



Photos by Leonor Hurtado

Dear Food First members, donors, friends and colleagues,

With your help, Food First hit the ground running in 2017, using our research and analysis as a springboard for mobilizing in the U.S. and throughout the globe.

For the past 43 years, you and other generous and loyal Food First supporters have made it possible to collaborate with farmers, organizers, and food activists to radically transform our food system. I want to thank you for helping change international trade rules, national legislation, and local food policies so we can build bountiful local and regional economies that support farmers and our communities!

Food First's research of 2017 included hard-hitting articles that amplified the solutions of farmers, communities of color, and women. From revealing the unique burden women carry in upholding our capitalist industrial food system, to supporting climate justice that works for small-holder farmers across the globe, Food First continues to reveal the injustices in our food system that we can and will change.

What is unjust is now revealed. And we're taking action.

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INSTITUTE FOR FOOD AND
DEVELOPMENT POLICY**

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Food First is a “peoples’ think tank” and education-for-action center. Our work highlights the root causes and solutions to hunger and poverty, with a commitment to fighting racism and establishing food as a fundamental human right.

Reaching Audiences around the World

Thanks to you, Food First’s publications are sent around the globe—to homes, libraries, universities—for free. And all of our publications, with the exception of our books, are open access on the Food First website as resources for organizers, students, educators, and those dedicated to making change alongside social movements. Our multilingual backgrounders, briefs and reports have increased by over 150%, and our blogs and videos are coming out regularly on breaking news and events. Topics included:

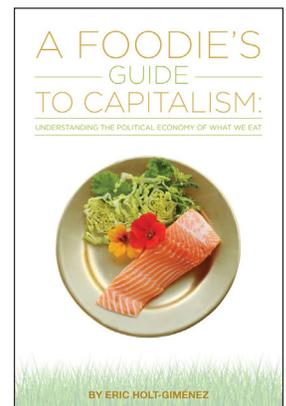
- Featuring the agroecological efforts to rebuild after Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico;
- Exposing the link between capitalism and inequality in our food system;
- Highlighting grassroots climate justice work in agriculture;
- Revealing the structural foundations of sexism in the food system and how women are organizing and leading grassroots change; and
- Exploring how farmers and farmworkers can work together in our broader struggles for global justice.

Publishing to Support Frontline Grassroots Organizing

In 2017, Food First set a new standard by publishing three books. Your support was critical in developing and publishing these books that are now an indispensable resource for coalition and movement building.

A Foodie’s Guide to Capitalism: Understanding the Political Economy of What We Eat outlines why understanding capitalism is critical to transforming our food system and our economy. This Monthly Review/Food First book quickly went into reprint, and more and more people are understanding how unfettered profits have left the majority of people across the globe in financial crisis. It is an excellent text for classrooms, book clubs, and study groups. Please contact us if you would like to invite author Eric Holt-Giménez to speak.

www.foodfirst.org/foodiesguide



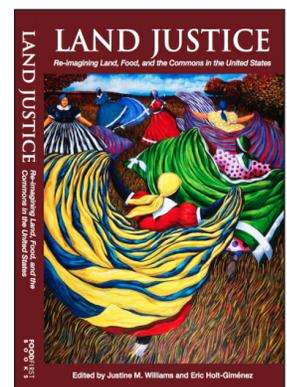
Thank you for helping create *A Foodie’s Guide to Capitalism*, a political and economic tool-kit for the food movement.

Connecting Our Struggle for Sovereignty through Land

Land Justice: Re-imagining Land, Food, and the Commons in the United States is an anthology of works from 40 farmers, farmworkers, organizers, and researchers that reveals how they are resisting the industrial agriculture system despite a history of colonization, slavery, and land theft.

Through it all, people of color, women, and family farmers continue to resist, heal, and organize through land. *Land Justice* provides a critical tool for coalition building as our authors connected with each other and other on-the-ground movement leaders in forums Food First organized in 2017.

www.foodfirst.org/landjustice



By supporting this book, you also brought together organizers and farmers to share knowledge, build community, and strategize in nine key cities across the United States!

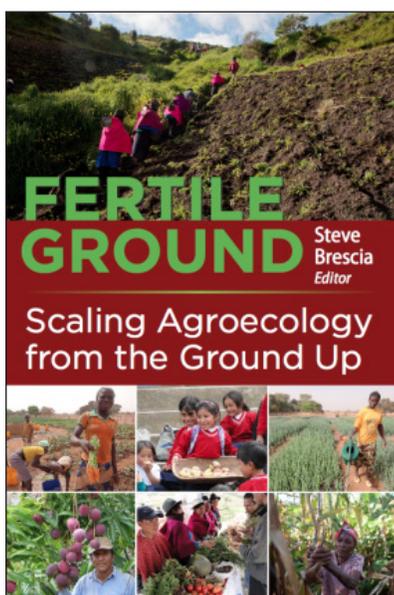
Sharing the Science, Practice, and Movement of Agroecology

Fertile Ground: Scaling Agroecology from the Ground Up is vital to how we re-think sustainable farming. With examples from Africa, Europe and Latin America, *Fertile Ground* demonstrates how agroecology can be “scaled” so it is known by more farmers, practiced more deeply, and integrated into planning and policy. Miguel Altieri, one of the world’s leading promoters of Agroecology says:

“... *The book goes beyond simple cataloguing of techniques... by putting agroecology at the heart of progressive social movements. It highlights how these movements are using agroecology to forge new pathways for food sovereignty, local autonomy, and community control of land, water, and agrobiodiversity.*”

English and Spanish translations can now be ordered, with French slated for 2018. Also, a big thank you to Groundswell International for this partnership!

www.foodfirst.org/fertileground



You made it possible to share how smallholder farmers successfully use agroecology—a practice, movement, and science of sustainable farming!

Continuing to Dismantle Racism in the Food System

Food First released the policy brief *Healthy Soils, Healthy Communities: Opportunities to Bridge Environmental Justice and Soil Carbon Sequestration*, the report describes interviews with organizations around the state working at the intersection of soil health and environmental justice, from California’s San Joaquin Valley to Los Angeles and the Greater Bay Area.

Soil carbon work is a part of a broader just transition to a carbon-free economy. That transition starts with organizing in frontline communities, and making sure that environmental justice has a place at the table at the very beginning of any policy or program development process. Policymakers need to see the economic and social benefits of healthy soils.

Connecting Agriculture and Climate Change While Supporting Small Farmers

Most recently, Food First launched our newest series that supports communities of color, women, and the working class in the struggle against climate change. Author Annie Shattuck asks, in *Food, Climate, and the Myths that Keep Our Planet Hot*, “How do we solve climate change in the food system? We start with justice.”

Shattuck’s piece reveals how fair land management and sustainable farming practices are central to reducing global greenhouse gases. She shows that clear cutting, cultivating prairies and other unsustainable farming practices contribute to water, land and air pollution in a big way. At the same time our food choices contribute nearly a third of all the gases contributing to climate change. Shattuck attacks the myths that encourage intensification, overproduction and displacement of subsistence farmers and indigenous communities. As she demonstrates, climate justice is central to our growing global environmental concerns.

Educating the Next Generation of Farmers and Activists

Food First is also happy to share with you the continuation of *Rethinking Food Security: Agriculture, People, and Politics*, a food and agriculture policy education program. Each semester Food First works with college students from across the globe for two weeks to help them develop the tools to investigate our complex food system and explore solutions. Students meet frontline community organizers and visit agroecological farms and gardens in Northern California. They are ambassadors; building food justice and food sovereignty across the globe!



With your help, Food First prepared these students to conduct a comparative analysis of our intertwined global food system! Here they are in Malawi, next stops are India and Italy.

Bringing Cuban and American Farmers and Organizers Together

We are excited to share that Food First led two delegations of activists, researchers, and farmers on Food Sovereignty Tours to Cuba. They traveled across the island, learning what happens when national policies prioritize organic farming and ending hunger as they meet with farmers, policy makers, NGOs, activists, and experts. You will be thrilled to know generous donations allowed us to provide six full and partial scholarships for people of color, farmers, and activists.

Sharing Agroecology Between Borders

Food First also led a 10-day Mexico and Guatemala trip of the South Texas Alliance of Young Farmers (STAY). STAY farmers worked with Mexican and Guatemalan farmers to share agroecological practice on both sides of the border. Food First's leadership helped tour participants develop a strategic plan to establish this movement in the Rio Grande Valley in Southern Texas and Reynosa, Mexico.



Thank YOU for organizing and promoting agroecology on both sides of the Mexico-US border, an alliance that seeks to build a way of life with an appreciation for diversity.

Ending Patriarchy In Our Food System

I invite you to support Food First's newest project, *Cultivating Gender Justice*. Author Ahna Kruzic shared how women are leading the fight for sustainability and taking control of their food systems by farming, organizing, and advocating for policy change. As farmworker-organizer Rosalinda Guillen said,

"The courage that women have when we recognize our own power at every level is amazing... And we're going to stand our ground. There are some things that are just not negotiable – including dignity and survival. As women, the more of us there are, leading and supporting each other, the better off we are. We are strategizing together, moving forward together, for a more just future."

Our second piece, *Changes on the Land: Gender and the Power of Alternative Social Networks* by Angie Carter reveals

how women farmers are creating alternative social networks to share knowledge and resources when traditional centers of exchange fail them.

We now need your help with grant funding! Food First is currently searching for funding to expand our research in *Cultivating Gender Justice*, and other projects like Dismantling Racism, and additional frontline publishing. Please contact Alyshia Silva at asilva@foodfirst.org if you have suggestions of foundations, colleagues, and friends who may be interested in funding this work.



Continue supporting Food First and the women who are building a more equitable food system for all!

By The Numbers

78 publications and articles

10 translations

50 lectures and talks

13 videos

How Can You Help?

- **Become a monthly Sustainer!** Your support will provide consistent income so Food First can focus on supporting grassroots movements transforming our food system and beyond. Donating as a little as \$10 a month will make a huge difference! See www.foodfirst.org/pledgetojoin.
- **Make a one-time gift!** As an independent think tank, we don't take a penny from governments or corporations. Consider making a tax-deductible donation today. See www.foodfirst.org/support.
- **Invite Food First to speak!** Invite *A Foodie's Guide to Capitalism* author Eric Holt-Giménez to speak in your community! Please contact Martha Katigbak-Fernandez at marthak@foodfirst.org for more information.
- **Share this work!** Most importantly, share this grassroots support work with your friends, family, and colleagues. Circulating Food First's materials is critical to creating change from the ground up!

Ensure Change-Making Work Today for the Rest of Your Life and Beyond!

1. Naming Food First in your will
2. Giving appreciated assets, such as stock and bonds
3. Giving a life insurance policy
4. Donating to our Pooled Income Fund
5. Creating a Charitable Remainder Trust
6. Donating part of your IRA or qualified retirement plan



See www.foodfirst.org/livinglegacy for more details. For a copy of our latest federal 990, go to <https://foodfirst.org/donor-information-990>.