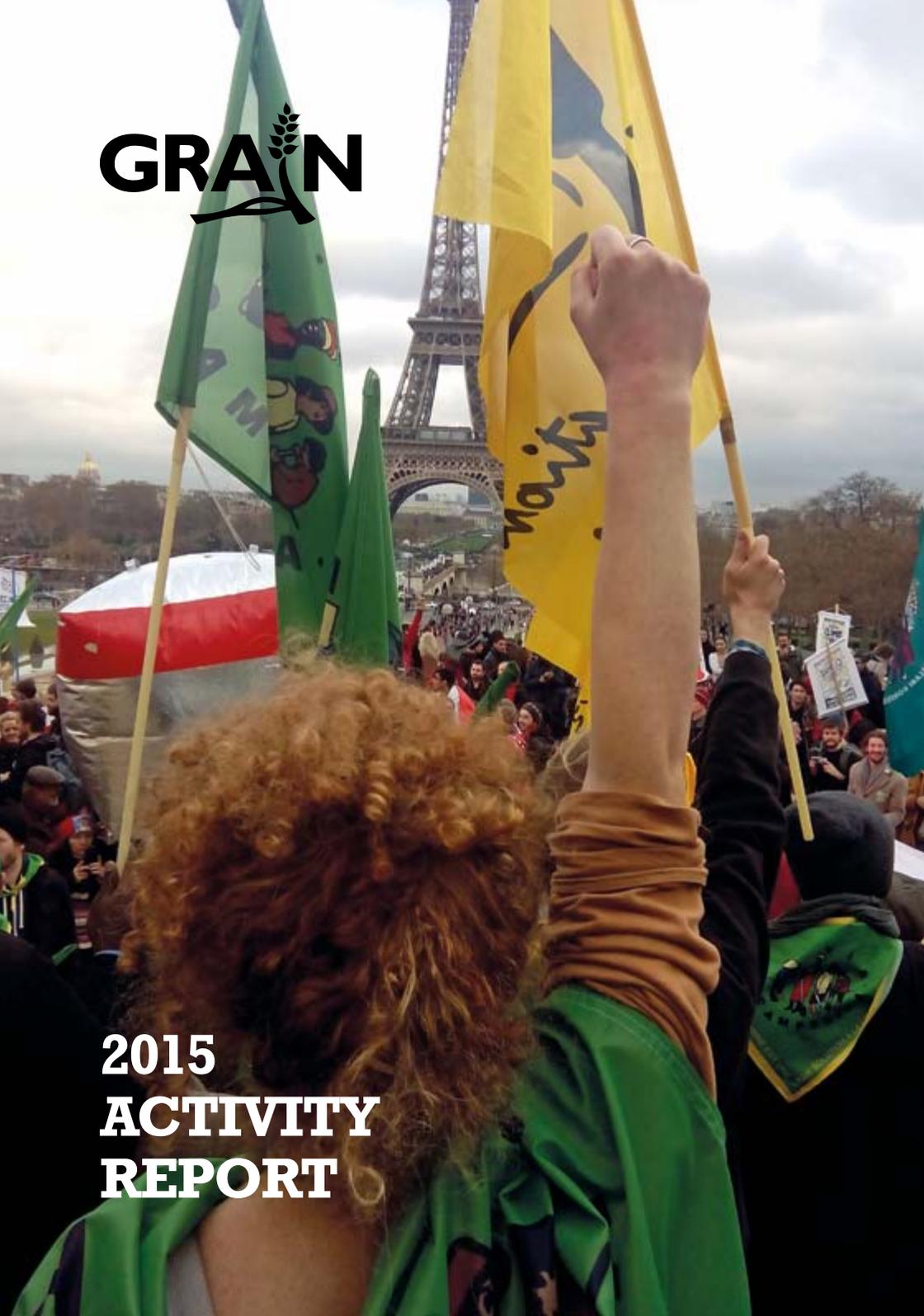




**2015  
ACTIVITY  
REPORT**





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Front cover: COP21 climate mobilisations in Paris, December 2015

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# About GRAIN

GRAIN is a small, decentralised international organisation that works to support small farmers and social movements in their struggles for community-controlled and biodiversity-based food systems. Our support takes the form of independent research and analysis; sustained networking at local, regional and international levels; and *active* cooperation and alliance building.

For the past 25 years, GRAIN has been a key player in the global movement to challenge corporate power over people's food and livelihoods. Governments around the world promote industrial agriculture and corporate-run food supply chains. Sadly, this model ignores small-scale producers and the complex farming and food distribution systems that have nourished humanity for more than 12,000 years. Today, almost one billion people experience hunger, partly due to an industrial food system that puts profits before people. Seventy percent of those living with hunger are small-scale food producers—a stark testament to how dysfunctional this system is.

We are best known for our strategic information work and incisive analysis of global trends in the food system. But we also actively support and link social movements around the world that are building food sovereignty and creating more diverse food and farming systems.

GRAIN's work is currently organised around four interconnected themes:

- Corporations, power and the global food system
- Land grabbing and land rights
- People's control over seeds
- Food sovereignty to fight the climate crisis

This publication provides an overview of GRAIN's activities and accomplishments in 2015. We highlight examples of some of our most significant work and reflect on our activities and impact. A more detailed description of our activities, outputs and achievements is available on [GRAIN's website](#). We

hope this report provides some insight into what we have accomplished and learned in 2015 and the challenges we face going forward.

*“ We actively support and link social movements around the world that are building food sovereignty and creating more diverse food and farming systems.”*



*GRAIN staff in 2015*

# Year at a glance

2015 was a prolific year for GRAIN. We produced a large number of high impact research reports and databases that became reference points for many groups and individuals working on land, food, seed and climate-related issues—including many who don't necessarily agree with us. At the same time, we worked with partners on the ground, supporting their capacity and strategy building efforts and helping to mobilise international solidarity for their causes. We believe that it is precisely this combination of solid information work and direct support to and collaboration with partners, that is key to our success.

Over the past few years, coalition building has become an increasingly important strategy for GRAIN, and 2015 was no exception. Our joint work with La Vía Campesina on seed laws, food and climate—resulting in multiple publications, training materials, posters and videos—demonstrates how working in partnership creates a greater impact. Our participation in the Latin American Biodiversity Alliance (*Alianza Biodiversidad*) and our collaboration with partners in Brazil and the US on a land grabbing case are two more examples of the kinds of partnerships we pursued and deepened in 2015. With *Alianza Biodiversidad*, we published four issues of *Biodiversidad, sustento y culturas* (our quarterly magazine in Spanish and Portuguese),



**Biodiversidad  
magazine at an  
agroecology  
seminar in Chile**

*Fruit vendor  
in Bangkok, Thailand*



printed and distributed throughout Latin America. In the US-Brazil work, the collaboration not only got us into the New York Times, but also helped spark a broad public discussion in these countries.

With respect to resource mobilisation, we increasingly do this in coalition as well. This is the case with the Environmental Justice (EJOLT) and climate change projects funded by the European Union, as well as our joint agroecology project with La Vía Campesina and ETC Group funded by a consortium of US-based donors. We plan to develop these and other coalitions further to better achieve our objectives and develop our resource base.

Nonetheless, many challenges remain, the most important of which is an increasingly hostile corporate and policy environment. In 2015, we felt this in a particularly chilling way when seven of our partners in Ethiopia were jailed for trying to attend a workshop we helped to organise. In another incident,

our staff had to abruptly shorten its stay in the Democratic Republic of Congo because of security concerns. In GRAIN we are constantly debating how to deal with these challenges, and we will continue to develop new strategies and actions in the coming years.

One challenge we highlighted last year was the need to develop a stronger and more effective role in dealing with the climate crisis. We think we made real progress on this in 2015. A large number of new research and educational materials, together with active collaboration with the climate movement, has gotten us a long way in getting the food system recognised as a central force in global climate change. Of course, much remains to be done. One thing we are certain of is that the solutions must come from social movements and community-led efforts.

We look forward to another great year of work helping to build stronger movements for diverse, community-based food systems around the world. We wish to express our deep appreciation for the many individuals, organisations and movements that advance this vision every day through their commitment and struggle. If you are inspired by this report, we hope you will visit our website to learn more and consider becoming a **Friend of GRAIN** to help sustain and strengthen this important work.

In solidarity,

*The GRAIN team, March 2016*

# Corporations, power and the global food system

GRAIN works to confront growing corporate control in the global food system. We focus on how corporate power affects small-scale food producers and how it is linked to the food crisis, access to resources, geopolitics and global trade relations. GRAIN contributes research and information on key developments and players driving the industrialisation of agriculture and its impacts on food systems and local communities. We also work with partners and social movements to improve strategies, cooperation and popular action to build the capacity needed to challenge corporate power.

As part of this work, we pay special attention to trade and investment agreements. Indeed, we have a long history of analysing, raising awareness and supporting campaigns to defeat these deals. One of our most active projects in this area is the trilingual open-publishing website [bilaterals.org](http://bilaterals.org), which we have been collaboratively managing with several other groups since 2004. In February 2015, the site was re-launched with a complete makeover, including a mobile-friendly design. After a request from groups active in today's global trade campaigns, we began constructing an **open platform on investor-state dispute settlement** that will be hosted by [bilaterals.org](http://bilaterals.org). ISDS is an element of trade deals that gives multinationals the right to sue governments when public policies impinge on their bottom line, something many groups are trying to stop.

GRAIN has been working for several years to analyse the expansion of oil palm corporations and to support community resistance efforts, especially in Africa. In 2015, GRAIN published a report on **oil palm in the Democratic Republic of Congo** as part of its participation in the local campaign against the agribusiness corporation Feronia. In Latin America, GRAIN was active

in a number of regional campaigns against agrochemical corporations. Many of these campaigns are led by peasant organisations such as the Latin American Coordination of La Via Campesina (CLOC) as well as women's groups and civil society coalitions. GRAIN participated in many meetings of these coalitions and campaigns throughout the year to contribute content, strategies and planning support.



*March against Monsanto in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, May 2015*

### **Trade agreements expanding corporate control**

In 2015, GRAIN examined the impact of international trade agreements—with a particular focus on how trade affects climate change in the lead up to the COP21 climate talks in Paris. It was also the year when the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) negotiations were expected to come to a conclusion. In support of the campaign to stop TTIP, GRAIN co-published a [briefing on how the deal undermines food safety and animal welfare](#); we also engaged in a number of awareness-raising actions together with social movements.



In February 2015, we published an analysis of the impact of free trade through a Mexican case study entitled “**Structural reforms, free trade agreements and the war on subsistence**”. The next month, our controversial report “**Free trade and Mexico’s junk food epidemic**” showed how so-called free trade deals have shifted Mexican diets away from fresh fruits and vegetables towards heavily processed and refined foods—with catastrophic health effects. The report provoked strong reactions and was reproduced widely.

In 2015, we also began turning our research energies towards the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)—a 16-nation free trade area encompassing 3.4 billion people. GRAIN is reaching out to local networks and partners to investigate RCEP’s implications for food security and farmers in the Asia-Pacific region.



*Anti-TTIP protest in Berlin (Photo: Jakob Huber)*

## A new focus on agribusiness in China

In 2015, GRAIN started collaborating and exchanging information with the People's Food Sovereignty Network, a China/Hong Kong-based network of critical academics and activists working with small farmers, particularly in southern China. We also began working with Pesticide Eco-Alternatives Center, a Kunming-based organisation that focuses on pesticides and food safety.

Following changes in China's land policy, GRAIN initiated in-depth research on how these policies were causing a new wave of dispossession of farmers and rural communities. This work resulted in the report "**Asia agrarian reform in reverse**", which was translated into Mandarin, and "**Corporations replace peasants as the 'vanguard' of China's new food security agenda**", which is currently being translated. We have also added cases involving Chinese state-owned and private agribusiness companies to GRAIN's global land grabbing database.

In November 2015, we participated in community-supported agriculture meetings in Beijing. There, GRAIN strengthened its partnerships with local groups.

We also linked the People's Food Sovereignty Network with the Coordination of Popular Movements for Latin American Integration, which organises information exchanges and discussions about GM crops and food safety between Latin America and China.



*Little Donkey Farm, the first organic farm set up outside Beijing ten years ago*

# Land grabbing and land rights

While land grabbing has been happening for a long time, today's massive assault on farmland by investors, speculators and food and biofuel corporations is something new. Over the past eight years—since GRAIN

first exposed the issue and put it on the global agenda—land grabbing has become a central area of our work, especially focused on Africa. In 2015, together with the African Food Sovereignty Alliance, we published a report highlighting how **foreign donors and governments are pushing land and seed privatisation** on the continent; the report has become an important training material for groups in the region.

*“Over the past eight years—since GRAIN first exposed the issue and put it on the global agenda—land grabbing has become a central area of our work.”*

One of the most rapidly growing corporate trends in Africa and around the world is the expansion of oil palm plantations, driving local communities off their lands and destroying livelihoods. In 2015, GRAIN collaborated with the World Rainforest Movement and communities affected by the expansion of oil palm plantations in West and Central Africa to organise a workshop in Cameroon on the strategies and tactics used by corporations and to develop alliances for resistance. Throughout 2015, GRAIN also worked to collect data and draft analytical profiles for an updated version of our **2012 land grabbing dataset**, which will be released in 2016.

Since its creation in Dakar in 2014, GRAIN has been part of the Convergence of Land and Water Struggles, an effort to bring together different movements fighting against land, water and seed grabbing. We participated in a strategy meeting of the Convergence in Mali in July 2015, and helped organised a major workshop of the Convergence in Paris in December. We also

participated in several meetings on land struggles in Latin America, including an important Central American forum organised by the Central America Network of Rural, Indigenous and Farmer Women in Guatemala.

In Asia, our **report on Asia's land laws** sparked intense collaborations with several groups across the continent, such as the People's Food Sovereignty Network in China, Equitable Cambodia, NOUMINREN in Japan, the Peoples Common Struggle Centre in Pakistan, the Assembly of the Poor in Thailand, Taiwan Rural Front in Taiwan and the Land Issues Working Group in Laos PDR. The report was released in April 2015, in time to be shared at the Asian Peasant Coalition conference on advancing agrarian reform.



*Asian Peasant  
Coalition conference,  
Jakarta, Indonesia,  
April 2015*

### **Supporting peasant movements resisting land grabs in Africa**

A battle is raging for control of resources in Africa—land, water, seeds, minerals, ores, forests, oil and renewable energy sources. A central part of GRAIN's work against land grabs is supporting organisations that work with local communities in their fight against land deals that threaten their lives and livelihoods.



In 2015, we provided support to peasants in Mozambique who are struggling to defend their lands against large-scale agribusiness projects in the **Nacala Corridor**, including the Brazilian-and-Japanese-led ProSavana soybean project. In Nigeria, we supported farmers in **Taraba State** who are refusing to give up their lands for a massive rice plantation project led by the US company Dominion Farms and backed by the G8 New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition in Africa. We closely followed the **Senhuile land grab conflict** in Senegal in collaboration with local communities, Italian groups and the US-based Oakland Institute as part of an international support effort.

We also continued supporting the international alliance of communities surrounding **Socfin-Bolloré plantations** in five countries (Sierra Leone, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Cambodia and Liberia). In mid-April 2015, this alliance launched a five-week series of occupations and work stoppages at plantations in all five countries in the run-up to the annual meetings of the Socfin and Bolloré groups in Europe. GRAIN and others supported this effort with translations and media outreach, resulting in increased pressure on the companies, but the communities' demands to get their lands back are still being rebuffed.

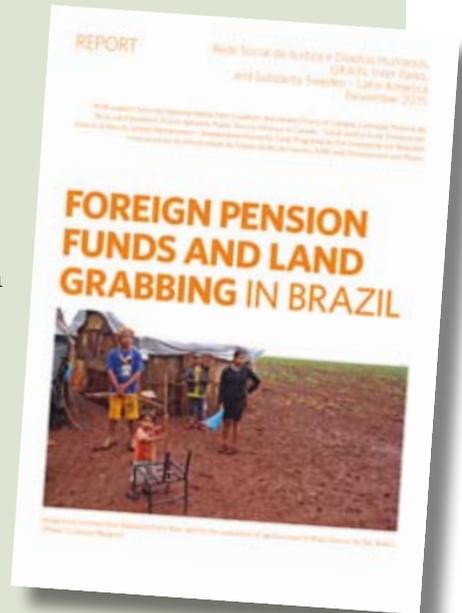


*Protest at Socfin's annual shareholders meeting in Luxembourg, May 2015. Sign reads, "Socfin: Listen to the people you are uprooting."*

## Building North-South alliances around land grabs in Brazil

In 2015, we participated in a major collaborative research project on how European and American pension funds are involved in land grabbing in Brazil. The **final report**—co-published with Rede Social de Justiça e Direitos Humanos (Brazil), Inter Pares (Canada) and Solidarity Sweden-Latin America (Sweden)—exposed how global farmland fund TIAA-CREF is acquiring land in Brazil with investments from US, Canadian and Swedish pension funds. The collaboration with organisations in the home countries of the pension funds and with farmer movements in Brazil allowed us to provoke vigorous debate in all of the countries involved. The report received **extensive media coverage**, including forming the basis of an investigative article in the *New York Times*.

The launch of the report was combined with a conference on land grabs at the City University New York, which allowed the groups involved in the report to come together and discuss follow-up. It was also an occasion to speak with US groups, mostly African American community groups and farmers' organisations, who are also struggling against dispossession tied to financialisation. Swedish and Canadian organisations also started organising to challenge their pension funds on these land deals, and Brazilian efforts are underway to organise an international fact finding mission with local communities and work with federal prosecutors to investigate TIAA-CREF's land deals.



## The growing criminalisation of land rights defenders

In March 2015, GRAIN participated in a food security workshop in Nairobi, Kenya, organised by Anywaa Survival Organisation (ASO), whom we have been working with to stop land grabs in the Gambella region and other parts of Ethiopia. On their way to the meeting, the seven Ethiopians who were to attend the workshop were all arrested at the airport in Addis Ababa before they could board their flights.

We immediately started working—in collaboration with ASO, Human Rights Watch, Bread for All, the Oakland Institute and Inclusive Development International—to lobby European and North American donor governments as well as the World Bank to pressure the Ethiopian government for their release. Three of the detainees were released after a few months and a fourth was released in August. But in September 2015, the remaining three were charged under the country's draconian anti-terrorism legislation, carrying harsh penalties.

We then decided to launch a **public campaign** and take more aggressive legal actions. We successfully lobbied the EU to cover the legal expenses, and raised funds to support the families of the detainees. With support from Bread for All, we hired a campaign coordinator, which allowed us to become more active on social media, to launch an **international petition**, to create a crowd-funding platform, to pursue a media strategy and to develop an international solidarity network. Our efforts to free the three detainees will continue in 2016.

*Ethiopian land rights defender Omot Agwa was arrested on 15 March 2015 and remains in prison (Photo: Dead Donkeys Fear No Hyenas)*



# People's control over seeds

People's control over seeds has been a central focus of our work since GRAIN was founded 25 years ago. The biodiversity in farmers' fields is eroding at alarming rates, while corporations are gaining unprecedented levels of power through their push for hybrid and genetically modified seeds, and laws to push and own them! But peasant and citizen-led movements are challenging these developments and establishing networks to conserve and grow local seeds. GRAIN supports this movement through research, information and networking.



*Women seed savers in Colombia (Photo: Viviana Sánchez)*

The highlight of our work on seeds in 2015 was undoubtedly the **“Seed laws that criminalise farmers”** booklet and database. This project started in 2014 when La Via Campesina proposed that we jointly produce an educational tool on corporate seed laws around the world and how farmers are fighting back. We created **a map, a dataset and a poster, as well as an educational booklet** based on interviews in dozens of countries. The booklet was widely distributed among farmers’ movements around the world; we estimate that, altogether, around 20,000 people have had access to the printed version of this booklet and 8,000 people accessed it on our website.

In addition, we produced the primer **“UPOV 91 and other seed laws”** that takes readers through a step-by-step reading of these legal texts and what they mean for farmers. We also published an analysis of **seed laws and GMOs in Argentina**; a media release about the **dangers of Golden Rice in Asia**; and appeared in a **film produced by the Gaia Foundation** explaining the importance of local seed saving and the problems associated with



*GRAIN/Via Campesina seeds booklet at the World Social Forum in Tunis*

the industrial seed system. In November, we participated in a South-South dialogue on seed laws in Durban, South Africa. Co-convened by the African Centre for Biodiversity and Third World Network, the dialogue brought together peasant and civil society organisations spearheading debates on seed laws in Asia, Africa and Latin America and came to some interesting conclusions.

### **Women building agroecological knowledge in Chile**

GRAIN collaborates closely with the network of Institutes for Agroecology in Latin America (IALAs) organised by CLOC-Vía Campesina since 2005. The goal of these institutes is to build a body of agroecology experts that will support and strengthen the implementation of agroecological practices among peasants to guarantee food sovereignty and independence from agribusiness.

**Chile's first IALA** was set up in 2015, organised by the women's organisation Asociación Nacional de Mujeres Rurales e Indígenas (ANAMURI) with support from GRAIN and the World March of Women. This IALA was unique in its women-only focus, bringing together 17 women from different agricultural areas in southern Chile. As this was the first year of the IALA in Chile, it was a rather low profile, grassroots effort with little funding. It still got the attention of the Ministry of Agriculture, which provided infrastructure support and media attention.

ANAMURI hopes to develop the IALAs into a recognised, degree-granting educational programme. Together with Movimiento Nacional Campesino Indígena (Argentina), Movimento dos Pequenos Agricultores (Brazil) and ANAMURI, GRAIN continues to participate in the Seeds & Biodiversity Working Group that in 2015 developed the syllabus for an educational programme on seeds and biodiversity.

# STOP SEED LAWS THAT CRIMINALISE FARMERS & DEFEND LOCAL SEEDS!

Seeds are under attack everywhere. Under corporate pressure, laws in many countries increasingly put limitations on what farmers can do with their seeds and with the seeds they buy. Seed saving, a thousand-year-old practice which forms the basis of farming, is fast becoming criminalised. What can we do about that?

## DEFEND FARMERS' OWN SEED SYSTEMS

Farmer seed are the life line of millions against bad seed laws. They depend on their own seeds, which are often saved from one year to the next. They are not dependent on any seed company. They are not dependent on any seed company. They are not dependent on any seed company. They are not dependent on any seed company.

## STOP "MONSANTO LAWS"

Some proposals criminalising farmers are made to fight against before they become written into law. If public opinion is against them, they become more likely to be rejected. Organise street protests, make videos, talk in the media, organise direct actions.

## JOIN FORCES WITH OTHER FARMERS

In many other countries, farmers are fighting very similar laws. Learning from them and their experiences, good and bad, can be very helpful. Even if you have different objectives, you can build common fronts against the seed industry and see governments acting in that interest.

## BUILD ALLIANCES WITH OTHER MOVEMENTS

Build alliances with other social movements that have other concerns but will help you in your fight. The struggle for seeds can be linked with farmers' water struggles, since there is no food without water. Seed struggles can also be linked with other parts of people's lives, such as education and health. Support from trade unions, women's movements, the public's interest groups, urban change, health care, etc.

## UNDO THE PROPAGANDA

Seed companies and governments conduct and have on advertising campaigns, creating public myths, using public and leading the hungry. We need to debunk these myths and show that the agriculture they are promoting is toxic and genocidal. These laws are only meant to extract wealth from rural communities and transfer it to corporations.

## TRY TO GET POSITIVE LAWS

In some cases, it may be possible to create favourable laws, programmes or trade that protect farmer seed systems. There are 200 laws, laws, and regulations in the public domain that protect local varieties and farmers' seeds. In other cases, there may be laws that are already in place, but they are not working. Farmers in legal frameworks, create conditions for the growth of them.

Free! Reusable! Available in English, Spanish, French, German, Italian, Portuguese, Russian, and Chinese.  
<http://www.grain.org/>  
 1000+ copies available for free or a small donation. Contact: [grain@grain.org](mailto:grain@grain.org)



GRAIN/Vía Campesina infographic and poster

# Food sovereignty to fight the climate crisis

GRAIN draws attention to the role of industrial agriculture and centralised distribution in causing the climate crisis, and how food sovereignty and agroecology are an important part of the solution. With the COP21 mobilisations in Paris in December, this was a particularly active year for us on getting the message out about the link between food and climate, and what to do about it.

In late 2014, we had produced **a poster with La Vía Campesina** explaining how the industrial food system is responsible for around half of all greenhouse gas emissions and offering a five-step food sovereignty plan to get out of the climate crisis. We reprinted this poster throughout 2015 and distributed it widely at various climate-related meetings such as the World Social Forum in Tunis and the COP21 mobilisations in Paris. We also started talking to La Vía Campesina about co-producing a video. Launched in three languages on World Food Day, 16 October 2015, the 15-minute animated video **“Together we can cool the planet”** shows peasant farmers explaining the problem and what they see as the solution. It was launched simultaneously in various cities around the world, including at the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation’s World Food Day activities in Rome.

“GRAIN draws attention to the role of industrial agriculture and centralised distribution in causing the climate crisis, and how food sovereignty and agroecology are an important part of the solution.”

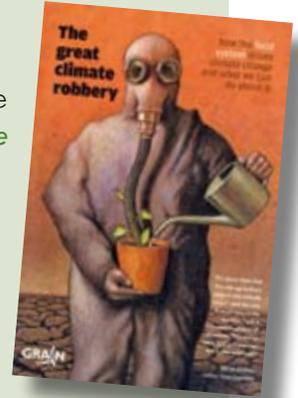
Throughout the year, GRAIN was involved in numerous capacity and strategy building activities on food and climate around the world. In Africa, we worked with the REDD+ Africa network, and in Latin America with members of the CLOC farmers' movement, to discuss strategies around food and climate. We published "**The Exxons of agriculture**", highlighting the role of chemical fertilisers in causing climate change, and "**Trade deals boosting climate change**", showing how free trade agreements will exacerbate emissions from food and agriculture. Together with the World Rainforest Movement, we produced a **booklet** showing how REDD+ projects harm both forest people and farmers. And a new GRAIN book, **The great climate robbery**, was released just in time for the Paris mobilisations. To make all of these materials accessible and easy to take back home, we co-produced (with La Vía Campesina and their French member Confédération Paysanne) 300 USB flash drives with videos and documents on climate and food in five languages. These were so popular that people have asked us to produce more.



Screen capture from the animated video "Together we can cool the planet"

## The great climate robbery

In 2012, GRAIN published the book *The great food robbery*. With the Paris climate talks approaching, we thought that it was high time to produce a sequel. *The great climate robbery*, a 230-page book about the food-climate nexus, was released at COP21. It is a collection of GRAIN materials produced during the past three years, but never made available in print form. Our aim was to get the book into the hands of food producers and other movements, so we made sure that we had hundreds of copies for distribution in Paris. The French version of the book was co-published with Centre Europe Tiers-Monde in Switzerland, thus ensuring a wide distribution in Francophone Africa. The Spanish version, planned for use in Latin America, will be co-published with Itaca in Mexico in 2016.



## GRAIN in the streets of Paris for COP21

Throughout 2015, GRAIN participated in several preparatory meetings of social movements organising for the COP21 climate conference in Paris and produced a number of climate-related resources. For instance, we produced a **briefing paper** showing how new trade deals like TTIP will impact food and farming, and how those impacts will influence the climate. The materials we produced throughout the year were widely used in the lead up to and during the Paris mobilisations where we held numerous workshops with activists and movements to discuss the link between food and climate. Three GRAIN staffers participated in the mobilisations.

Initially, we thought it would be difficult to do anything in the streets due to the terrorist attacks that occurred just weeks before. But the



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global climate movement would not be stopped—the turnout in Paris was massive. Over two weeks we held seminars and discussions with many groups (such as Friends of the Earth, 350.org and the “It Takes Roots” movement); we organised the launch of our book *The great climate robbery*; and we held several workshops together with La Via Campesina. GRAIN’s materials were widely distributed and used at these events.



*March at COP21 in Paris, December 2015 (Photo: Mark Dixon)*

# Communications and outreach

In 2015, GRAIN produced five research **reports**, seven issues in our *Against the grain* series and 20 other publications including a video, a poster and several joint publications with partners in the South. In addition, we published several extensive databases plus four issues of each of the two quarterly magazines that we help publish. We also published four issues of *Biodiversidad, sustento y culturas*, a more than two-decades-old magazine linked to grassroots peasant movements in at least nine Latin American countries, and co-published four issues of *Soberanía alimentaria, biodiversidad y culturas* in Spain. But publishing all of these materials doesn't make sense if people don't know about them. That's why outreach is a key concern and activity for everybody in GRAIN. **GRAIN's website** is a central tool for this. In 2015, we had over 330,000 unique visitors, averaging over 900 per day.

GRAIN's outreach is also carried out through other websites. **Bilaterals.org**, the site serving peoples' struggles against free trade agreements, received almost 950,000 visitors in 2015 with nearly 9,000 subscribers to its weekly newsletter. **Farmlandgrab.org** received over 120,000 visitors in 2015 with nearly 8,000 subscribers to its weekly newsletter. Our main website in Spanish, **biodiversidadla.org**, received 407,900 unique visitors in 2015 with 1,773,393 pages visited. Spanish and Portuguese comprised 46% of our impact—35% and 11% respectively—in terms of the media coverage of our work. We also amplified our presence on **Facebook** and **Twitter** to reach new audiences. By the end of 2015, we had over 3,000 followers on Twitter and over 8,000 likes on Facebook.

The "**New from GRAIN**" mailing lists, GRAIN's primary tool to get news out about our latest publications or other developments in three languages, grew last year. We got some 1,200 new subscribers during 2015, bringing the total to almost 17,000 subscribers.

# The organisation and how to support us

In 2015, **GRAIN's staff team**—mostly based in the Global South—was composed of ten programme staff and two finance and administration staff. In addition, we worked with two consultants who helped us with web development and fundraising, as well as several volunteers and interns. GRAIN functions as a collective, with horizontal management and participatory decision-making.

GRAIN is governed by a small **board** of dedicated individuals. The board liaises with the staff over programme development and implementation, as well as administration of the organisation. In 2015 two new board members joined GRAIN: Mark Randazzo and John Hilary. We are aiming to add two new board members from the South in 2016.

<b>GRAIN 2015 income (euros)</b>	
AgroEcology Fund (USA)	46,838
Barcelona Municipality (ES)	30,000
Brot für Alle (CH)	78,170
Brot für die Welt (D)	70,000
CFH Foundation (USA)	17,440
European Union (EJOLT project)	13,193
Marin Community Foundation, TOP Fund (USA)	36,861
Misereor / KZE (D)	105,875
New Field Foundation (USA)	6,764
Oxfam-Novib (NL)	224,740
Silicon Valley Trust (USA)	67,997
Swift Foundation (USA)	35,805
Swissaid (CH)	25,000
Other income (donations, small grants, projects, etc.)	75,210
<b>Total income 2015</b>	<b>833,893</b>

GRAIN is financed by grants from NGOs, foundations, and (occasionally) governments and intergovernmental organisations, in addition to own-income from publications, services, fees and donations. Donors support either our overall strategy and programme or specific parts of our work. Our autonomy is essential to us, and we strive to maintain a diversified support base.

### **Become a Friend of GRAIN!**

GRAIN is a small group with a big agenda. The materials we produce are available to all free of charge. But that doesn't mean we can manage without money... The **Friends of GRAIN**—or “FrOGs”—are a special community of people interested in strengthening the work GRAIN does in support of small farmers and social movements in their struggles for community-controlled and biodiversity-based food systems. All Friends of GRAIN receive a copy of our annual activity report, and will be invited to participate in an annual teleconference with the staff, when they may ask questions, share suggestions and concerns, learn more about us or just spend an hour with GRAIN.



**[Click here to learn more about becoming a Friend of GRAIN!](#)**

# GRAIN's team in 2015



# Appendix: GRAIN publications in 2015 by programme

## **Corporations, power and the global food system**

- How TTIP undermines food safety and animal welfare, 5 February 2015
- Structural reforms, free trade agreements and the war on subsistence, 10 February 2015
- Free trade and Mexico's junk food epidemic, 2 March 2015
- Agro-colonialism in the Congo: European and US development finance bankrolls a new round of agro-colonialism in the DRC, 11 May 2015
- Corporations replace peasants as the “vanguard” of China's new food security agenda, 3 November 2015



## **Land grabbing and land rights**

- Land and seed laws under attack: who is pushing changes in Africa?, 21 January 2015
- Dominion Farm's land grab in Nigeria, 28 January 2015
- The land grabbers of the Nacala Corridor, 19 February 2015
- Asia's agrarian reform in reverse: laws taking land out of small farmers' hands, 30 April 2015
- Socially responsible farmland investment: a growing trap, 14 October 2015
- Foreign pension funds and land grabbing in Brazil, 16 November 2015

## **People's control over seeds**

- **Media release: Golden rice is unnecessary and dangerous**, 10 March 2015
- **Infographic: Stop seed laws that criminalise farmers & defend local seeds!**, 7 April 2015
- **Seed laws that criminalise farmers: Poster, map, tables and additional country cases**, 7 April 2015
- **Seed laws that criminalise farmers: Resistance and fightback**, 8 April 2015
- **Trade deals criminalise farmers' seeds**, November 2015 (and further updated since)
- **UPOV 91 and other seed laws: a basic primer on how companies intend to control and monopolise seeds**, 21 October 2015
- **Argentina: New "national" GMOs. Resistance multiplies**, 1 December 2015
- **Video: Seeds in the hands of farmers**, 6 December 2015

## **Food sovereignty to fight the climate crisis**

- **The Exxons of agriculture**, 30 September 2015
- **Video: Together we can cool the planet!**, 16 October 2015
- **Trade deals boosting climate change: the food factor**, 26 October 2015
- **The REDD+ and its carbon trade will not resolve the climate crisis**, 27 October 2015
- **How REDD+ projects undermine peasant farming and real solutions to climate change**, 29 October 2015
- **Where the struggles of peasants and forest communities converge**, 18 November 2015
- **The secretive trade agreements that could scupper climate change action**, 30 November 2015
- **Book: The great climate robbery**, 7 December 2015
- **USB stick with all GRAIN materials on food and climate**, December 2015

## **GRAIN media releases, statements and other materials**

- **Media release: Africa's land and seed laws under attack**, 22 January 2015
- **Media release: Farmers in Nigeria's Taraba State refuse to give up lands**, 28 January 2015
- **Media release: EU-US trade deal threatens food safety**, 5 February 2015
- **Media release: Colonial plantations are making a comeback in Mozambique**, 19 February 2015
- **Media release: Golden Rice is unnecessary and dangerous**, 10 March 2015
- **Media release: Seed laws that criminalise farmers**, 8 April 2015
- **Media release: Global resistance to land grabs by Bolloré and Socfin**, 22 April 2015
- **Media release: Asia's agrarian reform in reverse**, 30 April 2015
- **Mozambique's Council of Ministers must say 'no' to resettlement of 100,000 in the Nacala Corridor**, 11 May 2015
- **GRAIN in 2014: Highlights of our activities**, 18 May 2015
- **Media release: Agro-colonialism in the Congo**, 2 June 2015
- **Media release: Senegal land grab on the verge of implosion**, 24 July 2015
- **Plantations are not forests!**, 21 September 2015
- **Ethiopia: World Bank translator, activists face trial**, 22 September 2015
- **Media release: The Exxons of agriculture**, 30 September 2015
- **Media release: International organisations launch petition in support of jailed Ethiopian activists**, 21 October 2015
- **Media release: International civil society alarmed by conviction of Cameroonian environmental human rights defender**, 5 November 2015
- **Media release: Top Swedish, US and Canadian pension funds linked to Brazilian land grabs, displacement of people**, 17 November 2015
- **Food, ag and climate @ COP21**, 28 November 2015

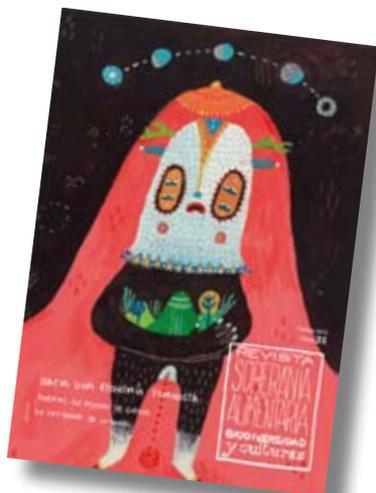
## Spanish-language magazines

### *Biodiversidad, sustento y culturas*

- **¿A qué futuro nos lleva la crisis climática, la Guerra contra la agricultura campesina, los jóvenes y los pueblos?** (No. 83, enero de 2015)
- **Decimos NO a los agrotóxicos. Envenenados nos tienen del cultivo al procesado de alimentos pero los pueblos ya despertamos** (No. 84, abril de 2015)
- **Colombia: un pueblo que resiste** (No. 85, julio de 2015)
- **El territorio, ese nuestro cuerpo. Minería, Monocultivos, REDD y Fertilizantes Químicos: Cuatro ataques a la integridad de los pueblos** (No. 86, noviembre de 2015)

### *Soberanía alimentaria, biodiversidad y culturas*

- **Una agricultura contra el cambio climático** (No. 20, primavera 2015)
- **Hacia una economía feminista** (No. 21, verano 2015)
- **Extractivismo minero y territorio** (No. 22, otoño 2015)
- **Soberanía energética en el medio rural** (No. 23, invierno 2015)



Back cover: María Claudina Loaiza is proud to be on the cover of *Biodiversidad, sustento y culturas*, which is produced by GRAIN and partners, and distributed throughout Latin America. María's work as a seed saver has made her a leader and an example for many women in Tolima, Colombia. (Photo: Viviana Sánchez)

