



INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS GLOBAL PEASANTS' RIGHTS

07-10 / 03 / 2017 SCHWÄBISCH HALL / GERMANY
NEUBAUSAAL SCHWÄBISCH HALL / SCHLOSS KIRCHBERG

Invitation to the congress of Global Peasants' Rights

March 7th - 10th, 2017
Schwaebisch Hall/Germany

Organizers



Foundation
House of Farmers
Schwaebisch Hall



European Coordination
Via Campesina (ECVC)



Arbeitsgemeinschaft
bäuerliche Landwirtschaft



FIAN-International and
FIAN Germany



Ecoland International



BÄUERLICHE
ERZEUGERGEMEINSCHAFT
SCHWÄBISCH HALL
www.besh.de

Farmers
Association
Schwaebisch Hall

Draft program outline

Peasants and others working in rural areas, like fisherfolk, shepherds and rural workers, represent the largest group of people in the world suffering from hunger, discrimination, lack of prospects, public negligence and cultural odium. In the light of this situation the United Nations Human Rights Council UNHRC undertook several studies that ultimately asserted the need for an international protection instrument. An intergovernmental working group was created to work on a draft declaration. The first draft was completed in 2012, based on La Via Campesina proposal. Three rounds of negotiations have followed these drafts. The current challenge is to pressure the states to actively involve themselves in the process.

Social movements from farmers and other civil societal organizations working on the issues of food and agriculture, human rights and development are alert to the fact that existing universal instruments to protect their livelihoods and culture are not sufficient. The specific situation of working in the country side to make the living from the use of natural resources is under multiple stress factors. They advocate heavily for the adoption of an international charter of this kind and have their own proposals that go beyond the present declaration.

The planned congress will bring activists from around the world together for three days to exchange the concerns, make the wider public aware of the issue and get organized for effective steps to advocate for real peasants' rights. More than 100 peasant leaders are expected to come to the small town Schwäbisch Hall to make a real impact in safeguarding their peoples rights amidst the mounting pressure put on their resources and lifestyles by globalization forces, modernization efforts and reckless agribusiness.

Tuesday 07/03/2017

Arrival and registration in Schwaebisch Hall

Pre- Evening event and opening Organic Forum
Castle of Kirchberg/Jagst with Keynote speech:
“The future of World Food matters and the role of
smallholder Producers”

Prof. Ernst-Ulrich von Weizsäcker/
President of the Club of Rome,
Prof. Hartmut Vogtmann

Wednesday 08/03/2017

Opening 9⁰⁰ a.m. Schwaebisch Hall
Rudolf Bühler/
Chairman Foundation Haus der Bauern
Elizabeth Mpofo/
General Secretary La Via Campesina (LVC)

Keynote:
“Global Development and the Peasantry”
Klaus Töpfer/ Former Director of UNEP

“Why do we need to be concerned?
Out of a peasants perspective”
Henry Saragih/Serikat Petani Indonesia,
Intern. Coordination Com., LVC

“Peasants, farmers and their rights –
A FAO perspective”
José Graziano da Silva/
Director General of FAO (to be confirmed)

The situation of the Rights-Holders:
Rights, Violations, Needs, Demands
Rightsholder alliance speak out

Plenary session

Observer comments:
Prof. Jan Douwe van der Ploeg/
University of Wageningen
Harald Braun/ German Ambassador to the UN
(to be confirmed)

Wednesday 08/03/2017

“Why a UN-Declaration on peasant rights?
Legal assessment”

Dr. Christophe Golay/Geneva Academy

Dr. Bahram Ghazi/OHCHR Geneva

Prof. Smita Narula/Roosevelt House, New York

Prof. Dieter Schweizer/ CEDR, Brussels

Evening-Event 7⁰⁰ p.m. Schwaebisch Hall

Farmers-Dinner

Special Guest: Carlo Petrini/Founder of the
International Slow Food Movement

Thursday 09/03/2017

Begin 9⁰⁰ a.m. Schwaebisch Hall

Thematic working groups:

- 1) right to land and natural resources
and land/resource grabbing
- 2) right to seeds/breeds and the challenges of new
GMOs and emerging technologies
- 3) right to food, income and means of production
and access to markets and fair shares /trade
- 4) rights to biodiversity and protection of indigenous
knowledge
- 5) civil rights and increasing repression and
criminalization

Regional working groups and stakeholder groups:

- Africa, Asia, Latin America, North America,
Australia and Pacific, Europe, Germany
- Fisherfolk, Pastoralists, Landless people

05⁰⁰ p.m.

Exposure trips to rural development projects of BESH
and other partners

Friday 10/03/2017

Begin 8⁴⁵ a.m. Schwaebisch Hall
Mystica

Comments by Non-Peasant Observers:
“Peasant Rights and Technological Change”
Pat Mooney/ETC Group

How relevant are Human Rights for Peasants’
Protection?”

Michael Windfuhr/German Inst. for Human Rights

Presentation of the Draft Resolution and Final
Discussion

Panel of Politicians

Elena Valentiano/Chair Human Rights Committee of
the EU-Parliament (to be confirmed)

Nardi Suxo/Bolivian Ambassador, Chair of
UN HRC-WG on Peasant Rights,

Representatives of European Governments

Assessment and Conclusion

Closing

Partner



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How to get to the congress

Venue: Neubausaal,

Rosenbühl Nr. 14, 74523 Schwaebisch Hall

- Train Station Schwaebisch Hall-Hessental or Schwaebisch Hall
- Airport Stuttgart via Train (about 95 km)
- Airport Frankfurt via Train (about 180 km)
- Airport Nuremberg via Train (about 130 km)
- Airport Munich via Train (about 240 km)

Detailed travel description will be provided on the congress homepage.

Organizational Matters and postal address

Bäuerliche Erzeugergemeinschaft

Schwaebisch Hall

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E-Mail: peasants@besh.de

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Fee for participation

Regular participant fee 80,- €

Reduced participant fee 30,- €

Languages

All Plenary sessions will be translated into EN, FR, ES, DE. Working group sessions will be partly translated.

Organizational Team

Rudolf Buntzel, HdB-Foundation

Christoph Zimmer, BESH

Henrik Maaß, HdB-Foundation

Steering committee that prepared the congress

Rudolf Buntzel, HdB-Foundation

Sofia Monsalve Suárez, FIAN-International

Gertrud Falk, FIAN-Germany

Paula Gioia, European Coord. Via Campesina (ECVC)

Sandra Moreno Cadena, ECVC

Geneviève Savigny, ECVC

Wolfgang Hees, AbL

Christoph Zimmer, BESH