

# What is Food Sovereignty?

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Carroll<m@ttthew.org.uk><p>The political tool of food sovereignty was developed by the global peasant movement <a href="http://www.viacampesina.org" target="\_self">La Vía Campesina</a> and introduced into public debate on the occasion of the World Food Summit in 1996, to provide an alternative to neo-liberal policies. Food sovereignty allows movements around the world be guided by, and work in solidarity with, the highly organized leadership of the international peasants' movement.</p><p>In February 2007, farmer groups from across the world met in Malindi for the Nyeleni Forum on Food Sovereignty. CBAN Member the <a href="http://www.nfu.ca" target="\_self">National Farmers Union</a> were among those who participated. CBAN Member the National Farmers Union and <a href="http://www.unionpaysanne.com" target="\_self">Union Paysanne</a> are the two Canadian members of La Vía Campesina.</p><p>Click here for a pages summary of the <a href="/a-propos/Food-Sovereignty/6-Pillars-of-Food-Sovereignty" target="\_self">6 Pillars of Food Sovereignty</a>.</p><p>CBAN initiated a youth-led project that has developed <a href="/Ressources/Tools/Workshops-and-Presentations/Digital" target="\_self">a popular education workshop on Food Sovereignty.</a></p><p>Food sovereignty is the right of people to:</p><ul><li><p><p>define their own food and agriculture</p></li><li><p><p>protect and regulate domestic agricultural production and trade in order to achieve sustainable development objectives</p></li><li><p><p>determine the extent to which they want to be self-reliant; to restrict the dumping of products in their markets</p></li><li><p><p>provide local fisheries-based communities the priority in managing the use of and the rights to aquatic resources.</p></li></ul><p>- Statement on Peoples' Food Sovereignty</p><div class="object-right"><div class="content-view-embedded-media"><div class="class-image"><div class="attribute-image"><p></p></div></div></div></div><p><p><a name="eztoc270\_0\_1" id="eztoc270\_0\_1"></a><h3>Food sovereignty involves:</h3><ul><li><p><p>prioritizing local agricultural production to feed the population and the access of women and men farmer to land, water, seeds and credit. Hence the need for agrarian reform, to combat genetically modified organisms (GMOs) to guarantee free access to seeds, and to keep water a public good to be distributed in a sustainable way.</p></li><li><p><p>the right of farmer to produce food and the right of consumer to be able to decide what they want to consume, and how and who produces it.</p></li><li><p><p>the right of all nation to protect themselves from excessively cheap agricultural and food imports (dumping).</p></li><li><p><p>linking agricultural prices to production costs; this will only be possible if countries or unions of countries have the right to impose duties on excessively cheap imports, if they commit themselves to promoting sustainable rural production, and if they control domestic market production to prevent structural surpluses.</p></li><li><p><p>engaging the participation of people in the definition of agrarian policies.</p></li><li><p><p>acknowledging the right of women farmers who play a key role in agricultural production and in food issues.</p></li></ul></div>