

# A Call to Protect Food Systems from Genetic Extinction Technology:

The Global Food and Agriculture Movement Says **NO** to Release of Gene Drives

Gene drives are new tools that force genetically engineered traits through entire populations of insects, plants, animals and other organisms. This invasive technology represents a deliberate attempt to create a new form of genetic pollution. Gene Drives may drive species to extinction and undermine sustainable and equitable food and agriculture.

Gene drives threaten natural systems. If released experimentally into the environment they may spread engineered genes uncontrollably through wild and domesticated species. This could alter ecological systems and food webs, harm biodiversity and eradicate beneficial organisms such as pollinators. Gene drives could disrupt lands, waters, food and fiber economies and harm Indigenous and peasant agroecological practices and cultures.

Gene drives are being developed for use in agriculture. If applied, they may make farms even more genetically uniform and foreclose farmers' rights, as enshrined, among others, in the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and other People Working in Rural Areas. Use of gene drives may further entrench a system of genetically-engineered industrial agriculture, extend agro-toxin use and concentrate corporate control over global food systems, undermining the food sovereignty of farmers, food workers and consumers. Gene drives hinder the realization of human rights including rights to healthy, ecologically-produced and culturally appropriate food and nutrition.

***We, the undersigned, call for a global moratorium on any release of engineered gene drives. This moratorium is necessary to affirm the precautionary principle, which is enshrined in international law, and to protect life on Earth as well as our food supply.***

Letter continued on next page...

## Organizational signatories include:



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## Africa

Health of Mother Earth Foundation, HOMEF (Nigeria)  
Biowatch South Africa (South Africa)  
PELUM Kenya (Kenya)  
Earth Life Africa (South Africa)  
African Center for Biodiversity- ACB (South Africa)  
Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA)  
African Biodiversity Network (ABN)  
Association Ouest Africaine pour le Développement de la Pêche Artisanale (ADEPA)  
Biodiversity and Biosafety Coalition of Kenya (BIBA)  
Coalition pour la Protection du Patrimoine Génétique Africaine (COPAGEN)  
Comité Ouest Africain de Semences Paysannes (COASP)  
Comparing and Supporting Endogenous Development (COMPAS Africa)  
Eastern and Southern Africa Small Scale Farmers Forum (ESAFF)  
Eastern and Southern African Pastoralists Network  
Fahamu Africa  
Faith & Justice Network of the Mano River Basin (FJN)  
Farm-Saved Seeds Network (FASSNET)  
Fédération Agroécologique du Bénin (FAEB)  
Fellowship of Christian Councils and Churches in West Africa (FECCIWA)  
Friends of the Earth Africa (FoEA)

Friends of the Earth Cameroon/ Centre pour l'Environnement et le Développement  
Friends of the Earth Ghana/ Environmental Rights Action (ERA)  
Friends of the Earth Togo/ Les Amis de la Terre Togo  
Friends of the Earth Mozambique/ Justica Ambiental (JA!)  
Friends of the Earth Uganda/ NAPE (National Association of Professional Environmentalists)  
Friends of the Earth Liberia/ Sustainable Development Institute (SDI)  
Friends of the Earth Sierra Leone  
Groundwork/Friends of the Earth South Africa  
Lawyers' Environmental Action Team (LEAT)/Friends of the Earth Tanzania  
Guamina / Friends of the Earth Mali  
Groundswell West Africa (GWA)  
Institut Africain pour le Développement Economique et Social (INADES-Formation)  
Indigenous Peoples of Africa Coordinating Committee (IPACC)  
Institut Panafricain pour la Citoyenneté, les Consommateurs et le Développement (CICODEV Africa)  
Jinkun (reseau National Pour Une Gestion Durable Des Ressources Génétiques)  
Jeunes Volontaires pour l'Environnement (JVE International)  
La Via Campesina Africa (LVC Africa)  
Network of Farmers' and Agricultural Producers' Organizations of West Africa (ROPPA)

Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM) Association  
Plate-forme Régionale des Organisations Paysannes d'Afrique Centrale (PROPAC)  
Réseau Africain pour le Droit à l'Alimentation (RAPDA -Togo)  
Rural Women's Assembly (RWA)  
Tanzanian Alliance for Biodiversity (TABIO)  
Union Africaine des Consommateurs (UAC)  
World Neighbours  
Terre à Vie (Burkina Faso)  
Maudesco/Friends of the Earth Mauritius  
Dajopen Waste Management  
Zambia Alliance for Agroecology and Biodiversity (ZAAB)  
Banlieues Du Monde Mauritanie  
ENDA-Pronat  
Femmes Environnement nature  
Entrepreneuriat Vert  
Kasisi Agricultural Training Centre  
Association Tunisienne Des Femmes Democratrices (ATFD)  
World March of Women Tunisia  
La Via Campesina Southern and Eastern Africa (LVC SEAf)  
The Kenyan Peasants League (KPL)  
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## Asia / Oceania

Mothers Against Genetic Engineering- MADGE (Australia)  
GM-Free Australia Alliance (Australia)  
Pesticide Action Group WA (Australia)  
FoodWatch WA (Australia)  
Gene Ethics (Australia)  
Environment Support Group (India)  
Hazards Centre (Sanchal Foundation) (India)

GE FREE NZ Taitokerau (New Zealand)  
GE FREE New Zealand (New Zealand)  
La Via Campesina-South Asia  
Citizens' Coalition for Economic Justice (South Korea, Right Livelihood Award 2003)  
SEARICE - Southeast Asia Regional Initiatives for Community Empowerment  
UBINIG (Bangladesh)

Friends of the Earth Australia (Australia)  
Australian Food Sovereignty Alliance  
Consumers Union of Japan  
NO! GMO Campaign (Japan)  
GM-Free India  
Alliance for Sustainable and Holistic Agriculture (ASHA) (India)

## Europe

Biofuelwatch (United Kingdom)  
Initiative for GE-free Seeds and Breeding (Germany)  
Kultursaat e.V. (Germany)  
Family Farmers Organization Germany (Arbeitsgemeinschaft bäuerliche Landwirtschaft (AbL) e.V.) (Germany)  
A Sud - Ecologia e Cooperazione ONLUS (Italy)  
Slow Food Deutschland (Germany)  
Foundation on Future Farming (Germany)

Save our Seeds (Germany)  
GM Watch UK (United Kingdom)  
Pole-Risques (France)  
Sativa Rheinau AG (Switzerland)  
ReinSaat KG (Austria)  
Forschung & Züchtung Dottenfelderhof ('Research & Breeding Dottenfelderhof') (Germany)  
Swiss Alliance for GE Free Agriculture (Switzerland)  
We Effect (Sweden)

ELTE Nature Conservation Club (Hungary)  
Friends of the Earth France/ les Amis de la Terre  
Friends of the Earth Bosnia and Herzegovina/ Centar za zivotnu sredinu  
Friends of the Earth Germany/ Bund für Umwelt und Naturschutz Deutschland (BUND)  
Corporate Europe Observatory  
Sciences Citoyennes (France)  
Friends of the Earth Europe

## Europe (continued)

Biodiversité échanges et diffusion d'expériences (BEDE)

Foll'Avoine

Mouvement de l'Agriculture Bio-Dynamique

Association for Farmers Rights Defense, AFRD

Le Potager de Villard

Demeter e.V. (Germany)

Agrar Koordination (Germany)

Friends of the Earth Austria - GLOBAL 2000

Bread for the World

Bundesverband Naturkost Naturwaren (BNN) e.V.

Dachverband Kulturpflanzen- und Nutztiervielfalt e.V.

GM Freeze

le réseau Solimence

ViAgroforestry

SWISSAID

Schola Campesina Aps

Eremurus Club, Russia

National Association for Genetic Safety, Russia

Ecological Club Tapan, Armenia

## Latin America

Acción Ecológica (Ecuador)

Associação Brasileira de Agroecologia (Brasil)

Via Organica (Mexico)

CESTA Amigos de la Tierra El Salvador (El Salvador)

Centro Ecológico (Brazil)

Asociación Red de Coordinación en

Biodiversidad

Iniciativa Amotocodie (Paraguay)

Heñoi (Paraguay)

REDES-AT, REDES-Amigos de la Tierra (Uruguay)

Instituto de Estudios Ecologistas, (Ecuador)

Instituto de Salud Socioambiental de la Facultad de Cs. Médicas, UNR, (Argentina)

BASE-IS, (Paraguay)

Red Nacional de Agricultura Familiar (Colombia)

Red de Coordinación en Biodiversidad, Costa Rica

## North America

Hawai'i SEED (US)

Non-GMO Project (US)

Nature's Path Food Inc. (US)

Natural Grocers (US)

Organic Seed Alliance (US)

National Farmers Union (Canada)

Farm Aid (US)

RAFI USA (US)

Community Alliance for Global Justice (US)

BioScience Resource Project (US)

Food Integrity Now (US)

Moms Across America (US)

Nutiva (US)

Organics Consumer Association (US)

Canada Organic Trade Association (Canada)

Vigilance OGM (Canada)

Fair World Project (US)

Friends of the Earth US

Dr. Bronner's (US)

Sustainable Agriculture of Louisville (US)

Urban Tilth (US)

Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (IATP) (US)

USC Canada (Canada)

Movement Generation (US)

The National Organic Coalition (US)

HEAL Food Alliance (US)

Food and Water Watch (US)

Northeast Organic Farmers Association: New Jersey / Vermont / Inter State Council / Connecticut / Massachusetts / and New Hampshire (US)

National Family Farm Coalition (US)

Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners (MOFGA) (US)

Next7 (US)

Food Secure Canada (Canada)

Canadian Biotechnology Action Network (CBAN)

Family Farm Defenders (US)

The Land Institute

The Oakland Institute

Pesticide Action Network North America InterPares (Canada)

Center for Food Safety (US)

Sierra Club (USA)

Eden Foods' (USA)

Merville Against GDO (Canada)

GMO Free Florida (USA)

The Garlic Seeds Foundation

Food Democracy Now!

Genesis Farm Ecological Learning Center

## Individual signatories so far

**Vandana Shiva** *Navdanya International, Activist, Scholar, Author, Right Livelihood laureate (1993)*

**Caroline Lucas** *Member of Parliament Green Party, United Kingdom*

**Hilal Elver** *United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food (current)*

**Jean Ziegler** *United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food (2000-2008), Vice-president of the Advisory Committee to the United Nations Human Rights Council*

**Bob Scowcroft** *Co-founder, Executive Director, Organic Farming Research Foundation (retired)*

**Nell Newman** *President, Nell Newman Foundation*

**Tom Goldtooth** *Executive Director, Indigenous Environmental Network*

**Thuli Makama** *Swaziland, 2010 Recipient Goldman Environmental Prize*

**Chee Yoke Ling** *Director, Third World Network*

**David Suzuki** *Geneticist, Environmentalist and Broadcaster*

**Claire Hope Cummings** *Writer, Broadcaster, Environmental Lawyer*

**Anna Lappé** *Co-founder Small Planet Institute, Real Food Media*

**Severine Von Tscharner Fleming** *Founder, Greenhorns*

**Lauren Baker** *Professor, University of Toronto*

## Individual signatories so far (continued)

**Raj Patel** *Writer, Activist, Academic, IPES-Food panel member*

**Ocean Robbins** *Co-founder and CEO, Food Revolution Network*

**John Robbins** *Author, Founder EarthSave*

**Million Belay** *Coordinator, Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA), IPES-Food panel member*

**Nicolas Bricas** *Senior Scientist at CIRAD, IPES-Food panel member*

**Hans Herren** *Millennium Institute, World Food Prize winner (1995), Right Livelihood laureate (2013), IPES-Food panel member*

**Steve Gliessman** *Founding Director of the University of California Santa Cruz, Agroecology Program, IPES-Food panel member*

**Pat Mooney** *Co-Founder ETC Group, Right Livelihood Award laureate (1985), IPES-Food panel member*

**Olivier de Schutter** *United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food (2008-2014), Co-chair IPES-Food*

**Lim Li Ching** *Senior Researcher, Third World Network, IPES-Food panel member*

**Phil Howard** *Author, IPES-Food panel member*

**Jennifer Franco** *Transnational Institute, IPES-Food panel member*

**Yan Hairong** *Hong Kong Polytechnic University, IPES-Food panel member*

**Joji Carino** *Forest Peoples Programme, IPES-Food panel member*

**Will Allen** *Farmer, Activist*

**Jose "Pepe" Esquinas** *Professor, Former Secretary, Secretariat of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources, Former Secretary of FAO's Commission on Genetic Resources*

**Ida Kuklina** *(Russia), The Committee of Soldiers' Mothers of Russia, Right Livelihood Award 1996*

**Swami Agnivesh** *(India), Right Livelihood Award 2004*

**Angie Zelter** *(UK), Right Livelihood Award 2001*

**Nnimmo Bassey** *(Nigeria), Right Livelihood Award 2010*

**Anwar Fazal** *(Malaysia), Right Livelihood Award 1982*

**Manfred Max Neef** *(Chile), Right Livelihood Award 1983*

**Zafrullah Chowdhury** *(India), Right Livelihood Award 1992*

**Raul Montenegro** *(Argentina), Right Livelihood Award 2004*

**Annelis Allain for IBFAN** *(international), Right Livelihood Award 1998*

**Martin Almada** *(Paraguay), Right Livelihood Award 2002*

**Dipal Barua** *(Bangladesh), Grameen Shakti, Right Livelihood Award 2007*

**Ruchama Marton** *(Israel), Physicians for Human Rights, Right Livelihood Award 2010*

**Shrikrishna Upadhyay / SAPPROS** *(Nepal), Right Livelihood Award 2010*

**Martín von Hildebrand** *COAMA, Right Livelihood Award 1999*

**Wes Jackson** *(USA), Right Livelihood Award 2000*

**Erik Damman / The Future in our Hands** *Right Livelihood Award Laureate 1982*

**David Bronner** *CEO, Dr. Bronner*

**Wenonah Hauter** *Executive Director, Food and Water Watch, Author*

**Thierry Kesteloot** *Policy Advisor, Oxfam Belgium*

**Gustavo Esteva** *Founder, Universidad de la Tierra (Uniterra)*

**Maurizio Farhan Ferrari** *Biodiversity Policy Advisor, Forest Peoples Programme*

**Karin Nansen** *Chair, Friends of the Earth International*

**Silvia Rodríguez** *Emeritus Professor, Universidad Nacional, Costa Rica*

**Damián Verzeñassi** *Director of the Institute of Social and Environmental Health, Universidad del Rosario, Argentina*

**Emmanuel González-Ortega** *Doctor of Biotechnology, Biosecurity, National Institute of Ecology and Climate Change and Union of Scientists Committed to Society (UCCS)*

**Elizabetta Recine** *Coordinator of the Observatory of Food Security and Nutrition Policy- Universidade de Brasília*

**Rubens Nodari** *Professor, Universidad Santa Catarina, Brazil*

**Juliette Majot** *Executive Director, Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (IATP)*

**Jaime E. García González, sc.agr.** *Profesor, Catedrático de la Universidad Estatal a Distancia (UNED) y de la Universidad de Costa Rica (UCR)*

**Elizabeth Bravo** *Founding member, Acción Ecológica, Senior Fellow, Oakland Institute, Instituto de Estudios Ecologistas*

**Brian Baker** *President, IFOAM North America*

**Andrew Mushita** *Executive Director, Community Technology Development Trust (Zimbabwe)*

**Beth Burrows** *Retired President/Director, Edmonds Institute*

**Didi Pershouse** *Soil Carbon Coalition, Founder, Center for Sustainable Medicine*

**Aruna Rodrigues** *Sunray Harvesters*

**Uma Shankari Naren** *Author and activist*

**Suma Josson** *Documentary film maker*

**Bart Staes** *European Member of Parliament, Greens/European Free Alliance*

**Maria José Guazzelli** *Co-director Centro Ecológico, Brasil*

**Simone Lovera** *Executive Director Global Forest Coalition, Paraguay*

**Leonardo Melgarejo** *Vice-president of the Associação Brasileira de Agroecologia, Região Sul, Brasil*

**Miguel Lovera** *Author, former Director of National Seed Institute, Paraguay*

**Pablo Galeano** *Facultad de Química, UDELAR, Uruguay*

**Marielle Palau** *Director BASE-IS, Paraguay*

**María Fernanda Vallejo** *Researcher agroecological systems, Ecuador*

**Barbara Unmüßig** *President, Heinrich Böll Foundation*

**Henk Hobbelink** *Co-founder GRAIN*

**Mariann Bassey** *Chairperson, Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA)*

**Pete Shanks** *Writer and Activist*

**François Warlop** *Agronomist*

**Vincent Delobel** *Member Generation T*

**Didier Meunier** *Membre du réseau des agroécologistes sans frontière*

**Nori Ignacio** *Executive Director, SEARICE*

**Devon G. Peña, Ph.D.** *President and Founder, The Acequia Institute.*

**Nadia El Hage** *Senior Officer, Organic Agriculture Programme (FAO)*

**Jean-Paul Sikeli** *Executive Secretary COPAGEN*

**Martin Häusling** *Member of the European Parliament*

**Veronica Rudio** *Executive Director ProTerra Foundation*

**Anne Petermann** *Executive Director, Global Justice Ecology Project and Coordinator, International Campaign to Stop GE Trees*

**Irina Vekcha** *Geneticist, Agriculture University of Thies, Senegal (retired)*

**Bishop Geoff Davies** *Patron of SAFCEI*