

International Day of Farmers' Struggles

Farmers feed the planet—yet they are among the poorest and hungriest people in the world. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization, around half of the world's hungry people are from smallholder farming communities, surviving off marginal lands prone to natural disasters like drought or floods. Farmers also struggle with strong attempts from large corporations to control, own and dominate their seeds.



Valery Nodem

Seeds not only ensure food for farmers' families and the market, but carry with them cultural knowledge passed from generation to generation. In the last couple decades, huge agro-industry corporations have been using their power and money to take control of seeds through genetic modification protected by patents. This privatization and standardization of seeds, while benefiting corporations, strips farmers of their self-sufficiency and pushes them into market dependence. This carries devastating consequences for food, land, water, the environment, public health, livelihoods and culture.

*"Bless the LORD . . . You cause the grass to grow for the cattle,
and plants for people to use, to bring forth food from the earth,"*

—Psalm 104: 1, 14

International Day of Farmers' Struggles

Farmers feed the planet—yet they are among the poorest and hungriest people in the world. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization, around half of the world's hungry people are from smallholder farming communities, surviving off marginal lands prone to natural disasters like drought or floods. Farmers also struggle with strong attempts from large corporations to control, own and dominate their seeds.



Valery Nodem

Seeds not only ensure food for farmers' families and the market, but carry with them cultural knowledge passed from generation to generation. In the last couple decades, huge agro-industry corporations have been using their power and money to take control of seeds through genetic modification protected by patents. This privatization and standardization of seeds, while benefiting corporations, strips farmers of their self-sufficiency and pushes them into market dependence. This carries devastating consequences for food, land, water, the environment, public health, livelihoods and culture.

*"Bless the LORD . . . You cause the grass to grow for the cattle,
and plants for people to use, to bring forth food from the earth,"*

—Psalm 104: 1, 14

Farmers are resisting this system that treats seeds and food as commodities and are organizing in their communities to protect and share seeds under principles that value life before money. In Haiti, India and El Salvador, where the Presbyterian Hunger Program has partners, farmers will be in solidarity with others around the world to defend their agricultural model based on agro-ecological production. They want the seeds, just like water, air, and land, to remain among the common goods and in the hands of the people. Learn more with videos and resources: pcusa.org/ministries/joininghands/internationalfarmers/

Plant a seed

As Christ's body, we are called to plant seeds of hope and share the Word of Christ—the Bread of Life—with people around the world. We are also called to act in compassion and speak up for justice.

“Speak out for those who cannot speak, for the rights of all the destitute. Speak out, judge righteously, defend the rights of the poor and needy.” —Proverbs 31:8-9 NRSV

As we recognize the International Day of Farmer's Struggles, we join with others who are helping families and communities stand up for their rights and livelihoods.

- Join the *Joining Hands* Food & Land issue table! Through monthly webinars and calls, participate in conversation about systemic issues and discuss how to address them together with partners overseas. Contact Valery.Nodem@pcusa.org for more information.
- Go on a reflection/action trip. Meet face to face with farmers addressing these issues, and learn from them what you can do from home to help. www.pcusa.org/trips
- Give to the Presbyterian Hunger Program—H999999. Help alleviate hunger and eliminate its causes around the world, including small farmers struggling to plant, produce and consume food in harmony with their cultural traditions and the environment.

Farmers are resisting this system that treats seeds and food as commodities and are organizing in their communities to protect and share seeds under principles that value life before money. In Haiti, India and El Salvador, where the Presbyterian Hunger Program has partners, farmers will be in solidarity with others around the world to defend their agricultural model based on agro-ecological production. They want the seeds, just like water, air, and land, to remain among the common goods and in the hands of the people. Learn more with videos and resources: pcusa.org/ministries/joininghands/internationalfarmers/

Plant a seed

As Christ's body, we are called to plant seeds of hope and share the Word of Christ—the Bread of Life—with people around the world. We are also called to act in compassion and speak up for justice.

“Speak out for those who cannot speak, for the rights of all the destitute. Speak out, judge righteously, defend the rights of the poor and needy.” —Proverbs 31:8-9 NRSV

As we recognize the International Day of Farmer's Struggles, we join with others who are helping families and communities stand up for their rights and livelihoods.

- Join the *Joining Hands* Food & Land issue table! Through monthly webinars and calls, participate in conversation about systemic issues and discuss how to address them together with partners overseas. Contact Valery.Nodem@pcusa.org for more information.
- Go on a reflection/action trip. Meet face to face with farmers addressing these issues, and learn from them what you can do from home to help. www.pcusa.org/trips
- Give to the Presbyterian Hunger Program—H999999. Help alleviate hunger and eliminate its causes around the world, including small farmers struggling to plant, produce and consume food in harmony with their cultural traditions and the environment.