



## **Webinar: Food Sovereignty and the Farm to Fork Strategy** *Building a fairer and more just agricultural model in the EU*

**7 July 2020 - 15:00 – 17:00 CET | [Register here](#)**

Throughout the current COVID-19 pandemic, there has been a lot of criticism on how the neoliberal model of corporate globalisation has impacted manufacturing capacity in strategic sectors such as health and food. In the case of the health sector, it seems clear to the majority of European citizens that we must rethink health policies, moving away from a profit-oriented ideology to rebuild internal manufacturing capacity and decrease dependency on international trade. This is, of course, only possible if decision makers rewrite the rules and regulations governing international and inter-regional trade in this sector, thinking about health as right, and not as a commodity.

But what about the food and agricultural sector?

From the perspective of small and medium-scale farmers and agricultural workers, Europe's trade and neo-liberal agricultural policies have many negative outcomes: more volatile prices which prevent family farmers from earning a dignified living; the extreme reduction of the number of farmers; the concentration of land in the hands of the few; the ageing population in farming, the loss of farmland; the rapid degradation of soils and ecosystems and the structural violation of agricultural workers' and peasants' rights, as recognised by the [UN Declaration for the Rights of Peasants and other people working in the rural areas \(UNDROP\)](#). But, for the food industry and traders, in particular for the big food corporations, this has meant an increase in their profit.

These industrial agricultural companies, however, are in a large part responsible for some of the main issues that society is facing today. The current pandemic crisis has served to highlight how the underlying delocalized, mass-producing systems cause and/or exacerbate the, climate, environmental economic crises that affect citizens today, particularly small-scale farmers and the rural population. This has opened up debate throughout Europe on how we should rethink our essential sectors.

Despite the mounting scientific and academic evidence that the current system is not working, there are those who prefer to continue some defending the neo-liberal agricultural model, proposing technological solutions to solve what are in reality complex societal, political and economic problems. Others push for more authoritarianism and self-centred interests. However, by searching for solutions within the current comfort zone of society, we are plastering over fundamental flaws which will continue to cause major issues.

In this context, the EU is currently reforming its Common Agricultural Policy and developing the Green Deal, including the Farm to Fork Strategy (F2F) which specifically focuses on the food and agricultural sectors. The European Commission proposed on 27 May a €750 billion Recovery Plan to revive the economy after the COVID 19 pandemic. In principle, this shows good ambition. However, by simultaneously relaunching trade negotiations which push for a greater liberalization and delocalisation of agriculture, the EU is demonstrating a lack of commitment to truly implementing its goals and making real change.

European Coordination Via Campesina (ECVC), as the only European organisation that represents small and medium-scale farmers, peasant farmers and agricultural workers, together with its allies thinks that this is time to relaunch a different political approach for EU agricultural systems: *Food Sovereignty*.

This approach will ensure quality food for people in Europe, reverse the disappearance of European farms, support new farmers and farming methods based on peasant agroecology and guarantee farmers can make a living from their production and protects agricultural workers. It will also empower both urban and rural European citizens to take control of their food supply system, tackling social, economic and logistical obstacles which have, to date, allowed industrial farming to prosper.

Often is misinterpreted as Food Security, or Food Sufficiency, this webinar will explain what *Food Sovereignty* is, as developed by social movements, and what this looks like in real terms.

It will also be an opportunity to clarify and explore the potential *Food Sovereignty* has to reshape EU agricultural and food policies in particular under the framework of the proposed F2F strategy, through dialogue with the EU Commissioner for Agriculture, Janusz Wojciechowski and by considering the role of all EU institutions currently involved in this work. [Register here](#). The deadline for registering is the 2 July.

#### More info:

- ✓ [See ECVC publication on Food sovereignty in Europe](#)
- ✓ See the academic brief, [The importance of Food Sovereignty for the Farm to Fork strategy and the New Green Deal](#)
- ✓ [See the Collective response to the EU Farm to Fork Strategy from food sovereignty scholars](#)
- ✓ [Read the UN Declaration for the Rights of Peasants \(UNDROP\) in the different UN languages](#)

#### Agenda

**15:00-15:15 Welcome and introduction by the European Coordination Via Campesina**

**15:15-16:00 Farmer and social movement voices**

- *What Food Sovereignty means in practice for the European context, including the current debate on the Farm to Fork strategy, the EU trade policy and the Common Agricultural Policy Reform* by **Geneviève Savigny**, farmer in South of France and representative of the European Coordination Via Campesina
- *Food systems at the centre of the society* by a member of the **Nyéleni Europe and Central Asia Food Sovereignty Movement** ([Nyéleni ECA](#))
- *The importance of Food Sovereignty for the Farm to Fork strategy and the New Green Deal* – **Jessica Duncan**, Associate Professor, Rural Sociology Group, Wageningen University

**16:00-17:00 Roundtable of reactions and Q&A with the EU Commissioner for Agriculture, Janusz Wojciechowski**

Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in English, French and Spanish.

For any other information or if you have any problem in registering, please write to [info@eurovia.org](mailto:info@eurovia.org)