



**Navdanya**

## **Mahila Anna Swaraj / Diverse Women for Diversity**



***The nutrition cycle is the cycle of life .The web of Life is a Food web .Food is the currency of life, which flows through the web, nourishing all beings. Poison free Good food is the currency of health and wellbeing for all.***

***Food is Health. Hippocrates said “Let Food be thy Medicine”. According to Ayurveda “An-nam Sarva Aushadhi”. But industrialisation of food production and processing has become the main cause of disease.***

**We Regenerate Life on Earth**

**We Co - Create with Nature**

**Through Economies of Care and Sharing**

**We Feed the World**

On Earth, we generate Life  
With Mother Nature we co create  
Through caring and sharing we feed the world

**We Co-create with Mother Earth, to produce nourishment and health for all beings.**

We are daughters of the Earth, caretakers of her soil and biodiversity, healers who mend broken cycles and broken communities.

We have farmed for millennia on the same piece of Earth knowing that The Earth is our Mother and. we are of the soil.

We will lead food and farming in the 21st century to regenerate and heal the Earth, her Biodiversity, her Soil, her waters, her ecosystems, so that no child goes hungry, no sentient being is hurt, and no farmer is uprooted from the land because of debt.

Globally, a billion people are hungry .

According to the World Food Programme the recipient of the 2020 peace prize a quarter of a billion additional people will be pushed to hunger and 300,000 could die every day, due to the pandemic lockdown.

Yet Corporations claim that the industrial globalised food system “Feeds the World”, but in reality their limitless hunger for profits has created hunger, malnutrition, infectious and chronic disease pandemics.

The capital intensive, fossil fuel intensive, chemical intensive industrial commodity system imposed on the world in the last few decades is driving desertification, climate change and extinction, displacing farmers and making them ecological and economic refugees and creating unprecedented illness and diseases

This industrial path is a dead end path that is destroying the ecological and social foundations of farming and food systems and taking this planet on the path to self destruction

- ❖ Industrial agriculture is responsible for 50% of the Green House gases contributing to Climate Change and Global warming.
- ❖ Industrial agriculture defines the soil as an empty container for pouring chemical fertilisers. Not taking care of the living soil by regenerating it through biodiversity and the Law of Return has led to degradation and desertification of 75% of the soils.
- ❖ Chemical Agriculture has depleted and polluted 75% of the waters and created the water crisis whose burden falls heavily on women.
- ❖ The use of poisons like pesticides and glyphosate that kill life is driving species to extinction.
- ❖ The dominant corporate economy is based on extraction from nature and society, leaving the earth, the farmers, and rural economies poorer.
- ❖ With the temptation of commercialisation and cash, corporations trap farmers in debt for non-renewable, high cost seeds that cannot be saved and have to be bought at high cost every year and costly chemicals which are ecological narcotics creating ever increasing dependence.
- ❖ To increase extraction, corporations promote monocultures of globally traded commodities which destroy biodiversity which is the basis of the web of life, the food web, the health, and the economic self-reliance and resilience.
- ❖ Humans have depended on more than 10,000 species of plants for their nourishment. Globalisation, has reduced it to 12. Instead of growing and eating biodiversity, increasing numbers of regions and communities are being pushed into food deserts.
- ❖ The use of toxics and chemicals in Agriculture has created a cancer epidemic. These toxic invade into our bodies through food. Synthetic and artificial additives in ultra-processed food, into our bodies has created a “Pandemic” of cancer, diabetes and obesity, infertility and birth defects, neurodegenerative diseases and endocrine disruption.
- ❖ The invasion into forests by Agribusinesses for Palm oil and GMO soya dislocates the forest’s species, in return causing their pathogens to infect humans, giving rise to new pandemics such as Corona, SARS, MERS, Zika, HIV, Ebola
- ❖ Monoculture farms are ecologically vulnerable. Long distance supply chains collapsed during the lockdown

But our small farms and local economies continued to provide us with nutritious food.

As the FAO recognises, 80% of the food comes from the small farms and gardens we grow and end .

**We are experts of food, nutrition and health, holding the knowledge and rich biodiversity of our food cultures **Because we know** that health is a continuum - from the soil, to plants, to animals, to our gut micro-biome . Thus, rejuvenating the knowledge of growing food with care and healthy eating .**

We feed the world by feeding the soil organisms, the pollinators and the web of life .

We do not starve and poison the world by using pesticides and herbicides, synthetic fertilisers and toxic chemicals.

## **WE DECLARE THAT**

❖ **We are reclaiming our SEED, FOOD, our HEALTH, our KNOWLEDGE and our expertise and economics of good eating.**

**We are part of nature, not separate from her. Our health and the health of the Earth is interconnected.**

**We are experts in the living economies of care and regeneration, of giving and sharing.**

The industrial commercial system based on mechanical reductionist mind, drives farmers to abandon biodiversity and grow monocultures.

Through imposition of “Monocultures of the Mind” farmers are made to chase higher “yields per acre” of nutritionally empty commodities, with increasing use of chemicals, higher costs and falling prices. They are getting trapped in debt, which ultimately drives them to suicide.

We have never allowed the extinguishing of the biodiversity of our minds, that our indigenous science and culture has given us.

**We grow biodiversity.**

**We create economies based on biodiversity, and biodiversity of economies - nourishing and regenerating nature’s economy, the economies of our homes and communities, our regions and countries.**

We grow Biodiversity of nutritious Forgotten Foods, that we are making our “Future Foods”. We are reclaiming the forgotten knowledge of our incredible edibles, that are wild and uncultivated.

Through Biodiversity of plants we are creating ecological conditions for biodiversity to thrive - in the soil, of insects and birds, of pollinators who are our co-creators and co-producers.

We cultivate economies of abundance through giving, caring, and sharing instead of economies of scarcity based on extractivism, violence, carelessness and enclosures of the commons.

We are regenerating circular, solidarity, cooperative economies based on reclaiming our roots of biodiversity and knowledge.

The living economies we create and participate in are based on celebrating and regenerating biodiversity and expressing gratitude to the earth by giving. We obey Mother Earth's "Law of Return", of cycling and recycling.

Conserving nature and providing for our needs is one, indivisible symbiotic process in our biodiversity economies.

For us, Ecology is permanent Economy. By protecting nature we grow living economies that sustain all life.

We are not in competition and conflict with members of the Earth Family and the human community.

We cooperate, we collaborate, we reclaim and regenerate the commons of our seeds and biodiversity, our knowledge and health.

## **We are Seed Scientists and Biodiversity experts.**

**We are keepers and breeders of Seed, which holds the memory of the Earth, of place and of our ancestors. Our living seeds hold the potential to nourish the web of life for millennia in the future.**

Our knowledge is living, our minds are ecological.

We use our living knowledge to intensify biodiversity and ecological processes, instead of chemicals which destroy biodiversity and ecological cycles, that pushes farmers into a negative economy.

We grow more food and nutrition per acre by conserving and regenerating biodiversity.

We do not have mechanical minds which view life as inert dead matter, seed as a machine and an "Intellectual Property".

We resist the false idea that seeds are a corporate invention and can be owned through patents.

Seeds are our commons, our timeless heritage, the first link in the food system.

We have witnessed over the past two decades how GMO Bt cotton seeds have failed.

Our Desi seeds, bred by us are nutritious, resilient, tasty and healthy, which has sustained us for millennia.

They are Seeds of Resilience, Seeds of Hope, Seeds of Life, Seeds of Freedom, Seeds for the Future.

## **We Grow Gardens of Hope, We sow seeds of the Future**

With our seeds we are growing Gardens of Hope and Gardens of Health everywhere - in our communities and our schools, our front yards and backyards, our balconies, terraces and window sills.

In our gardens we become one with the soil and the earth, with the seed, with our past and future, and with the community.

Our gardens are sanctuaries of biodiversity.

Our Gardens are schools for future generations to Return to Mother Earth.

Our Gardens are our pharmacies for healing.

Our Gardens grow communities of love and care.

In our gardens we protect the freedom of life on Earth.

From our gardens we start the regeneration of the planet and our communities.

So no one is burdened with avoidable bad food related chronic diseases.

No farmer is trapped in debt for chemicals, no child faces hunger and malnutrition because of an unfair and unjust food system, no species is pushed to extinction by poisons.

The Seeds of a better future are in our hands, our hearts, our heads ...in our Gardens



**Navdanya**



For thousands of years, women have produced their food and guaranteed food security for their children and communities. Even today, the primary work of maintaining household food security through local food production, processing and distribution is done by women.

The patriarchal mindset not merely devalues women's role in food security, it also destroys biological and cultural diversity through the concepts of monoculture and corporate monopolies on life and knowledge embodied in Intellectual Property regimes and technologies that tamper with life itself such as genetic engineering.

Globalisation of the market puts trade above sustainability and profits above life. The commodification of all resources and relationships that ensure sustainability and peace has led to a global increase in hunger and starvation, in violence and terrorism.

# Keeping Food Security in Women's Hands



*The Diverse Women for Diversity (DWD), an international network of women, emerged as a Southern response to the threats to cultural and biological diversity posed by globalisation. Founded in 1997, following the Conference on Plant Genetic Resources in Leipzig in June 1996, the movement today has a presence in all continents. The movement aims at building and concentrating women's energies to articulate and provide alternatives based on equality, justice, sustainability and peace.*



**DIVERSE WOMEN  
FOR  
DIVERSITY**

# DWD's

## Statement of Concern

We women, in all our vibrant and fabulous diversity, have witnessed the increasing aggression against the human spirit, human mind, and human body and the continued invasion of and assault upon the Earth and all her diverse species. And we are enraged.

We demand of governments, international organisations, transnational corporations and individual men who share our rage, that they address the crisis that has been caused by the creation of monocultures and the reduction, enclosure, and extinction of biological and cultural diversity.

We insist that those who would address the crisis listen to and take leadership from women, indigenous peoples, farmers, and all who have raised these concerns at the local level. We ask them to heed those whose wisdom, stewardship, knowledge and commitment has already been demonstrated by the preservation of the diversity we celebrate

*Excerpts from The Leipzig Appeal for Women's Food Security*

## FOOD SECURITY IN WOMEN'S HANDS: FOOD SOVEREIGNTY FOR ALL, NO TO NOVEL FOOD AND NO PATENTS ON LIFE

For thousands of years women have produced their own food and guaranteed food security for their children and communities. Even today, 80 percent of the work in local food production in Africa is done by women, in Asia 50 to 60 percent and in Latin America 30 to 40 percent. And every where in the world, women are responsible for food security at the household level. In patriarchal society, however, this work has been devalued.

All societies have survived historically because they provide food security to their people. This policy, however, has been subverted by the globalisation, trade liberalization, industrialization and commercialization of all agricultural products under the auspices of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and the World Bank/IMF.

World-wide, women are resisting the policies which destroy the basis of their livelihood and food sovereignty. They are also creating alternatives to guarantee food security for their communities based on different principles and methods than those governing the dominant, profit-oriented global economy. They are:

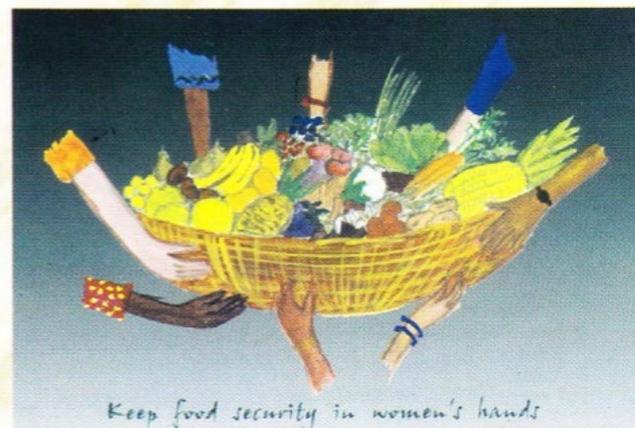
- ◆ localization and regionalisation instead of globalisation
- ◆ non-violence instead of aggressive domination
- ◆ equity and reciprocity instead of competition
- ◆ respect for the integrity of nature and her species
- ◆ understanding humans as part of nature instead of as masters over nature
- ◆ protection of biodiversity in production and consumption

Food security for all is not possible within a global market system based on the dogma of free trade, permanent growth, comparative advantage, competition and profit maximization. On the other hand, food security can be achieved if people within their local and regional economies feel responsible, both as producers and as consumers for the ecological conditions of food production, distribution and consumption, and for the preservation of cultural and biological diversity where self-sufficiency is the main goal.

Our food security is too vital an issue to be left in the hands of a few transnational corporations with their profit motives, or up to national governments that increasingly lose control over food security decisions, or to a few, mostly male national delegates at UN conferences, who take decisions affecting all our lives.

Food security must remain in women's hands everywhere! And men must share the necessary work, be it paid or unpaid. We have a right to know what we eat! No to Novel Food and No to Patents on Life. We will resist those who force us to produce and consume in ways that destroy nature and ourselves.

*Leipzig, June 20, 1996*



*Keep food security in women's hands*



Children plant the Neem tree with Diverse Women at Nairobi to reaffirm their nurturing relationship with the Earth

## DWD Statement on Biodiversity

Biodiversity is a gift of nature.

We have used our biodiversity and knowledge cooperating with other life forms.

We have created and sustained the basic knowledge, which meets our societies' needs for food, health, clothing and shelter.

Our knowledge is now being pirated and locked up in patents. Our relationship with the Earth and all its beings is being ruptured and poisoned, and our community rights destroyed.

Biodiversity deprived of its local roots and rights is being turned into a commodity.

We will resist with all our talents and strengths and imagination this destruction of our biological and cultural diversity.

We will rebuild our connections with the earth and all her species, and we will rebuild our communities for the well being and happiness of all.

In the face of corporate takeover, such defence and recreation of community rights requires solidarity and COOPERATION BETWEEN all people.

We call upon governments to abolish patents on life and recognise community rights and strengthen the Convention on Biological Diversity for this purpose.

## DWD Statement on Water Resources

Water is life. It's a gift of nature.

The access to water is a natural and fundamental right. It is not to be treated as a commodity and traded for profit. People shall have the right to freedom from thirst, and shall have adequate access to safe water for all of their living needs.

The increased walk of women to access water and the pollution, depletion and diversion of water have undermined women's ability to keep their families healthy and their homes clean.

Citizens across the world are committed to work globally in solidarity for the defence of community rights to local water resources.

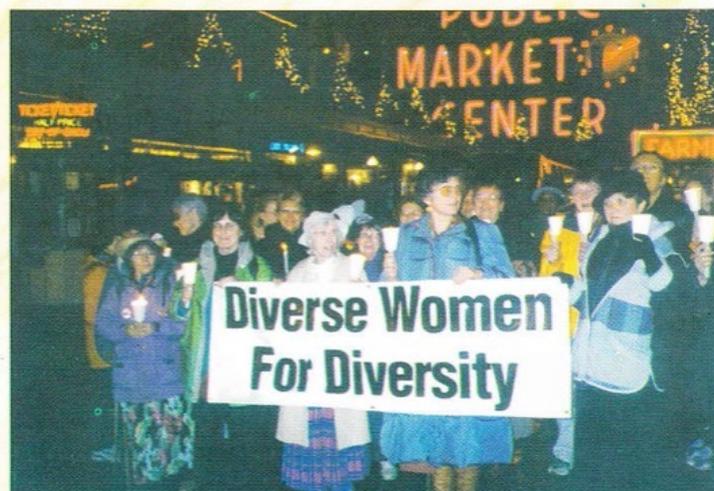
For us, the "global water commons" means the global solidarity of defending and recreating such rules, rights and responsibilities.

Diverse women of the world will not allow our water to be made a commodity for profit.

We demand that governments acknowledge community rights to water, protect them globally and initiate an international legally binding framework for such protection at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002.

*Women of different regions have organised as Diverse Women to provide an alternative voice and vision to the dominant paradigm of commercialization and corporatisation of Food Security and the privatization of natural resources through the Agreement on Agriculture and TRIPs Agreement of the WTO at the World Food Summit in Rome (1996 and 2002) WTO meetings in Seattle in 1999, the World Bank meetings in Prague in 2000, the Convention on Biological Diversity in Bratislava (1998) and Nairobi (2000) and Rio+10 at Johannesburg (2002).*

*Diverse Women and Raging Grannies organised a candle light march during the protest against the WTO Ministerial Meet at Seattle, 1999.*



# Charter of the National Alliance for Women's Food Rights

**Women and children suffer most when food rights are threatened therefore women's and children's food rights must be at the centre of our country's concerns:**

1. We women from diverse groups and organisations demand that our Food Rights as enacted in the Constitution be protected under any economic regime, and by all governments.
2. We demand that the government immediately act through policy intervention to arrest rising food prices and inflation which are clearly linked to structural adjustment policies.
3. We call for the reintroduction of the Essential Commodities Act since unregulated markets create freedom for hoarders and black marketeers and make the ordinary public victims of harsh scarcities of essential commodities like food.
4. We call upon the Government to strengthen the public distribution system (PDS). We demand an expanded system which will include many more essential commodities. We demand that ration cards be given without hindrance to all those who require them. Foodgrains at half the price of ration supplies must be supplied to those below the poverty line. In particular, tribal areas must be given priority in the distribution of cheap foodgrains and other essential commodities. Women should be given a special role in the running of these PDS networks and the community should be encouraged to play a bigger role. This is essential to make a system more accountable and to prevent pilferage and black marketing. A multi-tiered system needs to be established consisting of: national grain banks in which the Government must play a stronger role, all the way to the micro level where community run and women run grain banks become the basis for household food security and a community level public distribution system.
5. We demand proper land use policy guidelines to prevent diversion of agricultural land for commercial purposes including aquaculture and horticulture. Common land and panchayati land is being handed over to commercial interests depriving the village poor of their use. We demand this practice be stopped and that the land be used for production of fodder, fuel etc. We demand a full and genuine implementation of land reforms, and an immediate halt to the removal of land ceiling laws and a stop to foreign direct investment (FDI) in agriculture. The removal of land ceilings and the opening of FDI in agriculture is increasing the numbers of landless and increasing the burden on the landless.
6. Declining public investment and encouragement of the corporate sector in agriculture leaves the farmers vulnerable to rural capitalists and multi-national corporations (MNCs). We call upon the Government to encourage public investment and restrict MNC investment in agriculture.
7. We women call on the WB to stop the deliberate creation of hunger and malnutrition in India through structural adjustment policies especially those forced on agriculture.
8. We demand safe and healthy food for all. We demand the Government ensures that our food is free from chemical and non-chemical adulteration. Effective food safety provisions need to be in place to prevent adulteration, thereby enabling the public access to safe and healthy foods of our choice.
9. We outrightly reject genetically engineered foods. Genetically engineered foods are proving to cause retarded growth and immune deficiencies (The Hindu, 13/8/98). Since women and children are the worst victims of malnutrition, health hazards due to the consumption of genetically engineered foods will be most severely felt by poor women and children.
10. We call upon the Government to immediately stop the license free importation of 1 million tonnes of soyabean (for our edible oil industry) which is not necessary - from a point of view of people's food rights and will pose threats to livelihoods of farmers, a large section of whom are women. It will also pose a threat to women and children's health since the Government has failed to take action to ban the importation of genetically engineered soya or demand the separation and labeling of all genetically engineered foods.
11. We demand a halt to the use of imported food and unsafe food for welfare schemes such as the ICDS (Integrated Child Development Scheme) Mid day Meal programme, in which such foods as pre-processed corn soya blend is being used extensively. Not only is such imported food hazardous to our health due to the use of genetically engineered soya, but our local, nutrient-high cereal and grain economy is being marginalised to support resource intensive production systems of the developed countries.
12. The government price support system must be reoriented to ensure the meeting of basic food needs for women and children. We call upon the Government to increase procurement prices of staple foods, especially those of millets and legumes, in order to encourage farmers to return to growing essential food crops. Non-food crops (for example, cotton, tobacco and jute) cultivated as raw materials for industries should have no government procurement prices since industries can directly pay remunerative prices to farmers.
13. Women have always played an important role in the production and processing of food. Cottage and small industries in the food processing sector which gave some employment and income are being taken over by MNCs and big business companies encouraged by the Government. Apart from destroying women's livelihoods, this also leads to the flooding of the market with expensive, unhealthy junk food. Food resources are being diverted on a large scale to this elite consumer market, creating scarcity for households and rising price rises. We demand that food processing should be reserved for the small scale sector. Such a reservation of the food processing industry for the small scale sector would be consistent with WTO requirements of national treatment, since we would be treating domestic industries in the same way as MNCs by excluding both from entry into the food processing industry.
14. We call upon the Government to restrict and ban all exports of essential food till all are fed. We demand that the food needs of women and children of this country are met first, and only the surpluses from meeting this need should be used for trade exports. Instead of women eating last and least relying on the leftovers for their sustenance, we demand that global trade be left with the leftovers only after the food rights of all within the country are met. The Government needs to maintain vigilant monitoring of production, consumption and the food needs of all.

**In India, DWD articulates its commitment to diversity and non-violent technology to ensure food security through the National Alliance for Women's Food Rights which has been in the forefront in**

In 1999, women came together to protest the entry of Cargill, the agribusiness giant in world food trade, in India's domestic markets. Besides taking over larger flour mills, which led to the closure of thousands of small, cottage-industry based mills in the country, they introduced their brand of flour "Nature Fresh".

*Consumers have a right to know... how fresh is "Nature Fresh"?*

#### Women Demand:

- That Cargill immediately withdraw the "Nature Fresh" advertisements and render an apology for insulting all women and workers of India who use their hands to work.
- That Cargill allow representatives of the National Alliance for Women's Food Rights and ordinary women to visit the Cargill processing mill to issue a report on the actual processing.

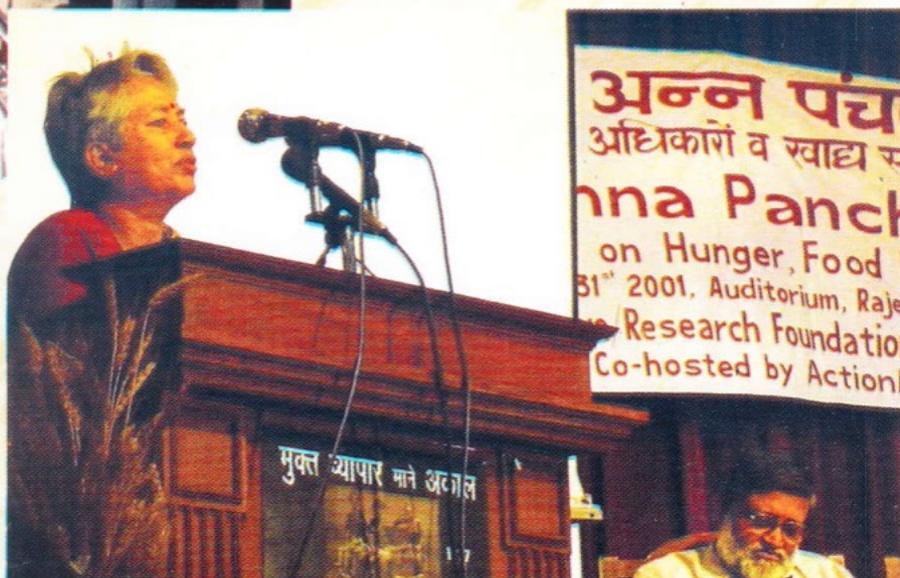


### Highlighting the voices of farmers and consumers



Together with farmers' unions and Navdanya, DWD organised the People's Seed Tribunal – Bija Panchayat in 2000, where small farmers from across the world gave evidence of the crisis in agriculture as a result of globalisation.

Globalisation has resulted in the re-emergence of famine. DWD, together with Research Foundation for Science, Technology and Ecology, organised the Public Hearing on Hunger and Food Rights – Anna Panchayat – in May 2001 to highlight the crisis of widespread human and starvation and the



# Women Say "No" to Genetic Engineering



Women visionaries who have founded the DWD movement have provided alternatives to a global economy dominated by capitalist patriarchy and have pioneered the resistance to genetic engineering at the scientific and movement level. DWD has been organising a series of BIODEVASTATION workshops and public panel discussions to focus attention on the hazards of the patriarchal technology of genetic engineering.



The NAFWR has spearheaded the movement against GE in India by taking up issues such as the 1998 dumping of GE soya that had been rejected by European countries and Japan, under pressure from corporations like Cargill,

and which resulted in the destruction of the local mustard oil economy. Through demonstrations, rallies, and public awareness campaigns, women protested the destruction of their oil economy as well as their cultural diversity that mustard represented. DWD is also campaigning against policies that lead to the destruction of natural sources of Vitamin-A to make way for genetically engineered rice and mustard.



## DWD Statement on Contraceptive Corn

We call for an immediate halt to any further development and application or release of contraceptive corn, a corn genetically engineered by EPICYTE of San Diego using a rare human disease to create human infertility.

Any release to the environment can spread the pollen of such corn and turn one of the major food sources into a contraceptive hazard.

Therefore we also call for strengthening of regulation and strict implementation of biosafety and human rights laws to prevent any further development of this technology to prevent any such disasters.



DWD's Memorandum sent to the Health Minister of India in July 2000, to prevent the dumping of GE corn-soya blend as food aid for the victims of the Orissa supercyclone

### STOP DUMPING GE FOOD!

#### Our demands:

- ◆ We call on the Government of India and Government of Orissa to immediately withdraw the corn-soya blend from distribution in Orissa and introduce mandatory segregation and labeling of all food entering the country for presence of GE constituents.
- ◆ We call on the US Government to stop using public finances to subsidise their gene giants.
- ◆ We demand that the World Bank stop using public funds to create market for US biotech corporations.
- ◆ We call on the Government of India to explore alternatives for food and nutrition aid which strengthen local economies, protect farmers' livelihoods and ensure safe and culturally appropriate foods.
- ◆ We call on all aid agencies to not use GE in children's food aid.
- ◆ We call on all relief agencies to stop dumping of inappropriate and unsafe food and to subscribe to ethical principles of food aid.

## Women as knowledge keepers and custodians of cultural diversity

Nature has given us abundance, women's indigenous knowledge of biodiversity, agriculture and nutrition has built on that abundance to create more from less, to create growth through sharing.

- Women farmers share seeds freely and with sharing as a base, there can never be scarcity.
- The giving and sharing of food in abundance has been the basis of ensuring food security.
- The giving and sharing of knowledge has been the basis of the growth and evolution of knowledge. An economy of sharing is an economy of abundance.
- This worldview of abundance is based on sharing and on a deep awareness of humans as members of the earth family. This awareness that in impoverishing other beings, we impoverish ourselves and in nourishing other beings, we nourish ourselves is part of our present ecological knowledge and ancient wisdom.
- Without giving and sharing there can be no sustainability; without sustainability, there can be no peace.
- DWD movement celebrates sharing for sustainability and peace through food festivals, exposure tours, training programmes in biodiversity conservation, sustainable agriculture, indigenous healing systems, water conservation, capacity building for leadership and good governance.



BRINGING MILLET BACK: DWD's Forgotten Foods organic lunch brought nostalgic memories of grandmother's millet and amaranth based recipes.

DWD celebrated the Basmati Victory – the revocation of the broadbased patent claims of RiceTec Inc. by the USPTO with a rice dinner. Over 20 rice dishes from various parts of India gave an insight to participants of the role of cultural diversity in food.



*Flowers of Tesu (flame of the forest)  
are the traditional cause of colour for the spring festival of Holi.*





We, Diverse Women for Diversity (DWD) committed to a peaceful world, celebrate our differences. From our differences come our strengths. We come from all the continents, and from different cultures and races, and are united in our vision for peace and justice for

the world today. We want to leave a peaceful and just world for our children and for the generations to come. We celebrate and uphold cultural and biological diversity. We will defend all forms of diversity and resist all forms of monoculture, fundamentalism and violence from which intolerance and hatred arise.

The tragedy on September 11 has shown us another face of terror.

We join in the pain of all people who have faced the terror of those who do not value the sanctity of human life. We especially abhor the use of human beings themselves as weapons. In this regard the terror of September 11 cannot be viewed as a lone event. Many acts of such terror have been inflicted on the peoples of this earth. The sacredness and dignity of life, and the right to peaceful existence and justice have been destroyed through imperialistic globalization and all forms of fundamentalism.

**Among the many tools of terror in the modern world are:**

- ◆ economic sanctions and structural adjustment policies by the WB, IMF, WTO, the transnationals, and their accomplices in the different governments that lead to starvation and disease epidemics;
- ◆ biotechnologies that threaten the roots of life;
- ◆ monocultures that destroy social and biological diversity;
- ◆ degradation of the environment for monetary gain;
- ◆ widespread application of pesticides that lead to deformities, illness and death;
- ◆ pollution of soils, water and ecosystems at large;
- ◆ the pursuit of profit by global corporations which is the driving force behind terrorism - terrorism which destroys sustainable livelihoods, cultural identities and the right of people to basic necessities of life;
- ◆ the marginalization of indigenous peoples through continuing colonization, and the loss of sovereignty;
- ◆ the growing disparity between the rich and the poor between countries, and within countries, including countries of the "developed" nations;
- ◆ the US-led NATO alliance with its new strategy which is fostering war all over the globe, with other governments being blackmailed to join in-this leads to further militarization and violence within all countries

Given the extent of such structural terror in the world it is perhaps surprising that direct terrorist attacks, like that of September 11, are not more common. If we want to end terrorism we must pay attention to all sources of injustice that widen the gap between rich and poor, men and women, nature and human beings, and which create the hopelessness that can lead to terrorism. We stand with those who are working to remove the structural causes of injustices.

**Women, children, the differently-abled and the aged are the worst victims of this reign of terror:**

- ◆ the terror of not having water to drink and food to eat;
- ◆ the terror of food and water contamination;
- ◆ the terror of loss of livelihood;
- ◆ the terror of losing home, homeland, family and community and becoming a refugee;
- ◆ the terror of persistent poverty that leads to the sale of life and body organs;
- ◆ the terror of being forced into prostitution as a means of survival;
- ◆ the terror of living in communities where drug abuse has become a way of life;
- ◆ the terror of losing our children to a culture of violence;
- ◆ the terror of increased violence, in all forms, against women;
- ◆ the terror of patriarchy, racism, and casteism which affects the vast majority;
- ◆ the terror of living in a society where basic human rights for women are not respected.

We, Diverse Women for Diversity, pledge to overcome this capitalist patriarchal terrorism. We will work towards a world free of war, hunger and social and economic injustices. We condemn all acts of war and call on all nations to boycott pacts of aggression. We invite all women of the world to join with us in stopping governments from rushing into a mindless global war. Together, we will find peaceful, creative and non-violent ways to end terrorism in all its forms.

We ask all peoples of the world to stand with us in defending and celebrating diversity, peace and hope.

October 1, 2001

New Delhi, INDIA



**DIVERSE WOMEN  
FOR  
DIVERSITY**

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