



Presentation Brochure
2021





Navdanya Earth University, Biodiversity Conservation Farm
Ramgarhd, Uttarakhand

About us

The Navdanya Movement

30 years, Dr. Vandana Shiva founded the Navdanya Movement in India, pioneering the movement to defend Seed and Food Sovereignty for small farmers around the world. In response to the crisis of erosion of agricultural biodiversity, the introduction of GMOs and patents on seeds through intellectual property rights (IPRs) agreements, the movement has worked with farmers to transition to a new agricultural and economic paradigm in alignment based on biodiversity, regeneration of ecosystems, with a culture of food for health, and economic justice.

In the last 30 years, Navdanya's research on biodiversity-based, agroecological farming has shown how agroecology can increase nutrition and health, farmers' livelihoods while rejuvenating soil, water and biodiversity to enhancing climate resilience.

Navdanya International

Navdanya International was established in Italy in 2011 to strengthen Navdanya's (India) global outreach in its mission to protect nature, Earth's biodiversity defend farmers' rights to save, exchange and evolve seeds, and protect indigenous knowledge and culture. We focused on creating interconnections between movements, actors and issues in order to promote a food system based on food and seed sovereignty that is chemical-free, creates and promotes health and well-being of both humans and nature, is accessible to all, and works in harmony with the Laws of Nature.

What we do

Research and Publications

Through our research and publications we aim at building awareness on the interconnectedness of the numerous crises we face and challenges the industrial food chain by documenting its inefficiencies, lack of diversity, and lack of innovative capacity to address the climate crisis and food insecurity, and by showing how the corporate controlled food system undermines agroecology and biodiversity. This has involved over 30 years of researching the viability of agroecological methods on the ground as well as their global impacts.

Movement Building

In close collaboration with our partners, we work to strengthen alliances and coalitions among movements through open, continuous dialogue with local and international partners, triggering mobilization tours, convergences, workshops, webinars and conferences, to creating opportunities for inclusive participation. This requires global dialogue, action, and coordination across multiple sectors that are often siloed to work together, attention to both local and global contexts and a strategic focus on systemic solutions. By engaging multidimensionally with partners we have been able 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 seed, food and health.

Policy Advocacy

Navdanya International works toward direct policy advocacy throughout the world with local governments, parliaments, municipalities, in conjunction with local movements. All strategies are directed at both public opinion and policy makers, concerning the advantages, for addressing the food, social, climate and other crises, and of agroecology as part of the construction of food sovereignty.

Communications

Communication is a major focus in our education and awareness building of environmental and social injustices as well as the promotion of effective countermeasures through press conferences, dissemination of our reports, publications, articles and videos through our websites, newsletters and social media platforms. Our calls to action are also widely followed and answered and are aimed at promoting dialogue and action for change among government, private sector and civil society stakeholders. We work on a global scale to influence work of other organizations, working in partnerships, rather than replicating existing work to influence public opinion to generate pressure.



Our Experience and Expertise

Navdanya has over the last 30 years worked on the interconnections of ecology, society and economy.

We have been at the forefront of showing connections between multiple crises but also connecting movements and actions on the ground to a wider global narrative.

We have focused on creating holistic perspectives by bringing together siloed movements, regions, issues and actors, working at different scales and on different issues.

We provide a vital platform that joins various voices across the planet towards an interconnected planetary movement to connect transformative initiatives, helping to galvanize new collaborative networks and further strengthen consciousness.

At the global level, Navdanya International works to amplify biodiversity-based agroecology as a solution to the multiple crises we face today through partnership, solidarity and collaboration with a network of international experts, organizations and actors.

On the local level, we have worked to implement concrete actions to transform food systems. Actions such as working with farmers to transform and build resilience in local food communities from seed to table through Community Seed Saving, farmer agroecological training and grassroots networks in India through the Earth University and working with our network to actively support world-wide local initiatives.

To build unique perspectives we work at the interlinkages between action at the local level and international movement building to inform and create change at the institutional and systems levels.

In terms of policy Navdanya has been able to work closely with regions and municipalities in various countries and in conjunction with other partners, toward laws that favor the spread of agroecology in Latin America, Asia and Europe.

Our Areas of Work

Earth Democracy

Rights of Mother Nature

Ecocide

Making connections to converge the Rights of Mother Earth, Ecocide and Earth Democracy consciousness holistically across the world.



Biodiversity-based Agroecology

Food for Health

Poison-Free Food and Farming

Speeding up the transition towards food system, that nourishes the health of the planet and people– free of poisons, toxins and genetically modified foods, both in independent initiatives and at the policy level.



Food Systems Transformation

Regenerative Economies, Cultures and Food Systems

Revealing how regenerative economies are also tied to living cultures, biodiversity, health, nutrition, territories and, histories to create symbiotic and interconnected living systems that participate in reciprocal ecologically-based relationships.



Our Areas of Work

Exposing the Industrial Food System

Speeding up the transition towards food system, that nourishes the health of the planet and people– free of poisons, toxins and genetically modified foods, both in independent initiatives and at the policy level.



Climate Resilience

Showing how industrial agriculture exacerbates the climate crisis while magnify agroecology and biodiversity-based organic agriculture as a meaningful solution to heal both climate and ecological disruption.



Seed Freedom

Food Sovereignty

Seed Sovereignty

By weaving together issues of biodiversity conservation, corporate control through intellectual property rights and new forms of genetic modification, we show how Seed Freedom is an imperative to achieve Food Sovereignty.



Where we work



Our Approach

Creating Connections

The core work of Navdanya International is based on the belief that food systems transformation can happen by bringing together multiple & diverse actors, while connecting often siloed movements and issues to create a holistic vision of our current and future agri-food system.

Catalyzing the Paradigm Shift

Our work has catalyzed spontaneous but continuous actions of the movements and actors we both collaborate with and are in indirect relation with, creating ripple effects in the spheres of influence of our partners, networks, and others. Perhaps most significantly we have seen how other organizations, movements, and actors take on the discourse NI connects and organically evolves and expands it to adapt to their context.

Horizontal Collaboration

'Work in partnership' is our primary model, and consider our partners, collaborators and our network, by experience, knowledge and expertise, rather than as beneficiaries or stakeholders. Therefore we are constantly triggering a process of collective construction of a common narrative, through deep listening and reciprocal knowledge exchange. Planning, strategy, and activities happen collaboratively with our partners on an ongoing basis, depending on invitation, perceived threats, and opportunity.

Global to Local

We have learned that transformations are more likely to take hold if there are strong reinforcing interconnections up and down levels of engagement from local to global and vice versa. Therefore, we weave connections between local actions grounded in their own contexts, to broader global perspectives. The showcasing of the stories, references and examples on the ground in different areas to a broader global audience is an important and valuable tool for similar actions to be duplicated in other parts of the world.

Systems Approach

The Navdanya model is unique because it is based on connecting agroecological practice with research and policy, connecting micro to macro by linking local, regional, national and global actions and issues, along with forming connections with diverse actors in order to cement a common narrative for systemic change.



Our Impact

We catalyze movements to be empowered, and for networks to be strengthened until they develop independent actions. Tools that we offer can have an effect long after the end of the project periods.

Examples include, how our 2013 Law of the Seed drafted in 2013 which continues to be translated into multiple languages to be used by different movements throughout the world. Most recently it has inspired policy advocacy work on seed laws in Ecuador, Argentina, and Serbia.

As an outcome of the work started in 2013 and 2015 with local movements in Kauai, Hawaii, USA, a victory was obtained in court in July 2019, finding. Hawaii Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) guilty of polluting ocean waters along Kaua'i's West Side without a permit.

The Global Movement for Seed Freedom has significantly contributed in the effort towards biodiversity conservation through the mushrooming of hundreds of local seed groups and networks throughout the world.

Our work catalyzed the development of Biodistricts and a school curriculum in Italy, urban gardens in Turkey, a play on Terra Viva, Seed Freedom songs, films and art which have been carried out completely independently from us.



Setting transformational change in motion to create a common vision between actors of true food systems transformation.

Our Vision

All beings have intrinsic value and an inherent right to live, grow and evolve to their full potential through their self organization.

The diversity of biological life forms and cultures is the basis of peace, harmony and sustainability.

We therefore view the conservation of biodiversity and protection of all life forms as a fundamental human duty, as our universal responsibility.

We strive to achieve these goals through the conservation, renewal and rejuvenation of the gifts of biodiversity we have received from nature and our ancestors, and to defend these gifts as commons.



A close-up photograph of a person's hand, likely of South Asian descent, holding a small pile of seeds and pills. The hand is adorned with a red and gold beaded bracelet on the wrist and has intricate henna designs on the palm and fingers. The seeds are light-colored and teardrop-shaped, while the pills are dark and oval. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with some white plastic bags. A solid red rectangular box is overlaid on the upper right portion of the image, containing the text 'Thank you!'.

Thank you!

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