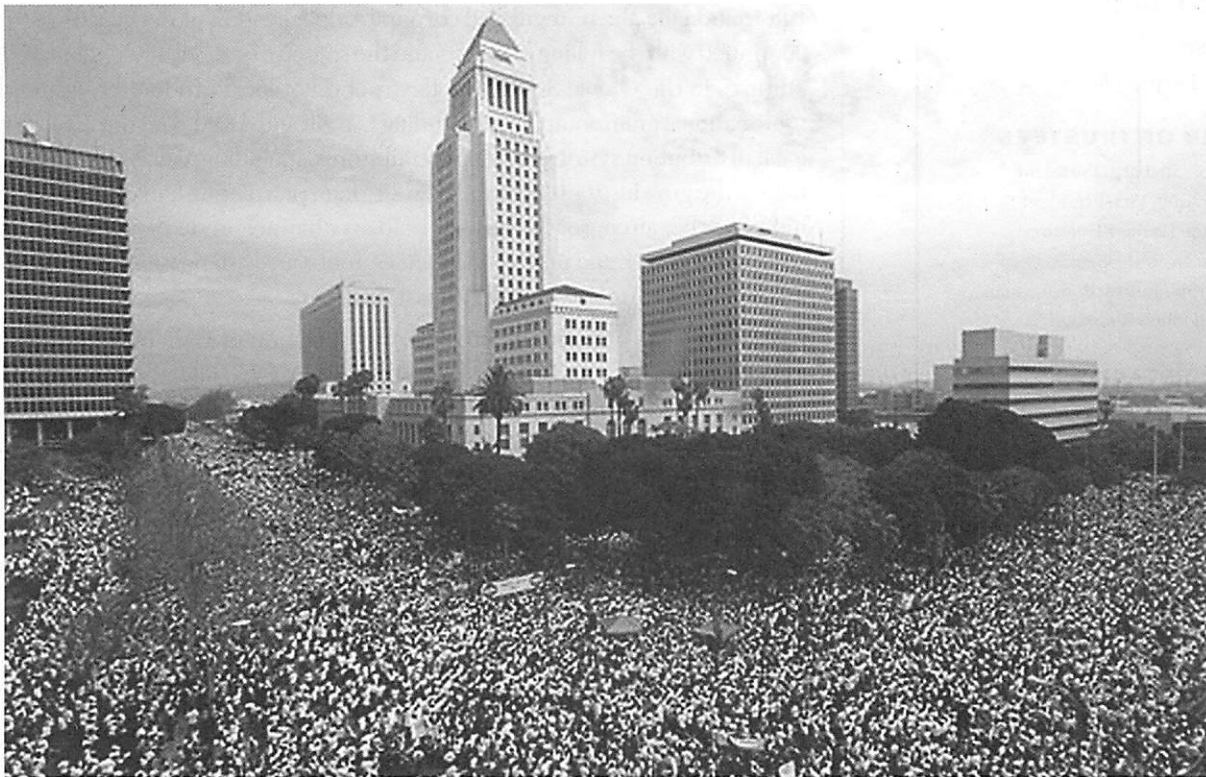


NEWS *and* VIEWS

SPRING 2007

2006 PROGRESS REPORT

VOLUME 29 • NUMBER 104



On March 25, 2006 over one million people gathered in Los Angeles to protest against a proposed anti-Immigrant law!

Food Sovereignty Tops Food First's Agenda

This year Food First dug in its heels for Food Sovereignty defined as people's right to healthy and culturally appropriate food produced through equitable, ecologically sound and sustainable methods. Food sovereignty is our right to determine our own food systems. It puts people—not international markets or corporate mega-profits—at the heart of food and development policies.

In 2006 we launched **Building Local Agri-Foods Systems**, a new program to highlight and support food justice groups in the U.S. that are fighting for healthy, affordable food in low-income communities and communities of color. Our work focuses on building local food systems that reinvest the food dollar in the community. Food First's "added value" is our ability to produce information that helps farmers and consumers overcome the "industrial agri-foods divide" by building and managing their own food systems. This year we worked with food activists to establish a Food Policy Council in Oakland, California, a Food and Fitness Collaborative, and a Food System Assessment research group in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Our **Farmers Forging Food Sovereignty program**—also new this year—supports farmer-driven agroecological alternatives worldwide. This program engages with farmers movements for food sovereignty and sustainable agriculture. This year, we worked with the *Campesino a Campesino* Movement of Latin America to bring their successes

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DEVELOPMENT POLICY**

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SISTER INSTITUTE

Focus on the Global South,
Bangkok, Thailand
www.focusweb.org

The Institute for Food and Development Policy—known as Food First—is a member-supported, nonprofit “peoples’” think tank and education-for-action center. Our work highlights the root causes and value-based solutions to hunger and poverty around the world, with a commitment to establishing food as a fundamental human right.

LETTER FROM ERIC HOLT-GIMÉNEZ

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

2006 has been a pivotal year for food and environmental justice, and for Food First. The massive human and economic costs of the Bush administration’s disastrous war in Iraq has divided the U.S. at home and isolated it abroad. The urgent national issues of immigration, the nation’s 38 million hungry and food insecure, the crisis of rural livelihoods, and the continuing neglect of victims of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita demand compassion as our national resources and political attention is focused on this ever-deepening war.

Internationally, the unregulated corporate globalization of the world’s food system continued with the felling of forests and the spread of genetically-engineered monocultures in the Global South, the destruction of local production systems by the multinational grain companies including Cargill and ADM, and the displacement of local distribution systems by giant retail stores, including Wal-Mart. Taking advantage of the growing fuel crisis, the world’s grain, petroleum, and genetic engineering industries began consolidating their hold over biofuel production, displacing farmer co-ops in the U.S. and unleashing food vs. fuel wars with peasants and environmentalists in South America and Southeast Asia.

After four years of militarily-enforced privatization of Iraq, public opinion is tipping against the war and the Bush administration. Globally, communities and social movements are stepping forward, organizing and carrying out direct actions. Peasants and environmentalists from the Landless Workers Movement in Brazil have occupied illegal fields of Syngenta and Monsanto in defense of biodiversity. Farmers, fishers, pastoralists and forest peoples in the international Via Campesina movement have mobilized against the WTO, and the North and Central American Free Trade Agreements with cries of “Globalize Hope! Globalize Struggle!” Underserved, low-income communities of color in the U.S., family farmers, and social justice activists have stepped up efforts to take back their local food systems, forming food policy councils, drafting legislation, and lobbying for a fair 2007 Farm—and Food—Bill.

At Food First, we have accompanied these struggles, researching and writing on key topics, amplifying the voices of women and men from social movements, and focusing our efforts on food sovereignty—rural and urban, locally and globally. Thank you for your continuing support in this endeavor.



Eric Holt-Giménez, Executive Director

Food Sovereignty ...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

in sustainable agriculture to worldwide attention. We also worked with the National Family Farm Coalition and the Community Food Security Coalition to educate the public on the 2007 U.S. Farm Bill.

Food First supporters will recognize **Democratizing Development: Land, Resources, and Markets**, a longstanding program area focusing on the structural causes of hunger and poverty. This program builds bridges between transnational and local advocates who are democratizing food systems. This year, we continued work on land reform, fair prices, trade, and getting agriculture out of the WTO. We also addressed the role of immigrants in the U.S. food system, and focused on the root causes of migration. We initiated research on the “Biofuels Boom” and its corporate impact on food and fuel systems in the U.S. and the Global South.

2006 RESEARCH, ANALYSIS, AND PUBLICATIONS

In 2006 Food First released two new books, *Campesino a Campesino: Voices from Latin America's Farmer to Farmer Movement for*

Sustainable Agriculture by Eric Holt-Giménez (soon to be published in Spanish and Portuguese), and *Promised Land: Competing Visions of Agrarian Reform* edited by Peter Rosset, Raj Patel, and Michael Courville. Eric Holt-Giménez' *Territorial Restructuring and the Grounding of Agrarian Reform: Indigenous Communities, Gold Mining and the World Bank* was published as a chapter in *Capturando a Terra* (Capturing the Land), edited by Sergio Sauer and João Mendes Pereira of Brazil.

In September, \$150 million in funding for AGRA—the Alliance for a Green Revolution for Africa was announced by the Bill & Melinda Gates and the Rockefeller Foundations. In response to this misguided initiative, Food First published Policy Brief #12 titled *Ten Reasons why the Rockefeller and Bill and Melinda Gates Foundations' Alliance for Another Green Revolution will not solve the problems of poverty and hunger in Sub-Saharan Africa*. The report has been translated into Spanish, French and Portuguese and widely distributed throughout Africa, Europe and the Americas.

Food First Backgrounders published in 2006 included *Movimiento Campesino a Campesino: Linking Sustainable Agriculture and Social Change*; *12 Myths About Hunger* (a revision based on our classic book *World Hunger: Twelve Myths*), *The 2007 Farm—and Food—Bill*, and *Indian Farmer Suicides: A Lesson for Africa's Farmers*.

In 2007 we look forward to two new books, *Ecological Foundations for the Renewal of Agriculture* (tentative title) by Miguel Altieri and the 12th edition of *Alternatives to the Peace Corps: A Guide to Global Volunteer Opportunities*.

MEDIA, OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

2006 was a year of major changes in the media, with more news moving to the internet and more reporters locating news sources on the World Wide Web. Thus, much of the focus of our media work this past year has been to post content on our web site. This allows reporters and activists worldwide to integrate Food First's perspective with their own. Articles on Eric's blog: *The Gates-Rockefeller Green Revolution for Africa: still ignoring the root causes of hunger?* and *Colonizing the immigrant dream: the agri-foods industry's deadly cycle of dispossession, appropriation and substitution* were picked up by news services and circulated worldwide. *U.S. Biofuels eating into Mexican Tortillas?* was published as an Op-Ed in *La Jornada* of Mexico City. Other Food First Op-eds included *Another Green Revolution will not solve hunger in Sub-Saharan Africa*, and *Biofuels: Who wins? Who loses?* Both

were published in the Des Moines Register—located in the cradle of the Green Revolution and the U.S. Biofuels industry.

Newspapers that have picked up stories in 2006 include the New York Times, the Des Moines Register, the Seattle Intelligencer, the Denver Post, the Saint Louis Post-Dispatch, the Birmingham News, and the Columbia Tribune, along with international papers; *La Jornada* of Mexico City, the Taipei Times and the Times of India, among others. Web news sources picking up stories included International Resource Center, One World, alainet.org, foodnews, irc-online, chechkiotech, counterpunch, policyinnovations, other-news, gmopundit.blogspot, bioseguridad.blogspot, gmwatch, organic consumers, saynotogmos, and towardfreedom.

2006 Radio interviews included NPR's Talk of the Nation, WBAI, KPFA, UC Irvine Campus radio and a syndicated program with Dr. Gabriel Cousens. Food First publishes the twice-monthly e-mail newsletter, *People Putting Food First* (formerly, *We Are Fighting Back*). The new format includes more U.S. features and personal interviews, allowing our interns to obtain valuable reporting experience.

Building up to the 2007 Farm Bill, Food First sponsored two forums in the San Francisco Bay Area publicizing the fact that the farm bill affects our entire food system in both the U.S. and internationally. Food First has subsequently endorsed the Food for Family Farms Act of the National Family Farm Coalition (www.nffc.net).

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS AND LOYAL SUPPORT IN 2006.

Donations by individuals, organizations, and small businesses, and grants from foundations provide the basic support for Food First's work aimed at obtaining the right of all people to resources for a healthy life, including the right to feed themselves and their families. Space does not allow the listing of all of our generous donors. Please know that your support is vitally important as we move to a time when all people have access to healthy food grown on sustainable land by farmers who are adequately compensated. We value your activist collaboration.

Gendler Family Foundation • One World Family Way Inc. • Russell's Garden Center Charitable Foundation Inc. • Human and Civil Rights Organizations of America • Alan Shawn Feinstein Foundation • Blue Hill Co-op • Gina Davis Wexler Trust • Edgcomb Design Group • Green Mountain Coffee Roasters • The Silver Web • Synergos Institute • United Methodist Church Office of the UN • Joseph Rosen Foundation • Womanshare • The RMF Foundation Inc. • The Glickenhau Foundation • Agricultural Missions • The Allen A Stein Family Foundation Inc. • Edward Handelman Fund • The McLean Family Foundation • Biophillia Organic Farm • Blossoms Montessori • St. Joseph's Ursuline Sisters • Meshewa Farm Foundation • Sisters of St. Joseph • New Society Fund • Maryknoll Office for Concern—Peace, Social Justice and Integrity of Creation • Hill-Snowdon Foundation • Cox Farms • Central American Solar Energy Project • The Sun Magazine • The Granary Whole Foods • ProQuest • Church of the Epiphany • Congregation of Divine Provider • The Thanksgiving Fund • Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati • Franciscan Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Office • Wooden Shoe Gardens • Cooperative Grocer • Harold K. Raiser Foundation • Allen Neighborhood Center • Wise Weeds • Sisters of Charity of the BVM • New Pioneer Coop • St. John Vianney Parish • Common Harvest Farm • The Premonstratensian Fathers Augustine Stewardship Fund Trust of St. Norbert Abbey • Organic Consumers Association • School Sisters of Notre Dame • Real Food Store • Sinsinawa Dominicans Inc Justice and Peace Promoter • Alliance for Democracy • A to Z Sign Company • Lifshutz Foundation • St. Stephens Episcopal School • Weller Investment Company • Electronic Storefronts Inc • InJoy Videos • Lifstream Water Systems • Christensen Family Foundation • Food Conspiracy • Fireland Open Schools • Capsule Connection • Arcos Cielos Research Center • St. Joseph Church • Gratitude House • Bioneers • Coalition in Solidarity with Cuba • Reynolds Works • On Shore Foundation • Tettel Family Trust • CalArts • Pacific Bakery Inc • I and R Foundation • Monterey Gourmet Foods Inc • Sisters of Mercy Justice Coordinators • Chalice Farm • Sign Display and Allied Crafts Local Union 510 • Knoll Farms • Sid Sattler Electrical Service • St. Mary Parish • Barbara and Victor Ulmer Fund of the Agape Foundation • Ecology Action • Frame Surveying & Mapping • Lundberg Family Farms • Marrone Construction Inc • Kai Pond Builders Inc • Citybikes Workers Cooperative • The Center for Energy Research • Trillium Natural Foods • Beechert Family Trust • Holden Village Resource Center • The Winky Foundation

Collaboration with other organizations is essential to the way that Food First carries out its mission. Current collaborating organizations include (but are not limited to):

United States Alameda County Community Food Bank • Alameda Point Collaborative • Building Sustainable Futures • Black Farmers and Agriculturalists Association • California Coalition for Food and Farming • California Alliance for Family Farming • California Food and Justice Coalition • California State Polytechnic University at Pomona • Center for Popular Research Education and Policy • Center for Rural Research • Center for the Study of the Americas • Coalition of Immokalee Workers • Ecology Center of Berkeley Farm Fresh Choice Program • Ecovillage Farm Center • Federation of Southern Cooperatives • Friends of the MST • GEAN—Genetic Engineering Action Network • Korea Solidarity Committee • Laney College, Oakland • Mandela Market • National Family Farm Coalition • Oakland Food and Fitness Collaborative • Organic Consumers Association • Oxfam America • People's Grocery • Pesticide Action Network North America • Sin Fronteras Organizing Project • Small Planet Institute • University of California at Berkeley • University of California at Santa Cruz
International Agricultural Missions • CECOCAM—Mexico • CONGCOOP—Guatemala • Focus on the Global South • FoodFirst Information and Action Network International • International Relations Center—Mexico • Land Research Action Network • Landless Workers Movement (MST), Brazil • Institute for Social Studies—ISS • Our World is Not for Sale • Servicio de Desarrollo y Paz, A.C., Mexico • Terra de Directos—Brazil • Via Campesina

YOU ASK, "WHAT MORE CAN I DO?"

Your generous support of Food First's work allows Food First to question conventional wisdom, monitor government and corporate actions, and promote new ways of building local food systems that meet local needs. We are proud to partner with you and so many other activists who share our vision of the day when every man, woman and child will eat healthy food produced by farmers who are paid enough to support their own families.

We can't make this happen alone. Here are some simple ways that you can help:

- Buy local, sustainable food and shop at farmer's markets or subscribe to a community supported agriculture farm (CSA). Find them at www.local-harvest.org
- Learn about how neighbors and local groups are growing their own food and sharing it with others... And how people are challenging the corporate control of our food system by subscribing to *People Putting Food First* at www.foodfirst.org. Participate in the actions suggested, forward these e-mails to friends and colleagues. Use the stories highlighted as a source of inspiration and an incentive to action.
- Become a monthly sustainer. You can donate by electronic fund transfer, credit card, or check. Call 510-654-4400 ext 234 or sign up at <https://www.thedatabank.com/dpg/199/donate.asp?formid=ffsustain>
- Share this issue with friends. We will also send you more copies of this or any newsletter or back-

grounder to share. Or you can e-mail friends the link to a page on Food First's web site, or print out information from www.foodfirst.org.

- Host a local food reception in your home. Invite a farmer's market organizer to attend to introduce your friends and neighbors to local food sovereignty. Or use Food First materials to form a study group. We will send you materials or you can print what you want from the Food First web site.
- Recommend Food First books to teachers and librarians or donate Food First books that you have read. If you donate \$100 or more to Food First, you can select a free book and then donate it to your library.
- Give a gift membership, T-shirt, or Food First book, or suggest that friends and family make a tax-deductible donation to Food First as an alternative to wedding anniversary, birthday or memorial events. We will send a note about your gift to the person you designate.

LEAVING A LIVING LEGACY OF HEALTHY FOOD FOR ALL

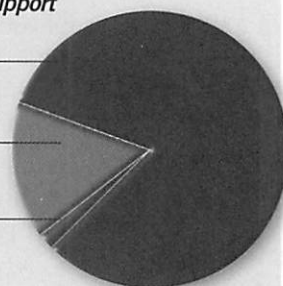
Member support of Food First forms the solid foundation upon which consistent action is sustained. Please consider one or more of the following legacy giving options in addition to your generous ongoing tax-deductible donations.

- Remember the Institute for Food and Development Policy in your will.
- Donate \$5,000 or more to the Pooled Income Fund. You receive a tax deduction for your donation, plus a lifetime income on your donation. Call Marilyn for details at 510-654-4400 ext 234.

Fiscal Year 2006

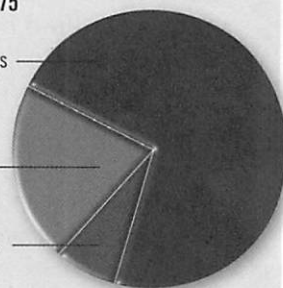
Revenue and Support \$536,970

Grants and Contributions 80.77%
Publications 16.64%
Royalties, Honoraria and Other 2.59%



Expenses \$602,975

Education, Publications & Core Program 71.74%
Membership and Development 21.09%
General and Administrative 7.18%



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- Name the Institute for Food and Development Policy as a final beneficiary on your life insurance or retirement savings. Ask your insurance agent or personnel manager for forms. A donation from your IRA, SEP, Keogh, 401(K), or 403(B) may make sense, as your heirs would be taxed at IRS rates as high as 39.6% plus state tax on these pre-tax retirement accounts. Please check with your tax advisor to determine what is best for your situation.

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