

Faced with the rise of nationalism and xenophobia, Food Sovereignty is more necessary than ever.

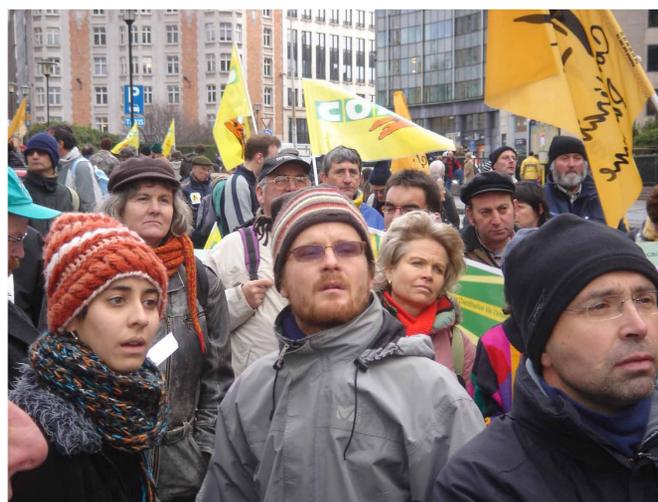
Michel Buisson, Gérard Choplin, Priscilla Claeys, Gustave Massiah

choplin.gerard@skynet.be

priscilla.claeys@coventry.ac.uk

KEY FACTS

1. The false answers to neoliberalism, advocated by Donald Trump and others, lead to protectionism, nationalist withdrawal and xenophobia.
2. Peasant agriculture is under threat, despite the vibrancy of local alternatives. It must be protected through new multilateral trade rules for food sovereignty, based on solidarity and cooperation.



3. The forthcoming adoption of a UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas (Claeys, 2015) and recent advances at the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), notably in relation to connecting smallholders to markets, lay the ground for food sovereignty.



FOOD SOVEREIGNTY AS A RESPONSE TO NATIONALISM AND XENOPHOBIA

Initially formulated by La Via Campesina around 1996, food sovereignty is “the right of people, their countries or unions, to define their agriculture and food policy, without dumping vis-à-vis third countries” (La Via Campesina, 2003). It “puts those who produce, process and consume healthy and local food at the heart of our agriculture and food systems [...] instead of the demands of market and transnational companies ...” (Nyéléni Forum, 2007).

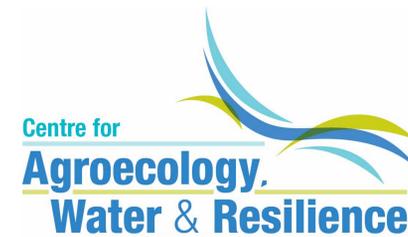
1. Food sovereignty is not an agenda of withdrawal: it is a democratic requirement and an expression of international solidarity.
2. Food sovereignty calls for a rebalancing between international trade and relocalized food systems.
3. It provides a framework for prioritizing agroecology, health and nutrition, the protection of the environment and sustainable access to resources.

	Neoliberal Paradigm	Food Sovereignty Paradigm
Foundational principle	Economic growth and « free » markets are supposed to ensure food security and development	Food sovereignty is key to future of the peasantry, realizing human rights and protecting the planet
Food system design	Grounded in the WTO Agreement on Agriculture (1994) and other « free » trade agreements, dominated by the agribusiness industry and a few countries, based on competition and specialization, it supports capitalist and productivist agriculture	Network/Web of local, national, regional/territorial markets, based on solidarity and internal and external cooperation, relying on peasant agriculture and agroecology

(Based on M. Buisson 2013)

CONQUERING FOOD SOVEREIGNTY REQUIRES CHANGING THE RULES AND BUILDING ALTERNATIVES AT ALL LEVELS:

Level	Changing the rules	Making proposals and building alternatives
International	Elaborating at the UN, with the support of sponsor states, alternative rules based on food sovereignty for international trade, the regulation of transnational corporations (TNCs) and the management of markets	Social movements demanding and proposing alternative rules at the global level to translate food sovereignty into a new governance framework for food and agriculture
National/regional	Translating food sovereignty in public policies by and for states	Elaborating proposals for alternative international trade rules and new national/regional food and agriculture policies
Sub-national/local	New rules at local level enabling the autonomy of food producers and consumers	Struggles and alternative practices (agroecology, CSAs,...) as sources of policy proposals and new forms of production and exchanges



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FOOD SOVEREIGNTY MUST BE TRANSLATED IN LAW THROUGH:

1. A new transnational legal order based on “ordered pluralism” (M Delmas-Marty, 2006):
 - a UN Convention on Food Sovereignty recognizing this right for states and their unions/peoples;
 - various trade agreements replacing the Agreement on Agriculture (AoA);
 - new accountability mechanisms for these agreements.

These new agreements must build on the principle of “shared but differentiated responsibilities” enshrined in the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to translate food sovereignty into rules that respond to and respect the diversity of national situations, and enable countries to take derogatory measures, such as protection against import surges.



2. National/regional policies: regulation of markets, protection against dumping, phasing out of industrial agriculture and intensive livestock farming, support for modes of production that have positive environmental and social impacts, ... (Choplin, 2017)

RÉFÉRENCES

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This poster is based on an opinion piece initially published in French by the four authors in Le Courrier (Switzerland) and Mediapart¹ (France). It was co-signed by Jacques Berthelot, Manu Eggen, Christophe Golay, Laurent Pinatel, Geneviève Savigny, Olivier De Schutter and Aurélie Trouvé. It was later published in English² and German.³

¹ <https://blogs.mediapart.fr/edition/les-invites-de-mediapart/article/200117/face-la-montee-des-nationalismes-et-de-la-xenophobie-la-souverainete-alimentaire>

² <https://gchoplinenglish.wordpress.com/2017/01/31/faced-with-the-rise-of-nationalism-and-xenophobia-food-sovereignty-is-more-necessary-than-ever/>

³ <http://www.souverainete-alimentaire.ch/in/de/aktuell/470-angesichts-des-aufschwungs-von-nationalismus-und-fremdenfeindlichkeit-ist-ernaehrungssouveraenitaet-noetiger-denn-je>