

Pesticide Action Network Fifth International Conference, May 2000

The Dakar Declaration

We, 120 participants from 40 countries, representing farmers, workers, agricultural trade unions, women, scientists and health, environmental, consumer and development activists belonging to the international Pesticide Action Network (PAN) and its partner organizations, have gathered in Dakar, Senegal for the Fifth International PAN Conference from May 18-21, 2000.

We view with grave concern the developments that threaten the people's food security, health and livelihood and the environment around the world. Pesticide use continues to wreak havoc on people's health and well-being, and on the environment. At the same time, transnational corporations are developing and marketing genetically engineered organisms and food that threaten the environment, biodiversity and people's health, jobs and livelihoods. This technology will consolidate corporate control over agriculture and food production, increase pesticide use and undermine farmer control over seeds and technology.

The process of globalization promotes the corporate agenda for profit. This is undermining local food production and increasing the practice of food dumping, especially on poor countries, the sale of unnecessary and dangerous agricultural inputs, the concentration of monopoly corporations in agrochemical, food and seed industries, the development of genetic engineering and the corporatization of agriculture.

We are deeply concerned with the resultant loss of access and self-sufficiency in food, loss of local and indigenous knowledge and seeds, displacement of farming and fishing livelihood, break-up of rural communities, increased indebtedness for farmers, forced migration of people, greater misery for women, hunger and malnutrition, especially for rural populations, land concentration and marginalization of sustainable agriculture.

We commit ourselves to fight for the elimination of pesticides, the termination of genetic engineering of organisms in food and agriculture, the end of corporate globalization and the realization of food sovereignty and sustainable agriculture worldwide.

We will:

1. Advance sustainable agriculture as a holistic, scientific approach and a movement for social transformation that integrates local and indigenous knowledge, participatory research, empowerment of women, farmer control over land, water, seeds and forests, protection of workers' rights and of rural communities, appropriate technology, bio-diversity conservation, access to and equitable distribution of food, equitable sharing of benefits and food self-sufficiency respecting ecological integrity.
2. Contribute actively in the generation, innovation and promotion of ecological alternatives to pesticide use, especially organic agriculture.
3. Continue to fight for local, national and international agreements to restrict, reduce and

eliminate pesticide dependence and to phase out and ban synthetic chemical pesticides, especially those that cause acute, chronic and endocrine disrupting effects.

4. Campaign to stop the development and use of genetically modified organisms in food and agriculture through national, sub-regional and international coordinated actions.

5. Launch and join campaigns against globalization of agriculture and the international institutions and instruments that promote it, like transnational corporations, the International Monetary Fund, multi-lateral development banks, structural adjustment programs and the World Trade Organization Agreement on Agriculture and Trade-Related Intellectual Property Rights.

6. Increase protests against injustices perpetrated by agrochemical, food and fiber transnational corporations and campaign for corporate and government accountability.

PAN will achieve this by:

1. Developing participatory research and monitoring, resource base-building, education and mobilization, and advocacy work in order to strengthen grassroots and national capacity.

2. Developing nationwide, regional and international networks and alliances and strengthening grassroots peasants and women's movements as their foundation.

3. Launching coordinated campaigns with farmers, waged agricultural workers, food industry workers and environmentalists; women's, human rights and consumer movements; and many others.

4. Influencing, through coordinated actions and activities, the policies and practices of government, inter-governmental organizations, and other institutions at national, regional and global levels.

We, the participants of the Fifth PAN International Conference, challenge the paradigm that the world can only be fed with pesticides and genetic engineering. We demand that our collective voice be heard and we commit ourselves to realize our goal to feed the world without poisons through sustainable agricultural practices, controlled and managed by communities.

Dakar, Senegal
May 21, 2000