



Sowing Seeds of Change: Bringing Together Young Farmers in Europe

Report of the study session held by
European Coordination Via Campesina and Mijarc-Europe
in co-operation with the
European Youth Centre of the Council of Europe

European Youth Centre Strasbourg
21st until 26th of November 2011

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This report gives an account of various aspects of the study session. It has been produced by and is the responsibility of the educational team of the study session. It does not represent the official point of view of the Council of Europe.

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Introduction to the Study Session

Presentation of the European Coordination Via Campesina (ECVC)

European Coordination Via Campesina (ECVC) includes 27 farmers and agricultural workers unions as well as the rural movements of 17 European countries. This organisation is a member of La Via Campesina, an international peasant movement (www.viacampesina.org).

The main goal of the organisation is the promotion of food sovereignty and food and agricultural policies based on more legitimacy, fairness, solidarity and sustainability which are necessary in Europe to ensure food security, food safety, public health, employment in rural areas and to tackle the issues of the global food price crisis and climate change.

The members are European, national or regional farmers and agricultural workers' unions as well as rural movements that have agreed on the "common base" of the organisation.

MIJARC Europe is cooperating with ECVC as a member organisation and also as European Platform that is committed to work on food sovereignty related topics and youth participation.

History of the "youth" group of ECVC

2004

Internationally, some parts of the world have highlighted the fact that the peasant movement has to be attentive to the ideas and issues raised by young people. A first meeting of young people took place in 2004 at the International Conference of La Via Campesina in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

2007

In Europe, during the Summit in Rostock against the G8 in 2007, several dozen people gathered around access to agriculture and land rights. From there, the young members of union structures have proposed a meeting of young Europeans to begin a youth process in the ECVC. At the call of the member organisations of ECVC, the first meeting took place in the Basque Country in late 2007.

2008

A camp was then organised in 2008 in Malmö (Sweden) on the sidelines of the European Social Forum. Young farmers' organisations and young people active or interested in issues related to agriculture came together for a week of exchanges and training. The enthusiasm was strengthened and it was decided that the fact of not being a member of a union structure should not hamper the commitment of people in peasant struggles.

During the international conference in LVC in Maputo (Mozambique), the second youth meeting was held with quite a lot of European participation. Two people who were members of trade union structures were present. The idea of structuring ourselves as young farmers in Europe continues to grow. Issues specific to the European continent have started to be better defined.

The Maputo meeting that followed took place in Belgium one month later. The youth have sought to define themselves as a youth group, and the idea of having a name that represents the youth members and non-union members seemed necessary. Therefore, the name "Reclaim the fields" (RTF) was found. This distancing from the name of ECVC was combined with a long process of discussions on the involvement or lack of youth involvement in existing union structures and the

different forms of organizations within the same movement.

2009

The first European camp under the banner of RTF took place in Minerva (France), where over 400 people gathered around access to land and peasant struggles. The movement RTF then grew and has adopted a different operating mode of the ECVC. Persons active in both movements continue to link them.

2010

Early in the year in Geneva, a week's training was organised by those people to try to involve youth union structures and promote access to knowledge about peasant struggles. The "youth process" internal to the unions then received a good push. As consequence, they decided to set up "young ECVC", a working group of young delegates of all member organisations to better coordinate and structure the work of young farmers and make their voice heard. As the guardians of future agriculture, it is important to empower the young farmers, so they can more actively take part in the organisation and enrich the analysis and positions of the organisation from a youth perspective.

End of 2010, the young ECVC participated in the mobilizations against the LVC climate summit in Copenhagen (Denmark). For the first time, ECVC and RTF share a week of joint struggle. People meet in the field, as a way to share ideas and collective action.

2011

In early 2011, a small youth group meets after the General Assembly of ECVC in Louvain-la-Neuve (Belgium). It was decided to organise a second week of political training for young people in late 2011.

In August 2011 the Nyeleni Europe Forum on Food Sovereignty in Krems, Austria, took place. There was a strong participation of youth ECVC and RTF.

September 2011, the second European camp RTF to Rosia Montana (Romania)

November 2011, second political training for young people held in the European Youth Centre in Strasbourg. This report details the work and results of that study session.

Why this study session?

In general, the activity is part of a process to promote the inclusion of youth in the struggle for food sovereignty since the youth is the future, both in a practical (they will feed the world) and in a political sense (they will defend the rights of the people working in agriculture).

More specifically, the activity aims to pursue the initiatives specified at the end of the training in Geneva – the strengthening of youth in agriculture, with access to land at the heart, is necessary in order to feed the European population in a healthy and sustainable way.

This second political European youth training continued to create a space for the involvement of youth at both international, European and local level for the youth members affiliated to the organisations that are members of the European Coordination Via Campesina.

The following objectives were mentioned in the invitation:

- *Bring the youth of the European organisations together, taking steps to reach a dynamic group of European “youth” within the European Coordination Via Campesina.*
- *Overcome the lack of political experience that young people have: acquire tools that will allow us to analyse and explain the way in which we are involved in the world of agriculture and play an informed part in its struggles.*
- *Understand the origins and the struggles of the VC and the ECVC (why they were created and how they are structured), so that we can interact with them.*
- *Involve the youth of the VC member organisations, strengthen the involvement at all levels*
- *Involve the youth from Eastern European countries through the contacts established at the Nyéléni forum in Austria.*

From the invitation:

Although, the “youth” branch of the European Coordination Via Campesina (ECVC) has started to send out shots, we need to be able to guarantee that these shots will flourish, and for that, we need you to participate! So we invite you to start up the necessary process to enable two young representatives (a man and a woman) to take part in this weeklong training.

All participants are invited to join the different working groups and to bring materials such as seeds, flags, music, food, banners, pictures or videos for the self-organised workshops, the mystica and the evening programme.

The methodology should allow everyone to take part in the preparation and development of the programme. We believe, self-organisation is important and therefore training on facilitation at the beginning of the meeting is included in the program. This space should enable us to learn from each other and share our experiences and struggles. We will also invite some “resource persons”, who can support us with content, but still, the horizontal and participatory discussions among youth will be a key space. This approach is participatory and horizontal in the sense that the participants are in charge of the methodology, reporting and the development of the programme of the meeting; different working groups will be established before, during and after the meeting. In order to further enhance the intercultural learning process, the programme will include time for the participants to present the different (agricultural) projects they are developing in their country or region, which again, often differ according to existing cultural contexts. They will be supported by 2 young staff members of ECVC.

The training will take place in the European Youth Centre of the Council of Europe (which is

not the European Council)¹. We hope this can be a good space to do our work. And we can surely evaluate this at the end.

The **participants** of this meeting are young representatives of the farmers or agricultural workers' unions. In general, they are farmers or people active in agriculture or landless youth. Each member organisation of the European Coordination Via Campesina can send one woman and one man to the meeting, this to counter the lack of participation of women in the structures. The age limit is 35 years old.

The programme included several issues such as food sovereignty, the role of international institutions, the Common Agricultural Policy of the European Union, agro-ecology, gender and its role in agriculture, migration in agriculture as well as farm visits, and in the frame of a regional exchange, the participation in an action against patents on seed organised by the Confédération Paysanne. See appendix for more detail on the programme.

Every day started with a **MYSTICA**, which is a symbolic, non-rational, spiritual, emotional, creative way to represent the work, challenges and the main issues of smallholder agriculture. It united us, as a group and created a good group feeling by motivated us to realise our struggles in an artistic way. The mysticas could provide us a nice tool to celebrate our cultural diversity and gender equality.



Methodology

Facilitation Methods

The meeting started with a half-day long training on facilitation skills, aiming to help the processes during the week's meeting, future meetings and also to learn new skills to use when individuals return to their own groups.

The role of a **facilitator** is to ensure that the tasks of the meeting are achieved; they also help the group to work harmoniously, creatively and democratically. Tracey Wheatley, who was acting as the groups' facilitator as well as giving the training, introduced us to various techniques which can be used by a facilitator to get the group working together. She also highlighted some of the difficulties that may be encountered. Some examples of these: ensuring that everyone is included and no one is being over spoken; dominant individuals or like-minded groups; different levels of understanding of the topics being discussed; passive behaviour or uncooperative behaviour.

The facilitator's most important tools are flipcharts, pens, post-its, paper, agenda and a clock. There may be other items of importance depending on the meeting. It is also very important to set

¹ <http://www.coe.int/lportal/web/coe-portal>

out the aims at the beginning of the session and let everyone know how much time is given for the discussions.

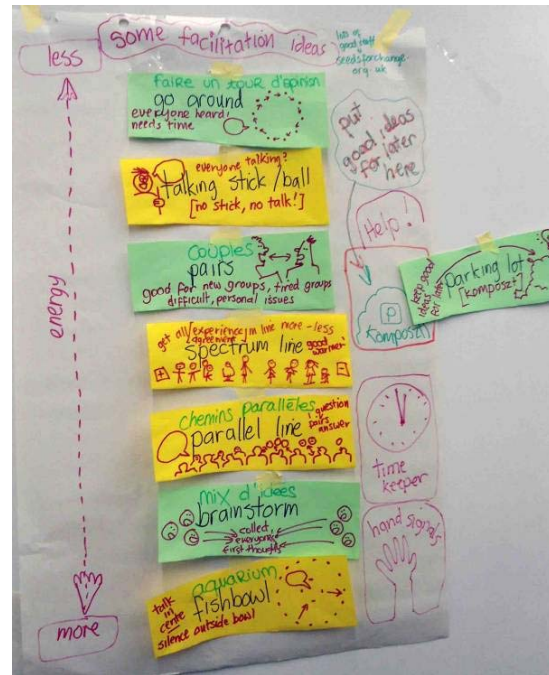
Other aids, which have been introduced, included **Consensus Decision Making, Group agreements, the Parking space and different types of interactions.** We used some of these methods during the week.

Consensus decision making is a creative and dynamic way of reaching agreement between all members of a group. At the heart of consensus is a respectful dialogue between equals. Consensus decision making is based on the idea that people should have full control over their lives and that power should be shared by all, not just concentrated in the hands of a few.

A "group agreement" was agreed by the entire group. It was to ensure that everyone understands the group processes. It also gave fluidity to the group decision. The agreement can be found after this text and can be adapted to suit each meeting.

Other interaction methods used during the week included Fish Bowl, Parallel Lines, Pairs, Brainstorming, different group sizes, Talking Stick, Go Around, Spectrum and Feedback

One of the most interesting was the **Fishbowl.** The Fishbowl is a form of dialogue that can be used when discussing topics within large groups. Fishbowls involve a small group of people seated in circle and having a conversation (fish). They are surrounded by a larger group of observers, seated in an outer circle (bowl). The facilitator or subject matter expert gives a short input of 5-10 minutes which sets out the general outline of the discussion and after that the inner circle starts to discuss. The outer circle usually listens and observes. Whenever someone wants to participate and move to the inner circle, a participant from the fishbowl must free a chair and move to the outer circle.



Examples of methods

- Go around: tour of opinions of the participants where everyone speaks
- Parallel line: two parallel line of people in which everyone has to speak to the person that is in front about a topic.
- Pairs: this helps individuals form their own opinions as well as empathizing with the other individual.
- Brainstorming: an exchange of ideas to discuss a certain topic to get the maximum amount of ideas out there.
- Talking Stick: where everyone gets the chance to speak
- Spectrum: the facilitator makes a statement, one side of the room agrees with this opinion, the other disagrees, and the participants stand somewhere in the room showing how strongly they feel about the statement (as an example, it could be I understand, I don't understand).
- Feedback: where discussions in the small groups are reported back into the larger group.

Another important tool was the parking lot. A parking lot is a space were good ideas that born during the meeting were collected for the future conversation or meeting.

The facilitator may also want to delegate tasks to other people, such as a time keeper, someone to take notes and to watch hands – to make sure everyone has the chance to speak that wants to.

More information about facilitation skills can be found at <http://www.seedsforchange.org.uk/>

Youth ECVC Group Agreement

The following agreement was decided on by participants at the training. It was created with the intention that it can be used as a basis for all YECVC Meetings.

- Raise your hand if you want to talk.
- Don't interrupt the speaker.
- Keep an eye on who wants to speak.
- Use the agreed hand signals.
- Have mutual respect and no sexism.
- Agree on decision making – by consensus or majority. For this meeting we decided that consensus is only needed, if big decisions were being made.
- Pay attention to who has not spoken and encourage them to be involved
- Share the workload – keeping notes, time keeping etc.

This agreement can be adapted to suit the needs of the particular meeting.



Content of the Study Session

Introduction to Food Sovereignty

Presented by Ludwig Rumertshofer

Food sovereignty is a wide concept that touches an important part of each and every one of us: food is essential for all the people in the world. The concept was proposed by Via Campesina for the first time during the FAO Summit in Rome in 1996. The political concept of food sovereignty is the right of the world's population, regions or countries to define their own agricultural and food policies. All member organisations of Via Campesina have introduced the concept of food sovereignty at the local level with various initiatives. In 2007 during the first World Forum on Food Sovereignty, the concept has been improved as follows:

Food Sovereignty is people's right to health, to produce sustainable and environmentally friendly, and their right to choose their own food and their agricultural systems. It puts those who produce, distribute and consume food at the heart of food systems and policies in place of the requirement of markets and corporations. It defends the interests and inclusion of the next generation. It represents a strategy to resist and to take apart the traffic business and the current diet. It provides a guide to food systems, agriculture, fishing and livestock, which should be defined by local producers. Food sovereignty promotes transparent trade that guarantees income to all the people and the right of consumers to control their diet and nutrition. Food sovereignty implies new social relations free of oppression and inequality between men and women, peoples, racial groups, social classes and generations.

In 2008 during the International Conference of Via Campesina in Maputo, Mozambique, each organisation was asked to change the laws of their countries or regions to promote food sovereignty.

In 2011, as part of Nyéléni Europe process, organisations demanded the strengthening of the movement and the application of food sovereignty in their country. A lot of work is being done now to implement the results of Nyéléni forum held in Austria in August 2011.

Conditions for Food Sovereignty

- the priority is given to agricultural production to provide food for the local population;
- access of farmers and landowners to land, water, seeds, credit;
- the right of a farmer to produce food and the right of consumers to choose food that they want to consume;
- the right of states to protect themselves from imports of agricultural products and food products at lower prices, the surrender of export subsidies;
- agricultural prices linked to production costs;
- people's participation in the choice of agricultural policy;
- recognise farmers' rights, which play an important role in food production.

Following the example of Switzerland, in the canton of Geneva in 2001, Uniterre initiated a debate involving farmers' organisations, trade unions and consumers. Since 2005, other cantons changed their laws. In 2008, the Swiss Union of Peasants (USP) established that food sovereignty is embodied in the federal rights. In 2011, Uniterre has created a national platform for food sovereignty, in which there are around twenty organisations involved. During the year, minimum criteria have been developed in common.

Food Sovereignty is presented today as one of the most powerful responses to the current food poverty and climate crisis.

Introduction to Agro-Ecology

Presented by Silvia Pérez-Vitoria

Agroecology is made walking and like utopia “sirve para caminar”.

Agroecology is differently from the common Agro-industrial vision which is based on the conviction that humanity can dominate the nature. In the agro-ecological vision humanity cohabitates in synergy with nature and learns from her to create the agricultural system.

In one definition, Agroecology is considered “the application to the ecological principle into the food production”. Agro-ecosystem is the core of this concept: a unit represented by a farm, that like an ecosystem has to be autonomous from the exterior and self-organised, minimizing input and output (recycling). The main source of energy is the Sun. All the food chain's components (producers – consumers – decomposers) must be present and have a good health and biodiversity, including the soil's microbial inhabitants, in order to close the circle.

The other definition of Agroecology is wider and **includes social, economic and political dynamics:**

Agroecology is in fact based on the principle of a social and ecological coevolution. A pre-colombian ancestral saying sums it up, “the greatness of a population isn't measured by their achievements or their riches; it is appreciated, essentially, by the social system development and by the relationship with Pacha Mama”.

An objective is to rebuild social rural systems that can ensure the welfare of Nature and woman and man who live in it. For this reason, agroecology as a more global (holistic) vision has been shaped through successive injections of agronomists, ecologists, geographers, historians, anthropologists, sociologists, ethno-botanists.

On this way the main work was to include and re-evaluated peasant knowledge and practice (knowledge revolution). This is, because groups of peasants all over the world have ensured, with their practice, the equilibrium of the planet for thousands of years. Peasant agriculture is, indeed, the nearest to the agroecological principles, and at this eco-virtuous practice agroecology has to regard and learn from it.

Agro-ecological paradigm is opposed to the Agro-industrial paradigm. This concept is a different way than the productivist' logic of Agroindustry, which is based on the idea that is possible to feed the world with a massive production at low-costs with the help of some “technological and chemical slaves”, feeding the richness of some multinationals, polluting and eroding natural resources. Challenging this idea, Agroecology is a vehicle to Food Sovereignty and on its value is founded. Agriculture is for producing food not for earning and investing money. Peasant agriculture can feed the world; on this way urban agriculture, short circuit, diversification, seeds' resources, peasant resources, independent investigation and many other solution can help the struggle against Agroindustry.

*“La Utopía está en el horizonte.
Me acerco dos pasos, ella se aleja dos pasos.
Camino diez pasos y el horizonte
se desplaza diez pasos más allá.
¿Entonces, para qué sirve la utopía?
Para eso: sirve para caminar”
(Eduardo Galeano)*

History of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)

Presented by Jeanne Verlinden

The agricultural policies have an ancient history from the late 19th century. So far Europe had no tradition of protection of agricultural markets. There was concern about shortages rather than overload. In the context of industrial development and the demand for commodities and cereals, many farms were installed. But at the same time railways and steam maritime transport were developed, which led to a decline in import prices. European ports were submerged with grain (Russian, Indian). That ruined the producers, landowners and the rural economy. Basically, all countries of Western Europe have developed protectionist policies by imposing tariffs.

The GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) started in 1947. The GATT provides the framework of major international trade negotiations carried out since 1995 by the World Trade Organization (WTO). Initially, the GATT did not prescribe free trade for agricultural products but allowed other countries to protect their agriculture, provided they have controlled their production and exports.

CAP

The Treaty of Rome in 1957 and its Article 33 lays the foundations of the CAP. It was translated in 1962 in agricultural policy instruments. The six signatory countries were Germany, France, Italy and the three Benelux countries. These countries met two conditions:

- they all had protected their agriculture already
- and signed the GATT agreement which required that agricultural protection is combined with supply management.

Four guiding principles of the CAP:

- A unified market: open borders, goods move from one country to another.
- Community preference: the products that can be produced in the EEC, come from these countries rather than from the world market. Normally, they are accompanied by a set of measures / taxes on large products such as cereals, beef, milk, sugar.
- Parity and productivity: secure income through price supports (see claim parity); productivist development support for reasonable prices to consumers.
- Financial solidarity: all agricultural spending from a common budget, no correspondence with the contributions of each member.

Five main instruments of the CAP:

- Import tariffs,
- Setting a price intervention: if the price is below the guaranteed price, the EEC future EU buys, stores and exports, distributes or destroys.
- Export subsidies. To bridge the gap between the world price and the intervention price.
- No supply management, (except in sugar and then milk)
- Structural measures to eliminate unviable farms, expand and modernise others to lower production costs.

These instruments vary in common market organisations (CMO), according to different products.

Two major faults as motor to surpluses

As a failure of the GATT agreements, border protection is not accompanied by a supply management: there was no limit to production volumes. An important exception to the principle of Community preference: animal feed can be imported duty free. The consequence was that production exceeded demand and less traditional imports but appearance of growing surpluses.

The big sales on the world market started. So export subsidies were established, damaging exporters such as Argentina and Australia, but especially for producers in poor countries, mainly

because exports were disguised as food aid to: wheat, milk powder, chickens.

And exacerbation of the situation by importing food was the development of intensive production at the gates of seaports, with the consequences that industrial production developed close to major seaports (Rotterdam, Antwerp, Lorient, Ravenna, with the economic, social and environmental consequences). The problems were very poorly resolved, in the '80, the positions came to confrontation.

Agreements on agriculture

"The WTO and the CAP take us on a very slippery slope" (1992, Blair House Agreements, Commissioner MacSharry)

The U.S. refused to challenge the GATT agreements. This meant the EU must continue to import oil protein crops from the USA without tariffs. Meanwhile, the U.S. required the elimination of export subsidies and assisted its producers by the set-aside and other measures.

CAP reform – 1992

MacSharry negotiated the future GATT agreements and accepted the U.S. conditions, agreed to limit the area of European oilseeds (= *attack on our food sovereignty*) as well as a progressive alignment of the cereal prices on the world markets, compensated by subsidies per hectare. → *Consequences*: a form of balance between cereal exports and animal feed imports (industrial producers buying cheaper cereals).

1994: GATT WTO Agreements

The superpowers USA and EU imposed the rules required. We witnessed the whitewashing of dumping on third countries based on an unfair definition of dumping: export at a price equal to the domestic price even if this is below production cost (compensated by subsidies in the EU, for nothing in the South!) → *Consequences*: liquidation of small producers.

2003 - Before and after the WTO summit in Cancun

The Commission required decoupling of the subsidies, despite opposition from some countries. Each country was free to implement the guidelines at will, so as to start of the re-nationalisation of agricultural policies. That was a delegitimization of the payment in the eyes of the taxpayers. Suppression of milk quotas announced (for 2015). The removal of the direct payments started.

2008 Removal of instruments of market regulation

The EU justified its policy by touting the multifunctional role of agriculture, the European agricultural model. A CAP with two pillars was established.

1. Pillar: market support finances by the EU among others by the direct payments
2. Pillar: rural development, 20% of the budget co-financed by the member countries (according to the principle of subsidiarity).

All reforms were inscribed in an aggressive trade strategy. The EU hid its aggressive interests behind rhetoric, for example by calling free trade agreements "partnership agreements". In the second pillar we find the environmental concern, agro-environmental subsidies, etc. All measures of interest in itself, with small effects, but that do not fundamentally change the direction of the train: the number of farmers' jobs decreases, the agro-productivist model continues to dominate the agricultural economy, with its social and environmental consequences.

Current CAP and Reform 2013

Presented by Henrik Maaß

The common agricultural policies (CAP) are the most important laws in the EU in regards to our food system. As one of the few European policies, it is about 40% of the EU-budget. At the moment there are two pillars for the CAP. The first and bigger one includes the direct payments, an amount of money per area arable land that can be applied by the farmers that have the “entitlements”. Further there are market regulations in the first pillar. The second pillar includes the agro-environmental measures and money for rural development but also investigative “aid”.

Current process

The CAP is set for seven years, the current ones end in 2013. Because of the so slow political decision-making process, the discussions on the reform are already two years before the change on a high level. For the first time there was a public consultation initialised by the Commissioner for Agriculture, Dacian Cioloş. Every EU-citizen could tell his needs and wishes for the new CAP. This led to three “options” proposed and discussed again. In October, the 12th 2011, the legislative proposal of the European Commission (EC) was published and the next steps are now a report from the European Parliament (EP) and of the European Council. Those two have to find a common base until the end of 2013.

Proposals

In the legislative proposals of the Commission there is a more flexible two-pillar-system mentioned. Both pillars should fulfil all aims of the CAP like more competitiveness, sustainability and effectiveness. The direct payments – still the most important part of the CAP – shall be split into a basic payment (70%, similar to today), a greening payment (30%, for crop rotation, permanent grassland and ecological areas) and special payment for young farmers starting farming (up to 2 %, for six years). For small farmers there will also be the opportunity to choose an easier and specific system.

ECVC says that there is a need for a 4th option that will achieve food sovereignty in Europe.

What is our part in this whole process?

In the past, not many people were interested in such a dry issue like agricultural policies. But in Europe it is the most important legislation for the whole food system. And as so many things are running in the wrong direction, more and more people get aware of the importance of this process.

There is a good opportunity to use this awareness of the reform for getting into discussions about agriculture in general and what kind of farms the society wants. And sooner or later, they come to the point, that **only the small farms can achieve a diverse, healthy and fair food production without harming the environment or animals or people.**



For that, we need much more farmers in Europe. So our farmer’s voice gets much stronger in an alliance with people from the whole society and we get heard by the decision makers.

It is not necessary to know all the details of the policy, but it is a chance to use the current discussions to bring our topics into it. There will be much support from other people.

Links about the CAP after 2013

<http://nyelenieurope.net/foodsovcap>

http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/cap-post-2013/index_en.htm

Session on Gender Equality

Using interactive methods and different inputs, the group approached the gender issue, as an important part of Vía Campesina work. This issue was a new subject to many people in the group.

1. Game: What does society expect from women and men?

Everybody puts postits on two different flipcharts (one for women, one for men)

Repeatedly mentioned expectations:

Women:	Be pretty Sensitive Reproductive work, household
Men:	Be strong, powerful Rational Family leader, earns the money

2. Game: What are the „typical“ women's/men's works in agriculture?

Here, we find out that there are regional and cultural differences, so e.g. typical women's work in Italy is not the typical in Germany – so it's not typical and natural but influenced by society. The following still repeatedly came up:

Women:	Work often outside the farm Work with animals, milking Household Processing, selling
Men:	Work with machines

3. Input: What is the difference between „sex“ and „gender“?

While sex means the biological differences, defined by the x or y chromosomes and the (non-)reproductive potential, gender refers to the socially constructed category: the behaviour, the role that women/men play is designed consciously or unconsciously.

We currently think that there was matriarchy for about 40.000 years, which changed then into patriarchy in which we've been living since about 10.000 years now. Patriarchy means basically that everything, associated with the male sex, has a higher value and that men have more privileges. The historical view shows us that there's potential for change in the dominant systems.

4. Division into a male and a female group with the focus on two tasks: Discussion on this issue and identify challenges

Feedbacks from the two groups:

- Male group:
 - Those „stereotypes“ should be overcome, but it is difficult
 - Importance of including more women into local movements
 - Farmers often do not find female partners
 - There ARE physical differences between women/men (here comes an input from the female group: most of the physical differences are also constructed except the reproductive functions)
- Female group:
 - A change doesn't mean a „masculinization“ of women
 - There is no need of categorising „men's“ or „women's“ work. The importance is to feel

comfortable with what one is doing.

- Careful of heteronormativity: There is not only woman and man but also trans, lesbians, gays, queers
- Overcoming patriarchy would include that men would also lose privileges
- A challenge women often face is the limitation they feel because of the fear from physical violence
- Empowerment of women is important

Sentence: Who knows what women could be, if they would finally be free of themselves?

And: Who knows what men could be, if they would finally be free of themselves?

5. Input: Vía Campesina and Gender

The struggle against the hetero-patriarchy is an important part of European Coordination Vía Campesina's struggles. One important part is recognising the importance of women in agriculture – whose work is mostly invisible. In our societies, female peasants are not very visible (male peasants not, either, but female even less).

ECVC has two aims:

1. The first is trying to change public policies so that they consider and positively discriminate against women, for example in the CAP, in access to credits, or including gender issues in agricultural trainings.
2. The second aim is working inside the Vía Campesina organisations - assuring access to women in the movement, giving gender trainings, promoting having women's and men's groups in the organisations, etc.

All this is inscribed in the Vía Campesina campaign against violence against women (physical, psychological and structural violence). For this campaign there exists an international commission. There is also a women commission on the international level, as well as a women's group on the European level.

6. Group work, divided in gender groups with the following questions:

What does your ideal world look like? How do we get to it?

The two groups report their results back into the group by putting papers on the floor:

- Ideal world:
 1. No gender distinction but a balance
 2. No stereotypes
 3. Everyone can feel/look/work/express themselves as they want (without having to fit into fixed categories)
 4. Having a common understanding about gender while recognising diversity
 5. Everyone being in co-creative relations
- How to get there:
 1. Opening space which is usually occupied by men to women
 2. Value all individual skills equally; increasing the value of nurturing, caring, emotions for creating a more caring society
 3. Establishing childcare
 4. Create desire/the wish in people to be what they want
 5. Pro-actively exploring complex power and privilege relations underlying our work
 6. Introducing same wages
 7. Creating living examples, alternatives, room for thinking/acting differently
 8. Develop all senses to be more sensitive
 9. For the youth group: Develop a gender glossary
 10. For the Vía Campesina organisations: create women's and men's groups

La Via Campesina: International Institutional Framework

Presented by Valentina Hemmeler Maiga, Uniterre

La Via Campesina launched in 1996 the concept of Food Sovereignty as an alternative to free trade. This global concept allows member organisations to LVC to have a clear line on many issues. Via Campesina has become over time an indispensable interlocutor for many international organisations and social actors. LVC does not have the same kind of relations the following international organizations or institutions.

World Trade Organization (WTO)

This organisation has integrated agriculture to its discussion rounds in 1986 (cycle of the Uruguay Round). Three pillars are under discussion: improving market access, reduction of domestic support, reduction of export subsidies. Because of its main objectives which are market opening, liberalization, the competition between agricultures of unequal strength, the organisation comes into confrontation with the visions of La Via Campesina. The family farming is the main victim of forced liberalization of agricultural markets, both north and south. The only real beneficiaries of this process are *transnationals* and export-oriented, industrial agriculture. Having found it impossible to reform such an organization that has trade and free trade as the only objective, the Via Campesina does not negotiate. It demands that agriculture is taken out of the WTO.

<http://www.wto.org/>

United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

This organisation is crossed by various streams. One stream focusing on agricultural technology, large farms and "partnership" with industry, and another stream, believing that family farming can feed the world. The implication is often "contradictory" reports. Note for example the Human Development Report on Agriculture (www.agassessment.org) which is very encouraging but not valued within the FAO. La Via Campesina, with its allies, meeting within the IPC (International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty (<http://www.foodsovereignty.org/>)) was heavily involved in the reform of the CFS in 2009 (Committee on World Food Security) of FAO. Thus it was possible to obtain a place for civil society in the CFS. The first topic which is closely followed is that of the "voluntary guidelines on land tenure" on which CSOs (Civil Society Organizations) expressed their views at each stage. The Via Campesina believes so, despite the complexity of FAO and its need for reform, it is possible and necessary to cooperate.

http://www.fao.org/index_fr.htm

United Nations Human Rights Council

The Council of Human Rights is an intergovernmental body of the UN system, composed of 47 states that have the responsibility to strengthen the promotion and protection of human rights around the globe. A process has been initiated several years ago to recognize the rights of peasants and a convention is established and signed by the States. At its Fifth Conference (2008), Via Campesina has adopted a "bill of rights for farmers and peasants" after an internal process initiated in 2001. Its objective is that the Human Rights Council establishes a Convention, which is recognised and ratified by the states. LVC received regular support from the Advisory Committee on Human Rights Council which, at the request of the General Assembly of the Council, has prepared studies that confirm the need for a Convention or Declaration. States will discuss these studies in 2012. Some states, notably in Europe, are opposed to a new international legal instrument protecting the rights of peasants. LVC continues to work closely in this process.

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/Pages/AboutCouncil.aspx>

The International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV)

UPOV was established by the International Convention for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants. The Convention was adopted in Paris in 1961, and it was revised in 1972, 1978 and 1991. The objective of the Convention is the protection of plant varieties by an intellectual property right. Over the revisions, UPOV has greatly reduced the rights of farmers to access seeds. This organization is favourable to large seed groups. Since 2010, European Coordination Via Campesina officially has an observer status.

http://www.upov.org/index_fr.html

The International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA)

The Treaty has already completed most of his first mission to put the seeds available to farmers for industrial firms in the North. Over 90% of these seeds come from the South. In exchange, the Treaty has given a second mission: sharing of economic benefits made by the industry from these seeds and recognizing the rights of farmers sow, exchange and sell seeds and protect their knowledge. But the treaty did not complete the second mission. The industry refuses to pay for benefit sharing and there is no indication that it will pay tomorrow. The realisation of Farmers' Rights has been entrusted to the States but most governments apply the rights of breeders who are a negation of the rights of farmers. Via Campesina supports the request of NGOs to establish a permanent working group on the model of the Food Security Committee to develop guidelines on the rights of farmers and sustainable use and regularly monitor their achievement in each signatory country and asks the Governing Body to approve the budget needed for its operation.

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

Since the climate summit in Bali (2007), La Via Campesina has taken this matter to my heart and never ceases to assert that family farming is a way to "cool down the planet." LVC is strongly opposed to all proposals that seek to commodify climate or air (carbon credits, compensation mechanism, Redd, etc.). LVC is mobilising every international conference of the UNFCCC in order to propose solutions to reduce impacts on climate.

http://unfccc.int/portal_francophone/items/3072.php

Rio +20 process

From 4 to 6 June 2012, the 4th Conference on Sustainable Development tough United Nations will be held in Rio de Janeiro in Brazil where was held the Earth Summit in 1992. Rio +20 will provide an opportunity for governments, large blocks and major sectors of society to push for agreements promoting their economic and environmental interests. In parallel, large transnational companies, major shareholders and financial institutions will try to position themselves with their desire to make nature a commodity. The green economy will thus be the star of this conference. The green economy's main objective is the privatisation and commodification of natural systems. One concern is that this conference, by a desire to liberalise environmental goods and services, allows to breathe new life into moribund WTO process.

Via Campesina continue its fight against false solutions to climate problems. She will oppose that peasant agriculture and agro-ecology are included in the mechanisms of carbon markets. It will advocate land reform and land redistribution, to agroecology and agroforestry and the development of food sovereignty as the leading agricultural and food policy solutions to climate change.

<http://www.uncsd2012.org/rio20/>

Session on Migrant and Seasonal Workers

The study session involved also the projection of the documentary "**The olives and mandarins don't come from the sky**" which explains the exploitation of migrant and seasonal workers in the industrial agricultural system. It was followed by a discussion with Silvia Pérez-Vitoria who made this documentary.

Text on Migrant Workers from youth training booklet

Agricultural workers

Text based primarily on the position of ECVC on the "seasonal workers directive", the brochure "Industrial agriculture and slavery in Europe" and on the framework document of the axis "social conditions" from the Nyéléni forum.

Context

Destruction of peasant agriculture and industrialization

The (neo) liberal ideology developed through the European and global institutional framework (CAP, WTO, etc.) participated in the squandering of peasant communities, denigration of their rights and their expertise in Europe and in the world pushing millions of peasants to insecurity and / or abandonment of their farms. The inability to make a decent living (or simply live) pushes millions of people to migrate. In parallel, industrialization, concentration, intensification and specialization of the agricultural sector have been encouraged, leading to specialised, export-oriented, hyper-intensive areas of production, which require an increasing rate of labour. To meet these needs a range of legislations organises the "deportation" of flexible workforce including seasonal workers' contracts, real instruments of slavery. In Europe, the agricultural employment concerns 2 million full time workers and 4 million part-time. The situation of agricultural workers in intensive production areas in Europe are often appalling in terms of housing, wages, food, representations, status ...

Racist restrictive and utilitarian immigration policies

The strong need for enslaved manpower (mostly migrant) in the agro-industry is also organised by the precarious status of workers and the organisation of migration for purely utilitarian reasons. So, migrants are selected only according to the needs of the economy. Migrants who are highly trained are on the red carpet (the famous "blue card") and small hands come to harvest our vegetables and clean our toilets of holiday cabins but it is ensured that they return once the job done! The employing have the opportunity to put in competition people with different status (seasonal, permit B, undocumented, national, etc.). The gradual emergence of precarious legal situations has not removed the status of undocumented immigrants who became a easy manipulated back-up labour force. The difference in status and the high concentration of migrants in intensive production areas generates a rampant xenophobia that sometimes erupts as was the case in El Ejido, Spain in 2001 and Rosarno in Italy in 2010 where real huntings of foreigners were held.

Recent developments

Two recent aspects suggest the recent strengthening and legitimizing of this filthy situation. First, the EU is trying to carve in stone the ultra-utilitarian and restrictive migration vision through its proposed "seasonal workers Directive" where the only real concern is to ensure the return of the seasonal workers to their country of origin and to ensure their servitude during their work. Secondly, "In recent years, workers and trade unionists are facing a new challenge: temporary employment businesses. In agriculture, it is time for the outsourcing of labour. The bosses are no longer farmers, but corporate service providers ... They bloom in Spain, Poland, Ukraine ... They specialise in the detachment of foreign seasonal workers and play on the complexities of

Community law to evade regulations and labour disputes. Many employ fewer than 10 employees, other thousands. This is the case of Terra Fecundis, Murcia-based company which employs over 2,000 employees, mostly Ecuadorians and Colombians travelling between the south of France, Sicily and Spain. The company manages the labour and wages that are paid at the end of mission. Maximum flexibility and opacity; farmers can dismiss a worker overnight. These companies are playing with the boundaries of legality: according to a labour inspector, some farms in the south of France employ Terra Fecundis after being formally excluded of the possibility of receiving labour contracts by reason of social security and employment scams and irregularities. "

Within ECVC

For the Via Campesina, "it is obvious to say that the struggle for the right to the income of farmers is synonymous with the struggle for the rights of land workers and that we refuse to build the price of agricultural products on the crash of wages, deteriorating working conditions and promotion of slavery in agriculture. " Yet the fact that precarious agricultural employment corresponds most often to forms of intensive and industrial agricultural production which we fight poses a fundamental question in our movement. How can we combine the short-term interests of agricultural workers and the medium and long term peasant interests? How to fight against an unacceptable situation and present a longer-term vision of radical change of social structures?

The discussion of the working group "seasonal workers, migration and agriculture" of ECVC led to the following demands:

1. Free movement of persons
2. The establishment, within the framework of the Common Agricultural Policy, of the conditionality of aid linked to the compliance with labour law.
3. The prohibition to States to assist or subsidize farm operators that do not meet their Employer obligations.
4. The creation of an observatory to monitor conditions of employment of seasonal labour.
5. Signature, ratification and implementation by all European countries of the International Convention on migrant workers.
6. Signature, ratification and implementation by all European countries of the International Convention 184 on Occupational Health and Safety in Agriculture from the International Labour Organization.
7. Regularization of agricultural workers without papers.

To read if you want to know a little more:

Agriculture and industrial servitude in Europe:

http://www.confederationpaysanne.fr/agriculture-industrielle-servitude-en-europe_640.php

Positioning of the working group "Seasonal workers, migration and agriculture" ECVC:

<http://www.eurovia.org/spip.php?article93>

Seasonal workers in European agriculture:

<http://www.cairn.info/revue-etudes-rurales-2008-2.htm>

The youth sector of the Council of Europe

Mara Georgescu introduced to the participants in the study session the youth sector of the Council of Europe and the support available for youth organisations.

The youth sector elaborates guidelines, programmes and legal instruments for the development of coherent and effective youth policies at local, national and European levels. It provides funding and educational support for international youth activities aiming at the promotion of youth citizenship, youth mobility and the value of human rights, democracy and cultural pluralism. It seeks to bring together and disseminate expertise and knowledge about the life situations, aspirations and ways of expression of young Europeans.

The main tools of relevance for participants introduced were:

- educational tools, for example COMPASS – A Manual pm Human Rights Education with Youth People, which provides valuable knowledge to educators and young people about human rights, and also includes activities that can be carried out with young people in order to empower them to take action for human rights. The manual is available online at www.coe.int/compass
- training courses for youth workers and youth leaders, seminar and expert meetings on specific priorities of the youth sector, namely human rights and democracy, intercultural dialogue, social inclusion and access to social rights, Roma young people, cooperation with neighbouring regions, youth participation and peace-building. More about the priorities and the training courses at <http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/youth/>
- financial support for youth activities through the European Youth Foundation, which funds international youth meeting, international youth activities other than meeting, covers administrative costs for international youth organisations and supports also local pilot projects. For more information, <http://www.eyf.coe.int/fej/>
- cooperation with governments on issues regarding youth and the development of youth policies in the 47 members states of the Council of Europe
- intercultural youth activities, such as study sessions, in the European Youth Centres in Strasbourg and Budapest, bringing together youth leaders and members of youth organisations in order to discuss on a specific subject leading to conclusions relevant to the priorities and programmes of the Council of Europe youth sector. For more information: http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/youth/Training/Study_sessions/default_en.asp

Farm Visits

Alsace

During the training, an afternoon was spent by visiting farms. Our group first met Helen Faust, who raises pigs since 2006, when she took over the family farm. She chose to sell all her pigs in AMAP (Association for the maintenance of family farming, kind of CSA). Once a month, the 120 member families pick up their packages of meat and sausages at the farm. The pig feed (barley, oats, triticale, rye, emmer wheat, peas, faba beans and beets) is entirely produced on 37 hectares of farmland. Helen is fully autonomous on her farm, both in food marketing that. It does not undergo price changes, which guarantees a stable and controlled income.

We then visited Daniel Starck, baker-farmer and spokesman of the Peasant Confederation of Alsace. The farm produces wheat, spelled, rye on 25 acres in organic farming. Grains are ground in a grinding stone to make his flour and making bread. Bread is baked over a wood fire and then sold his grocery store organic and



AMAP. Today, there are five people working on these activities.

What do we remember from these two farm visits? On the one hand it is possible to live from farming in small farms by looking for added value through processing and marketing. Moreover these systems in farming create jobs, protect the environment and promote the relationship with consumers. It is up to us to fight for this type of agriculture to be better recognized and encouraged more!

Germany

Joel Siegel-fruit, organic farming

Siegel has collected this field together since March 2009. The farm has been taken over from a man without successor. Previously, they used conventional agricultural methods, since July 2009, Joel Siegel initiated to change to organic farming. Today, they lease 25 hectare, on 12 ha they grow special crops (asparagus, pumpkins, strawberries, gooseberries, raspberries, apple, apricot, peach, pear, marriages of convenience). The company employs three full powers workers and 3 - 4 workers for seasonal work, as temporary help.

The operation based on a '*solidarity regional financing system*':

The operation is a regional partner of the *Regional Action Community* (RAC)-civil-society action since November 2009: The citizens pay 500 EUR for 1 share, and so far they invest into the joint-stock company and help the companies. The people have to wait until the pursuing profit (nominal gains), at deficit, there is at no interest on the amount provided, only on the graduation rate. Currently in the RAC, there are six farms and the customers. In this system everybody benefits from each other! Each year, a report must be submitted, in which different things will be checked (social aspects of income, working conditions and qualifications, etc.).

This is a strong wine region (red and white wine also), they produce grapes in all sorts (from Black Forest to Basel). The wage for the workers at conventional orchards has decreased strongly (3,50 – 4,50 EUR / h for seasonal workers). When they can make some profit, it will be divided among the workers (9,50 EUR / h). There is no hierarchy in the operation, everyone does every work. Siegel's target for the next 5 years: He wants to make some profit in order to investigate.



Luzernerhof - WIDMAIER, Seefelden

Since 1986, biological farms. 2000 barrel steel and outdoor run, 24 ha of arable, 8 acres meadow. They produce cheese since 2004, because the milk could be sold as organic. Fresh dairy products (cheese, yogurt, pasteurized drinking milk for catering services). Other cheeses are made from raw milk.) The need to pasteurize milk according to the EU, but a pasteurizer to buy is a great investment (EU regulation). They use simply milking techniques; at the Widmeier-Luzernerhof they have Fleckvieh cattle in order to have both milk and meat.

There is no possibility the leave the cows grazing permit because it is very difficult to get some grassland, and the in the village there is no free space for grazing. Manure is used to fertilize the fields.

Action against the Privatisation of Seeds

The group participated in an direct action organised by the Confédération Paysanne from Alsace against a new French law that obliges farmers to pay royalties for the use of seeds and strengthening the power of the seed lobby. Traditional peasant seeds were distributed at the local market.



Interviews about Our Stories

Fabian, a participant in the study session, made several **interviews** with participants: Daniel from UAGA (Spain), Jesus from Mijarc (Spain), Henrik and Simone from AbL (Germany), Vanessa from

Fugea (Belgium), Karen from the Scottish Crofter, Anna from Hungary, Solenne from Mijarc (France), Flavio and Antonio from Aiab (Italy) and they can be found online here:

<http://linksunten.indymedia.org/de/node/50834>



Outcomes

Axes of Future work YECVC:

*** Direct action**

Promotion and support of direct action for food sovereignty such as land occupation, GMO field decontaminations, port blockades,...

*** Exchange of experiences and information**

Develop the ECVC website with a map to show existing youth initiatives

*** Research bibliography and link with farmers**

Importance of linking research to farmers' knowledge and experiences and provide this training tool to young farmers.

*** Texts**

- Update the text regarding the youth platform (agro-ecology, summary vision in introduction)
- develop Agricultural Vision Text of what kind of agriculture we want in the future.
- CAP text with youth proposals for the new CAP
- Development of a training booklet to promote further trainings.

*** Training**

- o political (suggestion: at a farm in Eastern Europe)
- o practical – support the Farm Network Reclaim the Fields is establishing

- o CAP

*** Integrate or reactivate ECVC Working groups**

1. CAP
2. Agrarian reform and access to Land
3. Women

*** Funding**

Contribute to the search for funding for these activities.

*** Translation**

Support the translation of the different texts to assure the inclusion of as many young people as possible.

Youth Platform

The dominant agricultural model is in crisis; subjected to the laws of the market, small farmers have almost disappeared. The capitalist model destroys, amongst other things, peasant farming, social life in the countryside and the possibility of producing quality and non-polluting food. Thus, young people involved in agriculture today lack perspectives.

Problems young people face:

Access to land

The evolution of agriculture since 1960, with the European Common Agricultural Policy, has led to land being concentrated in the hands of an ever smaller number of farmers (enlargement of agricultural holdings, mechanization of production, business world take-over...). These larger farms are far too expensive to be sold to young people wishing to go into agricultural production. The problem is compounded by growing urbanization that destroys much land around cities and villages and frantic land speculation. Thus, land is often diverted from agriculture when it can be sold for construction. This is all very worrying, when we bear in mind that there are no proposals to stop this process.

Training

Agricultural training courses are not suitable to the needs of peasant agriculture. Young people are trained to practice production-oriented, industrial-scale agriculture which is split from its primary function: to feed populations in a healthy manner. They are trained to become managers of profitable companies, not farmers. They are turned into simple links in the production chain. The important role of farmers in animating rural social life, transmitting know-how and building links of solidarity, is not taught. There is a huge need to rethink agricultural training courses in view of adapting them to newcomers wishing to acquire/take over a farm and their needs.

Financing

Sociologically, it's a fact that fewer and fewer farms are being taken over by the children of farmers; increasingly, candidates are not from the farming world. For those unable to take over their parents' land, and who don't have rented land, buying a farm is too expensive or entails getting into excessive debt. Public aid is insufficient and particularly badly distributed. It's becoming urgent to change the allocation rules for agricultural financing.

Administrations

In every European country, there are real administrative hurdles for those wishing to take up farming. It seems that everything is being done to discourage such initiatives, even though the farming world needs new blood. Legal information is either non-existent or hard to come by, and dominant professional bodies tend to block out information about land purchase opportunities. Setting up as a farmer is a real ordeal. We can no longer do without a real change in the administrations so that they can effectively help young people set themselves up as farmers.

The Image of Agriculture

The collective image of farming is a negative one (farmers often lack respect, they don't enjoy social recognition and their income is low) despite the fact that their role in producing healthy food is vital for everyone and should be recognized and remunerated. Working conditions are often difficult and take up most time in a farmer's life. The work of farmers should be remunerated by society rather than being dependent on market fluctuations!

Fortunately, awareness is growing about the limits of this system (food crisis, health crisis, pollution due to means of mass transport, food speculation...). New initiatives link producers and consumers and many people are together trying to find solutions to deal with these difficult issues: setting up small co-operatives, common land purchase (for example Terre de liens), alternative training courses...

Our demands ... towards societal change!

We demand free training courses adapted to the needs of young farmers:

Training has to be based on agro-ecological farming methods; farmers need to be taught their history and be given the means to defend themselves politically. Training courses must emphasize the rediscovery of knowledge and tools of solidarity must be created.

We demand a Complete Land Reform

i.e., a public policy of land redistribution that will enable all farmers to cultivate land under good conditions, as well as the creation of public bodies that will guarantee everyone in rural areas access to education, health and culture.

We demand that alternative forms of farming are recognized

Different to the current structure of farm holding management and family farm (collective farming, subsistence farming, urban gardens, etc). This entails legislative changes to take account of these "atypical" set-ups, of which there are an increasing number. This could also lead to mutual recognition by farmers, whatever type of farming they practice.

We demand an end to the financing of profit-based industrial food production

Companies that exploit human beings and natural resources for the sole aim of making money are not acceptable. Continued financing of production-oriented agriculture is a major hurdle in repopulating rural areas and in ensuring a farming revival.

We aspire to a more egalitarian society and, beyond equal gender representation; we have to break with the hetero-patriarchal model of society.

Encourage and facilitate the entry of women into rural environments and farming and to ensure that their work is recognized.

We encourage all of those who are already taking concrete action in their own way and at their level locally. Yet, it seems that cumulating alternative initiatives is not enough to reach our ends. We must thus structure our struggle so as to break the dominant ideology that claims that all kinds of farming methods can co-exist.

Young people entering farming today, and who believe in the ideas of La Via Campesina, have to get organized collectively. We have the responsibility to defend our opinions and to express these to as many people as possible. We have to coordinate our efforts to help those following into our footsteps. The future is ours.

Down with industrial farming which is polluting and enslaving!

For a fairer society, built around a large, solidarity-based, farming community.

Long live the struggle!



Standing:

Antonio (AIAB, Italy),
Flavio (AIAB, Italy),
Carlos (COAG/UAGA, Spanish state),
Benji (Confédération Paysanne/Reclaim the Fields, France),
Jesus (Mijarc, Spanish state),
Manu (Confédération Paysanne, France),
Daniel (COAG/UAGA, Spanish state),
Eduard (Uniterre, Switzerland),
Lutz (ÖBV-Via CampesinaAustria),
Henrik (AbL, Germany),
Anna (Nyéléni Movement, Hungary),
Florent (Mijarc, France),
Mathieu (Confédération Paysanne, France),
Susan (Scottish Crofters, Scotland)

Almost standing:

Rulitza (AIAB, Italy),
Solenne (Mijarc, France),
Lena (ÖBV-Via Campesina Austria)

Sitting in front:

Carla, (AbL,Germany),
Simone,(AbL, Germany),
Noelia (Mijarc,Spanish state),
Fabian (Reclaim the Fields, Germany)
Karen (Scottish Crofters Scotland)
Vanessa (Fugea, Belgium)
Jeanne (ECVC coordinating committee, Belgium)
Tracey (Hungary)
Annelies (ECVC staff, Belgium)

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Appendix: Study Session Programme

	Monday 21st	Tuesday 22nd	Wednesday 23rd	Thursday 24th	Friday 25th	Saturday 26th
8.00	Breakfast					
8.30	Mystica					
9.00		Welcome and introductions Youth & Via Campesina Expectations	Training and discussion on Food Sovereignty	Training on gender and subgroups discussion	Training on agroecology Discussion on acces to commons	Planning of future activities
13.00	Lunch					
14.30	Arrival of participants	Working session on facilitation and group methods Working groups and exercises on Via Campesina and the international institutions	Debate and training on agricultural policy	Farm visits in Alsace and Germany around Strasbourg	Youth sector of the Council of Europe Self-organisation and strategy in working groups	Youth in ECVC: continuity, evaluation of the training session and closing
19.00	Dinner					
21.00	Welcome evening	Night of regions		Movie on Rosarno and discussion on migrants and agriculture		Farewell party