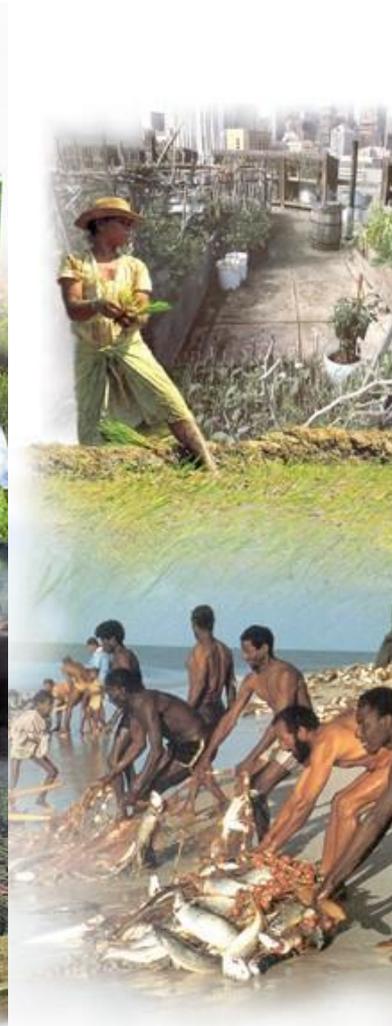
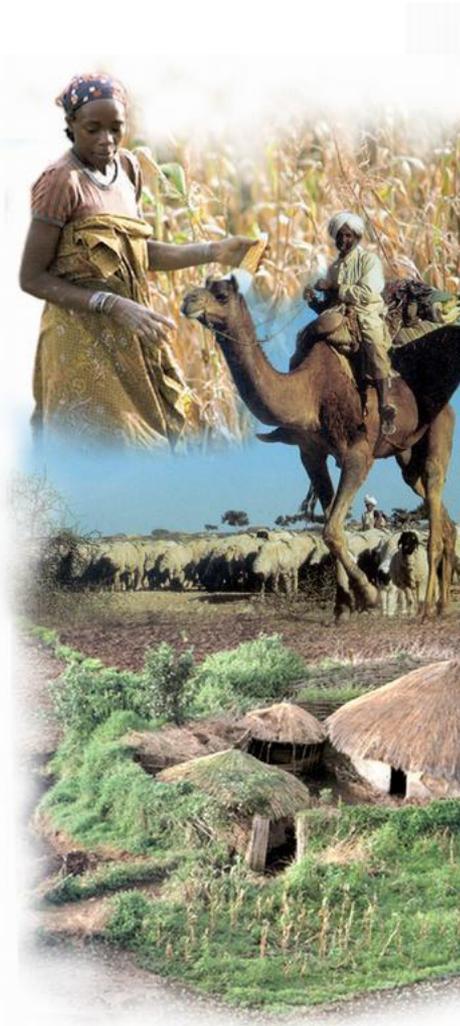


# **From Food Security to Food Sovereignty**

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# Food, Agriculture, Environments and Livelihoods

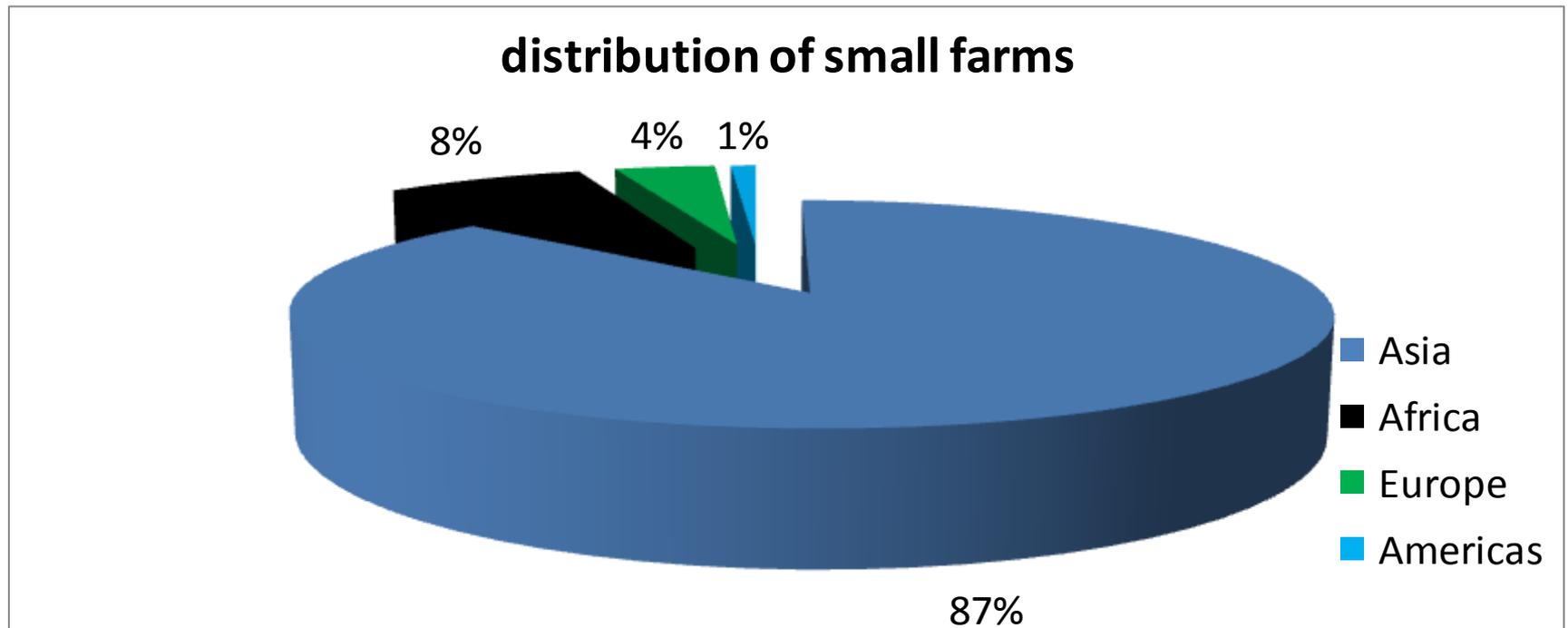


**Approximately 2.5 billion people—men, women and children—live directly from agricultural systems (farmers, forest peoples, pastoralists, urban gardeners, peasant fishers....)**

*FAO, 2005*



# Small farms are key to world's food security: of 525 million farms world wide 85% are below 2 hectares



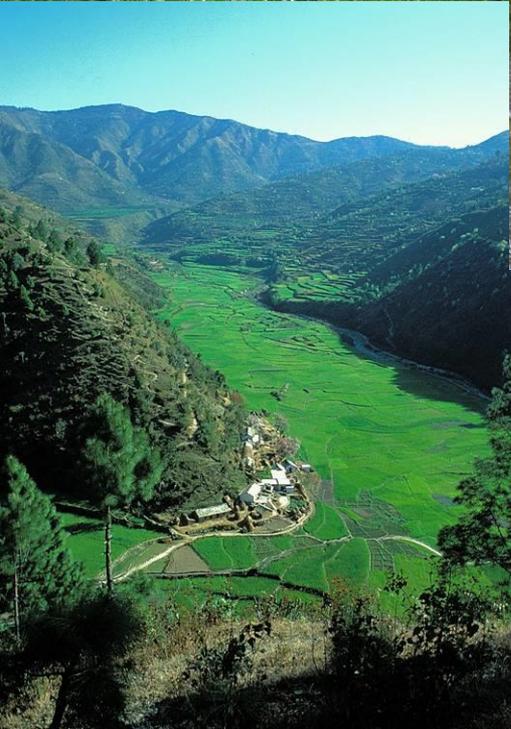
Source: Nagayets / IFPRI, Small Farms: Current Status and Key Trends, 2005

**60% to 70% of world's food is produced by peasants in highly diverse environments and 80% is consumed locally or in country**



# LOCAL FOOD SYSTEMS, LIVELIHOODS AND ENVIRONMENTS

- A significant number of livelihoods and environments are still sustained by a diversity of local food systems throughout the world.
- Each link in the food chain offers economic niches for many more people – as millers, butchers, carpenters, iron workers and mechanics, local milk processors, bakers...
- Foundation of people's nutrition, incomes, economies and culture throughout the world



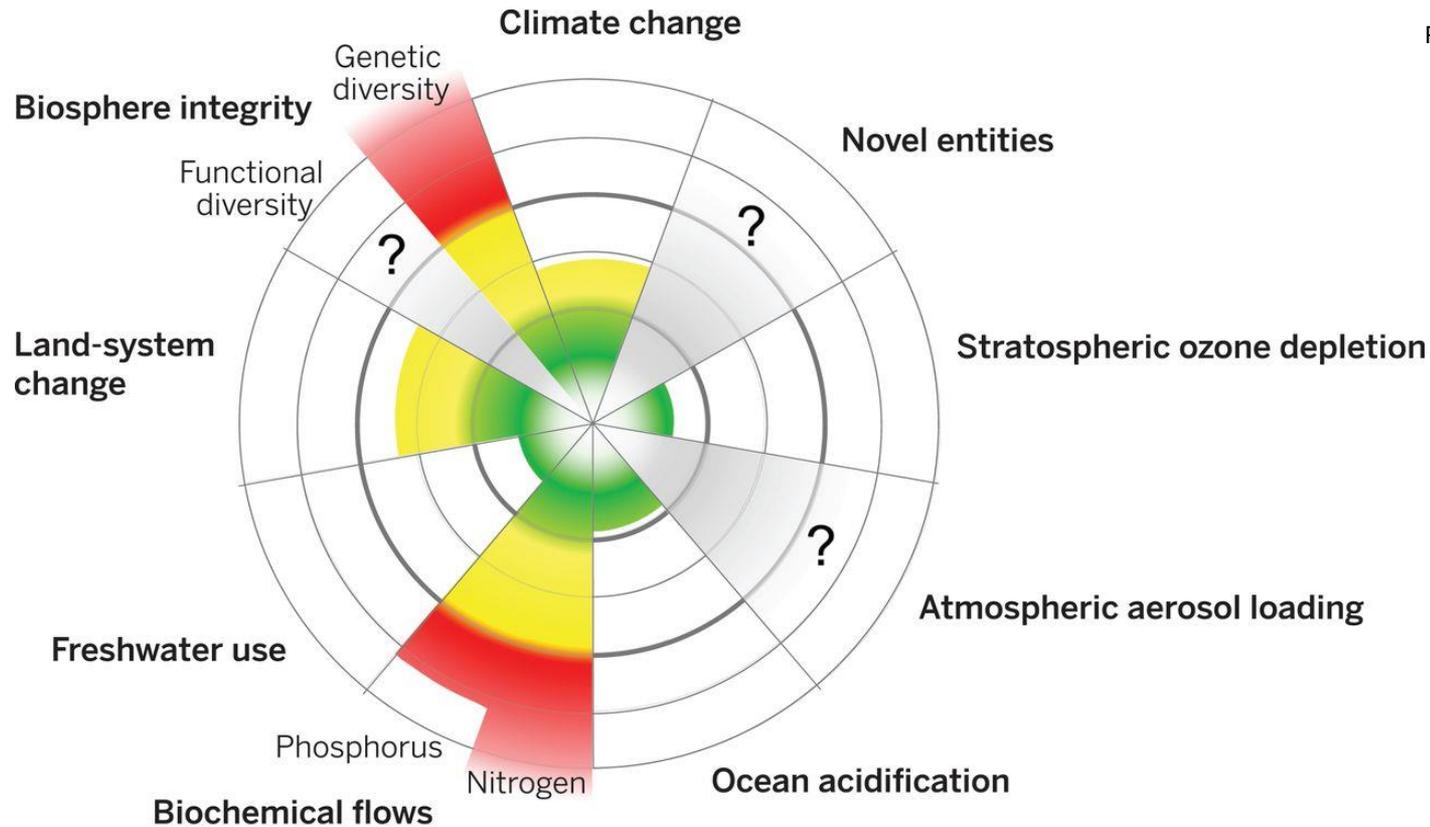
# **Dominant development paradigm envisions having less people living in rural areas**

- encourages an exodus of people from rural areas to work in industry and urban-based trade and services
- global restructuring of agri-food systems threatens local food systems, with a few transnational corporations gaining monopoly control over different links in the food chain

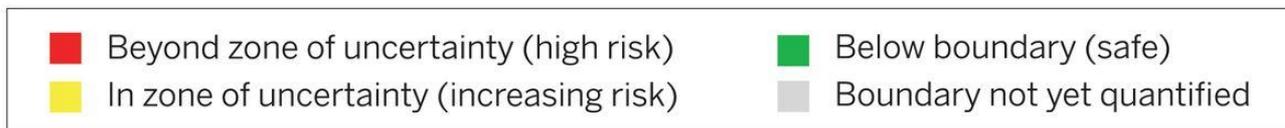
# Global industrial food system

- ***Concentration***: just 3 companies control 70% of global commercial market for seed; 4 companies control 72% of pesticide market
- ***Control & regulation***: by specifying the rules that govern food systems, monopolistic networks control people & resources at a distance
- ***Squeeze & dependency***: cost –price squeeze for farmers and consumer dependency of supermarkets
- ***High ecological footprint and social costs***

**International challenge** - Current status of the control variables for seven of the planetary boundaries. The green zone is the safe operating space, the yellow represents the zone of uncertainty (increasing risk), and the red is a high-risk zone.



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# Food sovereignty

a *citizens'*  
*response* to  
the multiple  
crisis of food,  
agriculture and  
human well being



# Origins of Food Sovereignty & role of La Via Campesina

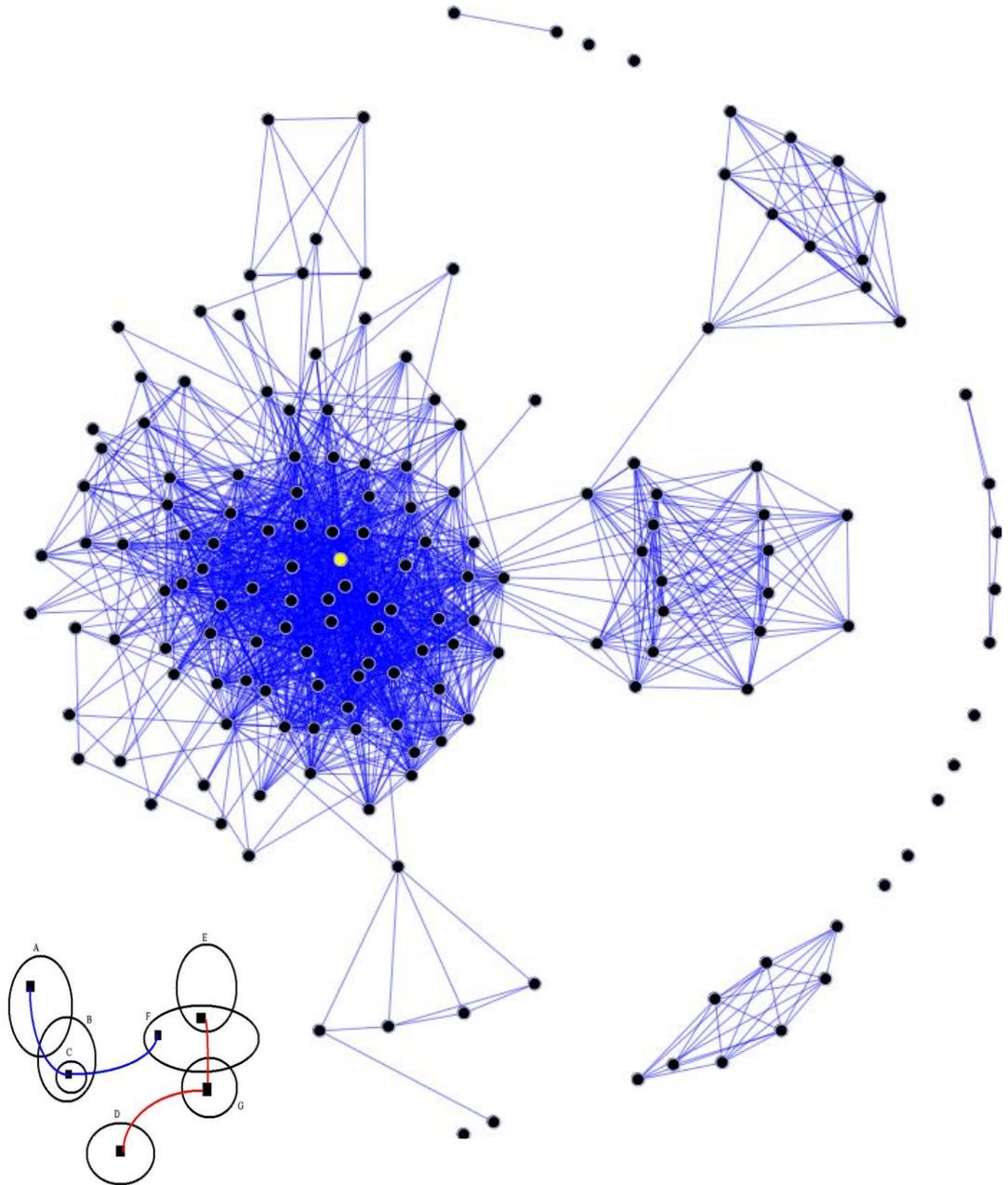
Created in 1993, *La Via Campesina* comprises about 150 local and national organizations in 70 countries from Africa, Asia, Europe and the Americas. Altogether, it represents about 200 million farmers.

Global, pluralistic, and autonomous organisation

- First discussed 'Food Sovereignty' in 1996, at its international conference in Mexico
- 1996 World Food Summit in Rome – presented Food Sovereignty concept
- World Forum on Food Sovereignty in Cuba, 2001
- Nyéléni 2007, Forum on Food Sovereignty (Mali)
- Nyéléni Europe, 2011 (Austria)

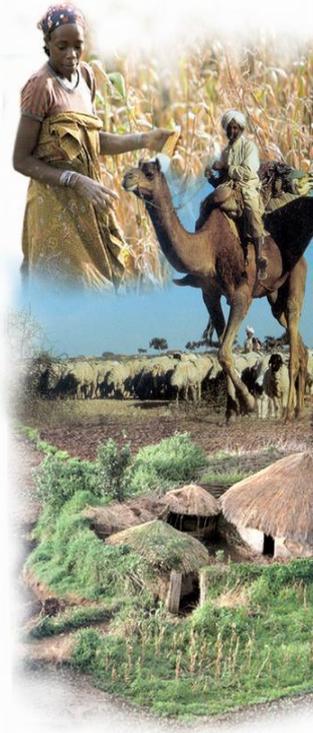
# Shared values and visions of social movements

- Self determination and endogenous development – many worlds possible and desirable
- Rights based approaches e.g. UN Declaration on Rights of Indigenous Peoples
- Emphasis on alternative policy framework for food and agriculture – *“Food Sovereignty”*



# Food Sovereignty includes:

- the right of peoples to define their own food and agriculture policies
- rights of access and control over land, water, seeds, livestock breeds, territories
- ecologically sustainable production and harvesting, principally agro-ecological production and artisanal fisheries based on high bio-cultural diversity
- right to protect and regulate domestic agricultural production and trade (e.g. restrict the dumping of products in local markets).



# Food security, Right to Food, and Food Sovereignty

- ***Food security*** [is] a situation that exists when all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life (FAO 2001).
- ***Right to food*** is a fundamental human right and is a binding obligation well established under international law, recognised in Universal Declaration of Human Rights and FAO Guidelines on the Right to Food

# **Right to Food, Food Security, and Food Sovereignty**

**Focus on entitlements and access to food is shared by both the ‘food security’ and ‘right to food’ approaches to hunger and poverty alleviation, and also by the ‘food sovereignty’ approach.**

# Right to Food and Food Sovereignty

- For the ‘right to food’, economic access entails much more than having adequate purchasing power to buy food on the market
- It means **access to productive resources** to feed oneself: access to land, water, seeds and livestock breeds, to capital and credit, to skills and appropriate technology etc,
- Close similarity between ‘right to food’ and ‘food sovereignty’

# Food Sovereignty and Food Security

- ***Food Sovereignty*** puts emphasis on ***how*** food produced, ***by whom, where,*** and ***with what*** impacts on society & environment
- Food sovereignty is a ***pre-condition*** to genuine food security

# Food sovereignty

*a transformative process* that seeks to recreate the democratic political realm and regenerate a diversity of autonomous food systems based on equity, social justice and ecological sustainability

# Transformation for food sovereignty

Four pre-requisites to regenerate local ecologies and economies:

1. A search for a new modernity and peasant identity
2. From linear to circular food systems
3. Rethinking economics, trade and markets
4. Deepening democracy



# **Towards a new modernity and peasant identity**

# New visions of modernity and well being

- A growing number of youth rejects the idea of development as a process of commodification of nature and social relations
- Emergence of new peasant identity – re-peasantization for new modernity in 21<sup>st</sup> Century?



# Peasants redefining modernity

- Peasants are not business entrepreneurs
- Peasant farming is about livelihoods, culture, and social relationships



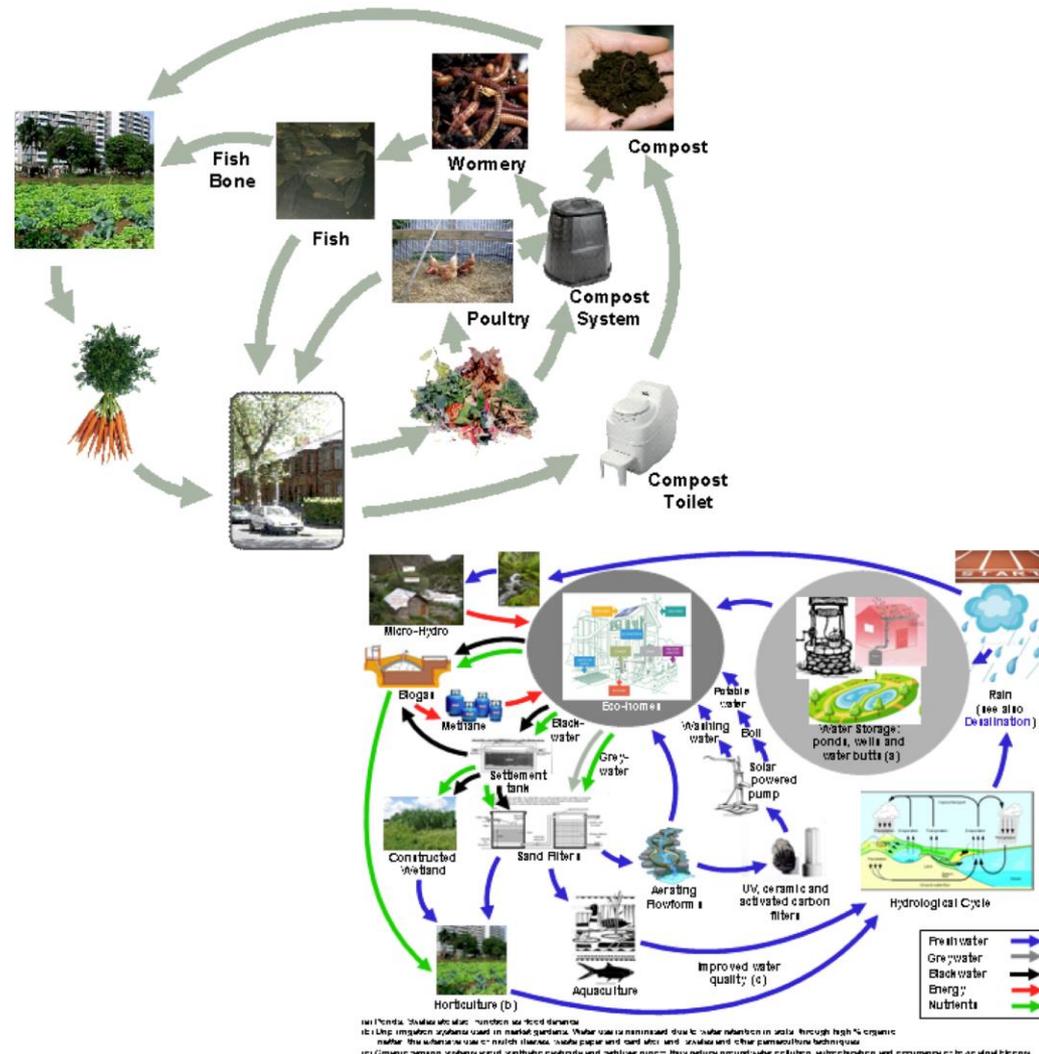
# **From linear to circular food systems**



# Designing resilient food systems to deal with peak oil, the water crisis and climate change

## Key metaphors and approaches:

- Agro-ecology
- Eco-literacy and eco-design
- Bio-mimicry
- Permaculture and holistic design/management
- Models of circular economy



# Sustainable Agriculture: Genetic Engineering *versus* Agroecology

Problem	Genetic engineering	Agroecology
Pests & diseases	Single gene resistance; engineered biopesticides (e.g Bt maize/Bt cotton)	Genetic diversity; crop rotation; intercropping
Weeds	Herbicide tolerant genes (e.g. Roundup resistant Soja)	Early soil coverage, mulches, cover crops, intercropping
Water	Drought tolerant genes	Moisture conservation practices; contour ploughing; swales; different varieties for different micro-climates
Yield	Yield increase for monocultures producing single commodity crop	Poly-cropping that yields multiple products at different times



- **Diversity, multifunctionality and complexity**
- **Self reliance and the proximity principle**
- **Local organizations sustain food systems**



**Enabling economics, markets, and  
property rights for agroecology and  
food sovereignty**

# Equitable property rights and tenure

- Reversing the concentration of land ownership and land grabs that limit entry of new farmers and spread of local food systems
- **Securing Farmers Rights** to save, exchange and use seeds & livestock breeds



# Re-localizing production and consumption to exit global commodity markets

- Re-embedding agriculture in Nature, relying on functional biodiversity & internal resources, - including rediscovery of local assets
- Farmers distance themselves from markets supplying inputs (hybrid and GM seeds, agri-chemicals....)
- Farmers diversify outputs and market outlets
- Rebuild the infrastructure of local food systems (e.g. local mills, abattoirs, community food processing units, micro-dairy....)
- Trade rules that protect local economies (e.g. local food procurement)

# **Deepening democracy for agroecology and food sovereignty**

# Deepening democracy

- **Claiming and realizing citizen's rights to participate** in policymaking and institutional choices
- **An economics for the well being of people and planet** - links between solidarity economy, de-growth, circular economy models

# Democratizing the Governance of Food Systems

- **Strengthening civil society**

- Building upon synergies between the government and society
- Collaboration between local and external civil society actors
- Independent pathways from below



- **Methodologies for citizen participation in policy and institutional choices**



# Strengthening local organisations for democratic governance

- Local adaptive management of farms & landscapes
- People's access to land and food

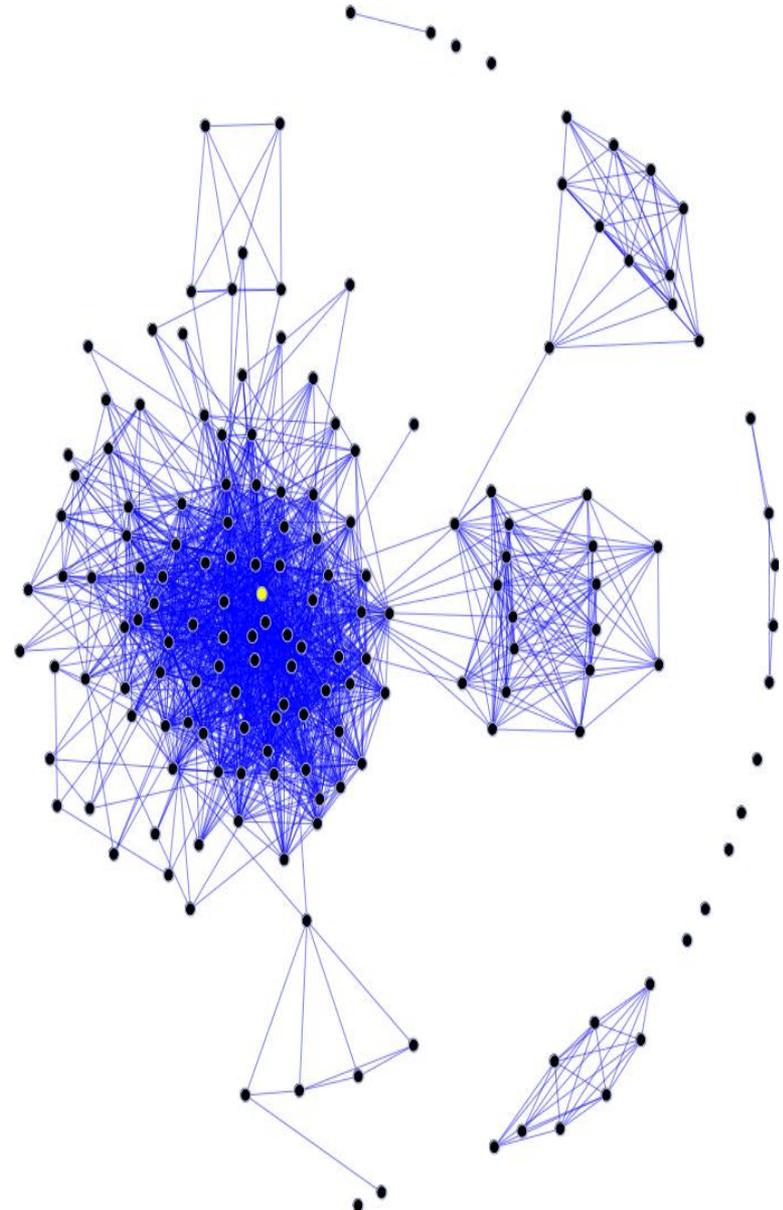


- Federations, networks and organized policy influence



# Horizontal cooperation and decentralised governance

- Collective action and local adaptive management over a wide area
- Organized cooperation for economic exchanges and decision-making among interdependent communities
- Federations based on direct democracy



# Horizontal forms of cooperation & decision making

Consciously developing forms of governance and relations that are:

- i) genuinely inclusive of gender and difference
  
- ii) democratic, with effective safeguards against the abuse, and concentration of power



# **Leveling the economic playing field for democracy & transformation**

- the re-localisation of plural economies that combine both market oriented activities with non-monetary forms of economic exchange based on barter, reciprocity, gift relations, and solidarity
- a guaranteed and unconditional minimum income for all
- a significant drop in time spent in wage-work and a fairer sharing of jobs and free time between men and women

# **Leveling the economic playing field for democracy & transformation**

- a tax on financial speculations, - to fund the regeneration of local economies and ecologies
- a shift from globalised, centralised and linear systems to re-localized circular models that mimic natural cycles and link sustainable food and energy production with water and waste management in rural and urban territories.

