Call to Action for Living Seed and Living Soil — 2015

2 - 16 October 2015 – Extended: September - October

The Global Movement for Seed Freedom invited everyone to join people and communities around the globe, to celebrate our seeds, our soils, our land, our territories, and to create an Earth Democracy based on Living Seed, Living Soil, healthy communities and living economies.

We believe that in the seed and the soil we find the answers to every one of the crises we face. The crisis of hunger and disease, the crisis of violence and war; the crisis of the destruction of democracy.

We care for Life and we believe in the power of caring. We will build living economies, we will become the change we want to see. With our love: for biodiversity, for the soil, for the Earth, and for fellow human beings.

Campaign page:


Dr Vandana Shiva’s video message:

✓ https://youtu.be/biNnaoaat-I

Text and video translated in 10 other languages:
Spanish, Italian, Greek, French, Portuguese, Croatian, German, Indonesian, Korean, Japanese

Events submitted by individuals and Organisations and published on Seed Freedom Events Calendar.
No. Events 2 – 16 October
No Events: 89
No. Events September - October
No Events: 153
No. Countries: 31

✓ http://seedfreedom.info/events/categories/2015-call-to-action/

Events submitted by individuals and Organisations and published on Seed Freedom Events Map/Calendar. No. Events 2015 (January – December) – Ongoing Campaign
No. Events: 326
No Countries: 38

✓ http://seedfreedom.info/events-calendar-list-2015/

Promoted through Social Media: http://on.fb.me/1hFMdMz
Significant Events

**Event**

**Seed Freedom Food Festival**

26 September 2015
Adelaide, Australia

More information and photos:


Video:

- [https://youtu.be/3C9d_GUEam4](https://youtu.be/3C9d_GUEam4)
Vasundhara festival is a celebration of Prithvi, Earth goddess and hopes to reconnect the participants with the ancient teachings enshrined in the Indian tradition.

On the first day, farmers from India and other parts of the the world – converging at Navdanya for ‘Vasundhara‘ – celebrated the ‘Day Of Corn’ in solidarity with all defenders of indigenous, renewable, open pollinated corn seed globally and in particular with Mexico where corn diversity and the ‘Día del Maíz’ first started, centuries ago.
Farmers exchanged Corn Seeds with farmers from over 10 countries at the National Organic Farmers’ gathering at Navdanya to commit themselves to Seed Freedom announcing that no law, no corporate power will come in the way of their duty to protect the Living Seed. Navdanya together with Regeneration International and IFOAM Organics International renewed the Pledge for Seed Freedom.

The second day of Vasundhara festival began with over 300 farmers from all over India dividing into regional groups to discuss Anna Swaraj 2020. The Anna Swaraj 2020 vision is call for farmers to unite and demand independence from the agro-chemical companies, suicides and debt. During the two hour meeting, they discussed solutions to current agrarian crisis such as soil degradation, loss of pollinators, drought, debt etc. Afterwards farmers pledged their commitment to Bija swaraj, Bhu swaraj, Jal and Van swaraj

More information and photos:

Event
Bhoomi Maati Maa: the Festival of The Living Soil

1st October 2015
India International Centre, New Delhi, India

In this Year of Soil, Navdanya - in collaboration with India International Centre - organized the annual festival Bhoomi, dedicated to Maati Maa, the ever nurturing Living Soil.

A day long festival, featuring panel discussions and the Culture of Soil, then theater, film, music and an exhibition.

More information and photos:

✔ http://seedfreedom.info/events/bhoomi-maati-maa-the-festival-of-living-soil/

Related Campaign:

'Terra Viva' — Our Soil, Our Commons, Our Future:

✔ http://seedfreedom.info/campaign/terra-viva-our-soil-our-commons-our-future/
Commemorating Mahatma Gandhi’s birth anniversary, Dr Vandana Shiva, along with international organic farmers, students and activist started on a three day soil pilgrimage to Central India.

Key speakers at the events were Dr Vandana Shiva, Ronnie Cummins, founder & director Organic Consumers Association (OCA), Dr Will Allen, writer War on Bugs & Anthropologist, Andre Leu, President IFOAM, M.N. Khadse, Director of Dhara Mitra, Vani Hari, food activist, who gave a reading of Gandhi-Howard Soil Pledge.

The group also visited farmers in the Wardha region.

The second day of the pilgrimage October 3rd, Navdanya hosted a seminar at the Centre for Science in Villages, Wardha. This seminar was dedicated to the living soil and had presentations by agricultural experts, along with local farmers and activists.

On October 4th, the group went to Indore to pay their respect to the memory of Sir Albert Howard, who made the Indian pest and peasant his teacher and wrote the Agricultural Testament in honour of the farming practices of India. At Indore, Navdanya organised an exhibition and a seminar to discuss the issues threatening our sacred soils.

Gandhi-Howard Soil Pledge


Touch the Earth – Soil Yatra — “A pilgrimage towards a nonviolent relationship with soil”

By Dr Vandana Shiva — The Asian Age, 8 October 2015


Slideshow

Event

Madre Tierra International Festival and creation of Red Semillas de Libertad (Latin America Seed Freedom Network)

2 – 4 October 2015
Tarqui, Azuay, Ecuador

More than 1,500 people gathered in the little town of Tarqui, in the south of Ecuador, to celebrate life with a series of workshops, music, theatre, documentary screenings, a fair and a seed exchange. Participants came from all the regions of Ecuador, including native communities, farmers, fishermen, students, activists, etc. and from 9 other countries of the Americas.

After the Festival, representatives from seed networks of the Americas gathered for two days for a General Assembly, to discuss common agendas and strategies. 10 countries and one international body were present: Chile, Argentina, Brasil, Perú, Ecuador, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, México, native peoples from North America and Navdanya International. The main results of the meeting where:

- The creation of the Red Semillas de Libertad (Seeds of Freedom Network of the Americas), an international network of seed guardians created to answer the need of communication, experience sharing and strategic planning at the continental level.
- Scheduling the next meeting of the RSL in Mexico, 2016.
- The agreement that the RSL members will provide support to each other, exchanging knowledge and experiences as needed. Special attention will be given to Brazil and Argentina, to promote the connection of local seed workers and networks at the national level in these countries.
- The decision to articulate the RSL into the Seed Freedom campaign and with other like-minded national and international bodies.

Madre Tierra International Festival


Las semillas siembran comunidad – Festival Madre Tierra Internacional


Slideshow

Event
Seed, the Source of Life
3 October 2015
Port Elizabeth, South Africa

More information and photos:
✓ http://seedfreedom.info/events/seed-the-source-of-life/

Video:
✓ https://youtu.be/XIEJrdUCDjk

Event
The Byron Shire Community Sharing: Seeds, Plants, Skills, Knowledge, Film + more
3 October 2015
Possum Creek, Australia

More information and photos:
✓ http://seedfreedom.info/events/the-byron-shire-community-sharing-seeds-plants-skills-knowledge-film-more/

Article:
**Event**

**1st Festival of Fruits in the land of Peliti**

4 October 2015
Mesochori, Greece

More information and photos:

✓ http://seedfreedom.info/events/1st-festival-of-fruits-in-the-land-of-peliti/

**Video:**

✓ https://youtu.be/Itz21g89WpQ

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**Event**

**Traditional Seed Saving – a symbol of the continuation of life**

4 October 2015
Mesochori, Greece

More information:

On the first day Navdanya team met with over 50 farmers in two villages, in an effort to tell them about the clouding threat of GM mustard entering the market. In turn forcing them to use only GM Mustard and abandon desi sarson.

3 Villages were visited on the second day. Villagers were very interested in the use of organic inputs instead of and not chemical fertilizer. They understood the gravity of the threat of GM mustard entering the market and their food. Some farmers are still using their traditional means of saving seeds in clay and cow dung containers.

The people of the villages visited on the third day were exposed to the use of hybrid seeds and fertilizers like DAP & urea. On the issue of sarson satyagraha they pledged to use desi and local sarson without the use of fertilizers.

On the fourth day 31 villagers participated in the meeting, and the message will be spread across 2500 people.

More information and photos:


Related Campaign:

Sarson Satyagraha – Civil Disobedience against GMO Mustard
(Photos, video, articles):

**Event**

**Talk on Bees and Farmers’ Seeds in danger**

10 October 2015
Paine, Chile

More information and photos:


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**Event**

**Let’s stand together for Living Seed and Living Soil**

10 October 2015
Düsseldorf, Germany

More information and photos:


Photo album:

✓ [https://www.flickr.com/photos/raastah/sets/72157659696030601/](https://www.flickr.com/photos/raastah/sets/72157659696030601/)
**Campaign**

**Navdanya Campaign in support of farmers victims of BT Cotton failure in Punjab**

11 October 2015 – ongoing

Punjab, India

Recently Punjab has lost 90-95 percent of its Bt Cotton to a common pest, the whitefly. 12-15 sprays of chemical pesticides have failed to control pests. An agrarian crisis now looms over the state, as farmers continue to commit suicide and police are killing protestors with bullets. Navdanya travelled to the cotton growing Malwa belt of Punjab to report the damage done by the whitefly on Bt cotton in October ’15. Despite spraying pesticides 10-15 times, 1.2 million acres

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**Event**

**Learn and Act for Seed Freedom**

10 October 2015

Athens, Greece

More information and photos:

of cotton was destroyed by the whitefly, a common pest. This short film is an attempt to make the pain of the Bt Cotton farmers be heard and make the lives our farmers’ lives matter.

**Video: Farmers’ Lives Matter - Punjab**  
*Film and production by Shaani and Indra Shekhar Singh for Navdanya*  
✓ [https://youtu.be/8R6nIUb8XR5](https://youtu.be/8R6nIUb8XR5)

**Video: Bt Cotton Seeds of Suicide**  
*Film and production by Shaani and Indra Shekhar Singh for Navdanya*  

**Campaign Page**  

**Pests, Pesticides and Propaganda: the story of Bt Cotton**  
By Dr Vandana Shiva, 10 October 2015  

**Biotech fails – farmers pay the price**  
by Indra Shekhar Singh, 16 December 2015  

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**Event**  
**GEE Seeds Collecting**  
11 October 2015  
Lund, Sweden  

![GEE Seeds Collecting](http://seedfreedom.info/events/gee-seeds-collecting/)

**More information and photos:**  
✓ [http://seedfreedom.info/events/gee-seeds-collecting/](http://seedfreedom.info/events/gee-seeds-collecting/)
Event
Food Sovereignty Ghana goes to Court!
Legal Action Against Commercialization of GM Crops

12 October 2015
Accra, Ghana

More information:

Update: Ghana: Court Ruling On GMO Case: Why We Intend To Appeal
  ✓ http://seedfreedom.info/ghana-court-ruling-on-gmo-case-why-we-intend-to-appeal/

Event
Seed Sovereignty, Food Security and Climate Resilience: Women in the Vanguard

14 October 2015
Ashland OR, USA
The event took place in the heart of GMO Free Jackson County.

*On December 22nd 2015 an Oregon Federal Magistrate approved a settlement that will allow Jackson County Oregon’s voter-approved law prohibiting cultivation of genetically engineered crops to stand.*

Dr Vandana Shiva’s talk focused on the need for a paradigm shift away from the dominant view of industrial agriculture with its origins in war, greed, and power, to a nature focused, women-centric view based on non-violence, the recognition of the intelligence in all life and all people, and the co-creation of partnerships for the well being of all.

With scientific evidence and 30 years of experience in evolving Navdanya, Dr Shiva showed how an agriculture that respects both the earth and women, produces more food and nutrition, more health and well being, more health and higher income for women and small farmers. She believes that solutions to hunger and climate change are the same – intensification of biodiversity and ecological processes, instead of intensification of fossil fuels and toxic chemicals through GMOs.

**More information, video and photos:**


**Conference Video:**

- http://vp.telvue.com/player?id=T01550&video=253117

**Jackson County’s Ban on Genetically Engineered Crops Will Stand!**

**Federal Court Approves Settlement**

Our Family Farms Coalition, 22 December 2015

Event
2015 Parliament of the World’s Religions – Inaugural Women’s Assembly

15 - 19 October 2015
Salt Lake City UT, USA

The Women’s Assembly provided an important opportunity for women to address and discuss two areas of vital interest:

- the responsibility of the world’s religions to affirm women’s dignity and human rights
- religious and spiritual inspiration for women’s empowerment

More information:

✓ http://seedfreedom.info/events/2015-parliament-of-the-worlds-religions/

Photos, tweets and quotes:

Navdanya World Food Day Celebrations and Events

15 - 19 October 2015
Navdanya Biodiversity Conservation Farm, Doon Valley, Dehradun, India
Navdanya Organic Café, Dilli Haat, New Delhi, India

The first event organised by Navdanya began with over **60 organic women farmers coming together** at Navdanya farm. There were lectures and discussions on the GM Mustard issue. Women farmers shared their experience of cooking in soy oil and pledged not to let the Indian Rai (mustard) disappear. Groups of women enthusiastically took the responsibility of varieties of seeds to preserve and return next harvest season with ten times more. The farmers also discussed the Bt cotton failure in Punjab and expressed solidarity.

The second event organized by Navdanya was food awareness seminar at Jawaharlal Nehru University: “Poisons in our Food: Safety, Biosafety and Public concerns of chemical agriculture”, held by public health expert Dr Mira Shiva. Drawing from her vast experience as the advisory committee member of Peoples’ Health Movement & former Chairperson, Health Action International Asia Pacific, she spoke to the students about the importance of food and further discuss about the health and biosafety of GMOs.

The third event was held at **Navdanya Organic Café at Dilli Haat**, New Delhi, where Navdanya’s organic chefs proposed India’s capital forgotten delicacies to celebrate the day in a gourmet way.

More information and photos:


Video:

- [https://youtu.be/Q7qDhidNuY8](https://youtu.be/Q7qDhidNuY8)

Which Future of Food and Farming

Reflections on World Food Day 16th October 2015
By Dr Vandana Shiva

**Event**
Food Justice March

16 October 2015
Washington DC, USA

More information, videos and photos:

- [http://seedfreedom.info/events/foodjustice-march/](http://seedfreedom.info/events/foodjustice-march/)

**Event**
The Future of Food: From Degeneration to Regeneration

16 October 2015
Washington DC, USA

More information, videos and photos:


**Video**

- [https://youtu.be/Sre-5qz-QB0](https://youtu.be/Sre-5qz-QB0)
Event

‘Semilune’ and ‘Amici dell’Orto 2’ meeting for Seed Freedom

18 October 2015
Bracciano, Italy

More information and photos: