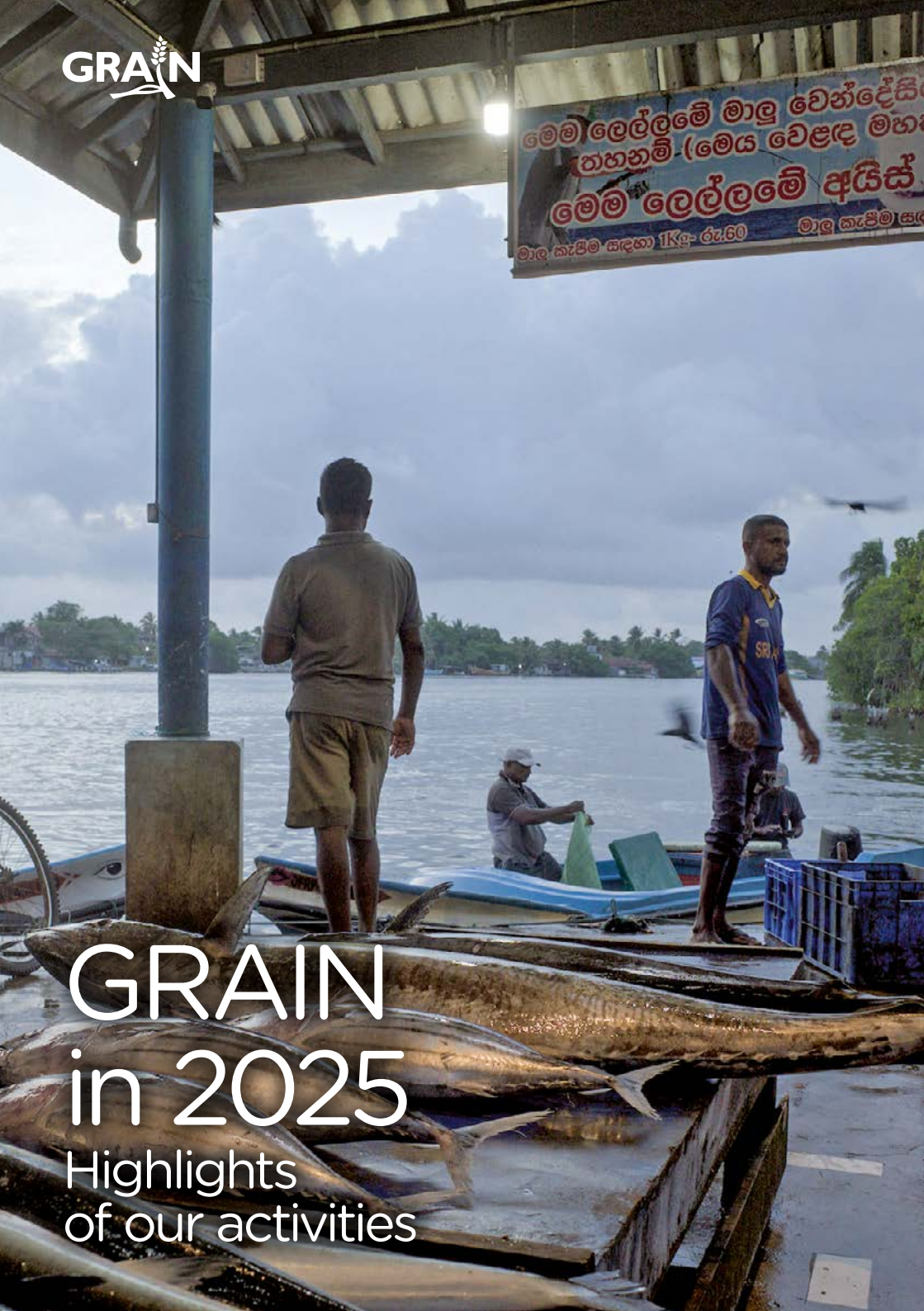


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GRAIN in 2025

Highlights
of our activities

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Front and back cover photos: Fish market in Negombo, Sri Lanka. GRAIN staff and board visited the market during our annual meetings in September, following the 3rd Nyéléni Global Forum in Kandy. Supporting local fisheries and resisting industrial aquaculture is one of the commitments coming out of the Forum.

Year in review

For GRAIN, 2025 was a year of convening: meeting in person and online, gathering ideas, building strategies and bringing together movements. Each event was aimed at addressing pressing issues and bringing forward solutions from the food sovereignty movement- from the climate crisis to seed privatisation and from finance to technology.

Big multisectoral events included the People's Summit parallel to the COP30 in Brazil, the 3rd Nyéléni Global Forum for Food Sovereignty in Sri Lanka and the VIII Continental Congress of the Latin America coordination of rural organisations of La Via Campesina (CLOC-LVC) in Mexico.

There were also smaller but important events that we were involved in organising with key allies: a gathering of social movements from across Latin America to discuss carbon markets in preparation for COP30; an agroecology and seed exchange with young farmers of the Mekong Region; a youth climate workshop with participants from West Africa during the African Social Forum in Senegal; and a consultation in Sri Lanka on land grabbing in South Asia with partners.

The learnings from these convenings give us momentum and establish priorities to move forward. In this report, we share key takeaways from all these processes and highlight some advances and challenges facing the food sovereignty movement. We also summarise the research and movement building work we undertook in 2025 across our programme areas.

3

In 2025, GRAIN lost three long-term comrades and former Board members, [Dorothy Myers](#), [Silvia Rodriguez](#) and [Brewster Kneen](#), who all had helped guide GRAIN in our early years and brought big impacts in confronting the corporate food system and defending peasants' seed systems and biodiversity. We are grateful for their friendship, wisdom and support.

The GRAIN team.

GRAIN staff gathered in Sri Lanka in September for our annual in-person planning meeting, and visited an analog food forest demonstration plot in Mahawa, organised by the Lanka organic agriculture movement (LOAM).

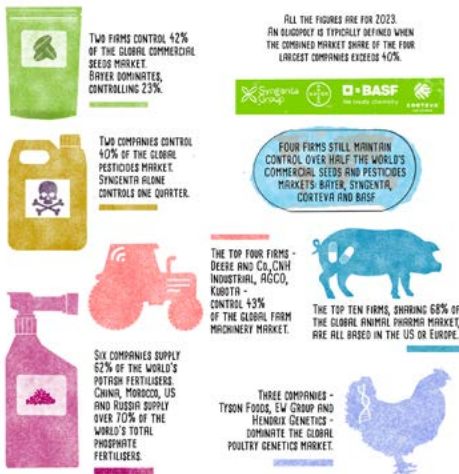


Corporations, power and the global food system

The largest food and agribusiness corporations are increasing their control. Most sectors are now dominated by a few corporations. This concentration increases their ability to expand a model of agriculture that is immensely profitable for them while being hugely destructive for communities and the environment.

GRAIN and ETC Group produced a [new report](#) with hard data that documents the increasing control that the top 10 agribusiness giants have in six sectors: seed, pesticide, fertiliser, farm machinery, livestock genetics and animal pharma. The report was shared widely and the UN Special Rapporteur on the right to food used part of our findings in his [report on corporate concentration](#).

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“Actions are urgently needed to take down the monopoly power of these corporations and to get power back into the hands of the world’s food producers, workers and consumers.”

Top 10 agribusiness giants: corporate concentration in food & farming in 2025

GRAIN upped its game in producing strong research on the global food system. This information is proving vital to help groups on the ground fight back!

One key area of GRAIN’s investigation and alliance building is around **financial actors pushing industrial agriculture**. Pension funds are one of the largest and most influential investors in food and agriculture. In 2025, GRAIN, the Financialization Lab at Carleton University and Public

Services International organised a [launch event](#) for a new collective project and [online resource site](#) that seeks to bolster and build movements confronting predatory pension fund investments in agribusiness and other sectors. The first project activity was an online [webinar](#) on financialisation with labour groups and food movements in the Asia Pacific. In Africa, GRAIN presented at a conference hosted by the Africa Food Sovereignty Alliance (AFSA) on defunding industrial agriculture. A pan-African campaign strategy targeting financial actors emerged from this meeting.

Another focus area for GRAIN is **industrial animal agriculture**. Building off work with a coalition of affected communities throughout Latin America, GRAIN published a [case study](#) of Danish-owned factory pig farms in Chile. Groups in Denmark subsequently put increased pressure on their government and the national public pension fund invested in the company to adhere to community demands and close the farms. On a similar note, GRAIN contributed to the [Nyéléni](#) newsletter issue on fisher peoples defending food sovereignty.

Corporate control is also a big concern in food retail and distribution. GRAIN is now collaborating with FIAN and StreetNet International in a [Supermarket watch bulletin](#) with a global focus. GRAIN also released a [report on the mega-port of Chancay](#) in Peru, showing how this infrastructure project, financed mainly with Chinese capital, is reorganising transport and food distribution routes, impacting Indigenous territories and agricultural land and opening the door to new investors and large foreign conglomerates.

A major case that we supported throughout the year was the struggle of Thai fishers against CP Group, Thailand's biggest food conglomerate, for the environmental havoc wreaked by its tilapia farms. In January, hundreds of Thai farmers and fishers mobilised to CP headquarters and government officials in Bangkok. GRAIN also [wrote a blog](#) about a SLAPP lawsuit the company filed against the founder of BioThai, our longtime partner, in order to raise international awareness and solidarity. Photo credit: BioThai



Land grabbing and the struggle for land

Land grabs cause long-term conflict and violence. For decades, communities neighbouring the Socfin group's plantations in Africa and Asia have railed against the company's abusive practices, from labour violations and forced evictions to environmental degradation, destruction of sacred sites and sexual violence. In 2025, Earthworm Foundation, the company's own consultant, finished a two-year investigation into Socfin plantations operating on 370,000 hectares in Africa and Asia. The report concluded that the bulk of the grievances were the company's own responsibility.

GRAIN worked throughout the year to draw attention to this situation and support affected communities, through a large global coalition. We wrote joint [press releases](#), attended the annual meetings of Socfin and Bolloré and pressured investors. The findings were picked up by major media, including [Bloomberg](#), increasing the visibility of these struggles. This was a major achievement in fighting impunity and validating the grievances of impacted communities.

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Women from the group AFRISE protest against Socapalm plantations in Cameroon, January 2025. Image courtesy of Félicité Ngo Bissou/AFRISE.

A major challenge in relation to land and water grabbing is the direct involvement of **governments and their militaries**. This is exemplified by a government-sponsored

food estate project in Papua, Indonesia, where our efforts have included documenting and investigating the companies involved, participating in a major national strategy meeting alongside affected communities, and helping organise media statements (picked up by [the BBC](#)) and other

actions to resist the project. A coalition of affected communities and their allies submitted a report to nine UN special rapporteurs who then raised the concerns to the Indonesian government.



In September, GRAIN staff and Board met in Sri Lanka with activists and movement leaders from the country and around South Asia for a day-long consultation on land and land grabbing. One critical issue to look more into is the involvement of the military in certain countries, while another is the digitalisation of land records.

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GRAIN also co-produced a [report](#) with the Pakistani farmer union Pakistan Kissan Rabita Committee on Gulf agribusiness investors in their country. Farmers groups have staged several protests against the Gulf countries' investments that are displacing small farmers, privatising land and water, and prioritising foreign food security over local needs. One of GRAIN's goals over the past year was to expand awareness and alliances to counter the threats posed by **land grabs for carbon offsets**. We produced a [regional dataset](#) on land-based carbon projects and co-organised a regional convening in Brazil on carbon markets. In Africa, we are monitoring companies that are grabbing land for carbon offsets and supporting partners in various countries, such as Madagascar, Kenya, Congo and Ethiopia, that are dealing with cases of land grabs for carbon projects.

Another continuing threat is **oil palm plantations**. In Africa, GRAIN continues to support the informal alliance against the expansion of industrial plantations, helping coordinate visits to impacted communities across West and Central Africa and connect struggles across the region. In Latin America, we held meetings with farmers movements and other allies in Honduras to discuss the expansion of oil palm plantations and the violent displacement of peasant and indigenous communities.

People's control over seeds

The Stop UPOV [campaign](#) made strides this year with a growing participation of groups and movements, as mentioned in the [Kandy Declaration](#) of the 3rd Nyéléni Global Forum. This demonstrates the importance of this work among social movements for food sovereignty and agroecology.

GRAIN helps facilitate this campaign to push back against the privatisation of seeds and the spread of restrictive seed laws. With regular meetings and a dedicated mailing list of almost 500 groups and individuals, the campaign serves as a platform to resist UPOV and other types of seed laws.

Together with other groups like A Growing Culture, we worked to set up a new [microsite](#) as a common space for the campaign and share information. Groups translated and adapted GRAIN's UPOV video into several local languages (Khmer, Luganda, Shona, Pidgin English and Swahili) and social media campaign cards into Arabic, allowing for greater dissemination of information. GRAIN also released an [updated dataset](#) and analysis on the state of play with trade deals pushing UPOV.

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These were some of the messages posted on social media by the hundreds of groups who participated in the annual global week of action against UPOV, the International Union for the Protection of the New Varieties of Plants.

Farmer seed systems are under threat around the world from a new wave of **seed laws** that are based on UPOV standards and promoted by transnational seed corporations. All of these laws push intellectual property, mandatory registration, and the criminalisation of seed sharing. In 2025, GRAIN published a [position paper](#) on the pitfalls of seed laws for farmer seed systems, which triggered discussion and debate. GRAIN also [produced a report](#) on these corporate attempts to take ownership of seeds through regulations and laws in Latin America, with examples from Honduras to Chile.



GRAIN co-organised a Mekong farmers exchange in Thailand with Towards Organic Asia, Project Sevana and Food4Change. With around 40 participants from China, Myanmar, Laos, Vietnam and Thailand, the gathering served to exchange ideas, experiences, information, resources and, of course, seeds.

Not just seeds but **breeds** are under attack by corporate control, as well. GRAIN released [a report](#) on the industrialisation of chicken in Africa that generated a lot of interest and action. The report shows how corporate actors are replacing indigenous breeds with exotic hybrids that farmers have to purchase regularly. We presented the findings in a [webinar](#) co-organised by allies like SAFCEI, AFSA and SKI, where 65 groups attended. There is now a new stream of collaboration emerging to go deeper into fighting this trend, where the common line is to defend local poultry biodiversity as a touchstone of food sovereignty in Africa.

Food sovereignty to fight the climate crisis

In July, representatives of more than 55 farmers', fishers', indigenous peoples', and Afro-descendant's organisations, social movements, territorial collectives, and human rights and environmental groups from 14 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean came together in Brazil to discuss and denounce carbon markets. The final [statement](#) denounces false climate solutions, like techno-fixes, net-zero emissions, carbon markets and climate finance, as sources of harm and threats to communities and territories across the region.

GRAIN and many participants from the convening went on to attend the People's counter-summit to the COP30, in Belém, Brazil, in November. Within the 20,000-people strong gathering, there was a clear critique of carbon markets and a very clear understanding of industrial agriculture and the corporate food system as key drivers of the climate crisis. GRAIN published an [op-ed in Brasil de Fato](#) on how agribusiness was co-opting the climate negotiations, translated and re-posted by the Landless Workers Movement (MST) of Brazil and [Via Campesina](#), which helped provide context and critical analysis for the groups attending. It was also inspiring to see the consensus on the need for food sovereignty, agroecology and popular agrarian reform as climate solutions.

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Co-organised by GRAIN and the Latin American Coordination of Peasant Organisations (CLOC-Via Campesina), the convening on carbon markets in July in Brazil was a key strategic space to build a shared critique of false solutions in the lead up to the climate COP30 and parallel People's Summit.

GRAIN's climate work aims to **call out false solutions**. A [publication](#) released early in the year looked at carbon farming schemes run by agribusiness and food corporations and how they do not deliver on climate goals. We put out a [critique of the Bezos Earth Fund](#), the biggest climate philanthropy, for its alignment with Amazon's corporate interests.

Strengthening **youth movements on climate** is another important area of our work. We did so by participating in the West Africa Social Forum in Senegal, co-organizing the Agroecology Bootcamp in Cote d'Ivoire and networking with groups on a trip to the Philippines. At all these events and meetings, staff distributed our publications, including the latest version of our [climate poster](#).

Connecting the **food-climate nexus** in both our research and movement support work continues to be a priority. To kick off the year, GRAIN published an [article](#) on environmental degradation in North Africa due to industrial farming. Later in the year, GRAIN visited groups in Tunisia active in the North African Food Sovereignty Network (SIYADA) and LVC Arab region. This included looking into the issue of chemical fertilisers, a major climate issue. GRAIN attended the 1st Asia regional forum on fossil fuel and agrochemicals in Sri Lanka, and participated in the Global day against fertilisers campaign on 13 October.

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One major moment this year was the launch of an African youth continental movement for climate justice called Mouvement Kilimo Ekolojia at the Youth Climate Crisis workshop in Senegal in June.

Communications and outreach

GRAIN continues bringing media attention to the issues that we work on. GRAIN was cited in multiple media including mainstream outlets like the [BBC](#), the [Associated Press](#) and [Bloomberg](#). We also helped put partners and allies in touch with journalists to highlight their struggles and gain solidarity for communities.

Much of this communications work happened behind the scenes –responding to journalists, providing interviews, sharing background information and making contacts. We also put out our work via GRAIN’s website, social media and email listserv. While online statistics are increasingly difficult to verify given the increase of bots and AI, we have been trying to counter this with filters and various ways to track numbers. Based on best estimates, our website traffic has stayed fairly steady over the past few years, with just under 300,000 unique visitors a year, or around 650 a day. Our mailing list has over 7,000 subscribers in three languages (English, French and Spanish). Followers of our social media platforms increased in 2025, up to nearly 25,000 Facebook followers and 10,000 Instagram followers. We also have a new account on BlueSky. We use these platforms to post news about our own publications as well as actions and updates from partners, and find it an important space to engage in dialogue and help boost visibility.

Beyond the online statistics, we see impact when groups and partners integrate our work and analysis into their own arguments, analyses and strategy. To this end, we also participate in joint cross-cutting publications, like the Latin American Revista Biodiversidad, the Spanish Revista Soberanía Alimentaria and the global Nyéléni newsletter, all of which put out multiple issues in 2025 with GRAIN’s active input.

One particular area of growth this year was participating in the communications team of the 3rd Nyéléni Global Forum. This space kickstarted a discussion on how new technologies and growing global precarity are affecting society, challenging messaging and transforming communication work for the food sovereignty movement.





“Land, water, seeds, forests and knowledge belong to the people who care for them—not to corporations, states or algorithms.”

*The Kandy Declaration:
A collective roadmap for
systemic transformation
November 2025*



The 3rd Nyéléni Global Forum took place in Kandy, Sri Lanka in September. With over 700 delegates from more than 100 countries, the forum provided a space for grassroots movements to develop a collective roadmap for global systemic transformation. The forum included opening ceremonies each day, regional assemblies as well as youth, women's and diversities assemblies, and field visits (shown here in Rathugula). Alongside the forum was Radio Nyéléni, a collective communications effort. Photos from the 3rd Nyéléni Global Forum albums.

GRAIN's team



Renée Vellvé
Paris, France
Coordination and research, global



Devlin Kuyek
Montreal, Canada
Research, global



Angus Lam
Bristol, United Kingdom
Research and programme

Xavier León Vega
Quito, Ecuador
Research and programme,
Latin America




Larissa Packer
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
Research and programme,
Latin America




Ange David Baï
Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire
Research and programme, Africa

am in 2025



Virginia Quesada
Barcelona, Spain
Finance and administration



Aitor Urkiola
Barcelona, Spain
Finance and administration



Mónica Vargas Collazos
Barcelona, Spain
Research, global





Andrés Arce Indacochea
Porto, Portugal
Publications and communications



Alexandra Toledo
Valencia, Spain
Fundraising



Kartini Samon
Jakarta, Indonesia
Coordination and programme



Susan Nakacwa
Kampala, Uganda
Research and programme, Africa



Afsar Jafri
New Delhi, India
Research and programme, Asia

Cultivating GRAIN

GRAIN's programme work is sustained by internal systems of teamwork, capacity development, planning, governance and administration.

GRAIN worked carefully this past year to encourage more active relations between staff and our Board and to integrate a new Board member. We also made efforts to share skills within our team on writing, mentorship and emerging programme challenges.

Finally, this year was another one of uncertainty in terms of fundraising due to the volatile political environment. One of our strategies is to do more collective fundraising with partners and allies. To that end, we held a virtual "open house" with three other close groups where we shared our complementary visions and roles. We are also working on expanding our funder base to maintain a stable and secure budget in years to come. For the moment, we are grateful for the continued support of our funders, many of whom also provide ongoing support to our partners and allies in the struggle for food sovereignty.

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Annex: GRAIN publications in 2025

● English ● French ● Spanish ● Portuguese

Corporations, power and the global food system

- ● ● Resistance in Chile against Coexca and its factory pig farms
- ● ● 26 March: Confrontations with Pension Fund Capitalism
- ● ● Her story: sowing resistance to industrial agriculture
- ● ● Can pension systems be part of the fight for food sovereignty?
- ● ● Gulf investors in, locals out: Pakistan's corporate farming agenda
- ● ● Top 10 agribusiness giants: corporate concentration in food & farming in 2025
- A "call to arms" for the agroecology movement to join the fight to change finance
- SLAPP lawsuit filed by CPF against Witoon Lianchamroon and BioThai
- El puerto de Chancay: un dramático impulso para el extractivismo en América del Sur

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Land grabbing and the struggle for land

- ● ● A Inclusive carbon land deals?
- ● ● Palestine's stolen land: stop ethnic cleansing!
- ● ● Land and power grabs in Sudan
- ● ● Investigation shows Socfin/Bolloré plantations harm communities in Africa and Asia
- ● ● A tale of two carbon land deals assessments
- ● ● The toxic harvest of Israeli agribusiness

People's control over seeds

- ● ● The pitfalls of trying to protect farmers' seeds through laws
- Free trade agreements pushing UPOV as of 2025
- ● ● Who rules the roost? Corporate vs community poultry in Africa
- La batalla por las semillas en America Latina: cómo avanza el cerco legal y cómo responden los pueblos

Food sovereignty to fight the climate crisis

- ● ● The mirage of food security: Big farming in North Africa's deserts
- ● ● Carbon farming's hot air won't cool the planet
- ● ● Bezos' \$10bn for the climate is a gift to Amazon
- ● ● Latin American and Caribbean social organisations denounce carbon markets ahead of COP30

Cross-cutting and organisational development

- ● ● GRAIN in 2024: highlights of our activities
- In honour of Dorothy Myers
- ● Hasta luego, Silvia
- A tribute to Brewster Keen

Supermarket Watch Asia bulletin

- ● ● No food sovereignty if food distribution is in corporate hands
- ● ● Solidarity, not exploitation: we stand with food workers from farm to table
- ● ● The health and nutritional costs of supermarkets
- ● ● Data is power: understanding the complexities of violence against women street vendors

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Revista Biodiversidad, sustento y cultura

- Biodiversidad 123
- Biodiversidad 124
- Biodiversidad 125
- Biodiversidad 126

Revista Soberanía Alimentaria, biodiversidad y culturas

- 52. Alimentación y vida en el caos climático
- 53. La alimentación no es una mercancía
- 54. Campesinado y cultura de paz

About 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. Since 1990, GRAIN has been active in the global movement challenging corporate power over people's food and livelihoods. Our work is carried out both globally and on the ground with partners in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

The objectives of GRAIN are to deepen public understanding of the forces shaping the global and local food systems and their impact on farming and food systems, and to support social movements and civil society organisations in advancing towards food sovereignty.

GRAIN specialises in identifying, monitoring and analysing trends that affect peasant farmers' and rural communities' livelihoods, with a focus on the corporate sector. Parallel and interconnected to our research and information work, our movement support actively bolsters and links partners and allies through networking, strategy development and capacity sharing.

This report highlights our work across four thematic programme areas. It also reflects our cross-cutting efforts in communications, outreach and organisational development. For more information, please visit our [website](#), follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) or [Bluesky](#), subscribe to our [mailing lists](#) or contact us directly. Please also consider [donating](#) to GRAIN to help sustain our work.



Coordination and administration hub:

Casanova 118, escalera derecha 1ºB, 08036 Barcelona, Spain

Tel: +34 93 301 1381

Email: grain@grain.org

www.grain.org

BlueSky [@grain_org](https://www.instagram.com/grain_org) / Facebook [@grain.org](https://www.facebook.com/grain.org) / Instagram [@grain_org](https://www.instagram.com/grain_org)