



**2019**  
**Annual Report**

*Navdanya International champions agroecology, biodiversity, climate resilience, seed and food sovereignty, and the rights of small farmers around the world.*

## **Message from our President**



*We are beginning the decade of transition, the decade of possibilities. The decade of moving out of the fossil-fuel/poison dominated age, the age of hate and division and mechanistic reductionist thought, the age of separation, to an age of diversity and unity.*

*An age where we are awakened to the fact that we are inter-beings and we co-create with the Earth.*

*Our health is in the soil, our health is in the food, our health is in the diversity.*

*It's in this world of diversity, it's in the world of inter-beings, it's in the world of cooperation, that we create sustainability of living at peace with the Earth, and we create peace of communities of diversity living in peaceful societies.*

*Let us, with love and determination, work with all the species on this planet, celebrate all the diversity of our societies.*

*We can be living in Gardens, sowing gardens, working with the soil, the animals, our plants, the insects - working with the future.*

*That is the word that we need to sow. Let us sow the Seeds of Love.*

— Dr Vandana Shiva

## About us



[Navdanya International](#) is an international organization, founded in Italy in 2011 to strengthen the global outreach of [Navdanya](#) and the Navdanya Movement, created 30 years ago by Dr Vandana Shiva to defend seed and food sovereignty and small farmers around the world.

In India, Navdanya pioneered the movement of seed saving and seed freedom, which began in response to the crisis of erosion of agricultural biodiversity and introduction of GMOs and patents on seeds through intellectual property rights (IPRs) and so-called 'free trade' agreements.

Navdanya International's vision is based on an alternative worldview that promotes and supports Earth Democracy, agroecology, biodiversity conservation, food and seed sovereignty and social and ecological resilience.

Navdanya International has been at the forefront of showing connections between the multiple crises in the global debate in a holistic perspective, and at the same time connecting movements and actions on the ground. Its international campaigns, convergences and assemblies and advocacy actions have been focused on exploring the context of our food systems and its connections with soil, climate resilience, biodiversity, equity, social justice and health, with the aim of adding strength to the global mobilization against the industrialization, poisoning and impoverishment of our nutrition and environment. This to create the needed change at a systems level.

To achieve our goals in support of our mobilization activities, our work entails:

### **Policy Advocacy, Communication and Campaigns**

Communication is a major focus in our awareness building efforts through press conferences, dissemination of our articles and videos through our websites, newsletters and social media platforms, including calls to action, aimed at promoting dialogue for change among government, private sector and civil society stakeholders.

## **Research and Publications**

Through our research and publications we aim at building awareness on the interconnectedness of the numerous crises we face, that of climate change, hunger, industrial agriculture and food production, and economic democracy, and the link to our food systems: from seed, to soil, to biodiversity and climate resilience, based on equity and social justice, and importantly, to seed freedom for food sovereignty. We aim to highlight and make clear the stark delineation between, on the one side, the imperative of safeguarding these basic precepts that ensure a vibrant future, and on the other side, dogged corporate determination to take control of our food, health and democracy by undermining and weakening these keystones for economic and ecological democracy.

Our key themes are:

[\*\*Food for Health\*\*](#)

[\*\*Climate Resilience\*\*](#)

[\*\*Seed Freedom\*\*](#)

[\*\*Agroecology\*\*](#)

[\*\*Economic Democracy and Corporate Control\*\*](#)

[\*\*Earth Democracy\*\*](#)

## **Movement Building**

In close collaboration with our partners, we work to strengthen alliances and coalitions among movements, including through mobilization tours, creating convergences and opportunities for a wide and inclusive participation. Through open, continuous dialogue with other international partners, we work towards creating a food system that is chemical-free, nutritious, and accessible and creates and promotes health and well-being. This requires global dialogue and action, coordination across multiple sectors that do not ordinarily work together, attention to local and global equity and cultural life-ways, and a strategic focus on systemic solutions and policy opportunities to support sustainable change.

## **Capacity Building**

Through workshops, webinars and conferences, we work at multiple levels to promote and strengthen seed and agroecology networks, local food economy projects, and promote active participation in resisting unjust laws and the corporate takeover of food and health.

## **Biodiversity Conservation**

Navdanya has set up over 124 community seed banks in 22 states of India in the last 30 years. In 2012 Navdanya International launched the Seed Freedom Movement, which has grown into a very strong and vibrant global community and continues to expand through the mushrooming of hundreds of local seed groups and networks throughout the world.

## OUR IMPACT

Navdanya International has effectively been able to show the common roots of our current crises through interlinking issues of biodiversity loss, the climate and ecological crisis, food sovereignty, the health of the planet and the health of people, pesticides and GMOs, all to be fundamentally rooted in the industrial agricultural model. Through our connecting of these issues we have therefore been able to create holistic perspectives by bringing into dialogue multiple actors, from various different geographic regions, working at different scales and on different issues. For example, through our [Food for Health manifesto](#) we interlinked how public health is irrevocably tied to the health of the planet by bringing in multiple views and expertise from all areas of the food system such as agronomists, medical doctors, and food producers. We also united previously separate issues of pesticides, microbiome health, noncommunicable diseases and nutrition, all serving to deepen a holistic narrative and open up new pathways for previously siloed food and health movements. Sparking independent conferences based around the Manifesto.

The evidence on the dangers and impacts of pesticides, brought out by the [Monsanto Tribunal and the People's Assembly](#), co-organised by Navdanya International - along with multiple civil society organisations - at The Hague in October 2016, significantly contributed in raising attention on the issue in the international debate at the institutional level. As a continuation of the work started at the People's Assembly and Monsanto Tribunal, our [Poison Free Food and Farming](#) campaign, fortified a network of world-wide pesticide free movements. The result of fortifying these movements has served to catalyze and support the creation and fortification of new alliances and networks all moving toward the creation of poison free zones. While advances in policy advocacy have served to create substantial local impacts, NI recognizes that these advances serve as case studies to now build more momentum behind greater policy advances throughout the world in order to start paving the way for a concrete food systems transformation.

Through the [Seed Freedom](#) campaign we have worked with movements and citizens by building awareness, inspiring actions, advocacy and campaigns, and building alternatives towards the objective of empowering citizens, farmers and movements to reclaim the seed and defend our seed and food sovereignty. Our campaigns and publications, such as the [Seed Freedom Global Report](#), [The Law of the Seed](#) and the [Seed Sathyagraha](#) report have proved very useful tools for policy advocacy and helped in resisting and defeating laws that criminalize farmers' seed saving and undermine ecological practices across the world.

Navdanya International has significantly contributed in clearly defining the central role of food systems in the issues of climate change and climate justice. Our Manifesto '[Terra Viva' Our Soils, Our Commons, Our Future](#)' – a new vision for planetary citizenship' and the mobilization at COP21 in [Paris](#) with the [Pact for the Earth](#) in December 2015, have shown the impact of industrial agriculture, as major contributor to greenhouse gases emission, but also how the solution for adaptation and mitigation and resilience comes from local ecological agriculture, local circular economies, local seeds and care for the soil which has the ability of taking back carbon dioxide in the ground.

*This publication provides an overview of Navdanya International's activities in 2019, highlighting some of our most significant work and achievements within the year.*

# 2019

## YEAR IN REVIEW

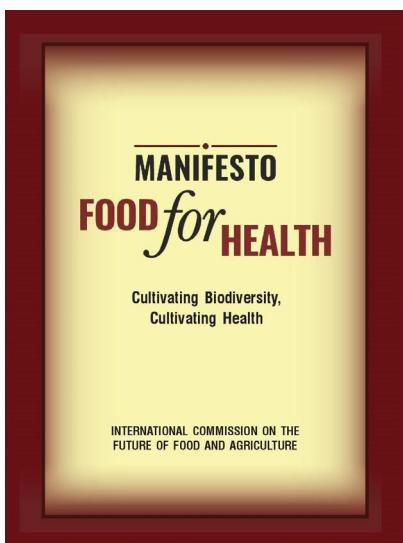
In the course of 2019 Navdanya International (NI) continued to highlight the links between the health of the planet and the health of people. the evidence on the dangers and impacts of the current dominant industrial agriculture and food production model, and the importance of biodiversity based local agriculture and food economies as effective solutions to the health, climate and ecosystem crisis. Our publications Manifesto ‘Food for Health’ provides the underlying engine to our activities.

Linked to the Food for Health Manifesto and as a continuation of the work started at the People's Assembly and Monsanto Tribunal in 2016, our Poison-free Food and Farming campaign brought together multi-disciplinary actors: citizens, farmers, local producers, policy makers, as well as pesticide-free movements, organic producers networks, economists and experts on health, food and agriculture, from the local to the international level, who joined forces to create local ecological food systems and Poison-free organic zones. This convergence, building on the strong networking, mobilization as well as institutional commitment to healthy, local and nutritious food, as well as the analysis of the social and political context through a food-system approach, has introduced new topics and spur global dialogue within the international debate, also at the institutional level.

As part of the Poison-free Food and Farming campaign and as a sequel to the analysis of agri-food systems begun with the Food for Health Manifesto, our report ‘The Future of Food – Farming with Nature, Cultivating the Future’ is the result of the participatory research of experts and movements. Most importantly, it gathers evidence of global resistance against the industrial agri-food system, as well as examples of good ecological practices among farmers, local communities, and civil society organizations. The showcasing of the stories, references, and examples of work on the ground in different areas is an especially important and valuable tool for similar actions to be duplicated in other parts of the world. The participatory nature of this work has proved its effectiveness in terms of building a common narrative and a common understanding of healthy food systems, in harmony with nature, able to protect ecological, economic, and social rights. The connection of local context with the global issues, serves to both empower and reinforce movements to achieve their own actions in local contexts, while simultaneously connecting them to a broader global discourse and movement.

Navdanya International’s communication campaign has kept disseminating materials through Navdanya International and Seed Freedom websites, as well as through its Social Media platforms and newsletters. Together our websites have gathered more than 52,000 page views in the course of 2019. Between Navdanya International, Seed Freedom and Navdanya, the number of Facebook subscribers has reached 97,400 and over 13,000 Twitter followers. Video interviews on current topics have attracted over 35,000 views. As part of the contribution to raising awareness on the core issues of Navdanya’s work, Navdanya has published and shared a series of more than 50 articles, as well as briefing papers in multiple languages, which collected more than 29,300 views. A strong partnership was established with a number of major web magazines in Italy and abroad, which are publishing our articles on a regular basis increasing the visibility of them by hundreds of times.

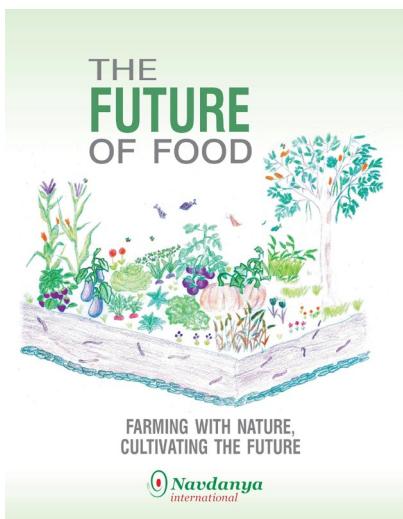
## Publications



### [Food for Health Manifesto](#)

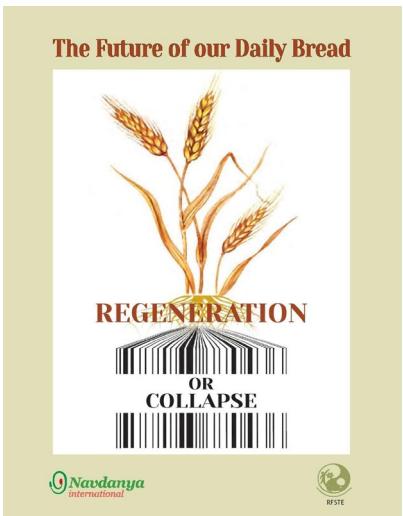
The Food for Health Manifesto aims to give voice, hope and future to all those who wish to commit themselves to act and consume in keeping with a new sustainable food for health paradigm. The Manifesto asserts that health, starting with the soil, to plants, animals and humans must be the organizing principle and the aim of agriculture, commerce, science, of our lives and of international trade and aims to create convergence between consumers, producers and stakeholders for a common vision of sustainable development.

The Manifesto is being used by movements in the USA and across the world as a tool to help mobilize grassroots actions for the urgent transition to local, ecological and diversified food systems.



### [The Future of Food – Farming with Nature, Cultivating the Future](#)

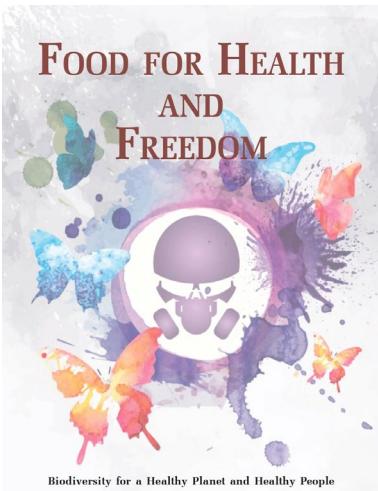
The report brings together international experts and gathers evidence of global resistance against the industrial agri-food system, as well as examples of good ecological practices among farmers, local communities and civil society organizations, as part of Navdanya International's campaign for [Poison-free Food and Farming](#). In continuation of the work of the [International Commission on the Future of Food and Agriculture](#), the report offers a global perspective and is a sequel to the analysis of agri-food systems begun with the publication of the [Food for Health Manifesto](#).



### [The Future of our Daily Bread - Regeneration or collapse](#)

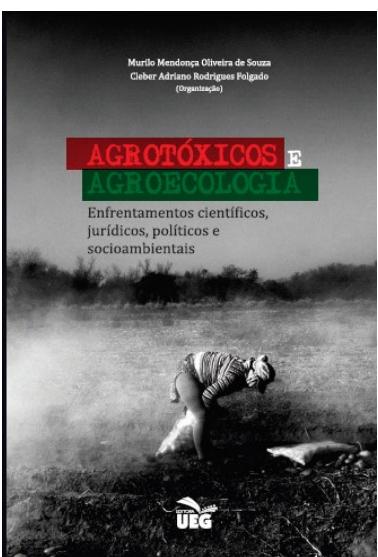
Navdanya presents new evidence on the imminent collapse of our food systems - ecological, social and financial if we continue on the path of industrial agriculture based on chemicals, monocultures and the corporate control of food and farming.

False narratives on feeding the world have been the misleading sign posts that have brought us to this precipice. The transition from corporate control of the food system is not just a possibility, but has become a survival imperative towards regenerating the planet and farmers livelihoods and creating resilient and healthy food systems, which at the same time mitigate climate change.



### Food for Health (Summary)

Briefing summary of the Food for Health Manifesto to be distributed at events and to partners as a tool for action.



### **Agrotoxics and agroecology: scientific, legal, political and socio-environmental challenges ([Agrotoxicos e agroecologia: enfrentamientos científicos, juridicos, políticos e socioambientales](#))**

second edition

The book contains the translation into Portuguese/Br of a chapter of NI's Report "[The Toxic Story of Roundup](#)" about the Poison Cartel. This is a result of a collective work with local movements and experts in Brazil and is being spread across communities in Brazil as a tool for capacity building. A second edition was issued for distribution at the XI Brazilian Congress of Agroecology which took place in November, co-organised with Navdanya International.

## Campaign

### **Poison 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.

On 1st October 2017, at Bhoomi, the [Earth festival in New Delhi](#), 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 [Sikkim](#) who has made Sikkim the first 100% organic state in the world, and Mayor Ulrich Veith of [Mals](#) who have made his village poison free, were part of the launch of the poison free network. 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.

#### ✓ [Poison-free Food and Farming 2030](#)

## A Timeline of Key Events and Actions for Seed & Food Freedom Year 2019

### NI collaboration as member of the working group on Food Systems and Nutrition of the Civil Society Mechanism (CSM) at the FAO Committee on World Food Security (CFS)

January 2019 - ongoing



As an outcome of the work started in April 2018 at FAO, Navdanya International had joined the working group of the Civil Society Mechanism (CSM) at the FAO Committee on World Food Security (CFS). In continuation of the work started at the beginning of 2019, and as part of the CSM, NI Director participated at Open Ended Working group meeting on the HLPE report on Food Systems on nutrition, and gave inputs on issues of pesticides and impact on health and the indivisibility of health of planet with the health of people.

Campaign Launch - Press Conference

### Stop Isds - Stop Ceta Campaign Launch, Chamber of Deputies

4<sup>th</sup> February 2019, Rome, Italy



In continuation with the ongoing collaboration with movements fighting against Free Trade Agreements, Navdanya International joined the coalition of 150+ European organisations in the Stop ISDS campaign, which calls on the EU and Member States to end corporate privilege by withdrawing from existing trade and investment agreements containing ISDS provisions, and not to conclude any such agreements in the future. It also calls on the EU and Member States to support the achievement of a UN binding treaty to hold transnational corporations to account for human rights violations, and end their impunity.

The European Campaign coincided with the relaunch of the Italian campaign against CETA- On 4 February 2019, a [press conference](#), co-organised by Stop TTIP Stop CETA Italy and Navdanya International was held in the press room of the Chamber of Deputies. It was attended by various organizations and several parliamentarians, with the aim of reaffirming the need that the Italian Parliament reject the ratification of the Treaty at the earliest.

- ✓ [Navdanya International joins #StopISDS Campaign – Sign the Petition!](#)

*Mobilization Tour*

**Sowing the seeds of transition towards climate resilience and agroecology**

20<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2019

Multiple locations, France



In continuation with the work started [in Paris at COP21](#) in 2015 and the [Pact for the Earth](#), a series of events were organised in France, in collaboration with the association [SOL Association](#) to promote the transition towards poison-free, climate resilient and organic food systems.

Dr Vandana Shiva met with students, both at the Ecole nationale supérieure agronomique de France and with climate activists of the Fridays for Future Movements, including their leader, 16 years old Greta Thunberg. Among the topics discussed: the importance for your generations of farmers and agronomists of an ecological approach to agriculture and the connection between the climate crisis and corporate power driven industrial agriculture and food systems. She also gave a keynote at the annual [Women4Climate Conference](#) in Paris.

✓ [\*\*Sowing the seeds of transition towards climate resilience and agroecology\*\*](#)

*Campaign Launch - Press Conference*

**Poison-free Food and Farming: Campaign Launch and Press Conference**

7<sup>th</sup> March 2019

Rome, Italy



In continuation with the work started in October 2017 at the [Earth festival in New Delhi](#), where Navdanya had brought together pesticide-free communities in the Alps, represented by the mayor of Mals and in the Himalayas to make a common commitment and start a network of poison-free communities globally, Navdanya International organised a Press Conference at the Italian Chamber of Deputies for the re-launch of the Poison Free Food and Farming 2030 Campaign. The conference saw the active participation of representatives of local movements in northern Italy that are protesting against the massive use of pesticides that is poisoning the Italian countryside, along with the mayor of Mals and Italian parliamentarians who are promoting pesticide-free organic agriculture. Among the topics covered: the industrial food system, which is at the heart of the climate crisis and the extinction of species, as well as at the root of the hunger and health crisis. But also the many concrete examples of good practice have been discussed during the press conference along with the evidence of how it is not only possible but even more efficient and convenient to produce and consume food without resorting to poisonous chemicals. In order to promote the synergy of local movements and organic producers and to give impetus to the necessary transition phase, Navdanya International launched the international campaign [Poison-free Food and Farming 2030](#).

- ✓ [The Pesticides issue is global, Vandana Shiva's Appeal at the Italian Chamber of Deputies](#)

*Workshop*

## **Food for Health Workshop**

10<sup>th</sup> March 2019

Milan, Italy



On 10 March 2019, the workshop "Food and Health. Biodiversity is life: let's protect it!", organized by Terra Nuova Edizioni in collaboration with Navdanya International, was held in Milan. The meeting represented an opportunity to promote the Poison Free Food and Farming campaign and underline the importance of the body of scientific evidence collected in the Food for Health Manifesto, exposing the dangers of pesticides, as well as to call for support for the municipality of Mals, with respect to the action taken by Court of Auditors of Bolzano, which has accused the mayor, Ulrich Veith, of tax damage in connection with the referendum on the use of pesticides in the municipality held in 2014.

*Press Conference*

## **Citizens from Veneto at the Italian Parliament to say no to pesticides**

26<sup>th</sup> March 2019

Chamber of Deputies, Rome, Italy



On 26 March Navdanya International co-organised a [Press Conference](#), which was held at the Italian Chamber of Deputies on the issue of the alarming levels of pesticides use in the region of Veneto, a land affected by major environmental devastation, at the top of the national list for land consumption, with an irrational civil and industrial urbanization and the continuous intensification of

major infrastructure works. This is also where most of Italy's intensive grape varieties branch out, including the famous Prosecco hills, which have already been harshly criticised by UNESCO as emblematic of an agricultural model that is incompatible with the environmental and health sustainability of the territory in which it is grown. A model in sharp contrast with the protection of biodiversity, water quality, soil fertility and human health itself. Citizens' committees have presented present a petition which demands the application of the Precautionary Principle and that people's right to health is respected.

✓ [Veneto da record per i pesticidi: 12 chili per ettaro](#)

## *Mobilization Tour*

### **Towards a Poison-free Food and Farming System, Italy**

April 2019

In continuation with the work started with the launch of the Italian edition of the Food for Health Manifesto and the Press conference at the beginning of March 2019, in early April, NI organized its first Poison-free Food and Farming Mobilization tour in Italy in solidarity with citizens and local leaders promoting pesticide-free organic agriculture, to join forces e.g.:with the [Mayor of Mals](#), and citizens and other leaders who are working towards a sustainable model of agriculture and food production which respects the health of people and the planet. The tour was crucial in determining the success of the [Stop Pesticides March](#) which took place in May 2019.



In collaboration with local movements and communities of the north east (Casacomune, Marcia Stop Pesticidi, Terrachiamà, Association of organic farmers of Veneto, Coltiviamo Futuro, San Giacomo Kindergarten's Parents Board, L'Ortazzo, Municipality of Mals, among others).

➤ [\*\*Navdanya International's Mobilization Tour in Italy for Poison-free Food and Farming\*\*](#)

## Campaign against the ‘Emergency Decree’



In April 2019 a coalition of scientists, doctors, jurists and economists, led by ISDE – International Society of Doctors for the Environment, Navdanya International, and MP Sara Cunial and her team, and joined by over 2000 citizens and 140 associations, launched a call to Italian Parliamentarians and President Mattarella to revoke art. 6 and 8 of the new Legislative Decree no. 152/2006, also known as the ‘Emergency Decree’, intended to contain the outbreak of *Xylella fastidiosa* bacteria – affecting olive trees in Puglia – by largely relying on the use of chemical substances and allowing public authorities to act in derogation of important public health regulations and environmental protection standards, without considering how the practice of intensive agriculture based on chemicals has favoured the outbreak in the first place by depriving the ecosystem of its balance and the ability of olive trees to counter pathogens attacks, which had allowed them to thrive throughout centuries [Watch [Video](#)].

While the campaign did not stop the law, it gave an enormous boost to a wide coalition of movements and other stakeholders who have continued the work to expose the truth through very cohesive and consistent dialogue and argument, about the *Xylella* case, including MPs, experts, communities and representatives of local and national movements. The discussions are highlighting the need to address the disease outbreak from a systemic approach, exposing the land-grab in the area, with the aim of instituting extensive monocultures to replace the long tradition of production of local varieties, thus threatening the region’s oil producing heritage.

- ✓ <https://navdanyainternational.org/italian-emergency-decree/>

## Mobilization Tour

### Towards a Poison-free Food and farming System Mobilization Tour, May 2019, USA

In early May, Navdanya International and [Friends of Navdanya USA](#), in collaboration with [Sterling College](#) and [NOFA](#) (Northeast Organic Farming Association) state groups from Vermont, Massachusetts and Connecticut, among others, organised a Northeast Journey for Poison Free Food and Farming, to connect different communities and movements that are working toward poison-free futures through a variety of political, grassroots and economic initiatives. The tour provided the opportunity for Navdanya and Sterling College to advance the issues expressed in the "[Pledge for Poison-Free Food & Farming by 2030](#)".



State policymakers in Vermont and to civil society movements and concerned citizens in Massachusetts, Connecticut, and New York. Approx 15 North-east US organisations, led by the School of the New American Farmstead at Sterling College, joined the Poison-free Food and farming network and contributed to the participatory research project aimed at the drafting of a new report on the Future of Food to be published in November 2019.

- ✓ <https://navdanyainternational.org/northeast-journey-for-poison-free-food-and-farming-highlights/>

*Report Launch*

**Presentation of the Food for Health Manifesto in California, May 2019, USA**



In continuation of the work started in May 2018 with the 1st international meeting of experts on Food and Health, in May 2019 in California NI presented the English edition of the **Food for Health Manifesto**, as part of our Poison Free Food and Farming Campaign. At the presentation, Vandana Shiva was joined by Hilal Elver, UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food and Richard Falk, former professor emeritus of international law at Princeton University: two of the co-authors of the Manifesto, along with Mary Jacob, President of Friends of Navdanya USA.

<https://navdanyainternational.org/launch-of-the-food-for-health-manifesto-in-california/>

Event report also available in: [Italian](#), [Spanish](#), [French](#), [German](#), [Portuguese \(Brazil\)](#)

## Stop Pesticides March, May 2019, Italy



In continuation with the work started in December 2018 with the creation of the Stop Pesticides march coalition in Italy, and thanks a joint networking work, this year, local movements from Veneto and Trentino Alto Adige that had organized the **Stop Pesticides March** (Marcia Stop Pesticidi) in the regions in previous years, were able to expand the march to 7 different locations across Italy, with the support of 227 organisations and groups.

In collaboration with citizens' committees from Verona, Treviso, Bolzano, Trento, Udine, Bologna, Potenza Picena, Isde – International Society of Doctors for the Environment, Legambiente and Aveprobi. The March resulted in the biggest ever demonstration against pesticides in the country.

- ✓ <https://navdanyainternational.org/calendar/stop-pesticides-march/>

**Presentation of the Manifesto of Food for Health - definition on an action plan for poison-free organic zones at the Festival “Agricoltura eroica e turismo rurale”  
Castro dei Volsci, Italy, June 2019**

Navdanya International participated and presented the Manifesto on Food for Health as well as the plan for creating agrotoxic free agroecological zones at the Festival of Heroic Agriculture and Rural Tourism organized by Res at Castro dei Volsci. The "City and Country Conference, a new alliance to support heroic agriculture" gave Navdanya the opportunity to underline how more and more citizens are aware of the negative health impact of poisons and agrotoxic substances present in food, as well as how committed and informed citizenship and active communities are key to exerting pressure on governments and that, through building alliances, they are able to successfully promote/create a food system in harmony with nature and our health.



NI was invited by the Mayor of Castro dei Volsci (FR), Italy, to be part of a technical committee in Ciociaria to plan a transition to poison free agriculture, to ban pesticides and to go organic.

- ✓ <https://navdanyainternational.org/it/festival-di-agricoltura-eroica-e-turismo-rurale/> .

**Strategy meeting in Ciociaria, Italy  
27 - 28 - 29 October 2019**

With the Mayor of Castro dei Volsci and Res Ciociaria in response to a direct request made to NI during the Res Ciociaria Festival of June 2019, to be part of the technical committee for a transition to Poison-free Food systems.

## **Panel debate on “Poison-free, Fossil fuel-free Food & Farming Communities: 2030” at the Heirloom Expo, September 2019, USA**



In collaboration with Friends of Navdanya USA, California Guild, The National Heirloom Expo Exhibition, Robert F. Kennedy Jr.

In continuation with the work started in 2015 with local movements in California on seed and glyphosate issues, Navdanya International, in collaboration with Mary Jacobs, Friends of Navdanya USA, renowned activist Robert F. Kennedy Jr. and California Guild President Bob McFarland, co-organised a panel presentation on “Poison-free, Fossil fuel-free Food & Farming Communities: 2030”, a highlight of this year’s [National Heirloom Expo](#) in Santa Rosa, California. A crowd of thousands of spectators gathered for the presentation. Topics discussed included global warming, the sanctity of non-engineered seeds, and pesticides that are poisoning our planet. Contents and examples of NI Poison-free Food and Farming Campaign were outlined to an audience of more than 1,500 people and the coalition of local movements in California and the collaboration with environmental attorney Robert F. Kennedy Jr. was strengthened.

- ✓ <https://navdanyainternational.org/poison-free-fossil-fuel-free-food-farming-communities-2030-panel-at-heirloom-expo/>

## Working group on food systems and conferences July and September 2019, Italy



In continuation of the work started with the Food for Health Manifesto, NI was invited to be part of a working group on Food Systems and Health. Two meetings were held in Bologna in July and September 2019. The project “Siamo fatti di Terra” (We are made of Earth) is promoted by Alce Nero and Lifegate. The project aims specifically at making people reflect on the fact that what is good for the environment and the Earth, is good for people. Among the participants in the debate: Dr. Fiorella Belpoggi, Ramazzini Institute of Bologna, Prof Giovanni Dinelli, Department of Food Science and Technology of the University of Bologna, Manlio Masucci and Elena Tioli for Navdanya International.

- ✓ <https://navdanyainternational.org/it/siamo-fatti-di-terra-quando-la-salute-del-pianeta-e-delle-persone-sono-una-cosa-sola/>

## Poison-free Food and Farming Workshop at Erbacce e Dintorni (Weeds and Surroundings) Festival, September 2019. Italy



In collaboration with Semilune association and Seed savers group Amici dell'orto 2. NI was invited to present its work and Poison-free Food and Farming at this yearly Festival in Cerveteri. The collaboration with the group, the Association Semilune and the Seed Savers group Amici dell'Orto due dates back 2014, when they joined the Global movement for Seed Freedom. These groups, which jointly count approx 70,000 members, share our goal of creating local seed and food systems through communication and work on the ground, e.g.

the yearly national festival on local organic economies, an organic farm, participation and support to local farmers' markets and local producers. The opening of a shop distributing local organic products was planned for December 2019.

- ✓ <https://navdanyainternational.org/calendar/erbacce-dintorni-2019-erbacce-per-le-api/>

**Call to Action**



**Call to Action for Poison-Free Food and Farming.** Partners organisations joined the Call in the Philippines: Bread of Freedom, Costa Rica: Vamos a Sembrar, Brazil: Jardim da Aurora, USA: Herbicide Free UC, Greece: Peliti and Portugal: Circulos de Sementes

✓ <https://seedfreedom.info/events/categories/call-to-action-2019/>

**“Internazionale” Festival in Ferrara, Italy**

6 October, 2019



3rd meeting in the Framework of the Project “Siamo fatti di Terra” (We are made of Earth) , promoted by Navdanya International’s Partners Alce Nero and Lifegate. The conference, on sustainable agriculture and health, was attended by some two thousand participants. Speakers included Dr Fiorella Belpoggi of Istituto Ramazzini, Writer Simran Sethi and Manlio Masucci of NI, on topics ranging from water and soil consumption to the use of chemical pesticides. Navdanya’s Manifesto on Food for Health was a key source for discussion on food systems and health among numerous stakeholders, including organic producers and the media, in addition to experts and grassroots movements.

✓ <https://navdanyainternational.org/calendar/internazionale-a-ferrara/>

**XI Brazilian Congress of Agroecology**  
**4 - 8 November 2019**



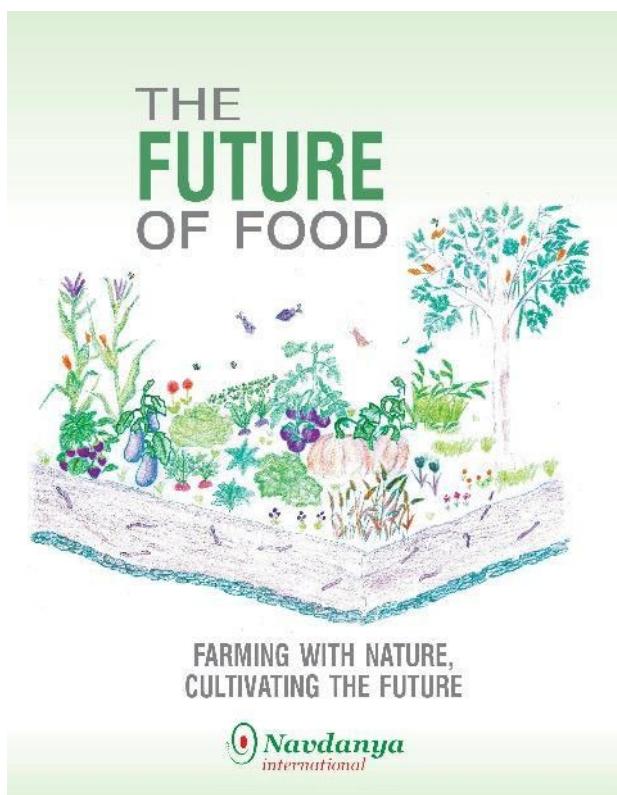
In continuation of our work with Latin American movements, Navdanya International, in collaboration with Associação Brasileira de Agroecologia (Brazilian Agroecology Association) and other Latin American groups, organised workshops on the [Poison-free Food and Farming 2030](#) Campaign at the [XI Brazilian Congress of Agroecology](#). Over the past 4 years Navdanya International has been working with movements in Brazil and Latin America on a series of issues related to Food, Health, and Agroecology, following the [People's Assembly](#) in The Hague in 2016, the collaboration in the coordination of the [1st international seminar on agrochemicals, Socio-environmental Impacts and Human Rights](#) of December 2018, as well as the book “agrotoxins and agroecology: scientific, legal, political and socio-environmental challenges” ([Agrotoxicos e agroecologia: enfrentamentos científicos, jurídicos, políticos e socioambientales](#)). The Congress provided the opportunity to join the Brazilian “Agrotoxico Mata” campaign to defend life of all being against toxic pesticides, and consolidate the coalition of Latin American movements.

- ✓ <https://navdanyainternational.org/xi-brazilian-congress-of-agroecology/>

As an outcome of this event, the collaboration with Latin American movements was consolidated and gave rise to a joint declaration for Earth Day and an online conference with Latin American Women, which was planned to take place in April 2020.

## **Launch of NI Publication “Future of Food – Farming with Nature, Cultivating the Future”**

9 November 2019



On 9 November 2019 we launched in Florence our latest report “The Future of Food - Farming with Nature, Cultivating the Future” both in English and Italian. The report is the result of participatory research and collaboration with partner movements and experts. We received excellent feedback indicating appreciation and new awareness and motivation of being part of a much wider global circle of committed people working on the same issues and sharing the same vision.

- ✓ <https://navdanyainternational.org/publications/the-future-of-food-farming-with-nature-cultivating-the-future/>
- ✓ <https://navdanyainternational.org/vandana-shiva-2019-future-of-food-report-launch-florence/>

## **Workshop on Food Systems**

12 November 2019

In the framework of an educational project on organic agriculture organised by Tenuta Spannocchia in Tuscany for international students, NI was invited to hold a **workshop on Food Systems** and the work of Navdanya. The Navdanya team gave a presentation of NI's work, explaining content from the latest reports, from Food for Health Manifesto to the new Report on the Future of Food, as well as from recent work on food systems and their relationship with the climate crisis. Multiple examples of resistance and resilience of movements working with NI were given, as well as showcasing Navdanya's work in India.

## **Roundtable “From Industrial Agriculture to Agroecology”, Italy**

18 November 2019



A round table organised by Senator Fabrizio Trentacoste titled “From Industrial Agriculture to Agroecology” was held, at which Manlio Masucci, NI’s Communication and Project Manager participated, in continuation of our previous work with policy makers and MPs along with grassroots movements, which has proven particularly effective in mobilizing and raising awareness.

Outcome: A Bill of Law aimed at the promotion and valorisation of Agroecology is being drafted by Sen. Trentacoste and it will be submitted to the participants for suggestions, before it's presented to the Senate.

- ✓ <https://www.terranuova.it/Agenda/Convegni-e-conferenze/Tavola-rotonda-Dall-agricoltura-industriale-all-agroecologia>
- ✓ <https://www.agricolae.eu/agricoltura-trentacoste-m5s-diserbanti-monitoraggio-ambientale-e-ricerca-scientifica-ottimi-spunti-da-tavola-rotonda-su-agroecologia/>

## **European Citizens' Initiative to save Bees and Farmers**

25 November 2019



Navdanya International joined the launch of the new “Save Bees and Farmers” ECI, and is supporting and promoting it both in Italy and in the rest of Europe, as an outcome of the work started in 2016 at the People’s Assembly and Monsanto Tribunal, which resulted in the consolidation of a strong alliance of EU and in continuation of the collaborative work carried out in Europe in 2017, within the framework of the ECI to ban glyphosate.

- ✓ <https://navdanyainternational.org/cause/eci-save-bees-and-farmers/>

## **Launch of the documentary on olive trees and the Xylella bacteria outbreak in Puglia, Italy**

26 November 2019



The documentary aims at exposing the shady background behind the plan promoted by local, scientific and national institutions to face the issue through the eradication of thousands of ancient olive trees and the massive use of chemicals to make room for industrial olive monocultures. The initiative strengthened the purpose and commitment of local movements in their opposition to the pesticide-based system and the destruction of their heritage. The contribution of Navdanya International has helped underline the need to look at the imbalance created in the agroecosystem by decades of chemical farming as the root of the problem of the bacterial outbreak. This activity has strengthened the collaboration with Elena

Tioli, writer, food activist, and office press manager for Hon Sara Cunial. The documentary is successfully attracting wide interest and concern on the issue throughout the country.

- ✓ <https://navdanyainternational.org/it/calendar/legno-vivo-xylella-oltre-il-batterio-prima-visione-roma/>

## **Collaboration with Mondeggi occupied farm and Stop Pesticides Campaign in Tuscany, Italy - November - December 2019**



November: The community of Mondeggi Bene Comune celebrated the sentence of acquittal, in the trial in which 17 of its members were accused of illegal occupation, theft of water and electricity, hosting in the visit of Vandana Shiva and the NI team. The meeting was an opportunity to reaffirm the principle of "the struggle for access to land, for small-scale and ecological agriculture, and against all forms of exploitation of nature and people".

- ✓ <https://www.terranuova.it/News/Agricoltura/Mondeggi-Fattoria-Senza-Padroni-tutti-assolti.-E-arriva-Vandana-Shiva>

December: Stop Pesticides campaign. Launch in Florence in collaboration with Mondeggi Bene Comune (defenders of the commons), Fridays for Future Firenze and International Society of Doctors for the Environment - ISDE, for a transition to Poison-free Food and farming and Agroecology in Tuscany.

- ✓ <https://navdanyainternational.org/calendar/lancio-campagna-stop-pesticidi/>

December 2019



Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union

Launch of an on-line educational project on Climate change in collaboration with A Sud – Italy, Door – Croatia, Za Zemiata - Bulgaria and other 3 EU organisations. The ClimAlt Course is co-financed by the EU within the Framework of the Erasmus+ Project. The course went online in December 2019. <https://navdanyainternational.org/projects/climalt-course/>. The project aims to raise youth awareness on solutions to climate change through exploring, discussing, analysing and spreading local and concrete examples of climate friendly activities, thus reinforcing the perception that changes are possible and that youth can generate them. The course offers training for both trainers/youth workers and youth through a 1-week training on gamification techniques, a 32-hours e-learning course on climate change, its causes, effects and possible alternatives, and 4 in-depth webinars. Navdanya International prepared the lessons on Causes, Impacts and Alternative Solutions with a perspective on agriculture and food systems.

## **Communication**

In January 2019 the new website of Navdanya International was launched. It provides an organized overview of our work with regard to categorization of any item (original articles, important pieces of news and reports, publications, campaigns and events) per “Main themes”, i.e.: Agroecology, Climate Resilience, Corporate Control and Economic Democracy, Earth Democracy, Food for Health, Seed Freedom.  
<https://navdanyainternational.org/>

**Topics which we have covered include the following:**

- [Sowing the seeds of transition towards climate resilience and agroecology](#)
- [Monsanto Does Not have a Patent on Bt Cotton Seeds](#)
- [Climate emergency: an open letter to concerned global citizens](#)
- [Jivad -The Organic Way](#)
- [Nature, Food & Climate - Towards a Deeper Ecological Understanding to Avoid Climate Catastrophe](#)
- [Education and knowledge can stop the fake “science” of multinationals that is leading the planet and society to collapse](#)
- [We Need Biodiversity-Based Agriculture to Solve the Climate Crisis](#)
- [Industrial Agriculture, based on War Technologies, continues to kill millions of species driving the sixth mass extinction: Agroecology is the Future](#)
- [Responding to the Water Emergency in India: Jaivik Kranti – Living Revolution – as India’s Food and Water Revolution](#)
- [Fake Food, Fake Meat: Big Food’s Desperate Attempt to Further the Industrialisation of Food](#)
- [Oikonomia: Bringing the economy back to the Earth](#)
- [Pesticides, the winning battle of Mals](#)
- [Which future of food do we want?](#)
- [Poisoned Apples and Brave Mayors](#)
- [Vandana Shiva : No to Junk Food in Schools, Yes to Climate Change Education in Schools](#)
- [Satyagraha for a Sacred Economy](#)

## **Navdanya International**

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Elisa Catalini

Carla Ramos Cortés

*“The health of the planet and the health of the people are one. Alternatives do exist and are based on regenerating health of the earth through agro-ecology, conservation of biodiversity, promotion of local economies and food systems “from field to table”. Health, starting with the soil, to plants, animals and humans must be the organizing principle and the aim of agriculture, commerce, science, of our lives and of international trade.”*

— Dr Vandana Shiva

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Navdanya International  
Via Marin Sanudo 27, 00176 Rome  
Piazzale Donatello 2, 50132 Florence

Contacts: [info@navdanyainternational.org](mailto:info@navdanyainternational.org)

[www.navdanyainternational.org](http://www.navdanyainternational.org) - [www.navdanya.org](http://www.navdanya.org) - [www.seedfreedom.info](http://www.seedfreedom.info)

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