

Food First NEWS & VIEWS

INSTITUTE FOR FOOD AND DEVELOPMENT POLICY

SPRING 2012

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Food First 2011 Annual Report

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Did you feel it? A seismic tremor shook our food system last year. Though low on the “Richter Scale” of social change, it opened deep cracks in the corporate food regime. People-driven projects for food justice, food democracy and food sovereignty flooded in, spreading hope and a vision of a world without hunger.



Occupy Oakland march, Nov. 2, 2011. Photo by Leonor Hurtado

There was no one epicenter. Political protests from Tahrir Square to Wall Street, land occupations in Brazil, the steady spread of lush, urban gardens from Oakland to Havana, rising movements for farmer-led agroecology in Latin America, Asia and Africa and many other efforts worldwide—even in the face of the lingering global recession—all convince me we are entering times of great change.

Eric Holt-Giménez, Executive Director

Food First brought you the voices of this unstoppable global trend in our path-breaking new book, [Food Movements Unite! Strategies to Transform Our Food Systems](#). The 19 authors of this remarkable publication come from organizations and social movements actively transforming our food system worldwide. Slow Food Italy immediately translated the book into Italian (to be released this Spring). Leonor Hurtado and her team translated the Spanish version to be released by Icaria Press (Barcelona) this fall. A Brazilian-Portuguese team is now finishing the Portuguese translation.

We produced four Backgrounders on cutting edge food issues in 2011. *Food Security, Food Justice or Food Sovereignty?* asked how to turn food system reforms into lasting, food system transformation; *Grabbing the Food Deserts: Large-scale land acquisitions and the expansion of retail monopolies* described land grabs in U.S. low-income communities by big retail chains; *Agroecology: A Path to Realizing the Right to Food*, by UN Special Rapporteur Olivier de Schutter, emphasized the importance of agroecology in ending hunger; and *Occupy the Food System! Building a vision of transformation*, described the social and political convergence of “practitioners” and “advocates” in food movements around the world.

We also published academic pieces in journals and books; *Food crises, food regimes and food movements: rumblings of reform or tides of transformation?* by Eric Holt Giménez and Annie Shattuck in the *Journal of Peasant Studies*; *Reform or Transformation? The pivotal role of race, class and food justice in the U.S. food movement*, by Eric Holt-Giménez and Yi Wang in the *Journal of Race/Ethnicity* and *From Food Crisis to Food Sovereignty: The Challenge of Social Movements* by Eric Holt-Giménez in [Agriculture and Food in Crisis: Conflict, Resistance, and Renewal](#), Edited by Fred Magdoff and Brian Tokar; and *Food Security,*

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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 fighting
racism and establishing food as a
fundamental human right.



Food Justice and Food Sovereignty: Crises, Food Movements or Regime Change, by Eric Holt-Giménez in [Cultivating Food Justice: Race, Class, and Sustainability](#), Edited by Alison Hope Alkon and Julian Agyeman. We also wrote a 20-page report on Green Agriculture for the FAO that will be used at the upcoming Rio+20 Conference.

Our blogs continue on the Huffington Post: [Occupy the Food System: Construction or Protest?](#), [Food Scarcity à la Wall Street](#), [Occupy the Food System!](#), [Walmart and the Good Food Movement](#), [Walmart's Food Deserts: Greening the Bottom Line](#), [Not Monsanto's Fault! Ever](#), [Onward Corporate Food Crusaders!](#), [Perpetuating the Eternal Food Fight](#).

But we didn't just write about the changes gripping our food system... we are a "think-and-do" think tank! In our *Building Local Agrifood Systems* program, we initiated a participatory action research study with the [Food Chain Worker's Alliance](#) and the [Restaurant Opportunities Center](#) to compare the food security of restaurant workers in organized and unorganized restaurants in New York City.

We also partnered with the [California Food and Justice Coalition](#) and the [Community Food Security Coalition](#) to host the 13th Annual Community Food Security Coalition Conference "*Food Justice; Honoring our Roots, Growing the Movement*" in Oakland, California from November 5-8. Over 1100 people attended—a record! At the conference, we helped organize the Food Sovereignty Prize (crafted by Leonor Hurtado and awarded

to the MST—Brazilian Landless Workers Movement), held an international workshop on Rural and Urban Land Grabs, and hosted a Food Film Festival.

In advance of the CFSC conference, Food First's Food Sovereignty Tour coordinator Tanya Kerssen organized ten [Food Justice Tours](#) of the San Francisco Bay Area. With 396 participants, the highly successful food justice tours highlighted some of our most important food justice organizations, including Dig Deep Farms, Alameda Point Collaborative, Peoples' Grocery, Berkeley Student Food Collective, Veritable Vegetable, Marin Organic, ALBA, Swanton Berry Farms, Homeless Garden Project, and others.

Right after the CFSC Conference, we co-hosted the 1st annual assembly of the *US Food Sovereignty Alliance* in which over 40 organizations outlined a plan to work together on urban and rural land issues, immigration and the rights of Mother Earth.

Right here in the Bay Area, we helped Dig Deep Farms put in Campesino a Campesino-style soil and water conservation terraces on their urban farm in the San Leandro hills.

With Groundswell, CS Fund, Swift Foundation and New Field Foundation we held a one-day conference at the Christensen Fund in San Francisco, CA to discuss the "[We are the Solution' Campaign](#)" with women farmers' movements from West Africa. This dialogue with our African partners involved 25 people learning how the women of "We are

the Solution” are standing up to the Gates Foundation, by showing that agroecology—not GMOs—is the solution to hunger and poverty in Africa.

In the fall of 2011 the Oakland Food Policy Council, a project of Food First, hired a new coordinator, [Esperanza Pallana](#). And we continued our work with the Oakland Food Alliance by researching the expansion of Kroger, Walmart and other chains into low-income neighborhoods.

Food First lectures on the food crisis and the food movement included the Universities of California at Davis, Berkeley, Los Angeles and Santa Cruz, Iowa State and Humboldt State colleges, and at the Institute for Social Studies in The Hague, the University of Amsterdam, and the University of Wageningen in the Netherlands. We also presented a paper on [urban land grabs in US “food deserts”](#) at the International Conference on Global Land Grabbing at the Institute for Development Studies in Sussex, England and we presented at the Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems Funders Conference (SAFSF) in Minneapolis. And with Fred Magdoff of Monthly Review and Brian Tokar of Institute for Social Ecology, Eric Holt-Giménez spoke on the food crisis and social movements at the New Left Forum in New York.

This year we had a busy teaching schedule as well. We gave three masters-level seminars on food systems and food movements in Bra, Italy at the International University for Gastronomic Studies (Slow Food), and a 3-day doctoral seminar at the Agroecology Program of the University of Antioquia in Medellín, Colombia. In September we gave a day-long workshop on agroecology and food sovereignty at the Second Annual

Greater Everglades Community Food Summit in Florida.

In our Farmers Forging Food Sovereignty program we continued our work with the Farmer to Farmer Pollinator Project in Mexico. The farmers have now launched a national campaign to save pollinators. Thus far they have restored nearly 300 acres of pollinator habitat. They share their work at farmers markets (*tiaguis*), in villages, on the radio and in national newspapers, and they even gave a presentation at the Latin American Scientific Society for Agroecology’s 3rd Annual Conference in Oaxtepec, Mexico.

[Food Sovereignty Tours](#)

Since the program began in 2010, 83 participants have traveled with Food First on international tours. The tours have brought in folks of all ages and professional backgrounds: students, professors, activists, farmers, food industry professionals and backyard gardeners. Several Slow Food staff and members have been on tours (to Cuba, Bolivia, Mexico and the Basque Country). We are currently finalizing a co-marketing agreement with Slow Food USA for our October 2012 tour to Piedmont, Italy. We have been able to provide partial scholarships (\$100-300) for at least one individual on each tour through tour revenue alone and awarded one tour [prize](#). We collaborate with Global Exchange on the Cuba Tours (currently our most popular destination). In one year (January 2011-2012) we have gotten **787 new subscribers** to our monthly tours e-newsletter *Movements*, which includes political analysis, recipes and stories from our destination countries.



Food Sovereignty Tour to Bolivia, Photo: Tanya Kerssen

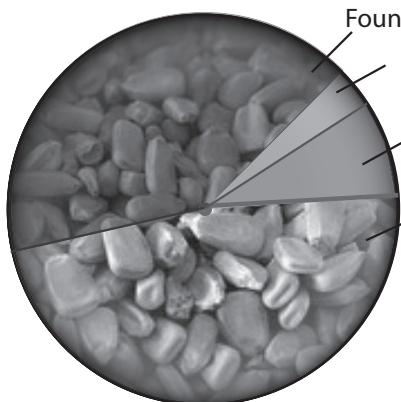
In September, Leonor Hurtado of Food First participated in an 80-mile march with the United Farm Workers Union, walking from Stockton to Sacramento and staying with farmworker families. Marchers spoke in churches and schools with farmworkers and their supporters. Eric Holt-Giménez joined her for the [rally at the state capitol](#) for the Fair Treatment for Farmworkers Act.

None of this would have been possible without the hours of volunteer time contributed by Food First fellows and interns listed on page 2.

I invite you to share in our satisfaction with our progress this year. With our movement growing daily, your support of Food First has been invaluable—allowing us to adapt to the financial crisis, respond effectively to the needs of our partners on the ground, and publish strong and independent analyses of the causes and solutions to world hunger. Our partners—the women, men and youth on the forefront of the struggles for food justice and food sovereignty—continue to inspire us. For them, losing hope is not an option. We look forward to working with you in 2012. Thank you for joining with Food First to end the injustices that cause hunger. Change is already underway.

Fiscal Year 2010-11 Revenue & Expenses

Revenue total \$723,125



Foundations & Trusts 38.2% (\$275,775)

Other 2.7% (\$19,743)

Program Income 12.6% (\$90,577)

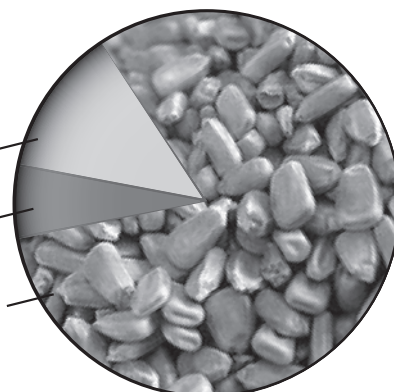
Individual Contributions 46.5% (\$337,030)

Membership and Development 15.4% (\$108,296)

General and Administrative 4.3% (\$30,694)

Education, Publications and Research 80.3% (\$566,130)

Expenses total \$705,120



JOIN US ON ONE
OF OUR UPCOMING
FOOD *Sovereignty*
TOURS

BOLIVIA: Food Sovereignty and
Climate Change,
July 21 – Aug. 1, 2012



CUBA's Agricultural Revolution:
Education for the Future,
July 7 – 15, 2012



**For more information and
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