

Stop the corporate takeover of Africa's food

Overview of the campaign

April 2014



The UK government is colluding with multinational companies like Monsanto and Unilever to enable them to take control of Africa's food system.

This is bad news for people: it will lead to more land grabbing, corporate controlled seed markets and threaten the livelihoods of small-scale farmers.

We're calling for a new approach to agriculture that prioritises the needs and interests of small-scale farmers that feed the continent.



Photo: Annie Bungeoth/CAFO

What's wrong with the G8's New Alliance?

The G8's New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition claims that it will address poverty in Africa. In reality it will help corporations to increase their control over Africa's land, seeds and markets at the expense of small-scale farmers who feed most of the continent.

Ten African countries are part of the New Alliance and they will receive aid money from G8 countries, including £600 million from the UK. In addition, many multinational (and some African) companies have agreed to make business investments. In return, African countries have to reform their policies in favour of multinational companies.

African farmers and civil society groups have called schemes like the New Alliance "a new wave of colonialism" – a corporate grab for Africa's land, seed and markets, sponsored by the richest governments in the world.



Edinburgh WDM and the UK food sovereignty movement protest against the New Alliance

The global food system – up close and ugly

- The current global population is around 7 billion people. The UN estimates there is enough food produced worldwide to feed 12 billion people.
- Production isn't the problem. From 1991-2011 food production increased by 10 per cent per person in Africa but there was a 40 per cent increase in the numbers of undernourished people. There is enough food but it isn't reaching people who need it. Much of it is grown for animal feed and biofuels or exported.
- In Africa 80 per cent of food producers are small-scale farmers, who feed at least 70 per cent of the continent's population.
- Large-scale industrial agriculture only produces around 30 per cent of the world's food yet uses around 70 per cent of the arable land.

The UK situation

The corporate takeover of agriculture isn't just happening in Africa. Around the world, farmers are being squeezed by multinational companies. Sixty years ago, European and US farmers received 45-60 per cent of the money that consumers spent on food. By 2002, that had dropped to 7 per cent in the UK.

Corporate power

- 3 corporations control 53 per cent of the global seed market.
- 10 corporation control 55 per cent of the global fertiliser market.
- 4 corporations control 75 per cent of global grain and soya trade.

What are we calling for?

1. UK government to withdraw its funding and support for the New Alliance.
2. Support food sovereignty in Africa.

What can you do?

- Ask your MP to call for the UK government to withdraw its support for the G8's New Alliance.
- Find out about local growing projects and community food groups in your area.
- Join your local WDM group.

Get involved locally

Take action

To find out more about our campaign to stop the government enabling big businesses to take control of Africa's food system visit www.wdm.org.uk/food



**World
Development
Movement**

WDM campaigns against the root causes of poverty. Working in solidarity with activists around the world, we oppose injustice and challenge the policies and institutions which keep people poor.

World Development Movement, 66 Offley Road, London SW9 0LS
t: 020 7820 4900 e: wdm@wdm.org.uk w: www.wdm.org.uk