

REAL FOOD IS REAL CONTROL

More and more communities around the world are losing control over their food, and the consequences are devastating. It's harder than ever to know where our food comes from, who grew it, or how it was grown. If we can't even answer these questions, we can't have control over what or how we eat.

FOOD SOVEREIGNTY

is a term coined by the international peasant movement, *The Via Campesina*. It refers to the **rights of people, countries, states, or unions to define their own agriculture and food policy**, giving priority to local production for local consumption. It includes the right of protection and regulation of agricultural and livestock production to shield domestic markets from the dumping of agricultural surpluses and low-price imports from other countries. It requires that landless people, peasants, and small farmers get access to land, water, seeds, productive resources and adequate public services. It advocates for the decentralization of food production and supply chains, **from corporate control to community control**. **Sustainability** is a foundational value for food sovereignty and community food security initiatives.



COMMUNITY FOOD SECURITY

is, most basically, about **making healthy food accessible to all**. It is a condition in which all community residents obtain a safe, culturally appropriate, nutritionally sound diet through an economically and environmentally sustainable food system that promote community self-reliance and social justice. Food sovereignty refers to the basic rights that are foundational to the establishment of community food security projects or initiatives, such as markets, community gardens or farms and local food assessments, food councils, and food-related economic development.

MONSANTO

This multinational corporation is one of many (Syngenta, Cargill, Bunge) that pose huge threats to food sovereignty and community food security. Monsanto is the largest seed company in the world, with 674 current biotechnology patents on seeds. Farmers who buy Monsanto's seed (sometimes without any other choice, if Monsanto has squeezed its way into the country's agriculture and trade agreements) are forbidden from saving the seed for re-planting the following season or selling it to other farmers, which places the farmers in cycles of debt since they must purchase new seed every year. Monsanto aggressively investigates those who they think might be infringing on their patent right. All of this serves to take control away from the producer, who then cannot even save his or her own seed, let alone the biodiversity that is destroyed to make way for monocultures of genetically-engineered varieties.



The Via Campesina News about the international peasant movement, research and resources about their struggles. www.viacampesina.org

Community Food Security Coalition resources and research about programs and initiatives around the US www.foodsecurity.org

Food Security Learning Center Extensive resources about all sorts of community food security issues and programs. www.whyhunger.org/programs/fslc

Navdanya a network of organic producers and seed-savers across India. Lots of news about seed and food sovereignty. www.navdanya.org

Transition Movement grassroots community movements for sustainability and self-sufficiency.

Farm to Consumer Legal Defense Fund An international network of farmers and consumers working to protect food sovereignty. Regular news updates and alerts. www.farmtoconsumer.org

READ: Vandana Shiva, Raj Patel and Naomi Klein have written lots about the threats of multinational corporations and what communities around the world are doing for food security and sovereignty.

WATCH: these films highlight aspects of struggles for food sovereignty:

The Corporation

The Garden

The World According to Monsanto

The Future of Food

Food, Inc.

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CHALLENGE**

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*Uniting students for just
and sustainable food.*