

- 2009: The Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA) was launched. It works as a platform of networks from 27 countries, with farmers/pastoralists/hunter-gatherers/ fishers/other citizens organisations who analyse and discuss issues, challenge policies and identifies ways of moving forward and resists the corporate industrialisation of African agriculture.
- One of the strengths of Food Sovereignty (FS) is that FS movements have been formed in many countries. These have then formed networks at continental and international levels. Other examples besides AFSA include: the Food Sovereignty Network Asia Pacific; the Food Sovereignty Network South Asia; the Alliance for Food Sovereignty of the Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean; the European Food Sovereignty Movement.
- 2009: Under pressure from FS movements, the Committee on World Food Security of the FAO was reformed to become more inclusive by undertaking to incorporate all relevant groupings into its operations, particular “those most affected by food insecurity”.

Box 1: Why have we rejected the promises of “food security”?

In 2001 the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations (UN) defined food security as “a situation that exists when all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life”. However, this did not take into consideration who should be producing food nor what and how food should be produced. Besides, agricultural policies across the world have instead been promoting the industrialisation of agriculture relying on inputs (hybrid and genetically modified seeds, fertilisers, pesticides) controlled by big multinational corporations. Millions of people have lost access to land and water, unable to grow their own food, while having to buy food. As food has been turned into a commodity for profit and food prices continue to rise sharply, millions are going hungry across the world while. Following the global food price crisis of 2007/2008, another 150 million people became food insecurity and the number of globally malnourished people was then estimated at 1 billion.

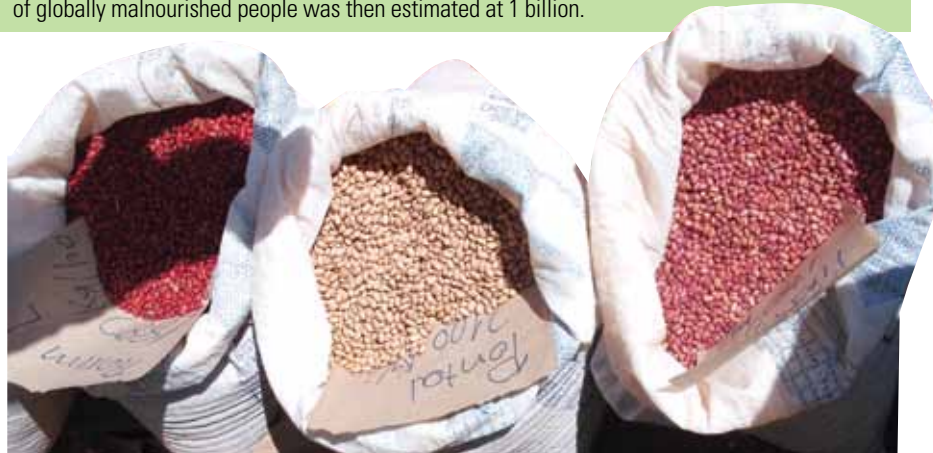


Table 1: Summary of the six principles of Food Sovereignty

The 6 principles of Food Sovereignty:	Food Sovereignty is FOR:	Food Sovereignty is AGAINST
1. Focus on Food for People:	Putting the right to sufficient, healthy and culturally appropriate food for all individuals, peoples and communities, including those who are hungry, under occupation, in conflict zones and marginalised, at the centre of food, agriculture, livestock and fisheries policies;	it <i>rejects</i> the proposition that food is just another commodity or component for international agri-business.
2. Value Food Providers:	Valuing, supporting & respecting the contributions and rights of women & men, small scale family farmers, pastoralists, artisanal fishers, forest dwellers, indigenous peoples & agricultural & fisheries workers, including migrants, who cultivate, grow, harvest and process food;	it <i>rejects</i> those policies, actions & programmes that undervalue them, threaten their livelihoods & eliminate them.
3. Localise Food Systems:	Bringing food providers & consumers closer together & putting them at the centre of decision-making on food issues; protecting food providers from the dumping of food and food aid in local markets; protecting consumers from poor quality & unhealthy food, inappropriate food aid and food tainted with genetically modified organisms;	it <i>rejects</i> governance structures, agreements & practices that depend on and promote unsustainable & inequitable international trade & give power to remote & unaccountable corporations.
4. Put Control Locally:	placing control over territory, land, grazing, water, seeds, livestock & fisheries on local food providers & respects their rights. They can use and share them in socially and environmentally sustainable ways which conserve diversity. FS recognizes that local territories often cross geopolitical borders and ensures the right of local communities to inhabit and use their territories; it promotes positive interaction between food providers in different regions and territories and from different sectors that helps resolve internal conflicts or conflicts with local and national authorities;	it <i>rejects</i> the privatisation of natural resources through laws, commercial contracts & intellectual property rights regimes.

5. Build Knowledge and Skills:	Building on the skills & local knowledge of food providers & their local organisations that conserve, develop & manage localised food production & harvesting systems, developing appropriate research systems to support this & passing this wisdom to future generations;	it <i>rejects</i> technologies that undermine, threaten or contaminate these, e.g. genetic engineering.
6. Work with Nature:	Using the contributions of nature in diverse, low external input agro-ecological production & harvesting methods that maximise the contribution of ecosystems & improve resilience & adaptation, especially in the face of climate change; it seeks to “ <i>heal the planet so that the planet may heal us</i> ”;	it <i>rejects</i> methods that harm beneficial ecosystem functions, that depend on energy intensive monocultures & livestock factories, destructive fishing practices & other industrialised production methods, which damage the environment & contribute to global warming.

Ref: <http://www.foodsovereignty.org/Aboutus/WhatIsIPC.aspx>

But we can only have **FOOD SOVEREIGNTY in South Africa if we have land and water reform – **ACCESS TO LAND AND WATER ARE THE MOST ESSENTIAL MEANS FOR FOOD PRODUCTION.****

CHALLENGE:

An important component to build strong food sovereignty movement in South Africa is to form alliances between different groups and organisations of farmers, fishers, workers, community based organisations, youth groups, women's groups, environmentalists, consumers, NGOs, etc.

➤ **How can you and your organisation take part in a food sovereignty campaign? What actions can you plan to strengthen a food sovereignty campaign in your municipality and region and across South Africa?**

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A brief definition: Food sovereignty is the right of peoples, communities and countries to define their own policies for agriculture, fisheries, consumers, and trade of food as long as these policies are ecological sustainable, contribute to social justice and not restrict the possibilities for others to do the same. It questions what is produced, how it is produced and who produces it.

Brief history of the food sovereignty movement and its growth across the world:

- 1996: Farmers in the Via Campesina agree that “food security” (**see Box 1**) will never satisfy the “human right to food”. The Via Campesina proposes instead **Food Sovereignty** (FS) as a radical alternative to solve communities’ needs for food, livelihoods, dignity, culture and health, putting land, water, seeds and ecosystems under the guardianship of those who produce food; 11 principles of Food Sovereignty were defined.
- 1996: International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty (IPC) was launched as a global platform aggregating large organized bodies that represent hundreds of millions of food producers, challenging the international food system and seeking to support and protect the interests of small food producers and consumers;
- 2001: The Peoples’ Food Sovereignty Network was formed. The World Food Sovereignty Forum was held in Cuba.
- 2001: Forum on Food Sovereignty was held in Rome, together with the World Food Summit
- 2007: The Nyéléni International Forum on Food Sovereignty (Mali) - 500 representatives from 80 countries redefine the 6 key principles of FS (**see Table 1**). In 2010 the People’s Food Policy in Canada, through the involvement of the Indigenous First Nations Peoples, added a 7th principle to FS: “Seed is Sacred”. Adherence to these principles assures that access to food cannot be taken over and controlled by corporates.