Action Kit for Seed Freedom

COMMITMENT TO
ACTIONS FOR SEED FREEDOM

In order to ensure Seed and Food Freedom, it is crucial that action is taken at the grassroot, national and global level. Unless actions are taken, our right to seeds will be revoked while indigenous knowledge and biodiversity will be lost forever. It is our duty to prevent the take-over of our natural resources and cultural heritage by money-minded multinational corporations. Now is the time to respond to the Seed Emergency.

1. I will recognize multinational seed companies that are attempting to create a monopoly over the local market and natural resources, and will stop supporting their efforts.
2. I will chose to eat and purchase locally grown and/or indigenous food and food grains so as to support the work and knowledge of local farmers.
3. I will begin my own organic rooftop, balcony or kitchen garden in which I can grow my own plants from open-pollinated seed. I will encourage my school, workplace, or community centre to start an organic community garden.
4. I will exchange both patented and non-patented seeds despite the existence of unjust laws so as to declare to the governing authorities and corporations that I will not be controlled by laws which prohibit the sharing and exchanging of nature's gift.
5. I will support local seed banks as well as attempt to start my own so as to be able to share open-pollinated seeds with other people in my community.
6. I will encourage and support the decision of local authorities to start a community seed register in which to document indigenous seed varieties.
7. I will write to local and/or global decision makers, authorities or corporations who are working to patent seeds and take away the rights of our farmers.
8. I will encourage and work for the creation of 'famers markets' in which small-scale farmers can sell their produce in the local market thereby circulating their organic, indigenous varieties.
9. I will participate, support, or organize Bija Yatras (Seed Pilgrimages) within my region which include the distribution and exchange of indigenous seeds to local communities and farmers, while also creating awareness about the Seed Emergency that is occurring at the national and global level.
10. I will share my work and efforts to save the seed from commodification with the local community either through discussion, exhibition or creative initiatives.

Through adopting these actions, we will make Seed Freedom Zones.
We will not recognize any law that illegitimately makes seed the private property of corporations.
We will stop the patents on seed. We will protect the seed for all farmers of today, and of the future.

Contact us: info@seedfreedom.in / www.seedfreedom.in / www.navdanya.org

In order to achieve Seed Freedom, we require the commitment of individuals worldwide to focused actions in which relay our message and strengthen our campaign. Within this Kit, we outline a few steps in which you can contribute to and support this campaign that we hope you will implement to achieve Seed Freedom. We emphasize that this is only a starting point, we encourage you to think beyond what is listed here to develop your own strategies in your communities that can bring us closer to Seed Freedom. Let us move forward together in defense of Seed, the source of life!

(1) October 2nd : Celebration of Seed Satyagraha Day on Gandhi's Birth Anniversary, on the topic 'No Patents on Seeds'.

(2) As a part of this, declare your house, institution, village, municipality or country a Seed Freedom Zone which does not recognize patent on seed.

Seed Freedom Proclamation

Seed is nature's gift, not an invention. Patents are granted for inventions. We thus do not recognize patents on seed. We proclaim our house, village, institution, municipality or country as a Seed Freedom Zone. We will take the necessary steps to create a Seed Sanctuary where seed diversity can flourish and nourish humankind and the earth.

(2a.) Gandhi started the Salt Satayagraha through picking up salt from the beach to resist the unjust laws imposed by the British Government. We will start Seed Satayagraha through saving, sharing and exchanging indigenous seeds and thus express our resistance to unjust patent laws.
Organize 'Seed Swaps' or start a Seed Bank.
(2b.) Write to Patent Offices/Monsanto. Organize protests at patent and Monsanto offices.
(2c.) Write to the World Trade Organization (W.T.O)

(3) October 16th : World Food Day
(3a.) Organize a workshop/conference on the links between seed and food.
(3b.) Organize a protest/march against hunger due to seed monopolies and monocultures.
(3c.) Organize a meal in your family, community, or institution with open source, organic seeds.

• Add your events and actions to the Seed Freedom Calendar and we will share them on Twitter, Facebook and with the Global Movement network: http://seedfreedom.info/events/submit-your-event/

• For events and actions near you see: http://seedfreedom.info/events/