

# WORLD FOODLESS DAY

**F**ood, which is for nourishment and livelihoods, is now being treated as a commodity for trade, speculation and profiteering.

World Food Day on October 16 is an opportune time to send a strong message for food sovereignty and to highlight people's strategies to address the food crisis.



This call is to observe October 16 as World Foodless Day to assert our food sovereignty and to commit to a Day of Global Action on the world food crisis with simultaneous events, protest actions and activities.

The Objectives of the World Foodless Day:

- Create public awareness and media attention on the root causes of the food crisis
- Provide policy recommendations and organize meetings with government officials, opinion makers and leaders
- Organise activities to raise our voices against neoliberal policies and their impact
- Highlight people's recommendations to respond to the world food crisis



# ABOUT THE ORGANISERS

**T**he WFD events are being organised by different organisations—national and regional grassroots organisations and support NGOs around the globe. Pesticide Action Network Asia and the Pacific (PAN AP) and the People's Coalition on Food Sovereignty (PCFS) facilitate the process.

PAN is global network working to eliminate human and environmental harm caused by pesticides and promoting biodiversity based ecological agriculture. PAN AP is committed to the empowerment of people especially women, agricultural workers, peasants and indigenous farmers. It is dedicated to protect the safety and health of people, and the environment from pesticide use and genetic engineering. PANAP believes in a people-centered, pro-women development through food sovereignty, ecological agriculture and sustainable lifestyles.

PCFS ([www.foodsov.org](http://www.foodsov.org)) is a growing network of various grassroots groups of small food producers particularly of peasant-farmer organizations and their support NGOs, working towards a People's Convention on Food Sovereignty.

For the full list of organisers and activities, visit [www.panap.net/wfd](http://www.panap.net/wfd)



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# END HUNGER END FOOD CRISIS



**World Foodless Day  
October 16**

**Defend Food Sovereignty  
Land to the Landless  
Safe Food for All**

## BACKGROUND

The food crisis has added nearly 100 million to the ranks of the estimated 855 million poor and hungry in the world, and has also turned a large mass of poor into destitution.

Among these poor and hungry, nearly 80 per cent are small-scale or near-landless farmers (50 per cent with inadequate land, 20 per cent rural landless workers, and 10 per cent fishers and herders); the rest, which comprises 20 per cent, are urban poor whose number is now growing.

The way out of this crisis according to the IMF, World Bank, ADB, FAO and the WTO are the very same old solutions they have prescribed in the past - greater liberalisation, in particular the resumption and completion of the WTO Doha Round of negotiations as well as intensifying and increasing the expansion of corporate agriculture. Together, these had in the first place aggravated the global food crisis and intensified TNC profiteering.

As a result of these policies, peasants, agricultural workers, women, small food producers and the poor are being displaced, losing livelihoods, and suffering escalating hunger and poverty. These policies and their impact were the recipe for the current food crisis.



## OUR RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Recognize people's basic Right to Food, by providing adequate, affordable and safe food for all.** Governments must ensure that everyone has affordable access to adequate and culturally appropriate food.
- **Take immediate and urgent action to deliver food to the areas of need.** Support humanitarian and emergency agencies to deliver food aid that is premised on food sovereignty. Domestic food production of recipient communities must be enhanced. It must be culturally appropriate and without poisons.
- **Implement genuine agrarian, fisheries, forestry and pastureland reforms.** Global food crisis cannot be addressed by repeating the policies, practices and mistakes of the last fifty years, but through true reforms encompassing agriculture, land and water resources, and rural development.
- **Promote and support bio-diversity based ecological food production and community-based seed and grain storage systems.** These systems offer higher productivity and income to help improve and create rural livelihood by spurring diverse economic activities.
- **Develop local food markets, and strengthen public procurement, distribution and stocking systems for food.** These systems help maintain food supplies and provide food to the needy, even in times of crisis.



- **Ensure that food production and consumption are more equitable and beneficial for women and girls.** Women must be integrated into the agricultural and rural environment agenda and programmes for equal rights and equitable share of resources.
- **Stop indiscriminate agricultural land use change from food crops to agrofuels and other global commodities.** Industrialisation and corporatisation of agriculture have diverted fertile land away from producing food for the people to the production of agrofuels and other global commodities and to the building of large-scale recreational centres and special economic zones thereby worsening people's food systems and the climate.
- **Take WTO out of agriculture.** It is apparent that the agriculture trade agreement platform of WTO has been a major culprit in taking agriculture out of people's control and giving it to corporations. The WTO has also taken the food crisis as an opportunity to revive their failed talks and their ruinous implementations.
- **Regulate speculative trading and stop futures contract trading.** Agriculture is an issue of life, culture and livelihood, not trade. Seeds and crops are food, not commodities. Land is a resource for local food production, not for global speculation and grabbing.
- **Realise People's Food Sovereignty as the framework for food production and distribution, and for national and international trade and investment policies.** The solution to the food crisis lies in the people being in control of agriculture, their productive livelihood resources and distributive practices.