

POISON FREE, FOSSIL FUEL FREE, FOOD AND FARMING 2030



The Poison-free Food and Farming 2030 Campaign is an invitation to women and young generations, citizens and people in institutions, indigenous people everywhere, farmers, producers and consumers of food, local communities north and south, from the local to the global, who are already mobilizing to defend the earth and future generations, to create a unified movement for change.

Join us in becoming one voice in our rich diversity, to create poison free organic zones and local ecological food systems, that rejuvenate biodiversity, the soil and water, that create climate resilience and climate stability, that protect the health and well-being of our children and the heirs of all species.

Join the movement for Poison Free, Fossil Fuel Free, Organic Communities

Sign the pledge and make your community/zone poison free, fossil fuel free: https://navdanyainternational.org/publications/pledge-for-poison-free-food-and-farming/

Write to us at info@navdanyainternational.it to let us know about your ideas and work, as well as issues, projects and actions in your community, and learn more on how to get involved.

Campaign Page: https://navdanyainternational.org/cause/poison-free-food-and-farming-2030/

How we produce, distribute, consume food is increasingly becoming the centre of the multiple crises we face today. Whether it is ecological crises of biodiversity decline, climate change or the health crisis of hunger, malnutrition and the spate of diseases like cancer linked to pesticides and toxics in our environment and food chain.

The root of the problem is a growing dependence on a dysfunctional paradigm that depends on pesticides and economies of scale to accelerate the quantities of food produced, but at the expense of nutritional quality, causing a wide variety of detrimental impacts on health as well as the ecosystem. Evidence of the toxic consequences of the policies of agrichemical mega corporations, which we call the <u>Poison Cartel</u>, is growing by the day: species are disappearing, small farmers are losing their livelihoods, rural populations are being driven from their land to make way for industrial agriculture, and consumers increasingly have no option other than to buy food grown in increasingly contaminated soils.



But there exists an alternative approach to food sovereignty that is based on biodiversity, combines quantity and quality, to maximise the benefits to the health and well-being of the planet and people. The ecological paradigm of agriculture, food, nutrition and health is based on a systems approach that is displacing the current experiences and trends toward degradation with policies, practices, and knowledge that ensures renewal, a revived reliance on the health potentialities of the natural food systems, working toward harmony with nature, food sovereignty and seed resilience in the hands of farmers, as well as local food economies, which can sow the seeds of justice, dignity, sustainability, peace and true democracy.

Our work on <u>Food for Health</u> aims at highlighting the inseparable link between food and health, developing comprehensive strategies in synergy with different stakeholders, to overcome the model of industrial agriculture, encouraging the convergence and action of the movement for <u>Agroecology</u> and Public Health movements to reach a common vision of sustainable development, which must be equitable and inclusive.

A Commitment to the Earth

On 1st October 2017, at Bhoomi, the <u>Earth festival in New Delhi</u>, communities from the Himalaya who have been practising chemical free organic farming joined with Communities in the Alps who have become pesticides free to launch the creation of a Global Network of Poison Free Organic communities and Zones. The Chief Minister of <u>Sikkim</u> who has made Sikkim the first 100% organic state in the world, and Mayor Ulrich Veith of <u>Mals</u> who have made his village poison free, were part of the launch of the poison free network.

Poison based industrial agriculture, not only is the biggest driver of species extinction, wiping out the diversity of crops we have grown and eaten, pushing insects to extinction, including bees and butterflies that pollinate our crops, and give us one third of the food we eat, chemical farming and industrial agriculture is also contributing to 50% of the greenhouse gases leading to climate change. Poisons in our food are also leading to a disease epidemic that is plaguing people everywhere.

Biodiversity is essential to allow for evolution of Life on Earth and as such its capacity of adaptation. This diversity has been developed over thousands of generations and we have a duty is to safeguard it. We are members of the Earth family, not masters, owners We as humans do not have the right to exterminate our Earth relatives while closing the future for our children. When we push other species to extinction we are sowing the seeds of our own extinction.

Through poison free food and farming, we sow the seeds of Earth Democracy – of Seed Freedom, Food Freedom, Earth Freedom, for a brighter future for all beings, including our children, on our living, vibrant and generous Earth.



Pledge

to

Avert the Sixth Mass Extinction and Climate Catastrophe through Poison Free, Fossil Fuel Free, Organic Communities

The signs are loud and clear. From the Earth. From diverse species. From insects. From science. From women. From children. From indigenous communities. From the increase of disease in our daily lives.

Life on this planet, our own future, is under severe threat of the sixth mass extinction and climate catastrophe.

The extinction of species, disappearing biodiversity and the destruction of the planet's climate systems are interconnected through fossil fuels and chemical poisons based on rampant acquisitive competition and profit-based agricultural industrialization.

It is clear that the sixth mass extinction has now begun, <u>driven by the limitless greed of the 1%</u> and their total disregard of the ecological limits set by the Earth, and the inherent limits for social justice and human rights.

We are forgetting that we are <u>one humanity on one planet</u>. There is no planet B. It is here where either we will continue to live, or go extinct as a species, together with the millions of species that that have been driven to extinction by the violence and carelessness of an agriculture based on poisons.

Bees, butterflies, beetles and other insects are disappearing in what has been called an "<u>insectageddon</u>". Pesticides and chemical poisons, first used to kill humans in concentration camps have subsequently been used in industrial agriculture for "<u>war on bugs</u>". Killing insects is their purpose. Protecting life on Earth is critical.

Scientists have warned that "Unless we change our ways of producing food, insects as a whole will go down the path of extinction in a few decades".

The epidemic of chronic diseases is also the result of the spread of toxics in our food systems.

<u>Unfair "free trade" agreements</u> are spreading poisons in food and farming worldwide destroying local, ecological food systems, which protect the earth and our future.

Small farmers who care for the Earth and our health through growing real food that nourishes us are going extinct with 200 species that disappear daily with the spread of capital intensive chemical intensive industrial agriculture.

The Inter-Governmental Panel on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) has warned in its assessment that "Rapid expansion and unsustainable management of croplands and grazing lands is the most extensive global direct driver of land degradation, causing significant loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services – food security, water purification, the provision of energy and other contributions of nature essential to people. This has reached 'critical' levels in many parts of the



world.........With negative impacts on the well-being of at least 3.2 billion people, the degradation of the Earth's land surface through human activities is pushing the planet towards a sixth mass species extinction"

The poison-based industrial and monoculture paradigm of growing food is responsible for the destruction of biodiversity, extinction of species and is driving climate change.

50% of the Greenhouse gas emissions come from an industrial food system which is also uprooting the small peasants who provide 80% of the food.

<u>The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change IPCC</u> has warned that we have twelve years to limit <u>climate change catastrophe.</u>

Life, society and democracy are under threat. The planet and our lives are being destroyed by the brute force misleadingly called the economy. The Economy like Ecology, is derived from "oikos", our home, the earth. An economy that destroys our home is no longer economy. It is a war against the plane, the people, and our future.

The Hopi describe the phenomena of destroying everything that sustains a society as <u>Powaqqatsi</u> – "an entity, a way of life, that consumes the life forces of beings in order to further its own life". This is clearly in evidence today - we are dealing with a destructive extractive system/force that enriches the rich and those who control, and robs people of their rights, health and wellbeing. If we continue along this path, allowing corporations to keep extracting and degrading the planet and impoverishing its soils and citizens, our fragile web of life will be poisoned and broken, the diversity of species will be driven to extinction, people will lose all freedoms to their seed, to their food sovereignty, to their knowledge and decisions, all social relations will be ruptured and broken.

Protecting life on earth makes <u>ecological</u>, <u>local agriculture and organic farming an imperative</u>. This transition is at the heart of the movement of Poison Free Food and Farming

Our love for the earth will not allow this future to unfold. We embrace humanity and celebrate our biological and cultural diversity. We will defend the rights of the Earth and the rights of all her citizens as well as every child.

By first making peace with the Earth, we can create peace among peoples. By recognizing the <u>rights</u> of <u>Mother Earth</u> we are better able to defend the rights of people. Together with our creativity and Earth's generosity we will reduce our ecological footprint and expand our planetary consciousness of being one Earth Family, with one common home.

The Earth is for all beings today and tomorrow.

Together as diverse species and diverse cultures and through poison free organic food and farming, which offer climate solutions and rejuvenate biodiversity, we have the creative power to stop the sixth mass extinction and climate catastrophe. By joining hands, whoever we are, wherever we are, we must create "ever expanding, never ascending oceanic circles" of poison free, fossil fuel free earth communities, celebrating our interconnected life and freedom.

This is the call of Earth Democracy, our highest duty as Earth Citizen.



ACTIONS FOR EARTH DEMOCRACY THROUGH SEED FREEDOM, FOOD FREEDOM, EARTH FREEDOM

- Sign the pledge and make your community/zone poison free, fossil fuel free: https://navdanyainternational.org/publications/pledge-for-poison-free-food-and-farming/
- Save grow and reproduce traditional seed varieties to safeguard biodiversity, not as museum pieces in gene banks, but in Living Seed Banks as a basis for a healthy planet and healthy people.
- Grow Gardens of Hope, Gardens of Health, also at urban level, which favour the diffusion of nourishing and healing plants
- Create and support local food economies, farmers markets, CSAs, biodistricts, ecozones.
- Create links between schools, hospitals, health care centers and local organic fresh, diverse food systems.
- Create poison free zones, communities, farms and food systems.
- Demand labelling of chemicals and GMOs on the basis of fundamental right to know.
- Organise to demand that public money and taxes stop subsidising fossil fuels, chemicals and unhealthy food systems that create a burden of disease for us and shift all public support including policy to health promoting agriculture and food.
- Get policies passed for a transition to poison free, fossil fuel free living economies at whatever level possible local, regional, national
- Protect and defend forests, grasslands and small farms which hold the climate solution in regeneration of biodiversity and chemical free organic practices
- Do not co-operate with laws & policies that force fossil fuel intensive, chemical intensive unhealthy agriculture and food system.
- Create organic food communities through living democracy and living economies for the health of the planet and the health of people
- Celebrate 2nd October (Gandhi's birth anniversary) to 16th October (world food day) as days of action for Seed freedom, Food freedom & Earth freedom

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