



# *2016 Partners and Projects Guide*



*“The time has arrived to question this model of ‘development’ that has been imposed on us in these past decades...We should and must have the obligation to leave water, air, food, and secure the safety for our sons and daughters, and other living beings...The time has come to act. We act NOW. We build and construct a plan of life against the culture of death.”*

*--Miriam Miranda, Black Fraternal Organization of Honduras (OFRANEH)*

*“We appreciate working as a partner with Grassroots and sharing a political vision. For Grassroots, projects are a tool of building solidarity, with the goal of building a global movement.”*

*~ Esther Vidal, Movement of People Affected by Dams*

Grassroots International combines savvy political analysis, reliable funding, and international networking to support global movements that are solving the root causes of poverty and climate change. For more than three decades, Grassroots International has worked in partnership with social movements and frontline organizations at the local and global level to advance the human rights to land, water and food through grantmaking, building solidarity across organizations and movements and advocacy in the US.

That work remains more important now than ever, as more and more people squeeze into the global 99 percent, with their rights, lands and resources under attack by elite corporations and institutions. But that is not the end of the story.

Small farmers, indigenous peoples, women and those on the losing end of globalization are joining hands to defend their lands and livelihoods, advance an alternative model of “living well” (*buen vivir*) that is both sustainable and shareable, and protect the earth’s precious resources. And Grassroots International is right with them, providing both essential financial support and political solidarity.

In partnership with peoples’ movements around the world, Grassroots International is strengthening hands-on solutions to the major challenges of our day: hunger, climate disruption, and social and economic inequality. Together we address the root causes of these challenges and seek to reverse damage to the planet’s eco-systems caused by harmful corporate-driven industrial agriculture, land grabs for financial speculative purposes, and megaprojects such as hydroelectric dams and mining.

The guide below offers examples of this work, including the partners and projects Grassroots International intends to support in 2016.

## Globalizing Justice: Our Vision

Grassroots International envisions a world in which a universal commitment to the health and well-being of the earth and all its peoples, fueled by successful global movements for economic and ecological justice, transforms production practices, consumption patterns, and economic and social relations to ones based on sustainability, equity, and the rights to land, food, and water.

## Principles and Ways of Working: Our Values

- Grassroots works in partnership with Global South movement organizations, US and global allies, and with our supporters and donors, all of whom are committed to and have contributed to making a more just and sustainable world possible.
- In all our partnerships, we work on the basis of shared vision and values; and principles of transparency, reciprocity, responsibility, and trust.
- The focus of our funding with Global South partners is *resource rights*—the rights to land, water and food. This includes movements for food sovereignty and climate justice led by people traditionally excluded from power. We establish long-term partnerships as we believe those to be the most effective, but maintain flexibility to do exploratory or shorter-term funding in order to advance the social, political and economic rights of disenfranchised people.
- Grassroots continuously strives to enhance the sustainability and effectiveness of global movements and local communities by facilitating connections and relationships amongst partners, US-based alliances, foundations, and with our donors and other supporters.
- Since Grassroots is located in the US, a country with disproportionate influence on the global economy, we will continue to deepen our advocacy efforts. Grassroots seeks also to amplify the voices of base-building and frontline organizations, which we view as primary agents of change, both in the US and overseas.
- The value we add to resource rights advocacy includes our ability to bring Global South perspectives, voices and personal experience to northern organizations and the US public; and our capacity, based on more than three decades of experience, to communicate the links between seemingly disparate issues into a common frame to build support and understanding.
- Grassroots offers an effective way for individuals and organizations in the US to engage on international issues, act on their political convictions and strategically channel financial resources to create a more just and sustainable world.



## **Rights to Land, Water, Food Sovereignty and Climate Justice: Our Strategy**

Our strategy encompasses the following:

- **Movement Building:** We support efforts that increase the power of movements for resource rights; break isolation; allow effective strategy sharing; and unite cross-border campaigns whose impact is exponentially greater than the sum of the parts.
- **Sustainable Livelihoods:** We increase the capacity of our partners in the Global South to build sustainable, ecologically sound development solutions; advance women's and indigenous people's livelihoods; and serve as entry points for organizing and leadership development.
- **Human Rights Defense:** We accompany partner organizations in defending the full range of human and environmental rights, as well as monitor and document human rights abuses. We defend the rights of movement leaders and activists who increasingly find themselves under attack by governments and corporate interests.

## Global Partnerships

With land, water and seeds increasingly controlled by a small number of poorly regulated transnational corporations, effective social change for resource rights and a fair food system must match this global reach. We call this life-giving cross-border work globalization from below. This work puts us at the front lines of the struggle between private gain and public good.



In that work, we are honored to have formed partnerships with powerful and visionary global networks like [the Vía Campesina](#), which represents more than 250 million small producers in over 70 countries.

As we support the Vía's international reach, our relationship transcends national borders. This relationship is central to our core focus on Resource Rights for All, and has brought us into new regions of the world, new venues of struggle and innovative models of community life.

Through our relationship with the Vía, Grassroots has supported organizations in South and Southeast Asia and Africa (such as the National Union of Peasant Farmers - UNAC - in Mozambique and the National Coordination of Peasant Organizations - CNOP - in Mali), regional work in Latin America, the Global Campaign for Agrarian Reform, the Global Campaign to End Violence Against Women, as well as broader work to raise up food sovereignty as one of the real solutions to create climate justice.

Grassroots works with the Via Campesina at national, regional and global levels. For example, in 2016 we will renew funding for the Via Campesina International Operational Secretariat, currently based in Southern African through the Zimbabwe Small-scale Organic Farmers Forum (ZIMSOFF).

The Vía Campesina's overall work continues to advance 6 main *Strategic Lines of Action*:

1. Stop Transnational Corporate Control over Agriculture, Human Life, and the Planet;
2. Build Our Food Sovereignty Alternative through Agrarian Reform, Peasant Seeds, and Agroecology;
3. Struggle to Unmask the "Green Economy" as a tool of the TNCs, and to Slow the Climate Crisis;
4. Further Integrate Youth and Women in the Movement;
5. Organizational Strengthening; and
6. Build Alliances and Solidarity.

## Partners and Projects in Brazil

*“Agroecology is a tool of social change that integrates women and men as a part of a whole, and returns to us the dignity of being a peasant.”*

- Jessica Da Silva Britto, Popular Peasant Movement (MCP), Brazil

*“The secret is using agricultural practices that are in harmony with the local environment, not at war with it like industrial agriculture.”*

- Edileu, Landless Workers Movement (MST), Brazil

The inequalities that afflict Brazilian society are enormous: a mere 1.6 percent of Brazilian landholders still control 47 percent of the nation's privately owned land, and 60 percent of the population shares just 15 percent of all wealth. In tandem with the destructive practices of industrial agriculture and land grabbing by agribusinesses, foreign companies' control over local resources has increased as Brazil continues down its neo-liberal economic path. The impact on Brazil's rural communities and the nation's vast forests, land, water systems and biodiversity is devastating.

Yet indigenous peoples, rural landless workers and urban slum dwellers are at the forefront of a movement striving to counter these trends and build an economy that serves all citizens. Since 1998, Grassroots International's Brazil Program has focused on two key issues: the rights to land and water, and defending social movements that are being criminalized. Geographically, the program focuses primarily on the northeast, central plateau and Amazon regions (including the states of Maranhão, Pernambuco, Bahia, Goiás, Sergipe, Piauí and Pará).

Grassroots is currently providing support to the following organizations in **BRAZIL**:

The **Landless Workers Movement (MST)**, Latin America's largest popular movement, has been at the forefront of social action for comprehensive “People's Agrarian Reform,” food sovereignty and climate justice. The MST works with landless peasants to identify and settle on underutilized land, gain legal title



### Brazil Projects (and partners)

- National Agroecology Training Project (MST)
- Base Organizing and Leadership Development (MST – Maranhão)
- Agroecology Project (MST - Maranhão)
- Human Rights Training and Defense (MST - Pernambuco)
- Creole Seeds Project (MCP)
- Food Sovereignty, Education and Political Participation as Human Rights (ASSEMA)
- Resistance in the Amazon: Grassroots Organizing and Defense of Water and Land Rights (MAB)
- Human Rights Education, Advocacy and Legal Defense in support of Rural Social movements in Brazil (Rede Social)





to the land and bring it into productive use. Through the MST's efforts, more than 1.5 million people have been settled on 17 million acres of land, and currently more than 120,000 families are living in encampments, awaiting settlement. The MST is also one of the most powerful peasant and landless workers movements and plays a vital leadership role within the global peasant farmer network the Via Campesina.

Grassroots works with the MST at state and national levels through sustainable agriculture, training and legal assistance projects. Projects for 2016:

- **MST - National Agroecology Training Project:** Across the 23 states where its settlements are located, the MST promotes agroecology (integrated farming, land and water use based on traditional knowledge and local control using organic, ecologically and socially sustainable practices). MST's agroecological model prioritizes the use of local seed varieties, diversification of crops, recovering and building local knowledge and fostering food sovereignty. The Training Project offers a wide array of support and learning opportunities for its members as well as for representatives of other Latin American peasant movements that are also members of the Via Campesina. The MST also supports the development of the Latin American School of Agroecology which promotes food sovereignty and social justice. Additionally, agroecology plays a key part of the MST and La Vía Campesina's climate justice strategy – expanding the use of methods which actually cool the planet by sequestering carbon in soils and which develop local resilience to climate impacts.
- **MST Maranhão – Base Organizing and Leadership Development:** This project provides leadership training, including political and organizational education for women and youth living in settlements and encampments in the state of Maranhão. Grassroots has been funding the leadership training program since 2006. In the countryside, the government's consolidation of a rural development model that favors agribusiness and megaprojects (mainly private) comes at the expense of peasant family farming. This model is based on destructive exploitation of natural and human resources, subjecting thousands of families to precarious situations and extreme poverty. Youth are one of the most affected groups under this model. MST is working with them to create an alternative development model to boost the democratization of land and create the conditions to ensure an abundant production of healthy food. In order to achieve this goal, it is critical to push for policies to improve the conditions in the countryside so youth can stay in rural areas and have dignified lives.
- **MST Maranhão - Agroecology Project:** This project aims to increase and diversify food production among families living in settlement areas by using sustainable and effective agricultural practices. MST intends to amplify agroecological practices through training and providing direct support to the families in transition, so they can expand their knowledge of agroecology, as well as sharing technical skills with other families in the settlements and in the nearby settlements. The Agroecology Project shows farmers that more crops can be produced at

lower costs using sustainable methods than through costly and toxic chemical fertilizers and other inputs that are part of the industrial agricultural model. Local families will learn and apply their knowledge to rebuild their food sovereignty and the local economy based on peasant-led agriculture.

- **MST Pernambuco - Human Rights Training and Defense:** Grassroots has supported various aspects of human rights monitoring, training and legal defense in Pernambuco over the last several years. Extreme disparities of wealth and land concentration have led to violence and human rights abuses by large landowners, particularly against land reform activists. Through this project, MST offers trainings for land activists about legal procedures and documentation of human rights abuses as well as legal assistance in cases against its members.

The **Popular Peasant Movement (MCP)** is at the forefront of promoting agroecological farming practices that are environmentally friendly, economically viable and promote biodiversity. MCP models and advocates for diversified production of food, food sovereignty and peasant power. The organization has been a leading voice in the state of Goiás, and increasingly in the rest of Brazil, against large-scale industrial agrofuel plantations and the introduction of genetically modified seeds.

Project for 2016:

**Creole Seeds Project:** The MCP is expanding its highly successful initiative to save, multiply and distribution of creole seeds and to encourage the use of local seeds in order to restore biodiversity. The Creole Seeds Project is reenergizing small-scale farmers to organize for sustainable and productive rural development policies, to denounce the impacts of agribusinesses on their communities, and to fight for their rights to remain on the land. The participatory farmer-to-farmer education methodology of the Creole Seeds Project creates new possibilities for farmers to study and implement sustainable agriculture practices such as the rotation of grazing areas and “agroecological corridors” which combine annual crops with plants in ways that produce large amounts of biomass, help fertilize the soil and reduce erosion.



The **Association in the Settlement Areas of the State of Maranhão (ASSEMA)** organizes thousands of women-headed rural families in Northeast Brazil to remain on and make a living from farms gained through land reform. Founded by courageous women who chose to fight for their community instead of accept evictions, ASSEMA continues to organize for a more equitable distribution of resources to address the structural inequities that have kept the region’s poor hungry for generations. ASSEMA provides technical, organizational and political support to communities of *babaçu* nut harvesters, Quilombola (Afro-descendent) communities, youth and peasant families in settlements, working with them to implement small-scale family agriculture and production. ASSEMA is working with the local families to expand access to rights and to improve their quality of life, based on the implementation of

agroecological practices in food production, solidarity economy and the empowerment of rural women and youth.

Project for 2016:

- **Food Sovereignty, Education and Political Participation as Human Rights:** Through this project, ASSEMA will provide technical and organizational support and leadership, advocacy and sustainable management of local resources training for women *babaçu* harvesters in order to strengthen their land rights efforts and production cooperatives. ASSEMA promotes agroecological farming practices, such as intercropping fruits, vegetables and basic grains in *babaçu* forests. This system is the foundation for achieving some of ASSEMA's key objectives: increasing the productivity of family-based subsistence agricultural practices, diversifying local diets, and developing a sustainable economic base for the region's peasant families by enhancing the value of local crops.

**The Movement of People Affected by Dams (MAB):** Established in 1991 as an autonomous national popular movement, MAB represents thousands of displaced families who have self-organized in areas impacted by the construction of large hydroelectric dams. MAB advocates for the human right to water and land, particularly for people displaced by dams and other mega-projects. The threat from increasing numbers of mega-dams has risen dramatically as the climate and energy crises have fueled the growth of so-called "clean and green" energy sources like hydro power. However, MAB's work exposes how these projects, many of which receive carbon credits under international clean development mechanism arrangements, actually increase deforestation and methane emissions, while devastating local ecosystems and the communities connected to them. MAB is building a strong resistance movement that seeks an alternative and sustainable development model that works to advance the energy sovereignty of the Brazilian people. This is a model in which the sustainability of the environment, culture and communities is at the center, and incorporates participatory mechanisms for civil society to discuss, build, influence and control energy policies at local, state and national levels. MAB has successfully stopped the privatization of rivers and other natural resources, and advocates for alternative energy policies that benefit both poor people and the environment. As water and energy are key issues that intersect with climate change, MAB is also playing a key role in the development of a stronger international movement for climate justice – the recognition that the communities most affected by climate impacts and false solutions are not the ones who have contributed the most to cause climate change, but that they are the communities who have the real solutions.



Project for 2016:

- **Resistance in the Amazon: Grassroots Organizing and Defense of Water and Land Rights.** MAB is working with communities threatened and affected by the construction of dams along major Amazonian rivers, the Tapajos and the Xingu. The Amazon region is in the

center of the “ten-year plan of energy expansion 2021.” Beyond electrical energy generation the proposed dams are part of a joint government and corporate vision to develop a transportation infrastructure for soy and other agribusiness products and for mining commodities. The Tapajós is the fourth largest river in the Brazilian Amazon, and the one major river that currently runs through Brazil without any dams. The dams would change the Tapajós River’s natural course, inundating large extensions of land, impacting Indigenous peoples, riverine communities and others living along or near the river. Meanwhile, the dam located on the Xingu River (already 70 percent complete) has left a trail of human rights violations, disrespect for traditional peoples and destruction of biodiversity. The goal of this project is to contribute to defend human rights and the territories of Indigenous Peoples and other communities in the Amazon region affected by the construction of dams. MAB will do this through grassroots organizing, training, building alliances and advocating an alternative, just and sustainable energy model for Brazil.

**Social Network for Justice and Human Rights (Rede Social):** The protection of human rights goes hand in hand with the healthy growth of social movements. For this reason, the Social Network for Justice and Human Rights (Rede Social), a dynamic Brazilian human rights organization, works closely with Brazil’s social movements. As movement activists and leaders brave challenging and frequently dangerous situations in their efforts for social justice, Rede Social’s work has been key in providing legal assistance/defense, research, trainings, reporting and media campaigns on civil rights abuses. Through research, advocacy and action, Rede Social works to guarantee the economic, social, cultural, civil and political human rights of Brazil’s politically and economically marginalized populations. Rede Social was created at the behest of dozens of non-governmental organizations and social movements in Brazil, including rural workers and indigenous movements, youth and Afro-Brazilian organizations. Rede Social is a leading voice in exposing agrofuels in Brazil and across Latin America as one of the false solutions to climate change, driving land grabs while often producing comparable greenhouse gas emissions as fossil fuels. The organization has played a key role in exposing human rights violations against rural workers and displaced rural families affected by this industry.

Project for 2016:

- **Human Rights Education, Advocacy and Legal Defense in Support of Rural Social Movements:** This project will provide legal assistance in numerous ongoing cases involving organizers of social movements in Brazil. The human rights cases that Rede Social works on involve violations such as violent evictions, assassinations, arbitrary imprisonments, death threats and massacres of members of the social movements. This project will support these communities in defending their fundamental rights, while raising the visibility of human rights violations in rural communities, and thus combating impunity. The legal support and training will enable communities to fight the criminalization of activists and rural organizers, and empower them to demand appropriate measures from local authorities to put an end to impunity.

## Partners and Projects in Mesoamerica

***“Agrarian reform and food sovereignty is a struggle today throughout the entire world. The reality of not having land is like not having a country. We are moving forward, thanks to international solidarity. And there is no doubt, we will advance in the struggle against poverty and hunger.”***

- Rafael Alegría, Via Campesina-Central America, Honduras

***“We don’t live off gold, nor do we live off silver. We live off of the water, the air, the sun, and the fruits that Mother Earth gives to us. These are our most precious treasures, and we must care for them, whatever it takes.”***

- Member of the Committee in Defense of Natural Resources, Magdalena Teitipac, SER Mixe, Oaxaca, Mexico

Despite a wealth of natural resources, culture, minerals and biodiversity, Mesoamerica remains one of the most impoverished regions in the world, with indigenous peoples, small farmers and women among the poorest. Yet peasant farmers and indigenous peoples constitute the two most significant social and economic justice movements in Mesoamerica today. On one front, these movements are challenging the mounting inequality and injustice that have been spurred by free trade agreements, deregulation and massive privatization schemes – the main thrust of neoliberalism in the region. And on the other front, peasant farmers and indigenous peoples are putting forward powerful alternatives that start with rights to water, land and territory; protection of native seeds and biodiversity; food sovereignty; women’s rights; and promoting climate justice.

The struggle between the neoliberal agenda and the rights of small farmers and indigenous peoples has become increasingly militarized and volatile. Transnational corporations seeking to expand their reach and limit opposition have relied on increased military might, border control and land grabs. For this reason, human rights defense plays an important role along with movements for resource rights.



### Mexico Projects (and partners)

- Building Zapotec Territorial Autonomy (UNOSJO)
- The Land and Water Rights Defense Project (SER Mixe)
- Building Autonomy through Food Sovereignty in the Autonomous Indigenous Communities in Chiapas (Enlace Civil)
- Strengthening La Vía Campesina Mexico through the promotion of Land and Territory Rights, Food Sovereignty and Climate Justice Education (UNORCA, Via Campesina Mexico)



Grassroots International supports projects in Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua, as well as region-wide throughout Mesoamerica. All of our partners in the region work to defend the human rights to land and water, food sovereignty, and climate justice, often by developing successful local, sustainable agricultural and livelihood alternatives in harmony with the earth. Our partners are at the forefront of vibrant movements making transformative changes to challenge the systems oppressing Indigenous Peoples and peasants in the region.

## Mexico

Grassroots is currently providing support to the following organizations in **MEXICO**:

**The Union of Organizations of the Sierra Juarez of Oaxaca (UNOSJO)** is a Zapotec indigenous organization, established in 1990 by 26 regional and community-based indigenous campesino organizations in the Juarez Mountains of southern Mexico. UNOSJO fosters locally controlled, environmentally and culturally appropriate development and defends the land rights of the area's indigenous communities. They are a leading voice protecting watersheds and access to water, defending indigenous varieties of corn, and resisting the introduction of genetically modified (GM) corn in the Oaxacan countryside as a participant in the Network in Defense of Corn, the Oaxacan Collective in Defense of Territories, and in the Confederation of Peoples in Defense of Water. In recent years, UNOSJO has been active in exposing and resisting extraction, as well as carbon offset programs like REDD+ ("Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation") that allow polluters to keep polluting in the Global North, while violating territory rights in the Global South.



Projects for 2016:

- **Building Zapotec Territorial Autonomy:** UNOSJO is working through community radio, community and youth workshops and regional forums to organize and defend Zapotec territorial and resource rights, and culture. Through this project UNOSJO will organize popular education events to strengthen Zapotec people's identity and autonomy, and create spaces for discussion and alliance building to generate opportunities for the education of members of the Zapotec community and others in the southern region of Mexico. UNOSJO works closely with our partner SER Mixe on developing agroecological farming and communal statutes to defend land and resource rights in Zapotec territories.

**Mixe Peoples Services (SER Mixe)** is an indigenous organization serving more than 130,000 people in 30 communities in the state of Oaxaca. It supports human rights work for and provides legal assistance to indigenous peoples of Oaxaca, particularly in disputes over expropriated land, organizing against mining and extraction and resolving territorial conflicts between indigenous communities. SER Mixe also works with communities to promote agroecology, as well as to strengthen the voice and participation of

women. SER Mixe is active in the Network in Defense of Corn and the Oaxacan Collective in Defense of Territories, and is connected to international indigenous movement building.

Project for 2016:

**The Land and Water Rights Defense Project** promotes indigenous territorial land and water rights in the Mixe regions, as well as across other indigenous regions (including Zapoteco, Mixteco, Huave, and Chinanteca), where long-standing land conflicts continue. Through this project, SER Mixe provides conflict resolution skill-building as well as legal assistance. SER Mixe is working to strengthen the organizing process in these indigenous communities concerning the importance of communal statutes as community-based mechanisms to protect land, territory and natural resources, without support or imposed conditions from government or corporations.

### **Enlace Civil:**

Founded in 1996 at the behest of autonomous indigenous communities in Chiapas, Enlace Civil serves the expressed needs of the autonomous indigenous movement in Chiapas. The organization does not offer projects to communities; rather, it takes community demands and serves as a bridge to those in Mexico and in the international community in solidarity with Indigenous Peoples in the state as they work toward *lekil kuxlejal* – also known as *buen vivir*, meaning “living well” – an indigenous worldview about living harmony with and between people and Mother Earth.

Enlace Civil works primarily to support the dissemination information from Indigenous communities in Chiapas; channel national and international support to strengthen the development of autonomous indigenous communities in Chiapas, in accordance with the needs and criteria proposed by the people themselves; and accompany community actions and projects in the struggle for more just and democratic living conditions. Current projects that Enlace Civil supports include education, health care, agroecology, production and marketing.

Project for 2016:

- **Building Autonomy through Food Sovereignty in the Autonomous Indigenous Communities in Chiapas:** This project will strengthen the food production structures in all five *Caracols* (regions of the autonomous indigenous communities) that each have their own organizational democratic governance structures.

To achieve food sovereignty, the autonomous indigenous councils in each *Caracol* have been promoting healthy food crops by amplifying agroecological practices such as soil conservation, diversification of grains, fruit and vegetable production, organic compost and natural control of agricultural pests and diseases. In order to strengthen agroecological systems, this project aims to develop an educational campaign in each *Caracol* to emphasize the importance of native seeds, as well as to expose the threats posed by agro-toxics, GMOs and monocultures to self-

determination, health and nature. This project also includes grassroots leadership development practices, with special emphasis on youth and on equal participation of women and men.

The **National Union of Autonomous Regional Peasant Organizations (UNORCA)** is national network of 1,400 Mexican campesino and indigenous farming organizations representing 200,000 producers in 27 Mexican states. A member of the Via Campesina, UNORCA plays a critical role in the climate justice movement in Mexico. Through education and organizing efforts, the network mobilizes hundreds of communities to advocate for the rights of Mother Earth and local families, and build solidarity links between rural and urban communities.

Project for 2016:

- **Strengthening the Via Campesina Mexico through the promotion of Land and Territory rights, Food Sovereignty and Climate Justice Education:** This project will strengthen alliances between farmers, indigenous peoples and other rural and urban groups from communities affected by climate change and environmental injustice. The project also includes education and organizing efforts in defense of the land and water rights of peasants and indigenous people in Mexico. The Via Campesina will support member peasant organizations to advance pro-food sovereignty policies both locally and internationally. The Via Campesina's movement-building strategies in Mexico currently focus on three main issues: ending violence against women, protecting Mexico's corn, and promoting agroecology and peasant seeds. They will develop these strategies through state, regional and national fora around climate justice, the existing threats to land and territories, and agroecology as a vehicle to achieve food sovereignty and as a real solution to climate change.



## Central America Projects (and partners)

### Guatemala

- Strengthening the Base, Youth Organizing, and Advocacy toward *Buen Vivir* (Living Well) (CUC)

### Nicaragua

- Central America Training and Leadership Development (ATC/the Via Campesina)
- Global Campaign for Agrarian Reform, Land and Territory (ATC/the Via Campesina)

### Honduras

- Afro-Honduran Communities' Territory Rights Defense through Cultural Resistance (OFRANEH)
- Women's Commission in Central America (CODIMCA/the Via Campesina)

## Guatemala

Grassroots is currently providing support to the following organization in **GUATEMALA**:

The **Peasant Unity Committee (CUC)** was created in 1978 and is the first national organization formed by peasants and indigenous peoples in Guatemala. CUC works in over 200 communities and six micro-regions of the country to defend the land, water and food rights of impoverished peasants in Guatemala, primarily in communities facing displacement or environmental damage by mining, dam, and industrial agriculture corporations. CUC has also played a critical role in uniting movements across diverse sectors and organizations in Guatemala – including peasants, indigenous peoples, women and youth – to advance structural changes under the broader banner of social justice



Project for 2016:

- **Strengthening the Base, Youth Organizing, Education and Advocacy towards *Buen Vivir* (Living Well):** Through this project, CUC will empower women, men and youth leaders through organizing, political education, agroecology training, advocacy and alliance-building to advance rural development with gender equity. This includes providing legal and organizational support to communities, while coordinating campaigns to defend the rights of indigenous peoples and peasants to land, territories, water, food sovereignty, and climate justice. CUC aims to advance the demands for rural development and to stop human rights violations stemming from laws and initiatives that undermine and discriminate against indigenous peoples and peasants.

## Nicaragua

Grassroots is currently providing support to the following organization in **NICARAGUA**:

**The Association of Rural Workers (ATC)** is the main member of the Via Campesina in Nicaragua, and plays an important role strengthening the peasant movements not just in Nicaragua, but across all of Central America. Founded in 1978, the ATC unites over 50,000 campesinos and landless rural families from cooperatives, small landholding associations and unions. The **Via Campesina - Central America**, with the ATC, created the Francisco Morazán Regional Training Center in Nicaragua to train peasant and indigenous members from across Central America in agroecological farming as well as community organizing, advocacy and food sovereignty. The Via Campesina - Central America's regional membership includes:

- **Nicaragua:** The Association of Rural Workers (ATC), the National Coordination of Ex-Combatants (CNOR), and the Nicaraguan Association "Israel Galeano" (ARNIG), the National Union of Associated Producers (UNAPA) and the Agriculture Forestry Roundtable (MAFNIC);

- **Honduras:** the National Center of Rural Workers (CNTC), the Council for the Integral Development of the Peasant Woman (CODIMCA), the Union of Peasants and Indigenous Peoples of Honduras (UCIH), the Association for Rural Development of Honduras (ADROH), the National Association of Peasant Women of Honduras (ANACH), the Peasant Movement of Aguan (MUCA), the Association for the Development of Peasants of Progreso (ADCP), the Peasant Movement of San Manuel Cortes (MOCSAM) and the Regional Agricultural Cooperative Pate Pluma Limitada (CARPAL);
- **Guatemala:** The National Coordination of Guatemalan Widows (CONAVIGUA) and the Peasant Unity Committee (CUC);
- **El Salvador:** The National Association of Agriculture Workers (ANTA), the Federation of Agrarian Reform Cooperatives (FECORACEN), the Standing Committee for Rural Women (MPMR), the National Union of Agricultural Workers (UNATA), the Veterans Association of Salvadoran Guerrilla (AVEGSAL), the Women Organizers Cooperative Foundation (FUNPROCOP), the National Federation of Cooperatives of Agricultural Production (FENACOPAZ) and the Agricultural Association (MONTE ARARAT);
- **Costa Rica:** The National Forum of Peasant Organizations (MNC), the National Union of Agriculture Producers of Costa Rica (UNAG) and the Union of Smallscale Agricultural Producers (UPPA);
- **Panama:** The Peasant Union of Panama (UCP), the Peasants and Indigenous People Union (UIC) and Peasant Organization Coclesana 15 de mayo (OCC-15 de Mayo).

Projects for 2016:

- **Via Campesina - Central America Training and Leadership Development of Peasants and Indigenous Peoples in Central America:** Geared towards the specific needs of campesino, indigenous and Afro-descendent organizations, the Via will be training members at the Francisco Morazán Training Center on methods for advancing agrarian reform and food sovereignty in Central America. Half of the participants are women, and at least one third are youth.
- **Via Campesina Global Campaign for Agrarian Reform, Land and Territory:** Through workshops and coordinated actions, this project seeks to strengthen local and global land struggles to promote agrarian reform, develop strategies to influence government policies at national and regional levels and protect territorial rights, with special emphasis on access to land for youth, women and indigenous peoples, It also advocates for the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests, as another tool to stop land and ocean grabbing. The campaign's broader vision includes reducing hunger and poverty, strengthening the capacity and influence of indigenous and peasant organizations, and defending their rights.

## Honduras

Grassroots is currently providing support to the following organizations in **HONDURAS**:

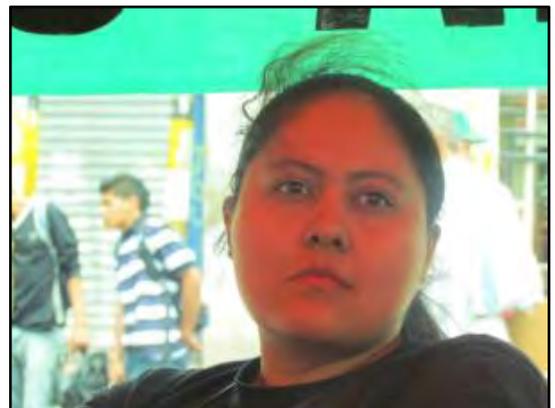
The **Black Fraternal Organization of Honduras (OFRANEH)**: A grassroots organization working with Garifuna (Afro-descendent) communities in Honduras, OFRANEH works to protect Garifuna communities' economic, social, and cultural rights, particularly with regard to farming, fishing, and defense of Mother Earth. Their territories and rights are increasingly coming under attack from large developers attempting to take over Garifuna territories for profit, and from the impacts of climate change on their coastal lands. Other major threats include the planned building of "charter cities," the expansion of agrofuels plantations, the development of mega-tourism projects, the expansion of narcotrafficking, and the exploration and extraction of oil. Through a network of community radio stations, the organization promotes health and environmental education, supports the use of Garifuna language, promotes youth and women's leadership development and coordinates community actions to defend the Garifunas' ancestral territories. OFRANEH is also engaged in national, regional, and international movement-building against militarization and for climate justice.

Project for 2016:

- **Afro-Honduran Communities' Territory Rights Defense through Cultural Resistance:** OFRANEH is working to defend and recover Garifuna territory in areas such as Vallecito. Dozens of Garifuna families displaced by impacts of climate change (such as severe storms, rising sea levels and erosion) have engaged in permanent reoccupation of Vallecito, where they face serious threats from elites and narcotraffickers who continue to try to grab those lands and displace communities.

OFRANEH has also ramped up its legal strategies and efforts to stop land grabs by mining, agrofuels, or mega-tourism interests in Garifuna territory. OFRANEH is working on two cases against the state of Honduras, through the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, related to violations of territory rights of the Garifuna communities of Triunfo de la Cruz and Punta Piedra. Cultural and spiritual practices are a key part of OFRANEH's resistance efforts, and its implementation of traditional food production projects to advance food sovereignty, especially with the participation of youth and women, are an important part of this Garifuna culture.

**Council for the Integral Development of the Peasant Woman (CODIMCA)** is the lead organization for the Women's Regional Commission of the Via Campesina – Central America. Created in 1985, CODIMCA was one of Honduras' first peasant women-led organizations focused on women's land rights. The organization promotes women's land rights through agrarian reform and advocates for more services in rural areas such as schools, health clinics, roads and electricity. It trains women in community organizing and project management and supports



member groups in developing common strategies and actions. CODIMCA also provides support to youth groups in Honduras.

Project for 2016:

- **Strengthening the Via Campesina's Women's Commission in Central America:** This project will strengthen women's commissions in each of the region's six countries by supporting the leadership of rural women in the defense of resource rights, food sovereignty, climate justice, women's rights and gender equality. They also play a lead role in the implementation of the Via Campesina's Global Campaign to End Violence Against Women in the region. Furthermore, the Women's Regional Commission has been working with broader feminist movements to create a joint agenda with organized rural women to lift up women's leadership, support full participation of women, and advance understanding of women's rights within mixed-gender peasant organizations.

## Partners and Projects in Haiti

*“We noticed that peasants were suffering a lot. Rose Edith got us together and made a base for the movement. We started with gwoupmans and got everyone who had the same problem together. We started a co-op after we got a lot of people together. We did farming, raised animals, and sold merchandise. Some parents couldn’t pay for their children to go to school, so we encouraged them to take money out of their savings by selling animals and vegetables, and that way, they were able to send their kids to school.”*

- Angeléne Loui-même, member of MULAC, MPNKP

*“The majority of families live off the land. With climate change, people can’t produce enough food to feed themselves and take care of their children. Last year, there was little to no rain, and this year, it is not falling as it should.” – Gislaine St. Fleur, MPP*

*“Since the founding of Haiti, the peasants’ fight has been a fight for land ownership.”*

—Camille Chalmers, PAPDA

Haiti—the home of a powerful slave revolt that created the world’s first Black republic—is most often mentioned for its current status as the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. Despite the fact that Haiti has many natural resources and a history as the richest colony in the Western Hemisphere, the people of Haiti continue to lack justice, peace and prosperity. Civil and political rights may exist on paper but human rights violations abound. A corrupt and ineffectual justice system has been unable to address the crisis. And ongoing occupation by UN MINUSTAH forces creates an atmosphere of militarization and lack of respect for Haitian self-determination.

Since January of 2014, Michel Martelly has ruled by decree, and parliamentary elections in August of 2015 were marred by violence.

Many of Haiti’s most pressing problems have external origins. From crippling trade policies to direct military invasion, Haiti has faced numerous threats from her neighbors. And now, five years after the earthquake, stories of corruption and scandal from international aid abound from the Red Cross to the Clintons. Meanwhile, Martelly’s “open for business” policies have left Haiti’s peasants facing land grab after land grab by industrial parks with sweatshop wages, agribusiness, mining interests, mega-tourism projects, and more.



### Haiti Projects (and partners)

- Promoting Agroecology in the Central Plateau, through Reforestation, Prevention of Erosion, Organic Agriculture and Food Production (MPP)
- Goat Distribution and Organizational Strengthening (MPNKP)
- Strengthening Family and Agroecological Peasant Agriculture through Advocacy and the Transition of Farming Systems (PAPDA)
- Haiti Human Rights Promotion and Defense (POHDH)



Haiti is also facing massive environmental challenges. Deforestation has left the country and especially the 66-80% of the population who rely on small-scale farming even more vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, such as hurricanes, long-term drought, massive flooding, and erosion. But Haitian grassroots organizations are fighting for climate justice, building their own alternatives to fossil fuels, and developing solidarity economies.

Through our partnerships in Haiti, Grassroots International aims to be part of efforts to eliminate hunger, build food sovereignty, and promote climate justice. Among the objectives of the program are: to promote sustainable food production and its equitable distribution; to foster opportunities for solidarity economies that promote community-based sustainable livelihoods, especially for women; to strengthen grassroots communities' capacities to become the authors of their own future; to secure human rights as outlined in the Haitian constitution and the UN Declaration; and to contribute to climate justice and the restoration of Haiti's natural environment as a key component of food sovereignty.

Grassroots International currently provides support to the following organizations in **HAITI**:

The **Peasant Movement of Papaye (MPP)** is among the most important local peasant movements in Haiti with over 40 years of history and experience, including a broad range of autonomous development activities to improve peasants' livelihoods. In the economically devastated Central Plateau, Grassroots supports the MPP's expansive range of self-help development activities aimed at improving peasants' quality of life and making their voices louder locally, nationally and internationally. MPP is a pioneer in creating projects to address climate change. The organization has planted 30 million trees as part of its agroforestry work. It has developed a solar panel production project, and is known for its exceptional work in creating infrastructure to capture rainwater, ensure water access for local communities, and design agricultural techniques that conserve water. Additionally, MPP plays a leadership role in international climate justice movements, through its participation in the Climate Justice Collective of the Via Campesina.

Project for 2016:

- **Promoting Agroecology in the Central Plateau through Reforestation, Prevention of Erosion, Organic Agriculture and Food Production:** The MPP's community and economic development projects aim to increase food production and food sovereignty in the Central Plateau through reforestation, soil and water conservation, organic agricultural production programs and training of local peasants. This project is part of the MPP's broader program to advance agroecology and to ensure access to clean water, and fits in with MPP's climate justice strategies.

The **National Congress of the Papaye Peasant Movement (MPNKP)** is one of Haiti's two national peasant movements, and is part of the *Kat Je* Platform. Literally meaning "Four Eyes," the *Kat Je*

Platform is made up of four of Haiti's most powerful peasant movements. Grassroots' support to the MPNKP has historically focused on the Creole Pig Repopulation project. The Creole pig was once the most important economic asset for Haitian peasants, but the entire population was eradicated under U.S. pressure when swine fever hit the Caribbean. The MPNKP has done a great deal of work to reintroduce this life-giving asset. Because of a pig disease outbreak, MPNKP decided to focus on goat distribution starting in 2011, at least until a vaccine for the pig disease is available in Haiti. They see this project as an organizing tool that can work across regions and community groups. MPNKP is also active in agricultural and cooperative production.



Project for 2016:

- **Goat Distribution and Organizational Strengthening:** The MPNKP has been distributing goats into Haitian rural communities, and training workers to provide veterinary care and financial management. This project does more than just re-establish a valued economic resource in the Haitian countryside; it provides a vehicle through which peasant groups, including those formed by women and youth, can build skills and become better organized and self-reliant.

**The Haitian Platform to Advocate Alternative Development (PAPDA):** Founded in 1995, PAPDA is a coalition of nine Haitian organizations working together to promote the emergence of a new Haiti, to challenge neoliberalism, and to promote public policies based in the common good. Toward that end, PAPDA works on diverse thematic areas, including external debt, alternative integration, food sovereignty, participatory democracy and decentralization, and international solidarity. Its work for food sovereignty focuses on developing unique and effective solutions to hunger, while at the same time pressing for structural changes in the nation's food and agricultural policies. PAPDA's work to build movements for food sovereignty challenges the more traditional 'food security' strategy that has relied largely on imported food aid and has eroded local production and consumption of locally-produced grains and legumes.

Project for 2016:

- **Strengthening Family and Agroecological Peasant Agriculture through Advocacy and the Transition of Farming Systems :** Since 2013, Grassroots' support of PAPDA's work has centered around a rural development and food sovereignty. PAPDA works with organizations at local grassroots levels to identify their demands to secure peasant rights. It then facilitates a process for groups to come to agreement around peasant demands at the departmental (state) level. From there, PAPDA has been working to bring groups together to discuss demands at the regional level, especially in the greater North and the greater South. This project continues that



important work in those regions, and expands the work to the Centre and West departments. The organization uses the demands generated through this deep grassroots initiative for its broader advocacy efforts. The project will also continue PAPDA's work with local groups implementing concrete practices to increase food production and build the solidarity economy.

The **Platform of Haitian Human Rights Organizations (POHDH)**, founded in 1991, is a national coalition of nine of Haiti's foremost human rights groups. The coalition trains people at the grassroots level to work within their communities for human rights, and to monitor and document human rights abuses. Using a variety of outreach methods including media work and community radio, POHDH educates Haitians on their rights, especially women and children. POHDH now has a network of over 150 monitors in all 10 departments (states) of the nation. POHDH also does extensive work to monitor elections and to advocate for democratic processes.

Project for 2016:

- **Haiti Human Rights Promotion and Defense:** Through this project POHDH will strengthen its national network of local human rights monitors; press for judicial reforms and accountability from Haiti's judicial institutions; increase citizen access to the judicial system; improve coordination with international human rights organizations; keep national and international media and organizations informed on the human rights situation in Haiti; and develop a broad communications campaign against impunity and for a national culture of respect for human rights. This work includes human rights education and monitoring in different departments (states).

## Partners and Projects in the Middle East

*“The seed bank is like a treasure for the community.”*

-- Do'a Zaied

*“They’re calling our village an illegal outpost. These lands were ours before there was a State of Israel. My father is older than your State—and I am an illegal alien on my own land. I ask, where is justice?”*

--Nasser Nawaja, Susiya resident.

Land and water have been at the core of the conflict between Palestine and Israel from its very origins. Access to and control of these resources is critical for achieving Palestinian self-determination and for an enduring and just peace with Israel. Grassroots sees the struggle for resource rights in Palestine as a framework that has effectively generated excitement and energy among those on the ground who are working for structural social change.

Under occupation, Palestinians face the confiscation and destruction of land, homes and water resources; checkpoints and roadblocks; and the expansion of settlements and bypass roads. The Wall in the West Bank and buffer zone in Gaza further impinge on land and livelihood as Israel continues to unilaterally expand its borders. And within Israel, Palestinians face the challenges of racism and discrimination, impacting their own rights to land, water and food sovereignty.

In the summer of 2014 we witnessed a brutal 51-day attack by Israel on Gaza which left 2,191 Palestinians dead and over 10,000 injured, the vast majority of them civilians. The offensive leveled whole neighborhoods, and damaged 18 power plants and nine of Gaza’s water and sewage systems. Since then, there has been virtually no rebuilding, and only 26.8% of the \$3.5 billion pledged for Gaza has been disbursed.

Meanwhile in 2015, the occupation has accelerated its confiscation of Palestinian land in the West Bank demolishing homes and Palestinian farmland in multiple areas in the West Bank.



### Middle East Projects (and partners)

- Urban Agriculture to Enhance Food Security in Gaza (PARC)
- Empowering Palestinian Farming and Herding Communities in their Struggle for Land and Water (Stop the Wall Campaign)
- Securing Farmers’ Rights, and Women’s Empowerment Project (UAWC)
- Protection of Palestinian Land and Property Rights (PCHR)
- Mental Health Services to Gaza (GCMHP)

Grassroots International partners with organizations in the Middle East, supporting grassroots initiatives that provide essential services and advance resource rights and food sovereignty. Our work with these local organizations—combined with that of allies and coalitions—facilitates international linkages to support the nonviolent Palestinian struggle for self-determination. Grassroots International **continues to be one of the only U.S. funders who support Palestinian organizations engaged in work for human rights, particularly the human rights to land, water and food.**

Grassroots International provides support to the following organizations in **PALESTINE**:

The **Palestinian Agricultural Relief Committees (PARC)**, established in 1983, is a leading non-governmental organization in the fields of rural development, environmental protection and women’s empowerment, working with more than 160,000 rural and marginalized Palestinians. PARC promotes sustainable development and improves access to food through food security initiatives—at the household, community and territorial levels—through innovative projects such as the Farm-to-Table program linking Palestinian farmers with consumers in Gaza.



Project for 2016:

- **Urban Agriculture to Enhance Food Security in Gaza:** PARC has worked for years to guide the creation of over 2,500 urban gardens on rooftops, backyards and other available spots of land in order to provide food, hope and life to hundreds of families in Palestine. Families use these gardens to grow food and generate income. The attacks in the summer of 2014 devastated much of Gaza. After the attacks, PARC focused on projects to rebuild water infrastructure in Gaza. In 2016, PARC will continue to provide opportunities for mostly women-led households to access sustainable livelihoods through urban gardening and animal husbandry while increasing awareness and engagement of local community by raising agricultural issues of high concern through training conferences.

The **Stop the Wall Campaign** is a coalition of Palestinian non-governmental organizations and community-based “popular committees,” youth and women that mobilize and coordinate efforts on local, national and international levels. These efforts are focused on stopping and dismantling the Separation Wall in the West Bank, resisting Israeli occupation and defending Palestinian communities’ rights to their land and water. In recent years, Stop the Wall has been working to develop and strengthen bodies such as the Land Defense Coalition, which aims to strengthen the will and determination of people from Palestinian villages which face expulsion and confiscation of land – such as South Hebron, the Northern Jordan Valley, the eastern part of Nablus and many other locations in the West Bank, particularly the Bedouin areas, including those in Jerusalem.

Project for 2016:

- **Empowering Palestinian Farming and Herding Communities in their Struggle for Land and Water:** Stop the Wall (StW) will continue its work to defend land and water rights and resist the Israeli Occupation in the Jordan Valley, east of Jerusalem, and in the southern Hebron hills. StW was instrumental in forming a Jordan Valley Council, composed of farmers, shepherds and local groups to organize against home demolitions, ethnic cleansing and development plans for the Jordan Valley that included the proposed introduction of Monsanto seeds. The Council conducts trainings, organizes demonstrations, documents the human rights violations committed by the Israeli Occupation and organizes isolated farmers throughout the valley to lift up their voices together. Now the council and other committees of farmers, youth, and women are confronting Israel's relocation plan for Palestinians in Area C, as well as Israel's violations of Palestinians' water rights. Additionally Stop the Wall is organizing increased solidarity activities during the olive harvest, as more and more farmers are at risk of being cut off from their land by Israel's "relocation plan."

**The Union of Agricultural Work Committees (UAWC)** was established in 1986 to improve the difficult social and economic situation of Palestinian farmers that is a result of the marginalization of agriculture and confiscation of land and water resources under Israeli occupation. UAWC emphasizes sustainable development and food sovereignty rather than emergency and relief projects. UAWC projects have included water and land reclamation and development, food security and income generation projects, digging and rehabilitating wells, a dynamic regional seed bank, and education about gray water use. In recent years, UAWC has been making more connections between its work to resist Israeli occupation and to promote food sovereignty with work to address climate change. UAWC works closely with several of Grassroots International's partners in the Global South, and in 2013 became a member of the Via Campesina. In 2014 UAWC was a recipient of the Food Sovereignty Prize and the UN Equator Prize.



Project for 2016:

- **The Securing Farmers Rights and Women's Empowerment Projects** are good examples of work toward food sovereignty with low-income Palestinian farmers and rural women: practical, locally controlled food projects that generate income, produce healthy food through ecologically sound methods and sustain community livelihoods. But perhaps more importantly, these projects are dynamic catalysts for resisting the Israeli occupation and developing a new generation of women leaders, uniting them in a common struggle for their rights. The projects focus on spreading food sovereignty as a practice and widely accepted concept in Palestine that

can not only feed but also promote and defend the autonomy of the Palestinian people. The Women's Empowerment Project includes work to support the organizing of women's collectives as a way to promote women's leadership and sustainable livelihoods, as well as supporting women's work to raise their voices through alternative media. UAWC is working now to integrate women completely into the structure of the agricultural committees that form the basis of UAWC's work.

The **Palestinian Center for Human Rights (PCHR)** works to protect human rights, promote the rule of law and advance democracy. The PCHR has gained an international reputation as an independent voice on human rights vis-à-vis violations perpetrated by both Israel and the Palestinian Authority. The PCHR monitors and documents human rights violations, campaigns against the death penalty, provides legal aid to victims of violations and advocates for greater economic and social rights, including the rights of the Gazan fishers who have been denied access to their fishing waters by Israeli Occupying Forces. PCHR brings cases to local courts and also seeks justice for war crimes and violations of international law through international courts.

Project for 2016:

- **Protection of Palestinian Land and Property Rights:** This project aims to solidify Palestinian land and property rights, reduce violations against these rights, and ensure the restoration of land and property to their Palestinian owners. This is achieved through monitoring and documentation, legal assistance and representation, and international advocacy. Grassroots International supports PCHR's legal unit, which links together many of their programs.

Grassroots International will also continue to support the **Gaza Community Mental Health Program (GCMHP)**. In addition to their work with children, women, and victims of organized violence in Gaza, they initiated and have been active in the Palestinian International Campaign to End the Siege on Gaza. Grassroots International supports GCMHP's work providing mental health services to Gaza's traumatized population—especially vulnerable groups such as children, women and victims of torture. GCMHP has carried out extensive therapy, training and research in response to mental health needs of a population living under the twin stresses of siege and extreme violence.

## Global Initiatives

Grassroots International is actively exploring ways to strengthen connections to resource rights movement organizations in Africa and Asia and to re-engage in those regions – both for us and for our

partners throughout the Global South. As part of this effort, Grassroots makes a number of grants to organizations in both Africa and Asia whose work is aligned with ours.

### **Fund to Advance Resource Rights in West Africa**

Farmers have worked the rugged land in Western Africa for generations, moving seasonally from field to forest for food and livelihood. All that changed when the government planted a virtual “For Lease” sign on the land. China and other buyers grabbed it up, quickly draining the land of nutrients with vast fields of monocrops for export.



This is the plight of many farmers throughout West Africa.

Massive land grabs – combined with the influx of genetically modified seeds under the banner of the “Green Revolution,” and the promotion of laws that criminalize seed-saving and open markets to free trade – come with empty promises of increased agricultural productivity and the end of hunger.

But this so-called “Green Revolution” is responsible for poisoning precious farmland with toxic chemicals while profiting agro-industrial giants at the expense of the families and communities who depend on – and care for – the land.

Many threatened small farmers are joining a growing movement-building effort of peasant farmers who are part of *We Are the Solution*, a network of women-led family farmer organizations in five countries of West Africa, working to promote agroecology and food sovereignty as an alternative to the corporate takeover of agriculture in the region.

The **Fund to Advance Resource Rights in West Africa** supports grassroots organizations and social movements in West Africa that advance food sovereignty, climate justice and the human rights to land and water as solutions to hunger, poverty, and ecological disruption. It prioritizes support for social movements and community-based efforts that are led by women, small-scale farmers, indigenous peoples, and youth as those most impacted by these forms of injustice, and therefore the best experts in creating lasting solutions.

Grassroots International provides support to the following effort in **WEST AFRICA**:

**We Are the Solution (WAS)** is a collaboration of women-led family farmer organizations in Burkina Faso, Ghana, Guinea, Mali, and Senegal. *We are the Solution* is building a movement to strengthen women’s political learning and development. Member groups recognize that chronic problems of hunger and landlessness will continue to exist unless we replace the Green Revolution and corporate-controlled agriculture with agroecology, a framework that values local farmers’ knowledge and contribution to feed themselves and surrounding communities. Through the combination of local knowledge and

interdisciplinary technical expertise, agroecology builds a food system that is socially just, environment friendly and economic viable.

Grassroots International has supported *We Are the Solution* for four years.

In 2016, Grassroots will join with other funders to expand support for women’s leadership and resource rights in West Africa through support for *We Are the Solution*, as well as support for other social movements in the region, including the World March of Women and the National Coordination of Peasant Organizations (Mali).



### **Global Learning Exchanges: Cross-Border Movement Building for Social Justice**

The Global Learning Exchange program provides financial support to Grassroots’ partner and allied organizations in the Global South (primarily) and to U.S.-based allied organizations (secondarily), encouraging new methods of organizing and advocacy in the era of economic globalization and climate disruption. Specifically, the Global Learning Exchange program increases opportunities for strategic collaboration, organizing, learning and movement building among community-based organizations in the Global South and between them and their U.S. counterparts. Funding priority is given to 1) Grassroots partners; 2) initiatives that advance resource rights in the Global South; and 3) opportunities to connect our Global South partners with grassroots organizing and movement-building efforts in frontline impacted communities in the US.

### **Grants to Support the Development of a Food Sovereignty Movement in North America**

Since 2007 Grassroots has funded advocacy, education and grassroots lobbying in the United States to change policies affecting our overseas partners as well as our U.S. allies. We continue to fund domestic ally organizations working to build the U.S.-based food sovereignty movement, as well as support food sovereignty advocates worldwide through organizations such as the **National Family Farm Coalition** and the **North American Region of the Via Campesina**.

