



# INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS GLOBAL PEASANTS' RIGHTS

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



# Together towards a declaration on Peasants' Rights

[www.global-peasants-rights.com](http://www.global-peasants-rights.com)

# Preamble



## Dear Friends and Colleagues from all over the world: Its time to unite!

We all came together in order to give the poor and marginalized people living in rural and remote areas a voice for their daily struggle. Politicians, Government Representatives and Officials of the Multilateral Organizations should become aware about the injustice on the ground level of peasants, pastoralists and fishermen as they are the losers of global industrial development during the last decades. They are often robbed of and cheated about their natural resources and indigenous knowledge

by multinational business groups and do not get their fair share for their products and common assets. The international terms of trade are benefitting unilaterally the rich westernized economies and its capital stakeholders.

This is one of the most evident social question in modern societies around the globe. To overcome this injustice, a legal framework has to be established under the umbrella of a UN-Charta for “Basic Rights of Peasants” and people living in rural areas on which an Intergovernmental Working Group has already started in Geneva to discuss and develop it. Such a legal framework for the empowerment of rural societies will serve also as a substantial distribution to the UN Sustainable Development Goals SDG’s.

Thank you All, participants, officials and speakers for joining us and make it happen that this dream comes through for a worldwide joint conference upon the needs and demands of the poor and hopeless people living in the rural and remote areas. Let’s give them hope to a better future in peace and a respectful life.

Thank you for all helping hands and contributions, especially to the steering committee and the organizers of the congress. Your brave work will be honored by the forthcoming of our joint struggle for a better and meaningful life in peace for all.

Rudolf Bühler, Initiator & Host of the Congress



Despite being vital to the conservation of humanity, rural peoples are being increasingly dispossessed of their commons. While their access to and control over natural resources is progressively limited, their environments are being polluted and destroyed. This makes it hard for them to develop territorial economies that allow a life free of hunger and malnutrition, so too impossible to maintain the world’s sustainability. The alarming number of killings and

acts of violence against rural peoples shows that existing laws and mechanisms at national and international levels are insufficient for their protection. Under the current system, there is a biased approach against rural peoples that undermines the safeguarding of the fundamental relationship between human dignity and nature. The Congress on Peasants Rights will send a strong message to the UN working group to fill this long-overdue gap, which future generations depend on.

Sofia Monsalve, FIAN Internationals Secretary General

# Preamble



Basic rights for farmers also in Europe  
Europe's agro and food industry increases its exports every year. But for peasants this is no progress. In six years more than three million peasants' families have given up. The peasants are confronted with overpowering corporations which understand food as a cheap commodity and which want to have control over seeds. The agricultural policy of the EU and its member states is orientated on the interests of the corporations which favors big farms. 80 percent

of the EU subsidiaries go to 20 percent of the farms because the money is distributed depending on the size of the arable land. This policy guarantees the Landgrabbers the return small- and middle-sized farms, however, are the losers.

To all this topics the Working-Group for peasantry Farming (AbL) is active, often in broad civil alliances. Because in the society the rights of peasants have tail wind. We wish the Congress all the best!

Ulrich Jasper, Director Arbeitsgemeinschaft bäuerliche Landwirtschaft AbL



Genevievé Savigny



Paula Gioia



Sandra Moreno

We peasants and people working in rural areas, represent about one half of the world population and are producing 70% of the food that feeds humanity today. More than a merely economic activity, peasant (and small-scale food) production means life, preservation of biodiversity, sustainable agriculture practices, social relations based on solidarity. The current economical and agricultural model is constantaneously violating the rights of communities and criminalizing peasants' struggles, for land, seeds, decent work conditions, food sovereignty. For all those reasons, Via Campesina has been engaged for over 15 years in a process of developing an international instrument to respect, protect, fulfill and uphold peasants' rights. Some allies joined us over the years, and we are now in a very critical moment of getting a „Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and other people working in Rural Areas“ approved in the UN Human Rights Council. The European Coordination Via Campesina (ECVC) engaged in the organisation of the Global Peasant Rights Congress, because it is now crucial to promote the process in Europe, where governments have been most reluctant in the past years. Our actions at a global level wil improve the livelihoods of millions of peasants around the world. We need recognition as political subjects, we need a chance to survive in this world!

We wish all participants fruitful discussions in this very important Congress !

Genevievé Savigny, Paula Gioia, Sandra Moreno

Member of the European Coordination Via Campesina & Part of the Congress' Steering Committee



Peter Peters

The German Agency for Development/Deutsche Entwicklungsgesellschaft DEG is supporting this important International Congress in order to strenghten the basic rights of the indigene and small scale farmers worldwide to improve their living conditions and enable them a fair share in economic developments, this as well in accordance to the UN Sustainable Development Goals SDG's.



# Pre-Evening Program: World Organic Forum

Tuesday 07/03/2017

Opening & Introduction 07<sup>00</sup> p.m  
Rudolf Bühler/Initiator & Host of the  
Congress, Chair of Foundation House of  
Farmers and BESH

„The Future of World Food Matters and the  
Role of small Producers“  
Prof. Hartmut Vogtmann/  
University Kassel

„Population, Nutrition and Limits of Grow“  
Prof. Ernst-Ulrich von Weizsaecker/  
President of the Club of Rome

Discussion



Prof. Ernst Ulrich  
von Weizsäcker

## The pioneer of sustainable economy

Prof. Ernst Ulrich von Weizsäcker has been Co-President of the Club of Rome since 2012. At the beginning of his career, von Weizsäcker served as professor and director of several universities and institutes, such as the UN Centre for Science and Technology for Development. In 1991, he became founding President of the Wuppertal Institute, which developed into a leading think tank on energy efficiency, material flows and climate policy. From 1998 to 2005 he was Member of the German Bundestag, chairing the Committees on Globalization and the Environment. He then served as Dean of the graduate School of Environmental Science and Management at the University of California. In 2007, he was appointed Co-Chair (with Ashok Khosla) of UNEP's International Resource Panel.



Prof. Dr. Dr. mult  
Hartmut Vogtmann

## The research legend of organic farming

Hartmut "Hardy" Vogtmann studied agriculture and food science. Until 1981 he lead the research institute for organic farming in Oberwil (Switzerland), then he was professor at the university of Kassel in the faculty agriculture where he gave lectures and researched on organic farming. Since 1994 Vogtmann was president of the ministry of regional development and agriculture in the German state Hessen. In 1999 he became the president of the federal office for nature conservation. Since his retirement he engages on a voluntary basis as president of the foundation Euronatur and as first vice-president of the German Nature Ring, the umbrella organization of the German environmental associations.

# Program

Wednesday 08/03/2017

09<sup>00</sup> a.m Neubausaal Schwäbisch Hall

Opening of the congress  
Rudolf Bühler/  
Chair of Foundation House of Farmers and  
BESH



Rudolf Bühler



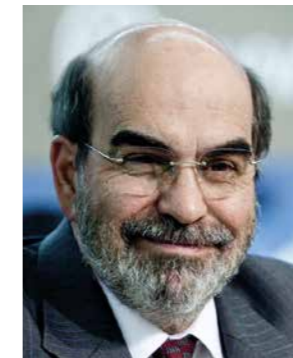
Elizabeth Mpofu

Elizabeth Mpofu/  
General Secretary of La Via Campesina  
(LVC), Zimbabwe

09<sup>30</sup> a.m Keynote speech:  
„Why does the international community  
should increase the support and protection  
of the rights of peasants and other rural  
people?“  
José Graziano da Silva/Director General of  
FAO (video-message)



Klaus Töpfer  
©Schulzendorff



José Graziano da Silva

09<sup>40</sup> a.m  
Keynote speech:  
„Global Development and the Role of Far-  
mers.“  
Klaus Töpfer/former Director of UNEP



Nardi Suxo



Henry Saragih

10<sup>10</sup> a.m  
„The Consultations in the Working Group of  
the UNHRC on the Draft Declaration.“  
Nardi Suxo Iturry/Ambassador of Bolivia  
in Geneva and Chair of the Intergovern-  
mental WG

10<sup>30</sup> a.m  
„Why do we need to be concerned? Out of a  
peasant's perspective“  
Henry Saragih/Serikat Petani Indonesia,  
International Coordination Committee of  
LVC

10<sup>50</sup> a.m Break

# Program

## Wednesday 08/03/2017



Prof. Godula Kosack



Sandra Moreno

11<sup>15</sup> a.m  
 „Small Talk Panel: The recognition of peasantry as rights holders: the voices of people working in rural areas rise up“  
**Margaret Nakato/WFF Uganda**  
**Khalid Khaleyeb/WAMIP Jordan**  
**Federico Pacheco/SOC Spain**  
**Perla Alvarez/Conamuri Paraguay**  
**Jean Ari/SPI Indonesia**  
**Walter Haefeker/Beekeepers Europe**



Francisco Mari



Harald Ebner

12<sup>00</sup> p.m  
 buzz-group talks, Interviews from the floor  
 Interviewer: **Sandra Moreno und Francisco Mari**

12<sup>30</sup> - 02<sup>00</sup> p.m  
 Lunch

02<sup>00</sup> p.m  
 „The International Day of Women and the Rights of Rural Women“  
**Prof. Godula Kosack/Chair of Terre des Femme Germany**



Prof. Bernd Freyer



Juma Ali Juma

02<sup>20</sup> p.m  
 „The Agricultural Policy of the EU from a Human Rights' Perspective“  
**Harald Ebner/Member of German Parliament, Agricultural Spokesman for Agriculture**

02<sup>30</sup> p.m  
 „From Colonial Liberation to Peasants' Struggle Today“  
**Juma Ali Juma/Secretary of the Agricultural Ministry, Zanzibar**

## Wednesday 08/03/2017



Jan Douwe van der Ploeg



Dr. Adriana Bessa

02<sup>40</sup> p.m  
 Depeasantization- Repeasantization: New Scientific Insight  
**Prof. Jan Douwe van der Ploeg/ University Wageningen, NL**

03<sup>10</sup> p.m  
 Panel with Keynote Speakers  
 Discussion with the Audience, Questions to the Speakers of the Day

03<sup>30</sup> - 04<sup>00</sup> p.m  
 Break

04<sup>00</sup> p.m  
 Legal Panel concerning Peasants' Rights  
 “Why do we need a UN-Declaration on peasant rights? A legal assessment“  
**Dr. Adriana Bessa/Geneva Academy**  
**Prof. Smita Narula/Hunters University Roosevelt House, New York**  
**Prof. Dieter Schweizer/CEDR Brussels**  
**Gastón Chillier/CELS Buenos Aires**

05<sup>20</sup> p.m  
 Procedural Matters – Introduction into the Deliberations of the Next Day

07<sup>00</sup> p.m  
 Invitation by BESH: Festive Farmers' Dinner  
**Honorable Guest Keynote: Carlo Petrini/ Founder of the International Slow Food Movement**  
**Special Guests:**  
**Friedlinde Gurr-Hirsch/State Secretary BW**  
**Matthias Krön/Chairman Danube Soya Vienna**



Prof. Smita Narula



Prof. Dieter Schweizer



Gastón Chillier



Carlo Petrini



Friedlinde Gurr-Hirsch



Matthias Krön

# Program

## Thursday 09/03/2017

Begin 09<sup>00</sup> a.m Schwäbisch Hall  
Venue: in the Working Group Meeting Places, Schwäbisch Hall (see Conference Map)

### 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, to market access, decent income and fair trade conditions.
- 4) Rights to biodiversity and protection of indigenous knowledge
- 5) Civil rights and increasing repression and criminalization

02<sup>00</sup> p.m

### Regional Working Groups:

- Africa
- Asia
- Latin America
- North America
- Europe
- Germany

05<sup>00</sup> p.m

Exposure trips to rural development projects of BESH and other partners

07<sup>00</sup> p.m

Farmers Dinner in the Regional Farmers' Market of BESH

## Exposure trips

(More Informations in the congress folder)

### Field trip 1

Farm with Swabian-Hall swine and sausage manufacturing  
Tour of the farm "Memmler" including a visit to the Schwäbisch Hällischen Schwine (local breed) and the sausage manufacture - Processing and marketing of quality meat from Schwäbisch Hall PGI

### Field trip 2

Farm with Swabian-Hall swine and slaughterhouse of the BESH  
Tour of the farm "Memmler" including a visit to the Schwäbisch Hällischen Schwine and of the farmer owned slaughterhouse - slaughter and cutting of pigs

### Field trip 3

ECOLAND Herbs & Spices,  
Organic spices manufacture

### Field trip 4

Village cheese dairy in Geifertshofen,  
Organic cheese produced from pasture milk

### Field trip 5

Sheep milk dairy in Langenburg  
Tour of the farm including dairy sheep and cheese production from Demeter certified sheep milk with direct marketing

### Field trip 6

Agricultural family counselling of the "Evangelisches Bauernwerk Württemberg e.V. „Hohenbuch" Tour of the farm including dairy sheep and cheese production from Demeter certified sheep milk with direct marketing



Pat Mooney



Guy Kastler



Michael Windfuhr



Sofia Monsalve

## Friday 10/03/2017

Begin 08<sup>45</sup> a.m Schwäbisch Hall  
Mystica

09<sup>00</sup> a.m

„Think out of the Box: Technological Change and the Rights of Peasants"  
Pat Mooney/ETC Group Canada  
Guy Kastler/Réseau Semences Paysannes, France

„Can Human Rights be an Instrument to Improve the Situation of Peasants around the world?"

Michael Windfuhr/German Institut for Human Rights, Berlin

10<sup>00</sup> a.m

Resolution: Introduction of a Draft and Reactions - Message of the Congress

Sofia Monsalve Suárez/FIAN-International

11<sup>00</sup> a.m

Political Panel: What can we expect from the European Governments?

Simon Zbinden/Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Switzerland

Dr. Regina Pinto/Ministry of Agriculture Portugal

Dr. Stefan Schmitz/Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development Germany  
Francisco Cali/Ambassador of Guatemala in Germany

12<sup>30</sup> p.m

Closing Words

Rudolf Bühler/Host of the Congress

12.45 p.m: Lunch

02<sup>00</sup> p.m

End of the Congress

# Thematic Working Groups

## Program

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9<sup>00</sup> a.m to 12<sup>30</sup> p.m

Introduction

Moderators explain the methodology to be followed in each working group and Introduces the other persons that will contribute actively with the development of the WG: partners, LVC leaders, Constituencies, legal alliances

09<sup>30</sup> a.m

Working Groups are established:

- 1) The working groups will be composed by approx. 50 to 80 people.
- 2) Working groups will then be seated according to language groups.

09<sup>30</sup> a.m

Working groups begin the discussion:

1. The moderator of the Working Groups introduce the main lines and objectives.
2. Some affected persons from different social groups and continents have been pre-selected to present shortly their cases (max 5 minutes each).
3. The floor is opened for the other participants to share their experiences in terms of the problems they face regarding the rights at stake.

During the discussion the moderators will explicitly ask about the specific situation lived by

- 1) women
- 2) youth
- 3) rural workers,
- 4) fisher people,
- 5) shepherd in rural areas

10<sup>15</sup> a.m

A resource person, who is experienced with the subject, tries to summarize the case studies and presents an analysis.

10<sup>30</sup> a.m

Coffeebreak

10<sup>45</sup> a.m

The „Legal Advisor“ to the WG presents

- 1) the structure of the draft article and highlights its key elements; 2) explains how the draft article speaks to the problems identified in the previous session.

11<sup>15</sup> a.m

The WG splits up in Sub-Working Groups according to language groups to discuss the subject and legal matter

11<sup>45</sup> a.m

The moderator turns now to the last point of exchanging how the right of peasants and other rural people can be promoted. He or she requests the participants to share their ideas and experiences on this.

12<sup>15</sup> - 12<sup>30</sup> p.m

The Rapporteur summarizes the results of the discussion in the way as he / she wants to present it to the Drafting Committee.

## Working Group 1

### Right to land and natural resources and land/resource grabbing

9<sup>00</sup> a.m to 12<sup>30</sup> p.m

Altes Schlachthaus (old slaughter house)

Haalstraße 9

Languages: EN, FR, ES

#### Objectives:

- Identify and characterize what are the problems and patterns of discrimination and violations faced by peasants and other rural people

- Identify and characterize what are the specific problems and patterns of discrimination suffered by
  - 1) women
  - 2) youth
  - 3) rural workers
  - 4) fisher people
  - 5) shepherd

- Get familiarized with the existing draft declaration and analyse whether it sufficiently reflects/captures the essence of the problems on the ground.

- Make proposals for improving the draft declaration and discuss ways to promote the rights of peasants and other rural people.

The Working Group will deal with violations of peasants' rights to land, water bodies, coastal seas, fisheries, pastures and forests. We will listen to the stories of representatives of affected communities and how they got victimized by the attempts to grab their land and natural resources. We will gain an understanding about the un-

derlining forces that are prevailing to push local people from the use of the resources of nature. The relevant articles from the Draft Declaration of the Geneva Negotiations will be interpreted on the basis, whether they might give a better shield of protection to the victims.

#### Facilitators:

Alessa Heuser (Misereor)  
Andrea Müller-Frank (Bread for the World)  
Lena Michelsen (Inkota)  
Marita Wiggerthale (Oxfam)  
Prof. Bernhard Freyer

#### Moderator:

Marita Wiggerthale

#### Responsibles for La Via Campesina to the WG:

Henry Saragih (SPI) Indonesia  
Diego Montón (MNCI-CLOC) Argentina  
Paula Gioia (ABL-ECVC) Germany

#### Constituencies:

Margaret Nakato (WFF) Uganda  
Jorge Varela (WFFP) Honduras

Analytical Resource Person: N.N.

#### Legal Resource Persons:

Aruna Smita  
Melik Özdem

Rapporteur: N.N.

# Thematic Working Groups

## Working Group 2

### Right to Seeds and the Challenge to New GMO and Emerging Technologies

9<sup>00</sup> a.m to 12<sup>30</sup> p.m  
Hospitalkirche / Goethe-Institut  
Languages: EN, FR, ES,

#### Objectives:

- Identify and characterize what are the problems and patterns of discrimination and violations faced by peasants and other rural people
- Identify and characterize what are the specific problems and patterns of discrimination suffered by
  - 1) women
  - 2) youth
  - 3) rural workers
  - 4) fisher people
  - 5) shepherd
- Get familiarized with the existing draft declaration and analyse whether it sufficiently reflects/captures the essence of the problems on the ground.
- Make proposals for improving the draft declaration and discuss ways to promote the rights of peasants and other rural people.

The Working Group will deal with violations of the rights to seeds and what are the different challenges faced by peasant communities. The discussion will also consider the situation faced regarding the new GMOs and the emerging technologies and their impacts on the human rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas. We will listen to the stories of representati-

ves from affected communities and peasant struggles towards the recognition of the rights to save, store, exchange, transport, donate, sell or give away the seeds, plants and animal breed they hold or develop. The relevant articles from the Draft Declaration of the Geneva Negotiations will be interpreted on the basis, whether they might give a better shield of protection to the victims.

#### Facilitators:

Ester Wolf  
Christof Potthoff  
Uschi Bittner

#### Moderator:

Karin Ulmer

#### Responsibles for La Via Campesina to the WG:

Guy Kastler (ECVC) France  
Elisabeth Mpofu (LVC) Zimbabwe  
Ramona Duminiciou (ECVC) Roumania

#### Constituencies:

Khalid Khawaldeh (WAMIP) Jordans

**Analytical Resource Person:** N.N.

#### Legal Resource Persons:

Adriana Bessa

**Rapporteur:** N.N.

## Working Group 3

### Right to Food, Income and Means of Production, Access to Markets and Fair Shares/Trade

9<sup>00</sup> a.m to 12<sup>30</sup> p.m  
Jugendherberge (Youth Hostel)  
Languages: EN

#### Objectives:

- Identify and characterize what are the problems and patterns of discrimination and violations faced by peasants and other rural people
- Identify and characterize what are the specific problems and patterns of discrimination suffered by
  - 1) women
  - 2) youth
  - 3) rural workers
  - 4) fisher people
  - 5) shepherd
- Get familiarized with the existing draft declaration and analyse whether it sufficiently reflects/captures the essence of the problems on the ground.
- Make proposals for improving the draft declaration and discuss ways to promote the rights of peasants and other rural people.

The Working Group will deal with violations of the rights to food and the means of production necessary to achieve a decent income and livelihood for peasants and other people living in rural areas and their families and communities. We will listen to the stories of representatives from affected communities and peasant struggles towards the recognition of the rights to markets that

provide fair and transparent prices that adequately remunerate their work and investments. The working group will listen as well to the proposals from agroecology production model, including contractual arrangements that ensure that conditions and prices are fair and stable and that facilitates direct farmer to consumer sales and other commercialisation schemes that ensure decent income to peasants and other people working in rural areas. The relevant articles from the Draft Declaration of the Geneva Negotiations will be interpreted on the basis, whether they might give a better shield of protection to the victims.

#### Facilitators:

Veselina Vaseleva

#### Moderator:

Gertrud Falk

#### Responsibles for La Via Campesina to the WG:

Geneviève Savigny (ECVC) France

#### Constituencies:

Mamadou Goita (ROPPA) Mali  
Judith Hitchman (Urgenci) France  
Christian Adams (WFFP) South Africa

**Analytical Resource Person:** Afsar Jafri

#### Legal Resource Persons:

Priscilla Claeys

**Rapporteur:** N.N.



# Thematic Working Groups

## Working Group 4

### Right to Biodiversity and Protection of Indigenous Knowledge

9<sup>00</sup> a.m to 12<sup>30</sup> p.m

Neubausaal Upstairs

Languages: EN, FR, DE (ES to be confirmed)

#### Objectives:

- Identify and characterize what are the problems and patterns of discrimination and violations faced by peasants and other rural people
- Identify and characterize what are the specific problems and patterns of discrimination suffered by
  - 1) women
  - 2) youth
  - 3) rural workers
  - 4) fisher people
  - 5) shepherd
- Get familiarized with the existing draft declaration and analyse whether it sufficiently reflects/captures the essence of the problems on the ground.
- Make proposals for improving the draft declaration and discuss ways to promote the rights of peasants and other rural people.

The Working Group will deal with violations of the rights to conserve, use, maintain and develop biodiversity and associated traditional knowledge, including in agriculture, fishing, bee-keeping and livestock rearing. We will listen to the stories of representatives from affected communities and peasant struggles regarding the dispossession, destruction and contamination of local bio-

diversity and other threats to biological diversity and indigenous knowledge that may include the implementation of commercial agreements, intellectual property rights and others. The relevant articles from the Draft Declaration of the Geneva Negotiations will be interpreted on the basis, whether they might give a better shield of protection to the victims.

#### Facilitators:

Rüdiger Stegemann

#### Moderator:

Yogitu Rai

#### Responsibles for La Via Campesina to the WG:

Ndiakhate Fall (CNCR - LVC), Senegal

#### Constituencies:

Saul Vicente (IITC) Mexico

Ibrahim Coulibaly (ROPPA) Mali

Lalji Desai

Christoph Zimmer (animal breeding)

#### Analytical Resource Person:

Antonio Onorati

#### Legal Resource Persons:

Sofia Monsalve

#### Rapporteur:

Muhammad Ikhwan (SPI - LVC)

## Working Group 5

### Civil Rights, Increasing Repression and Criminalization

9<sup>00</sup> a.m to 12<sup>30</sup> p.m

Neubausaal Erdgeschoss

Languages: EN, ES

#### Objectives:

- Identify and characterize what are the problems and patterns of discrimination and violations faced by peasants and other rural people
- Identify and characterize what are the specific problems and patterns of discrimination suffered by
  - 1) women
  - 2) youth
  - 3) rural workers
  - 4) fisher people
  - 5) shepherd
- Get familiarized with the existing draft declaration and analyse whether it sufficiently reflects/captures the essence of the problems on the ground.
- Make proposals for improving the draft declaration and discuss ways to promote the rights of peasants and other rural people.

The Working Group will address violations of the right to freedom of association, justice, thought, opinion and expression, the right to life, liberty, and security of the person and the freedom of movement. The group will link the internationally recognized human rights and freedoms to the overall context of repression and criminalization in different parts of the world against peasant

movements. Taking into account the hostile environment faced by peasant communities and that there has been an increase misuse of national legislation by States in order to justify violations to the rights of human rights defenders, we will assess the relevant articles incorporated to the advanced draft of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants. Conclusions will be drawn on the basis of the group's shared experiences and the different interpretations regarding the scope of protection the current text could potentially provide to the victims.

#### Facilitators:

George Fernandez (Fimarc) Germany

#### Moderator:

Andrea Nuila (FIAN) Germany

#### Responsibles for La Via Campesina to the WG:

Tchenna Maso (MAB-LVC)

Aleyda Aragón (CLOC-LVC)

#### Constituencies:

Rodion Sulyandziga (CSIPN)

Russian Far East

#### Analytical Resource Person:

Eneko Gerrikabeita (Mundubat)

#### Legal Resource Persons:

Gastón Chillier (CELS) Argentina

Rapporteur: N.N.

# Regional Working Groups

02<sup>00</sup> to 05<sup>30</sup> p.m

## Objectives:

- To make a regional assessment of the relevance of the Rights of Peasants Declaration to the region's specific political context.
- Discuss this also from the perspective of various affected social groups in rural areas (fisherfolk, pastoralists, landless, livestock raising, bee-keeping, youth, women)
- To identify ways in which the Rights of Peasants Declaration can be supported by the different regions.

## Methodological guidelines:

- Every region discusses the relevance of the Rights of Peasants Declaration taking into account the different specificities in each regional context.
- The working groups identify ways in which the Rights of Peasants Declaration can be supported by the different regions. The moderator brings to the discussion the different political mechanisms (local and international) that might be available.
- Every region chooses a rapporteur who will present to the Drafting Committee:
  1. Why they consider the Declaration is relevant or not to their region and
  2. Ways they have identified how they could support the Declaration

Venues	Thematic Working Group	Regionale Working Group
Altes Schlachthaus (Old Slaughter House) Upper Floor	WG 1 Land issues	Europe
Altes Schlachthaus (Old Slaughter House) downstairs		Germany
Hospitalhof, Church	WG 2 seeds	Africa
Jugendherberge Youth Hostel	WG 3 Right to Food, decent income, markets	Latin America
Neubausaal Assembly Hall Upstairs	WG 4 Biodiv and trad. knowledge	Asia
Neubausaal Assembly Hall downstairs	WG 5 Civil Rights, Criminalization	North America

Panel Wednesday 08/03/2017

## The recognition of peasantry as rights holders: The voice of people working in rural areas rise up

11<sup>15</sup> a.m to 12<sup>30</sup> p.m

The struggle for the recognition of: peasants, pastoralists, fisher folk communities, landless, indigenous peoples, transhumant and nomadic and other traditional communities, hired workers on agricultural farms and plantations as well as in aquaculture and agro-industrial enterprises; in their capacity as rights holders goes hand in hand with their claim for social justice. The systematic discrimination they face is strongly linked to poverty, hunger, loss of livelihood and exclusion of the political, economic and cultural spheres in society.

The current draft declaration of the United Nations on the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas recognizes peasants as legal subjects holding a special protection in relation to the right to land, to seeds and biodiversity, to food sovereignty and to a decent income. On the same note, it recognizes the rights of peasant women and other women working in rural areas and guarantees gender equality in the distribution of productive resources while also recognizing the key role they play in the social building of the territory. Likewise, obligations of States to respect, protect and fulfil peasants' rights have been incorporated in order to enable the adaptation of current universally recognized social rights to the special needs of peasants' lives in rural areas.

This panel will present people from different constituencies that will share their claims for their recognition as political subjects, and their experiences of struggle as rights holders in relation to their different contexts and regions.

Each panelist will have 6 minutes to address to the public. Then we'll have a small buzz talk with the floor so other people coming from other organizations can present themselves or/ and ask questions to the previous panelists.

Moderator:

Sandra Moreno, ECVC

The panel will be composed by:

Lisa Bellanger/Rural Coalition, heritage from Medewinwin, White Earth Nation, Objibwa -USA

Khalid Khawaldeh/World Alliance of Mobile Indigenous Peoples (WAMIP) Board Member, West Asia Regional Coordinator and founder member- Jordan

Margaret Nakato/World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fish Workers (WFF), Executive Director, Uganda

Federico Pacheco/Sindicato Obrero del Campo(SOC-SAT) - Rural Workers Union, Member of the board committee of ECVC Andalusia

Perla Alvarez/Organization of Peasant and Indigenous Women, (Conamuri), member of the coordinating committee, Paraguay

Jean Ari/Serikat Petani Indonesia (SPI) Indonesian Peasants' Union, youth member

Walter Haefeker/President of European Professional Beekeepers Association, Germany



Rudolf Bühler

## The initiator and host of the congress

Rudolf Bühler is a organic farmer living together with his family on the Sonnenhof farm in Wolpertshausen/Hohenlohe. After degrees and studies as Agronomist, Tropical Farming and Rural Sociology, he spent six years for overseas services in Rural Development Projects in Africa, Bangladesh and Syria. 1984 he took over the family farm Sonnenhof from his ancestors and used his international experience to start projects in his home region Hohenlohe on Biodiversity (rescuing old breeds and seeds as the autochtone pig breed Schwäbisch Hällisches Landschwein), Organic Farming (founder of ECOLAND) and marketing of rural products upon the principles of business in solidarity (founder of BESH). His farmers cooperative grew from eight members at the initial stage, to today 1500 who are benefitting through a sustainable income upon the principles of fair prices. Since 2001 he is implementing regional rural partnership projects with peasants in India, Romania, Serbia, Indonesia and Zanzibar under his vision "Seeds of Hope".

2012 he founded the Foundation House of Farmers to unite with colleagues and struggle for fair share, biodiversity, rural culture and the common assets of rural societies leading to a declaration on farmers'/peasants' rights. Rudolf Bühler is host and initiator of the "International Congress for Global Peasants Rights 2017".



Klaus Töpfer  
©Schulzendorff

## „The Elder Statesman of Environmental Issues“ (quote from German news magazine DER SPIEGEL)

Klaus Töpfer has dedicated his life to the preservation of our planet. He is a true world citizen. Or, as DIE ZEIT (another German weekly) once called him: a ‚save-the-world-citizen‘. Born in 1938 in the state of Northrhine-Westphalia and originally a political economist, he started his career at a strictly national level, however. In the Christian Democratic cabinet of Chancellor Helmut Kohl, he served as a Federal Minister, first for the Environment, and later for Regional Planning, Civil Engineering and Urban Development. In 1998, Mr Töpfer finally reached the international arena, when he was appointed Under Secretary General of the United Nations, General Director of the United Nations office in Nairobi and Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (1998 - 2006). In 2009, Mr Töpfer was appointed founding director of the Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS) at Potsdam (Berlin, Germany). Klaus Töpfer is an ardent advocate of the ‚Energiewende‘, recycling economy and protection of soils. In an interview with a German TV station, he called for more money for Africa, for building up rural structures and supporting small-scale farmers



Elizabeth Mpofo

## The Coordinator of Worldwide Small Farmers' Movements

Elizabeth Mpofo is an organic farmer and activist from Shashe in Masvingo, Zimbabwe. She has been dedicating her life to improving the situation of women and small-scale farmers in the world. In Zimbabwe, for instance, she has set up and developed a network for small-scale farmers (ZIMSOFF) that she uses to promote organic farming. In fact, she is active in many regional and national organisations. Presently, she is a member of the steering group of the Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA). Last but not least, Ms Mpofo is General Coordinator of La Via Campesina, which is the highest office in this small-scale farmers' organisation.



Henry Saragih

## The Leader of Small Farmers in Indonesia

British national daily THE GUARDIAN once called Henry Saragih „[the head] of what may be the largest single political movement on Earth“. The quote refers to „La Via Campesina“, a movement fighting for the rights of farmers worldwide. La Via Campesina speaks for more than 200 million small and medium-size farmers in over 90 countries. Henry Saragih was the organisation's General Coordinator for four years. Today, he is a member of the International Coordination Committee. Born the son of an Indonesian farmer, Mr Saragih studied political science and later worked on several farms. He was a protester against the excessive forest clearing, pollution of waters caused by paper mills and international corporations ‚grabbing land‘ in Indonesia. He managed to unite scattered students' groups and formed a protest movement („Federation Serikat Petani Indonesia“) that counts more than 700,000 members today. Henry Saragih has stayed true to his roots. He still owns a small farm in the north of Sumatra where he grows tropical fruits. Mr Saragih demands that, at long last, land be equitably distributed and shared.

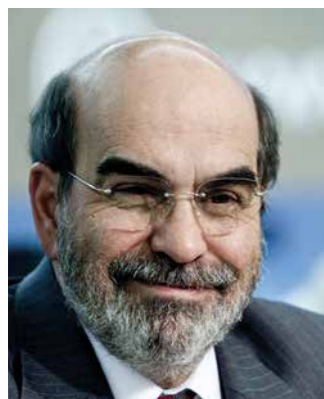


Nardi Suxo

## The U.N. Ambassador

Nardi Suxo Iturry studied law and political science and was a member of the cabinet of Bolivian president Eva Morales. As a Minister of Institutional Transparency and Fight against Corruption, she had the bank secrecy lifted for high-ranking politicians and brought many a well-known businessman behind bars. Her office manager (and son) was beaten up. Her daughter transferred to the Bolivian embassy in Germany for safety reasons. But Ms Suxo Iturry never wavered. Today, she is her country's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Office at Geneva and Chair-Rapporteur of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the draft United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas. Ms Suxo Iturry believes that such a re-affirmation of their rights would be an essential tool for boosting the self-image of country people and, thus, their self-help potentials.

# Speaker



José Graziano da Silva

## The Brazilian who wants to end hunger in the world

José Graziano da Silva fights against hunger in the world. The Brazilian who is at the moment general director of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) developed the campaign “Zero Hunger” in 2001 in his home country. The initiative can only be successful, says the Agronomist, if farmers work sustainable, the waste of food will be reduced and peasants get more income. In the year 2003 Graziano da Silva was charged with the implementation by the Brazilian president Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva who named him Special Minister of Food Security and the Fight against Hunger. Since 2006 he fights against hunger worldwide for the FAO. In 2011 he was elected into the highest position of the organization and 2015 re-elected. The 67 year old claims that peasants should be granted access to land, seeds and water on the whole world.



Prof. Godula Kosack

## The Chairwoman of Terres de Femmes

Godula Kosack is a sociologist and ethnologist. She was born in Mühlhausen/Thuringia (Germany) in 1944. For decades, she conducted scientific research surrounding the Mafa people in northern Cameroon and managed numerous projects. As a board member of Terres des Femmes, Ms Kosack is an unsalaried coordinator of the project „Self-determination through education“ that provides schooling and vocational training to girls in northern Cameroon. She also published books on multiple women-related topics (women in Africa, witch hunts, menopause, patriarchy, worldviews). As a conference speaker and lecturer, she wants to encourage kids, teenagers and adults to expand their horizon and better understand different cultures. Another focus of this scientist's work is her fight against genital mutilation in Africa. Presently, she is a private lecturer at Marburg University and involved in field research in Georgia (Caucasus).



Jan Douwe van der Ploeg

## The Field Worker

Jan Douwe van der Ploeg is a passionate agricultural activist from the Netherlands. As a member of the radical farmers' action group „Boerengroep“, he fought for the rights of farmers in his home country. Having completed multiple study and research projects in South America, Africa and Europe, he became a professor at the universities of Leiden and Wageningen (both NL), undertook more research on agricultural systems in Africa, Europe and Asia and had a stint as a visiting professor at Beijing University. In 2008, he published a ground-breaking book entitled „The New Peasantries“, describing the difficulties small farmers experience defending their independence and sustainability in times of globalisation and industrialisation. In January 2017, he retired at the age of 66. Mr Douwe van der Ploeg has earned himself an international reputation as a ‚dissident‘ agricultural sociologist who has shown that the ‚crafted element‘ of an agriculture carried by small farmers is advancing everywhere.



Dr. Adriana Bessa

## The Human Rights Lawyer

Adriana Bessa is a research fellow at Geneva's Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights (Switzerland). Among other things, she is involved in a project on the rights of small-scale farmers. Between 2008 and 2013, Ms Bessa worked on her Ph.D. at the European University Institute (EUI) in Florence (Italy). Her work is centred on the status that traditional local communities have in international law, with a special focus on the environment, human rights and cultural heritage. Her research has demonstrated how courts of law very often do not have legal foundations for administering justice with respect to the rights of peasants and small farmers. But she was able to show that more and more verdicts are passed to the benefit of local populations by including unwritten laws of the region, e.g. land rights, property of fishing grounds etc. Adriana Bessa teaches international human rights at the universities of Lille (France) and Alicante (Spain).



Prof. Smita Narula

## The researcher and human rights activist from New York

Smita Narula is a human rights scholar and activist who has worked globally to promote and defend access to land and nutritious food as fundamental human rights. Narula has led key research and advocacy initiatives to address the human rights impacts of agricultural and land use policies, paying particular attention to the accountability of corporations and international financial institutions for human rights abuses, and to structural discrimination against communities marginalized on the basis of their race, gender, caste, or indigenous status. Narula is former legal advisor to the U.N. Special Rapporteur on the right to food and is currently a Fellow at the Roosevelt House Public Policy Institute at Hunter College. From 2003 to 2014, she was Faculty Director of the Center for Human Rights and Global Justice at NYU School of Law, and from 1997 to 2003 she served as South Asia researcher at Human Rights Watch. An award-winning writer, Narula has authored dozens of reports and academic articles on human rights-related subjects.



Prof. Dieter Schweizer

## The President of European Agricultural Law Experts

Dieter Schweizer is President of the European Council for Rural Law (C.E.D.R.). The son of a peasant family now holds a doctorate in law and is an irregular professor for agricultural, environmental, European and rural laws at Bonn University (Germany) and head of a related department within the Federal Ministry for Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection. Between 1993 and 2007, Mr Schweizer advised the Hungarian government on restructuring the national agriculture and rural areas and helped to prepare the country for its accession to the EU. In recognition of his services, Mr Schweizer was awarded an honorary doctorate from Miskolc University in 2015.

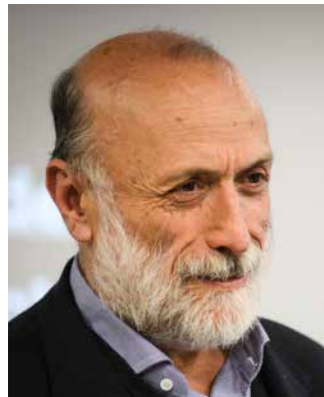
# Speaker



Gastón Chillier

## The researcher on human rights

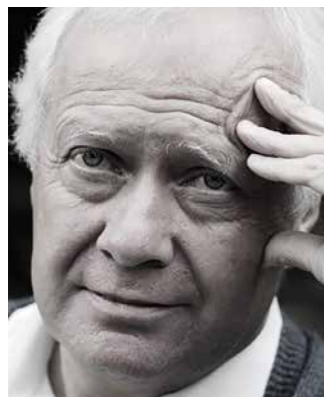
Gastón Chillier is a human rights activist, director of the center for legal and social studies in Buenos Aires and co-chair of the International Network of Civil Liberties Organizations. The researcher from Argentina has published numerous articles on international human rights law and democracy. Chillier studied law at the University of Buenos Aires and international law and human rights at Notre Dame Law School in the United States.



Carlo Petrini

## The Saviour of Food Culture

Carlo Petrini has a favourite dish: pasta with olive oil and parmesan. But only on one condition: they must be „buono, pulito e giusto“ (good, clean and fair). When McDonalds hit Italy in the 1980s, the man from the Piedmont region founded the movement „Slow Food“. And ever since, he has been fighting for foodstuffs to be produced at regional levels, in sustainable ways and respecting appropriate working conditions. Today, Slow Food exists in more than 150 countries. Mr Petrini even established a University of Gastronomic Sciences (UNISG) in northern Italy, and the movement's Terra Madre network promotes farmers and craftspeople who produce locally and sustainably. In an interview with a German newspaper, Mr Petrini predicted that the concept of local production would break through from San Francisco to Düsseldorf once it comes into its own.



Pat Mooney

## The Protector of Diversity

For more than just a couple of decades now, Canadian-born Pat Mooney has been fighting for the preservation of ecological and cultural diversity and human rights. In this context, he founded the Rural Advancement Fund International (RAFI) in 1977, later re-named ETC Group, a global organisation that works closely with civil society groups and social movements all over the world. In autumn 2004, Mr Mooney prevented the Swiss global agribusiness Syngenta from obtaining a patent that would have given them control over dozens of food crops, including rice – one of the most important crops in the world. Mr Mooney received the Right Livelihood Award from the Swedish Parliament and the Pearson Medal of Peace from Canada's Governor General. Now in his 69th year, Mr Mooney is highly critical of the fact that the agricultural industry works 70-80 per cent of arable soils, but produces only 30-40 per cent of globally available foodstuffs, driving small farmers – the real producers of food – from their land and destroying the environment in the process.



Guy Kastler

## The French expert on seeds and biodiversity

Guy Kastler studied philosophy until 1970, then successively worked as farm laborer, winemaker and herdsman/cheese-maker in organic farming in the South of France. He has been a representative of the Confederation of Farmers on Seed Issues and GMOs, a founding member of the French Farmers' Seed Network, and a member of the biodiversity commission of Via Campesina International.



Michael Windfuhr

## The Human-Rights Expert

Throughout his life, Michael Windfuhr has been a fighter for human rights. A former student of German philology, geography and political science, he played an important role in the growth of and held leading offices in the human rights organisation FIAN International (formerly FoodFirst Information and Action Network) over a period of 20 years. During those years, he developed „Voluntary Guidelines on the Progressive Realisation of the Right to Adequate Food“ that the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) adopted unanimously in 2004. In 2006, Mr Windfuhr took over the human rights office of the social welfare organisation of Germany's Protestant churches („Diakonie“). Furthermore, he was a lecturer at the Political Science Department of Heidelberg University for many years. Since 2011, he has been a deputy director of the German Institute for Human Rights. In April 2016, the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) elected Mr Windfuhr a member of the U.N. Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights for a term of four years (2017-2020).



Harald Ebner

## The Greens' politician from Hohenlohe

Harald Ebner is member of the German parliament as a representative of the political party the Greens. He is spokesman for genetic engineering and organic economy policy. The agricultural engineer has worked for seven years as a freelance and eleven years as a salaried countryside ecologist for the German state Baden-Württemberg. As a politician the 52 year old man from the region Hohenlohe engages for agriculture without GMO and pesticides. He for instance was against the use of Glyphosate in Europe.

# LAND FOR THE FEW

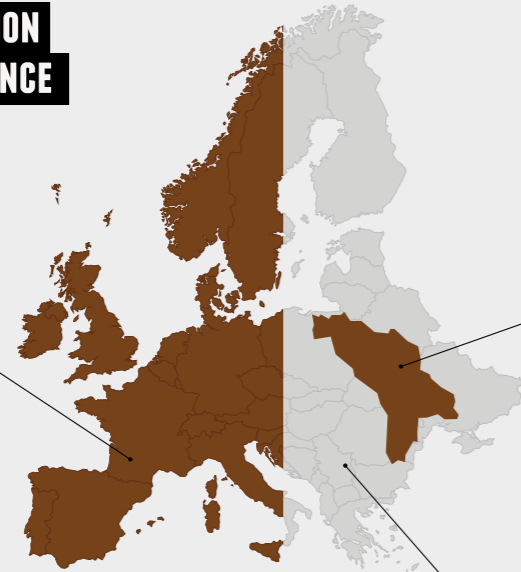
## THE STATE OF LAND CONCENTRATION IN EUROPE

### LAND CONCENTRATION IN EUROPE AT A GLANCE

3% OF FARMS >100ha

OWN 52% OF FARM LAND

336,000 farms control almost 91 million ha



WHILE 75% OF FARMS < 10ha

OWN 11% OF FARM LAND

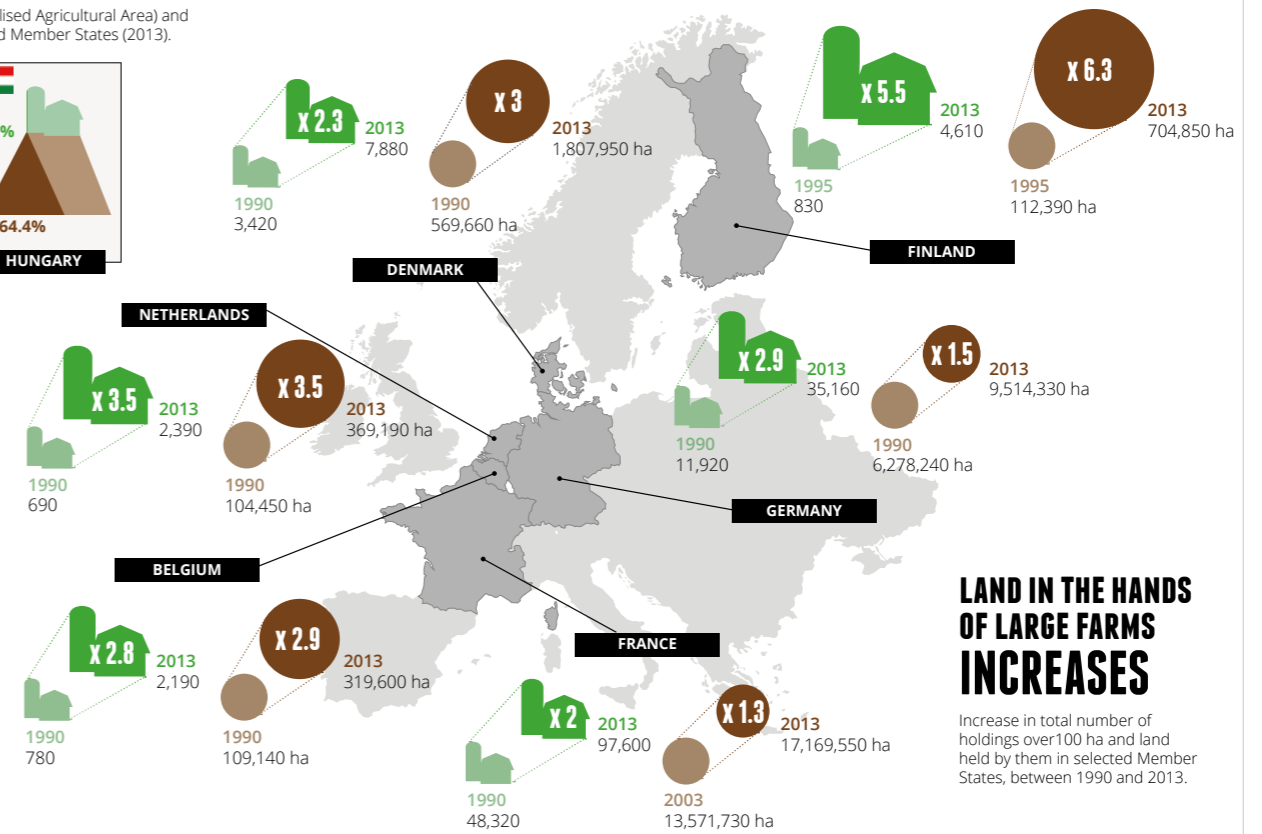
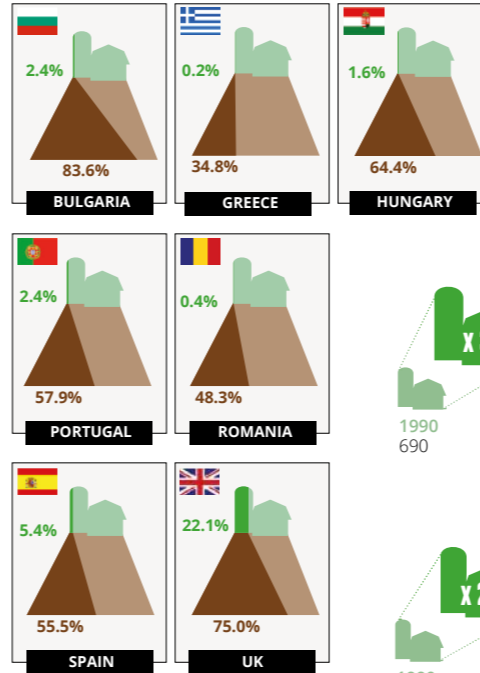
8 million farms control 19 million hectares

20% of farms, between 10 and 100 ha, control 37%

# LARGE-SCALE FARMING SPREADS ACROSS THE EU

## THE LARGEST FARMS CONTROL THE LARGEST LAND AREA

Farms >100 ha: Total UAA (Utilised Agricultural Area) and number of holdings in selected Member States (2013).

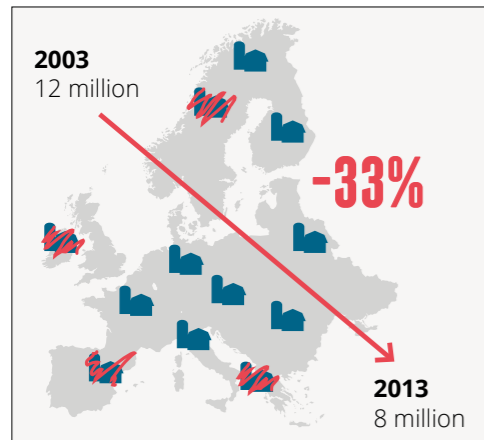


### LAND IN THE HANDS OF LARGE FARMS INCREASES

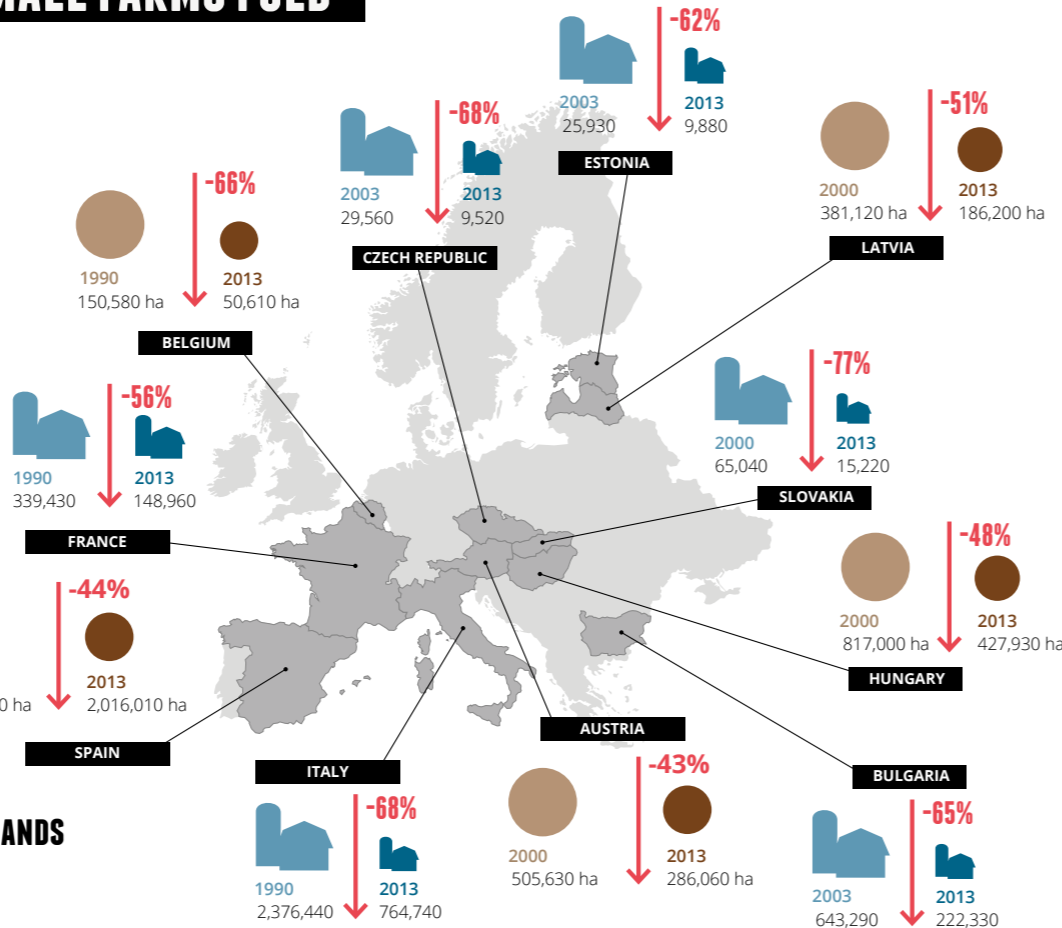
Increase in total number of holdings over 100 ha and land held by them in selected Member States, between 1990 and 2013.

# AS SMALL FARMS FOLD

OVER THE LAST DECADE THE EU LOST A THIRD OF ITS SMALL FARMS



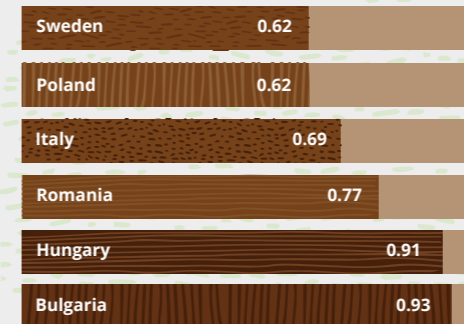
THROUGHOUT THE EU SMALL FARMS ARE DISAPPEARING & THE PERCENTAGE OF LAND IN THE HANDS OF SMALL FARMERS IS SHRINKING



# STRUCTURAL LAND INEQUALITY IN THE EU

## MEASURE OF FARMLAND INEQUALITY

for selected Member States in 2013



LAND IN THE EU IS MORE UNEVENLY DISTRIBUTED THAN WEALTH in 2013



Gini coefficient for wealth: 0.3  
Gini coefficient for farmland: 0.82

THE GINI COEFFICIENT IS A MEASURE OF INEQUALITY ON SCALE OF 0 - 1. A zero coefficient means that, in the case of farmland distribution, all agricultural holdings hold the same amount of farmland. A coefficient of 1.0 means that, in the case of farmland, a single agricultural holding holds all the farmland. For wealth, the Gini coefficient refers to the distribution of financial wealth amongst households.

Holdings <10 ha  
Holdings >100ha  
Utilised Agricultural Area (UAA)



Source: Eurostat. TNI's complete data set of fully referenced statistics for all EU members can be found here: <https://www.tni.org/en/files/documents/land-for-the-few-the-state-of-land-concentration-in-europe-database-for-all-eu>



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