

Seeds of Freedom

A Global Movement for Seed, Food and Earth Democracy

The core aim of the Seed Freedom movement is to protect Seeds as a commons, defend seed sovereignty and promote food sovereignty in the context of a deepening Seed Emergency and a Food Crisis.

The Seed Freedom Movement, launched in October 2012, continues to gain ground and has been the catalyst by which movements, organizations and individuals around the world are today taking action everywhere to keep seed free from poisons chemicals, GMOs and patents and to protect farmers rights to save, exchange and sell their seeds.

A Timeline of Key Events and Actions for Seed Freedom

January 2014

Seed Freedom Mobilization Tour of Latin America



In the wake of increasing assaults by biotech lobbies and unjust laws, the networks in Ecuador and Costa Rica invited Vandana Shiva and the Seed Freedom team to speak at conferences of the Latin American Alliance for Seed Freedom and Food Freedom, and conduct workshops and exchanges with Women Seed Guardians and farmers of Latin America as well as university students and seed savers and networks. They invited the Seed Freedom Movement to create a global solidarity for their

movements, integrating them into the Global Citizens Response and thus help strengthen the movements. The Latin American Seed Freedom mobilization tour has led to a strengthening of disparate movements working on diverse issues to come together. The Free Seeds Network of Latin America made up of over 200 organizations, Bloque Verde, The Seed Guardians Network, The Global Alliance of Rights of Nature are all now core partners of the Seed Freedom movement.

As a follow up to the Seed Freedom mobilization tour, the 2 agronomists Mr. Fabian Pacheco and Permaculturist and Seed Saving Expert Javier Carrera are coming for capacity building and knowledge exchange with Navdanya farmers in India and Navdanya International farmers and European movements in Italy in Sep-Oct 2014.

Moreover, The members of the Bloque Verde and Seed Guardians Network of Costa Rica are visiting Navdanya India in September 2014 for the steering committee meeting to discuss strategies for the next phase of the Seed Freedom movement. Joint actions, campaigns research and seed rescue missions have been planned for the next phase of the Seed Freedom Movement

Other Key outcomes

- The SF mobilization tour of Ecuador, Costa Rica, (and meetings with presidential candidates in CR) Brazil, Peru and Mexico. Seed brought into the center of discourse at the Rights of Nature Conference in Ecuador in Jan 2014 as well as the Permanent Tribunal on RON presided by Vandana Shiva.

- The movement for creating GMO Free Zones resulted in over 90% of Costa Rica GMO Free.
- Columbia RES 9.70 put on hold
- Chile seed law rejected
- Support to Canadian farmers on proposed law c 18 .
- Support to the movement against gmo maize in Mexico by joining permanent people's tribunal , providing testimony for the class action suit that has put an interim halt on trials and offering solidarity through public meetings .
- Island of Maui passes a ban on GMOs
<http://mauinow.com/2014/11/05/monsanto-to-file-lawsuit-challenging-maui-gmo-moratorium/>

Links

Ecuador

- **Seed and Family Farming : Future of Food**
<http://seedfreedom.in/dr-vandana-shiva-in-ecuador-on-january-the-17th/>
- **Yasuni Videos**
- [Spanish] <http://youtu.be/-TnSR2bjR94>
- [English] Excerpt: <http://youtu.be/sp5RKRVTITA>
- **Rights of Nature Tribunal Video**
<http://seedfreedom.in/rights-of-nature-tribunal-presidents-closing-statement-quito-ecuador/>

Rights of Nature Tribunal

- <http://amazonwatch.org/news/2014/0121-first-international-tribunal-on-rights-of-nature>
- <http://therightsofnature.org/ron-summit-outcomes/>

Costa Rica

- **Declaration Rural Women's Network**
[Spanish] <http://seedfreedom.in/declaratoria-de-la-red-de-mujeres-rurales-de-costa-rica-ante-la-visita-de-vandana-shiva/>
- **Vandana Shiva with the Rural Women's Network in Costa Rica**
<http://vimeo.com/95690841>
- **Dr. Shiva and Seed Freedom at University of Costa Rica**
<http://youtu.be/m2R8t367UFg>
- **Vandana Shiva in Costa Rica**
- <http://www.ticotimes.net/2014/01/22/indian-activist-vandana-shiva-speaks-out-against-gmos-in-costa-rica>
- <http://youtu.be/GEEp19h3alo>
- <http://on.fb.me/1xIARbo>
- **Demonstration in front of Constitutional Court**
<http://seedfreedom.in/es/costa-rica-ecologistas-ganan-batalla-contra-los-transgenicos/>
- **Costa Rican Government decrees Corn as Cultural Heritage**
<http://seedfreedom.in/maize-culture-costa-rican-government-decrees-corn-as-cultural-heritage/>

- **Lawmakers begin discussion on bill to prepare for moratorium on GMOs in Costa Rica**
<http://www.ticotimes.net/2014/12/16/lawmakers-begin-discussions-on-bill-that-would-place-a-moratorium-on-gmo-crop-production-in-costa-rica>



February 2014

Seed Freedom Mobilization Tour – Germany and Netherlands

- **Save our soils** – Public Meeting and Guerrilla Planting Action at Nuremberg, Biofach (13th, 14th February 2014)

<http://seedfreedom.in/save-our-soils-guerrilla-planting-action-rettet-unsere-boden-pflanzaktion/>

- Seed Freedom at **National Seed Festival** with Open House in Iphofen, Germany -15 February
<http://seedfreedom.in/iphofen-germany-seed-festival-with-vandana-shiva/>

- Planning Meeting for 2015 International Conference and Tribunal against Poisons in Food in Nuremberg (15th February 2014)

- **Food Otherwise Festival** at Wageningen University (19th February 2014)
 Key Note at the 2 day conference on the transformation of food and agriculture at Wageningen, Netherland

- http://youtu.be/sMSzyF_BKXc

- http://www.voedselanders.nl/voedselanders.nl/Start_files/FINAL%20transcript%20vandana%20shiva-%20plain%20text.pdf



April 2014

Seed Freedom in Mexico (13th to 15th April 2014)



With René Sánchez Galindo and Adelita San Vicente

Permanent People's Tribunal against GMO Maize , support the movement against GM Maize and testimony for the class action suit that has put an interim halt on trials and offering solidarity through public meetings .

- **Seeds and Farmers free from Transgenic, Coyoacan, Mexico**
(12th April 2014)
- <http://on.fb.me/1t5RO2W>
- [Spanish] <http://seedfreedom.in/monsanto-primero-contamina-cultivos-y-luego-busca-legalizarse-activista/>

Seed Freedom Mobilization Tour in Canada

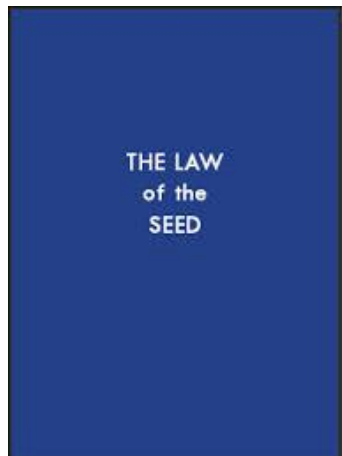


Vandana Shiva speaks to Public Interest Alberta director Bill Moore-Kilgannon in Edmonton on April 11, 2014.

As part of the Global Movement to Reclaim Seed as Commons, International Call for non co-operation and civil disobedience against laws such as Bill C-18 which will rob Canadian farmers from their right to save and exchange seeds and further corporatize the food and agricultural system.

- **Launch of Satyagraha against Bill C-18 (April 2014)**
- <http://blogs.edmontonjournal.com/2014/04/12/activist-vandana-shiva-calls-for-satyagraha-against-federal-bill-c-18/>
- <http://pialberta.org/content/dr-vandana-shiva-fighting-gmo-giants>
- <http://seedfreedom.in/vandana-shiva-sows-seeds-for-the-future/>
- <http://youtu.be/gPreph9dtT8>

LAW of the SEED and Mobilization against EU Seed Law



Europe : Seed Legislation, Brussels: A major mobilization was mounted against the proposed European Seed Legislation which would mean a still greater concentration of the seed market going into the hands of the 5 largest multinational grain companies. On the invitation of the European Greens and local seed movements and organizations, Vandana Shiva and the Seed Freedom Campaign was invited to speak at a series of key conferences and public meetings at the European Parliament in Brussels in September. A strong alliance of food democracy and seed freedom European-based organizations came together, and the European Citizens Declaration against the proposed new seed legislation was launched (see www.seedfreedom.eu).

The outcome was a **major victory** for the movement when the European Commission's proposed seed regulation was voted down by Parliament on 11 March this year with the request that the Commission go back to the drawing board.

Links

- **Law of the Seed at the EU Parliament**
 - <http://youtu.be/lmSw3anM1QE>
 - <http://seedfreedom.in/event/release-of-the-law-of-the-seed/>
 - <http://www.navdanya.org/attachments/lawofseed.pdf>
- **Rollback of EU Seed Law – Statement**
 - <http://seedfreedom.in/statement-on-seed-freedom-victory-in-europe/>
 - <http://seedfreedom.in/euseed-regulation/>

April-May 2014

International Caravan for Seed Freedom



April-May 2014 saw the huge success of the International Caravan for Seed Freedom. The caravan travelled more than 4000 kms from Greece, to Italy to France. The caravan saw citizens and farmers from different realities come together openly and creatively to strengthen the Global Alliance and share future actions so that from our seeds and food may begin a new economy based on the commons. In times of crisis of huge social, economic and ecological collapse the international caravan for Seed Freedom worked to build alternatives to the current ecological and agricultural models.

Key Outcomes

- Planning meeting with key European movements on actions and strategies for the Call to Action for Seed, Food and Earth Democracy.
- Workshops on Seed Saving, Agro ecology and Beekeeping, Seed Exchange and Celebrating Biodiversity □
- European Co-ordination for Seed Freedom launched to combat upcoming EU Seed Legislation
- Peliti, Greece core and steering committee member of the Global Alliance for Seed Freedom. Co-ordinator from Peliti Athens travels to India for steering committee meeting in September 2014 as well as taking workshops on biodynamic farming

Links

- <http://seedfreedom.info/campaign/international-solidarity-caravan-for-seeds-2014/>

June 2014

Seed Freedom Tour and Conferences in Africa with AFSA



Seed Freedom, GMOs and Seed Laws in Africa – June 2014

The Seed Freedom Campaign through Vandana Shiva was invited for a special address for the African Food Sovereignty Network in August 2013 to establish links between seed sovereignty and food sovereignty and share successful strategies with the African network that the Seed Freedom campaign has built. In the wake of threats against Africa's knowledge systems and diversity by corporate and genetically modified seeds, AFSA invited Dr. Vandana Shiva and The Seed Freedom Movement to come together and help build a strong defense against these laws and Green Revolution on Africa. The Seed Freedom Africa tour included Conferences and Movement-building actions to strengthen movements for Seed and Food Sovereignty in South Africa, Ghana, Tanzania and Zimbabwe in June 2014.

The Seed Freedom movement is working closely with African networks on strategies, advocacy and campaign to resist the African Regional Seed laws such as ARIPO PVP Harmonized law, SADC PVP Harmonized Law, COMESA Seed Laws.

Key Outcomes

- The African mobilization tour of Zimbabwe, Tanzania, Ghana and South Africa has led to a strong movement against GMOs and harmonization of seed laws. Pabia Isaac from Food Sovereignty Ghana communicated that the public meetings by Vandana Shiva and seed freedom campaigns ignited public discussion on plant breeders bill in Ghana and led to movements joining hands to resist unjust laws that threaten their seed sovereignty. Saidi Singo from Tanzania said that thanks to the seed freedom tour, we clearly understand the links between seed sovereignty, food sovereignty, agro ecology and climate change. The visit in Tanzania helped highlight and bring into public discourse that it is agro ecological farming that provides the solutions to climate change and hunger.
- As a direct outcome, key representatives from farmers' organizations from Tanzania, Ghana and Zimbabwe were chosen to spend one month in India to learn agro-ecological farming, seed saving, participatory breeding and replicate these in their communities in their respective countries.
- Representatives movements from Tanzania, Ghana and Zimbabwe also visited

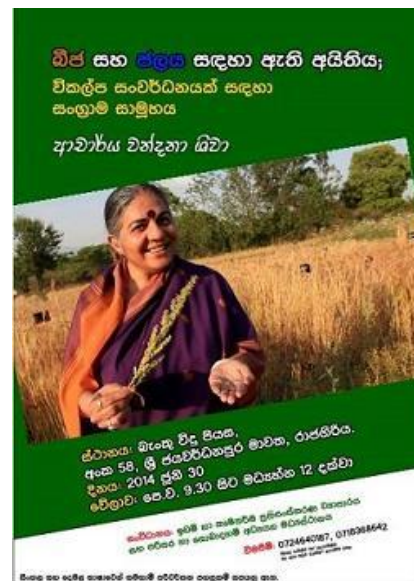
Navdanya for the Seed Freedom Strategy meeting in September 2014. An intensive joint campaign has been planned against GMO Banana piracy with key African countries such as Uganda and the African Food Sovereignty Network.

Links

- **Vandana Shiva in Tanzania – A physicist who put a human face on agriculture**
- <http://seedfreedom.in/tanzania-dr-vandana-shiva-physicist-who-has-put-a-human-face-on-agriculture/>
- <http://on.fb.me/1yRWybl>
- **Vandana Shiva in Ghana**
- <http://foodsovereigntyghana.org/video-dr-vandana-shiva-in-accra-1-public-forum/>
- <http://www.ghanatv.com/tv3-ghana-live.html>
- <http://www.greenpeace.org/africa/en/Press-Centre-Hub/Press-releases/Vandana-Shiva-supports-AFSA-in-making-the-case-for-Agro-ecology/>
- **Ghana’s Farmers battle ‘Monsanto Law’ to retain their Seed Freedom**
- <http://seedfreedom.info/ghanas-farmers-battle-monsanto-law-to-retain-seed-freedom/>

Right for Seed and Water – A Campaign for Alternative Development Model in Srilanka

Seeds, which farmers over the ages grew in their own backyard or farmlands, are now the core of a debate over a proposed new Seed Act in Sri Lanka which farmers say would force them to import seeds from powerful seed companies in the world like Monsanto, Bayer or DuPont. Dr. Shiva called for a rejection of the Seed Act and a campaign for an alternative development model in Srilanka. Thousands of farmers marched in June 2014 against the proposed Seed Act, which would rob farmers of their seed freedom. The struggle against the Seed Act has been strengthened and continues today. A direct outcome of the Seed Freedom tour in Srilanka has been that 2 key farmers’ representatives from Srilanka were sent to India for one month in September to learn and share knowledge on agro ecological methods at the A-Z of Agro Ecology and take part in the Seed Freedom Strategy meeting at Navdanya. The farmers’ organizations also came to learn how to set up a People’s University on Agro ecology based on the model of the Earth University at Navdanya.



Links

- <http://youtu.be/b-jhAuGF8pE>
- <http://seedfreedom.in/dr-vandana-shiva-visits-sri-lanka/>



July 2014

International GMO Free Conference in China

Links

- **Vandana Shiva at the International GMO Conference in China**
 - http://ref.topictimes.com/videos/entertainment/vandana-shiva-at-international-gmo-conference-in-china-2014-with-maa-full-PUrn6Jq_0c.html
 - <http://naturalsociety.com/china-conference-warn-gmo-dangers-new-zealand-takes-note/>
 - <http://sustainablepulse.com/2014/08/09/chinese-international-experts-slam-gmos-glyphosate-beijing-conference/#.VMFGGyw1l2A>
 - <http://sustainablepulse.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/2014-08-08-Food-Safety-and-Sustainable-Agriculture-Forum-2014-Beijing.pdf>
- **Crack Down on GMOs in China, Russia and Mexico**
 - <http://seedfreedom.info/crack-down-on-gmos-in-russia-china-mexico/>

August 2014

Our Seeds Our Future: Strengthening Indonesia's Food Sovereignty



At the request of local communities and farmers, the Seed Freedom movement through Dr. Vandana Shiva was invited to Indonesia to strengthen the movement Food Sovereignty in Indonesia and to counter the increasing monopolization of the food system by a small group of corporations.

In collaboration with grassroots Indonesian communities and organizations such as Mantasa, Kehati Foundation, KBAR KEDRI and Slow Food Bali, Navdanya International has launched a collaborative project **OUR SEEDS, OUR FUTURE**, which seeks to embrace the involvement of a diverse range of society, starting with the support of farmers, women's groups, fishermen, indigenous people, local food producers, along with the informed general public who are concerned about the future of food in Indonesia and who want to strengthen and preserve food sovereignty and security in Indonesia.

An **outcome** of the upcoming **OUR SEEDS, OUR FUTURE** program in Bali has been the creation of a local seed initiative, entitled **BENIH BALI** which will encompass a public awareness and education program about the importance of local seed production, with responsible supporting programs in Bali for improved seed conservation, adaptation & innovation programs, including an island-wide seed network, seed library, and seed bank. BENIH BALI will represent a "next step" in developing more programs initiated by and on going by IDEP, with collaborative support from numerous other organizations.

Links

- <https://ourseedsourfuture2014.wordpress.com>

- <http://on.fb.me/VyYB4S>

- <http://www.navdanya.org/blog/?p=1893>

- **Educational Gardens**

- <http://tulisan.greenschool.org/2014/08/27/dr-vandana-shiva-visits-green-school/>

- **Launch of Campaign in Indonesia and Australia against GMO Banana Biopiracy**

- <http://seedfreedom.info/campaign/no-gmo-banana-campaign/>

September 2014

A-Z of Agroecology



A Global Capacity Building Workshops was held at the [Navdanya Biodiversity Conservation farm](#) for citizens' organizations and movements on seed saving, seed exchange and participatory breeding and the links between Seed Sovereignty and Food Sovereignty, and issues of Intellectual Property Rights, Patents, Seed Monopolies and Farmers Rights at Dehradun with eminent scientists and environmentalists like Professor Salvatore Ceccarelli, Dr. Vandana Shiva, Sandor Katz, AV Singh, Javier Carrera, Fabian Pacheco, Marilyn Kennedy, Chris Kennedy, Dr. Mira Shiva, Dr. Anna Powar. The global capacity building workshop (A-Z on Agroecology) concluded with the annual Earth Festival ([Bhoomi](#)) organized by Navdanya in New Delhi on 01/10/2014.

Links

- <http://seedfreedom.info/a-z-of-agroecology-and-organic-food-system/>

- **Seed Thoughts**

- <http://seedfreedom.info/seed-thoughts-from-navdanya/>

- - <http://www.navdanya.org/news/450-a-z-of-agroecology-and-organic-food-systems-a-report-of-the-week-one-from-the-earth-university>

October 2014

Bhoomi –



Navdanya's annual festival Bhoomi, based on 'Annapurna: Feeding the World' was held on 1st of October, 2014 at the India International Centre.

It was also the culmination of A-Z of Agroecology and Organic Food System which took place from 1st to 30th September at Navdanya's Biodiversity Conservation Farm. This year's edition of Bhoomi brought together the voices of people who are deeply committed to ensuring the Right to Food through

praxis, reflection as well as cultural expression. They shared how agro-ecology and a reconnection to our food and its source can indeed Feed the World nurturing, affordable and relishing food.

Aptly named Abundant Earth, the dinner which followed the day's event was a tribute to Earth's carrying, nurturing and sustaining capacity as reflected by the diversity of our table.

Links

- <http://seedfreedom.info/bhoomi-2014-2/>

September-October 2014

Call to Action for Seed Freedom, Food Freedom and Earth Democracy



Links

- <http://seedfreedom.info/campaign/call-to-action-for-seed-food-and-earth-democracy-2014/>
- <http://seedfreedom.info/events/categories/call-to-action-20-sept-20-oct-2014/>

November 2014

Festival for Dangerous Ideas, Canada



Links

- <http://seedfreedom.info/events/festival-of-dangerous-ideas-food-for-thought/>
- <http://on.fb.me/1L4Xm3F>
- Part1: <http://youtu.be/TsySZeJsR6M>
- Part 2: http://youtu.be/EtO_M1zpia0

Seeds of Change : GMOs and Vermont's labelling law



Links

- <http://seedfreedom.info/events/lecture-with-dr-vandana-shiva-at-vermont-law-school-seeds-of-change-gmos-and-vermonts-labeling-law/>
- <http://seedfreedom.info/now-available-dr-vandana-shiva-vermont-talk-videos/>
- <http://seedfreedom.info/scientist-food-activist-lauds-vt-gmo-law/>

December 2014

Japan - Seed Freedom : Seeds, Soil and Food for the future

Dr. Vandana Shiva of India and [Dr. Hans Herren](#) of Switzerland, two distinguished recipients of the Right Livelihood Award and internationally renowned environmental advocates, travelled to Japan for an unprecedented speaking tour to address pressing challenges and solutions for safeguarding global food security. The tour was organized by [Shumei International](#), a Japanese nonprofit that promotes natural agriculture, in cooperation with [Navdanya](#) and the Slow Small School as part of its 2nd annual “SEED



FREEDOM: Seeds, Soil and Food for the Future”series. From December 12 to 14, Dr. Shiva and Dr. Herren spoke to more than a thousand people including business leaders, students, local farmers, and community members at the Roppongi Hills Visionary Institute, Meiji Gakuin University and the Kobe Conference Center.

Now in its second year in Japan, the SEED FREEDOM series is part of a growing global campaign and movement started by Dr. Shiva to spread awareness about the current precarious state of the global seed supply and its consequent threat to food security. The SEED FREEDOM campaign puts a spotlight on the rapid erosion of seed diversity and seed sovereignty. Small farmers, who have bred seeds freely in partnership with each other and nature for hundreds of years, are under attack. The rapid increase in acreage devoted to genetically modified organisms (GMO) crops and patented GMO seeds is threatening to undermine the foundation of worldwide agriculture.

“Every year the interconnected crises of our planet become clearer,” warned Dr. Vandana Shiva, who advocates for biodiversity conservation and the promotion of organic farming around the world. “Industrial agriculture has degraded our land, destroyed our biodiversity, and uprooted farmers from their livelihoods and culture. By privatizing and patenting the seed, the old economy has created an ecological crisis and an economic disaster. It is imperative that we reclaim the commons of the seed, our land, and our cultural heritage.”

Links

- <http://seedfreedom.info/events/seed-freedom-seeds-soil-and-food-for-the-future/>
- <http://seedfreedom.in/seed-freedom-gardens-of-hope/>

