

Navdanya International Onlus

2023

Annual Report



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Navdanya International

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WHO WE ARE & WHAT WE DO

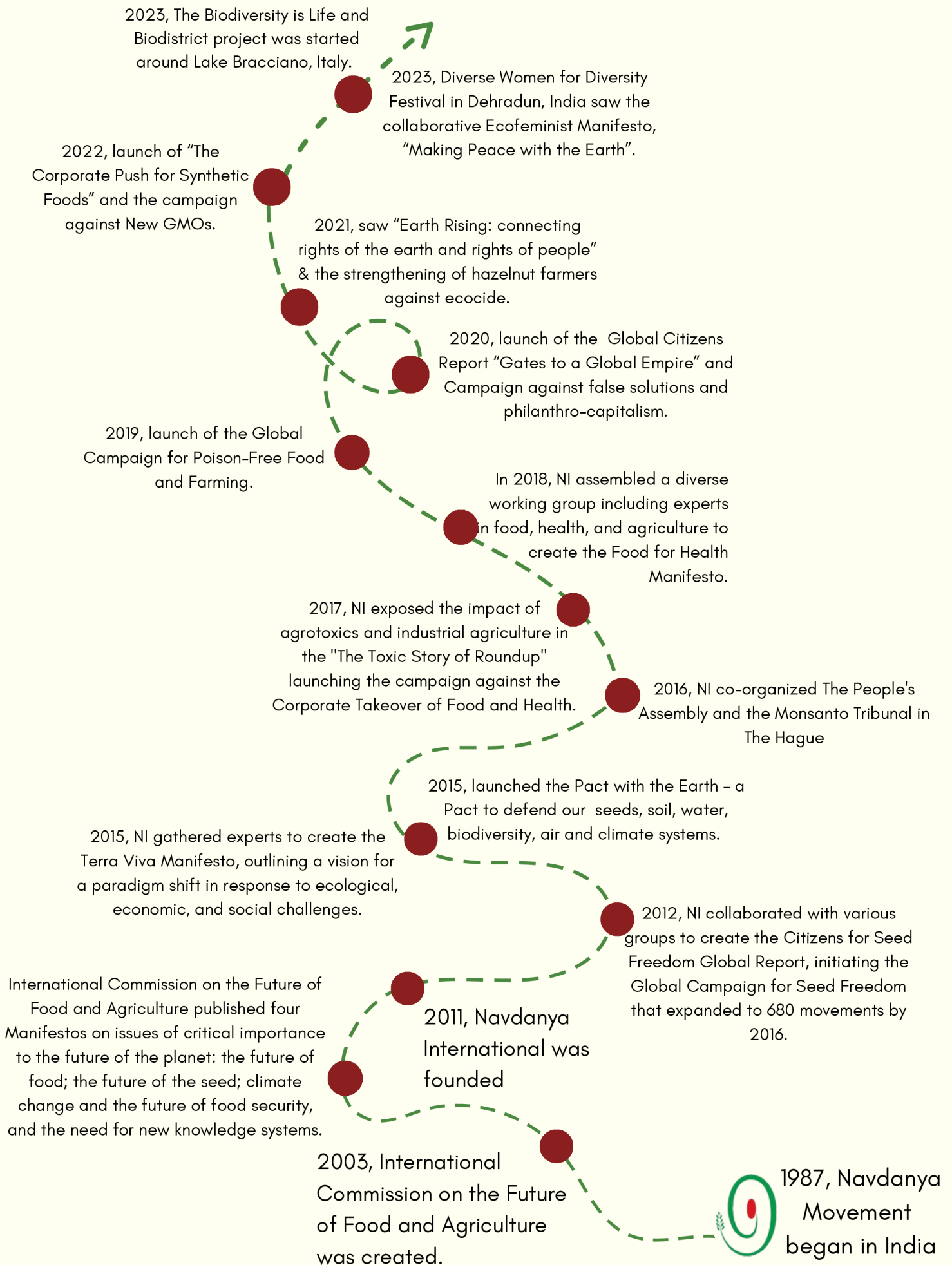
Over the last 30 years, the Navdanya Movement has focused on creating an agroecological food system that is chemical-free, nutritious, and accessible to all, and which creates and promotes health and well-being. We work to build a holistic vision as the way to tackle the multiple ecological, social, and health crises we face today.

The vision of Navdanya International is a world in which we think, live, and act as members of one Earth Family interconnected through the web of life. Where the world sees a rejuvenation of biodiversity, soil, and water, and where small farms can produce diverse and healthy food as a means of regenerating the planet and community.

Over the last 10 years, we have focused on articulating and adopting principles of ecological and regenerative transitions through participatory research and publications, policy advocacy, dynamic creative communications. Through this we have strengthened the resistance against capitalist colonial extractive models. We have facilitated continuous learning and ensured that knowledge exchange happens among diverse movements and actors. Navdanya International has strengthened alliances and coalitions among movements to support change through open, continuous dialogue, creating opportunities for the creation of solidarities across regions, issues, and scales.



Our history



Year In Review

In 2023, Navdanya International's focus centered on expanding outreach to diverse audiences, cultivating innovative partnerships, and refining effective strategies for creative communications. We discovered that the process of crafting cultural tools is as crucial as their dissemination. Listening to stories, needs, and facilitating horizontal participation in tool creation fosters community investment, resulting in movements taking ownership and leveraging these tools effectively within their contexts.

A tangible outcome emerged from the Diverse Women for Diversity festival: the 'Making Peace with the Earth' Manifesto and the Voices of Diversity Film. Participants in these initiatives have propagated our work within their networks, sparking wider engagement. This underscores how impactful creative communications are when tailored to fulfill specific community needs—underscoring the importance of identifying target audiences and contextual usage. Notably, Navdanya International's creative outputs from fieldwork in Sardinia exemplify this approach, providing accessible tools that amplify local struggles against the erasure of authentic food.

We have learned that multifaceted, intergenerational networks serve as robust defenses against industrial impositions, empowering communities to coordinate responses against threats. This experience has underscored the pivotal role of Navdanya International's research in crafting accessible, informative communications and knowledge platforms that educate and mobilize diverse actors. Notably, our endeavors against fake food witnessed a decline in advocacy for these products through persistent messaging and diversified mobilization.

Amidst the escalating dangers posed by corporate-driven technological extremism—untested gene-edited GMOs, financialization of nature, lab-made food agendas, seed deregulation, and global conflicts—we have continued to spotlight existing regeneration solutions and fortify them with community support. The resilience for an uncertain future lies in communities united to safeguard biodiversity, food, seed, and knowledge sovereignty.

To pursue our long-term vision of diverse movements aligned in caring for the Earth, we prioritized fortifying cultures of resilience by protecting knowledge sovereignty and democracy. This involves elevating the wisdom and experiences of grandmothers, women, farmers, Indigenous Peoples, and youth. Moreover, we continue to highlight the symbiotic nature of local regenerative economies with culture, biodiversity, health, and nutrition, while steadfastly denouncing the denial of living systems.



Catalyzing and Interconnecting Movements:

The Diverse Women for Diversity Festival in March 2023 successfully aligned with the expected outcomes by fostering a global alliance advocating for biodiversity, health, and community decision-making. This convergence effectively connected actors from diverse geographic regions and different levels, solidifying partnerships and building resilient communities based on regenerative economies. The resulting ecofeminist manifesto and subsequent collaborations in Turkey, Spain, Chile, Italy, and Indonesia directly embodied the anticipated outcomes of establishing cooperative partners, sharing indigenous knowledge, and inspiring local initiatives. These actions aligned with the goal of creating a transformative global community and facilitated the exchange of best practices, methods, and approaches in ecological transitions.



DWD Festival: Celebrating Diverse Women for Diversity

In March 2023, Navdanya International co-organized the first Diverse Women for Diversity Festival post the covid pandemic. The Festival saw the convergence of over 150 women from 21 countries, and every region of India. The Diverse Women for Diversity network (DWD) was created in 1997, bringing together women of diverse cultures, race, religion and socio-economic conditions for a common goal: standing united against the erosion of biodiversity, against the poisoning of our bodies, soil, food, water and air, against the takeover of food sovereignty and community decision-making. The network has continued to work together throughout the last 25 years, with this gathering as the most recent chapter of a long history. The festival resulted in the consolidation of a multi-disciplinary and global alliance of women now closely working together to mobilize resistance.

Such was the case with a joint letter issued by the DWD network against the imposition of GMO corn in Mexico. The letter reached the United States government, was circulated throughout Latin America and Mexico. With the issue explained in the Navdanya International article, US pressure to impose GM corn in Mexico threatens global genetic heritage of Maize Diversity. Our reach within our networks has helped our Mexican partners create more visibility around this issue, as well as more pressure to stop the US imposition.

The global Diverse Women for Diversity Alliance during the festival, also collaboratively drafted an update of the Ecofeminist Vision for an ecological future, in a manifesto titled "Making Peace with the Earth: Through diversity, mutuality, nonviolence and care". The Manifesto detailed the two paradigms that humanity stands between- the paradigm that recognizes our oneness with the Earth or continuing down the path of separation and extraction from the Earth. The Manifesto has been independently translated into Italian, German, French and Chinese and has been circulating throughout the DWD network globally.

Through the Diverse Women for Diversity (DWD) festival, Navdanya International facilitated the space for women from all over the world, with a diversity of backgrounds to share in celebration, struggle and to articulate the common ideas and actions of what it means to live in harmony with the Earth. The festival centered on how women are at the forefront of shaping new scientific and economic paradigms through their defense of biodiversity, seed freedom, and food sovereignty. These common principles generated during the festival resulted in the “Making Peace with the Earth”, ecofeminist manifesto. The co-creation and joint articulation of the manifesto has contributed to the incorporation of these joint articulations and common understandings in these diverse movements such as the Rights of Nature, Ecocide, Food and Health as well as Agroecology with women presenting and endorsing the principles of the Manifesto and its collective knowledge in forums such as the EU parliament, the annual Agroecology Europe meeting, Rights of Nature forum and others.



Catalysing and supporting agroecology and regenerative economies:

Navdanya International's leadership in promoting the growth of agroecological communities has directly contributed to breaking silos and building solidarities between movements, as envisioned in the expected outcomes. The engagement at the Biodiversity Festival, educational workshops, and seminars effectively connected actors, fostering dialogue among farmers, policymakers, students, and citizens. Additionally, after continued collaborations with Stop Ecocide International and EU Parliament on March 21st, the European Parliament's Committee on Legal Affairs unanimously voted for the most serious environmental crimes – widely known as “ecocide” – to be condemned under EU law. Contributing to the expected outcomes of facilitating exchanges, strengthening cooperative initiatives, and supporting local/regional policy shifts for ecological transitions.

Supporting Agroecological Communities

Over the last year Navdanya International has continued to support the biodistricts movement throughout the world. These are effective bottom-up initiatives built on the participation of citizens, administrations and producers that put forward new development proposals focused on the enhancement of local territories, as well as a coherent response to the challenges of industrial agriculture and the expansion of monocultures.

For example, on June 7, 2023 as part of the educational Project Biodiversity is Life: Let's discover and protect it together! – a project by Navdanya International to engage new generations in protecting our biodiversity, Navdanya International hosted a Biodiversity Festival, co-organized by the Municipality of Bracciano.



Young students, farmers, local policy makers, citizens and social movements found a horizontal space of dialogue to exchange their struggles and vision for what an ecological economy and community can look like. As each actor had an equal voice, the commitment for an ecological community was strengthened, resulting in a high level of community participation and community direction for the promotion of biodiversity conservation and agroecological practice.

These learnings have also created interest among our partners to replicate a similar model showing us the interest in sharing a model that can be adapted to different contexts while having the capacity to strengthen ecological communities and provide a means of resistance to incoming threats.

The young people who had participated in the educational activities promoted by the local community and the Navdanya International project, expressed their appreciation for the experiential learning process that led them to understand the role of farmers. Representatives of farms involved in the activities expressed their appreciation for the initiative, as it gives dignity to their work by sharing it with the new generations. “Biodiversity,” the producers emphasized, “is an important value at every level of society, whether one is a farmer, a teacher, a restaurateur, and so on. And both wild and cultivated biodiversity are essential.”

By working with multiple actors in the local community food system, Navdanya International has learned how powerful and important horizontal, multi-actor platforms of exchange can be for a community. We have learned the need to create multigenerational platforms of exchange to preserve and transfer knowledge, catalyze action, and mobilize young people, in horizontal exchange with farmers, policy makers, citizens, grandmothers, and others.

Amplifying Voices and Reaching New Audiences to Broaden the Movement

Navdanya International's diverse communication strategies, including short films and videos, booklets, and educational workshops, were in alignment with outcomes of expanding outreach and broadening narratives. These initiatives successfully reached new audiences, including policymakers, scientists, youth, and communities, effectively countering false narratives promoted by agribusiness corporations. The dissemination of booklets, films, and educational seminars at international platforms aligned with the expected outcomes of enhancing public awareness about fake solutions and showcasing already working solutions. These efforts helped contribute to Navdanya International's long term goal of shifting the global narrative towards genuine ecological solutions.

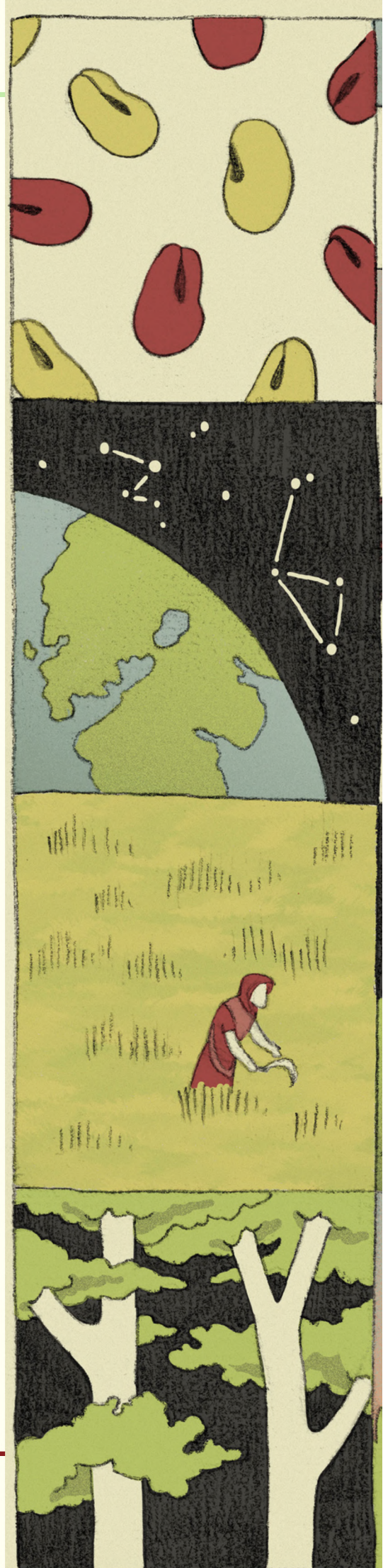


Amplifying Diverse Voices of Resilience:

Out of our DWD Festival, seeing the convergence of women from all over the world embodying the new ecological paradigm, we saw the opportunity to platform these voices of resilience, through our Voices of Diversity short film and our Voices of Resilience video series, which feature those who are already implementing a regenerative, ecological paradigm describing the paradigm in their own words. The Voices of Resilience video series featured voices from our field work in Sardinia in 2022, as well as the voices of farmers and producers from the Biodistrict of Bracciano and Martignano Lakes.

In conversation with shepherds they directly expressed to us how their models of agroecological integration and local ecological economies are being actively villainized through the creation of false dichotomies and political polarization blaming them and their animals for the climate crisis. Leading many to believe that the false solutions of lab-made synthetic animal products are a true solution to climate change.

The shepherds in Sardinia, as well as the buffalo breeders in Campania have hence, asked us to make their struggle more visible through various media, and cultural tools that cut to the truth of the issue, and are easily accessible to audiences.



All to show that real food and real traditional agroecological practice can hold the key to build resilience in the face of climate change. The process of hearing and showcasing farmer's and movement's stories, and providing simple, easy to share outputs such as clips of video interviews, the article The Attempted Destruction of Land-based Cultures, which was independently distributed by pastoral networks in Italy, or the upcoming book showcasing their voices, has provided tangible tools for the community to show their struggle to new sectors, as well as fortify an already present movement.

Navdanya International also launched the Food Systems and Climate campaign to showcase these struggles, along with an Ideas for Action knowledge hub connected to Navdanya International's on-the-ground experiences and independent research, to provide local communities with a global perspective of the issues, to learn about other communities and experiences in other parts of the world, as well as to provide those who engage in the analysis of the issue at a broad political level the opportunity to hear from the grassroots.



This was also the case with the [Voices of Diversity short film](#), which shows the very women who, regardless of their different walks of life, are already actively implementing this paradigm in their communities. The video was launched during a conference at the Casa delle Donne in Rome, and has since been screened at the Ecofeminist Conference at the University of Cordoba, Spain. The short film has also been used by the women of the DWD network to showcase how so many are fighting the same fights, and how much global communities have in common, and have to learn from each other. Highlighting and bringing together these voices allows us to help shift the global narrative of what true solutions look like, by not allowing them to be obscured.

In honor of World Biodiversity Day on May 22, 2022, Navdanya International presented the [Biodiversity is Life](#) illustrated booklet. The booklet written by Navdanya International and illustrated by Sarah Plotegher shows how biodiversity intimately ties the health of ecosystems to human health. The booklet has continued to circulate with [the UN Convention on Biological Diversity sharing the publication](#), in March 2023. As well as being used by our partner [Food, Farming, Freedom in the Philippines for a workshop with organic farmers](#).

The Biodiversity of Life booklet has also continued with the launch of the second on the series [Regeneration is Life: An Agroecological Paradigm to Overtake the Climate Crisis](#). Released for the occasion of the COP28 in Dubai, the booklet describes two main paradigms of thinking of ourselves in the world and of our relationship with the Earth. We either think of ourselves as being separate from Nature or as being one and part of it.

Following our [Biodiversity is Life](#) booklet, which showcases the deep interconnections between our health and the health of our ecosystems and planet, this illustrated booklet lays out how, today more than ever we need the agroecological cultures of the world to take the forefront and show us what it means to be rooted in harmony with the Earth.

Regeneration is Life: An Agroecological Paradigm to Overtake the Climate Crisis prompted Friendly Farms - Australia to independently create a video on the themes of the booklet. The booklet is now also being used as educational material for schools in rural Colombia.



In the co-creation of cultural tools and in creatively showcasing to new and global audiences what the regenerative paradigm looks like we believe it is possible to strengthen and interconnect these islands of resistance, and showcase them as the real solution and sight of hope.

Bringing Young People into the Movement

Navdanya International also held and participated in educational workshops with the youth to expand their knowledge of ecological agriculture. Workshops were held with the youth living in the Bracciano Lake area that saw them exploring local biodiversity at local farms. The workshops discussed climate change, the ecological consequences of industrial agriculture and how organic farming & agroecology can help us protect biodiversity.



In August 2023, Navdanya International also participated in a Food Systems Seminar at the University of Santiago de Chile (USACH) for engineering and agribusiness students. The lecture focused on the key differences between industrial food systems and agroecology in terms of production and seeds. The lecture has since catalyzed a relationship with the University to continue educational opportunities for young students as well as other on-the-ground collaborations.

Denouncing false solutions and narratives, and resisting deregulation of industrial agriculture:

Navdanya International's persistent advocacy against the deregulation of gene editing and new GMOs, synthetic foods and other false solutions has significantly contributed to denouncing false narratives and resisting industrial agricultural practices, in alignment with the expected outcomes. Through joint letters, publications, and engagement in international events, Navdanya International effectively raised awareness about threats and consequences, aligning with the goals of resisting false solutions and ensuring policy advocacy at various levels. Notable events and reports of 2023 include the two events in Brussels and Florence which strongly communicated the dangers of deregulation, precisely meeting the expected outcomes of advocating against harmful policies and supporting local movements to implement policies for safeguarding biodiversity and resisting industrial agriculture.

Navdanya International has been monitoring the threats of deregulation of gene editing, old and new GMOs, Digital sequence of genetic information and of new gene patenting and has joined forces with partners across the world to raise awareness and pursue policy advocacy actions against these corporate plans. This has included multiple levels of advocacy, research and activities all under the Navdanya International campaign New GMOs must not be deregulated.

Navdanya International's efforts, starting from denouncing Ecocide in Tusciana, Italy, led to the EU Parliament recognizing and initiating a debate on a new Ecocide law. Navdanya International's long-term efforts, including webinars, meetings, and collaborations, culminated in the EU Parliament's decision to recognize and debate a new Ecocide law. This success began with the denunciation of Ecocide in Tusciana, Italy, demonstrating the organization's impact in influencing international policy. Also showcasing Navdanya International's ability to bring ground realities to international audiences and contribute to policy changes.

During our Diverse Women for Diversity Festival in March 2023, a joint letter was written and issued by Navdanya International and the DWD network against the imposition of GMO corn in Mexico. The letter reached the United States government, and was circulated throughout Latin America and Mexico. Our reach within our networks has helped our Mexican allies create more visibility around this issue, as well as more pressure to stop the US imposition. This has resulted in an upcoming event on the issue of GMO imposition in centers of Biodiversity in Mexico City in March 2024. The event has been co-organized with the Mexican Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, the Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources, and the Ministry of Culture, alongside various movements in Mexico and Latin America.

Throughout the year Navdanya International has been active in its advocacy against the deregulation of gene editing, including participation in international advocacy events. For example, in January 2023, Navdanya International participated in the annual Oxford Real Farming Conference to discuss the false promises and deregulation of new GMOs in the event, GM's False Promises: Could the UK be next?

In April, 2023, as a continuation of the Story of Rice and Gates to a Global Empire campaign, Navdanya International was also invited by Philippine partners to participate in the Webinar IRRI and the Corporate capture of Food and Agriculture.

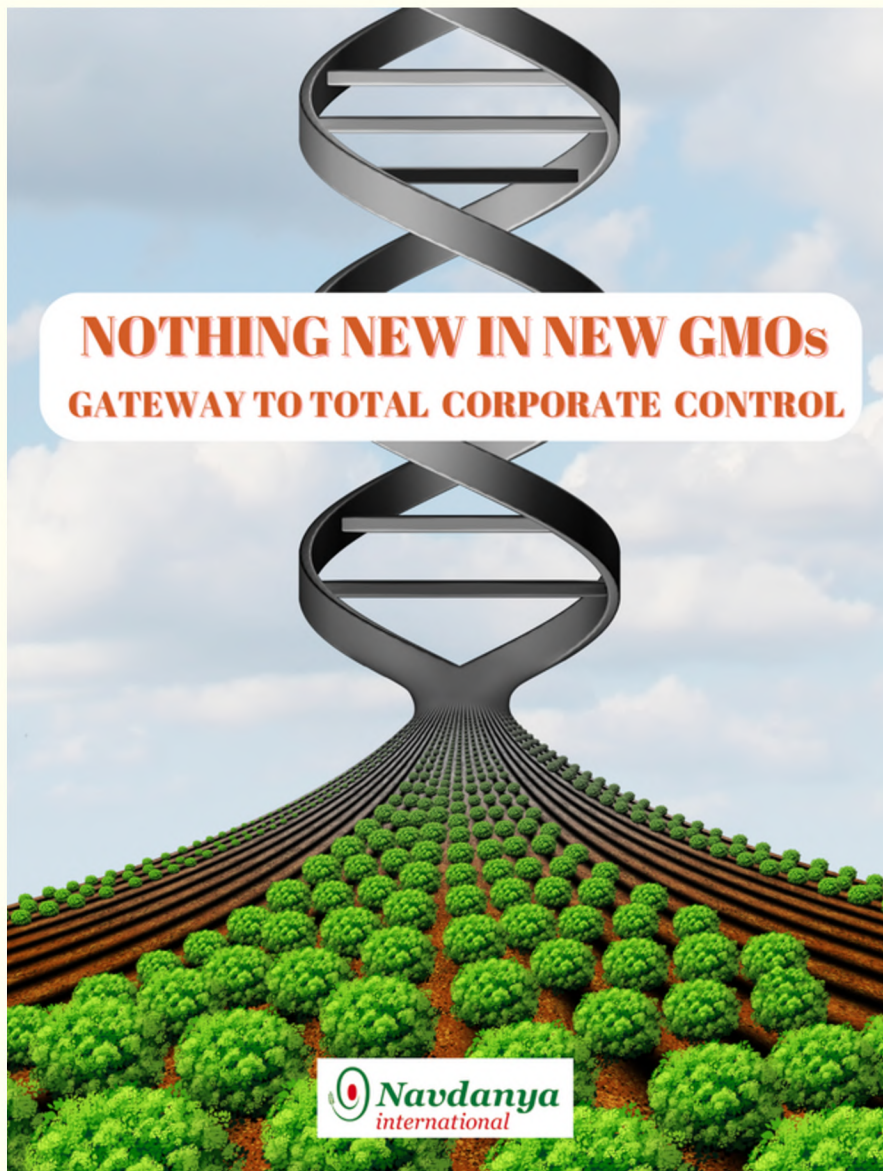
The webinar exposing the dangerous ties and monopoly strategy of IRRI with the Gates Foundation as well as the continued attempt to impose Golden Rice in rice producing countries.

During the year Navdanya International has joined forces with Civil Society Organisations in Europe to counter the attempts of deregulation of gene editing. See [Joint Letter to the European Commission on the EU Seed Marketing Legislation](#) (May 2023) and [Green light for new gene editing techniques: threats and corporate interests behind new wave of GMOs](#) (July 2023), as well as in Italy where in June 2023, the Senate Agriculture and Environment Committees had approved an amendment to the Drought Decree that opened the [field testing of new GMOs](#). An essential part of this campaign is the above mentioned Navdanya International publication [Nothing New in New GMOs - Gateway to Total Corporate Control](#) (Aug. 2023).

On May 15, 2023, as the European Commission was preparing crucial legislative proposals for the future of EU agriculture, including the possible deregulation of new genetic modification techniques, Navdanya International's President Dr Vandana Shiva, along with, Marie Toussaint, MEP, and Blanche Magarinos-Rey, lawyer specialized in environmental and seed law, held the advocacy event, [New GMOs, Biodiversity, Food - An evening with Vandana Shiva](#) in Brussels. The event highlighted what those transformations would mean for the health and rights and food of EU citizens and the possible repercussions for the rest of the world.

In August 2023, Navdanya International launched its comprehensive report, [Nothing New in New GMOs - Gateway to Total Corporate Control](#), which details the state of international gene editing deregulation, the threats and consequences. The report was then re-launched in English and Italian at the Navdanya International and Terra Nuova event, [New GMOs at the Gates](#), in Florence, Italy.

In continuation with the Food Systems and Climate campaign and our work on denouncing synthetic foods, on July 28, 2023 Navdanya International published How Green is Lab-Meat? as a response to European and Italian debates on the deregulation of lab-made foods. The political brief made it to the Italian parliament as a considered position against the deregulation of synthetic lab foods.



Communications and Articles:

In 2023, Navdanya International website collected more than 55,600 views, while the number of subscribers to our newsletter has reached over 16,690. Our outreach on social media platforms for the same period has reached over 102,000 subscribers on Facebook pages, over 19,900 followers of our Twitter accounts, and over 11,700 followers on Instagram.

Videos of our events and interviews hosted on our video channels and social media platforms have attracted over 662,000 views.

The team has produced over 35 articles, briefing papers, event reports in English, Italian, Spanish, and other languages, which can be found on our website and have been shared through our newsletters and social media platforms. Navdanya International's activities and articles have been replicated/covered by the media throughout the project period.

NAVDANYA INTERNATIONAL REFLECTIONS

Throughout the year, we have learned how amidst the escalating dangers posed by corporate-driven technological extremism—untested gene-edited GMOs, financialization of nature, lab-made food agendas, seed deregulation, and global conflicts—it has been crucial to spotlight existing regeneration solutions and fortify them with community support. The resilience for an uncertain future lies in communities united to safeguard biodiversity, food, seed, and knowledge sovereignty. We have seen how multifaceted, intergenerational networks serve as robust defenses against industrial impositions, empowering communities to coordinate responses against threats. This experience has underscored the pivotal role of Navdanya International's research and subsequent creative communication and dissemination in crafting accessible, informative communications and knowledge platforms that educate and mobilize diverse actors.

We have seen that in order to pursue our long-term vision of diverse movements aligned in caring for the Earth, we must continue to prioritize fortifying cultures of resilience by protecting knowledge, sovereignty and democracy. This has involved elevating the wisdom and experiences of grandmothers, women, farmers, indigenous peoples, and youth through a variety of different platforms— from creative communications to policy initiatives and community outreach. Moreover, continuing to highlight the symbiotic nature of local regenerative economies with culture, biodiversity, health, and nutrition, while steadfastly denouncing the denial of living systems, has been the angle that has helped bring together such a diversity of actors in several of our activities. Creating multifaceted outcomes with deep potential and long term impact.

For example, working with allies who are actively embodying the ecological paradigm and elevating the interconnectedness of their model and movement, while aligning international struggles has served to show what is possible.

Becoming beacons to strengthen local ecological communities from the ground up, while providing a means of resistance to incoming threats. These learnings have also created interest among our partners to replicate similar models, showing us that the creation of ecological communities is not just a singular event, but is a model to be shared and adapted to different contexts that has the capacity to strengthen resistance to incoming threats.

Navdanya International has also been focused on having our work reach out to new and diverse audiences, developing creative partnerships, and learning the strategies of how we most effectively do creative communications. We have learned that the process of creating these cultural tools is as crucial as their dissemination. We have learned how listening is as much a necessary and crucial action, so that these tools have a direct and tangible outcome. Listening to the stories, the needs, and horizontal participation in the creation of these tools also creates a sense of community investment, resulting in more movements taking ownership of the tools and using them in their own contexts. We have learned how these creative communications tools can be most impactful when they fulfill a need present in a community, signaling to use the importance of specifying target audiences, and target use.

THE ROAD AHEAD

To continue working towards our long-term mission of promoting diversity and interconnectedness, and fulfilling our duty to care for the Earth, we believe it is increasingly important to build and strengthen cultures of resilience. This can be achieved by safeguarding knowledge sovereignty and democracy, and by recognizing the value of the knowledge and experience of Grandmothers, women, farmers, Indigenous peoples, and young people. This knowledge is rooted in centuries of experience. We must continue to demonstrate how local, regenerative economies are linked to culture, biodiversity, health, and nutrition, while also condemning the denial of living systems.





 **Navdanya**
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MARION