

APRIL 17 - INTERNATIONAL DAY of PEASANT STRUGGLES

On April 17, more than 100 events are held each year to defend a food system based on food sovereignty, justice and equality: small-scale farming, agro-ecology and local production. Governments can support this paradigm by giving farmers access to land, water, seeds, credit and education, and by protecting them from cheap imports, creating public or farmer-owned stocks and managing production. Food sovereignty would provide livelihoods to billions of people and reduce poverty, particularly in rural areas where 75 per cent of the 1.4 billion people suffering from extreme poverty reside.

Several events commemorating April 17 include:

Friday, April 15, Chicago, IL, Noon - Family Farm Defenders and American Raw Milk Producers Pricing Association will lead food and social activists on a noon rally and protest of the Chicago Mercantile Exchange/Board of Trade (141 W. Jackson) against corporate speculation of agricultural commodities; an educational leafleting session at a big-box grocery store, communal potluck and discussion will follow.

Saturday, April 16, Madison, WI, 8am-12pm - FFD's Seed Swap and Food Sovereignty Speakout at the Dane County farmers market at the state capitol.

April 15-17, Washington, DC - Friday: American University forum with NFFC and DC Friends of the MST on food sovereignty; Saturday: Urban Sustainability Summit: Food Sovereignty, Security and Justice; NFFC tabling at Power Shift 2011--a youth-based climate change/green energy conference--with Food Sovereignty Alliance and Student Farmworker Alliance; Sunday: showing of film, "The Economics of Happiness", during DC's Environmental Film Festival; see <http://www.theeconomicsofhappiness.org/>.

April 17, Seattle, WA - Community Alliance for Global Justice's street theatre will feature actors portraying Bill Gates, Bill Clinton and the World Bank losing to peasant farmers.

April 17, Portland, ME - Food for Maine's Future will collect signatures on a letter to the governor and state legislature seeking protection for small ME farmers against corporate concentration and cheap food imports.

Thursday, April 28, New York, NY - Alberto Lovera Bolivarian Circle of NY will screen the film, "Tierras Libres" ("Free Land") at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Labor Center of 1199SEIU in Manhattan. Peasant leaders from Venezuela and Dominican Republic have been invited to discuss the struggle for land in NYC.

For even more information about April 17, visit: www.viacampesina.org.