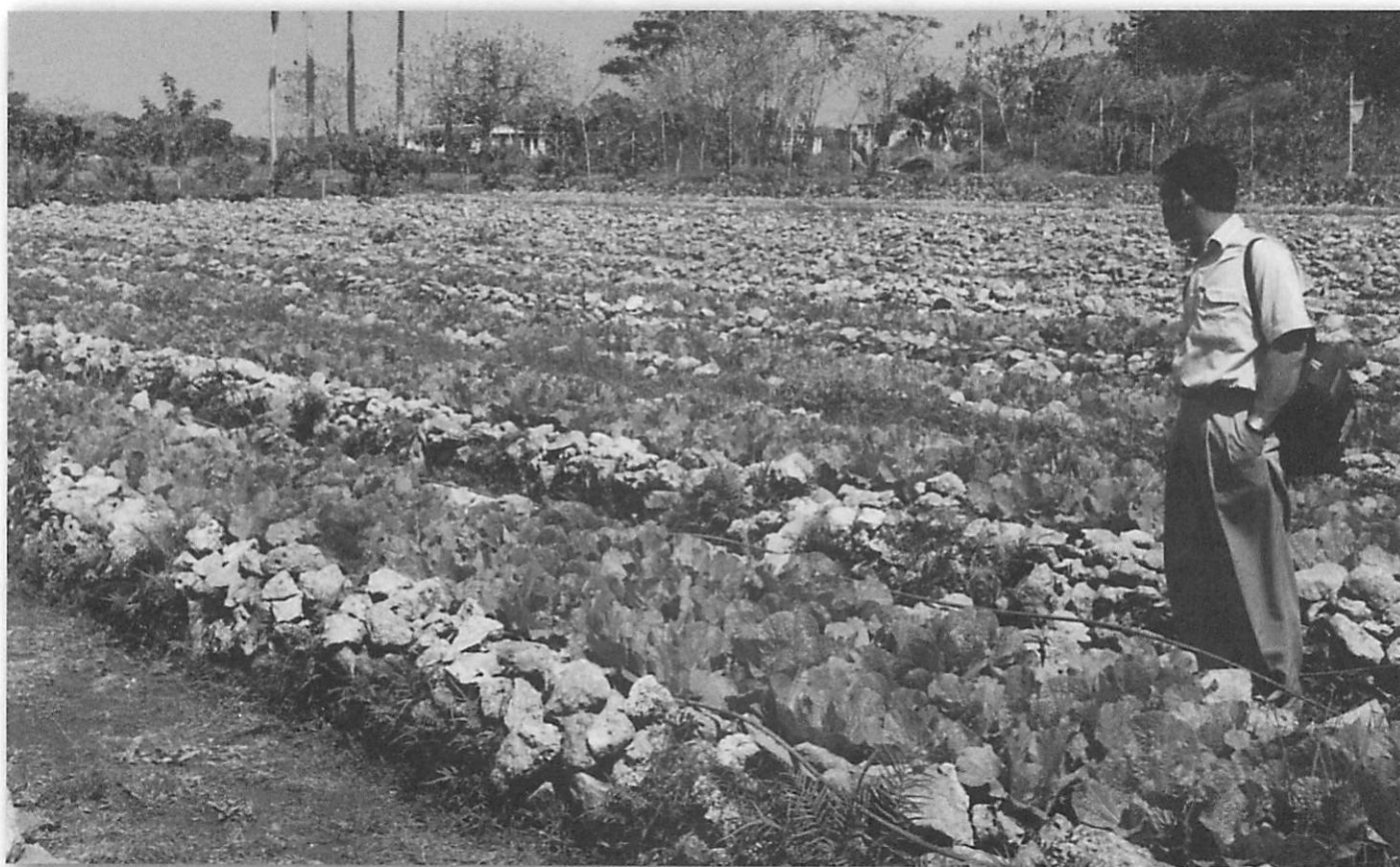


NEWS *and* **VIEWS**

FALL 2000

VOLUME 22 • NUMBER 79



PHOTOGRAPH BY SHEPARD SMITH

Indonesian agronomist Zamzami surveys a field of intercropped lettuces at the Alamar Nursery Cooperative in Cuba during the Food First delegation in February 2000.

FOOD FIRST'S PROGRAM IN CUBA:*Expanding Sustainable Agriculture Programs Around the World*

For the last seven years, Food First has been working with its partners in Cuba to support this country's nationwide conversion to sustainable agriculture. Agronomists and farmers from around the world have been taking an interest in Cuba's successes, and Food First has played an important role in this increased awareness through our publications, speaking tours, and delegations. In February of 2001 Food First will lead the fifth Sustainable Agriculture Delegation to Cuba, in May we will co-sponsor the IV International Encounter on Organic Agriculture in Havana, and in the fall we will release a new book of essays by Cubans describing their transition to sustainable technologies.

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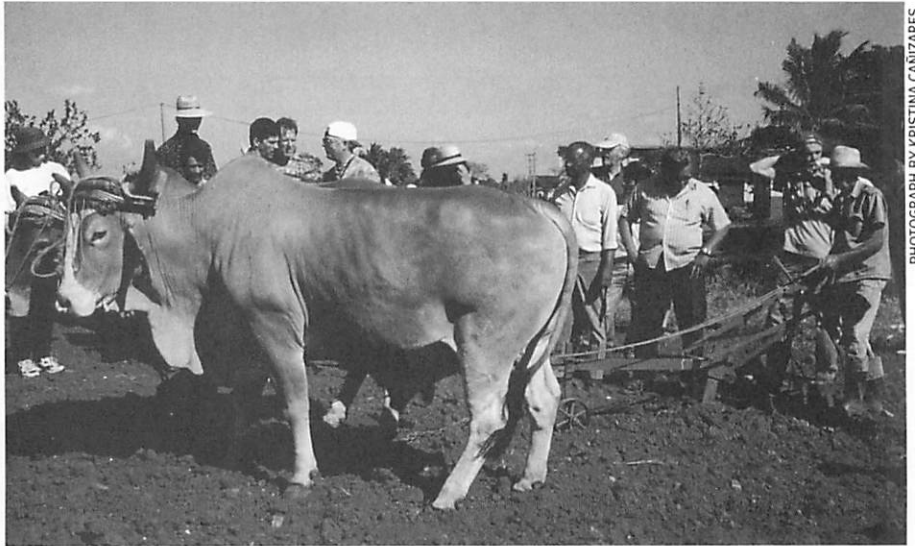
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FOOD FIRST empowers citizens to address the root cause of hunger, poverty, and environmental decline. Our research and educational materials reveal how anti-democratic institutions and belief systems promote hunger and environmental destruction.



PHOTOGRAPH BY KRISTINA CAÑIZARES

Members of the February 2000 Sustainable Agriculture Delegation to Cuba watch a demonstration of the low tillage plow developed by agronomists at the Institute for Research of Agricultural Mechanization.

Food First in Cuba...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

We are dedicated to ensuring that Cuban expertise is made available to other communities where people are struggling to find alternatives to conventional agriculture, and thus stand to benefit from access to affordable, safe, small-scale techniques for food production.

Our Alternative Food Systems Program is working with grassroots movements, small farmer coalitions, and community food security activists to empower communities that are moving to take control over their food supply. We are currently working with organizations in Laos, Haiti, Northern California, and the Southeastern United States, and with our partners in Cuba to create training and outreach programs.

As globalization continues at a breakneck pace, it is more important than ever to unite alternative food system advocates all over the world. We saw how this can have impact at the WTO and World Bank/IMF protests in Seattle and Washington, where united fronts of activists were able to affect policy and capture the attention of the world. The challenge is to continue to build linkages through equal and respectful communication, sharing our experiences, successes, and challenges in the effort to end to hunger and poverty.

New Staff

Food First welcomes two new staff members, Milo Miller and Nick Parker.

Milwaukee native Milo Miller is our new Internet Coordinator. Since high school he has been involved in reproductive rights, HIV/AIDS, and queer issues. He graduated from Purchase College, SUNY, majoring in Media, Society, and the Arts. Milo has worked extensively with Outpost Natural Foods Co-op in Milwaukee, developing computer networks and maintaining their website.

Nick Parker received his BA in English from the University of Massachusetts in Amherst. Previously in the television and film industry, Nick has worked in media with the nonprofit organizations Communication Works, Project Underground, and Californians for Pesticide Reform before joining Food First as its Media Coordinator.

The People's Caravan 2000

Citizens on the Move for Land and Food Without Poisons

Organized by the India-based Society for Rural Education and Development and Tamil Nadu Women's Forum; UBINIG and Naya Krishi Andolan (New Agriculture Movement) in Bangladesh; KMP—the Peasant Movement of the Philippines; and Pesticide Action Network (Asia Pacific), in collaboration with Food First, the People's Caravan 2000—Citizens on the Move for Land and Food initiative—is taking place between November 13–30, 2000.

The People's Caravan is a grassroots-led mass mobilization, awareness raising, and alternatives-building initiative to tackle growing dominance and control of transnational corporations on our agriculture and food systems, which has resulted in violating the right to feed oneself around the world.

But beyond galvanizing and raising awareness on these issues, the People's Caravan 2000 also aims to celebrate local initiatives towards more sustainable healthy agriculture. It hopes to foster community supported agriculture via closer links between farmers and consumers, to

uphold local food diversity and knowledge, and reclaim the right to feed oneself.

Kicking off in Tamilnadu in India with a gamut of activities, a group of resource people and farmers will then travel to Bangladesh and the Philippines. Other partner groups in Indonesia, Japan, Thailand, and Korea are planning to hold simultaneous Caravan activities and join the final leg of the Caravan in Manila on November 30 commemorating "One Year Since Seattle." For more information about the People's Caravan, contact Food First.

25 Years of Food First's Fight Against Hunger

Food First's 25th Anniversary celebration on September 18, 2000 was attended by 230 former and current staff, interns, and board members along with long-time donors, colleagues, and people whose lives have been changed by Food First's work. Long-time donor and activist Martha Russell and her dog, Bijou is walking up to accept an award as founder, Frances Moore Lappé and others applaud.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY DAVID BACON

Founders Joseph Collins and Frances Moore Lappé present a surprise award to long-time development director, Marilyn Borchardt. This was followed by a short speech by Frances on how the world we have worked to influence has changed in the past 25 years. One very concrete display of this change was the fact that all of the food and drink provided by 32 different vendor donors was organic. For more photos and information about the event visit our website www.foodfirst.org.

NETWORK TO SUPPORT STRUGGLE FOR LAND

In recent years the long simmering issue of unfair access to land has come to the fore with struggles and controversies in places as diverse as Chiapas, Thailand, Brazil, Zimbabwe, The Philippines, Colombia, South Africa, Indonesia, and Central America. What for decades had been relatively unorganized land takeovers by squatters are being transformed into large, well organized movements of the poorest of the poor, like the Landless Workers Movement (MST) in Brazil and the Assembly of the Poor in Thailand. Food First co-director Peter Rosset was recently a special invitee of the first-ever Global Forum of Landless People's Movements, hosted in San Pedro Sula, Honduras, by the international organization of peasant unions, La Via Campesina, and the Global Campaign for Agrarian Reform.

The new global movement of those struggling for land is coming up against a formidable foe, who claims to be on their side: the World Bank. Yielding somewhat to decades of pressure by Food First and others, the Bank now claims that 'land reform' is its top priority. But what the Bank means by 'reform' is not at all what we and the landless movement mean. Under the rubric of reform the Bank is pushing the privatization of communal lands and the creation of land markets—which they say will facilitate redistribution, but we fear will lead to greater concentration in the hands of a few. The Bank uses a multitude of fancy reports from its teams of researchers to win over reluctant governments—and the landless movement has asked Food First to help organize activist researchers in a support network to provide well researched and documented counter-analyses for the lobbying part of the struggle. Co-director Rosset is spearheading this effort on behalf of Food First from Chiapas, Mexico, where he will be based for the next two years.



PHOTOGRAPH BY RALF LEONHARE

Landless movement launches land reform campaign in Honduras.

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