

# Transforming our food system

Hawkwood Plant Nursery, London, July 2012

## **We have come together to form a movement for Food Sovereignty in the UK**

Food Sovereignty is an alternative food system that creates practical, sustainable and democratic solutions to the failed industrial food model.

Food Sovereignty:

### **1) *Focuses on Food for People***

Food sovereignty puts people, including those who are hungry, under occupation, in conflict zones and marginalised, at the centre of food, agriculture, livestock and fisheries policies, ensuring sufficient, healthy and culturally appropriate food for all individuals, peoples, and communities; and rejects the proposition that food is just another commodity or component for international agri-business.

### **2) *Values Food Providers***

Food sovereignty values and supports the contributions, and respects the rights, of women and men, peasants and small scale family farmers, pastoralists, artisanal fisherfolk, forest dwellers, indigenous peoples and agricultural and fisheries workers, including migrants, who cultivate, grow, harvest and process food; and rejects those policies, actions and programmes that undervalue them, threaten their livelihoods and eliminate them.

### **3) *Localises Food Systems***

Food sovereignty brings food providers and customers closer together; puts providers and consumers at the centre of decision-making on food issues; protects food providers from the dumping of food and food aid in local markets; protects consumers from poor quality and unhealthy food, inappropriate food aid and food tainted with genetically modified organisms; and resists governance structures, agreements and practices that depend on and promote unsustainable and inequitable international trade and give power to remote and unaccountable corporations.

### **4) *Puts Control Locally***

Food sovereignty places control over territory, land, grazing, water, seeds, livestock and fish populations on local food providers and respects their rights. They can use and share them in socially and environmentally sustainable ways which conserve diversity; it recognises that local territories often cross geopolitical borders and ensures the right of local communities to inhabit and use their territories; it promotes positive interaction between food providers in different regions and territories and from different sectors that helps resolve internal conflicts or conflicts with local and national authorities; and rejects the privatisation of natural resources through laws, commercial contracts and intellectual property rights regimes.

### **5) *Builds Knowledge and Skills***

Food Sovereignty builds on the skills and local knowledge of food providers and their local organisations that conserve, develop and manage localised food production and

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harvesting systems, developing appropriate research systems to support this and passing on this wisdom to future generations; and rejects technologies that undermine, threaten or contaminate these, e.g. genetic engineering.

6) ***Works with Nature***

Food sovereignty uses the contributions of nature in diverse, low external input agroecological food production and harvesting methods that maximise the contribution of ecosystems and improve resilience and adaptation, especially in the face of climate change; it seeks to heal the planet so that the planet may heal us; and, rejects methods that harm beneficial ecosystem functions, that depend on energy intensive monocultures and livestock factories, destructive fishing practices and other industrialised production methods, which damage the environment and contribute to global warming.

**Another food system is possible. Let's make it happen!**