

GATES AG ONE IN ARGENTINA ¹

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Bill Gates has landed in the Argentine agri-food system. He has done so at the hands of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), an international organization supported by the United States of America. A partnership which has clearly blurred the line between the public and the private sectors, since it is truly a covert entity of agribusiness, through which the Bill & Melinda Gates Philanthrocapitalist Foundation has been operating, since 2011, by making contributions and donations.

In 2018, IICA and Bill Gates' Microsoft built a strategic alliance called the "Alliance for Digital Education in the Americas" ² with the objective of implementing a complete digitalization of agriculture, through a broad technological platform developed by Gates' computer company using the Internet of Things (IoT), Big Data and Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools; as well as the application of innovation, information technology and communication in development projects, among others.

Previously, IICA and Microsoft had tested the development of prototypes using the Internet of Things and Artificial Intelligence to combat diseases that occur in coffee cultivation, as well as to create a platform to strengthen people's capacities in terms of agricultural issues.

In addition to the celebrated strategic alliance with Bill Gates, he was joined by the Global Hitss corporation, a subsidiary of American Móvil (owned by billionaire Carlos Slim), to strengthen software applications (apps), and the agrobiotechnology companies Bayer Monsanto, Corteva (Dow, Dupont and Pioneer) and Syngenta ChemChina. ³

¹ *Extracted from:* Cabaleiro, Fernando. "El socio menos pensado: Bill Gates desembarca en el sistema agroalimentario argentino." *Naturaleza de Derechos | Biodiversidad en América Latina*, July 3, 2020. <http://www.biodiversidadla.org/Documentos/El-socio-menos-pensado-Bill-Gates-desembarca-en-el-sistema-agroalimentario-argentino>

² "Microsoft e IICA Firmaron Un Acuerdo Para Potenciar El Uso de Tecnología En El Agro | Solo Campo." Last modified December 24, 2018. <http://solocampo.com.ar/index/microsoft-e-iica-firmaron-un-acuerdo-para-potenciar-el-uso-de-tecnologia-en-el-agro/>

³ "Alianzas Estratégicas ." *Instituto Interamericano de Cooperación Para La Agricultura (IICA)*. <https://www.iica.int/es/strategic-alliances>

"El IICA y Bayer firman acuerdo para promover seguridad alimentaria en América." *Nuevos Papeles*, February 7, 2019. <https://www.nuevospapeles.com/nota/17625-el-iica-y-bayer-firman-acuerdo-para-promover-seguridad-alimentaria-en-america>

"Acuerdo entre Corteva Agriscience y el IICA fortalecerá producción de alimentos de calidad en las Américas." *Instituto Interamericano de Cooperación Para La Agricultura (IICA)*, October 31, 2019. <https://iica.int/es/prensa/noticias/acuerdo-entre-corteva-agriscience-y-el-iica-fortalecera-produccion-de-alimentos-de>

"Syngenta y el IICA se unen para impulsar la innovación en la agricultura de las Américas." *Instituto Interamericano de Cooperación Para La Agricultura (IICA)*, July 7, 2020. <https://iica.int/es/prensa/noticias/syngenta-y-el-iica-se-unen-para-impulsar-la-innovacion-en-la-agricultura-de-las>

The Alliance's one objective is to carry out IICA's Medium-Term Plan (MTP) 2018-2022 for agriculture in the Americas, specifically targeting Argentina and Brazil first, to then implement the plan throughout the Latin American and Caribbean region. IICA's own website states that "pilot programs will be implemented in Brazil and Argentina, in accordance with the definition of priorities for implementing the agreement that the two organizations (IICA and Microsoft) signed in October to work for the benefit of the rural areas of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean."⁴

The plan is called "AgTech" and was presented in Argentina on June 30, 2020 by Manuel Otero, President of IICA, in the presence of the Ministers of Agriculture and Science of Argentina and other public officials in strategic positions.⁵

"AgTech" is nothing other than the "AgOne" that Bill Gates designed and built from his philanthro-capitalism, developing and investing in research and technology projects in Asia and Africa to be applied in the agro-food system and that have no other purpose than to generate processes of accumulation of capital, economic concentration, appropriation of genetic resources and social domination.



IICA is also in partnership with Bill Gates (along with other foundations) in the formation of the System Reference Group (SRG) which has submitted its recommendations in July 2019 calling for the formal unification of the 15 CGIAR (Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research) centers, with their respective seed banks, into one. The intentions of this group were set out in the document "Feeding the world in a changing climate: an adaptation roadmap for

⁴ "Microsoft y el IICA definieron hoja de ruta para la transformación digital del agro de las Américas." *Instituto Interamericano de Cooperación Para La Agricultura (IICA)*. <https://www.iica.int/es/prensa/noticias/microsoft-y-el-iica-definieron-hoja-de-ruta-para-la-transformacion-digital-del-agro>

Instituto Interamericano de Cooperación Para La Agricultura (IICA). "Acuerdo Microsoft-IICA Potenciará La Innovación y El Uso de Tecnología En El Sector Del Agro de Las Américas." *Laboratorio Nacional de GeoInteligencia (GeoINT)*, n.d. <http://mid.geoint.mx/site/publicacion/id/55.html>

⁵ "El ministro Basterra abrió el ciclo virtual 'El Impacto Científico Tecnológico en el desarrollo del Sector Agropecuario.'" *Argentina.gob.ar*. Last modified July 1, 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-ministro-basterra-abrio-el-ciclo-virtual-el-impacto-cientifico-tecnologico-en-el>

agriculture" ⁶. IICA itself boasts in the document that with the excuse of accelerating adaptation to climate change, it proposes a transformation of the world agricultural system, "with the task of feeding an ever-growing population and under more extreme climatic conditions... the adaptation of the food production system is urgent in the Americas, not only because of the high vulnerability of the sector to climate change, but also because the maintenance and increase of the continent's food supply to the world depends on it." ⁷

IICA, the Bill Gates Foundation, Bayer/Monsanto, Corteva (Dow, Dupont & Pioneer) and Syngenta, without a doubt, make up the most dangerous alliance for agriculture and food sovereignty for each country in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The objectives of "AgTech/AgOne" cover all the productive processes of the agrifood system which are crossed by Bill Gates' hegemonic and domination design. Not good. The gateway chosen was Argentina, just as Monsanto chose our country in 1996 to release its first transgenic seed.



Ultra-processed synthetic meat, cellular material that tastes like chicken or fish, artificial eggs, corn, soybean and sunflower seeds, as well as all the fruits, vegetables, and greens subjected to genetic editing using the CRISPR technique, grown in unpopulated fields controlled by remote-controlled and programmable drones for

planting, measuring variables, and continuing to spray with new combinations of agrochemicals and synthetic fertilizers with the incorporation of precision software for mapping and collecting all the information on biological and genetic resources. Automation of physical harvesting processes and all stages of intensive agriculture, where machines decide on their own, super cows, super pigs and baby super chicks resulting from biotechnology applied only to increase production without any concern for human health risks and the complete annulment of the knowledge of thousands of years of farmers, is part of what AgTech presented on June 30, 2020.

⁶ Loboguerrero, A. M., Birch, J., Thornton, P., Meza, L., Sunga, I., Bong, B. B., Rabbinge, R., Reddy, M., Dinesh, D., Korner, J., Martinez-Baron, D., Millan, A., Hansen, J., Huyer, S., & Campbell, B. (2018). *Feeding the world in a changing climate: An adaptation roadmap for agriculture* (October 2018). Global Commission on Adaptation. https://cdn.gca.org/assets/2018-10/18_WP_GCA_Agriculture_1001_Oct5.pdf

⁷ "La agricultura mundial dispone de un nuevo instrumento para la adaptación efectiva al cambio climático." *Instituto Interamericano de Cooperación Para La Agricultura (IICA)*, October 25, 2018. <https://www.iica.int/es/prensa/noticias/la-agricultura-mundial-dispone-de-un-nuevo-instrumento-para-la-adaptaci%25C3%25B3n-efectiva>

A kind of relaunch of the agro-industrial model in Argentina. It is about the dehumanization of agriculture itself. A plan alienated from reality and from the consequences of the immunosuppressive agro-industrial model has had as a pivotal co-author of the obligatory social confinement devastating the planet because of the Covid-19 Pandemic.

The AgTech tests the call for a broad deregulatory framework, as if the agro-industrial model did not know about it. It is enough to mention that, in Argentina, GMOs were never subject to any congressional law and that CRISPR crops and new biotechnology events are not even necessarily subject to a risk review, if it is so determined by a consultative body (CONABIA) whose members are not public officials, but rather belong to public and private entities with, in many cases, have serious conflicts of interest due to their agribusiness links.

IICA suggests that it would be valuable for AgTech to have performance legislation (as opposed to indicative legislation) in key regulatory areas to incentivize innovation-based solutions, according to certain specific technical parameters.

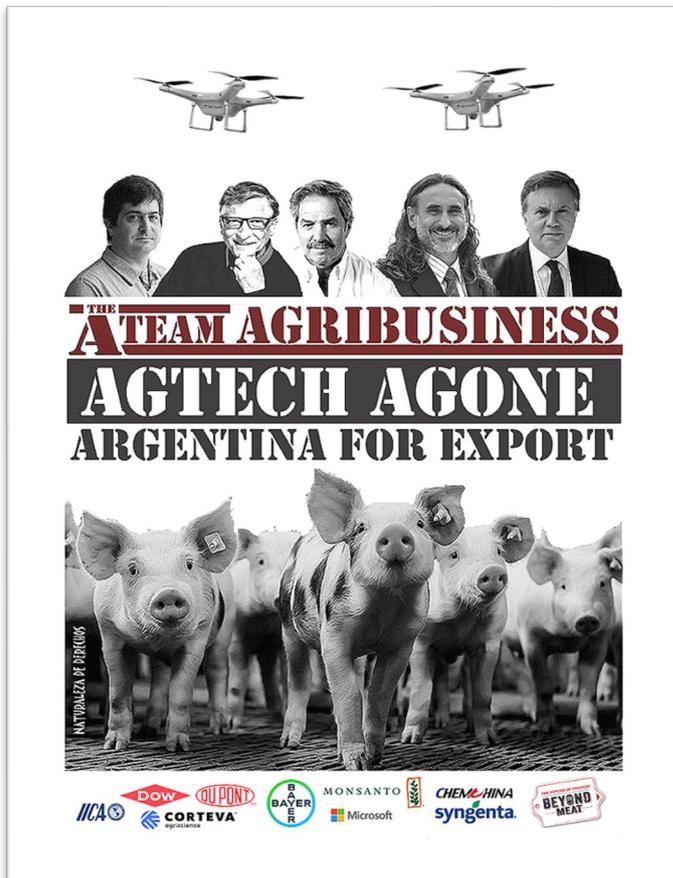
Such a requirement by IICA is intended to make the processes involving AgTech subject to permissive and open regulation. The indicative or prescriptive legislation that IICA opposes is based on the constitutional criterion that there are no absolute rights and the law must operate as a social controller, of course not from the perspective of capitalist persecution, but from the viewpoint of the "common good" which forms the basis of the Argentine legal order, as it is the end purpose of the State which, therefore, empowers it to regulate rights.

Likewise, the areas in which AgTech operates, impose technological advances that open up significant uncertainties in such a sensitive area as food, a key determinant of health, where precaution is a legal criterion that cannot be ignored. IICA's approach is more in line with the need to speed up processes and take for granted that there are no risks whatsoever. The proposed deregulation of AgTech is based on Bill Gates' AgOne Biosafety Deregulation Program.

The rhetoric of Ag Tech, obviously the same as that of Bill Gates' AgOne, talks about the need to provide technological innovation to small and medium farmers to increase their production when they do not even have the right to access land. Most of the actors in family, peasant, indigenous and self-managed farms that produce the food (fruits, vegetables and fruits) consumed by the Argentine population do not own the land and are forced to pay high rents. Furthermore, there is talk of increasing key food production through actions to mitigate climate change, however, agriculture continues to be directed towards the production of monocultures such as soy, which is not food for humans but for animal consumption (mainly as exports to China), or the production of biodiesel for fuels whose climate impact is greater than that of fossil fuels.

Since the Green Revolution to date, the agro-industrial regime in Argentina has never been the scene of a democratic debate in the institutional and sovereign space of public policy: the National Congress. We are faced with an autocracy over agriculture that, as it has no diverse democratic content of ideas

and opinions, favors - almost automatically - the monolithic and hegemonic influences of the large agribusiness corporations and of Bill Gates (under the representation of IICA).



By twisting the wills of some government officials, visiting their offices (Directorates, Deputy Secretaries, Ministries), reach their goals to advance expeditious regulations made to the mold of their interests, without the need congressional laws, nor to transit the parliamentary procedures with the due citizen participation that, from their perspectives, are obstacles for their inevitable, urgent and immediate objectives.

Therefore, denouncing is the sovereign act of freedom that we exercise by making visible what is happening in Argentina. As if COVID-19 had nothing to do with the agro-industrial model, and as if

naiveté governs us in believing that Bill Gates and the Agribusiness corporations, now under the lying mantle of IICA, are part of the solution. They are wrong, they are a big part of the problem, and our critical gaze and skepticism did not enter Quarantine.



Photo: Naturaleza de Derechos