



Declaration of the International Meetings of the Resistances to GMOs

International Meetings of the Resistance against GMOs : final declaration *Rencontres Internationales des Résistances aux OGM*

Lorient, Brittany, 30th April 2017

Following the international meetings of convergence of Resistance to GMOs in Ouagadougou, April 2016, [organised by the *Collectif citoyen pour l'Agroécologie CCAE*], following the Peoples Assembly & International Monsanto Tribunal in The Hague, October 2016, following the First Seed Olympiad, Paranesti, Greece, April 2017, **we, of the Resistance in 28 countries in 5 continents, meeting in Lorient, Brittany, 28-30 April 2017, in order to build convergence, on the occasion of this the second International Convergence of the Resistance against GMOs, do declare :**

Our seed, our knowledge and our know-how are a proud cultural heritage, not merchandise, and we alone decide with whom they are to be shared. We refuse to see them stolen by industry for genetic manipulation and privatisation under patent property rights, proceeding thus to wipe out, in country after country, all the local plant varieties and local livestock breeds. Industrial interests, moreover, cannot fool all the people all the time when they try to pass off their latest (and dissimulated) innovations as traditional varieties.

We have therefore decided :

- to exercise our legitimate right to conserve, use, exchange and sell our farmers seed and to participate in decisions concerning their destiny, whether or not these rights are recognised by legislation ;
- to everywhere protect or create local varietal conservatories for farmers seed, managed by the community ;
- to organise the validating and propagating of our farmers knowledge and know-how and to pass them on to posterity in schools and universities ;

- to work for the adoption in other instances of the opinion rendered by the Peoples Tribunal on the crimes of Monsanto, implicating also other destroyers of the very fundamentals of terrestrial life. Ecocide has begun.

Year after year, pesticides and GMOs provoke terrible damage to the health of millions of people, and this with the complicity of politicians and industries. Their impunity is no longer tolerable.

There is a cruel lack of independent basic research into the impact of GMOs and pesticides. The Agro-Ecology proposition covers more than a method of production, it advocates :

- agricultural production without inputs of synthetic chemistry or genetic manipulation of plants and animals ;
- the nourishment and the food sovereignty of all peoples ;
- the autonomous organisation of local food systems ;
- the autonomy of the farmers and of their human-scale farms ;
- the necessary attention to the fertility of the soil.

It contributes to limiting climate change, it is our way of life, our way of thinking and our way of being part of society. The human race is part of the ecosystem and its biodiversity and has a rôle to play in maintaining their equilibrium.

In furtherance of agro-ecological values we shall be working with local authorities to resist land-grabbing, to maintain farm land in practices that exclude synthetic chemicals and other artificial inputs. We shall work for the education of youth, for their access to agricultural occupations, for restoring to citizens a new confidence in their own skills and values, and for improving the status and integration of women.

The role of farmland is to nourish the people and not to enrich the financiers or speculators in the carbon market, nor should land-grabbing be allowed for these latter purposes.

We can no longer remain passive. We are pacific but not docile. Determined as we are to resist and struggle in convergence against ecocide, we therefore today create the International Front of Resistance against GMOs and the agrochemicals industry.

The foundation of this front is today laid in Brittany. We commit ourselves to develop it in opposition to the corporations whose objective is the control of the world's food systems.

Lorient, Brittany, 30 April 2017, signed in resistance