

Food First NEWS & VIEWS

INSTITUTE FOR FOOD AND DEVELOPMENT POLICY

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Eric Holt-Giménez and Joanne Lo at opening of the UC Berkeley Food Labor Center

Food First 2012 Annual Report

2012 was the year that movements for food security, food justice and food sovereignty adjusted course. In the face of continuing food crises, peasants, pastoralists and fisherfolk of the Global South, and family farmers, urban gardeners, food and farm workers and responsible consumers of the Global North are coming together; *converging in their diversity*. The food movement is building global and community power and Food First is learning and working alongside the men and women who are actively transforming our food systems. We adjusted our course as well, deepening our food systems development work locally and internationally, forging the practices that inform our analysis and materials.

Through our international **Farmers Forging Food Sovereignty** program, we continued our partnership with the Indigenous-Farmer Network the Development of Agroecology (RICDA) in Mexico through the *Pollinator Conservation Project*. This year RICDA expanded to eight organizations in the states of Tlaxcala, Puebla, Guerrero, Oaxaca and the state of Mexico. The farmer-promoters of RICDA trained over 200 farmers in pollinator conservation, habitat restoration, soil and water conservation and agrobiodiversity conservation. They also held a national conference attended by 140 farmers and conservationists, and took to the airwaves with their own weekly radio program on agroecology and pollinator conservation to reach thousands of farmers in the state of Tlaxcala. The RICDA Pollinator Conservation Manual was made available on their Facebook page and over 350 hectares of new land was brought into agroecological and conservation practices.

Food First's **Democratizing Development** program is deepening understanding of global land grabs and spreading the positive experience of grassroots resistance through our action-research project *Land and Sovereignty in the Americas*. This research collective includes the Transnational Institute (TNI) and the Institute of Social Studies (ISS) in The Hague, Netherlands. Researchers and community activists Jun Borrás (TNI), Phil McMichael (Cornell University), Alberto Alonso-Fradejas (ISS), Monica White (Detroit Black Community Food Security Network and University of Wisconsin), Tezozomoc (South Central Farmers, Los Angeles), Raj Patel, Miguel Altieri (UC Berkeley and SOCLA), Annie Shattuck (UC Berkeley), Tanya Kerssen and Eric Holt-Giménez of Food First, and others. The collective is producing activist-academic analysis on resistance to land grabbing in the Americas in both urban and rural settings, North and South.

We focus on the US food movement in our program **Building Local Agrifood Systems**. In 2012, our *action research* to measure the food security of restaurant workers shifted to the San Francisco Bay Area. We sit on the advisory committee of the new Food Labor Research Center at the Berkeley-based Labor Center and we work with the Restaurant Opportunities Center (ROC). Our *agroecological support* to urban farmers in the East Bay of San Francisco began with Dig Deep Farms, designing soil conservation terraces on their hillside farm. With Dig Deep, we launched the *Urban Farmer Field Schools* initiative to support farmers teaching farmers. Our

INSTITUTE FOR FOOD AND
DEVELOPMENT POLICY

FOOD FIRST

398 60th Street, Oakland, CA 94618
Phone: (510) 654-4400
Fax: (510) 654-4551
E-mail: foodfirst@foodfirst.org
Web site: www.foodfirst.org

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Joseph Collins

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Katie Brimm, *Food Sovereignty Tours
Program Coordinator*
Esperanza Pallana, *Oakland Food Policy
Council Coordinator*
Marilyn Borchardt, *Development Director*
Rowena Garcia, *Administrative Assistant*
Martha Katigbak-Fernandez,
Operations Officer

FELLOWS & CONTRIBUTORS

Raj Patel, Jun Borrás, Brahm Ahmadi,
Leonor Hurtado, Annie Shattuck, Zoe
Brent, Anders Riel Muller, William
Wroblewski, Haroon Akran-Lodhi,
Jennifer Johns, Jonathan Fox,
Christopher Cook and Yi Wang

INTERNS AND VOLUNTEERS

Brock Hicks, Leah Scrivener, Caroline
Moyer, Eliya Lavine, Tiffany Tsang,
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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.

support for the *Oakland Food Policy Council* (OFPC) continues, though they have moved to a downtown office as part of the process of becoming an independent local organization. This year the OFPC added eight new council members and is working with a broad coalition of partners to ensure all residents are allowed to grow food no matter what area of the city they reside in. OFPC also worked with the City of Oakland to enable backyard food growers to raise and sell plant crops on site, and they continue to support expanded regions of operation for mobile vendors of healthy food.

Our *Taking Back Our Food System* campaign (TBOFS) was launched at the 15th Annual Community Food Security Conference, co-sponsored by Food First and the Community Food & Justice Coalition (CFJC) in Oakland in late 2011. TBOFS was a call to action for the food justice movement in the San Francisco East Bay region. CFJC and Food First organized frequent community events with dozens of local food justice organizations. Food First carried out a *survey with East Bay Food Justice groups* to determine the obstacles and opportunities for movement convergence, and presented our findings at the *East Bay People's Food Justice Summit* in December 2012. Over 100 people gathered in Oakland to discuss challenges of and opportunities to build a stronger and more cohesive food justice movement. Our planning partners included CFJC, Rural Coalition (Washington D.C.), Live Real, Pesticide Action Network, South Central Farmers (L.A.), Change Lab Solutions and Farm Fresh Choice.

In our path-breaking **Food Sovereignty Tours** program, we took 62 people to five different countries—Bolivia, Cuba, the Basque Country, Mexico, plus our first ever tour to Italy, in partnership with Slow Food USA. Since the program's inception, we've had a total of 140 international Food Sovereignty Tours participants. Our scholarship program has grown and sent an

average of two scholarship recipients on each 2012 tour. Our monthly tours e-newsletter, "Movements" has grown to 1,496 subscribers and continues to provide news, analysis and participant reflections on the global food sovereignty movement. In addition, we published a beautiful image-based book: *Movements: Images, Stories and Recipes from the Global Movement for Food Sovereignty*.

Food First's **Publications** continue to analyze the root causes of hunger, inform on developments in the food system, and provide a reliable link to the social movements working to advance food justice and food sovereignty. Our popular short *Backgrounders* addressed both international and local issues including: "The Struggle for Food Justice in Fair Trade" by Chris Bacon; "Beyond Voting with Your Fork" by Josh Viertel; "Survival Pending Revolution" by Raj Patel; and "The Microfinance Crisis" by Marcus Taylor. The accompanying *News and Views* featured pieces on "Reclaiming our Food Culture, Rebuilding our Food System" and "Battling the Octopus: Food and Land Struggles in Honduras" by Tanya Kerssen; "Food Workers for the Food Movement: ROC United" by Katie Brimm; "GM labeling comes to California: The right to know versus the right to impose" by Oliver James; "World Food Day versus Food Day: Why are There Two?" by Katherine Lupo; and "Sunsetting on the Community Food Security Coalition?"

Food First continued to back its articles with solid research by leading academics. Our *Journals* publications in 2012 included: "We Already Grow Enough Food for 10 Billion People ... and Still Can't End Hunger" by Eric Holt-Giménez, Annie Shattuck, Miguel Altieri, Hans Herren, Steve Gliessman in the *Journal of Sustainable Agriculture*, 36:595–598, 2012; and "Agroecology, Food Sovereignty, and the New Green Revolution" by Eric Holt-Giménez & Miguel A. Altieri in *Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems*, 37:1, 90-102. 2012.

We reached 300,000 readers in 172 countries through Eric Holt-Giménez' regular column in *Farming Matters*, a quarterly magazine of the Netherlands-based Agriculture Network. We are on the editorial board of the *Nyeleni Newsletter*, and published "Urban Agriculture: Moving Towards food Sovereignty?"

Our most popular *Huffington Post* blogs focused on land matters in Detroit, "Cock 'O the Lots: Detroit's residents fight back a land grab," the industrial partnerships to profit from hunger "The New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition: Nothing New About Ignoring Africa's Farmers," and "Occupy the Farm: Democracy for Land Grant Universities." Our most popular blog by far (9,849 likes!) addressed the mainstream myths surrounding hunger, "We Already Grow Enough Food for 10 Billion People... and still can't end hunger."

Food First interns helped Food First produce a steady stream of over 30 *Stories & Field Reports* from local-global food movements. Among these are: Broadening the Base: EcoVillage Farm and the food justice movement; Minimum Wage Messaging Toolkit; Recent Successes in the Minimum Wage Fight; Change Your Foodscape: Get Involved With the CA Food Policy Council; Spring Rose Growers Cooperative: Protecting Multicultural Farms; Who is funding California Proposition 37?; and Mexico's Campesinos preserving seeds and pollinators.

Interns also contributed to our three e-newsletters, People Putting Food First; Food Workers—Food Justice; and Movements, which together published 12 issues.

Food First Books completed production for the book *Grabbing Power: The New Struggles for Land, Food and Democracy in Northern*

Honduras by Tanya M. Kerksen (February 2013). With a Foreword by Eric Holt-Giménez, this timely book documents how peasant movements are fighting against land grabs by wealthy elites and creating community-based alternatives rooted in food sovereignty.

Unfinished Puzzle- Cuban Agriculture: The Challenges, Lessons and Opportunities by Mayling Chan and Francisco Freye Roach (December 2012) is Food First's latest book about the development of sustainable agriculture under the changing conditions in Cuba—an island with many lessons to offer in agroecology and farmer's movements.

Food First now has volunteer translating groups in Spanish, Portuguese and French. *Food Movements Unite!* has been translated and published into Spanish and the Portuguese translation is almost complete. The educational farmer-to-farmer material on agroecology, originally created in Nicaragua in Spanish, is ready in English and almost ready in French, with adapted illustrations to be used with farmers in Africa.

Our *Lectures & Book Presentation* series was especially active this year. We gave over 30 presentations at universities in the U.S. and abroad, plus speaking at bookstores, activist and community events and food movement conferences. Here are just a few venues:

Community and professional associations: Organic Seed Alliance; UC Santa Cruz Earth Summit; American Community Gardner's Association; California Heirloom Seeds Conference; American Public Health Association Conference; Multinational Exchange for Sustainable Agriculture (MESA); Mott House, Wash. D.C.; International Metal Workers Union, Toronto; and Terra Madre in Turin, Italy.



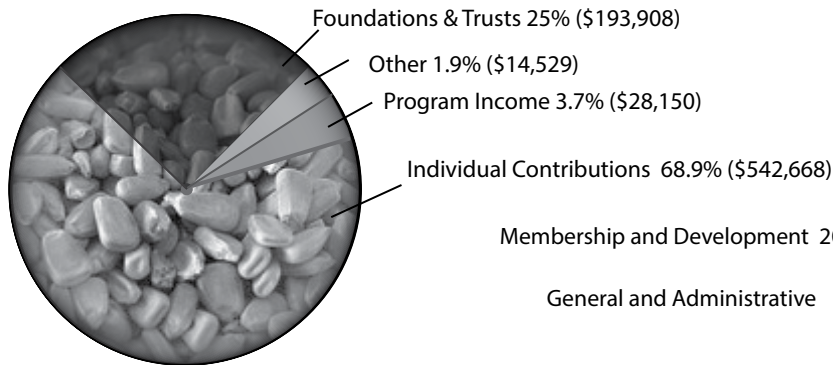
Universities: Western Washington University; Ohio State University; University of California, Davis; Wesleyan University; Tufts University; American University; College of the Atlantic; Evergreen College; Autonomous University of Mexico—Chapingo; University of Veracruz, Mexico; International Land Grab Colloquium, Cornell University; (10/26);

Our Executive Director, Eric Holt-Giménez gave **graduate-level courses** on food systems and food movements at the University of Antioquia Doctoral Program in Agroecology in Medellin, Colombia, and in the Masters Program at the University of Gastronomic Sciences in Bra, Italy. We also gave several **community workshops** at the Food Dignity gathering in Detroit, Michigan, the Mexico Pollinator Conference in Tlaxcala, Mexico, the IATP Food and Democracy Conference in Minneapolis and the East Bay Food Justice Summit, in Oakland, California.

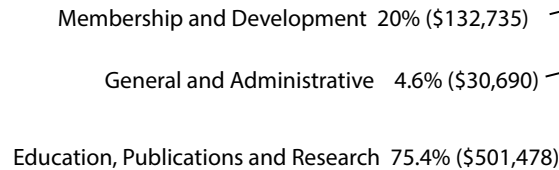
Thanks to your generous support of Food First's work, we had a vibrant, hopeful year combating hunger and building a powerful food movement. Let's create food movement convergence; the path to food system transformation!

Fiscal Year 2011-12 Revenue & Expenses

Revenue total \$761,255



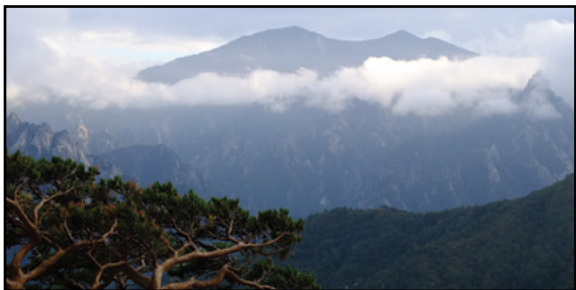
Expenses total \$664,903



JOIN US ON ONE OF OUR UPCOMING

FOOD *Sovereignty*
TOURS

SOUTH KOREA: Food, Land & Democracy, Aug. 24 – Sept. 1, 2013



ITALY: Food Sovereignty in Piedmont, October 19-27, 2013



www.foodsovereigntytraveltours.org

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INSTITUTE FOR FOOD AND DEVELOPMENT POLICY

398 60TH STREET • OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA 94618 USA • TEL: (510) 654-4400 • EMAIL FOODFIRST@FOODFIRST.ORG

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