

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE FOR GLOBAL JUSTICE **OWNERS' MANUAL**

SUMMER 2012



SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

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Images: Rini Templeton, riniart.org (p1, 8, 18, 19); Johnny Automatic, openclipart.org (p2, 3, 6)

WELCOME TO THE CAGJ OWNERS' MANUAL!

If you're a volunteer with CAGJ, this Owners' Manual invites you to become a member and further introduce you to what CAGJ is all about. If you're a new member of CAGJ, this packet introduces you to the organization. And if you are already a member, this packet encourages you to RENEW your membership! The CAGJ Owners' Manual aims to update you on the happenings at CAGJ and further connect with you to see how you can be involved.

It seems like every year is more exciting than the last for us! We are very glad to know that you are as enthusiastic as we are about our future of movement-building for justice!

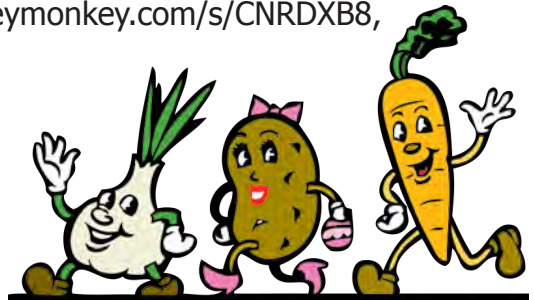
To become a member or to renew your membership, fill out the enclosed membership card and return it to us today! If you would prefer to go paperless, there is also an online option. Go to our website (seattleglobaljustice.org) and click "Get Involved" on the menu bar. Next, click "Become A Member."

Renewing your membership annually is crucial in order to sustain Community Alliance for Global Justice. Our organization is member-based and without you, our local and global work would be impossible. We rely on members to donate, organize, attend events, volunteer and take action. Most importantly, we want you to share your opinions and become truly involved.

In order to actively collect member opinions, we ask you to take our Membership Survey. This survey will allow us to further understand what you want your involvement with CAGJ to look like. The survey is online, has 2 parts (anonymous and non-anonymous) and only takes 10 - 15 minutes to fill out. We are happy to send you a paper copy if you prefer, just let us know! You should receive these links by e-mail, but just in case: www.surveymonkey.com/s/CNRDXB8, www.surveymonkey.com/s/CFRKHRQ

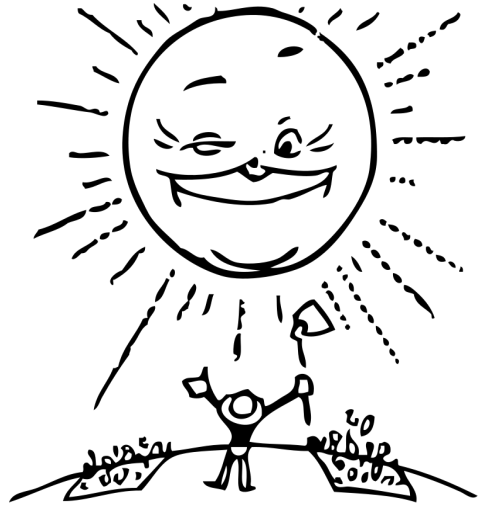
Thank you for being active with CAGJ.

In Solidarity!
Community Alliance for Global Justice



MISSION STATEMENT

Community Alliance for Global Justice educates and mobilizes with individuals and organizations to strengthen local economies everywhere. CAGJ is grassroots, community-based and committed to anti-oppressive organizing as we build solidarity across diverse movements. CAGJ seeks to transform unjust trade and agricultural policies and practices imposed by corporations, governments and other institutions while creating and supporting alternatives that embody social justice, sustainability, diversity and grassroots democracy.



COMMITMENT TO ANTI-OPPRESSION

CAGJ believes that to effect transformative change and create a more equal society, we have to get at the roots of inequality. Moving toward social justice means working to dismantle racism, sexism, classism, heteronormativity, ableism, and other systems of oppression, not only internally within CAGJ and our movements, but also externally in the way we organize for change locally and globally. From our founding CAGJ has been dedicated to undoing oppression, facilitating discussion, supporting education, and integrating principles wherever we could. CAGJ recently embarked on a collaborative anti-oppression process including focus groups on race, a community assessment, and an organizational training with participation from past and present CAGJ activists and community partners. Work is underway to incorporate feedback from this process, address internal dynamics, and continue developing anti-oppressive analysis and organizing principles. We will continue to position anti-oppression at the heart of our work in an on-going process to strengthen relationships with ally organizations, build solidarity across diverse communities and issues, make our leadership more collective and diverse, increase our effectiveness, and realize CAGJ's potential as a powerful anti-oppressive organization.

THE IMPORTANCE OF MEMBERSHIP

Membership is crucial to the long-term health of CAGJ. CAGJ's members are individuals like you who want to show their commitment to CAGJ because they believe in our mission. Becoming a member by signing the membership card is essential in order for us to be aware of who supports us, and it enables us to have a strong community identity.

To become a member, you commit to donating your time and/or money. CAGJ made a conscious decision to not be a dues-based organization, as we value every level of engagement. So when you commit to becoming a CAGJ Member, you commit to donating, &/or attendance at events, &/or volunteering and being involved in our organizing. We need supporters at every level of involvement to thrive and grow!

FUNDED BY THE GRASSROOTS!

However, CAGJ's Members do help ensure our financial stability! CAGJ's political work is possible only because we are independent and supported by our members. While we seek support from foundations, we rely on individual contributions and our annual fundraising dinner, which make up 80 - 90% of our budget! This is a key to our success as a grassroots organization - we are truly supported by our members. One of the best way to support CAGJ financially is to become a Sustaining Member, meaning you donate whatever amount you can afford every month, which gets automatically deducted from your credit union/bank account. This creates a reliable pool of funds for our basic expenses every month, allowing us to dedicate more time to organizing!

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A VOLUNTEER-LED ORGANIZATION

The success of CAGJ depends on volunteers, as each one individually adds value to the network. Volunteers have a stake in the political direction of CAGJ. Volunteers have the freedom to make decisions, and are encouraged to develop their leadership skills. To be a volunteer-led organization means that volunteers' ideas are put into action. CAGJ's successful campaign, AGRA Watch, and the fun and educational Teach-Outs and publications of "Our Food, Our Right" in the Food Justice Project are just a few examples of CAGJ's organizing that was conceived of and led by CAGJ volunteers - you have the power to influence the evolution of CAGJ!

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

CAGJ believes that everyone has the potential to be a leader, and that leaders are needed to get stuff done and be effective. CAGJ supports our volunteers to become leaders in our movement. There are benefits to active involvement – core volunteers are invited to participate in activist trainings and conferences throughout the US, and receive partial funding from CAGJ. We are interested in what skills you want to develop, and aim to support you in cultivating and practicing those skills. CAGJ is a springboard for many of our activists, who go on to do amazing things. We're so proud of the many ways CAGJ's leaders play vital, creative roles in our food justice movement!

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE

We all want a successful food system, but nothing can be changed unless our fragmented efforts forge a common platform to build a wide progressive alliance. CAGJ aims to strengthen alliances with like-minded organizations (i.e., "community alliance"), because we can accomplish more, and what can really be transformative is if all networks unify into one movement. Membership itself is about bringing people together, developing trust, encouraging participation, building relationships, and reminding us of the good we can do if we just work together.



NATIONAL & GLOBAL PARTNERS

CAGJ is an alliance in the sense that we work with many partners at every scale. We value membership in coalitions as we can only build a movement strong enough to transform the global economy and food system if we work together to build broad alliances!

REGIONAL

Puget Sound Regional Council Food Policy Council: CAGJ represents the social justice non-profit sector

psrc.org/about/advisory/regional-food-policy-council

Washington Fair Trade Coalition: Founding member

washingtonfairtrade.org

NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL

Community Food Security Coalition: Member of International Links Committee and Food Sovereignty Prize Committee

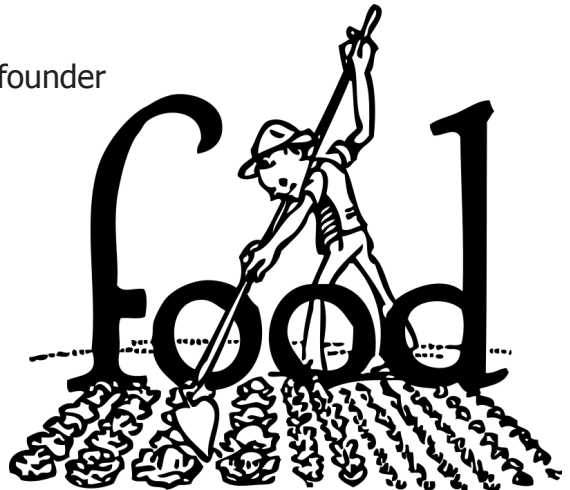
foodsecurity.org

National Family Farm Coalition: An affiliate of La Via Campesina North America

nffc.net

US Food Sovereignty Alliance: Co-founder

usfoodsovereigntyalliance.org



GET INVOLVED IN CAGJ!

THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO GET INVOLVED IN CAGJ. OUR TOP 10 LIST:

- 1.** Show your support by becoming a Member (or Renew!)
- 2.** Work with one of our projects or organizing committees (see pages 8-11)
- 3.** Come to a project meeting, just to check things out! (Check out web calendar for details)
- 4.** Volunteer – see opportunities below!
- 5.** Donate to help sustain CAGJ (you can donate securely online on our website)
- 6.** Sign up for our e-newsletter or one of our list-servs, to receive regular updates
- 7.** Intern (see how to apply on Internship page of website)
- 8.** Join our Book Group: Email bookgroup@seattleglobaljustice.org
- 9.** Help to organize our annual fundraising dinner, SLEE (see pg. 11)
- 10.** Come to one of our events!

To learn more about how to get involved, contact our volunteer coordinators, Michelle and Chelsea at volunteer@seattleglobaljustice.org, who can answer any questions, and also tell you about our next Community Meeting, where we orient new volunteers to current projects and organizing!

CAGJ'S PROJECTS

In 2008 CAGJ consulted our community allies and involved our core activists in deciding how we would work towards our mission of strengthening local economies everywhere, with a focus on fighting for a just global food system. We chose 3 projects to focus our organizing, and in 2010 added the NW Farm Bill Action Group.

AGRA WATCH: agrawatch@seattleglobaljustice.org

AGRA Watch is a project of CAGJ that challenges the Gates Foundation's problematic agricultural development programs in Africa, including the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA). We work in solidarity with African farmers, activists, and civil society organizations resisting land grabs, industrial agriculture, GMOs, and other undemocratic initiatives pushed from the outside at the expense of farmers, consumers, and the environment. AGRA Watch participates in national and international organizing efforts to build community-based, agroecological solutions to hunger and climate change here, in Africa, and around the world.

Current AGRA Watch focus: AGRA Watch is currently organizing an international conference to take place in Seattle in early 2013. The overarching theme of the conference is the alliance of corporate power and philanthro-capitalism, with a focus on the "Green Revolution (Gates' "religious obsession" with high tech/industrial agriculture model/GMOs/biopiracy) and on the solutions and alternatives (agro-ecological alternatives in context of food sovereignty, examining the African situation). You are invited to join the Conference Host Committee!



CAGJ'S PROJECTS, CONT'D

FOOD JUSTICE PROJECT: fjp@seattleglobaljustice.org

Food Justice is the right of communities everywhere to produce, distribute, access, and eat good food regardless of race, class, gender, ethnicity, citizenship, ability, religion, or community. Good food is healthful, local, sustainable, culturally appropriate, humane, and produced for the sustenance of people and the planet. Through political action, anti-oppressive organizing and community-building, CAGJ's Food Justice Project seeks to challenge and transform the globalized, industrial, corporate-driven food system and promote existing alternatives as we join the global struggle for food sovereignty for all! Our Community Education focus includes Teach-Outs supporting and visiting local food sites, and publication of *Our Food, Our Right*, a handbook combining hands-on tools for change with community recipes and political awareness to engage YOU in joining in the struggle for food justice!

Current Food Justice Project focus: In addition to supporting food justice campaigns where possible, the Food Justice Project is focused on publication & distribution of CAGJ's new book: *Our Food, Our Right: Recipes for Food Justice*, and is developing a Community Education workshop series focused on these themes: What is the "food system"? Current state of the food system & defining the problem: What are we up against? What do Sexism, Classism & Racism look like in our food system? The Food & Farm Bill: what are its effects on how we produce our food, its context, and possibilities for change? Food Justice & Food sovereignty: What does an equitable food system look like? What do these terms mean to you, and what do they encompass? Do we create a social movement for a just food system through consumer choice, or political action? How do we create alternative food systems and social, political change?

TRADE JUSTICE: tradejustice@seattleglobaljustice.org

CAGJ works for Trade Justice by organizing to reform the current US trade model that prioritizes profits over people and the environment, while offering viable alternatives through democratic engagement. Through CAGJ's Trade Action Network, and membership in the WA Fair Trade Coalition, CAGJ continues our historic organizing to halt future so-called Free Trade Agreements, including the pending Trans Pacific Partnership, and to monitor existing policy including NAFTA, CAFTA and bilateral agreements with Peru, Colombia, South Korea and Panama. We seek to increase public understanding of trade by educating and advocating about the links to our food system, food sovereignty, immigrant rights, climate justice and economic justice.

Current Trade Justice focus: In 2012 we are tracking the TPP - Trans-Pacific Partnership, which is poised to become the largest free trade agreement ever. It includes some 26 separate chapters, likely to affect jobs, wages, agriculture, migration, the environment, access to medicine, consumer safety, banking regulations, indigenous rights, Internet freedom, government procurement and more. The U.S. Trade Representative has given an estimated 600 corporate lobbyists regular access to the negotiating texts, but has flat-out refused to tell the American public what he has been proposing in our names. This is an area where CAGJ needs new leadership!

NW FARM BILL ACTION GROUP: farmbill@seattleglobaljustice.org

Northwest Farm Bill Action Group (NWFBAG) is building a diverse alliance of people and organizations in the Pacific Northwest who advocate for a more healthy, sustainable, and equitable food system. Through collaboration, we provide a space for Pacific Northwest communities to educate themselves about the upcoming Farm Bill and to cultivate the tools to take action and effect policy change to work for a better food system. CAGJ launched NWFBAG in August 2010, and continues to play a leadership role in its activities.



JOIN A CAGJ WORK COMMITTEE!

Contact us for info about these opportunities: 206.405.4600, volunteer@seattleglobaljustice.org

ANTI-OPPRESSION COMMITTEE: Helps CAGJ identify strategies for an integrated approach to building multiracial, anti-oppressive organization and movement.

SLEE DINNER COMMITTEE: SLEE is CAGJ's annual community celebration and fundraising dinner, named after our overarching campaign, Strengthening Local Economies Everywhere. The dinner is for 400 people, focused on locally sourced and Fair Trade foods, and honors local leadership in our movement. Many volunteers make the dinner happen, organizing from January until the annual event in the summer.

MEMBERSHIP/OUTREACH COMMITTEE: Supports efforts to reach out to potential new activists and connect with current members to get them more involved in CAGJ.

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE: Includes Grants coordination, Sustainer promotion, Major Donor visits, and other grassroots fundraising methods.

...AND MORE VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES!

In addition to getting involved through CAGJ's projects and work committees, there are always many other volunteer opportunities - here are a few job descriptions:

OFFICE VOLUNTEER: Assist Director with data-entry and other ongoing organizing tasks. A regular data-entry volunteer is really needed a few hours per week! The office volunteers often help with creative tasks.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Compile Community Calendar, Solicit newsletter items from Steering Committee, and work with Director to format online e-newsletter on the last day of every month. 4 - 8 hours per month.

WEB GURU: With support from CAGJ, do back-end updates, trouble-shoot, some content management, user management; Good to know Wordpress; 10 hours/month.

SOCIAL MEDIA GURU: Make regular posts to our website, Facebook, Twitter, and help CAGJ develop a better social media strategy!

HOW WE ORGANIZE

COMMUNITY EDUCATION: Organizing workshops, guest speakers, film screenings, and study groups, we offer the community information about corporate globalization, its local impacts (including on the food we eat!), and the economic and agricultural alternatives we have as resources for resisting it. We seek to connect folks in the Puget Sound area with their local food system by organizing Teach-Outs and our annual community gathering, the Strengthening Local Economies Everywhere Dinner.

GRASSROOTS ORGANIZING: We build solidarity with allied organizations, mobilize locally through citizen outreach and consultation, and train new leaders to enact social change in their communities. We seek to empower individuals and communities to create and participate in alternative economic and agricultural models. We engaged in multiple tactics including workshops, trainings, consciousness-raising, promoting petitions, lobbying, marches, & non-violent direct action.

RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS: We are involved with ongoing research in the areas of corporate globalization, local economies, sustainable agriculture, African agricultural development and the role of the Gates Foundation, food justice and access, immigration and labor rights, and trade policy and fair-trade alternatives.

MEDIA OUTREACH: By providing a thoughtful analysis to journalists and writing op-eds and letters-to-the editor, we give voice to an alternative vision of local and global development.



STAY CONNECTED TO CAGJ!



1. **JOIN OUR E-NEWSLETTER LIST!** We will send you one email per month, with CAGJ Happenings, how to Take Action, Analysis and Community Calendar. You can sign up on CAGJ's website home-page!
2. **LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!** CAGJ has a Facebook page (facebook.com/cagjseattle), as do AGRA Watch & NW Farm Bill Action Group.
3. **FOLLOW CAGJ ON TWITTER:** twitter.com/cagjseattle
4. **JOIN A CAGJ LISTSERV!** Stay informed about CAGJ news and all of our upcoming events by adding your name to one of our listservs!

To join the **Food Justice Project listserv**, send a request to:
fjp@seattleglobaljustice.org

To join one of the **AGRA Watch listservs**, send a request to:
agrawatch@seattleglobaljustice.org

To join **NW Farm Bill Action Group listserv**, send a request to:
farmbill2012@seattleglobaljustice.org

To join **Trade Action Network**, send a request to:
tradejustice@seattleglobaljustice.org

CAGJ MEMBER PROFILES



LAURA TITZER

Why I work with CAGJ: I work with CAGJ because it provides an outlet for me to advocate and support food justice issues locally and globally. It provides me with connections and stories I otherwise would not be aware of. Lastly, it pushes me to speak with clarity and honesty.

What I do: I work within the Food Justice Project as Co-Chair. I have worked with interns, volunteers, developed campaigns, fundraising events, and community education programs.

What I get out of my activism: I get from CAGJ the ability to hone competencies and skills in leadership and advocacy.

Hopes/plans/dreams: My future vision is to develop a book on my theory of social change applied to the food system, to work more as a facilitator of ideas and visions within groups and communities and to use this facilitation to build a different food system.

CHRIS IBERLE

Why I work with CAGJ: Can I just use a song to sum this up? It always comes to mind when asked why I'm "an activist": "And yes, I recognize the irony that the very system I oppose affords me the luxury of biting the hand that feeds. But that's exactly why privileged fucks like me should feel obliged to whine and kick and scream - until everyone has everything they need." *Propagandhi, off the album "Less Talk, More Rock"*

What I do: I've been with CAGJ since our central focus was countering free trade agreements and promoting fair trade alternatives. I've helped with that transition, and helped develop and implement our projects and messaging for food justice and sovereignty.

What I get out of my activism: I feel a strong sense of community, solidarity with people's movements for justice here and abroad, and the ability to creatively and actively organize people to change the systems that don't work for most people or the planet.

Hopes/plans/dreams: I hope to continue finding interesting and exciting ways to work with people for a more just global and local economy. I am hopeful (though also cynical) about the ability to achieve this in my lifetime. I plan to have fun doing it!



CAGJ STRUCTURE & DECISION-MAKING

We want CAGJ's structure and decision-making process to be transparent to everyone interested in being involved. The visual structure is one way of understanding how we work; the arrows in the diagram represent the flow of individuals between each level of involvement - people come and go from levels all the time. The below overview gives you more in-depth information!

DECISION-MAKING IN CAGJ:

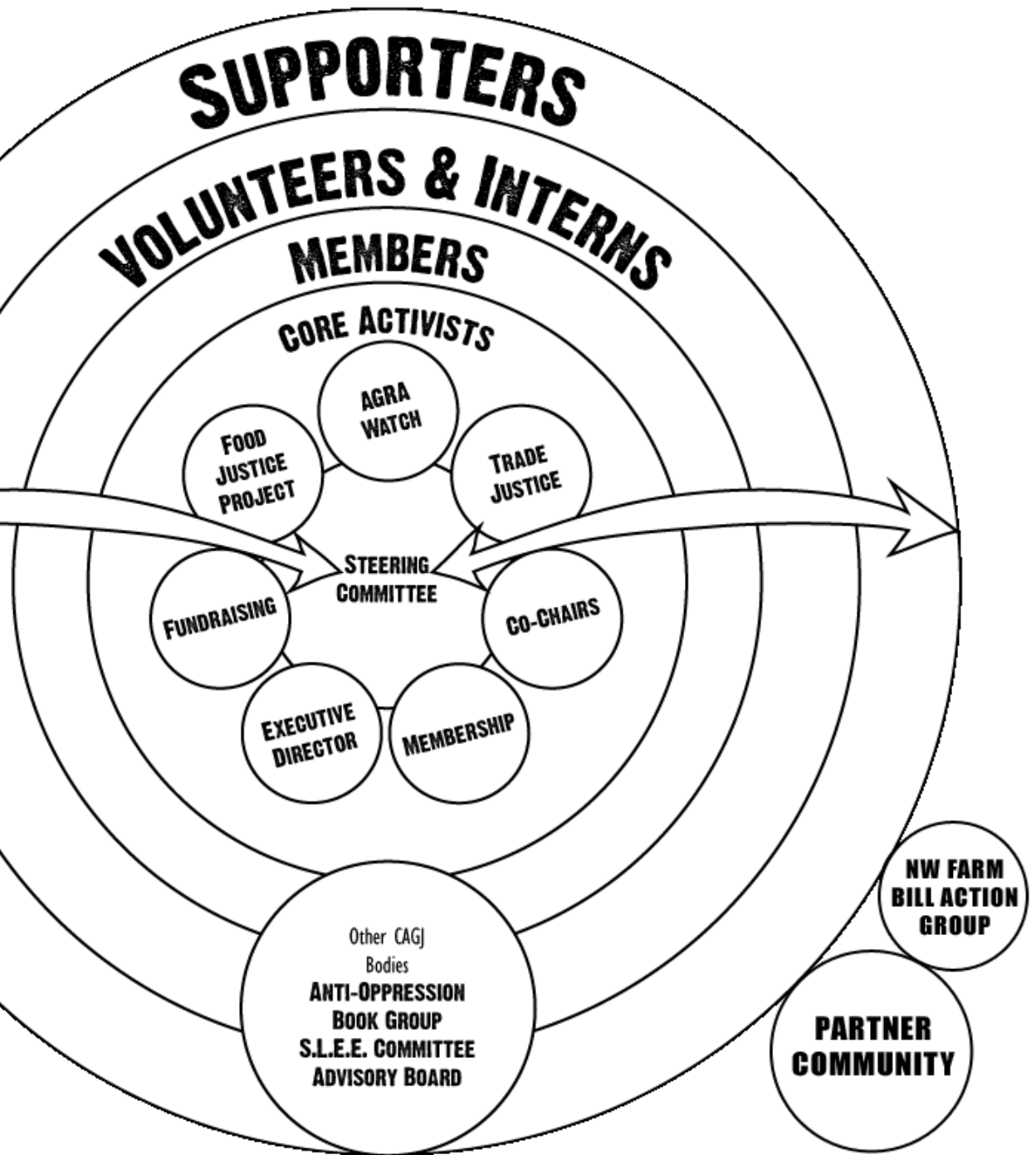
CAGJ's commitment to **the principle of subsidiarity** (see pg. 17) means that decisions are best made at lowest level possible. Thus, the Project Committees are empowered to make decisions within the committees, unless they involve significant financial impact on the organization. This includes determining the programmatic priorities for the projects.

Organizational direction and priorities are determined at annual or biannual **Strategic Planning Meetings**, to which all active CAGJ members are invited.

Annual Budgets are determined by the **Steering Committee**, with input from the projects. The Steering Committee votes to give final approval of the budget.

At large **Co-Chairs** are responsible for financial decisions that need to be made between Steering Committee meetings.





CAGJ STRUCTURE & DECISION-MAKING, CONT'D

THE PRINCIPLES WE WANT REFLECTED IN OUR STRUCTURE AND DECISION-MAKING

Leadership development:

- We believe in the idea that everyone can be a leader.
- With this idea in mind, we develop leaders by creating opportunities for interested volunteers, members, and allies to develop the ability to lead, inspire change, and exchange skills and ideas within Seattle and globally with CAGJ's support.
- Every CAGJ leader has the opportunity to develop their skills, and to support others in developing their leadership in CAGJ.
- As a grassroots, movement-building organization, we want a structure that facilitates and develops leaders across communities and generations to empower sustainable change.

Collective leadership and decision-making:

- Leadership and decision-making should be as horizontal as possible.
- Where possible, we ensure that the greatest number of stakeholders have opportunities to participate and have their voices represented in decisions.

Accountability:

- The leadership of CAGJ takes responsibility for the results of the organization's actions.
- To ensure accountability, we value regular consultation and transparency.
- We aim to be accountable to those most affected by our work by offering opportunities to be involved in leadership and participate in actions.

Subsidiarity:

- Decisions are best made at lowest level possible, thus CAGJ's committees are empowered to make decisions without consulting with full Steering Committee.
- The exception to the above is in the case of a considerable financial commitment. Such decisions are referred to the Steering Committee.

Pragmatism:

- We aim to have a structure that facilitates the greatest possible ability to take movement-building actions and accomplish our goals.

Importance of a comprehensive political and social analysis:

- We want a structure that facilitates working from a collectively developed analysis of the issues and organizing we want to do – to be developed through broad participation within CAGJ, and with members of the broader communities with whom we engage, with an anti-oppressive outlook to create sustainable change.

OVERVIEW OF CAGJ LEADERSHIP

Steering Committee:

CAGJ is led by its Steering Committee (our equivalent of a Board), which includes the Co-Chairs of each Project Committee, At-large Co-Chairs, and our Executive Director, Heather Day.

Expectations of Steering Committee Members:

- Responsible for leading the organization as a whole and prioritizing staff work.
- Commit to participating for one year.
- Responsible for attending monthly Steering Committee meetings.



Project Committees:

Committees are composed of anyone interested and willing to help lead our current work. Project committees are based on current needs and may change depending on organizational priorities. Committees as of Spring 2012: AGRA Watch, Food Justice, Membership, Fundraising, Anti-Oppression.

Expectations of Project Co-Chairs:

- Serve one-year terms, renewable
- Serve as members of the Steering Committee, and attend monthly meetings to report, solicit feedback, and support organizational health

Project Co-Chair Selection: Project Co-Chairs are selected by outgoing Co-Chairs. When new leadership is needed, Co-Chairs solicit candidates through an announcement at a monthly meeting and an email to the relevant listserv. Criteria for selection include proven commitment to CAGJ's mission, demonstrated accountability, and desire to lead.

At large Co-Chairs:

At-large Co-Chairs are selected through consultation with the Steering Committee. Criteria for selection include proven commitment to CAGJ's mission, demonstrated accountability, and desire to lead. At-large Co-Chairs include the Treasurer.

Expectations of At-large Co-Chairs:

- Serve one-year terms, renewable
- Provide support and direction to staff
- Plan the monthly meetings in consultation with the project committees and staff
- Assist with broader organizational needs such as budgeting, spending, policy development, personnel issues, and other coordination assistance as needed
- Make financial decisions between Steering Committee meetings

CAGJ STRUCTURE & DECISION-MAKING, CONT'D

Advisory Board:

- The Advisory Board is made up of community leaders who are committed to CAGJ's mission, and have relevant experience to act in an advisory capacity.
- Members are a public face of CAGJ (through CAGJ letterhead, grant applications, Table Captains etc), and should represent breadth of our mission.
- Members advise organization individually, when asked, and collectively in regularly scheduled meetings.

Advisory Board Expectations:

- Meet twice per year to give input on CAGJ Program and Organizational Development.
- Receive regular email updates and meeting notes to stay updated about CAGJ happenings, and are encouraged to give input.
- Expected to respond to specific calls for feedback from Director, as needed.
- Invited but not required to participate in biannual Strategic Planning Retreats.

There are 9 Advisory Board members as of Spring 2012:

- **Shana Greene:** Village Volunteers
- **Derek Hoshiko:** Seattle Good Business Network
- **Nancy Kool:** P-Patcher, involved since 2007 SLEE
- **Phil Bereano:** Founding Advisory Board, WA Biotechnology Council, core AGRA Watch activist, UW Prof emeritus
- **Marina Skumanich:** WA Fair Trade Coalition
- **Sarah Luthens:** Founding Advisory Board, AFSC, Out Front Labor
- **Lucy Jarosz:** UW Faculty, Critical Global Poverty Study Group
- **Viki Sontag:** former CAGJ Board-member, Eco-Praxis
- **Allan Paulson:** CAGJ co-founder, WA Fair Trade Coalition



CAGJ'S HISTORY

2001

Community Alliance for Global Justice (CAGJ) was founded in 2001 in the wake of the 1999 World Trade Organization protests during a time of much inspiration and motivation to take action. Many of the Seattle-based organizers wanted to build on the locally created momentum of the demonstrations. Jeremy Simer organized the founding meetings, and many of today's leaders participated in them, including Heather Day, Bill Aal, Phil Bereano, Sarah Luthens and Allan Paulson. Our aim was to bridge and compliment existing groups with specific constituencies by building a broad, multi-issue, grassroots, and membership based alliance to take action for a more just global economy. CAGJ offered a home to unorganized and unaffiliated individuals, as well as others already involved in labor, environmental, or solidarity organizations, with a vision "to increase understanding of local connections to the global economy, and expand public participation in shaping it."

2002-2006

In CAGJ's first five years, we focused on organizing opposition in our state to all extensions of the North America Free Trade Agreement, starting with FTAA - Free Trade Area of the Americas. This organizing culminated in an effective campaign in 2005 that resulted in a historic vote by all of Washington State's Democrats against the Central America Free Trade Agreement. CAGJ has always specialized in fun, creative actions; highlights of this period included a tri-national conference called "No More NAFTA's!"; a fun-run and march called "Race to the Bottom," which was organized to coincide with the Miami protests against the Free Trade Area of the Americas; a "Sing-in" at Senator Cantwell's office, resulting in a long denied meeting with her; and a signature gathering campaign on Seattle's ferries aimed at building support for our local environmental leader in the House to oppose CAFTA - our slogan was "Earth to Insee!". During this period, CAGJ also supported efforts to promote Fair Trade coffee and other commodities, worked as allies to immigrants in the Northwest, and participated in a share-holder action against Costco, led by activists from Mexico in an attempt to stop Costco's destruction of important cultural sites in Cuernavaca, Mexico.

2006- 2008

Due to a shift in leadership in 2006, CAGJ underwent a transition, redefining the focus of the organization. Under the new banner of "Strengthening Local Economies Everywhere," CAGJ is now focused on bringing our anti-corporate analysis of the global economy to the burgeoning local foods and sustainability movements. We aim to work in

CAGJ'S HISTORY, CONT'D

solidarity with the Global South who continue to inspire us with their growing resistance to the corporate driven economic model – a model pushed by the US, Europe and a transnational corporate elite. While we continue to monitor the institutions promoting corporate globalization, today CAGJ is focusing on building positive alternatives to corporate control by supporting the movements for healthy local food economies here and everywhere. In our first foray into this arena, we organized a community fair and dinner in the summer of 2007, which was attended by over 300 people., and has become an annual event - the "SLEE" dinner. We honor local farmers, organizers and food workers integral to the growing local movement in the Northwest, and the keynotes highlight critical aspects of our food justice movement. Organizing this event inspired a new generation of activists to get involved and take leadership in CAGJ in 2008; this committed team led a strategic planning process, focused on taking action for a just food system here in the Northwest and around the world. Our organizing is now focused in three programs: AGRA Watch, Trade Justice, and the Food Justice Project. This revival of the organization led to hiring Heather Day as the Executive Director.

2008 TO PRESENT

At the end of 2008 CAGJ organized a Teach-In called "Confronting the Food Crisis: Cultivating Just Alternatives to the Corporate Food System" where we offered over 30 workshops for free to the community - over 400 people participated! After the teach-in we launched Teach-Outs, which are work-parties and outings to get to know our local food system; we've done over 25 Teach-Outs to rural and urban farms, urban gardens, community kitchens, youth food justice programs, fisheries, and more. We also began work on our publication, "Our Food, Our Right: Recipes for Food Justice", which is a compilation of articles on food politics, recipes, and how-to sections for people who want to grow their own food. In 2012 we will publish the 2nd edition of Our Food, Our Right! The AGRA Watch campaign also got started in 2009, and has had many successes, including raising awareness of the Gates Foundation's negative impacts in Africa within our own community, media in the US and around the world, building partnerships with our allies leading the struggle in Africa. CAGJ was honored for our organizing in 2009, when we won the Food Sovereignty Honorable Mention Prize, awarded at the CFSC Conference. In 2011 AGRA Watch nominated one of our partners in Kenya, G-BIACK, for the Food Sovereignty Prize, and farmer Samuel Nderitu was able to visit the United States in order to receive his honorable mention award. In September of 2011, we sent a delegation to Oaxaca, Mexico to learn more about how farmers there are working to protect farming tradition in the face of poverty and free trade agreements. We are very proud of our history and looking forward where the future takes us!

MORE CAGJ MEMBER PROFILES



PHIL BEREANO

Why I work with CAGJ: I have a long history of trying to force agricultural genetic engineering (GE) to be socially responsible. Having close relationships with Africans and others concerned about safety and effectiveness of GE, I was asked to a conversation with the Gates Foundation; several meetings proved they were trying to be manipulative. When discussions began in CAGJ about our local foundation (the world's largest) abusing its power in Africa, I helped found AGRA Watch.

What I do: AGRA Watch, Co-Chair of 2013 Conference Committee, fundraising.

What I get out of my activism: My activism in CAGJ will reduce my time in Purgatory by several days, I am sure.

Hopes/plans/dreams: I hope we can block the Gates Foundation's nefarious schemes, by supporting our African colleagues and by using our leverage here on the home court.



ASHLEY FENT

Why I work with CAGJ: It draws important connections between local food systems, national agricultural policy, and international trade policy. This builds an understanding of how communities are linked and how local action can have an impact in the global food system.

What I do: I was co-chair of AGRA Watch and a Steering Committee member, supervised intern research, helped develop and execute projects, and made artistic contributions. Now I volunteer when possible and participate in AGRA Watch.

What I get out of my activism: I have learned more about social justice and leadership from CAGJ and its members. I have also learned about various food and agricultural issues, which has strengthened my professional work as well as my volunteer commitments.

Hopes/plans/dreams: To research and teach about agricultural development in Africa; more generally, I envision a future in which we value the lives and livelihoods of all people, rather than protect corporate and national interests. CAGJ's emphasis on grassroots initiatives, local food systems, and sustainable development makes important steps in that direction and has helped me to remain optimistic about the potential of "people power."

MEMBER PROFILES, CONT'D

JANAE CHOQUETTE

Why I work with CAGJ: It makes connections among local and global struggles in a way that gets at the root causes of problems we face and highlights grassroots solutions. CAGJ confronts corporate power as it builds people power!

What I do: As co-chair of AGRA Watch and member of the anti-oppression committee, I attend conferences, make presentations, write press releases, plan events, communicate with partners in the US and Africa, work to dismantle systems of oppression, and raise a little hell.

What I get out of my activism: A community of passionate organizers, sharper political thinking, new experiences and skills, a sense of possibility – CAGJ gives me hope for a better world and empowers me to be part of making it a reality.

Hopes/plans/dreams: The crisis is theirs, the future is ours. As the global economic crisis deepens and elites struggle to hold the system together, my dream is to participate in powerful social movements worldwide, transforming broken systems into vibrant ones that prioritize self-determination, social justice, and sustainability.



BILL AAL



Why I work with CAGJ: CAGJ is the only multi-issue progressive organization that is multigenerational, volunteer led, and committed to justice at all levels. We are passionate and compassionate, strategic and agile. It's the most fun and powerful organization I have ever worked with.

What I do: As Co-chair of AGRA Watch I connect with policy people, farmers and activists to challenge what industrial agriculture corporations, development aid establishment, and globalized trade advocates have in mind for Africa's agricultural future. I work with our treasurer, director and fundraising chair to ensure the financial stability of CAGJ. My most important role is to support leadership development.

What I get out of my activism: CAGJ helps me realize I am not alone in the struggle for justice in our communities and around the globe.

Hopes/plans/dreams: I hope we can block the Gates Foundation's nefarious schemes, by supporting our African colleagues and by using our leverage here on the home court.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 1999** Before CAGJ... People's Victory over the World Trade Organization (WTO)
- 2001** CAGJ Founded to carry on WTO Protests' legacy of grassroots creative action for Global Justice
- 2002** CAGJ organizes Globalization 101 Workshop Series
- 2002** Sing-in at Cantwell's Office wins long sought after meeting with Senator
- 2002** Support of Seattle Sustainable Coffee Coalition
- 2003** No More NAFTAs - ALCA Nunca! Tri-national Conference
- 2003** Costco Shareholder Actions in Solidarity with Cuernavaca Coalition
- 2003** "Race to the Bottom" Fun-Run and March in Solidarity with Miami FTAA protests
- 2004** Education & Media Campaign to stop the FTAA
- 2005** Earth to Inslee CAFTA Campaign contributes to major victory of WA's Democrats voting against CAFTA
- 2005** Uprooted: A Community Forum on Immigration & Globalization
- 2007** 1st Annual Strengthening Local Economies, Everywhere! Dinner
- 2007** Organize first Farm Visits
- 2008** Launch Food Justice Project & AGRA Watch Campaign
- 2008** Over 400 people attend "Confronting the Food Crisis Teach-In: Cultivating Just Alternatives to the Corporate Food System"
- 2009** Food Justice Project launches and organizes seven Teach-Outs
- 2009** CAGJ's first publication! "Our Food, Our Right: Recipes for Food Justice"
- 2009** Over 1000 people attend People's Summit: Global Justice Forward! Marking 10 Years since WTO Protests
- 2009** Only US organization to be awarded first annual Food Sovereignty Prize
- 2010** AGRA Watch gets global press coverage after revealing Gates Foundation purchase of Monsanto stock; in response, over 100 organizations and prominent individuals from around the world sign letter to Gates Foundation, and 1500 sign online petition
- 2010** Food Justice Project hosted six Teach-Outs
- 2010** Launch NW Farm Bill Action Group!
- 2010** Present at conferences from Tacoma to San Francisco, New Orleans to Nagoya, Japan

ACCOMPLISHMENTS, CONT'D

- 2011** Celebrate 10 Years of Organizing Locally for Justice in the Global Economy!
- 2011** Food Justice Project launches Community Education series with Racism & the Food System workshop, and organizes 5 Teach-Outs
- 2011** AGRA Watch protests Gates Foundation at opening of new headquarters in Seattle
- 2011** AGRA Watch promotes Kenyan partner GBIACK, who wins 2011 Food Sov. Prize
- 2011** Multiple creative actions with WA Fair Trade Coalition to pressure elected leaders to vote against new trade agreements with Panama, Colombia and South Korea
- 2011** Organize first Food Sovereignty Delegation to Oaxaca, Mexico with Witness for Peace
- 2011** CAGJ Occupies the Food System! Actions in solidarity with Occupy movement
- 2012** AGRA Watch launches planning for major 2013 Conference to confront the Gates Foundation, with support of national partners
- 2012** Publish 2nd edition of Our Food, Our Right: Recipes for Food Justice



WHAT IS FOOD SOVEREIGNTY?



CAGJ's organizing aims to help build the international movement for food sovereignty. What does this mean and where does this idea come from?

Food sovereignty is the right of people to determine their own food and agricultural policies; essentially, the democratization of food and agriculture. Food sovereignty is a movement begun by farmers, fisherfolk, indigenous peoples, and landless workers. It is comprised of communities throughout the world that lack control of basic resources to sustain themselves – seeds, food, land, and water – as a result of top-down trade, development, and agricultural policies. The global movement for food sovereignty calls for countries, regions, and communities to regain control of their own resources in order to feed themselves.

La Via Campesina developed the concept of food sovereignty and brought it to public debate during the World Food Summit in 1996 as an alternative to neoliberal policies. Since then, the concept has become central to international debates about agriculture, even within United Nations bodies.

In 2009 the Community Food Security Coalition awarded the Food Sovereignty Prize for the first time. CAGJ was honored to be awarded the Food Sovereignty Honorable Mention Prize, along with the Toronto Food Policy Council and the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology, of Kenya. La Via Campesina won the prize. The prize was awarded to "recognize organizations who have performed significant work to promote food sovereignty by raising public awareness, on-the-ground action, or developing and implementing programs and policies; and groups who recognize the importance of collective action in bringing about social change; global linkages in food sovereignty work; and the importance of women in agriculture and food issues."

7 PRINCIPLES OF FOOD SOVEREIGNTY

Source: viacampesina.org/en/

1. FOOD AS BASIC HUMAN RIGHT: Everyone must have access to safe, nutritious and culturally appropriate food in sufficient quantity and quality to sustain a healthy life with full human dignity. Each nation should declare that access to food is a constitutional right and guarantee the development of the primary sector to ensure the concrete realization of this fundamental right.

2. AGRARIAN REFORM: A genuine agrarian reform which gives landless and farming people – especially women – ownership and control of the land they work and returns territories to indigenous peoples. The right to land must be free of discrimination on the basis of gender, religion, race, social class or ideology; the land belongs to those who work it.

3. PROTECTING NATURAL RESOURCES: Food Sovereignty entails the sustainable care and use of natural resources, especially land, water, seeds and livestock breeds. The people who work the land must have the right to practice sustainable management of natural resources and to conserve biodiversity free of restrictive intellectual property rights. This can only be done from a sound economic basis with security of tenure, healthy soils and reduced use of agro-chemicals.

4. REORGANIZING FOOD TRADE: Food is first and foremost a source of nutrition and only secondarily an item of trade. National agricultural policies must prioritize production for domestic consumption and food self-sufficiency. Food imports must not displace local production nor depress prices.

5. ENDING THE GLOBALIZATION OF HUNGER: Food Sovereignty is undermined by multilateral institutions and by speculative capital. The growing control of multinational corporations over agricultural policies has been facilitated by the economic policies of multilateral organizations such as the WTO, World Bank and the IMF. Regulation and taxation of speculative capital and a strictly enforced Code of Conduct for transnational corporations are therefore needed.

6. SOCIAL PEACE: Everyone has the right to be free from violence. Food must not be used as a weapon. Increasing levels of poverty and marginalization in the countryside, along with the growing oppression of ethnic minorities and indigenous populations, aggravate situations of injustice and hopelessness. The ongoing displacement, forced urbanization, and repression of and increasing incidence of racism against smallholder farmers cannot be tolerated.

7. DEMOCRATIC CONTROL: Smallholder farmers must have direct input into formulating agricultural policies at all levels. The UN and related organizations will have to undergo a process of democratization to enable this to become a reality. Everyone has the right to honest, accurate information and open and democratic decision-making. These rights form the

basis of good governance, accountability and equal participation in economic, political and social life, free from all forms of discrimination. Rural women, in particular, must be granted direct and active decision-making on food and rural issues.

FOOD SOVEREIGNTY DICTIONARY

We include these definitions, which are adapted from Food Movements Unite!: Strategies to Transform Our Food System, as an introduction to some of the issues CAGJ works on!
Food First Books, Editor: Eric Holt-Gimenez, 2011.

AGROECOLOGY: The science of sustainable agriculture; a scientific discipline that uses ecological theory to study, design, manage and evaluate agricultural systems that are productive but also resource conserving. Agroecology links ecology, culture, economics, traditional knowledge and integrated management to sustain agricultural production and healthy food and farming systems.

AGROFUELS: Biologically-based fuels produced on a centralized, industrial scale, mostly for use as a liquid vehicle fuel. Agrofuels can be made from corn, soy, sugarcane, canola, jatropha, palm oil, or “second generation” crops such as switchgrass, canary grass, trees, and corn stover. The term contrasts with “biofuels,” which refers to local, decentralized, farmer-owner, and small-scale fuels of a similar nature.

COMMUNITY FOOD SECURITY: A condition in which all community residents obtain a safe, culturally acceptable, nutritionally adequate diet through sustainable food systems that maximizes community self-reliance and social justice.

COMMUNITY GRAIN BANKS: A localized system of storing food grain purchased during good harvests when prices are low. It provides a safety net for the community by making affordable grain available during difficult harvests and increased food prices.

CORPORATE DEMOCRACIES: When a few corporations dominate the food system, and thus have the ability to influence social and economic policy. Accountability is not to citizens of the state, but to the corporations.

DOHA ROUND: The current round of WTO negotiations, which began in 2001 in Doha, Qatar. Negotiations have stalled over disagreements on agricultural import rules.

DUMPING: Export of overproduced and/or subsidized commodities, often from industrial Northern countries, sold below cost of production, usually in the global South.

FOOD REGIME/CORPORATE FOOD REGIME: A food regime is a “rule-governed structure of production and consumption of food on a world scale.” The first food regime (late 1800s through Great Depression) linked imports from colonies to European industrial growth. The second regime reversed the flow from the Northern to the Southern Hemisphere to fuel industrialization in the Third World. Today’s food regime is characterized by monopoly power and megaprofits of corporations, globalized meat production, and links between food and fuel.

FOOD SOVEREIGNTY DICTIONARY, CONT'D

FOOD CRISIS: A term to describe the 2008 and 2011 worldwide dramatic and rapid hikes in food prices and the on-going problems with food availability, price volatility, and the environmental challenges to food production that have caused increased food poverty and political instability in some countries of the Global South.

FOOD JUSTICE: A movement that attempts to address hunger by addressing underlining racial and class disparities and inequities in economic and political power.

FOOD MOVEMENT: Collective term for the individuals and groups of food growers, sellers, processors and consumers working to address the social and economic problems inherent in local, national, and global food systems.

FOOD POLICY COUNCIL: A group of stakeholders that examines how the local food system is working and develops ways to fix it. Food policy councils are found at city, county, and state levels.

FOOD SECURITY: According to the FAO, "food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active healthy life."

FOOD SOVEREIGNTY: People's right to healthy and culturally appropriate food produced through ecologically sustainable methods, and the right to define their own food and agriculture systems; the democratization of food systems in favor of the poor.

GLOBAL SOUTH: Formerly referred to as the "third world," the nations of Africa, Central and South America, and much of Asia with comparatively little economic power.

GMO: "Genetically Modified Organism"; a plant or animal with permanently, artificially modified genetic material derived across species boundaries. In reference to agriculture, this refers to proprietary, modified crop varieties.

GREEN REVOLUTION: Largely funded by the Ford and Rockefeller Foundations; the process of agricultural industrialization initiated in the 1950s and 60s; the development and widespread adoption of high-yielding varieties, synthetic fertilizers, chemical herbicides and pesticides.

GENETIC ENGINEERING: Experimental or industrial technologies used to alter the genome of a living cell so that it can produce more or different molecules than it is programmed to make.

INTERCROP OR POLYCULTURE: A technique employed in traditional and ecological agriculture that involves the planting of multiple varieties and crop species in one agricultural area.

MONOCROP OR MONOCULTURE: The practice of cultivating a single variety of genetically uniform plants over a large agricultural area.

NEOLIBERALISM: An approach to social and economic policy that promotes reduced state intervention, market liberalization and reduced regulations, free trade, and therefore seeks to maximize power of the private sector.

SMALLHOLDER OR FAMILY FARM: A farm with relatively few planted acres that relies primarily on family labor, in contrast to farms owned by agribusinesses.

STRUCTURAL VIOLENCE: A constraint on human potential from political or economic forces. These include unequal access to resources, political power, education, food, and health care, as well as racism, sexism, religious discrimination, and other forms of oppression. Structural violence often leads to physical acts of violence.

VIA CAMPENSINA: An international movement of peasant farmers' organizations that advocates for food sovereignty.

ONE MORE MEMBER PROFILE



CHELSEA EICKERT

Why I work with CAGJ: I'm hungry for justice! After college, I wanted a way to turn my anger at corporate control of our food system into productive energy for positive change. Through CAGJ I am able to support alternatives that embody social justice, sustainability, diversity and grassroots democracy. On top of everything, I am humbled and motivated by so many brilliant and beautiful people that I get to work with.

What I do: As Membership Co-Chair, I had a hand in making this document! I coordinate volunteers for events like CAGJ's 10th Anniversary Party and the Strengthening Local Economies Everywhere! Dinner. I attend as many Teach-Outs as I can.

What I get out of my activism: A happy, inspired life! I love digging in the dirt and chatting with farmers during teach-outs; I love hearing the voices of Seattle neighborhoods at community education sessions; I love dancing at CAGJ events; I love learning about community-based alternatives and meeting leaders of the food movement; I love analyzing how systems of privilege and oppression create inequities in the food system; I even love participating at monthly meetings with CAGJ's core leadership!

Hopes/plans/dreams: Because CAGJ has opened the door to new ideas of what I can do as a career, I will be attending graduate school next year to become a community organizer! My master's work will continue to analyze inequities in the food system that correlate to inequities in economic and political power. After completing an MA, I hope to continue working towards social, economic, and food justice in underserved communities.



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