
The **National Family Farm Coalition** (NFFC) provides a voice for grassroots groups on farm, food, trade and rural economic issues to ensure fair prices for family farmers, safe and healthy food and vibrant, environmentally sound rural communities here and around the world.

The NFFC, founded in 1986, represents family farm and rural groups in 30 states whose members face the challenge of the deepening economic recession in rural communities caused primarily by low farm prices and the increasing corporate control of agriculture.



La Via Campesina coordinates an international movement of peasant and family farmers, indigenous communities, community fisher people, agricultural workers and rural women from Asia, Africa, the Americas and Europe for food sovereignty and against neo-liberal economic policies that threaten communities' rights to land, water and seeds.



Grassroots International promotes global justice through partnerships with social change organizations. We work to advance political, economic and social rights and support development alternatives through grantmaking, education and advocacy.



The National Family Farm Coalition
and
Grassroots International

present

**A Public Forum:
Family Farmers and
Food Sovereignty
Global Struggles for the Future of
Food and Family Farming**

February 13, 2006

Washington, D.C.

1:30-5:30 P.M.

Hall of States
444 North Capitol Street, NW

Dinner Reception to Follow
122 Maryland Avenue, NE
Home of Stewart Mott

Program of Events

1:30 p.m. Welcoming Remarks

Kathy Ozer, NFFC

Corrina Steward, Grassroots International

**1:30-3:00 P.M. Food Sovereignty:
Successes and Challenges**

Dena Hoff, NFFC, U.S. (moderator)

Badrul Alum, Bangladesh Krishok Federation,
Bangladesh

Gilma Benitez, Women's Program, National
Accociation of Rural Users, Colombia

Pedro Christoffoli, Landless Workers Movement
(MST), Brazil

**3-3:30: P.M. Break: fair trade coffee, Family
Farm Defenders cheese, and
Firehook organic bread**

**3:30-5:30 P.M. Trade Policy and the WTO
Post-Hong Kong: Challenges to
Food Sovereignty & Organizing
Opportunities in the Future**

Kathy Ozer, NFFC, U.S. (moderator)

Alberto Gómez Flores, National Union of
Autonomous Regional Peasant Organizations
(UNORCA), Mexico

Carlos Marentes, Border Agricultural Workers,
U.S.

George Naylor, NFFC, U.S.

Mariam Sissoko, National Coordination of Peasant
Movements, Mali

A Global Vision for Food and Farming

Everyday more than 800 million people go hungry. Many of the hungry are family farmers or landless farm workers in the Global South. In the U.S., family farmers are struggling to stay in business and fighting for a cleaner environment and for a food system that will protect rural livelihoods and provide consumers with safe, delicious, local food. To face these daunting challenges, family farmers from around the world are organizing themselves into a global movement for social justice.

The National Family Farm Coalition (NFFC) has invited leaders from U.S. farmer and farmworker movements and national rural movements from Latin America, Asia, and Africa (all fellow members of the Via Campesina) to share strategies, discuss the challenges they face and plan a way forward that will bring economic justice and healthy food to all the world's people.

In the age of the World Trade Organization, it is more important than ever that social movements from around the world work together to build a better future. Today's meeting is an exciting step on the road to realizing the NFFC's vision of Food Sovereignty. Grassroots International is pleased to support the NFFC and the Via Campesina as part of their ongoing effort to build the global movement for social justice.

NFFC Food Sovereignty Vision Statement

“We envision empowered communities everywhere working together democratically to advance a food system that ensures health, justice and dignity for all... Farmers, ranchers, and fishers will have control over their lands, water, seeds, and livelihoods [and] all people will have access to healthy, local, delicious food.”

**Presented by
The National Family Farm Coalition
and
Grassroots International**

