



nyéléni

EUROPE & CENTRAL ASIA

# FOOD SOVEREIGNTY

The concept of Food Sovereignty was first discussed and defined at La Via Campesina's (LVC) 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference held in Mexico in April 1996, as an international reaction of social movements to the policies imposed by neoliberalism and the subsequent loss of associated rights to land and territories, oceans and small-scale food production.

# FOOD SOVEREIGNTY

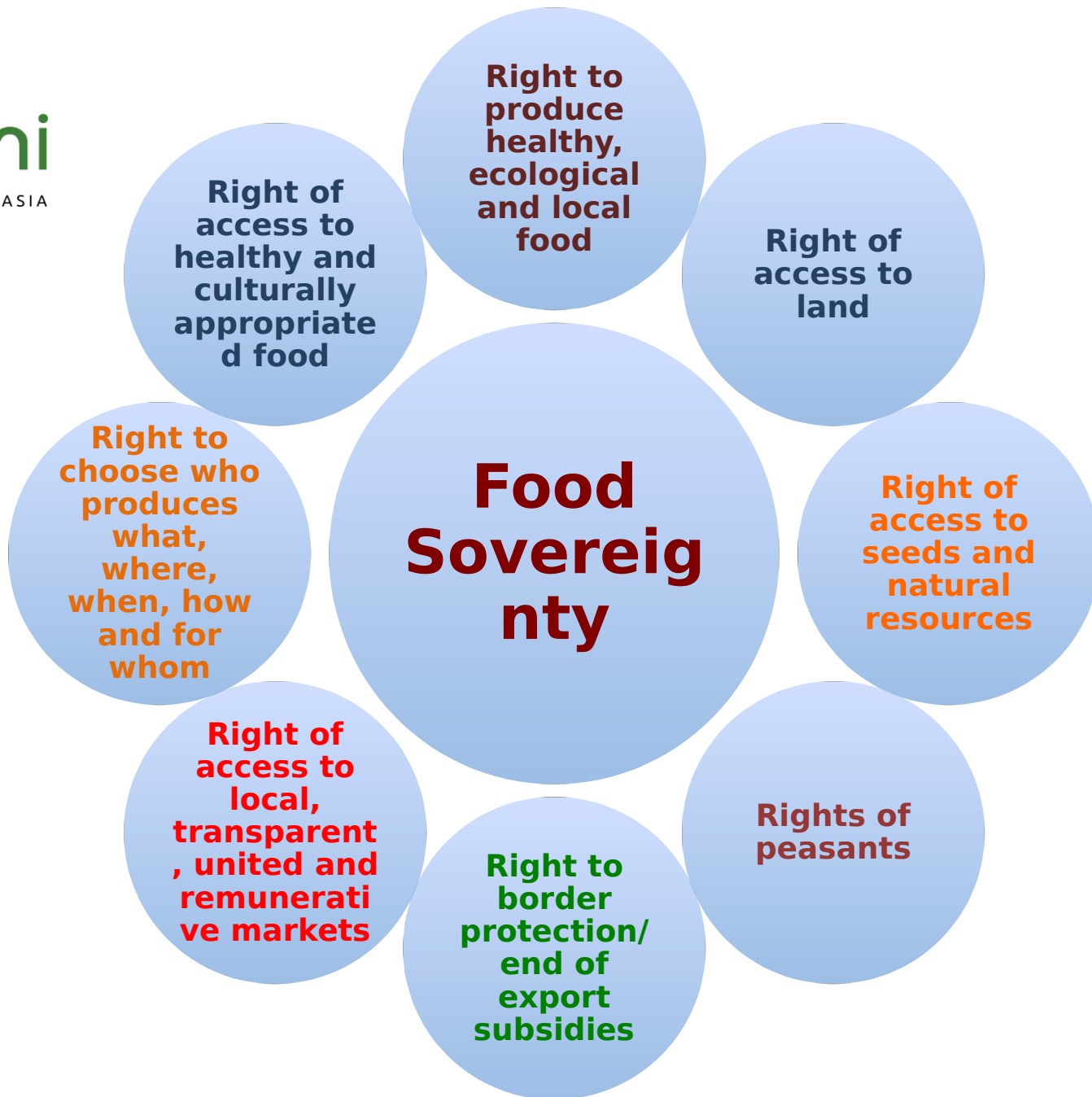
It was developed as an alternative to the “food security” food system model imposed by national and international governing bodies.

# FOOD SOVEREIGNTY

According to LVC, “Food sovereignty prioritizes local food production and consumption. It gives a country the right to protect its local producers from cheap imports and to control production. It ensures that the rights to use and manage lands, territories, water, seeds, livestock and biodiversity are in the hands of those who produce food and not of the corporate sector”

# FOOD SOVEREIGNTY

Since then, food sovereignty has emerged and launched a major global movement, comprised of food producers, women, youth and consumers as well as activists, policymakers, practitioners, academics, scientists and citizens for changing the dominant global food and agricultural system for the better.



# International Steering Committee (ISC)

In 1996, prior to the 1st World Food Summit, an international committee was brought together, in order to organize the Forum of Non Governmental/Civil Society organizations in advance of that summit. This space was named the International Steering Committee (ISC).

# International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty (IPC)

After the 2nd World Food Summit in 2002 in Rome, the ISC officially became the International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty (IPC) in 2003

11 global and 8 regional organisations; more than 6000 organizations of peasants, artisanal fisherfolk, family farmers, agricultural workers, Indigenous Peoples, consumers, environmental networks and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).



# International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty (IPC)

The IPC serves as a space of articulation, to spread information and build capacities around issues regarding Food Sovereignty.

# Nyéléni Food Sovereignty Forum

Following the IPC's formation over the course of a decade, civil society continued in a process of mobilization and broadening of alliances around Food Sovereignty, and held the first worldwide Nyéléni Food Sovereignty Forum between February 23rd-27th, 2007, in Selingue, Mali.

# Nyéléni Food Sovereignty Forum

In 2007, in Mali together they defined the 6 principles of Food Sovereignty:

# Nyéleni Food Sovereignty Forum

- Focuses on food for people
- Values food providers
- Localises food systems
- Puts control locally
- Builds knowledge and skills
- Works with nature

# Nyéléni Food Sovereignty Forums in Europe

In 2011, the First Nyéléni Europe Forum for Food Sovereignty was held in Krems, Austria.

the 2nd Nyéléni Europe Forum for Food Sovereignty took place in Cluj-Napoca, Romania between 26th -30th October 2016.

# Nyéléni ECA

## **WHO WE ARE**

We are a political and social alliance of grassroots, community based movements and organizations, representing small-scale food producers: *peasants/small farmers, pastoralists, indigenous peoples, small-scale fisher people, agriculture and food workers*; and supporting constituencies, such as urban poor; rural and urban women's and youth organisations; consumers, environmental, justice, solidarity, human rights organizations; community-based food movements

## **Youth are facing according to Nyéléni ECA:**

- The struggles of the youth are a reflection of the global political context in which we are particularly affected
- The countryside has an ageing population and this has direct and urgent consequences to the present and future (In France, the Ministry of Agriculture has even announced that by 2026, 45% of French farmers will have retired. )
- Our resources (land and territories, seeds, marine and water resources, etc.) are grabbed by extractive industries, including agribusiness, mining activities and the renewable energy sector (hydroelectric plants, solar farms, etc.)

## **Youth are facing according to Nyéléni ECA:**

- The labour of youth and migrants is undervalued and brutally exploited.
- Patriarchy and age discrimination restrict our visibility and participation in decision-making processes.
- Mainstream continue to propagate the false notion that there is no future in the agrarian sector, and that prosperity is only found in formal, urban employment.



## **Youth are facing according to Nyéléni ECA:**

- Land and territories are now seen as commodities, exploited by speculative investment and land grabbing, which results in high costs and limited availability. This restricts the ability of youth to access land, especially young women.
- At the same time, the harsh realities and low returns in agriculture make it difficult for youth to prosper on the land

## **Youth are facing according to Nyéléni ECA:**

- In Europe, access to land for new entrants is prohibitively expensive; Many young people want to get involved in agriculture, as a profession that makes sense to feed people and protect nature, using peasant agroecology. They need access to land; not to own it, but to have secure access to the means of production

## **Youth are facing according to Nyéléni ECA:**

- There is no measure that tackles land concentration in the F2F strategy despite the fact that the phenomenon of land concentration has increased exponentially, especially in Eastern Europe; The European food sovereignty movement has been asking for a EU land directive to facilitate access to land for young people, protect the soil and prevent artificialisation of the land.

## **Youth are facing according to Nyéléni ECA:**

- Many young farmers start up horticulture production on small fields( just a couple of hectares or less) . There is a growing demand for fresh products, but due to their small area, they get little support or none.

The peasants and all small scale food producers, in particular, young farmers, and rural areas are facing a lot of political, economic and social discrimination. In Nyéléni ECA, the constituencies, believe that the only solution of all these problems could be placed **on the realization of Food Sovereignty through a comprehensive position on Agroecology.**

- Nyeleni ECA asks EU to put a strong focus on the incorporation of youth in farming, new entrants or farmers's children as they need support, and a positive consideration for the sector.

We struggle for the democratization of our societies and full participation of youth in political and decision-making processes. We must ensure that within our own organizations and movement that youth are able to develop leadership skills. We need to promote strong public policies

# Policy Level



# **Some national/international frameworks that we are focusing on**

- CAP: Agricultural policy should facilitate and encourage access to agricultural land and subsidies for these young and "neo-rural" people rather than opening access to land and subsidies to investors.
- United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas (UNDROP)
- VGGT: The Tenure Guidelines recognize and strengthen the rights of peasants, indigenous peoples, small-scale fishing communities, fish workers, pastoralists, livestock farmers, women and youth to control their territories.

# CSO CONSULTATION

prior to the FAO 32<sup>nd</sup> regional  
Conference will be virtual.

JOIN US!

21-23 October 2020

Send an e mail to [info@nyeleni-eca.net](mailto:info@nyeleni-eca.net)

facebook: [@NyeleniEurope](https://www.facebook.com/NyeleniEurope)

# CSO CONSULTATION

## Preparatory Workshops (virtual)

### **FIRST workshop: 5 OCTOBER, 11:00 -13:00**

- Sustainable food systems, nutrition and healthy diets
- UN Food Systems Summit (2021)

### **SECOND workshop: 8 OCTOBER, 11:00 -13:00**

- **Youth** and Decade of Family Farming
- Innovation and digitalisation