

# LA VIA CAMPESINA

## 2022 ANNUAL REPORT





# ANNUAL REPORT

2022

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# A 2022 - AN OVERVIEW

## 30 YEARS OF COLLECTIVE STRUGGLE, HOPE AND SOLIDARITY



The year 2022 marked the 30th anniversary of La Via Campesina (LVC), the international peasant movement. In 1992, during the third Continental Meeting of indigenous, Afro-descendant, and popular resistance in Nicaragua, the seeds of LVC were sown. The collective of a few organizations that gathered there pledged to build an international movement capable of giving voice and resonance to peasants worldwide, united by their rejection of the neoliberal model of rural development and their determination to be included in shaping public policies affecting them. Today, LVC comprises 182 local and national organizations in 81 countries across Africa, Asia, Europe, and the Americas.

Despite ongoing global crises such as hunger, climate change wars, and migration, LVC continues to grow in strength, harvesting major victories such as the recognition of food sovereignty by some countries, support for agroecology from the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), and the adoption of the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Peasants and Other

People working in the Rural Areas (UNDROP) by the UN General Assembly. LVC occupies important multilateral spaces of global food governance to contribute in public policies in support of food sovereignty, agroecology, and popular agrarian reform.

In 2022, LVC voiced strong demands and proposals to address the global crises in the short and long term. The easing of travel restrictions allowed peasant and indigenous leaders to travel to spaces of policy-framing and decision making, to make themselves heard and be counted. The collective efforts took place in all continents and aimed to build a future with food sovereignty and social justice. As noted in the June 2022 statement, "barbarism emerges in the form of hate, violence, wars, and fascist preaching" in various regions of the planet, and confronting the bases of capitalism itself is essential to overcoming this structural crisis that affects countries worldwide.

## 2022 IN REAR VIEW

La Via Campesina's International Working Collective on Agroecology, Seeds and Biodiversity engaged in a number of global food governance spaces in 2022, including the, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA), the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the UN Biodiversity Conference (COP15) and the Human Rights Council. The collective reiterated the role of agroecological peasant agriculture and peasant seed systems in guaranteeing all peasant rights and demanded that the governing body of the ITPGRFA respect farmers' rights by guaranteeing the right to use, exchange, and sell peasant seeds, the right to share in the benefits of the use of their seeds and to participate in decisions that affect them. The collective advocated for climate justice through peasant agroecology, popular and integral agrarian reform, and vibrant peasant economies. Additionally, they celebrated the publication of three collectively-constructed training modules and worked with allies of the ETC Group to organize a two-day online training session on the digitalization of agriculture and the threat it poses to Food Sovereignty.

In 2022, LVC and its allies continued to advocate for the mainstreaming and monitoring of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas (UNDROP) at the international level. The collective worked to establish a special procedure on the UNDROP through a UN Human Rights Council (HRC) resolution, sending letters, organizing meetings, and issuing statements during the March, June, and September sessions of the UN HRC in Geneva. LVC also collaborated with various organizations, such as CETIM and FIAN, and established new alliances with Friends of the Declaration in Switzerland and other European groups. The collective also took actions to support peasants' rights globally and established major regional initiatives in Colombia, Paraguay, and Argentina. Additionally, in 2022, LVC and FIAN International completed the UNDROP education toolkit consisting of five booklets and an animation film, aimed at improving understanding and awareness of the Declaration. The toolkit is designed to help rural people's movements assert both collective and individual rights. It was completed by the end of 2022 and is available in English, French, and Spanish, along with an explanatory video, audio script (coming in 2023), and memes.

LVC and its allies also collaborated on a website (<https://defendingpeasantsrights.org/>) that serves as a knowledge base sharing examples of UNDROP in action.

LVC continued its advocacy work to defend land, water, and territories against the activities of transnational agribusinesses. In May 2022, the LVC and allies marked the 10th anniversary of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries, and Forests, and highlighted that most government and institutional programs aimed at implementing the Guidelines have failed to address the underlying structural issues of dispossession, land concentration, and ecosystem destruction. Throughout the year, members of the collective monitored various regional developments and participated in major regional initiatives, such as the National Day of Struggles in Defense of Agrarian Reform in Brazil and the release of a transdisciplinary research report in the UK calling for enabling access to land and housing for agroecological, short supply chain land-based enterprises. The land, water, and territories collective also continued to engage in negotiations for a Legally Binding Treaty to end human rights violations committed by transnational corporations.

In 2022, the Public Policies Collective participated in various global food governance processes related to the UN agencies dealing with food issues. Two significant negotiation processes were held under the Committee for World Food Security (CFS) on gender equality and women's empowerment in the context of food security and nutrition and on promoting youth engagement and employment in agriculture and food systems. The negotiations were held virtually and in-person, and the Public Policies Collective participated through the Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples' Mechanism. The negotiations on gender failed to achieve consensus, while the text for the negotiations on youth was finalized and adopted with some reservations.

La Via Campesina attended various FAO meetings in Rome and spoke about the agricultural crisis and the importance of small-scale food producers. The Public Policies Collective also met virtually and attended the CFS-50 plenary in Rome, where prolonged discussions on coordinating policy responses to the global food crisis were held.

The International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty (IPC) has prioritized the next Nyéléni global forum, expected to be held in India in early 2025. During a facilitation committee meeting in Rome in September 2022, decisions were made regarding the forum's organization and strategic direction. The IPC outlined criteria for participation, including a commitment to systemic change, social justice, internationalism, and people's sovereignty. Political parties, corporations, and governments will not be involved. The first proposed strategic axis is "Land and Territory," allowing for articulation with other processes like climate justice and biodiversity protection. Two levels of coordination were proposed: a global steering committee and regional sub-structures. The IPC regions will identify and reach out to regional organizations and movements to be involved in the Nyéléni process. The objective is to also strengthen the network in the Asia-Pacific region.

The International Working Collective on Climate and Environmental Justice had an active presence at the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change's Conference of the Parties (COP27) held in Egypt. They constructed a declaration exposing corporate influence at the UNFCCC and engaged in open dialogue with allies to demand systemic change. LVC promoted "Peasants' Rights and Agroecology for Food Sovereignty" as necessary conditions for a climate just transition for peasant farmers. The Collective held virtual discussions on global efforts for peasant agroecology and food sovereignty within the Climate Justice Movement.

La Via Campesina and its member organizations are actively engaged in various actions and initiatives around the world to push for climate and food justice. LVC members across Africa engaged in the African People's Counter COP and issued a declaration calling for food sovereignty grounded in agroecology, territorial markets, and peasant rights. LVC also called for solidarity with Pakistani peasant movements affected by unprecedented flooding and denounced the impact of climate change on countries like Pakistan that contribute less than 1% of global carbon emissions but are disproportionately affected.

In the context of the 12th Ministerial meeting of the World Trade Organization, La Via Campesina and allies organized in large numbers in Geneva to protest against WTO's neoliberal policies and its Agreement on Agriculture. The movement organized public demonstrations, forums, and press conferences to

oppose the free trade policies harm small-scale food producers worldwide. They called on their members and allies to expose the impact of free trade agreements and WTO policies and urged the Members States of the WTO to withdraw from the organization, immediately suspend the Agreement on Agriculture, and establish a new global trade framework for agriculture based on food sovereignty and solidarity principles. La Via Campesina collaborated with other organizations to publish a briefing paper and the Geneva Declaration, outlining a new vision for agricultural trade based on food sovereignty principles. In addition, they produced infographics and posters highlighting the crises caused by neoliberal policies and providing essential elements for an alternative trade framework.

The Youth Articulation of La Via Campesina participated in various global and regional meetings and policy processes to promote agroecological practices and advocate for food sovereignty. They participated in protests against the WTO's 12th Ministerial Meeting in Geneva and organized an online forum to discuss the negative impacts of free trade agreements on local peasant economies. The Articulation also participated in consultations organized by the International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty (IPC) in collaboration with the FAO under the UN Decade of Family Farming (UNDF) framework. It stressed the need to shift towards food sovereignty to realize youth rights, which requires member states to acknowledge and implement human rights instruments such as the UN Declaration on Rights of Peasants (UNDROP) and Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). The Articulation also produced the December issue of the Nyeleni Newsletter, emphasizing the need for global food governance institutions and governments to empower communities of peasants, Indigenous Peoples, migrant workers, waged workers, small-scale fishers, and pastoralists to build food sovereignty in their own territories.

The international collective for the rights of migrant workers conducted various activities in 2022. They held a virtual public event on International Migrant Day with members from different countries sharing perspectives on migrant workers' human rights violations and the need to strengthen alliances for the Global Pact of Solidarity for the Rights of Migrants and Refugees. The collective organized a Global Meeting of La Via Campesina on the Rights of Migrant and Rural Workers in Honduras, which discussed defending migrants and agricultural waged workers' rights.

They developed proposals focusing on fighting agribusiness, transitioning to agroecology and food sovereignty, and combating criminalization, repression, persecution, and violence against rural wage workers and migrants. They also initiated the ECVC Rural Workers and Migration Collective and the Arab and North African members of La Via Campesina (ArNA) to focus on solidarity, training, networking, lobbying, and communication. They elaborated a holistic strategy to defend workers' rights in Galicia, Spain, and helped build the Agroecology or Barbary network, which consolidates advocacy actions around agroecological peasant models. The collective conducted training actions on access to law for migrant workers from North Africa in Europe, supported by Andalusian trade unions in Huelva, Spain, and Alentejo, Portugal, respectively.

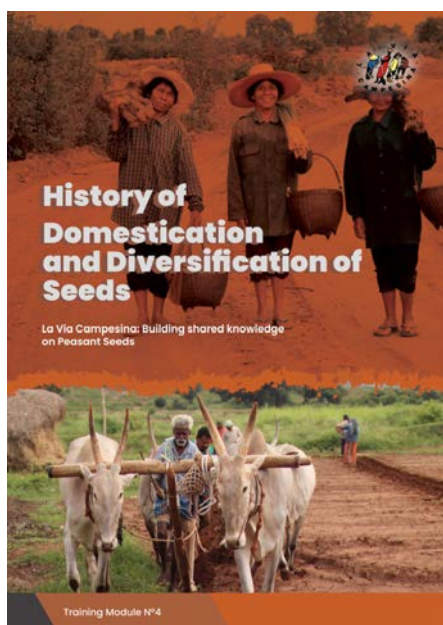
The collective aims to develop further alliances, campaigns, education resources, and campaign strategies to sustain an intersectional approach to migration-related issues.

In the subsequent pages of this report, we bring to you a comprehensive account of these initiatives and their outcomes. The report will also touch upon several aspects of Movement Strengthening efforts, including the active efforts to build a leadership of peasant women, spaces for deeper debates on gender diversity, and in deepening the practice of peasant feminism at all levels of La Via Campesina.



# B THE WORKING COLLECTIVES

## B.1 AGROECOLOGY, PEASANT SEEDS AND BIODIVERSITY: HIGHLIGHTS OF 2022



### Global policy, Alliances and Advocacy Work of 2022

In 2022, La Via Campesina's International Working Collective on Agroecology, Seeds, and Biodiversity engaged in dialogue once again in a number of global food governance spaces, including the UN Human Rights Council, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA), and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) - which is increasingly becoming a policy promotion space for corporate agribusiness and its allies.

As part of an "interactive dialogue" with the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food held in March during the 49th session of the Human Rights Council, La Via Campesina reiterated the role of agroecological peasant agriculture and peasant seed systems in guaranteeing all peasant rights, including but not limited to the Right to Food Sovereignty.

In July, Collective members of the Movement's International Coordination Committee (ICC) met with FAO Director-General Qu Dongyu to remind him of the true importance of incorporating peasant agroecology into all things food and agriculture if the FAO is to facilitate the full realization of peasants' rights.

In September, members of the Collective gathered in India to demand that the Governing Body of the ITPGRFA respect its own Article 9 - on "farmers' rights" - by guaranteeing, at the very least, i) the right to use, exchange, and sell peasant seeds; ii) the right to share in the benefits of the use of their seeds and to participate in decisions that affect them, and iii) opposition to any intellectual property policies that might limit access to the seeds they distribute, their parts, or their genetic components.

In November, an international LVC delegation made up of several peasant agroecologists took our demands for Food Sovereignty to the UNFCCC's COP 27. There, together with allies from Friends of the

Earth International (FOEI), the Indigenous Environmental Network (IEN), and Grassroots Global Justice (GGJ), delegates demanded climate justice through peasant agroecology, popular and integral agrarian reform, and vibrant peasant economies. Participating cautiously in the so-called “Farmers’ Constituency”, the LVC delegation reiterated its call for a just transition away from agribusiness as usual and the corporate false solutions being vigorously promoted at the UNFCCC.

LVC leaders also were part of the team from the International Planning Committee on Food Sovereignty (IPC) that attended the UN Biodiversity Conference (COP15), advocating for the incorporation of UNDROP in the final text, among many demands related to peasant agroecology and struggles for Food Sovereignty.

### **Global meetings and Collaborations by the Collective in 2022**

The Collective held an online meeting in mid-2022, to discuss their local-to-global articulation efforts. The members shared their movement-strengthening strategies, including peasant agroecology schools, training processes, and publications promoting popular education for peasant seed systems.

The Collective also celebrated the publication of three collectively-constructed training modules entitled “Construction of Shared Knowledge on Peasant Seeds”. The modules, published in 2022, included “Global Campaign for Peasant Seeds, a Heritage of Peoples in the Service of Humanity”, “Seeds in Peasant and Indigenous Culture”, and “History of the Domestication and Diversification of Seeds”.

The Collective discussed ways to improve participation in the International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty (IPC), specifically in its Agroecology Working Group and the 3rd International Nyéléni Process, which will bring together the entire Food Sovereignty Movement in 2025 in India.

Additionally, as part of the Collective’s commitments and Movement-defined training priorities, the members worked with allies of the ETC Group to organize a two-day online training session on the “Digitalization of Agriculture” and the threat it poses to Food Sovereignty. The training was well attended by LVC members and allies from around the world.

### **Major Regional Initiatives of 2022**

In collaboration with the Agroecology for Europe (AE4EU) project, members of LVC from Europe have developed three agroecology training programs with the support of Toekomstboeren in the Netherlands, Land Workers’ Alliance (LWA) in the UK, and FADEAR / ‘Initiatives Paysannes’ in France. The training programs were designed to align with the Nyeleni Declaration on learning in agroecology and the vision of ECVC of Peasant agroecology, by identifying training needs and drawing upon experiences from different countries. Additionally, ECVC launched a campaign against the deregulation of new GMOs, which is being promoted by the European Commission and supported by corporate lobbyists.

In July 2022, the Youth of La Via Campesina in Southern and Eastern Africa (LVC SEAF) held a Youth Articulation Meeting that featured a self-organized session on “Political Economy and Agroecology in Africa”. The session aimed to enhance the capacity of young people to comprehend the historical context of global and continental agriculture and food systems, as well as the practical implementation of agroecology practices. Moreover, the session tackled the Climate Crisis by examining its background and current status, and exploring ways in which youth can advocate for climate justice to provide lasting solutions. Additionally, peasant organizations in Kenya launched a significant mobilization against the Kenyan government’s decision to lift the ban on the cultivation and import of genetically modified white maize, resulting in a temporary decision to suspend the plan.

In Latin America, delegates from the Pedagogical Political Commissions (CPP) of numerous Latin American Agroecological Institutes (IALAs) of La Via Campesina met in Mexico to exchange experiences of current struggles in their territories as well as pedagogical strategies to popularize agroecology. With the presence of about 30 people, they shared, learned and debated agroecological schools, thematic content, political and territorial advocacy, peasant and popular feminism, peasant-to-peasant methodology (P-to-P), sexual and gender diversity, initiatives regarding production, strategies for economic autonomy, accreditation, difficulties, and resistances.

In North America, La Vía Campesina members and allies gathered in the Northeastern United States for an “Each One, Teach One! Gathering” and Celebration of 30 Years of La Via Campesina which involved 100+ participants.

Co-Hosted by Rural Vermont, a member organization of the La Via Campesina's National Family Farm Coalition (NFFC), the gathering served to further articulate an ongoing regional youth-led process termed the North American Schools of Agroecology (NASA).

The Dominican Republic played host to the Continental Meeting of Youth and Agroecology in the Caribbean Region, as part of the Youth Articulation of the CLOC LV. The meeting was attended by delegates from 11 countries and included a declaration expressing the struggles and concerns of young peasants.

The Serikat Petani Indonesia (SPI) held its second 30-day Agroecology Formation Course in Asia, with the aim of training militants to practice agroecology in various Food Sovereignty Areas throughout Indonesia. SPI has been organizing "Food Sovereignty Areas" for the past three years, which are a model of concrete alternatives to food sovereignty and territorial markets. A Food Sovereignty Area should ideally provide livelihoods to peasant families within its scope by growing diverse, non-monoculture food based on agroecology. Currently, SPI has 11 fully operational Food Sovereignty Areas located throughout Indonesia, from Aceh to South Borneo.

## **Publications and Key Documents from 2022**

The Collective held an online meeting in mid-2022, to discuss their local-to-global articulation efforts. The members shared their movement-strengthening strategies, including peasant agroecology schools, training processes, and publications promoting popular education for peasant seed systems.

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La Via Campesina has launched a series of training modules entitled "La Via Campesina: Construction of Shared Knowledge on Peasant Seeds" in late 2021 and throughout 2022. Comprising of five pedagogical documents, these modules aim to enhance the understanding of the global fight for peasant seeds, their context and situation, and their connections to other movements advocating for Food Sovereignty.

The Agroecology, Seeds and Biodiversity Collective of La Via Campesina has developed these modules, which will reinforce the Global Campaign for "Seeds: peoples' heritage at the service of humanity." Each module delves into the realities, reflections, victories, and struggles of farmers and has been systematically gathered and synthesized for the benefit of movement activists, organizations, institutions, and anyone interested in training on these subjects.

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## **B.2 PEASANTS' RIGHTS**

### **Global policy, Alliances and Advocacy Work of 2022**

In 2022, LVC and its allies led the struggle for the creation of a Special Procedure on the UNDROP, recognizing that effective implementation would only happen through mainstreaming and monitoring

at the international level. They worked to convince governments, member states, UN bodies, and other parties to move for a UN HRC resolution to establish the special procedure on the UNDROP and set this process at the top of the UN agenda. Lobby letters were sent, meetings were set up, events were held, and statements were released during the March,

June, and September sessions of the UN HRC to mobilize efforts to push for the creation of the special procedure.

The campaign to mainstream the UNDROP continued with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and UN experts such as the Special Rapporteur on the right to food, the Special Rapporteur on the right to development, the Special Rapporteur on human rights and the environment, and UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation.

In December 2022, on the fourth anniversary of the adoption of UNDROP, La Via Campesina issued a statement calling upon all governments to accelerate the implementation of UNDROP at all levels, make UNDROP a lived reality for communities struggling for food sovereignty and agroecology, and strengthen the fight against the climate crisis and criminalization of their struggles. Members of the peasant rights and public policy collective also conducted the UNDROP campaign within the spaces of Rome processes and the UN Decade of Family Farming.

Alliances were established with organizations such as FIMARC, WAMIP, IUF, IITC, and WFFP, who continued to be active in virtual activities alongside La Via Campesina. Additional alliances were formed with the Friends of the Declaration in Switzerland and other European organizations. We continued our collaborations with CETIM and FIAN. Close collaborations were maintained with the Bolivian Mission, especially the Ambassador of Bolivia to the United Nations in Geneva, Ms. Maira Mariela Macdonal Alvarez.

LVC members worldwide brought UNDROP to their bases and grassroots at the national and local level with direct actions, formations, and creation of UNDROP popular materials. They continued their efforts to translate UNDROP and the popular materials into their local languages to understand and increase ownership over this crucial tool of struggle. They encouraged their members, right-holders, and allies to continue to raise awareness and use UNDROP as a tool in their daily fights, believing that spreading UNDROP at the grassroots level is a powerful way to create momentum for change.

### **Global meetings and Collaborations by the Collective in 2022**

Several meetings of collectives, particularly linked to advocacy efforts at the UN HRC, took place in Geneva during March, June, and September of 2022.

These meetings involved our allies, including the Bolivian Mission to the UN, CETIM, FIAN, and the Geneva Academy. The June meeting was particularly significant as it coincided with our mobilization efforts against the World Trade Organization's activities in Geneva.

A virtual call of the peasant rights collective was organized on March 16, 2022. Some members of the Working Collective met during the back-to-back activities of the WTO mobilization and UN HRC 50th session in June 2022.

Throughout 2022, LVC, FIAN, CETIM, and the Geneva Academy collaborated on a website called "Defending Peasants' Rights: Platform of Rural Struggles in Action!" The website serves as a knowledge base in three languages, sharing examples of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas (UNDROP) in action. An editorial board, which includes members of La Via Campesina, is responsible for reviewing the published content and providing oversight.

### **Global Solidarity Actions in 2022**

In 2022, LVC issued statements of solidarity regarding violations of peasants' rights in Brazil, Palestine, Paraguay, Colombia, Mali, Ecuador, the European Union, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Kenya, Canada, and Peru. On April 17th, LVC mobilized to draw attention to the ongoing persecution and criminalization of those fighting for land and territories.

In November, LVC expressed its unwavering support for the peasants and workers of Thailand, who were protesting the Thai government's greenwashing of neoliberal agreements through the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC). Members of Thailand's Assembly of the Poor (AOP), including LVC members, were subject to brutal treatment and detainment by the police during peaceful protests at APEC2022. After calling on Thai authorities to release those detained and respect the rights enshrined in the United Nations Declaration of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas (UNDROP),

LVC warned that the criminalization and persecution of peasants and rural people was not limited to Thailand. It was, unfortunately, a reality experienced by millions worldwide. LVC emphasized the need for justice in the face of such violence and impunity.

## Major Regional Initiatives of 2022

Throughout 2022, the members of CLOC were active in utilizing the UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas (UNDROP) as a tool to promote the right to land and territory. In Colombia, the UNDROP was included in a national political proposition under project “Colombia: Global Power of Life”. In Paraguay, members utilized the UNDROP as a valid argument to sanction the country as a violator of peasant rights in the event of death by pesticide poisoning. In Argentina, it served as an argument to give back territories to peasant and Indigenous communities. Meanwhile, in Cuba, the Food Sovereignty and Food and Nutrition Safety Act was enacted, inspired by the Declaration of Peasant Rights.

In other regions, such as Indonesia and India, members used the UNDROP to campaign for peasant rights in terms of production, market assurance, and their recognition as rights-bearing individuals. Peasant virtual formation to understand the UNDROP was very active in the region, especially for youth and linked to agroecology practices. Serikat Petani Indonesia (SPI) used the UNDROP commemoration in December to raise awareness and increase ownership of the Declaration. They also referred to the UNDROP during National Peasants Day in Indonesia on September 24th. SPI established the UNDROP as a basis for the National Human Rights Policy on land and used it as a monitoring tool to campaign against violations of peasants’ rights at the end of each year. An initiative with allies to consolidate jurists in Asia (SoliResp – especially Focus on the Global South, Katarungan, Friends of the Earth).

In Kenya, the Kenyan Peasant League (KPL), a member organization, successfully challenged the lifting of the ban on growing genetically modified seeds by the new government. In their petition to the High Court of Kenya, KPL cited, among other legal documents, that the lifting of the ban on genetically modified crops violated articles 10, 11, 12, 19, 20, and 26 of the UNDROP. In November, the High Court issued a judgment in favor of KPL and upheld the ban on GMOs in the country.

Throughout 2022, the European Coordination Via Campesina (ECVC) continued to use the UNDROP, particularly in the context of its work on seeds and land. In the work of seeds, ECVC referred to Article 19 of the UNDROP (Right to seeds) to denounce the attempt to deregulate new GMOs in the EU and to

promote a new legislative framework for seed marketing that recognizes and protects peasant seed systems. ECVC called for the establishment of two distinct regulatory frameworks dealing with commercial seeds and peasant seed systems. On land, ECVC finalized its proposal for a new legal framework on land tenure in Europe based on Article 17 of the UNDROP declaration. Additionally, ECVC advocated for the respect of UNDROP in general in EU policy.

In November 2022, in the wake of disappointing outcomes from COP27, ECVC developed a manifesto of real agriculture and climate solutions calling on the EU to immediately implement 13 concrete and interdependent action points to move towards climate and food justice. In this manifesto, ECVC listed a number of policy actions that are needed to change the core of EU production and consumption models and to achieve the objectives of the legally binding Paris Agreement, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as well as the UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural areas (UNDROP).

## Publications and Key Documents from 2022

In 2022, LVC and FIAN International completed the UNDROP education toolkit consisting of five booklets and an animation film, aimed at improving understanding and awareness of the Declaration. The toolkit is designed to help rural people’s movements assert both collective and individual rights. It was completed by the end of 2022 and is available in English, French, and Spanish, along with an explanatory video, audio script (coming in 2023), and memes. The content was inspired by LVC members worldwide who continue to face violations of their rights. The toolkit was developed with their input and will help reconnect the UNDROP with small-scale food producers everywhere.



## B.3 IN DEFENSE OF LAND, WATER AND TERRITORIES & AGAINST TRANSNATIONAL AGRIBUSINESSES: HIGHLIGHTS OF 2022



### Global policy, Alliances and Advocacy Work of 2022

La Via Campesina remained an active participant in the International Planning Committee (IPC) Working Group on Land, Forests, Water, and Territories to advocate for the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries, and Forests, which were officially adopted by the Committee on World Food Security in 2012.

In May, on the occasion of the Guidelines' 10th anniversary, La Via Campesina endorsed a statement by the IPC highlighting that most government and institutional programs aimed at implementing the Guidelines have focused solely on technical solutions and measures, failing to address the underlying structural issues of dispossession, land concentration, and ecosystem destruction.

In 2022, La Via Campesina continued to engage in negotiations for a Legally Binding Treaty to end human rights violations committed by transnational corporations. During the 8th session of the UN Open-Ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Transnational Corporations and Human Rights held in Geneva (Switzerland) in October 2022, members of the collective represented the Global Campaign against TNCs and spoke out against the body's failure to regulate the activities of transnational

corporations within the framework of international human rights law and to ensure that affected individuals, communities, and peoples have full and effective access to justice.

### Global meetings and Collaborations by the Collective in 2022

During 2022, the International Working Collective on Land, Water, and Territory of La Via Campesina held two online meetings to revive the collective and provide updates on the progress, challenges, and processes faced by member organizations in different regions.

In the first meeting held in July, members re-established their ties and commitments and conducted a comprehensive analysis of the current situation. They also discussed the Collective's position within the framework of the Decade of Land Tenure Guidelines. During the second meeting held in October, each region presented a detailed report on the regional situation, including the results of the regional meetings and proposals for the upcoming 8th Conference. The group then engaged in a discussion to establish the Collective's priorities and lines of action leading up to the 8th Conference in 2023.

In March 2022, the Collective organized a training session on the Binding Treaty Process for members of La Via Campesina.

The session covered the history and origin of the Binding Treaty Negotiations, the current status of negotiations, details about the Friends of Binding Treaty, and aspects of national campaigns aimed at building pressure through national governments for an effective legally binding treaty to prevent human rights violations committed by transnational corporations. The outcome of this training session was the reformulation of peasant leaders who will continue this work in the coming years.

Throughout the year, members of the Collective monitored various regional developments, including the land struggle in Colombia within the context of a new government and the review of public policies related to land access. They also spoke out against aggressions targeting peasants, such as those occurring in Thailand. In addition, members advocated for the defense of territory and the promotion of sustainable agroecological food production in different contexts. Furthermore, members participated in the collaborative drafting of the "Statement 10 Years of the Tenure Guideline."

### Major Regional Initiatives of 2022

Between April 8th and 17th, the MST organized the "National Day of Struggles in Defense of Agrarian Reform: for Land, Housing and Bread" in Brazil. The objective of this event is to expand the struggle for agrarian reform through land occupations, production of healthy food, tree planting, active resistance in the territories, and solidarity actions involving the Movement's social base.

The La Via Campesina in the Arab Region and North Africa (ArNa Process) issued a statement on March 30th, 2022, to mark the Palestinian Land Day. The statement recognizes the day as a symbol for struggles of peasants worldwide for land, food sovereignty, agroecology, and climate justice against monopolistic capitalist policies.

In Colombia, La Via Campesina has deepened its engagement with the Peace Process and regularly updated the world about progress and impediments in realizing true agrarian reform in the country. By November 2022, the government announced an agreement with the Colombian Federation of Livestock Farmers (FEDEGAN) to buy three million hectares of land and distribute them to peasants, which can contribute to the democratization of access to land.

Despite progress made in the formalization of 683,000 hectares of land in September, the scourge of violence remains constant with 83 massacres committed and 137 social leaders assassinated in 2022 alone.

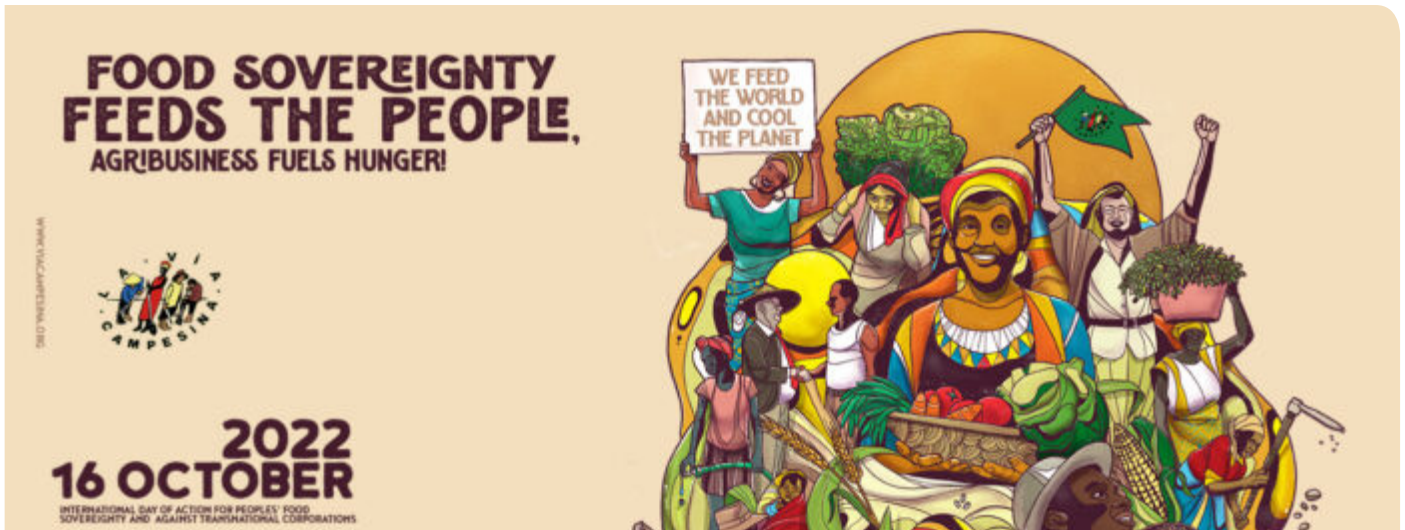
During 2022, the Confédération Paysanne supported French peasant farmers protesting against the construction of megabasins that threatened access to water, and who also faced severe repression. Peasants who participated in a symbolic union action in the Cram-Chaban basin in November 2022 were fined 500,000 euros and given suspended prison sentences for their involvement in the water access defense demonstration.

Despite these pressures, a large demonstration took place in Saint Soline in November 2022, calling for a reassessment of policies and projects that consider the challenges posed by climate change and the necessity of a fair agricultural transition.

In September, the South East and East Asian members of La Via Campesina reiterated their support and solidarity with the land struggles of the peasants of Sumalo in the Philippines. The South East and East Asian Women Articulation also met with the peasant communities of Sumalo and issued a signed letter of support to the local organization SANAMABASU, which is leading this struggle.

In the UK, the Landworkers' Alliance released a transdisciplinary research report that encourages the governments of UK nations to recognize and act upon the urgent need to support new entrants into farming by breaking down the real barriers to entry for agroecological, short supply chain land-based enterprises. The report called for enabling access to land and housing through government-funded land-matching and share-farming services, the provision of low-interest loans for land trusts, and reforming planning laws to accommodate small farming enterprises including new dwellings for landworkers.

## B.4 PUBLIC POLICIES AND ROME PROCESSES: HIGHLIGHTS OF 2022



### Global policy, Alliances and Advocacy Work of 2022

In 2022, the Public Policies Collective has been involved in multiple processes related to global food governance and specifically UN agencies dealing with food issues. The year was particularly intense due to the resumption of in-person activities in Rome after the pandemic-induced interruption. Two major negotiation processes took place in 2022 under the Committee for World Food Security (CFS). The first was the Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment in the Context of Food Security and Nutrition, and the second was the Policy Recommendations on Promoting Youth Engagement and Employment in Agriculture and Food Systems for Food Security and Nutrition. The negotiations were conducted partly virtually and partly in-person, and the Public Policies Collective participated in the processes through the Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples' Mechanism (CSIPM).

The gender negotiations took place primarily in May, June, July, October, and December, while the youth negotiations were held in March, April, May, June, July, and October. Both negotiation processes were challenging for civil society organizations, as some governmental delegations strongly opposed their proposals, making it difficult to include their inputs in the final texts. During the negotiations on gender, several CFS stakeholders did not acknowledge the importance of gender equality and diversity,

objecting to key concepts such as intersectionality, gender-transformative approaches, and sexual and gender-based violence. As a result, the negotiations failed to achieve consensus on the final text of the Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment in the Context of Food Security and Nutrition (GEWGE). The process was suspended after a very tense last day of negotiations, and the text was not adopted during the CFS plenary in October. The process will continue in 2023.

On the other hand, the text for the negotiations on youth was finalized and adopted. The CSIPM supported the endorsement of the text with several reservations. Among these, the CSIPM highlighted that the language used in the text did not recognize the diversity of youth, particularly with respect to multiple, intersecting identities. The CSIPM also expressed that the text failed to include peasants as a key constituency to be addressed by these recommendations and consulted for their implementation. Moreover, the policy recommendations did not account for the agency of youth across all sectors of agriculture and food systems, and food sovereignty, which was central to the HLPE report, was not mentioned in the final text.

La Via Campesina (LVC) attended various meetings in Rome in 2022, including the session of the FAO Committee of Agriculture (COAG), where it spoke about the agricultural crisis and the importance



of small-scale food producers. LVC also called for member states' greater involvement in the UN Decade on Family Farming (UNDF) and recognition of the significance of family farming. LVC had several meetings with high-level institutional actors and FAO staff, including the FAO Director General and the Partnerships and UN Collaboration Division of FAO, where the delegation discussed the UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas (UNDRP) and the UNDF. The meeting with the FAO Director General resulted in an invitation to organise an event in 2023 for peasants and family farmers. LVC initiated its mandate as Second Vice-Chair of the International Steering Committee for the UNDF and participated in the First Global Forum of the UNDF, where it provided inputs to set the agenda. LVC proposed several follow-up actions, including the creation of a booklet on UNDRP-UNDF, organising bilateral meetings with governments to encourage their active participation in UNDF, sending recommendations to national organisations to participate in National Committees on Family Farming, mapping good and bad policies, and improving external communication through LVC's website. LVC also had meetings with the President of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) to discuss the link between UNDF and CFS. Overall, LVC established and strengthened relations with high-level institutional actors and FAO staff, which revived interest in the political potential of working with the FAO.

### **Global meetings and Collaborations by the Collective in 2022**

The Public Policy Collective met several times virtually during the year. Members of the Collective also attended the CFS-50 plenary held from 10th to 13th October 2022 at the FAO Headquarters in Rome. Before the plenary, the delegation attended an internal preparatory meeting on 6th October and the CSIPM CC meeting and Forum from 7th to 9th October. During the preparatory meeting, the delegation was introduced to the CFS space and its workstreams and engaged in discussions on a framework document on public policies. The delegation also exchanged ideas with other organizations from International Planning Committee on Food Sovereignty (IPC) attending the CFS.

During the plenary, the member States engaged in prolonged discussions on coordinating policy responses to the global food crisis. The LVC delegation, along with other CSIPM delegates, made several interventions to encourage countries to recognize the crisis's root causes and take appropriate measures.

However, an agreement could not be reached, and for the first time in the history of the CFS, the plenary was adjourned. The meeting concluded in a hybrid format on 19th December 2022.

### **Collaborating with the International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty (IPC)**

In 2022, the La Via Campesina (LVC) members and staff supported the International Planning Committee (IPC) in all its activities, including virtual meetings and an in-person Facilitation Committee meeting in Rome. During the meeting, which took place between September 10th and 13th, several decisions were made to improve the internal functioning of the IPC and its structure, such as creating working groups on fundraising and financial management, women and diversities, and formation. Additionally, it was proposed that one representative from each working group participate in Facilitation Committee meetings to improve coordination and information flow.

Regarding the Nyéléni Global Forum process, the IPC agreed on the characteristics of organizations to include in the convergence process and the strategic axis to build the process. It was also decided that the Global Nyéléni Forum will take place in India in 2025, and a roadmap was developed to guide the planning process towards the forum.

The delegation also met with the Food and Agriculture Organization's Partnership Office during the in-person meeting. Overall, the meeting was significant in advancing the IPC's goals and improving its effectiveness through better coordination and planning.

### **Major Regional Initiatives of 2022**

The Global Forum of the United Nations Decade of Family Farming (UNDF) is approaching, and in preparation, a series of Regional Dialogues have been organized in various regions by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). The La Via Campesina (LVC) organization reached out to LVC Regional Secretariats to ensure that peasant organizations are present at these events. Peasant organizations were successfully present at the events held in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Europe and Central Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean.

LVC members contributed to the regional consultations on generational turnover through the International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty (IPC). The consultations aimed to gather opinions, experiences, knowledge, and ideas from youth and non-youth peasants,

family farmers, Indigenous People, pastoralists, and fisherfolks. The consultations also provided an opportunity to identify necessary policies and actions to facilitate generational turnover in family farming.

LVC members also contributed to the online Popular Regional Consultations on the COVID-19 pandemic, conflicts, and crises' impacts on the right to food and food sovereignty. These consultations were held from July 7 to July 21 and involved social movements, civil society, and Indigenous Peoples organizations. The objective was to gather evidence on the impacts of these multiple crises and the necessary changes to address current challenges and achieve the right to food for all.

### Publications and Key Documents from 2022

In 2022, certain members of the public policies collective collaborated on the creation of an illustrated book, with artwork by Annelise Verdier, that focused on the issue of corporate takeover in food production at all levels. The book showcases the contrast between agribusiness-led and peasant-led visions of producing, distributing, and consuming food.

It exposes the attempt to corporatize agriculture and food production, highlighting the exploitation of cheap labor and the promotion of cutthroat competition for profits in the industrial food system. The book also depicts the resistance of peasants, workers, and indigenous peoples who are working together for a more equitable and sustainable food production system aimed at achieving food sovereignty. In 2022, La Via Campesina joined forces with the wider Food Sovereignty movement to produce four editions of the Nyeleni Newsletter. The final edition, released in December 2022, was created by the Peasant Youth Articulation of La Via Campesina, focusing on the part played by young peasants in the democratization of food systems.



## B.5 CLIMATE JUSTICE: HIGHLIGHTS OF 2022



### Global policy, Alliances and Advocacy Work of 2022

In 2022, La Via Campesina's International Working Collective on Climate and Environmental Justice made its presence felt at the UN Framework

Convention on Climate Change's (UNFCCC) Conference of the Parties (COP27) in Egypt. During the two weeks of COP27, they had an active presence with an informational booth and events aimed at promoting their vision of climate justice and critiquing agribusiness influence at the Summit.

With a diverse delegation from Africa, Asia, the Americas, and Europe, including two women leaders from LVC's International Coordination Committee, they constructed a declaration exposing corporate influence at the UNFCCC and engaged in open dialogue with allies to demand systemic change. La Via Campesina promoted "Peasants' Rights and Agroecology for Food Sovereignty" as necessary conditions for a climate just transition for peasant farmers.

### **Global meetings and Collaborations by the Collective in 2022**

In preparation for COP27, LVC's International Working Collective on Climate and Environmental Justice held virtual meetings to update themselves on global efforts for peasant agroecology and food sovereignty within the Climate Justice Movement. During a meeting on April 13th, participants discussed grassroots organizing efforts and ways to support one another in peasant-led struggles for a climate just transition. The call also included a training session on digitalization. In October, the full Collective reviewed draft programming for LVC at COP27 and discussed communication strategies, specific messaging, and key talking points.

They also co-hosted a virtual roundtable discussion in November with panelists and participants discussing critical issues and false solutions that threaten rural, peasant, indigenous, forest-dwelling, and fisherfolk communities. The discussion fed into LVC's convergence at COP27 where they constructed a damning declaration of corporate influence, engaged in dialogue and convergence with allies demanding systemic change, maintained an active presence with an informational booth, and held events promoting their vision of climate justice while critiquing agribusiness influence.

The presence of LVC's International Working Collective on Climate and Environmental Justice, including two women leaders of LVC's International Coordination Commission, was of great importance in shaping the larger Climate Justice Movement's response to COP27.

### **Major Regional Initiatives of 2022**

La Via Campesina (LVC) and its member organizations have been actively engaged in various actions and initiatives around the world to push for climate and food justice. In November 2022, the European Coordination Via Campesina (ECVC) developed a manifesto with 13 concrete and interdependent

action points for the EU to move towards climate and food justice. ECVC is calling on the EU to rethink the logic behind the carbon farming initiative and ensure a coherent transition to agroecology.

LVC members across Africa engaged in the African People's Counter COP and issued a declaration calling for food sovereignty grounded in agroecology, territorial markets, and peasant rights. LVC SEAf organized a Youth Articulation training in Zimbabwe to build the capacity of young men and women to understand the historical context of existing agriculture and food systems and the practical implementation of agroecology practices.

During the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation meet, LVC members submitted a statement to denounce the Thai state's land grabbing and urged a halt to unjustifiable mega-projects that burn fossil fuels and destroy forest land.

In August of 2022, the youth of CLOC Via Campesina gathered in the Dominican Republic to strengthen peasant struggles for climate justice and food sovereignty.

Additionally, LVC called for solidarity with Pakistani peasant movements affected by unprecedented flooding and denounced the impact of climate change on countries like Pakistan that contribute less than 1% of global carbon emissions but are disproportionately affected. Paksitan Kissan Rabita Committee (PKRC), LVC member, had formed solidarity groups to provide relief materials to affected families.

### **Publications and Key Documents from 2022**

The European Coordination Via Campesina (ECVC) released a publication titled "Carbon farming: A 'new business model'...for who?" on March 23, 2022.

The publication warns of the dangers of the carbon farming initiative, which has put a price on the "carbon sequestration" function of soils and biomass, making it a false solution to climate change. ECVC states that this initiative is harmful to food sovereignty as large transnational corporations and states are grabbing land and depriving small farmers and indigenous peoples of their livelihoods in order to offset their high carbon emissions and achieve "zero neutrality."

## B.6 WTO & FTAs: HIGHLIGHTS OF 2022



### Global policy, Alliances and Advocacy Work of 2022

Since the establishment of the World Trade Organization (WTO) in 1995, La Via Campesina has been condemning the neoliberal and free trade policies that are damaging the peasantry and disrupting local food systems worldwide. In June 2022, La Via Campesina made its presence known in Geneva, organizing public demonstrations, open forums, and press conferences outside the meeting venue of the 12th Ministerial meeting of the WTO (MC - 12) to express its opposition to the organization's policies.

During the week, La Via Campesina called on its members and allies across countries to hold public meetings, conferences, demonstrations, fairs, issue public statements and press releases between the 10th and 15th of June, and expose the impact of Free Trade Agreements and WTO policies on small-scale food producers in rural and urban areas. On June 11th, the peasant youth organized a virtual forum against the WTO and showed solidarity with the street mobilizations happening in Geneva. La Via Campesina emphasized through media op-eds and other channels that increasing the number of free trade agreements will not resolve the food crisis, and called out excessive speculation by investment firms and funds in the commodities markets, which has led to an increase in food and farm input prices. The peasant movement concluded its Geneva Mobilizations by urging the Members States of the WTO

to withdraw from the organization, immediately suspend the Agreement on Agriculture, and establish a new global trade framework for agriculture based on the principles of food sovereignty and solidarity.

### Global meetings and Collaborations by the Collective in 2022

On June 27, 2022, La Via Campesina and Focus on the Global South held a virtual meeting to conduct a critical evaluation of the MC 12 'Geneva Package,' with a particular focus on public health, agriculture, and fisheries. During the meeting, the participants highlighted that the outcomes of the Geneva Ministerial are only beneficial to developed countries and large corporations. Essentially, the developing world has emerged from MC-12 without health security, food security, and with weakened collective positions. The peasants, indigenous peoples, and working class in the North, who are already marginalized by excessive industrialization and corporate dominance, have nothing to gain from the MC-12 outcomes.

### Major Regional Initiatives of 2022

In the week leading up to the 12th WTO Ministerial Conference in Geneva, various civil society organizations took action to advocate for their concerns. Members of the Bhartiya Kisan Union (BKU), India and allies met with the country's official delegation in Geneva to discuss food and agricultural policies aimed at self-sufficiency. Meanwhile, MOKATIL in

Timor Leste launched a campaign against joining the WTO, and La Via Campesina supported this effort by sending a letter to the national government expressing concerns that small-scale food producers would be further marginalized.

In South East and East Asia, La Via Campesina continued to protest regional and bilateral trade agreements like the CPTPP and RCEP. In South Korea, the Korean Peasant League and Korean Peasant Women's Association held demonstrations calling for measures to guarantee the price of rice.

In Southern and Eastern Africa, the Zimbabwean Small Holder Organic Forum (ZIMSOFF) worked with Cambridge University Press to publish an academic paper capturing attempts by peasants to organize beyond their local realities to increase their political power and promote their vision of international economic law.

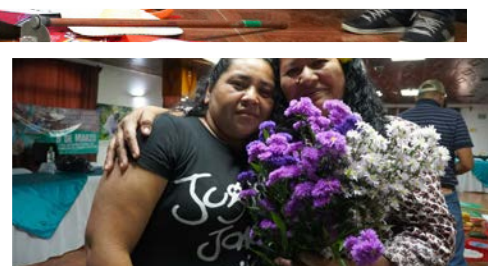
In Europe, the ECVC denounced the EU-New Zealand Trade deal, citing concerns that New Zealand's industrial agribusinesses operate at lower production costs, leading to depressed world market prices for certain animal products.

## Publications and Key Documents from 2022

La Via Campesina, in collaboration with Focus on the Global South, created a briefing paper entitled "*WTO's 2022 Geneva Package: Historic or Just Rhetoric?*" that provides a broader political context and a perspective from social movements, small-scale producers, and working classes globally on the outcomes of MC-12. The Geneva Declaration, which was released by La Via Campesina in June 2022, was also included in this document. It outlines a new vision for agricultural trade based on the principles of food sovereignty.

In addition to the briefing paper, La Via Campesina produced a series of infographics and posters during the Geneva mobilization. These materials highlight the crises caused by neoliberal policies and provide essential elements for an alternative trade framework based on food sovereignty principles.

## B.7 FOR THE RIGHTS OF MIGRANT WORKERS: HIGHLIGHTS OF 2022



### Global policy, Alliances and Advocacy Work of 2022

Together with allies from the Permanent Peoples' Tribunal, the Transnational Migrant Platform, the Campaign "Rights No Deaths", and others, La Via Campesina organized a virtual public event on Sunday,

December 11th, to mark International Migrant Day. Nine LVC delegates participated, as well as four technical staff and LVC volunteer interpreters. This online forum aimed to strengthen national campaigns on regularization at the European level in continuation of the "March to Brussels" (elaborated further in the section about regional activities) and to sustain

an innovative and intersectional approach to migration-related issues by building and strengthening alliances among social movements, trade unions, and engaged citizens organizations and networks. International perspectives were brought by several LVC members and members of allied organizations from the US-Mexico border, Haiti, Honduras, Morocco, Palestine, Spain, and France. Interventions highlighted the continuing offensive on the human rights of migrant and refugee people, the often dramatic working conditions they experience in different sectors including agriculture, but also the many strategies of resistance and protest.

Among the conclusions of the forum, it was agreed on the importance of continuing to facilitate the self-organization of migrant workers and to develop further alliances and stronger convergences within the framework of the Global Pact of Solidarity for the Rights of Migrants and Refugees. More specifically, it will be important to strengthen national and local level campaigns and to build the campaign framework at the regional level, to develop appropriate education resources, and to facilitate the sharing of experience on campaign strategies. It is also fundamental to articulate the struggle in an intersectional way.

### **Global meetings and Collaborations by the Collective in 2022**

In 2022, the Collective organized a Global Meeting of La Via Campesina focusing on the Rights of Migrant and Rural Workers. Around 50 people, including technical staff and interpreters, convened in Tegucigalpa, Honduras from October 25th-29th. The meeting aimed to discuss and plan proposals of action for defending the rights of agricultural waged workers and migrants, applying the UN Peasants' Rights Declaration (UNDROP) specifically for these groups, and defending them against criminalization and repression.

Honduras was picked as the meeting location due to its critical geographic position in the middle of migratory routes in the American continent, as well as its agricultural sector dominated by transnational corporations. The meeting offered a strong opportunity for sharing, reflection, and planning on critical issues linked to labor exploitation in agriculture and violation of the most basic rights in fields and throughout migration routes. With the active participation of delegates and strong support from local organizations, the meeting was a success.

Unfortunately, several peasant leaders from Asia and Africa couldn't attend due to difficulties obtaining transit visas. Thus, the meeting adopted a hybrid approach to encourage remote participation by delegates and allies, though virtual attendance remained modest.

At the end of the meeting, a strong political declaration highlighting main lines of action for the future was issued. An ambitious and comprehensive series of proposals have been developed focusing on three main axes: fighting against agribusiness and transitioning to agroecology and food sovereignty, combating criminalization, repression, persecution, and violence against rural wage workers and migrants, and organizing the Collective and its work strategies. The proposals included building an international campaign against agribusiness with allies, conducting actions to facilitate unionization processes for migrants and rural workers, establishing a permanent mechanism for denouncing situations faced by migrant people and rural workers, campaigning against border militarization, collaborating with allies, particularly through active participation in migrant caravans and the Permanent Peoples' Tribunal, and strengthening the Pact of Solidarity.

### **Major Regional Initiatives of 2022**

In 2022, the European Coordination Via Campesina (ECVC) Rural Workers and Migration Collective and the Arab and North African members of La Via Campesina (ArNA) engaged in a range of actions focused on solidarity, training, networking, lobbying, and communication. The members met in various regions to report on the working conditions of migrants in the agro-industrial sector and to carry out training actions on access to the law, particularly for women who make up the majority of workers in these farms and suffer from undignified working conditions, harassment and aggression.

In Galicia, Spain, the collective elaborated a holistic strategy to defend workers' rights that takes into account the impact of the agro-industrial model on local communities, working conditions, and the environment. The collective also helped build the Agroecology or Barbary network, which aims to consolidate advocacy actions around the issue of the transition from an agro-industrial model to an agroecological peasant model that guarantees employment and the preservation of natural resources. The members also met in Heulva (Andalusia) and Alentejo (Portugal) to report on the working

conditions of migrants in the agro-industrial sector of red fruit production, which follows an agrarian model that is undignified for workers, peasant communities and the environment. There, training actions on access to the law were carried out between foreign workers from North Africa and Andalusian trade unions, with a particular focus on the training of women, who are the majority of workers in these farms and suffer from undignified working conditions, harassment and aggression.

The collective expressed solidarity with workers exploited by agribusiness through declarations of support for strikes in the ARNA region, leading to the withdrawal of measures by these companies and the reinstatement of ousted trade unionists. The collective also engaged in commercial pressure by contacting distributors of red fruits produced through exploitative conditions and demanding the withdrawal of certain products.

The collective has also started publishing newsletters highlighting the struggles for rural workers' and migrants' rights in Europe.

It is important to note that the ECVC Migration Collective is transregional, with many activities carried out in collaboration with the ARNA region, as the majority of rural workers coming to Europe to seek employment are from Africa. Overall, the collective's actions aimed to defend workers' rights, transition to agroecology, and pressure exploitative agribusiness practices.

Members participated in the Migrants Caravan that was led to Brussels to demand the regularization of all migrants in Europe and the end of the genocidal policy at the borders of the European Union. The March to Brussels and People's Forum, was preceded by a preparatory meeting with representatives of Europe, ARNA, and West Africa.

The collective involved the Moroccan Association of Human Rights (AMDH) to speak about the tragic situation at the Spanish-Moroccan border. The FNSA in Morocco engaged in solidarity actions and negotiations with the company Azura following the death of agricultural worker Sabah Dinar. FNSA supported the workers of Sudophi, a company in Souss Massa that specialized in tomato-based products, in protesting several violations of labor regulations. FNSA demanded the respect of trade union rights and a responsible dialogue with regional authorities to end the conflict, and organized sit-ins and demonstrations to maintain pressure on the company.

In Canada, The National Farmers Union (NFU) published a call on the occasion of International Migrants Day, urging its members and allies to speak up and ensure that no one is left behind by demanding that the Canadian government respects the human rights of migrant farmworkers, regardless of their legal status, in accordance with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas. The NFU asked to send messages to the Federal Cabinet members to let them know that they believe in equality, rights, dignity, and justice for all.

In South Asia, in 2022, LVC members in Bangladesh conducted several activities to address issues concerning agricultural workers. These activities included the opening ceremony of the 7th National Conference of the Bangladesh Agricultural Farm Labour Federation, which was attended by around 3,000 representatives from different regions of the country. The conference resulted in the adoption of 19 decisions related to migrant and agricultural workers. Additionally, several other meetings were organized throughout the year, such as a discussion meeting with the leadership of the Ishwardi Agricultural Research Farm Workers, a meeting with workers from the Baradi Agricultural Farm in Meherpur, and a meeting with Sericulture farm workers in Bogura, among others.

## Solidarity Actions and Communique in 2022

The struggle for migrant and rural workers' rights faced significant challenges in 2022. La Via Campesina's Migration and Rural Work collective issued a joint communiqué denouncing the June 24 massacre at the Europe-Africa border, where over 30 sub-Saharan people were killed and thousands injured. The Spanish and Moroccan governments' investigations have failed to hold those responsible accountable. In another statement, La Via Campesina expressed indignation at the death of 53 Latin American migrants found dead in a cargo truck in San Antonio, Texas. The movement called on international bodies to investigate the atrocity that exposed the harsh reality of forced or voluntary migration.

La Via Campesina also denounced the violation of migrant workers' rights in the fields and food industry. They expressed solidarity with the National Federation of the Agricultural Sector and the workers of the Azura and Sudaphi companies, who were fighting against labor precariousness and the violation of workers' trade union rights.

La Via Campesina echoed the FNSA's voice, which has been steadfastly struggling and mobilizing against the precarious working conditions that many companies implement in Morocco.

After the Global Meeting of La Via Campesina on the rights of migrants and rural workers held in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, a political declaration marked the main lines of action that the collective will follow in the coming months. The Global Pact of Solidarity for the Rights of Migrants and Refugees was confirmed as an essential political tool.

The movement expressed the need to implement information campaigns to promote the unionization of migrant workers and intensify solidarity actions in migratory passes where human rights violations are rampant. La Via Campesina also ratified the key role of Agroecology as a political tool to strengthen dignified life in the countryside and confront migration from rural areas. The declaration was disseminated in graphic versions on social networks to reach a wider audience.



# C THE ARTICULATIONS

## C.1 YOUTH ARTICULATION: HIGHLIGHTS OF 2022



**P**easant Youth is central to La Via Campesina's mission of achieving food sovereignty through agroecology and defending the rights of peasants. They inject fresh energy into the movement and are actively involved in building its presence and influence at the national, regional, and global levels. Throughout 2022, the Youth Articulation of La Via Campesina made an effort to ensure that youth delegates from each region had equal participation in the movement's leadership and processes.

Providing political and agroecological education for youth remains a top priority at the national, regional, and international levels. The agroecology processes and schools established in all regions are designed to help peasant youth engage in these educational initiatives. In 2022, the movement organized a Political Formation on Internationalism and Solidarity for the peasant youth.

The activities and meetings held in 2022 have further strengthened the perspective of peasant youth, especially in the context of a rapidly changing global environment, as La Via Campesina prepares for its 8th International Conference in Colombia in 2023. The struggles that peasant youth are involved in will

be discussed in the Youth Assembly to be held in Colombia before the International Conference. In this context, the active involvement and participation of peasant youth in the working collectives focused on agroecology, trade, climate justice, and public policies, as well as their contribution to the creation of a platform for debates on diversity, are gaining prominence.

### **Summary of youth articulations inputs to the different thematic collective or processes in 2022**

In 2022, the peasant youth played a pivotal role in La Via Campesina's protests against the WTO's 12th Ministerial Meeting in Geneva. Members of the Youth Articulation participated in street mobilizations, contributed to developing an alternative trade framework based on food sovereignty, and engaged in public forums and press conferences. In June, they organized an online forum where they discussed the negative impacts of free trade agreements on local peasant economies and the future of farming in the context of digitalization. From May to October 2022, LVC youth participated in consultations organized by the International Planning Committee for

Food Sovereignty (IPC) in collaboration with the FAO under the UN Decade of Family Farming (UNDF) framework. The regional consultations focused on Pillar 2 of the Decade, which addressed youth migration, gender inequalities, land and market access, and the intergenerational transfer of productive resources and knowledge. The consultations aimed to identify common challenges and policy approaches to generational turnover in family farming, and the outcomes will contribute to the implementation of the Decade's Global Action Plan.

In March 2022, the Youth Articulation partnered with the Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples' Mechanism (CSIPM) to participate in the UN Committee on World Food Security (CFS) policy process titled "Promoting Youth Engagement and Employment in Agriculture and Food Systems." They stressed the need to shift towards food sovereignty to realize youth rights, which requires member states to acknowledge and implement human rights instruments such as the UN Declaration on Rights of Peasants (UNDRP) and Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). They also called for enabling environments that guarantee youth access to farmland, the protection of ecosystems against extractivism, and the establishment of democratically run local or territorial food systems.

### Global and Regional Meetings in 2022

La Via Campesina's peasant youth members engaged in promoting agroecological practices in almost all regions. In January, representatives from 11 countries in South America, Central America, North America, and the Caribbean participated in the Continental Meeting on Youth and Agroecology in the Dominican Republic. They exchanged productive experiences within the framework of their cultures, struggles, and internationalism.

In February, La Via Campesina's member, Assembly of the Poor, organized a study session and field visits in Thailand for its young members. The session focused on political and pragmatic training on organic food production, collective production planning and marketing, native seed saving, direct sale of vegetable baskets, and peasant-owned saving funds.

In March, a similar workshop was held in Indonesia that lasted for a total of 30 days and was attended by 14 young peasants from Serikat Petani Indonesia. The formation aimed to strengthen agroecological practices in Food Sovereignty areas. Serikat Petani Indonesia now has 11 fully operational Food

Sovereignty Areas, which spread all across Indonesia from Aceh to South Borneo. In June, ahead of the G7 meeting, the German government organized the "Uniting for Food Security" conference. In response, the peasant youth through LVC's member organization AbL held a demonstration highlighting the contradiction between the conference chair's call to strengthen the Committee on World Food Security and the creation of the Global Alliance for Food Security. They pointed out that the move undermines the work done inside the CFS and its reforms over the years.

In July, peasant youth from Southern and Eastern Africa (LVC SEAf) met in Zimbabwe for the 2022 LVC SEAf Youth Articulation meeting. They also had a self-organized formation moment on the Political Economy and Agroecology in Africa. In a Declaration issued, they called upon States to support the strengthening of youth's skill development that protects and restores ecosystems.

In August, the National Camp of Food Sovereignty held at Papaye saw participation from 233 delegates of peasant youth from 10 regions of Haiti. They expressed concern over the disappearance of local food production due to the State's abandonment of peasant agriculture to facilitate neoliberal policies that eliminate national food production. They stated that governance in Haiti has been hijacked by criminal gangs with vested interests, and young people are forced to leave the country for better opportunities elsewhere.

In October, the Peasant Youth Articulation members from South Asia, East Asia, and South East Asia visited local peasant communities in Thailand's Surat Thani province and engaged in debates, discussions, and exchanges on agroecological farming at a Continental encounter of the Youth hosted by the Assembly of the Poor.

The Youth Articulation also showed solidarity with people's struggles worldwide. The youth's contributed to constructing an internationalist movement, including anti-WTO mobilizations in Geneva – both on the streets and also virtually to be able to gather more participation all across the world. Additionally, solidarity actions were taken in support of student movements in Sri Lanka and Thailand who were jailed for participating in protests for social justice and democracy.

## Publications and Key Documents from 2022

The Youth Articulation of La Via Campesina produced the December issue of the Nyeleni Newsletter. In the newsletter, they emphasized the urgent need for global food governance institutions and governments to recognize that the key to addressing the global food crisis is to empower communities of peasants, Indigenous Peoples, migrant workers, landworkers, small-scale fishers, and pastoralists to build food sovereignty in their own territories.

The youth called on States to support food systems that are built in an agroecological way and that prioritize the well-being of people and the environment. They also stressed the importance of creating favorable conditions for young and future small-scale food producers to participate in the production process and to protect and expand diverse, decentralized, and resilient food systems.

## C.2 / WOMEN ARTICULATION: HIGHLIGHTS OF 2022



As a peasant movement, our objective is to ensure that all members of our base - children, youth, women, diversities, and men - have a space in the construction of our collective objectives, which aim to achieve well-being in our territories, as well as food sovereignty. In 2022, we commemorated 30 years of LVC, and as women, we played a significant role in this process, dedicating our energies to training and taking permanent actions. We also worked in unity with women around the world on March 8 and November 25, participated in the Stop Violence Against Women Campaign, and contributed to Capire - a collective communication tool that has been consolidating for two years with the World March of Women and Friends of the Earth.

### Training:

In August, the Women's Articulation decided to hold a training program for the entire movement. The program consisted of three three-day sessions (on the 10th, 17th, and 31st), and approximately 110 women participated each day.

To make these training sessions possible, the Articulation and the Political Pedagogical Commission held several meetings to plan and coordinate the themes, as well as provide a space for training and reaffirmation of collective tasks.

The themes covered over the three days were:

10 August: Women in LVC - history and the way forward.

Objective - To reflect on our past achievements and identify opportunities for further progress (It was important to have the presence of women who have played a pivotal role in building LVC, as well as young women who represent the future of the movement).

17 August: Feminism and class struggle - the importance of rural-urban alliances.

Objective - To explore the commonalities between working-class women and the significance of forging alliances between rural and urban women in the fight for liberation (We had the presence of allies who are involved in rural struggles).

31 August: Peasant and Popular Feminism - the ideological construction and working with our base.

Objective - To understand what FCP (Peasant and Popular Feminism) means and how it differs from feminism. Also, to explore ways of working at the grassroots level of our organizations.

### **Solidarity Actions**

On March 8, 2022, International Women Workers' Day, women from La Via Campesina and around the world commemorated the day with acts of denunciation, mysticism, formation, and rebellion. With the slogan "Sowing Food Sovereignty and Solidarity, We Harvest Rights and Dignified Life!" hundreds of decentralized actions took place in the territories. Organizations from countries such as Brazil, Paraguay, Chile, Honduras, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Indonesia, Korea, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Nepal, and India recorded the main symbolic actions. Women from rural and urban areas mobilized and denounced the capitalist and patriarchal system that exploits and oppresses.

"In a scenario of brutal violence and capitalist, patriarchal, and racist exploitation that oppresses women, peasants, landless people, migrants, seasonal workers, children, indigenous people, black people, and those from diverse backgrounds, we call for unity of action to make visible and denounce this political and economic system that uses the exploitation of women's labor force, their bodies, and natural resources to generate more profit. This system causes unemployment, hunger, homelessness, and increasingly precarious living conditions. It has turned health and education into privileges," stated the call to action.

On November 25, 2022, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, we, as peasants organized in La Via Campesina, demand food sovereignty, the right to land, an end to criminalization, and all types of violence in both the fields and cities. At the same time, we denounce the alarming figures of violence against women, children, and diverse communities in times of food, political, and economic crises. It is urgent to build societies that are free of violence and communities of peace with social justice. On this occasion, hundreds of actions were reported by member organizations of La Via Campesina. In their call for unity of action, they affirmed, "We defend food sovereignty and our territories against violence, evictions, and agribusiness!"

### **Alliances:**

Capire: Two years ago, the World March of Women, La Via Campesina, and Friends of the Earth created a feminist communication tool called Capire.

During 2022, La Via Campesina worked actively in planning, producing, and disseminating content for Capire. We produced 13 articles and interviews based on our political agenda and priorities as a movement, as well as our days of action. These articles were translated into 4 languages and shared on Capire and La Via Campesina's website. Our goal is to amplify women's voices and protagonism, showcasing our diversity of struggles and actions as our strength. In 2022, Capire received 233,658 views, and the total number of users was 145,178.

# D OTHER PROCESSES

## D.1 BUILDING THE MOVEMENT IN ARAB WORLD AND NORTH AFRICA (ARNA)



**T**he ArNa Process, which is La Via Campesina's articulation of peasant organizations in the Arab World and North Africa, achieved significant progress in 2022. Led by UAWC-Palestine, MRWL-Tunisia, and FNSA-Morocco, the Process convened its Fourth Regional Conference and "Constitutive Assembly" in October 2022, with the hope of being formally recognized and accepted as the tenth region of La Via Campesina during the 8th International Conference in November 2023. The Assembly was attended by existing and new member organizations from Egypt, Iraq, Mauritania, and Sudan, who discussed the future of the region, integration with La Via Campesina International, and participation in the International Coordinating Committee (ICC). During the Assembly's closing, they sent a fraternal audio-visual greeting to all other regions of the Movement preparing for the 8th Conference and released the "Declaration of Hammamet," stating their intention to formalize their involvement in La Via Campesina.

La Via Campesina was attentive to the geopolitical situation in the region and its impact on the peasantry. In January, La Via Campesina expressed solidarity with the workers' struggle in Morocco against Azura, a French agribusiness firm.

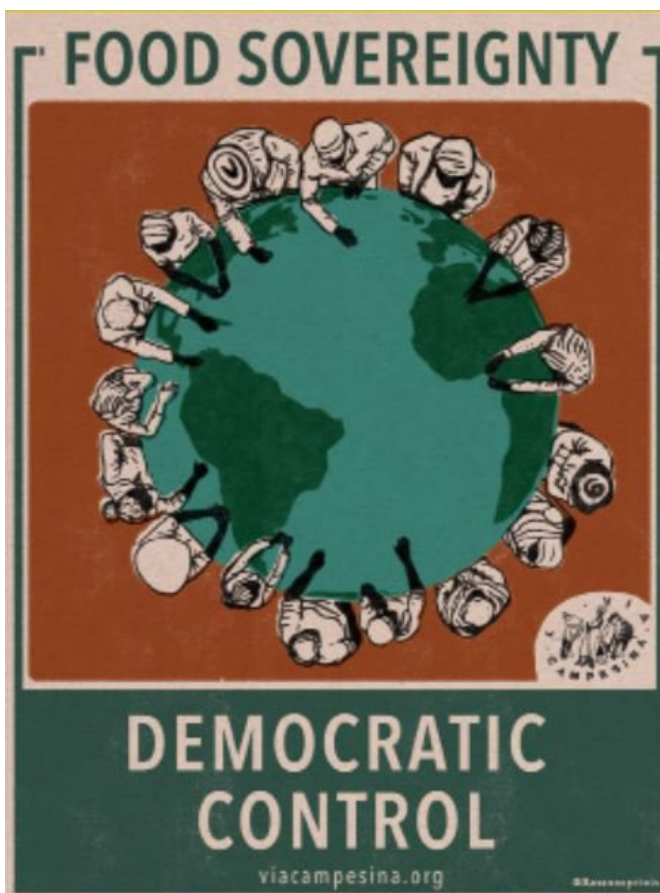
According to FNSA, the LVC member in the struggle, Azura refused to engage in dialogue with workers and their representatives on working conditions and dismissed a worker representative from a farm without the agreement of the Labour Inspectorate, which violates the Moroccan Labor Code. The company also refused to attend the conciliation meetings called by the Labour Inspectorate.

In June, the European Coordination Via Campesina and FNSA in Morocco drew attention to the workers' struggle against Sudaphi, part of the Premium Foods Solutions group, located in the province of Inezgane Ait Melloul in Souss Massa, Morocco. The unions alleged that Sudaphi unilaterally subjected all of its incumbent staff to a new written contract that threatens workers' job security and their transfer to production sites far from their homes, without consulting the company's employees or their elected representatives. In December, FNSA activists were also attacked during a protest outside the Ministry of Agriculture. La Via Campesina issued a statement condemning the crackdown and called on the authorities to begin a serious dialogue with FNSA.

In December, La Via Campesina responded to another attack on the Palestinian people by the occupying Israeli forces. According to estimates released by LVC's member organizations and allies, the occupation soldiers and Israeli settlers killed 217 Palestinians in 2022, most of whom were under 20 years old.

The occupying forces also destroyed hundreds of agricultural facilities and confiscated thousands of agricultural dunams to build over 10,000 new settlement units.

## D.2 BUILDING THE NYÉLÉNI GLOBAL FORUM



La Via Campesina is an active member of the International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty (IPC). In 2022, the IPC prioritized the organization of the next Nyéléni global forum, which is expected to take place in India in the first quarter of 2025. During a facilitation committee meeting held in Rome in September 2022, several important decisions were made regarding the forum's organization and strategic direction.

The IPC outlined certain "red lines" for organizations and movements that wish to participate in the Nyéléni forum, including a commitment to systemic change, social justice, internationalism, and people's sovereignty. Political parties, corporations, and governments will not be involved in the process. The first proposed strategic axis for the Nyéléni process is "Land and Territory," which will allow for articulation with other processes such as climate justice and protection of biodiversity. Two levels of coordination were proposed: a global steering committee that includes all IPC constituencies and regional sub-structures to serve specific needs.

The IPC regions will be responsible for identifying and reaching out to regional organizations and movements to be involved in the Nyéléni process and the International Steering Committee. An updated global context analysis document will be shared with organizations beyond the IPC.

The facilitation committee also decided to organize an extended meeting of the International Steering Committee in Mexico in early 2024 to further plan the Nyéléni forum. The key objective of the forum is to contribute to strengthening the Asia-Pacific region. Overall, the decisions made during the IPC meeting in Rome set the stage for a collaborative and inclusive Nyéléni global forum in 2025.

## D.3 THE COLOMBIA PEACE PROCESS



Last year 2022 marked a significant milestone for the Colombian people, particularly for their various social organizations, including peasants, fisherfolk, Afro-descendants, and others who strive to achieve food sovereignty and fight for territorial rights. The country also saw the election of two prominent peace advocates, Gustavo Petro as President and Francia Márquez as Vice President.

La Via Campesina, as an active observer of the Peace Accord signed between the Colombian government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) in 2016, accompanied the celebrations of popular and progressive forces motivated by the rise of the new government. A delegation from LVC, consisting of members of the International Coordination Committee and peasant leaders from France and Nicaragua, engaged in talks with CLOC-Colombia to strengthen cooperation and promote advances in rural reform (point 1 of the Peace Accord).

The statement released by LVC emphasized the need for the new government to form alliances to implement the Peace Accord fully. These alliances should aim to achieve integral rural reform, promote democratic opening, end the conflict, solve the illicit drug problem, and provide reparations for victims of the armed conflict. The State should work together with accompanying organizations to ensure respect for human rights, the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines on governance of land, family agriculture, and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants (UNDROP).

The new government, in partnership with peasant organizations, has taken significant steps in consolidating agrarian reform in Colombia. The Ministry of Agriculture presented a bill to Congress recognizing the peasantry as a political subject and acknowledging their rights expressed in the UNDROP.

As part of LVC's accompaniment and monitoring of the Peace Process, new editions of the Bulletin *Alto Al Fuego* were published in 2022 and nearly 22 news reports, each prepared in at least three languages were disseminated to inform members and allies about the progress and obstacles in realizing peace in Colombia.

## D.4 BUILDING SPACES FOR DIVERSITY



2022 saw the continuity of a line of work that began at the 7th International Conference of La Via Campesina in Derio, Basque Country. Then, a self-organized side meeting of LGBT+ people and allies opened the debate in the movement for the first time in history, making visible the existence of LGBT+ peasants, and managed to include specific commitments and acknowledgements in the final declaration: the recognition of lack of tolerance to diversity as part of the process of dispossession of the rural youth, the commitment to increase capacities to understand

and create positive environments around gender within our organizations and in alliances and declaring a diverse, non-violent and inclusive countryside as fundamental for La Via Campesina.

In line with these definitions, La Vía Campesina has been developing different actions at the international and regional level, keeping always in mind the challenge of unity in diversity and the heterogeneity of internal positions in the different regions. That said, with the commitment to make progress on this area of work an internal international team was created to ensure follow through.

At regional level, work has been done on internal capacity building with training seminars (for example, the LGBT+ collective of La Vía Campesina Brazil), the inclusion of LGBT+ issues in key initiatives of national organizations (for example, the “Draft Constitution by the Poor”, of the Assembly of the Poor, Thailand) and even the creation of diversity collectives in the internal structure of the organization (European region).

Members of La Vía Campesina participated in the global conference of ILGA (International Association of Lesbians, Gays, Bisexuals, Trans and Intersex people) to generate alliances, make visible the existence of rural diversities and highlight the importance of addressing their specific problems.

Active advocacy work was carried out in the UN Committee on Food Security through the Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples Mechanism in relation to the voluntary guidelines on gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, specifically demanding the inclusion of gender and sexual diversity. Although this initiative was blocked, the work in the negotiations will continue to fight for the inclusion of the rural LGBT+ population.

The international team, currently focused on the road to the 8th Conference, contributed to promoting the debate in the International Coordination Committee, where 3 important points were approved: the inclusion of a document for debate on gender diversity be discussed in the 8th Conference, political support for a possible face-to-face international meeting on diversities and holding a meeting on gender and sexual diversity as an official part of the program of the 8th Conference.



# E INTERNAL FUNCTIONING

## E.1 THE INTERNATIONAL COORDINATION COMMITTEE

The International Coordination Committee of La Via Campesina (ICC), oversees the implementation of the action plan defined at the VIIth International Conference (Derio, 2017) and further evaluated and updated at the Mid-Term Conference (Harare, 2019). The committee met physically (face to face) twice during the year (in April and December) and once via video conferencing in February, marking the first on-site meeting since 2020 as pandemic-related travel restrictions had eased up.

In April, the ICC convened its first meeting of the year in Managua, Nicaragua, which was also an occasion to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the global peasant movement and to prepare for the 8th International Conference scheduled for 2023 in Colombia. Recognizing the International Conference as the highest space for consultation, action-plan formulation, and decision-making in the movement, the ICC leadership initiated a call to all regions of the peasant movement to commence the regional processes towards this Conference. These processes, comprising regional meetings, consultations, debates, and analyses, are expected to take place throughout 2022 and 2023.

At the same meeting, the ICC launched a resource mobilization campaign to gather nearly 500 delegates at the conference from around the world in 2023. Working groups were also established to begin preparations for the 8th Conference.

In December, the ICCs met again in Nepal, where they reviewed aspects of participant distribution by region, local hosting preparations and logistics, resource mobilization status, and more. They also created the official slogan and related communications pack for the conference and defined the global spokespersons for the Conference. They developed a strategic roadmap of events for 2023, with the Conference as the central priority. Furthermore, they worked on almost ten political debate documents that analyze the current context of food production, the global food system, the situation of the peasantry, and related topics. These documents will be further developed in 2023 through additional consultations at the regional and global levels and will provide the foundational framework for the Conference in Colombia and the action plan that will be developed and ratified by the Conference participants for the period 2024-2028.

## E.2 THE INTERNATIONAL OPERATIVE SECRETARIAT (IOS)

The International Operative Secretariat of La Via Campesina, a collective of technical-support met in Bilbao, Basque Country in September 2022. The meeting, which took place after a gap of three years owing to pandemic-induced restrictions – allowed the technical staff to review and reorganise their work of accompanying the ICC and the global movement. A meeting of the regional secretariats, originally planned to take place in Bilbao simultaneously, had to be postponed to early 2023 owing to logistical and other challenges.

The meeting of the IOS, allowed the staff team to rebuild the collective solidarity and commitment, study together the organisational policies and processes and also organise the daily tasks to be in line with the priorities defined at the Managua meeting of the ICC early in the year. During the year the IOS also added capacities in its Bagnolet office in France as well as elsewhere, to enhance its preparation for the 8th conference.

## E.3 COMMUNICATION EFFORTS IN 2022



La Via Campesina's global communication efforts in 2022, as always, were aligned with the political priorities set by the ICC for the year. In April, the movement held events in Managua to commemorate its 30th anniversary. On the 17th of April – The International Day of Peasant Struggles, La Via Campesina launched a communication pack that echoed its slogan "30 years of collective struggle, hope, and solidarity". During the month of April alone, the peasant movement plotted over 60 solidarity actions across the world, by its members and allies, that celebrated and recounted the significant achievements of the movement over the past 30 years. In addition to social media actions and over 30 web-articles that were published to mark the occasion, La Via Campesina also launched a virtual gallery of posters and multi-media productions contributed by artists from around the world to mark three decades of food sovereignty struggles.

La Via Campesina also made a major communications push in June in the context of the 12th Ministerial meeting of the WTO, through infographics, posters, shorts, reels, and targeted social media campaigns (#EndWTO #FreeTradeFuelsHunger #NoFutureWithoutFoodSovereignty). The rallying slogan for all these actions was "Free Trade Fuels Hunger, WTO out of Agriculture" and the communication materials elaborated LVC's pitch for an alternative global trade framework based on the principles of food sovereignty.

Another key aspect of communication in 2022 was the production and dissemination of formation materials. In collaboration with the Peasants Rights Working

Collective and allies and friends of the UNDROP, La Via Campesina produced and disseminated five illustrated booklets and an animation film that demystified the 28 articles that constitute the UN Declaration. A similar effort was also made by the Agroecology and Seeds working collective when they released a series of training modules on peasant seed systems during the year.

La Via Campesina also amplified and globalized local struggles by activating its members around the International Action Days. The rallying call for 8th March – International Working Women's Day of 2022 was "With Food Sovereignty and Solidarity, we harvest rights and a dignified life". Outstanding symbolic actions were carried out by organizations in countries such as Brazil, Paraguay, Chile, Honduras, Kenya, Tanzania, Thailand, Indonesia, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Nepal, and India, where rural and city women mobilized and denounced exploitation and oppression under capitalist patriarchy. The actions in April, as elaborated earlier, marked the 30th anniversary of La Via Campesina. On the 10th of September, to mark the International Day of Action Against the WTO and Free Trade Agreements, La Via Campesina launched a short video that captured the anti-WTO mobilizations in Geneva in June.

In October, the peasant movement's communication efforts to mark the 'International Day of Action for Peoples' Food Sovereignty against Transnational corporations' found resonance among its members and allies. Posters and social media cards enhanced the movement's demand for food sovereignty in the face of multiple crises. As a culmination of October actions, the global movement is launching a new publication, "We Feed the World," an illustrated book that defends peasant agriculture against the aggression and appropriation by transnational agribusiness corporations.

The movement also issued several statements of solidarity and issued Peasant alerts about incidents of repression and violence that were taking place in Sri Lanka, Thailand, Palestine, Morocco, Peru, Haiti, and more.

During the year, La Via Campesina also relaunched its monthly bulletins and in July, launched a

podcast channel that wrapped up monthly updates and alerts from LVC members. An alliance with *Caipire*, a progressive media outlet that gives voice to feminist struggles, resulted in 13 specific articles that captured the diversity of the women's movement within La Via Campesina. Peasant leadership of La Via Campesina also contributed op-eds, took part in panel discussions, and gave interviews to mainstream media on aspects of food sovereignty, global supply chain crisis, WTO Ministerials, and more.

The communication efforts towards the 8th Conference in Colombia also began in 2022, with posters, videos, and other materials lined up for release in the first quarter of 2023. In terms of its media outreach, La Via Campesina strengthened its presence on Instagram, with concerted efforts to create audio-visual content in the form of shorts and reels, resulting in a near-doubling of its followers, which stood at just under 15,000 users by the end of 2022 and reached nearly 43,000 users (nearly 68% women, mostly in the age band of 18-44).

The movement also recorded 500,000 cumulative visits to its global websites that exist in three languages (EN, ES, FR). The total following on its three Twitter handles stood at 43,000 by the end of 2022. On Facebook, the movement crossed 51,000 followers in 2022 and reached nearly 266,000 users (nearly 58% of them women, mostly in the age band of 25-44) with its posts and updates during the year.

La Via Campesina's International Communications Collective also met to reformulate the group on the sidelines of the ICC meeting in Nepal. During the year, regional secretariats, particularly in the Americas and Africa, held communication workshops where technical staff from the International Operative Secretariat also made presentations. In Latin America, CLOC Via Campesina also systematized its efforts to build a communications collective by organizing virtual courses and skills training sessions, as part of its Continental Communications School.

## E.4 LANGUAGE INCLUSION AND THE EFFORTS TO BUILD INTERPRETATION INFRASTRUCTURE IN 2022



Since its beginnings, La Via Campesina has been an international movement with great diversity. As such, it faces the permanent challenge of opening spaces for dialogue and debate between speakers of multiple languages, respecting the principle of linguistic sovereignty: the right of each person to express themselves in their own language. Thus, the tasks of text translation and language interpretation are essential to achieve wide reaching and inclusive international coordination. Managing interpretation and translation at LVC is a critical element within internal tasks, particularly with regard to speed and quality of work.

Despite having built and maintained a wide network of volunteer interpreters and translators for more than 20 years, the pandemic meant a sharp increase in LVC's interpretation demands on this network due to the raise in the frequency of meetings. Remote simultaneous interpretation also involves multiple difficulties and even health risks not present in face to face environments. That is why we decided to introduce a non-obligatory monetary contribution system for interpreters who work above a certain number of hours. This system, incorporated in 2021, successfully completed its first experimental period in September 2022: we verified a more agile coverage of meetings, with greater flexibility and maintaining a high level of interpretation quality. At the same time, the interpreters recognized in this contribution an appreciation of their task and their support on behalf of the movement. The contribution also allowed them to increase the number of hours they could dedicated to LVC.

In total, La Via Campesina sustained its international exchanges thanks to the work of 94 interpreters who provided 1,467 hours of interpretation in

Spanish, French, English, Portuguese, Korean, Bahasa Indonesia, Thai, Japanese, Arabic, Kannada, Sinhalese, among others.

As regards translation, despite being a task that was less impacted by the transformations of the pandemic, in 2022 we also introduced new mechanisms to streamline the management of orders, facilitate their follow-up and produce a clearer record of the volume of translated words that can in turn guide new changes for future improvements in the system.

In the first stage of this new translation management mechanism, we had a partial count of more than 164,000 words translated between Spanish, French, English and occasionally Portuguese throughout 2022. Along with this task, LVC also completed the translation of an important publication on peasant and popular feminism into 9 languages, including Arabic, Korean, Thai, Bambara and Wolof.

# F 2023, THE YEAR OF THE CONFERENCE

**A**t the Nepal meeting of the International Co-ordination Committee, La Via Campesina stepped up its preparations towards the 8th International Conference, scheduled to take place in Bogota in November 2023. The movement has issued a rallying call to reorganize and reunite, expressed through its slogan: "Faced with the Global Crises, we build Food Sovereignty to ensure a Future for Humanity!"

The International Conference is the highest decision-making body of the global coalition, with nearly 500 delegates who debate, study, and analyze the politics of food and food production. It is at this Conference that La Via Campesina defines, updates, and fine-tunes its strategic lines of action for the period to come. Over the course of the year, La Via Campesina will build debates from its bases, based on the lived realities of millions of peasants, indigenous peoples, and rural workers.

The global movement will create spaces for consultations and exchange – such as regional meetings, assemblies of women and youth articulations, and meetings of working collectives – where the organized peasantry comprising women, youth, and people of all diversities will study and analyze the global socio-cultural and economic context that defines the politics of food production.

It is these reflections that will finally arrive in Colombia in 2023 to build LVC's strategic lines of action for the next period.

The world continues to be battered by extreme poverty, hunger, inequality, conflicts, climate crises, and wars. As people at the frontlines of these multifaceted crises, the agrarian and small-scale food-producing communities of the world have a central role to articulate and demand a future that truly belongs to the people who work the land, guard the forests, and wade the waters every day. La Via Campesina, as an expression of this voice of the people, is aware of its responsibility in articulating and accumulating these visions. 2023, therefore, will be a year of organization and consolidation to ensure a future for humanity – one where food sovereignty and social justice become lived realities for people.

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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International Peasant Movement

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