



Contact GRAIN...

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Struggles for life:
agriculture
food
biodiversity

Resources

We carry out independent research and analysis of trends that affect farmers' and rural communities' control over agricultural biodiversity.

We produce:

- a frequently updated website (www.grain.org)
- regular new publications in English, Spanish and French
- by email: New from GRAIN, to announce publications, and BIO-IPR, which tracks the privatisation of life-forms and knowledge

Our main publications, mailed free to those without easy access to the internet, are:

- **Seedling:** GRAIN's quarterly magazine and flagship publication
- **"Against the grain":** a series of short opinion pieces
- **Briefings:** substantial research reports, providing in-depth background information and analysis
- **Biodiversidad:** a quarterly magazine in Spanish produced in collaboration with Latin American civil society organisations. Also available in Portuguese.
- **Semences de la Biodiversité:** a monthly bulletin in French providing news and analysis relevant to Franco-phone Africa

About GRAIN...

GRAIN is a small international non-profit organisation that supports small farmers and social movements in their struggles for community-controlled and biodiversity-based food systems, and the protection of associated knowledge and cultures.

Diversity is key to sustainable food and farming systems. For thousands of years local communities have developed an incredible wealth of seeds and breeds, farming systems and cultural traditions. This is not just a precious heritage, but fundamental for sustainable food, fuel, shelter, medicine and livelihoods. Yet this biodiversity is being destroyed by an increasingly globalised industrial food production and trade system, and by the corporations behind it. In an era of global food and climate crises, our struggle is, more than ever, a political one for truly sustainable food and farming systems based on peoples' control over their own livelihoods.

An international group with 16 staff on five continents, GRAIN is an independent organisation with an active presence in Africa, Asia and Latin America. As a small group with a big agenda, we work in collaboration with others – from farmers' movements to NGOs – while always respecting their autonomy. Our unique set-up allows us to act as a two-way conduit, informing local movements about global trends and channelling into the global debate the priorities and concerns of those on the ground.





Our work

GRAIN's work can be broadly divided into two fields:

Information

We monitor and analyse trends that affect farmers' and rural communities' control over agricultural biodiversity.

Many of these trends – such as the push for genetic engineering or the aggressive expansion of laws that prevent farmers from saving seeds – are global, though they have their unique expressions at national or regional level. Others come from the grassroots, such as initiatives to prevent genetic contamination from genetically modified crops. Our unique set-up allows us to make the links and to situate local developments within a global perspective. Working with others, we are then able to provide useful analysis.

Movement building

GRAIN has long been active in networking, capacity sharing and strategy building among activists and organisations. This work is often hidden from view, but it is crucial. All over the world, a tremendous movement is gathering pace to reclaim the space for local communities to defend their livelihoods and to develop and maintain their own biodiverse and socially just food and agricultural systems. Informal networks and alliances are being built around seed-saving, farmers' research and food sovereignty. The struggle to confront this onslaught of industrial agriculture and to develop alternatives is long, arduous, and necessarily collective. As an organisation spread around the world, GRAIN facilitates sharing, learning, and setting agendas across cultures and regions. In that way, we contribute to the empowerment of groups active on the ground.

More about our work and all our publications are available on GRAIN's website (www.grain.org).

Our impact

"Farmers all over the world are in the battlefield to conserve their seed genetic resources and biodiversity. This workshop ... provided for sharing experiences and strategies among participants."

Bangladeshi participant in an international workshop co-organised by GRAIN

"What local NGOs do with GRAIN's information outputs is 'translate' them into local realities to make educational, training and campaign materials appropriate to their particular and specific realities."

External evaluation of GRAIN, 2007

"I have been reading *Seedling* for a year now. It has been wonderful to share the stories with my young students."

A reader from Gujarat

"GRAIN links the dots so I can see the whole picture."

European activist

genetic engineering

IPPR