

## **Don't be fooled!**

### **Civil society says NO to “Climate Smart Agriculture” and urges decision-makers to support agroecology**

We, the undersigned, belong to civil society organizations including social movements, peasants/farmers organizations and faith-based organizations from around the world. We are working to tackle the impacts of climate change that are already disrupting farming and food systems and threatening the food and nutrition security of millions of individuals. As we move towards COP21 in Paris, we welcome a growing recognition of the urgent need to adapt food systems to a changing climate, and the key role of agroecology within a food and seed sovereignty framework in achieving this, while contributing to mitigation through the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

However, despite these promising signals, we share deep concerns about the growing influence and agenda of so-called “Climate-Smart Agriculture” (CSA) and the Global Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture (GACSA). Climate change is the biggest and the most urgent threat our societies face. We need a radical transformation of our food systems away from an industrial model and its false solutions, and toward food sovereignty, local food systems, and integral agrarian reform in order to achieve the full realization of the human right to adequate food and nutrition. We therefore urge decision-makers at country and UN levels to reject the dangerous rhetoric of Climate-Smart Agriculture.

#### **Climate Smart Agriculture must not be confused with agroecology**

Climate Smart Agriculture must not be confused with agroecology<sup>1</sup>. Agroecology is a holistic approach to agriculture, based on principles of ecology as well as food and nutrition security, food sovereignty and food justice which seek to enhance agricultural systems by using and recycling natural resources instead of relying on externally-purchased inputs. It encourages local/national food production by small food producers and family farmers, and is based on techniques that are not delivered from the top-down, but developed from farmers' traditional knowledge and practices as well as from farmer innovations. This approach is based on farmers' participation and makes nature a powerful ally in ensuring food and nutrition security, building healthy soils and conserving water. It increases farmers' incomes and resilience in the face of climate change, while improving biodiversity and crop diversity. It is therefore crucial for all efforts to realize the human right to adequate food and nutrition. Governments must recognise that industrial approaches that degrade soil health and water retention, pollute water systems, poison nature and create dependency on external inputs, impoverish biodiversity and ecosystems are not only harmful and unnecessary, but also deeply misguided for a planet facing hunger, ecological crises and climate change.

“Climate-Smart Agriculture” may sound promising, but it is a politically-motivated term. The approach does not involve any criteria to define what can or cannot be called “Climate Smart”. Agribusiness corporations that promote synthetic fertilisers, industrial meat production and large-scale industrial agriculture – all of which are widely recognised as contributing to climate change and undermining the resilience of farming systems – can and do call themselves “Climate Smart”. CSA claims to include all models of agriculture. However it lacks any social or environmental safeguards and fails to prioritize farmers' voices, knowledge and rights as key to facing and mitigating our climate challenges. It therefore actually threatens to undermine agroecological approaches as defined by practitioners<sup>2</sup>, while endangering the future development and upscaling of such approaches.

#### **GACSA : opening doors for greenwashing**

The Global Alliance for Climate Smart Agriculture was launched one year ago and is now putting a lot of energy into its outreach campaign, while its Action Groups have started working on their own objectives. As of 20<sup>th</sup> July, its membership of 21 nations comprised of only ten developing countries and three farmers' organisations - in contrast with a wide corporate membership. While some organisations from civil society and rural social movements rejected the GACSA from the beginning, others have made repeated efforts to engage with it<sup>3,4</sup> to reduce the threat of green-washing and false solutions. In spite of these efforts, the concerns expressed were largely ignored, as recently recognised in a paper issued by the Institut du Développement Durable et des Relations Internationales (IDDRI)<sup>5</sup>. Instead, some of agriculture's least environmentally sensitive actors were welcomed into the alliance: 60% of the private sector membership of

1 □ See the *Declaration of the international forum for agroecology*. Nyéléni, Mali 27 February 2015

2 □ Ibidem

3 □ Letter 1 <http://www.climatesmartagconcerns.info/open-letter.html>

4 □ Letter 2 <http://www.climatesmartagconcerns.info/rejection-letter.html>

5 □ IDDRI, “Ensuring transparency and accountability of the Global Alliance for Climate Smart Agriculture in the perspective of COP21”, July 2015

the alliance is related to the fertilizer industry<sup>6</sup>. In addition, transnational corporations that have questionable social and environmental impacts, such as Monsanto, Walmart and McDonalds have launched their own “climate-smart agriculture” programs<sup>7</sup>.

### **Climate Smart Agriculture: a concept that has no place as a climate strategy**

As the UN picks up the pace for action on climate towards COP21 and beyond, we call on countries to recognise that the Climate-Smart Agriculture path can take us in the wrong direction, falling short of ensuring food and nutrition security, and undermining the radical transformation of current food and agricultural systems that the world urgently needs. Without definitions, criteria, standards, safeguards or exclusions, “Climate Smart Agriculture” is a meaningless and dangerous concept that has no place as a climate strategy. Moreover, the GACSA is not accountable to any UN structure involved in food security, climate or agriculture.

With new instruments for international climate finance being put in place to spend many billions of dollars, there is a real risk that wealthier countries – in their aim to meet their financial commitments<sup>8</sup> – may end up funding projects and programmes that direct resources towards false solutions in countries where they have vested interests. Thus:

- As the Green Climate Fund programme of work gets underway, we welcome the importance given to adaptation. Agriculture will be a principal component of this programme. However, we urge the GCF Board not to accredit any programme of work or institution that is based on Climate Smart Agriculture. Instead, we strongly encourage them to support community-based solutions emerging from frontline communities, such as agroecology.
- An “Agenda of Solutions”<sup>9</sup> is being created for COP21 which aims to demonstrate the commitment of non-state actors to reaching a new and ambitious legal agreement in 2015, and which could be included or referred to in the outcome document of COP 21 along with the negotiated agreement. We urge governments not to endorse Climate Smart Agriculture as a solution to climate change, nor to label any other initiative that would be part of the “agenda of solutions” as part of the concept.

### **Agroecology as the mainstream pillar of agricultural policy frameworks worldwide**

We face a critical moment. Real solutions to climate change must be agreed upon and urgently adopted. We urge decision-makers to stand against green-washed false solutions rebranded as CSA, and to have the courage to recognise and promote the decisive role of agroecology in ensuring food and nutrition security, the full realization of the human right to adequate food and nutrition, and food sovereignty in the face of climate change, resource scarcity, and growing demand challenges. The international and regional processes that emanated from the FAOs Symposium on Agroecology in September 2014 as well as the upcoming Committee on World Food Security High Level Panel of Experts report on “Sustainable agricultural development” and the recent Nyéléni Declaration of the International Forum for Agroecology, present a unique opportunity for agroecology to be endorsed as the mainstream pillar of agricultural policy frameworks worldwide. Moreover, communities, civil society organizations, organised social movements, peasants and faith-based organizations are developing, strengthening, and supporting alternatives at local and national level have proven to be successful in the global fight against climate change. We call on decision makers to acknowledge this broad range of tangible and concrete actions, to listen, support and accompany them, while not succumbing to global top-down initiatives that rely on models from the past.

**We therefore call upon decision makers to endorse the application of agroecology internationally within the UN processes relating to climate change and agriculture, as well as at national level.**

6 ☐ Either through the direct membership of companies from the fertilizer industry (Haifa Chemicals Ltd., Yara and the Mosaic Company) and/or through their various umbrellas (such as Fertilizers Europe, The Fertilizer Institute, The international Fertilizer Industry association, ...) in CIDSE, “Climate-Smart revolution... or a new era of green-washing?”, briefing, May 2015

7 ☐ Monsanto: <http://discover.monsanto.com/posts/approaching-climate-smart-agriculture-perspective-systems/>; Walmart : <http://news.walmart.com/news-archive/2014/10/06/walmart-announces-new-commitment-to-a-sustainable-food-system-at-global-milestone-meeting>; McDonalds: <http://news.mcdonalds.com/Corporate/news-stories/2014/McDonald%2080%99s-CEO-to-Speak-at-United-Nations-Climate>

8 ☐ Agreed in Copenhagen in 2009 under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

9 ☐ <http://climateaction.unfccc.int/> At the moment is unclear whether the Action Agenda will enter the negotiating text, and therefore get “institutionalized” also beyond Paris.

**Signatories:**International organisations (55)

- ACT Alliance EU
- ActionAid International
- AFRICA-EUROPE FAITH AND JUSTICE NETWORK (AEFJN)
- African Women Economic Policy Network
- Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA)
- ALAI - Agencia Latinoamericana de Información
- ARENA
- Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP)
- Asia Pacific Farmers Forum
- Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (APWLD)
- Asia-Pacific Network for Food Sovereignty (APNFS)
- Climate Action Network - South Asia (CAN-SA)
- CIDSE (International Alliance of Catholic Development Agencies)
- Consejo Latinoamericano de Iglesias
- COPAGEN (Coalition pour la Protection du Patrimoine Génétique Africain)
- Corporate Europe Observatory
- Dachverband Kulturpflanzen- und Nutztiervielfalt
- Eastern and Southern Africa Small Scale Farmers' Forum (ESAFF)
- ECOROPA (European Network on Ecological Reflection and Action)
- ENDA Tiers Monde
- ETC Group
- Fair World Project
- FIAN International
- Focus on the Global South
- Friends of the Earth Europe
- Friends of the Earth International
- GRAIN
- Greenpeace
- Groundswell International
- ICCA Consortium (Indigenous peoples' and community conserved territories and areas)
- IFOAM EU Group
- IFOAM – organics international
- International Federation of Rural Adult Catholic Movements (FIMARC)
- International Network Urgenci (international network for Community-Supported Agriculture)
- JVE (Jeunes Volontaires Pour l'Environnement) International
- LDC Watch
- Migrant Forum in Asia
- Participatory Ecological Land Use Management Association (Pelum)
- People's Coalition on Food Sovereignty (PCFS)
- Plataforma Interamericana de Derechos Humanos, Democracia y Desarrollo (PIDHDD Regional)
- Regional Civil Society Network for Food Security and Nutrition from Portuguese-Speaking Countries (REDSAN – CPLP)
- RIPESS Intercontinental
- Servicio Internacional Cristiano de Solidaridad con los Pueblos de América Latina – SICSLA
- SEAFISH for Justice
- Slow Food
- Sociedad Científica Latinoamericana de Agroecología (SOCLA)

- Solidarity Economy Europe
- South Asian Alliance for Poverty Eradication
- South Asian Network for Social & Agricultural Development (SANSAD)
- South Asia Peasants Coalition
- Third World Network
- Towards Organic Asia (TOA)
- Urgenci Europe
- Via Campesina
- World Rainforest Movement

National Organisations (300):

**A**

African Centre for Biodiversity South Africa and Tanzania  
 A Cultivar que se acaba el mundo, Argentina  
 Agronomes et Vétérinaires Sans Frontières (AVSF), France  
 Action Contre la Faim (ACF), France  
 Asociacion de Desarrollo Tzuul Taq'a, Guatemala  
 ABONG (Associação Brasileira de ONGs), Brazil  
 All Nepal Peasants Federation, Nepal  
 Action Communautaire des Femmes Autochtones du Congo, DR Congo  
 Acción por la Biodiversidad, Argentina  
 Association pour le Développement Durable – Médenin, Tunisia  
 Association des Femmes Peules Autochtones du Tchad (APPAT), Tchad  
 Asociación Nacional de Empresas Comercializadoras de Productores del Campo (ANEC-México)  
 APEDDUB (Association pour la Protection de l'Environnement et le Développement Durable de Bizerte), Tunisia  
 Ação Franciscana de Ecologia e Solidariedad – AFES, Brazil  
 Agrecol Association for AgriCulture & Ecology, Germany  
 Active Society Nepal (ASN), Nepal  
 Aas welfare Society, Pakistan  
 Asociación Vida Sana, Spain  
 Alliance Sud, Switzerland  
 Asociación Nacional de Fomento a la Agricultura Ecológica - ANAFAE, Honduras  
 Alianza Hondureña de Cambio Climático – AHCC, Honduras  
 Acción Educativa Santa Fe, Argentina  
 Asociación Latinoamericana de Educación Radiofónica ALER, Ecuador  
 AMADE PELCODE, Mali  
 Actions Communautaires pour le Développement Intégral (ACDI), République du Congo (Brazzaville)  
 ALVF Extreme Nord, Cameroon  
 Alternatives Durables pour le Développement, Cameroon  
 Association Congolaise pour le Développement Agricole ACDA, DR Congo  
 ANAND SEEDS, Colombia  
 ACTUAR - Association for Cooperation and Development, Portugal  
 Adivasi Mulvashi Astitva Raksha manch, India  
 AKSI, Indonesia  
 All Nepal Womens Association  
 ATTAC France

**B**

Brot für die Welt, Germany  
 Biofuelwatch, UK  
 Biowatch South Africa  
 Bolivian Platform on Climate Change, Bolivia  
 Broederlijk Delen, Belgium  
 Bread for all, Switzerland  
 BASE Investigaciones Sociales, Paraguay  
 Brigada Cimarrona Sebastián Lemba, Republica Dominicana  
 Bangladesh Krishok Federation  
 Bangladesh Jatiyo Sramik Jote

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CNCD-11.11.11, Belgium

Comité Français pour la Solidarité Internationale (CFSI), France

Center for Food Safety, USA

Community Alliance for Global Justice (CAGJ), USA

Carbon Underground, USA

CCFD-Terre Solidaire, France

Centro de Documentación en Derechos Humanos "Segundo Montes Mozo S.J. (CSMM), Ecuador

Caritas Sénégal

Centro de Estudios Ecuménicos A.C, Mexico

Casa Cultural Tejiendo Sororidades, Colombia

Colectivo DEDISE, Colombia

CooperAccion, Peru

Centro de Promocion de la Mujer Gregoria Apaza, Bolivia

Corporación Colombia Joven, Colombia

CLUSA, El Salvador

Coalición Nacional de Redes y Organizaciones Ambientales – CONROA, Honduras

Centro Hondureño de Promoción al Desarrollo Comunitario – CEHPRODEC, Honduras

Centro de Estudios Étnicos de Colombia

CIPCA (Centro de Investigación y Promoción del Campesinado), Bolivia

Comité de Impulso Nacional de la Agricultura Familiar, Colombia

Centre pour l'Environnement et le Développement, Cameroon

Colegio de Graduados en Cooperativismo y Mutualismo (CGCyM), Argentina

Climaxi vzw, Belgium

CAMERWASH, Cameroon

Centro Nueva Tierra, Argentina

COOPERATIVA AGROPECUÁRIA CACHO DE OURO COOPERCACHO, Brazil

Community Development Library, Bangladesh

Campaign for Climate Justice Nepal, Nepal

Center for Environmental Justice, Sri Lanka

Codacop - Corporación de Apoyo a Comunidades Populares, Colombia

CARI (Centre d'Actions et de Réalisations Internationales), France

CIASE - Corporación de Investigación y Acción Social y Económica, Colombia

CEDLA - Centro de Estudios para el Desarrollo Laboral y Agrario, Bolivia

CBC - Centro Bartolomé de Las Casas, Peru

Censat Agua Viva - Amigos de la Tierra Colombia

CEDEBI - Asociación Colectivo Ecuménico de Biblistas, Colombia

Community Agroecology Network, USA

Centro Oscar Arnulfo Romero, Cuba

**D**

Devarao Shivaram Trust, India

Dulal, India

Dinamismo Juvenil A.C., Mexico

Development and Peace, Canada

DKA Austria

Debt Watch, Indonesia

**E**

Entraide & Fraternité, Belgium

EcoNexus, UK

El Grupo Semillas, Colombia

Eco Ruralis, Romania

Escuela Campesina de Educación y Salud (ESCAES), Peru

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Educación y Comunicaciones (ECO), Chile  
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**F**

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Fédération Inter-Environnement Wallonie, Belgium  
Fundación Caósmosis, Colombia  
FUNDESYRAM, El Salvador  
FUNDACIÓN MUNDUBAT, Spain  
Fundación PASOS, Bolivia  
Fambidzanai Permaculture Centre, Zimbabwe  
Family Farm Defenders, USA  
FIAN Austria  
FIAN Belgium  
FIAN Germany  
Focus on the Global South India  
Focus on the Global South Thailand  
Focus on the Global South Philippines  
FDCL - Center for Research and Documentation Chile-Latin America, Germany  
Fundacion Parque Nacional Pico Bonito – FUPNAPIB, Honduras  
Foro Agrícola, Honduras  
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Forum Solidaridad Perú  
Friends of the Earth USA  
Friends of the Earth France  
Fundación Justicia y Desarrollo Local FUJUDEL, Republica Dominicana  
Fundación Semilla Andina, Colombia  
Faso Enviprotek, Burkina Faso  
FEC, Portugal  
Freedom from Debt Coalition, Philippines  
Fundación Fray Domingo de Vico lleva, Guatemala  
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**G**

Gevalor, France  
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INCUPO-Instituto de Cultura Popular, Argentina  
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Instituto de Investigación y Capacitación Campesina (IICCA), Bolivia  
Instituto Bartolome de Las Casas, Peru  
Indigenous Nationalities Women Youth Network (INWYN), Nepal  
Iyolosiwa A.C., Mexico  
Instituto Mayor Campesino (IMCA), Colombia  
Instituto Latinoamericano para una Sociedad y un Derecho Alternativos (ILSA), Colombia  
Iglesias por la paz, Mexico  
Indeso Mujer, Argentina  
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Monde Volontaire au Développement, Togo  
Movement Generation Justice & Ecology Project, USA  
Movimiento Ciudadano frente al Cambio Climático – MOCICC, Peru  
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**N**

National Women Peasants Association, Nepal  
Neighbours Initiative Alliance, Kenya  
Noor Development Society, Pakistan  
North South Initiative, Malaysia

Network of Traditional Rulers of Cameroon on Conservation, Biodiversity & Ecosystem Preservation (ReCTRAD)

National Federation of Hawkers Bangladesh

National Federation of Women Hawkers, India

Nadi Gati Morcha, India

National Hawkers Federation, India

**O**

Observatori DESC, Spain

Other Worlds, USA

Organic Consumers, USA

Our Rivers Our Life, Philippines

ORRISSA, Odisha, India

Odisha Paramparika Krushak Sangathan, India

**P**

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Peoples Common Struggle Center, Pakistan

PROSALUS, Spain

PAPDA (Plateforme haïtienne de Plaidoyer pour un Développement Alternatif), Haiti

Plate-Forme pour le Commerce Equitable, France

People Unity Youth Society (PUYS), Nepal

Pusbinlat Motivator GT, Indonesia

PELUM-Kenya

Paghida-et sa Kauswagan Development Group (PDG), Philippines

Pastoralist Community Initiative and Development Assistance, Kenya

Pastoral Social Diocesana de Benjamin Aceval Chaco, Paraguay

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Pakistan Kissan Rabita Committee (Farmers)

Philippine Movement for Climate Justice

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Réseau Action Climat – France

Réseau Médias et Développement, Cameroon

Réseau Climat & Développement, France

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RJE (Réseau des Jeunes pour l'Environnement), Togo

Right to Food Network Nepal (RtFN), Nepal

River Basin Friends, India

Rural Reconstruction Nepal

RCDC, Odisha, India

Rights & Rights Social Society, Pakistan

Réseau Foi et Justice Afrique Europe – Antenne de France

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Slow Food USA

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SOS FAIM, Belgium

Servicio Ecuménico de Promoción Alternativa – SEPA, Paraguay

Schools and Colleges Permaculture Programme SCOPE, Kenya

Send a Cow, UK

School of Acting justly, Loving tenderly and Treading Humbly (SALT Movement), Malaysia

SWISSAID, Switzerland

SUPRO, Bangladesh

Solidaritas Perempuan, Indonesia

Sawit Watch, Indonesia  
Sanlakas, Philippines  
Save Our Seeds, Germany  
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The Oakland Institute, USA  
Terra Nuova, Italy  
Todo en Comunidad AC, Mexico  
Trashumancia y Naturaleza, Spain  
Thai Climate Justice Working Group (TCJ), Thailand  
Task Force Detainees of the Philippines

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UK Food Group  
USC Canada  
Utooni Development Organization, Kenya  
Unnayan Onneshan, Bangladesh

**V**

Vía Orgánica, Mexico  
Verein zur Erhaltung der Nutzpflanzenvielfalt (VEN), Germany  
VICARIA DEL SUR - Diócesis de Florencia, Colombia  
Vogelschutz-komitee e.V. Bird Protection Committee, Germany  
VOICE, Bangladesh

**W**

Welthaus Graz, Austria  
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WhyHunger, USA  
World Family, UK  
WALHI - Friends of the Earth Indonesia

**Y**

Youth Peasants Association, Nepal  
Youth Awareness Society Nepal (YASN), Nepal

**Z**

Zukunftsstiftung Landwirtschaft (Foundation on Future Farming)