

# NEWS & VIEWS

## Anuradha Mittal Named Co-director of Food First

BY PETER ROSSET, CO-DIRECTOR

**F**ood First's most widely recognized and respected program staff person, ex-Policy Director Anuradha Mittal, has been named co-director of the Institute. As of August 2000, she and I will co-direct Food First.

This is a very exciting development for all staff and friends of Food First. Anuradha brings incredible talent, charisma, name recognition, and institution-building skills to the co-directorship. As an eloquent advocate on issues of hunger and poverty in America and around the world, she brings a powerful economic and social human rights perspective to the core Food First issues.



As policy director, she has presided over our *Economic Human Rights: The Time Has Come!* campaign, which brings together nearly 200 groups from around the country and has made headlines with ad hoc Congressional hearings, the economic human rights bus tour, and the book and film, *America Needs Human Rights*.

Another part of her job has been to provide leadership to the Institute in increasing our media presence—a central component of our work to re-shape the national and international debate on key social and economic issues. Thanks to her skill and dedication, Food First is now routinely seen and heard in both alternative and mainstream media,

## Working Together to End Hunger

By Anuradha Mittal, Co-director

**I** am honored to join Peter Rosset as the co-director of Food First, having worked as policy director with him since 1995. Recent months have been an energizing and critical time for all of us. We have joined with others to challenge policies that promote free trade at any cost, corporate control of our food system, well-funded right wing think tanks, and the policies of the World Bank, International Monetary Fund, and the World Trade Organization.

Under Peter's leadership and through a well-planned communications strategy and cutting-edge activism, Food First has helped shape the political debate and set the agenda. Using the framework of economic human rights, we have challenged the sense of hopelessness and indifference about hunger and poverty around the world and in the United States.

I am very proud of Food First's contribution to the struggle for global justice, and am dedicated to continue expanding our organizing, advocacy, and education-for-action efforts. Our goal is to inspire a whole new generation to fight for change, provide the analysis that will shatter the myths that disempower us from taking action, and seize the initiative from conservative forces to set the agenda.

I cherish our members and supporters, for continuing to support our values, commitment, and our vision of a world without hunger and poverty. We have very ambitious plans for the future and I will count on our continued partnership in the struggle. Together we are working toward that goal.

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See back page for  
information on our  
25th Anniversary  
Celebration Event

**FOODFIRST**

1975—2000

25

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JOBS & JUSTICE

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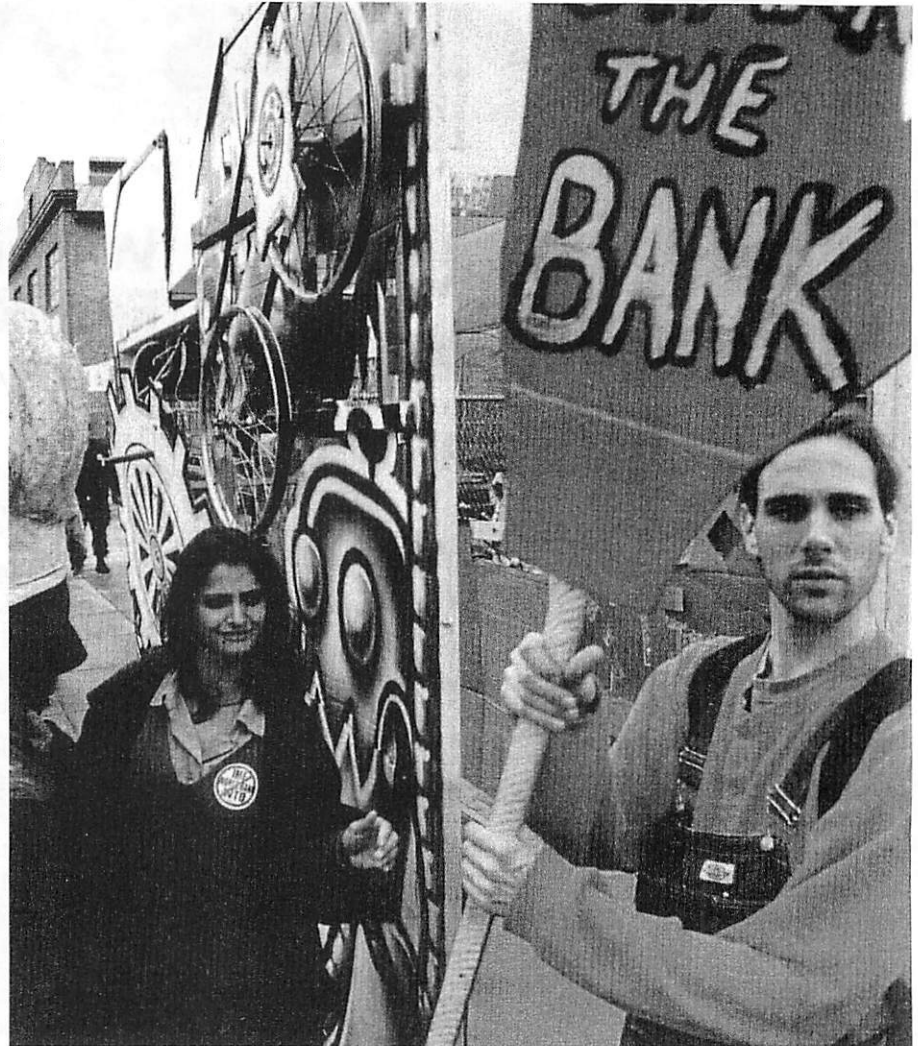
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**FOOD FIRST** empowers citizens to address  
the root cause of hunger, poverty, and  
environmental decline. Our research and  
educational materials reveal how anti-demo-  
cratic institutions and belief systems promote  
hunger and environmental destruction.

Photograph copyright © 1999 Seth Rick



Co-director Anuradha Mittal at the A-16 Mobilization Against the World Bank, Washington, DC.

including *The New York Times*, CNN, PBS, National Public Radio, Pacifica Radio, *International Herald Tribune*, Knight-Ridder newspapers, and elsewhere.

Anuradha is a sought-after speaker and writer on biotechnology and the perspective of Third World nations; the World Trade Organization, International Monetary Fund, and World Bank; and on countless other issues. She has also been instrumental in our successful foundation fundraising program at Food First.

Moving to a co-director system makes Food First much stronger. It also permits the kind of flexibility that will allow me to carry out my Food First work from Chiapas, Mexico for the next two years. I will be on 90 percent leave from my co-directorship during this time, while still working full-time for the Institute. I will be coordinating our Re-Shaping the Global Food System program, including our work on biotechnology, industrial agriculture, land reform, agroecology, and sustainable agriculture. I will travel frequently for speaking, research, and coalition-building, including many trips back the home office in Oakland.

In addition to her uniquely co-directorship responsibilities, Anuradha will continue to coordinate our Economic and Social Human Rights program and oversee our communications strategy. With these changes, we hope to provide you, our supporters, with a more effective Institute.

# Food First Helps Iowa State Go to Cuba

A delegation of twelve agricultural professionals from Iowa State University traveled to Cuba with Food First in May 2000, in order to investigate the possibility of establishing a permanent partnership between Iowa State and the Agrarian University of Havana (UNAH). The delegation was composed of nine scientists, including the Henry A. Wallace Chair of Sustainable Agriculture, and three farmers who work for the University Extension Services. The delegation met with representatives from the UNAH, as well as mem-

bers of the Institutes for Pastures and Forages, Animal Sciences, and Fundamental Research in Tropical Agriculture.

Delegates began the process of signing a memorandum of understanding between the two universities that would allow Iowa State graduate students to study at the UNAH, bring Cuban professors to teach in Iowa, and allow for a joint research project on state-sponsored extension services.

An important collaboration was established between swine farmers in Iowa

and Cuba. Iowa is the country's largest producer of swine, and Iowa State has been researching sustainable waste management practices. The Cubans have developed closed system swine production in which wastes are processed in a biodigester that creates methane gas and a potent fertilizer. The Institute for Animal Sciences invited Jerry Weiss, of Iowa Practical Farmers, to attend the Cuban National Swine Conference, and two Cuban researchers will attend the International Swine Expo 2001 that takes place in Iowa next May.



Photograph by Fernando Funes

Delegates from Iowa State University and Food First's Martin Bourque meet with representatives from the Institute of Pastures and Forages in Havana, Cuba.

## OTHER CUBA NEWS

Food First's Cuba program is expanding its mission to extend the use of safe, accessible, and affordable technologies around the world. We are facilitating partnerships between Cuban extensionists and organizations in Laos, Haiti, and Oakland, California. These strategic alliances will expand the use of sustainable technologies and allow both governments and NGOs to communicate and support each other in the struggle to create healthier food, farms, and farmers.

Both Laos and Haiti are interested in the Cuban advances in biological pest control, a method of controlling destructive insects and diseases by using insect pathogens and predators and botanical extracts. Earlier this year, specialists from the Agrarian University of Havana conducted a two month study in Laos to build a production site for such products. We will help organize a similar visit to Haiti in 2001. Food First is also building linkages between the growing food security movement in the Bay Area and Cuba's successful urban gardens.





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**YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO JOIN US IN CELEBRATING  
25 YEARS OF FOOD FIRST'S FIGHT AGAINST HUNGER**

Monday, September 18, 2000 • California Ballroom  
Tickets are \$100 per person/sponsorships available

**SPECIAL GUEST**

Vandana Shiva, Director of the Research Foundation for Science, Technology, and Ecology in New Delhi

**25TH ANNIVERSARY HONOREES INCLUDE:**

- our founders Frances Moore Lappé and Joseph Collins
- Nick Allen and Kit Miller for Neighbor-to-Neighbor
- Medea Benjamin and Kevin Danaher for Global Exchange
- Monica Moore for Pesticide Action Center North America
- Rolf Künneemann for FoodFirst Information and Action Network (FIAN)
- Shyaam Shabaka for Bay Area Coalition for Urban Agriculture
- Martha Russell for Share-It-Now Foundation
- and Crosby Milne for Center for Effective Action.

Music by environmental activist Dana Lyons and Kevin Welch of Vivendo de Páo

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