

# GRAIN in 2018

Highlights of our activities

TIERRA  
TRABAJO  
DIGNIDAD

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Front cover: "Land, work and dignity": people claim at a peasant mobilisation in Argentina. Photo: Mocase

# About GRAIN

GRAIN is a small international non-profit organisation that works to support small farmers and social movements in their struggles for community-controlled and biodiversity-based food systems.

Our strategy is two-fold: information work and movement building.

We specialise in monitoring and analysing trends that are affecting farmers' and rural communities' livelihoods. As a decentralised organisation with staff located around the world, we are able to follow these developments on the ground and with frontline partners. Our publications intend to inform our partners, policymakers and the general public - and are also a central tool in movement building and supporting struggles around the world. GRAIN has long been active in networking, building capacity, creating alliances and supporting strategy development among organisations and activists. We know the struggle to vindicate small farmers and food sovereignty is long and difficult and can only be carried out collectively.

Our work is organised in four interrelated areas:

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

Read on to find out more about GRAIN's work in 2018.



The GRAIN staff team in 2018



# Year in review

For social movements, small food producers, environmental and human rights activists, journalists and many others who GRAIN interacts with on a daily basis, 2018 was a pretty difficult year. Democracy is being undermined as right-wing nationalist and authoritarian leaders cling to power and pursue their narrow and destructive agendas. Corporations are merging and shrinking in number, but growing in wealth and real control through technology, consolidation, legal loopholes and market expansion. Repression of our allies who are fighting the mainstream development model and neoliberal regime has been increasing dramatically, making it harder to defend space for more just and resilient food systems. But we are holding on and keeping strong to the best of our abilities.

For GRAIN, as for many, 2018 was also a year marked by transitions. We sadly said goodbye to some of our staff who retired or moved on, while energetically welcoming newcomers. As a result of these shifts, we are happy to be our “old selves” again where GRAIN has at least 2 staff people in each of the regions where we focus our work, while sticking to our self-imposed limit of 15 people in total.

Perhaps one aspect that stands out about last year was how much we were forced to juggle the old with the new. We have been helping farmers’ groups and social movements resist corporate seed laws that privatise seeds since the 1980s, and we have been fighting GMOs since ever. And yet those battles are not over and still need to be fought. As hard as ever! At the same time, new challenges like China’s Belt and Road Initiative (which has the potential to undermine rural people’s livelihoods across the world - not to mention in China itself), and giant meat and dairy corporations driving climate change require creative energy to analyse with partners what is going on and how to mobilise new alliances. Similarly, much as we may feel that the locus of communication power has shifted to social media, we know that we have to produce print publications and summarised forms of our work to reach rural communities and others who have less access to internet or need physical information tools to work with.

We are happy to share these highlights of the year and look forward to building more strength and solidarity with all of you who are committed to the fight for food sovereignty and all of our sister struggles.

The GRAIN team

# Corporations, power and the global food system



- ✓ Confronting today’s growing corporate control over the global food system.
- ✓ Exploring how corporate power impacts small-scale food producers.
- ✓ Linking corporate power to the food crisis, control over resources, and global trade relations.

## Supermarkets threaten food sovereignty

In 2018, we devoted particular attention to how supermarkets are shaping the global food system. In Asia, we co-published with partners four quarterly *Supermarket Watch Asia* bulletins zooming in on the expansion of corporate retail in the Asia-Pacific region. The bulletins were useful to local groups, providing relevant and timely information on industrial retail in the region and how it undermines local farmers and markets.

In September, together with Biothai, we organised a seminar in Bangkok, Thailand, entitled “Supermarkets: today’s food source - Trends and impact”. Participants from at least 14 countries exchanged experiences on the trends that are threatening long-lasting impacts on local food systems, including small-scale farmers, food producers, local shopkeepers and street vendors, plus consumer health and the environment.



Inspired and guided by what we heard at the seminar, we subsequently released a [report](#) on the [expansion of supermarkets in Africa](#), showing how local food distribution systems and markets are under siege and how this threatens movements for food sovereignty and people's livelihoods and health across the continent. We launched the report in Senegal with a grassroots social movement of small-scale food vendors and farmer allies that had come together earlier in the year to stop the expansion of Auchan and Carrefour, two French multinational supermarket chains.

## China's Belt and Road Initiative to slash through food systems

The largest infrastructure project ever embarked upon in world history is in the works: China's Belt and Road Initiative or BRI. The project consists of hundreds of mega-projects that will encourage connectivity and market access across Asia, Europe and Africa – and severely affect food systems, farmers' livelihoods, and land tenure. While the media coverage of the BRI tends to focus on infrastructure projects, financial issues and risks to national sovereignty, GRAIN released a ground-breaking report looking specifically at how the BRI will affect food and agriculture and what activists can do about it. This report was based on input from a partner meeting that GRAIN held in Bangkok in September 2018, where plans and strategies to challenge the expansion of Chinese agribusiness were developed.

## Follow the money: funds behind land grabs in Brazil

In 2018, we helped to blow the lid off of how some of the largest pension and endowment funds are connected to violent land grabbing in Brazil and other countries.

In September 2018, GRAIN and the Brazilian Rede Social de Justiça e Direitos Humanos published an [investigative report](#) exposing the involvement of the Harvard University Endowment Fund in farmland grabs in Brazil and elsewhere across the globe. Later, in November, GRAIN [released a report](#) detailing how over the past decade, 76 public and corporate pension funds invested US\$14.8 billion in



farmland around the world and analysing the disastrous impact this has had for local farming and farmers.

Our research and reports have served as reference for several stories in large media outlets including the New York Times and Reuters. Our Harvard investigations provided the basis for an in-depth report by a team of journalists from Bloomberg who traveled to Brazil and California to report on the story. The research resulted in increased awareness within academic institutions, especially with student activism of the group Divest Harvard, as well as with media outlets and other NGOs in Brazil, Canada, European countries and the United States who all started investigating and challenging pension funds' land deals.



*A group of University affiliates marched at the Harvard campus to push for administrators to consider putting an end to the Harvard Management Company investment in farmland holdings and divesting from fossil fuels. Photo: Alexandra A. Chaidez*

The negative media attention on Harvard and other investment funds has been recognised by industry insiders to have generated an increased perspective of risk among other pension and endowment funds and made it more difficult for farmland funds to fundraise for acquisitions. It also led to one of the largest farmland investors releasing public information about its land holdings. Several illegal land titles have also been canceled by a local judge in Brazil as a result of our research. Along with Rede Social and other organisations, GRAIN has been building an international campaign to reveal how these companies' investments are directly linked to the displacement of local communities and the destruction of the environment. The local communities experiencing the impacts previously in isolation now have national and international support and solidarity and are gaining capacity to ensure their rights are respected.



## Challenging RCEP in Asia



In 2018, the RCEP (Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership) negotiations for a massive Asia and Pacific wide trade deal continued to intensify. For several years, GRAIN has been helping to increase civil society organisation's understanding of RCEP and its impact on food and agriculture in affected countries. Now, resistance against the trade agreement in Asian and Pacific countries has taken the shape of a well-organised campaign - this was particularly tangible at a regional strategy meeting for grassroots movements and trade campaigners which GRAIN and six Asia-Pacific groups organised alongside the 23rd round of RCEP negotiations in Bangkok, Thailand, in July.

### Chile, better off without FTAs

During the year, GRAIN continued to very actively participate in the Chilean Platform against free trade agreements (FTAs), which has now become the main network addressing the issue in Chile. The main focus was on stopping the government's plans to bring Chile into the Trans-Pacific Partnership or TPP. Many depositions in front of Congressional Commissions were conducted, as well as meetings with members of Congress, social leaders, local groups, students and unions. We have also been quite active in getting the word out through traditional media. We helped draft many of the documents presented to members

of parliament, providing evidence of the impact of such trade deals. The leaflets produced and printed with GRAIN's support were widely distributed. The impact of our advocacy work has been tremendous. At the beginning, there were no more than five votes in parliament against the TPP trade deal. But in March 2019, at the time of writing, the government withdrew the proposal from being voted upon in parliament as they were concerned that it would be rejected by a majority.



GRAIN staffer Camila Montecinos explaining civil society's concerns about Chile joining the TPP to Chilean parliamentarians.





# Land grabbing and the struggle for land



- ✓ Exposing today's massive assault on fertile farmland by investors, speculators and agribusiness.
- ✓ Keeping land grabbing high on the global agenda.
- ✓ Building alliances and strategy to stop land grabbing.

## Taking stock of 10 years of land grabbing

Ten years ago, in 2008, Korean conglomerate Daewoo made a move to get a hold of 1.3 million hectares of farmland in Madagascar. This land deal woke the world up to the new trend of global land grabbing, and got GRAIN centrally involved in the debate as we had just published [our first paper on land grabbing](#). To commemorate, in 2018, we [published an opinion piece](#) reviewing the trends in land grabbing during the last decade.

We also published, jointly with a Malagasy and an Indonesian group, an update on [Daewoo's overseas agribusiness expansion](#) across the world, including Indonesia, Ukraine and Myanmar. This report came out after several months of organising rallies, consultation meetings and workshops with local community groups to shed light on and challenge new concessions given to oil palm corporations to set up plantations in community land in West Papua, Indonesia. The Indonesian province is seen as the "new" frontier for the expansion of oil palm plantations. In June, we [received news](#) that APB, a Dutch pension fund, announced it would divest from Daewoo because of deforestation in West Papua.

In 2018, we were struck by the number and importance of failed farmland deals that were being announced across the world. This led us to publish "Failed farmland deals: a growing legacy of disaster and pain," an analysis of the destruction these deals wreak for local communities and the environment, and what can be done to prevent future



Illustration: Stefano Vitale

attempts of corporate land grabbing. Linked to this, we also produced an [update](#) of how, in a limited number of cases, land grabbers ended up in court - and some in jail. This growing trend is very important because it validates all the reasons that we have been fighting land grabs for a decade as well as our conviction that the solution is to shut them down, not accommodate them.

## Women building solidarity against oil palm plantations



*"No to abuse against women in industrial oil palm plantations" is the title of the declaration reaffirmed in Cote d'Ivoire, in August, by 30 women who are part of the regional platform against the expansion of industrial oil palm plantations in Central and West Africa.*

Over the past years, coalition-building has become an increasingly important strategy for GRAIN to achieve its objectives. In Africa, a lot of our focus has been on helping to build a regional coalition of grassroots organisations struggling against the expansion of industrial oil palm plantations in Central and West Africa in partnership with the World Rainforest Movement (WRM). Capacity and strategy building workshops were organised in Nigeria in 2015, Cameroon in 2016, Gabon and Sierra Leone in 2017 and Gabon in 2018. Through these activities a regional platform emerged, in which community-based organisations in the region struggling against oil palm plantations are working together, backed up by an umbrella of international groups, including GRAIN. The consolidation of this regional platform enables African community leaders and NGOs to have a more structured system for the exchange of information and the development of common strategies, information tools and joint activities. In 2019, the platform will publish a booklet to be used as a training manual: *12 tactics palm oil companies use to grab community land*.



The participation of women is actively prioritised within the platform. In every workshop, a women's meeting precedes the main meeting, and a considerable part of the main workshop agenda is reserved exclusively for women, so that they can orient the discussions and fully participate in the decisions that are taken. In addition, in August of 2018, the platform organised a women-only workshop in Cote d'Ivoire. It brought together approximately 30 women from 10 sub-Saharan African countries affected by oil palm plantations.

The women gathered to reflect on the profound impacts of industrial plantations on rural women's lives, analyse the strategies used by oil palm corporations, share experiences of struggles in different countries where the expansion of these plantations is having an impact, and, lastly, plan future actions to defend the communities and women who are victims of all sorts of abuses inside and around the plantations in Africa.

An important part of the workshop were the visits to communities affected by large-scale corporate oil palm plantations in the villages of Tiegba and Anyama. After a joint reflection about the community visits, the women came up with a series of demands that were included in the final statement of the workshop.

## Land conflicts and shady finances in the DR Congo

In late 2018, we worked closely with representatives from nine communities in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, RIAO-RDC and numerous allies in the global North to activate a dispute resolution mechanism over a portfolio of plots contested by the communities since colonial times. In particular, more than 100,000 hectares of ancestral lands and forests were said to have been stolen by a palm oil company in the DR Congo, depriving communities of the means to feed and shelter their families. The company in question is PHC, a subsidiary of the Canadian multinational Feronia, which is financed by a consortium of European development banks led by the UK's CDC and the German development bank DEG. Due to this action, public awareness and scrutiny of the banks' shady investments in developing countries has increased, but it remains to be seen whether the bank will respond positively to the Congo communities' complaint.

*A women-only workshop was held in August, in Côte d'Ivoire, to continue building solidarity against the expansion of industrial oil palm plantations.*





# People's control over seeds

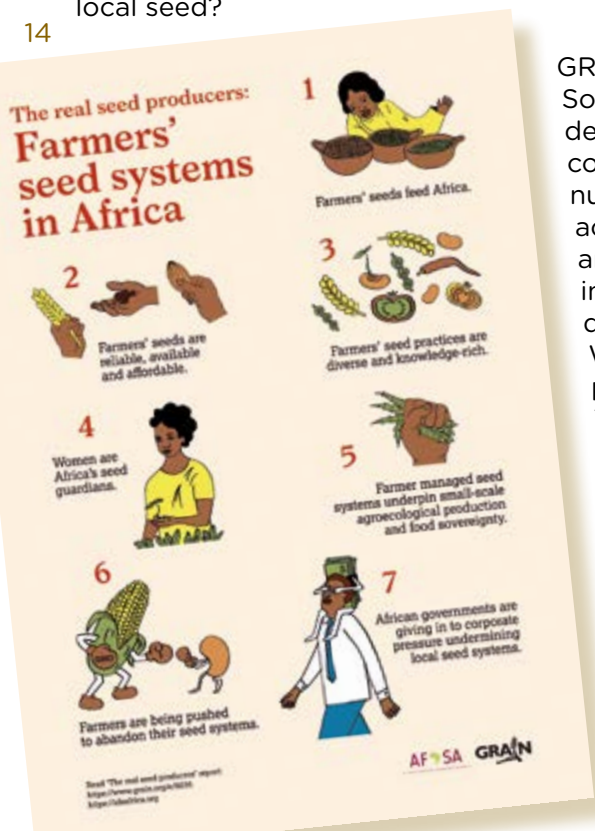


- ✓ Challenging corporate seed and intellectual property laws.
- ✓ Revealing unprecedented levels of corporate control over seeds and the push for GMOs.
- ✓ Cultivating emerging seed saving and exchange movements.

## Defending farmers' seeds systems in sub-Saharan Africa

The picture often painted for us is that we need corporate seeds to feed the world: they are alleged to be more efficient, productive and predictable. Locally-developed farmer varieties are portrayed as backwards, less productive and disease-ridden. But those of us with our feet on the ground (and hands in the soil) know that this is not the reality in Africa. If these seeds are so "backward," what moves farmers to keep preserving and planting them? What benefits are derived? What challenges do farmers encounter in this effort? How must they be supported to continue to save local seed?

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GRAIN and the Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA) decided to find out. We proposed a collaborative research project with numerous partner organisations across the continent designed to answer these questions, involving interviews with farmers to document their seed practices. We also asked them to assess the policy situation in their country. This intensive process took most of 2018.

The outcome of these efforts is captured in the report "The real seeds producers", published along with six country case studies on which the full report is based and accompanied by an educational poster. The results are encouraging.

There are many initiatives promoting the diversity of farmer-managed seeds plus a widespread appreciation of that diversity and the need to nurture it. But we also note worrisome developments. The corporate lobby for industrial seeds, genetically-modified seeds and commodity plantations is relentless. Policymakers are often seduced by the grand narrative and propaganda purveyed by these interests. In the coming years this report will prove central in fighting propaganda and defending farmers' seeds in Africa.

## Two decades of lies about Golden Rice

For years, GRAIN has been part of a regional network in Asia and the Pacific that challenges genetically-modified rice known as Golden Rice. In April 2018, the Stop Golden Rice! Network pulled off a major international conference bringing together over 80 participants from many countries in the region, including China, Taiwan, Australia and New Zealand. As part of the steering committee, GRAIN was centrally involved in the preparations, helping to identify participants, shape the agenda and discussion papers and formulate follow-up and action points. The result was a consolidated and intensified global campaign against Golden Rice, better cooperation among the network members and global outreach of the network's messages and concerns through the mass media.

To support the campaign, GRAIN co-published a report together with Masipag in the Philippines and the Stop Golden Rice! Network. "Don't get fooled again! Unmasking two decades of lies about Golden Rice" takes an historical look at the false promises about this rice being pushed for the past 20 years by corporations and scientists alike, and argues that much better strategies exist to battle malnutrition in the region. This will be the argument that we will further develop in the coming years: keeping biodiversity in the field and in people's diets is a much better way to keep people healthy than the promises of single-crop, single-gene solutions like the one in golden rice. As these kind of "solutions" are now being pushed in Africa and Latin America too, with promises of golden cassava, golden banana and protein-rich maize, there is a need to step up our campaigns globally.

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## Local seeds, local knowledge

The Seed Collective of Latin America, of which GRAIN is a member, organised a strategic encounter on seeds work in October 2018 in Guatemala. This meeting was a follow-up to a [seeds meeting](#) held in 2017 in Mexico, and was meant to forge a common position in defense of native and traditional seeds to advance collaborative work in the region. Altogether, the event brought together thirty participants from different collectives in Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua and Panama, as well as more than a hundred people from different regions of Guatemala who form part of the national network for food sovereignty in Guatemala (REDSAG), our host in the country.

Designed to bring together seed guardians - who care, safeguard and exchange seeds - and activists from the region, the goal of the meeting was to discuss ways to strengthen local control over seeds and local knowledge and develop strategies to defend them. At the core of the discussions at the gathering was the assumption that defending local autonomy and territory is only possible if the peoples and communities continue to have access to and control over their seeds as a “legacy of

the peoples at the service of humanity”, as La Via Campesina puts it. The meeting adopted the “[Declaración de Iximulew](#)” which summarises the common analysis, future collaboration and commitments agreed upon. An [issue of Biodiversidad Magazine](#) was also devoted to celebrating and spreading the word about seeds and wisdom guardians throughout the continent, from the grassroots to the global level.

## Advancing seed sovereignty and agroecology in Latin America

During 2018, GRAIN was quite active supporting farmers’ movements in advancing seed sovereignty and agroecology in Latin America, especially in partnership with CLOC-Via Campesina. An important part of the work involved the production of educational multimedia materials to support capacity-building and awareness-raising in Spanish-speaking countries, especially throughout Latin America.

As part of its work with the Latin American Seed Collective, GRAIN released “[Seeds in resistance](#),” a 4-minutes [video animation](#) and [comic book](#) based on the popular documentary “[Seeds: commons or corporate property](#)” (2017).



*Opening ceremony of the wise men and women meeting on seeds and traditional knowledge from Mexico, Central America, Ecuador and Colombia, and the 12th National agroecology meeting of Guatemala. Both meetings were celebrated in Chimaltenango, from 14 to 18 October 2018. Photo: REDSAG*

# Food sovereignty to fight the climate crisis

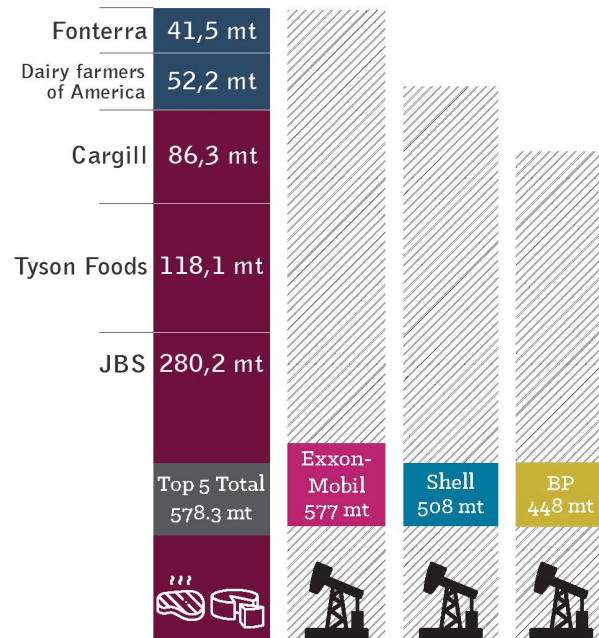


- ✓ Drawing attention to the industrial food system as a main driver of the climate crisis.
- ✓ Zooming in on industrial meat and dairy as key culprits.
- ✓ Proposing food sovereignty and agroecology as an important part of the solution.

## Emissions impossible

During the past year, GRAIN zoomed in on the contribution of industrial meat and dairy corporations to the climate crisis. In July, we published “Emissions impossible: How big meat and dairy are heating up the planet”, GRAIN’s most time- and resource- intensive publication of last year.

The in-depth 28-page report, co-published with the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (IATP), was translated in four languages and downloaded over 1,400 times and shared over 2,200 times from our website by the end of the year. The materials were widely picked up and disseminated by the media in more than 140 news reports worldwide, including The Independent, (UK), Süddeutsche Zeitung, (Germany), O Globo, (Brazil) and New Food Economy (US).



The top 5 meat and dairy companies combined emit more greenhouse gases than ExxonMobil, Shell or BP

This coverage provoked a wider debate on the need to put limits on industrial meat and dairy emissions - and the industrial food system in general - to avert climate catastrophe, while supporting a transition to agroecology and smaller-scale, diversified farming systems.

The materials were further presented at workshops in different parts of the world, including the COP24 Climate Summit in Poland in December, and generated a lot of strategy discussions with civil society organisations and social movements who attended. The report was also the subject of a well-attended [webinar](#) and numerous strategy meetings with partners. As a result, the impact of industrial livestock operations, and the powerful companies running them, is now better understood and accepted within civil society movements, around the scientific community and among governments.

## Emissions Impossible: Key messages

Together, the world’s top five meat and dairy corporations are now responsible for more annual greenhouse gas emissions than each of Exxon, Shell or BP.

By 2050, we must reduce global emissions by 38 billion tons to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius. If all other sectors follow that path while the meat and dairy industry’s growth continues as projected, the livestock sector could eat up 80% of the allowable greenhouse gas budget in just 32 years.

Most of the top 35 global meat and dairy giants either do not report or underreport their emissions. Only four of them provide complete, credible emissions estimates.

Fourteen of the 35 companies have announced some form of emission reduction targets. Of these, only six have targets that include supply chain emissions, yet these emissions can account for up to 90% of total emissions. The six companies that do pledge cuts in supply chain emissions are simultaneously pushing for growth in production and exports, driving their overall emissions up regardless of their intention to reduce emissions per kilo of milk or meat produced.

## Stop the train

In Mexico’s Yucatan Peninsula, a new project euphemistically called the “Sustainability Agreement for the Yucatan Peninsula” (ASPY in Spanish) is in reality huge infrastructure and corporate ‘development’ across the region.



Designed without any consultation with the Maya people - who make up more than 40 percent of the peninsula's population - the plan is sold as a contribution to the fight against the climate crisis. It foresees selling carbon credits off the Mayan forests, expanding industrial farming, using hybrid seeds and agrochemicals and installing huge windmill and solar panel farms. Recently, the new president of the country added another project to the mix: a high speed "Maya Train" to connect the major tourist attractions and provide infrastructure for the rest of the projects envisaged by ASPY.

In April, GRAIN co-organised a public forum in Mérida, Yucatan, together with local Maya organisations to provide a space to strategise and share experiences of indigenous Maya people in the face of the plans. GRAIN is now involved in helping to support indigenous Maya organisations in their advocacy and outreach work, including legal protection against the regional governments trying to implement this project.

**ESTRATEGIAS DE DEFENSA DE NUESTRA SALUD Y LA DE NUESTROS TERRITORIOS ANTE LOS TRANSGÉNICOS Y LOS PROCESOS DE CONSULTA INDÍGENA**

**El Concejo Regional Indígena Maya de Bacalar**  
 invita a los habitantes de las comunidades mayas a los talleres informativos:

**Transgénicos (Organismos Genéticamente Modificados)**

- ¿Qué son?
- ¿Son una opción saludable para nosotros y nuestros territorios?
- ¿Quiénes se benefician de este modelo tóxico de agricultura?
- ¿Qué hacer para defendernos?

**Nuestros Territorios en riesgo**

- El proceso de consulta indígena ¿ganamos algo como pueblo maya? ¿qué podemos perder?
- El Acuerdo para la Sustentabilidad de la Península de Yucatán (ASPY)
  - Contaminación, deforestación y despojo
  - Proyectos "Productivos". ¿Son sustentables?
  - Soberanía alimentaria

**Fechas:**

Comunidad de Buena Esperanza, Bacalar, Quintana Roo.  
 Viernes 13 de julio de 2018. 4:00 de la tarde

Comunidad de Paraiso, Bacalar, Quintana Roo.  
 Sábado 14 de julio de 2018. 4 de la tarde

Comunidad de Blanca Flor, Bacalar, Quintana Roo.

Logos: educa, UCCS, Consejo Regional Indígena Maya de Bacalar, ANAA, GRAIN, and a circular logo with a plant.

# Getting the word out

Here at GRAIN, we believe in the power of words to radically transform the dominant narrative around our food system. We also know that some voices are amplified louder than others due to economic and social privilege. The publications we produce every year are our contribution to fixing this imbalance - offering new ways of knowing about food sovereignty and bringing forward issues that are often ignored or silenced.

GRAIN works with allied social movements to deepen people's understanding of the forces shaping the global and local food systems - and the impact of these forces. It is through collaboration and partnerships that we link in with local and national realities and play a meaningful role in our information, research and networking activities. In fact, last year, nearly all of our materials were produced in partnership with groups active in different struggles across the world.

We also dedicate a large amount of time and resources to translate all of our materials into English, French, and Spanish. We are happy when the list can include non-colonial languages - last year we published materials in Korean, Malagasy, Greek, Italian, Japanese, Swahili and Khmer.

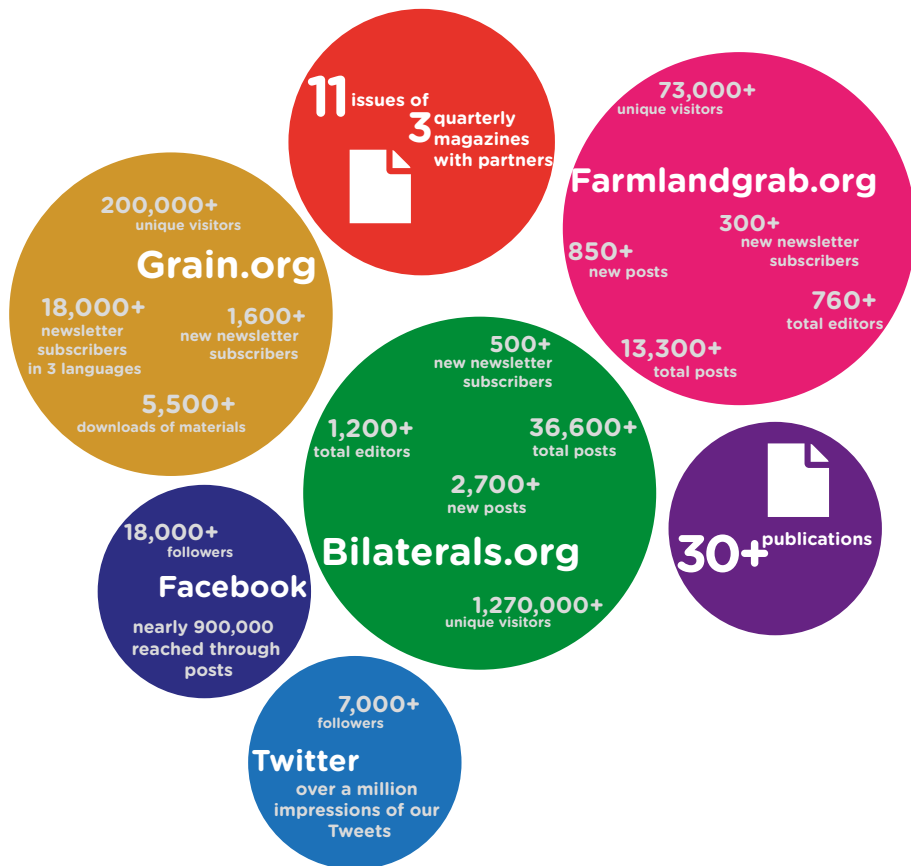
However, we are not always free to choose how, to whom and when we communicate. The gloomy outlook facing freedom of expression and privacy across the globe, and the increasing criminalization of activists and journalists, force GRAIN and like-minded organisations to juggle security concerns, censorship and threats of SLAPP lawsuits by corporations. In parallel, we need to constantly seek new ways to access, produce and diffuse information, while upholding quality, relevance and timeliness. The responsibility of effectively questioning the status quo while responsibly informing social movements has never been greater.

We produce materials that aim to be instrumental for social groups and the wide range of actors they work with, including peasants, journalists, researchers and policymakers. Our publications are posted online on [our website](#), circulated through our 'New from GRAIN' announcements, and shared on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Vimeo](#). We track, to the extent we can, media that references GRAIN's work - in 2018, this ranged from The Guardian to Al Jazeera and Le Figaro to Japan Times. We also know that our videos are seen at group viewings, materials are read over community radio, and data is shared over and over, beyond our capacity to quantify. Our publications also have an important role in

print. Our staff share copies of reports at strategy meetings, infographics get printed on flyers at rallies, and magazines are making the rounds at workshops around the world.

Here is where our materials really hit the ground, helping to shape strategy, inform campaigns, and strengthen arguments. At the same time, we are constantly listening to and interacting with allies so they can control the way they are represented and shape their narrative. This, however, can only happen if people are guaranteed adequate security and spaces for democratic deliberation where they can share their own experiences and collective analysis. GRAIN will continue to be an advocate for these spaces around the world, to continue our work of getting the word out.

### GRAIN 2018 in numbers





# GRAIN's team in 2018



# Behind the scenes at GRAIN

GRAIN's structure and governance are designed in alignment with our values: a small, global collective with horizontal leadership and participatory decision-making. The programme staff is largely based in "the regions" where they are closely connected to local struggles and movements, supported by a number of staffers with a global mandate and a Coordination and administration hub at our Barcelona office.

This past year, our 14 staff operated from 11 countries. By the end of the year, we had some changes on the team: Antoine Langeard moved on and long-term staff Camila Montecinos retired. In contrast, we were joined by Larissa Parker, a new staff based in Brazil who is bolstering the Latin America team.

As for the Board, we are pleased to have a small, dedicated group of individuals supporting our programme and strategic development. In 2018, the board consisted of three women and one man, the newest of whom is Rita Zanotto from Brazil who works with La Via Campesina's international secretariat.

Being a non-profit organisation, GRAIN must fundraise to cover our operating expenses. We have developed a diverse and relatively stable revenue stream largely from NGOs and private foundations. Additional income comes from other sources including publications, service fees, and individual donations. We carefully evaluate funders to ensure they align with our values and maintain our autonomy by avoiding dependency on any one source of income or influence.

## GRAIN 2018 income (in Euros)

11th Hour project (United States)	61,818
Agroecology Fund (United States)	18,134
Barcelona Municipality (Spain)	30,000
Brot für Alle (Switzerland)	98,000
Brot für die Welt (Germany)	128,733
CCFD (France)	32,500
CFH Foundation (United States)	25,041
Fastenopfer (Switzerland)	38,600
Greater Kansas City Community Foundation (United States)	20,000
JFGE (Japan)	19,547
Marin Community Foundation (United States)	32,463
Misereor / KZE (Germany)	114,306
Misereor (Germany)	10,000
Oxfam-Novib (The Netherlands)	13,337
Rosa Luxembourg Fondation (South Africa)	26,000
Sage Fund (United States)	13,638
Silicon Valley Community Fund (United States)	40,483
Swift Foundation (United States)	25,041
Swissaid (Switzerland)	20,000
Trocaire (Ireland)	10,000
Un Monde par Tous (France)	10,000
Other grants	84,199
Own income (donations, publications, financial and other)	36,133
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>907,973</b>



GRAIN staff, board and friends in 2018



## Support GRAIN's work!

It is an ongoing challenge to find funds that allow us the flexibility to operate independently and on the hot-topic issues we address. For these reasons, we are always looking to partner with new donors - both individual and institutional - who share our mission and wish to support our work. If you are interested or know someone who might be, please contact us or [use the 'donate' button on our website](#).


GRAIN wouldn't be able to fully achieve its objectives without the support of volunteer translators and editors in various languages - we are immensely grateful to them. If you would also like to share your time and language skills with us, please contact us at [volunteer \[at\] grain \[dot\] org](mailto:volunteer@grain.org).



*In September, GRAIN visited the Mae Tha organic farm in Chiang Mai province, Thailand, as part of our annual staff meeting.*


# Annex: GRAIN publications in 2018



## Corporations and the global food system

 Supermercados, cadenas de suministro transnacionales y violación del derecho laboral, 30 January 2018


    Daewoo's overseas agribusiness expansion, 16 May 2018




 Trade agreements privatising biodiversity outside the WTO: 2018 update, 27 August 2018

  Supermarkets: today's food source - Trends and impact, 24 October 2018

  Supermarkets out of Africa! Food systems across the continent are doing just fine without them, 8 November 2018



## Land grabbing and land rights


 年グローバルな農地収奪：広さと深刻度に関する考察 (The global farmland grab in 2016: how big, how bad?), 7 February 2018


   Failed farmland deals: a growing legacy of disaster and pain, 6 June 2018

    Harvard's billion-dollar farmland fiasco, 6 September 2018


   Land grabbing, illicit finance and corporate crime: an update, 17 October 2018

  DRC communities file complaint with German development bank to resolve century-old land conflict with palm oil company, 7 November 2018


 The global farmland grab by pension funds needs to stop, 13 November 2018


 The Daewoo-Madagascar land grab: Ten years on, 16 November 2018

## People's control over seeds


 Los acuerdos comerciales que influyen en la legislación referente a las semillas en África, 9 January 2018


 "Seeds: commons or corporate property?" A video on seeds struggles in Latin America, 29 January 2018

 Civil society decries FSANZ approval of Golden Rice, 28 February 2018


 Mexico: The dangers of industrial corn and its processed edible products, 20 March 2018

 Seeds in resistance, 26 March 2018

 The real seeds producers: Small-scale farmers save, use, share and enhance the seed diversity of the crops that feed Africa, 29 October 2018

 Don't get fooled again! Unmasking two decades of lies about Golden Rice, 21 November 2018

## Food and climate

 Emissions impossible: How big meat and dairy are heating up the planet, 18 July 2018

## Biodiversidad magazine

 Biodiversidad 95 / 2018-1

 Biodiversidad 96 / 2018-2


 Biodiversidad 97 / 2018-3

 Biodiversidad 98 / 2018-4

## Soberanía alimentaria magazine

 #31. Arte, ruralidad y transformación social. Primavera 2018

 #32. El turismo. ¿Solución para el medio rural? Verano 2018

 #33. Agroecología y feminismos. Otoño 2018

## Supermarket Watch Asia bulletin

 Supermarket Asia Bulletin #9: Subscribe now

 Supermarket Asia Bulletin #10: Top e-commerce

 Supermarket Asia Bulletin #11: Modern retail in Thailand

 Supermarket Asia Bulletin #12: Supermarkets, out!

*Back cover: GRAIN at a meeting with the Kenyan Peasants League, a member of La Via Campesina Southern and Eastern Africa. The two organisations collaborated for the Peasants Agroecology Summer School at Mariwa Village in Migori County, Kenya.*





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