

# GRAIN

*in* 2014

*towards community-controlled  
and biodiversity-based  
food systems*



# About GRAIN

**G**RAIN 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 focus their support and attention on industrial agriculture and corporate-run food supply chains. Sadly, this model ignores small-scale producers and the complex farming and food



*GRAIN staff and board, 2014*

*Cover: Rice farmers in Malaysia: small farms, which produce most of the world's food, are currently squeezed onto less than a quarter of the world's farmland. We are fast losing farms and farmers through the concentration of land into the hands of the rich and powerful. (Photo: CEpphoto, Uwe Aranas / CC-BY-SA-3.0)*

distribution systems which have nourished humankind for more than 12,000 years. Today, almost one billion people live in hunger, partly due to an industrial food system that puts profiting from global markets before feeding people. Seventy percent of those living in hunger are small-scale food producers – stark testament to how dysfunctional this system is.

We are best known for our strategic information work and incisive analysis of global trends in this area but we also actively support and link social movements across 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
- People's control over seeds
- The climate crisis & agriculture

This publication reviews and reports on GRAIN's activities and achievements in 2014. We highlight examples of some of our most significant work, as well as reflections on our activities and impact. A more complete overview of our activities, outputs and achievements is available from GRAIN's website. We hope this report gives some insight into what we have achieved and learned in 2014 and what challenges we are facing going forward.

This document is available from GRAIN's website at the following address: [grain.org/e/5211](http://grain.org/e/5211)

# *2014 at a glance*

“GRAIN has had a remarkable year of documenting and working hard on the issues,” wrote one of our partners back in December. Indeed, it has been quite an intensive year for us, on many different fronts. In 2014, we produced a number of research and information materials, and were simultaneously involved in multiple networking and movement building activities.

In the context of our programme to challenge the corporate power of the industrial food system, we did research on the expanding threat of oil palm plantations in the tropics and the effect this is having on rural communities. On the question of land grabbing, we produced a major research report which documents how small farmers still produce most of the world’s food, but are doing this with a shrinking amount of land – currently less than a quarter of the world’s farmland. We also worked with social movements against new seed laws that restrict and even criminalise local farmers using, developing and sharing their seeds, and prepared educational materials on the link between the food system and climate change.

Organisationally, 2014 was a year of consolidation for GRAIN. We continued to build our team, adding a new Africa programme staffer based in Ghana, and a financial support staff based in Barcelona. With a dozen staffers around the world, supported by several volunteers and consultants, we feel that we have again achieved a balanced human resource base for GRAIN’s ambitious programme.

In recent years, alliance building and cooperative work has become an increasingly important strategy for GRAIN, be that our cooperation with Via Campesina, the global peasant movement, our continued participation in the Alianza Biodiversidad in Latin America, or our more recent involvement with Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa.



But many challenges remain. The most central one is increasingly hostile policy and corporate environments. This includes the brutal assassination of partners struggling for their land, criminalisation of farmers wanting to maintain seed diversity in their fields and the marginalisation or co-option of those coming up with serious alternatives to deal with the climate crisis. In GRAIN, we are constantly struggling and debating how to deal with these challenges, and we will continue to develop new strategies and actions in the years to come.



# *The corporate food system*

*In this programme area, GRAIN confronts today's growing corporate control over the international food system.*

During 2014 we worked simultaneously on three focus areas: the corporate push to expand oil palm plantations across the globe and especially in Africa, the corporate takeover of retail and food markets in Asia, and the drivers behind plans for a “Green Economy” in Latin America.

## **Corporate oil palm in Africa**

In late 2013, we were involved in a meeting in Calabar, Nigeria, about the worldwide expansion of oil palm plantations attended by local organisations from across West and Central Africa and beyond. We committed to help carry out research to document the havoc this expansion is wreaking on rural communities and the environment around the world.

Several months of collaborative research later, we published “**Planet palm oil**”, documenting the current global expansion of large-scale

*Traditional palm oil producers in Liberia: a new wave of investment threatens to erode food sovereignty and push peasant farmers like these off their land.*  
(Photo: Cargo Collective)



industrial oil palm plantations and the forces behind it, as well as giving an account of the importance of traditional palm oil production in West Africa. Linked to this research, we also published a case study of investments by Indian billionaire Chinnakannan Sivasankaran, one of the most active private sector players in the global rush to acquire farmland. “Feeding the 1 percent” shows what happens as speculative finance starts flowing into agriculture. Additional information and analysis from this research was shared with local groups in Indonesia, India, and many countries in Africa, to help them understand what’s happening.

## Corporate capture of consumption in Asia



*Fresh vegetables at Delhi's Chandi Chowk Market. Asia's small traders sit at the front end of the local food systems that ensure the procurement and distribution of food grown on millions of small farms across the region. (Photo: Visual Banquet)*

In September, we put out “Food sovereignty for sale”, a report revealing how the rapid expansion of corporate supermarkets in Asia is taking revenue out of the hands of peasants, small scale food producers and traders and exerting increasing influence over what people eat. The report was translated into Bahasa Indonesia and Thai for use by local groups.

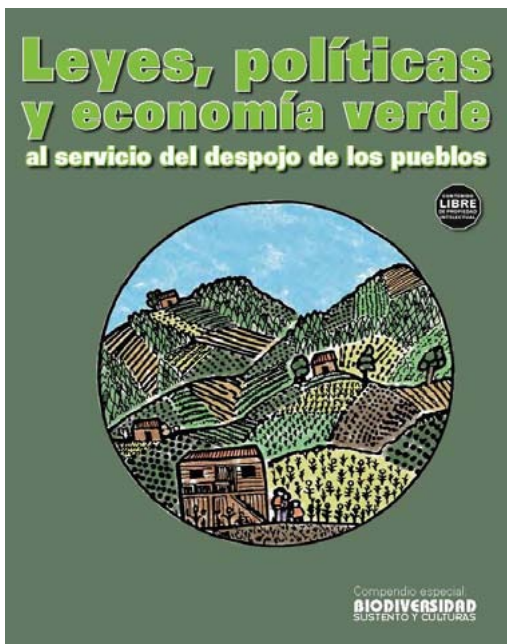
Shortly after the report came out, we brought together 30 participants from seven countries in the region, drawn from street vendor unions, farmers' organisations, NGOs and regional research networks involved in the issue for a two-day workshop and public event. Many of these people had collaborated with us in researching the publication and the workshop proved a useful way to discuss the analysis further, share experiences and help initiate new research and campaigns.

We also published “**Defending people's milk in India**”, an update to our 2011's “**The great milk robbery**”, This report centres on India, where a lively network of small dairy producers and cooperatives is threatened by free trade agreements and liberalised investment policies.

### **‘Green Economy’ in Latin America**

The new “Green Economy” discourse is forcefully being pushed by governments and corporations alike, especially in Latin America.

Together with our partners in the region, the Alianza Biodiversidad, the World Rainforest Movement and Friends of the Earth Latin America, we published “**Leyes, políticas y economía verde al servicio del despojo de los pueblos**”. The book provides an in-depth analysis of how talk of a “Green Economy” provides cover for a corporate dominated expansion agenda in the region and across the world.





# Land grabbing

*This programme area brings together all of GRAIN's work on land grabbing and other land issues.*



*Small farmers produce most of the world's food on less than a quarter of the world's farmland – and even this meagre share is shrinking fast. (Photo: Bruce Nordstrom)*

When the director general of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization inaugurated 2014 as the International Year of Family Farming, he announced that family farms manage most of the world's farmland – a whopping 70%, according to his team. This didn't square with what we hear from our partners, many of whom are involved in land struggles on a daily basis.

So we decided to investigate. We researched national agricultural census data from all countries where it was available, cross referenced this with data from other sources, and came up with quite different conclusions that starkly contradicted FAO's claims. Small farms, which produce most of the world's food, are currently squeezed onto less than a quarter of the world's farmland – or less than one fifth if you leave out China and India.

Before publishing the report and the data, we circulated a draft to dozens of researchers and farmer leaders across the world for feedback. “**Hungry for land: small farmers feed the world with less than a quarter of all farmland**” was finally published in May, accompanied by a carefully referenced country by country database.

We released a joint statement on our findings with Via Campesina, and Reuters published our opinion piece, “**Telling family farming fairy tales**”, asking FAO to stop spreading confusing messages and do something about the situation.

## GRAIN’s ‘Hungry for land’ report in the media

Our 2014 land report found quite an echo in the mainstream media.

- *The Guardian* published the extensive “**Corporate stranglehold of farmland a risk to world food security**” which was widely circulated and reprinted in other newspapers and websites.
- *IPS* published its “**Small Farmers’ loss of land increases world hunger**”, based on the GRAIN report.
- *Reuters* published “**Telling family farming fairy tales**”, a GRAIN opinion piece on the issue.
- Mexico’s *La Jornada* dedicated an analytical column to our report
- *The Ecologist* called it “**Land reform in reverse**”.
- The US-based *The Speaker* did an exhaustive coverage of the report, including an interview with one of the authors.
- The Unisinos Institute in Brazil translated **our report**, and our **media release** into Portuguese, and gave it broad distribution there.



An important part of our work against land grabbing is to support organisations that work with local communities in their fight against land deals that threaten their lives and livelihoods. Throughout the year we have been in touch with activists, communities and organisations in many parts of Africa, Asia and Latin America and helped to build networks in order to receive stronger support and visibility at international level. Here are just a few examples from 2014:

- We helped give visibility to the **long struggle against oil palm land grab in Indonesia**, centred on the struggle that the villagers in Buol, Central Sulawesi, have been carrying on for the past 20 years.

- We followed up on the case of Cameroonian activist Nasako Besingi, on trial for peaceful protest against Herakles Farms, a Wall Street land grabber that we wrote about last year. We were in touch with Nasako throughout the year to provide support. In June we published a press release jointly with Oakland Institute and WRM demanding Herakles and the Cameroonian government drop all charges against Nasako and his fellow activists.

- In October, we published an interview with Kenyan farmer Erastus Odindo, whose community has been fighting for more than a decade to regain its land and water from the US company Dominion Farms.



*Abdulah Rahman, leader of the workers' union at PT Hardaya's 22,000 hectare plantation in Buol, Indonesia. (Photo: Pietro Paolini / Terra Project)*

To further strengthen the movement in defence of land, we organised a consultation on land grabbing with African partners in Nairobi in June to evaluate the current situation of social movements resisting land grabbing in Africa and to discuss future strategies. We got good feedback on our work and on directions for the future.

## Putting the landgrabbers into jail

In Senegal, we continued providing support to the Ndiaël Collective, which represents people affected by the Senhuile-Senethanol project. The Collective is resisting a land grab of 20,000 hectares in the Ndiaël Reserve, and with support from the Conseil National de Concertation et de Coopération des Ruraux (CNCR), ENDA Pronat, ActionAid, Re:Common and the Oakland Institute, launched an urgent appeal to the project's majority shareholder, Italy's Tampieri Financial Group, to withdraw from the project. Both the CEO and the COO of Senhuile were fired, arrested and jailed for embezzling funds. This was largely because of our 2013 research project. In fact, we heard from the communities that the company says that our research and its media impact has “broken” the company, which has now hired a corporate social responsibility specialist to try to turn things around but may not succeed.



*Ardo Sow, a herder from Senegal, explains how Senhuile has seized 20,000 hectares of land in the Ndiaël Reserve.*



## A growing thorn in Karuturi's side

*Clinic on Karuturi's Kenyan farm:  
not doing so well. (Photo: GRAIN)*



Since 2008, GRAIN has been monitoring and denouncing land grabs in Ethiopia by the Indian multinational Karuturi, and trying to help groups fight them. Karuturi Global Ltd is an Indian corporation that made its name in the cut flower industry but is also a major farmland grabber in Africa. The group has a flower farm in India, another in Kenya and several other farms in Ethiopia. In Ethiopia the company got over 310,000 ha from the government without the consent of the people living there, leading to terrible displacement, destruction and violence.

In early 2012, we teamed up with the Tax Justice Network (global/Kenya), the Anywaa Survival Organisation (Ethiopia/UK), Forum Syd (Kenya/Sweden) and the South Indian Farmers Coordination Committee (India/Via Campesina) to expose the Kenyan Revenue Authority's secret pursuit of Karuturi for tax evasion. After heated court battles and pitched street mobilisations, Karuturi lost its Kenyan farm, which was put into receivership in early 2014. Our team documented this carefully and put out a major report in February: "Karuturi, the iconic landgrabber, flops".

A few months later, our group met up in Nairobi and together with key Kenyan journalists visited Karuturi's flower farm workers, talked to local political leaders, met with tax accountants, labour leaders and government representatives. We reaffirmed the need to go further in deciphering and exposing what Karuturi was getting away with and to deepen our very unique and effective partnership. GRAIN was tasked, among other things, with producing a clear picture of Karuturi's overall corporate and financial structure.

# People's control over seeds

*In 2014, a lot of our work on seeds focused on the struggle against laws that grant exclusive power to the corporate sector while limiting the possibilities of small farmers to save, exchange and further develop their own seeds.*



*Popular resistance forced Guatemala's government to repeal a law adhering to the UPOV Convention.  
(Photo: Raúl Zamora)*

All around the world, farmers' basic practice of saving seeds from one season to the next is being turned into a criminal offence, so that half a dozen large multinational corporations can turn seeds into private property and make money from them. GRAIN produced an updated dataset and overview tracking how free trade agreements are privatising seeds across the world: We called it "Trade deals criminalise farmers' seeds". The material was widely circulated and used in trade and seeds campaigns.

As the push began for approval – simultaneously and in several countries – of soybeans resistant to the 2,4-D herbicide, we put out the report

“2,4-D soy: waging war on peasants”. It reviews the state of the negotiations for its approval and analyses the opposition that has emerged against it. In Argentina we dedicated significant time and energy to supporting the struggle against this. The report was widely distributed through the organisations that are part of the Red por una América Latina Libre de Transgénicos, the Alianza Biodiversidad, and the farmers’ movements in the region.

## **Putting the Gates Foundation on the spot**

In our work with partners in Africa, we have often been asked to provide more information about the role of the Gates Foundation in the region. The Foundation is implementing an active public relations campaign intending to show how good they are for small farmers in the region, but the experience of our partners is often quite different.

So we started researching the Foundation’s records and published in November a report and database on the issue, called: “How does the Gates Foundation spend its money to feed the world?” The report documents how most of Gates’ money goes to research institutions and universities in the North, how it’s mostly oriented to promote high tech science, and how the Foundation is directly involved in pushing for corporate seed laws in the continent. Our data and analysis were widely circulated amongst movements and in the media. The Guardian published an article about the report in which Gates gives an initial response. Later, Reuters published an article in which Gates “refutes” our report. AGRA, which is Gates’ ‘hands on’ organisation in Africa also issued a statement. We believe that this kind of debate is useful as it helps social and farmers movements in the region to understand the real role of the Gates Foundation in Africa.

“¡No toquen nuestro maíz!” is a book that we published in June 2014 reviewing years of struggles to resist the push to introduce GM crops in México. Linking the seeds struggles with the international process

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water, and how  
people are fight-  
ing against this.  
In yet another



book, *Leyes de semillas y otros pesares*, we reviewed the resistance to corporate seed laws across Latin America. GRAIN has supported processes in Venezuela, Chile, Nicaragua, Argentina and the Dominican Republic.

Elsewhere, our opinion piece, "No agrobiodiversity without peasants", published in *Farming Matters* magazine, concluded that governments and intergovernmental agreements on agrobiodiversity are not improving farmer and indigenous rights. Instead, the peasants who are actually keeping agricultural biodiversity alive are under threat from the rapid expansion of industrial farming. We need to fight for food sovereignty to preserve local agrobiodiversity.

In Africa, we were particularly active this year in supporting the new Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa. AFSA is set to play an important role in the fights to come – at the Alliance's workshop in Togo in July, GRAIN presented research on recent cases of land grabbing in Africa as well as strategies for future battles. In November, we participated in a meeting of AFSA's Land Working Group in Ethiopia – GRAIN again contributed research and information as well as support for networking with local actors and struggles at country level. Over the course of the year, we worked with AFSA on a joint report on changes to land and seed laws in Africa designed to facilitate the entry of the corporate



sector. This report, “Land and seed laws under attack”, was published jointly with AFSA in early 2015.

GRAIN is also participating in a project funded by the AgroEcology Fund in the USA, together with Via Campesina and the ETC group. This allows us to support the global small farmers movement directly in its agroecology work. Together with Via Campesina we prepared a booklet, poster and database covering the situation with respect to seed laws in the world which was published at the start of 2015.

## **Supporting farmer schools in Latin America**

GRAIN continued to provide support to the Latin American farmers’ movement CLOC in setting up agroecology and seed schools continued this year. We helped CLOC present a project for a series of seed schools in Latin America to North American donors. One agreed to support the school for South America which started in September in Southern Brazil. Two GRAIN staff members participated as resource persons to help plan the school, implement its activities and give administrative support. This activity, which had seed multiplication and reproduction as its main content, was an important step in the implementation of the world seed campaign led by Via Campesina. We plan to continue to be involved with several follow-up activities in the years ahead.

GRAIN has also been very active in the setting up of an agroecology school for women in Chile. We have been part of the design process, and have provided training, educational materials and research documents in several introductory activities. GRAIN also helped draft documents to support fund-raising for this school by CLOC-Chile. (Chile was the scene of a major victory for the country’s social and farmers movements, when the government decided to shelve the infamous “Monsanto law” that would have given corporations exclusive control over seeds to the detriment of local farmers’ seed saving activities.)

# *Food sovereignty to fight the climate crisis*

*The climate and food crises are intimately linked, with the industrial food system – from farm to supermarket – largely responsible for both. Together with our partners, GRAIN argues that food sovereignty is the way to turn this crisis around.*

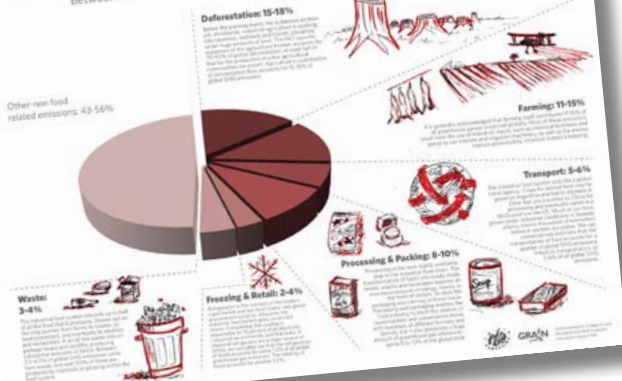
GRAIN calculates that about half of global greenhouse gas emissions come from the industrial food system, and that we need to turn to small farmers and local markets to correct this. In 2011 we had published a report reviewing the data on this, and in 2013 we published a chapter in UNCTAD's annual Trade and Environment Report in which we also documented how sustainable soil management by small-scale farmers can capture huge amounts of carbon in the soil.

This crucially important message is too often ignored at intergovernmental negotiations on the issue. We issued an open letter together with Via Campesina and the ETC Group calling for action: "Yet another UN report calls for support to peasant farming and agroecology: it's time for action"

During the preparations for the climate negotiations held in Lima in December 2014, we decided to prepare educational materials to press our point and get the policy makers to do something about it. "The solution to climate change is in our lands", an opinion piece written together with Via Campesina, draws the link between the climate crisis and unequal access to land. We also produced an infographic in which we explain how policies to support local markets and ecological agriculture can reduce global greenhouse gas emissions by half within a few decades: "Food sovereignty: 5 steps to cool the planet and feed its people".

## How the industrial food system contributes to the climate crisis

Between 44% and 57% of all GHG emissions come from the global food system



## How the industrial food system contributes to the climate crisis

### Food sovereignty: 5 steps to cool the planet and feed its people

#### 01. TAKE CARE OF THE SOIL

The food & feed system is having to face the reality of a reduction of nutrients in the soil. The loss of organic matter in the soil is a major problem. The loss of organic matter in the soil is a major problem. The loss of organic matter in the soil is a major problem.



#### 02. NATURAL FARMING, NO CHEMICALS

The use of chemicals in industrial farming is increasing. The use of chemicals in industrial farming is increasing. The use of chemicals in industrial farming is increasing.



#### 03. CUT THE FOOD MILES & THE CORPORATIONS, AND FOCUS ON FRESH FOOD

The corporate food system is having to face the reality of a reduction of nutrients in the soil. The loss of organic matter in the soil is a major problem. The loss of organic matter in the soil is a major problem.



#### 04. GIVE THE LAND BACK TO THE FARMERS, AND STOP THE MEGA PLANTATIONS

Over the last 50 years a staggering 440 million hectares of land have been lost to mega plantations. Over the last 50 years a staggering 440 million hectares of land have been lost to mega plantations.



#### 05. FORGET THE FALSE SOLUTIONS, FOCUS ON WHAT WORKS

There is growing recognition that food is central to climate change. There is growing recognition that food is central to climate change. There is growing recognition that food is central to climate change.



## 5 steps to cool the planet and feed its people

Both were widely distributed and used during the negotiations and the popular mobilisations around them. We plan to further develop and use these during 2015 as part of the mobilisations towards the Paris Climate Summit in November.

## **GRAIN in the Wall Street Journal**

After several interviews and discussions, the Wall Street Journal published an article comparing GRAIN's figures with what others have to say about it: "How much of world's greenhouse gas emissions come from agriculture?" UN officials concur with our data and conclusions, while industry representatives question them. According to the article:

*"Agriculture might seem green by definition, but farming accounts for a lot of greenhouse-gas emissions when the entire food production system is taken into account. Typically, estimates of greenhouse-gas emissions from agriculture are around 11%-15% of global emissions. Estimates discussed earlier this week at the United Nations Climate Summit put that number closer to 50%. The estimates come from GRAIN, an international nonprofit research foundation that contributed to U.N. the report. It analyzed existing data on global emissions to determine the full extent of agriculture's emissions."*

During 2014 we also teamed up with the World Rainforest Movement (WRM) to start an initial scoping study of REDD+ projects in Africa and their impact on agriculture. This led to a collaboration with Malagasy groups and WRM concerning a REDD+ project in Makira, Madagascar. We are now jointly developing a project proposal that would see WRM work with a local group in Madagascar to undertake a field study and consultation with the affected community. We have been helping to develop that proposal and identify funders. We are also writing a report on how REDD+ projects take land and control over food production away from communities. A first draft of this report will be ready in early 2015.



# *Information & outreach – the core of our work*

*“GRAIN has had a remarkable year of documenting and working hard on the issues,”* wrote one of our partners in December. Indeed, for some reason 2014 was quite a productive year in terms of putting materials out to our partners and the broader public. Four solid research reports, four issues in our ‘*Against the GRAIN*’ series, 16 other publications, three extensive databases, and four issues of each of the two quarterly magazines that we help publish.

Outreach is a central concern and activity of everybody in GRAIN. *GRAIN’s website* is a central tool for this and *grain.org* was further consolidated in 2014. We had almost 409,000 unique visitors last year, about 1,100 per day.

GRAIN’s sister sites are also doing well. *Bilaterals.org* celebrated its 10th anniversary with an overhaul and an expansion into new issues. It received 683,000 visits in 2014, and now has nearly 8,000 subscribers to its weekly newsletter. *Farmlandgrab.org* is another one, with over 220,000 visits in 2014, and 8,000 subscribers to its weekly newsletter.

## **20 years of Alianza Biodiversidad**

Four times a year for the past two decades, a new issue of “*Biodiversidad, sustento y culturas*” has appeared, covering the main problems related to the fight in defence of seeds, the protection of biodiversity for sustenance and food sovereignty and the defence of the territories by indigenous peoples and farmer communities.

The publication began in September 1994 as a joint project of REDES-AT and GRAIN and today it is responsibility of the Alianza Biodiversidad, a group of 10 organisations which co-publish and distribute the magazine from Mexico to Chile, Argentina and Uruguay across the whole continent.

For the landmark 80th edition of the magazine, a special issue was put out, reviewing 20 years of struggle: looking back at the relentless attempts to

privatise seeds through Intellectual Property Rights, the imposition of GMOs by corporate interests and peoples' resistance to this.



Biodiversidad has become a fundamental tool for social movements across the continent and it is distributed at hundreds of meetings, workshops, congresses and meetings, ensuring it reaches far into the communities and territories where people are formulating their proposals and taking their destinies in their hands.

### **bilaterals.org anniversary**

bilaterals.org, the collaborative project and open-publishing website, turned 10 years old in September 2014. GRAIN helped launch and continues to participate in this project on a day to day basis. Over the years, the team behind this has produced and maintained a trilingual website that aims to inform and support people's resistance to bilateral trade and investment deals which are key drivers of neoliberalism (and tools of geopolitical power) all over the world. Free trade agreements have been particularly effective as tools for the agribusiness sector to push

the boundaries of intellectual property law and force countries to privatise and give them market control over seeds.

Many groups have requested that [bilaterals.org](http://bilaterals.org) host a number of trade related campaigns, such as the growing campaign against the TTIP (negotiations for a trade deal between Europe and the US) and ISDS (on investment). We are now planning to further expand the site to incorporate such demands, and may bring in a special coordinator to manage it.

We also continued to maintain our presence on Facebook and Twitter, focusing on reaching out to people we don't reach through other channels to help them access our website. We were able to double the number of followers of our Twitter account during 2014 to nearly 1,000; our Facebook page also attracted attention, jumping from 3,000 to 5,300 likes over the course of the year.

The "New from GRAIN" mailing lists in English, French and Spanish remain our primary tools to get the news out about new publications or developments. [Farmlandgrab.org](http://Farmlandgrab.org) and [bilaterals.org](http://bilaterals.org) have their own mailing lists. They all grew steadily through 2014, and we now reach more than 30,000 people directly, as shown in the table below.

### GRAIN's mailing lists in 2014

List	New subscribers	Total subscribers end of year
New from GRAIN (total)	1254	15617
New from GRAIN (English)	572	7464
Novedades de GRAIN (Spanish)	380	4986
Nouveautés de GRAIN (French)	302	3167
<a href="http://farmlandgrab.org">farmlandgrab.org</a> weekly	831	8018
<a href="http://bilaterals.org">bilaterals.org</a> weekly	844	7964
GRAIN media list	23	535
<b>Total</b>	<b>2952</b>	<b>32134</b>

# *The organisation and how to support us*

## **Finances**

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. Below is a snapshot of our income in 2014.

### **GRAIN 2014 income (in euros)**

Oxfam-Novib (NL)	215,750
Misereor/KZE (D)	227,532
Brot für Alle (CH)	60,000
Silicon Valley Trust Fund (USA)	54,530
Brot fd Welt (D)	50,000
SwedBio (S)	45,319
Swift Foundation (USA)	25,712
EJOLT - EU project	29,887
Top Fund at Marin Community Foundation (USA)	29,232
Swissaid (CH)	25,000
Agroecology Fund (USA)	18,658
CFH Foundation (USA)	10,906
Other income (small grants & donations, fees, etc.)	47,689
<b>Total</b>	<b>840,215</b>



## Staff & Board

In 2014, 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 a few volunteers and interns. GRAIN functions as a collective, with a horizontal management system and participatory methods of decision-making.

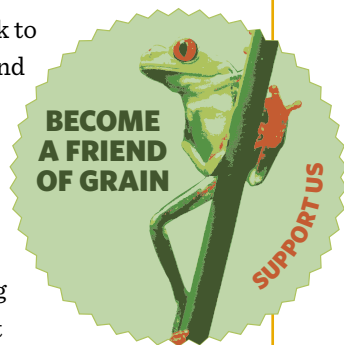
GRAIN is governed by a small board composed of dedicated individuals acting in their personal capacity. The Board liaises with the staff over the development and implementation of the programme, as well as in the administration of the organisation. There is a regular rotation and renewal of Board members.

## Supporting GRAIN

GRAIN is a small group with a big agenda. We work to support small farmers and social movements around the world in their struggles for community-controlled and biodiversity-based food systems.

We need your help to keep GRAIN strong and autonomous. GRAIN works with groups and movements on the ground who are directly fighting against the corporations, policies and projects that are displacing and criminalising farmers and their food systems.

Our information and analysis is available for free to everyone who needs it. If you read and like GRAIN's materials, if you appreciate our take on things, and if you value our efforts to support small farmers and social movements in their struggles for food sovereignty, please consider supporting GRAIN: [visit grain.org](http://visit.grain.org) to find out how.



## GRAIN meets the Pope

GRAIN participated in a meeting with Pope Francis, as part of a delegation of social movements, to discuss land, food and agriculture issues with the Pope, members of his Justice and Peace Council and with the Academy of Sciences of the Vatican. The three-day meeting took place at the end of October and was meant to provide an opportunity to inform the Pope and some of his top advisors about the main issues, concerns and aspirations that social movements are dealing with.

The meeting was a remarkable opportunity to learn about the challenges that informal workers, homeless people and small farmers movements across the world are faced with, and even more remarkable to be able to transmit this to the Pope and the Vatican leadership. It was encouraging to hear from the leadership of the Catholic Church – most of all the Pope – what they are doing to move toward more open and progressive positions regarding these movements. Over 100 representatives of social movements and around 50 bishops from around the world participated in this meeting. Before and during the meeting GRAIN provided support in the drafting of a comprehensive statement of positions and concerns of the social movements present.



# GRAIN's team in 2014



**GRAIN's coordination office**

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