

Next Steps: What I/We Can Do

Farmers, consumers and environmentalists around the world have mobilized millions of people on behalf of food sovereignty. They've passed legislation to protect local food systems, created community gardens, and protected their environment through community projects that bring together farmers and environmentalists. Here are some ways that you can help expand the movement.

Spread the message! Write to your local newspaper or some of your favorite blogs whenever food topics hit the news. You can provide a broader world perspective with your knowledge of food sovereignty and the shared interests of people in the Global North and Global South.

Build alliances! Today, the food sovereignty movement includes food producers, farmworkers, consumers, environmentalists, faith communities and more. Reach out to different constituencies in your community that have a stake in our food system – and we *all* have a stake. Environmentalists, for example, could seek alliances with wildlife organizations, demonstrating how a just food system could protect wildlife. Labor leaders could reach out to churches, synagogues or meditation groups to show how farmworkers' rights reflect religious teachings of compassion.

Educate and act! Changing the food system and protecting our environment means educating ourselves about the failings of today's food system and then working to change the values, behavior and policies around us. If you find yourself with some spare time after a meal, consider browsing the Internet to add to your knowledge of food issues. Throughout this curriculum, you will find information about key food sovereignty organizations.

Mobilize your community! When you find like-minded people in your community, consider working with them to organize town hall-style meetings, food policy councils, or GMO-free zones. Some people are saving their towns from the corporate privatization of local groundwater, connecting water sovereignty to food sovereignty. Get in touch with them and work together!

Join a Food Sovereignty campaign! Here are just a few:

- The National Family Farm Coalition is leading a campaign to make the U.S. Farm Bill a citizens' bill for food sovereignty ('The Food from Family Farms Act'): www.nffc.net
- Grassroots International supports organizing and movement building for food sovereignty worldwide: www.GrassrootsOnline.org
- The Alliance for Responsible Trade, an organization that works to stop trade agreements that hurt national and local food sovereignty and the environment, is mobilizing to preserve the ability of state governments to set their own environmental standards: www.art-us.org
- Food and Water Watch, a citizens' watchdog group that challenges corporate control and abuse of our food and water resources, is calling for stronger regulations to protect consumers' rights to know how and where our food is produced: www.foodandwaterwatch.org
- Friends of the Earth International leads several campaigns to stop climate change with an emphasis on food sovereignty. Their network is pushing to reduce energy consumption, penalize polluters and build a movement for climate justice: www.foei.org

