

The Story of Food

...but who is writing it?



NS FOOD SUMMIT

28 – May 2016

Joan Baxter

Nova Scotians are increasingly interested in healthy, local food, farms and markets...and trying to re-write their own story of food.



But there is also a need to keep an eye on what is happening globally, and the forces trying to control food and farming systems around the world.

Globally, there is a push to replace ...



← this

with this →



Family farms: agro-ecological & biodiverse, producing nutritious foods & performing ecosystem services, promoting food & seed sovereignty and a healthy food system

Industrial, water-hungry monocultures: doused in chemicals; agribusinesses using patented seed to produce commodities for vertically integrated value chains & a corporate food system

Defending agroecology, healthy food & farms: resource-poor family farmers, groups that defend them & engaged citizens

GRAIN

GRAIN is a small international non-profit organisation that works to support small farmers and social movements in their struggles for community-controlled and biodiversity-based food systems

Home About us Publications Bulletin board Archive Subscribe Support us

Video: West African women defend traditional palm oil

GRAIN et al. | 05 May 2016 | Videos

A new video provides a window onto the reality of women-led artisanal palm oil production, a reality often rendered invisible in narratives of global production, a reality often rendered invisible threat by the rapid advance of industrial plantations, free trade agreements and corporate-controlled value chains at the expense of community-based food systems.

actionaid

Newsroom Who we are What we do

Fed Up: Now's the Time to Invest in Agroecology

Navdanya

From Dr. Vandana Shiva Brochure Contact Us

Organic Movement

Ecological agriculture is highly productive and is the only lasting solution to hunger and poverty.

Donate

Navdanya means "nine seeds" (symbolizing protection of biological and cultural diversity) and also the "new gift" (for seed as commons, based on the right to save and share seeds in today's context of biological and ecological destruction, seed savers are the true givers of seed. This gift or "dana" of Navdanya (nine



AFFA

COFFEE/COCOA

Agroforestry Farmers Association



USC CANADA

HOW WE GROW OUR FOOD MATTERS

ABOUT US WHAT WE DO THE ISSUE

Vibrant family farms, strong rural communities and healthy ecosystems

OAKLAND INSTITUTE

Reframing the Debate Inspiring Action

ABOUT ISSUES PUBLICATIONS MEDIA JOIN EVENTS BLOG

MORAL BANKRUPTCY

WORLD BANK REINVENTS TAINTED AID PROGRAM FOR ETHIOPIA

La Via Campesina

International Peasant's Movement

ENGLISH / FRANÇAIS / ESBÍÑOL

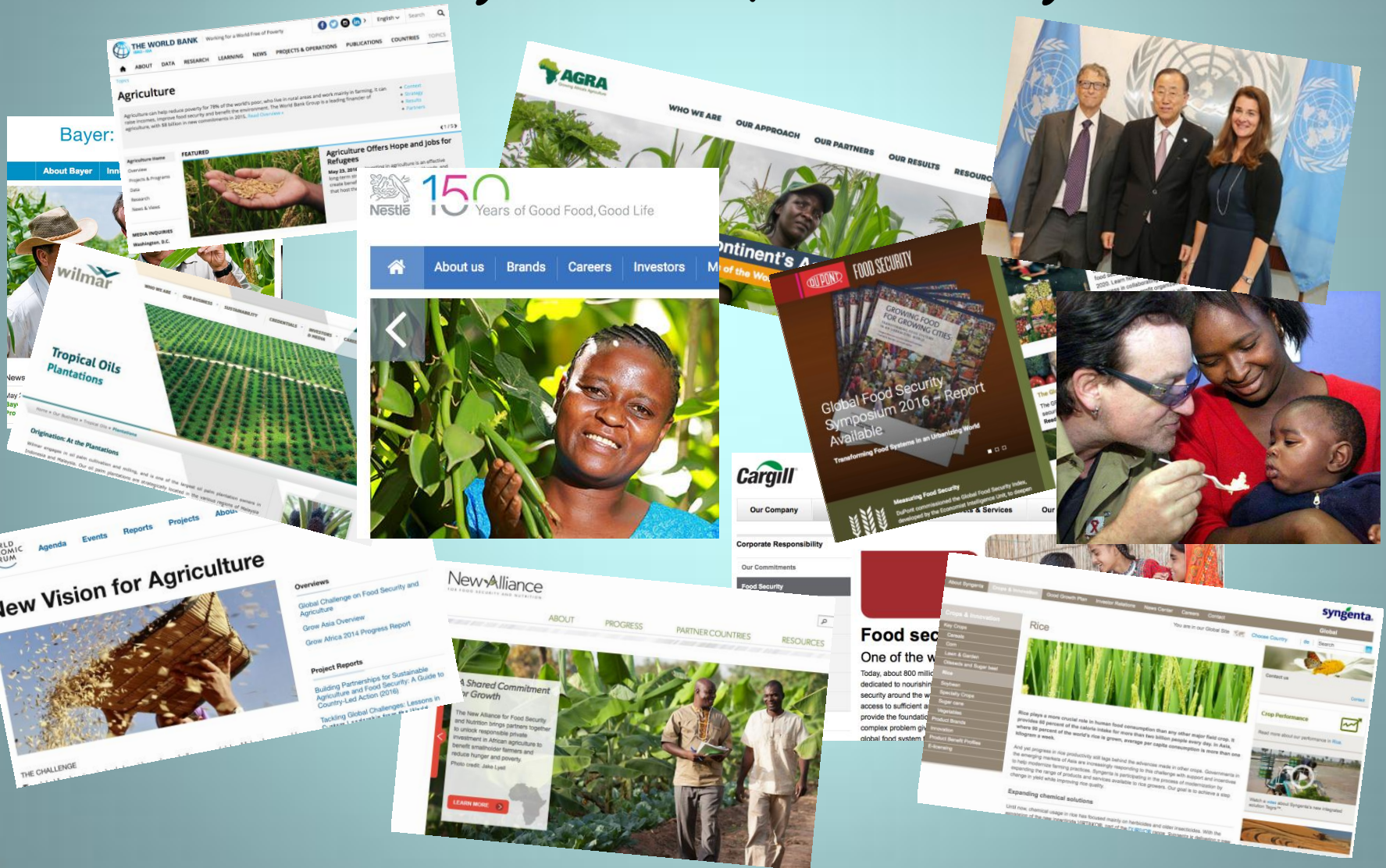
Donate

Click here to view MAP

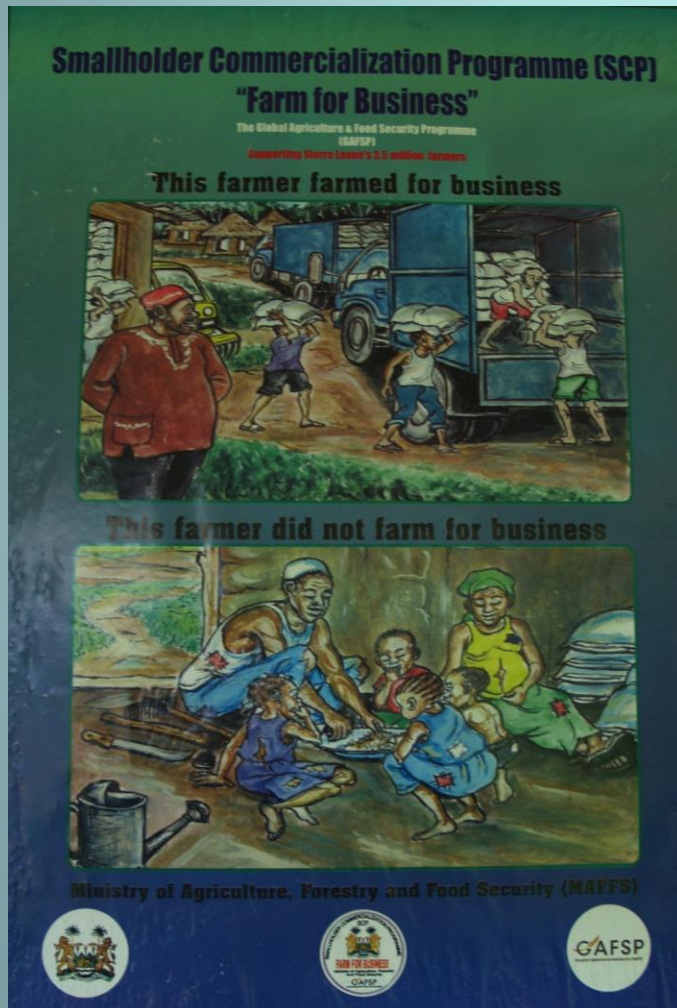
APRIL 17, 2016 In defense of the soil and land

Close info

On the other side, pushing a corporate agenda: big money and the power it buys



Sometimes 'donor-funded development' is destructive and disparaging...



An official government poster advertising the 'Smallholder Commercialization Programme' in Sierra Leone, part of a continent-wide effort to turn farming into agribusiness, funded by the European Union, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization.

*It's an all-out assault on family farms,
seed & food sovereignty*

- Most development and research efforts now push for competitive commercial 'agribusiness' and commodity production for global markets & neoliberal models.
- The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (among others) heavily shapes the research & development agenda, pushing industrial agriculture models on Africa, including GMOs, chemicals inputs, larger farms.
- Investors, hedge and pension funds and corporations are grabbing vast amounts of smallholder farmland in the tropics for commodity crops, as 'land banks' and for carbon credits.

*And it's all being sold as benevolent
... 'charitable' work to improve food security
and nutrition, especially in Africa...*

...and it sells because we've all heard the story about African food and farms...the one about Africa's family farmers not being able to feed the continent, and how everyone in Africa is malnourished or starving...

Right?

Well...maybe not. In fact...

- family farmers in Africa (still) produce 80% of the continent's food
- malnutrition, micronutrient deficiency & food insecurity are caused by poverty & lack of access to healthy foods, especially in urban areas & regions affected by conflict & climate change
- 9 of the 10 most nutritious diets in the world are in Africa, in some of the world's *least developed countries* (with the most traditional farming and food systems)

Sampling Africa's culinary riches before they are 'developed' into extinction...



Junk food has gone global...like the ill's it causes

- as countries follow the Western economic 'development model, the more they develop health problems linked to poor foods & diets
- there are now more overweight people on the planet than hungry ones



Defending healthy food & family farms is a local AND a global struggle...and it's up to us as producers, consumers and citizens to work together to control the narrative as we write The Story of (Healthy) Food and Farms.

Thank you