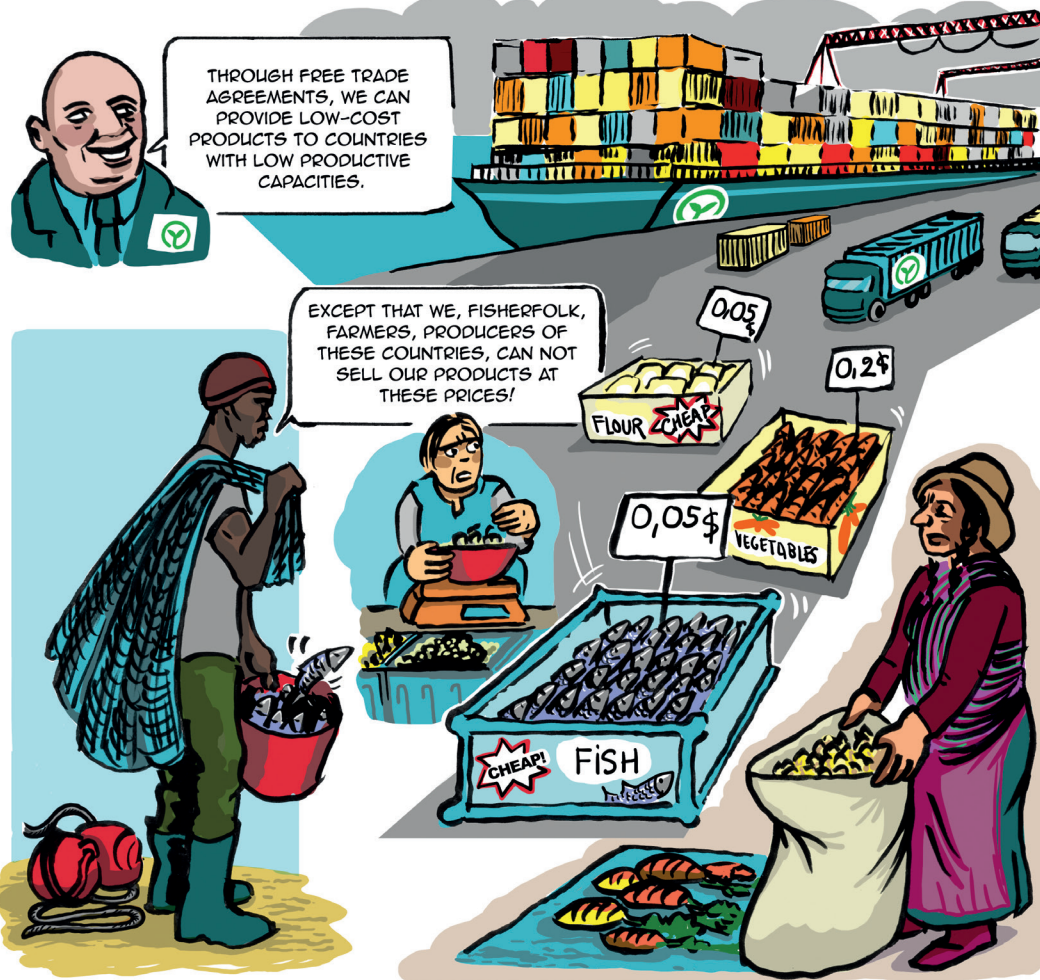
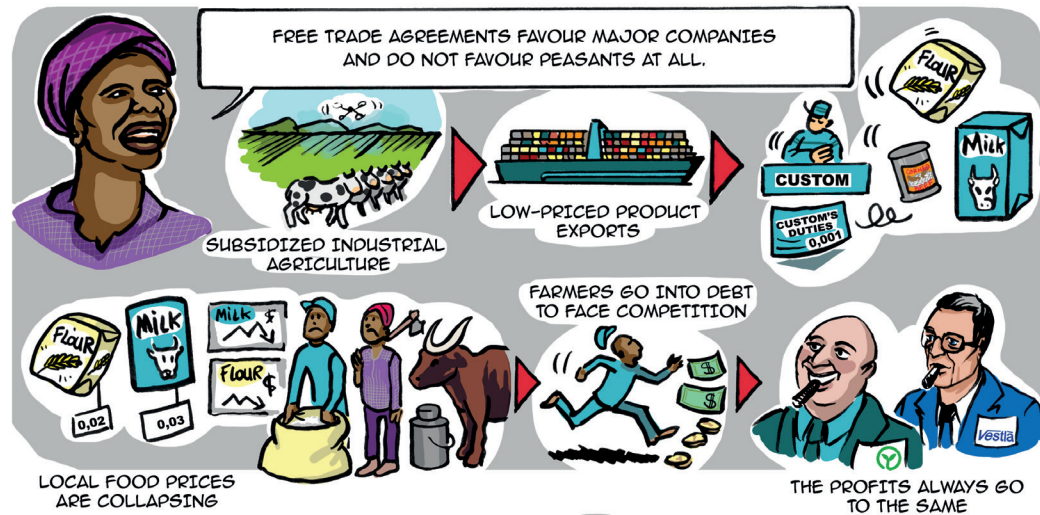
AGRIBUSINESSES USE PATENTS AND OTHER MECHANISMS TO TAKE CONTROL AND OWNERSHIP OF PEASANT SEEDS. SEEDS ARE OUR LIFE AND OUR HERITAGE. CORPORATIONS USE THESE LAWS AND TREATIES TO STOP US FROM USING AND SHARING OUR SEEDS AND EVEN CRIMINALIZE AND HARASS US FOR DOING IT!



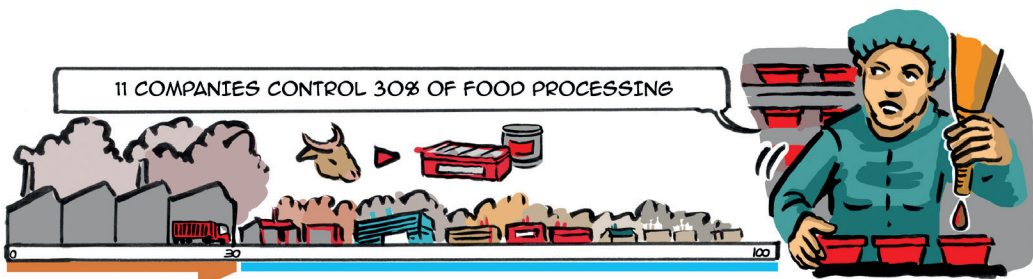
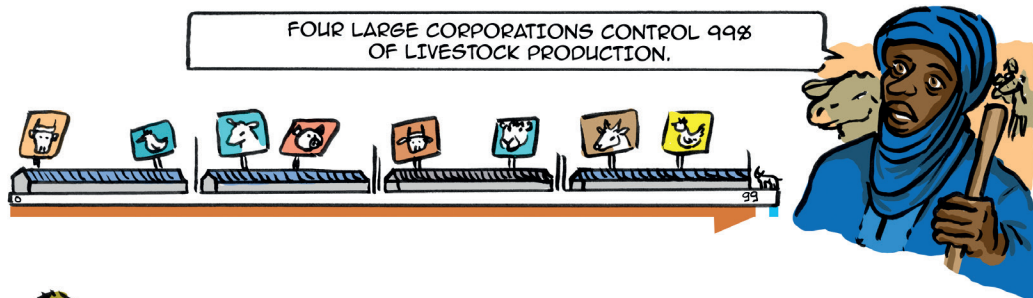
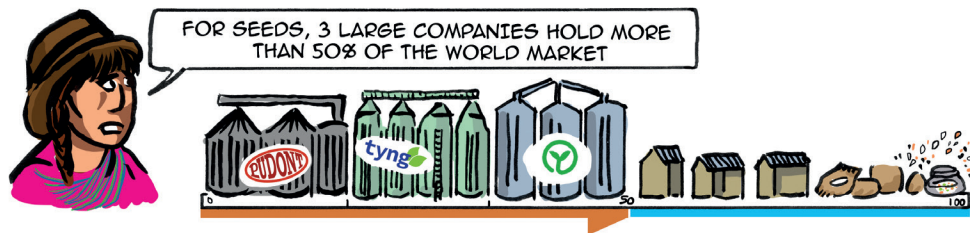
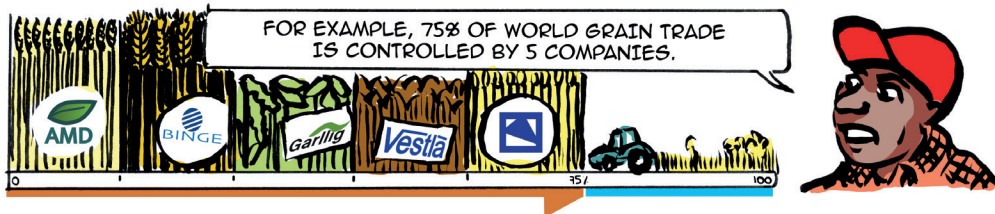
MR. TUKIRIN, A FARMER, REPRESENTED BY HIMSELF, IS ACCUSED OF HAVING SELECTED AND SOLD SEEDS WHICH ARE THE PROPERTY OF *SEED-COMPANY*...

...REPRESENTED HERE BY HIS LAWYERS.



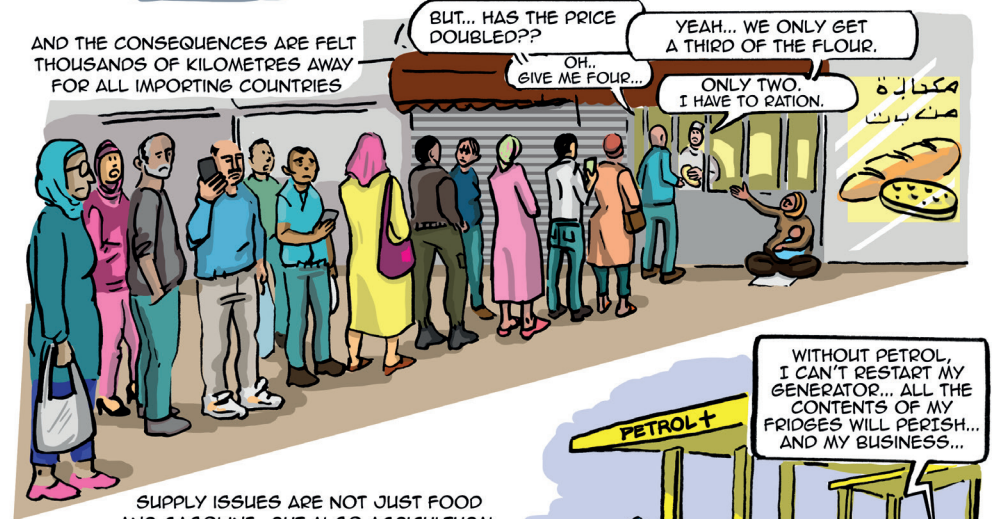
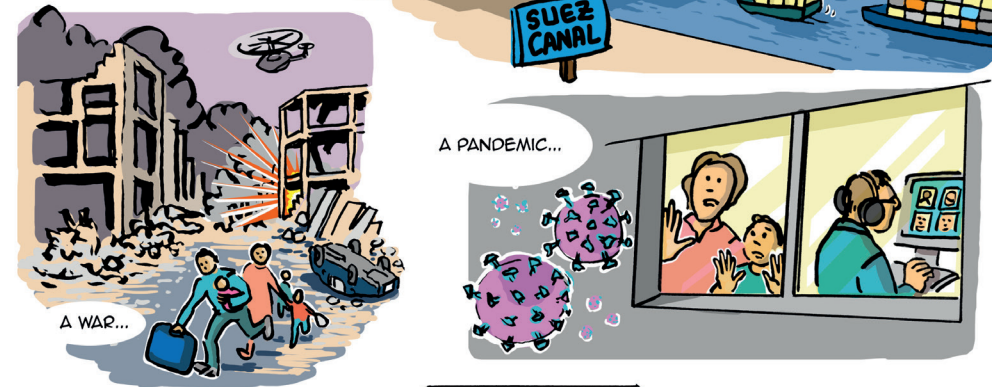
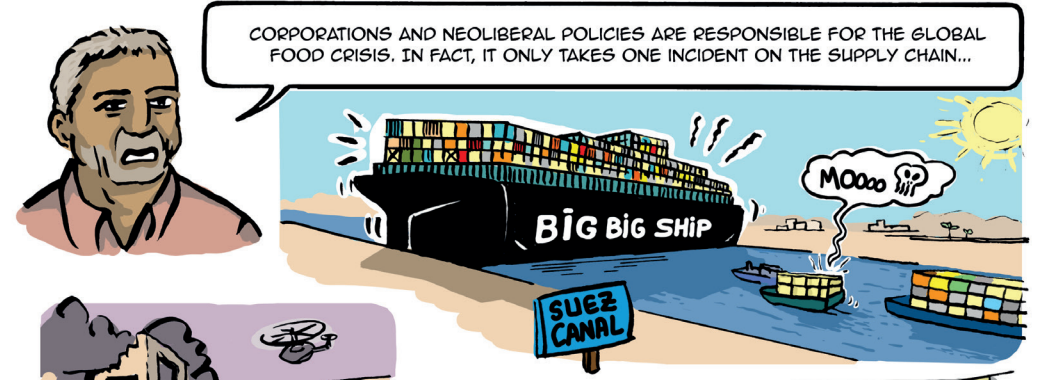
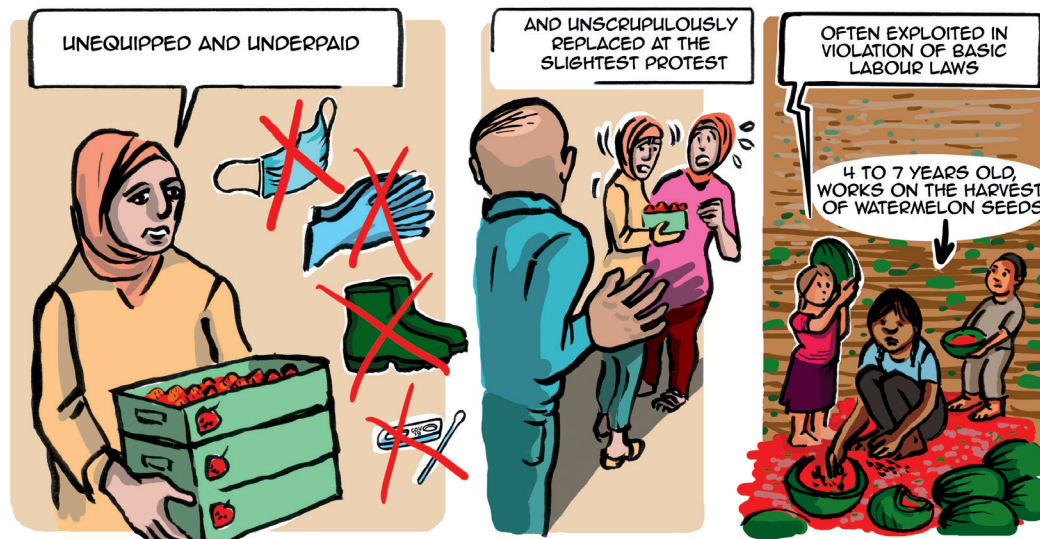
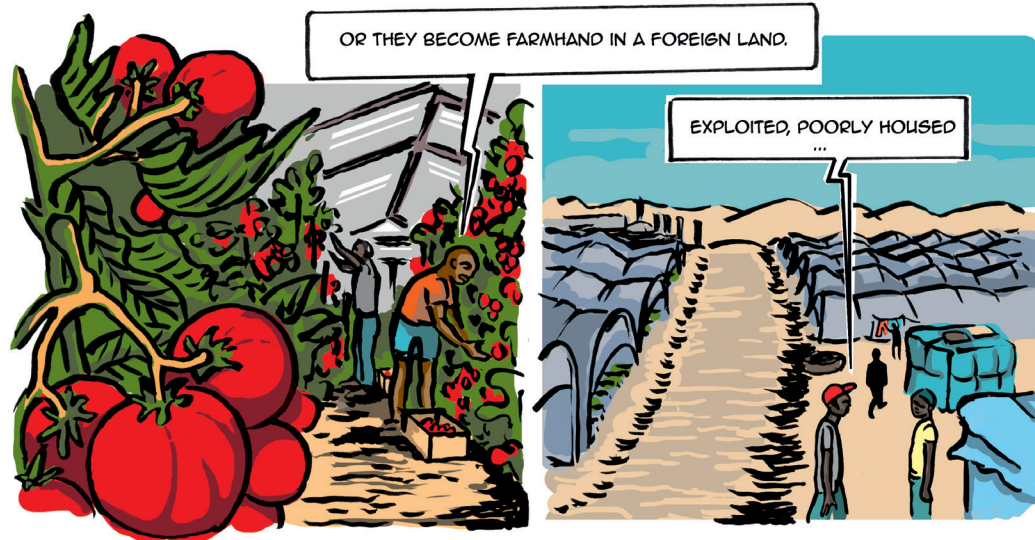


ALL OF THIS ONLY LEADS TO MORE CORPORATE CONTROL AND CONSOLIDATION OF THE FOOD SUPPLY CHAIN, WHILE PEASANTS ARE FURTHER MARGINALIZED



IN ADDITION TO DISMANTLING LOCAL MARKETS, AGRIBUSINESS MULTINATIONALS ARE MAKING FARMERS DEPENDENT ON INPUTS AND PUSHING THEM INTO DEBT

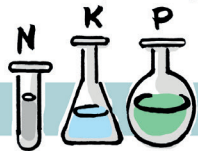




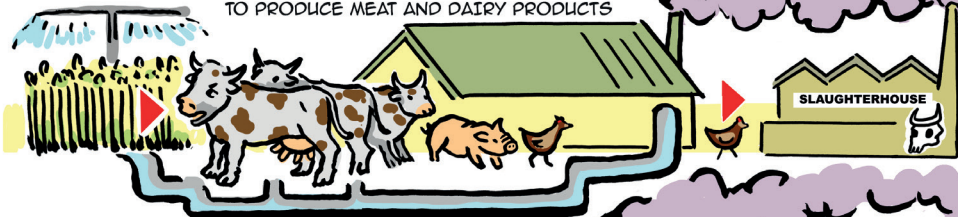


INDUSTRIAL FOOD SYSTEMS ARE ONE OF THE KEY DRIVERS OF CLIMATE CHANGE. SEVERAL ELEMENTS ARE TO BLAME.

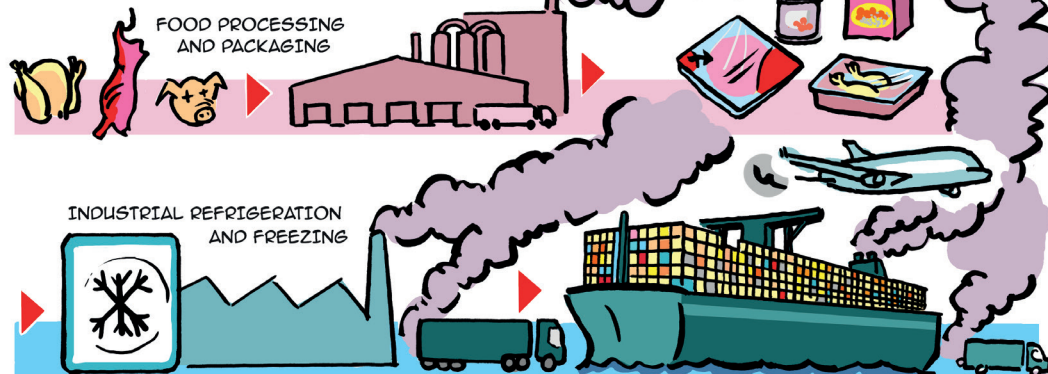
MANUFACTURE OF CHEMICAL FERTILIZERS
NITROGEN, POTASSIUM, PHOSPHOROUS



REARING AND SLAUGHTER OF INDUSTRIAL LIVESTOCK
TO PRODUCE MEAT AND DAIRY PRODUCTS



FOOD PROCESSING
AND PACKAGING



INDUSTRIAL REFRIGERATION
AND FREEZING



TRANSPORT OF AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES
AND FINISHED PRODUCTS



AGRI-FOOD LOBBIES ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR GLOBAL WARMING AND FOOD CRISES. THEY PROPOSE FALSE SOLUTIONS AND MANIPULATE INSTITUTIONS. BUT PEASANTS ARE NOT FOOLED AND ARE MOBILIZING ALL OVER THE WORLD!

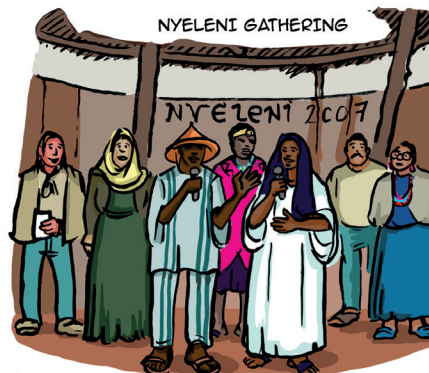


ANOTHER WAY IS POSSIBLE,

WHICH RESPECTS RIGHTS OF PEASANTS
AND MOTHER EARTH



NYELENI GATHERING



AGRARIAN REFORM NOW!



2021 : CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS AND
INDIGENOUS PEOPLES MOBILIZED AGAINST
THE UN FOOD SYSTEMS SUMMIT.

STOP CORPORATE IMPUNITY!
OBLIGATIONS FOR COMPANIES,
RIGHTS FOR PEOPLES

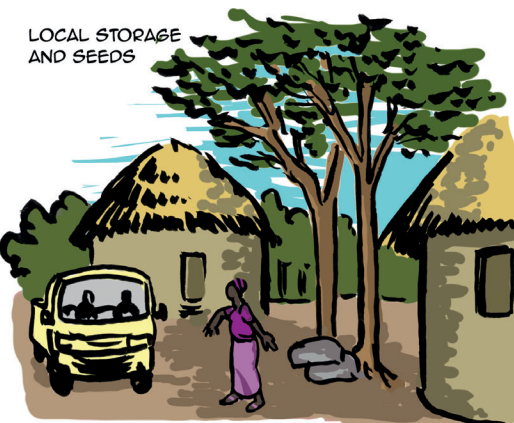




AGROECOLOGY



COLLECTIVE WORK AND COMMON MEANS OF PRODUCTION



PUBLIC RESEARCH

LEAVES CONTROL OF THEIR MEANS OF PRODUCTION TO THE PEASANTS AND PASTORALISTS


FOOD SOVEREIGNTY


A cartoon illustration of a diverse group of people protesting. At the top, a large speech bubble contains the word "NOW!". The group consists of several individuals of various ages and ethnicities. On the left, a man with a beard and a blue cap holds a flag with a green and red design. Next to him is a young boy in a red shirt. In the center, a woman wears a pink headscarf and a matching dress, holding a green fan. Next to her is a man in an orange shirt and a red cap, raising his fist. To his right is a woman in a blue dress and a blue headscarf, also raising her fist. In the foreground, a man in a brown shirt and a brown hat holds a large ear of corn. To his right is a woman in a pink shirt and an orange headscarf, holding a small bouquet of red flowers. On the far right, a man in a green military uniform with a beret stands with his fist raised. A blue box with a small white object inside is on the ground near him. The background is plain white.



La Via Campesina, founded in 1993, is an international movement bringing together millions of peasants, landless workers, indigenous people, pastoralists, fishers, migrant farmworkers, small and medium-size farmers, rural women and peasant youth from around the world. Built on a solid sense of unity and solidarity, it defends peasant agriculture for food sovereignty. Currently, La Via Campesina comprises 182 local and national organizations in 81 countries from Africa, Asia, Europe and the Americas.

www.viacampesina.org

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