Food First
A People’s Think Tank
working to end the injustices that cause hunger
Since 1975
Just Food and Food Justice

Dismantling Racism

Transforming the Food System
A vibrant food movement!

Farmers Markets
Organic/locally-grown
Urban Farms
School gardens/
Farm to School
Food hubs & CSAs
food insecurity in the US

what is food security?
“access by all people at all times to enough food for an active, healthy life”

USDA

14.6% of all US households are food insecure

14%+
6-8.9%
8-10.9%
11-13.9%

states with the highest rates of food insecurity
Mississippi 17.9%
Texas 16.3%
Arkansas 15.9%

states with the lowest rates of food insecurity
North Dakota 6.9%
Massachusetts 8.3%
Virginia 8.6%
PERCENTAGE OF HOUSEHOLDS LABELED ‘FOOD INSECURE,’ 2012

Average = 18.5 percent

Source: UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE’S ECONOMIC RESEARCH SERVICE
More than 1.02 billion hungry people

- Developed countries: 15*
- Near East and North Africa: 42
- Latin America and the Caribbean: 53
- Sub-Saharan Africa: 265
- Asia and the Pacific: 642

*Millions of people
“The undernourished population has increased by 9% globally despite a 12% rise in global food production per capita since 1990.”
1917 Just before World War I
1951 Rebuilding after World War II
1974 Oil crisis

Index reference: 1977-1979 = 199

Source: World Bank, 2009
Bumper harvests: 2007-08 +5%; highest corn crop in history
1 billion people hungry
2025: 1.2 billion people hungry—2X projection
Bumper profits last quarter: ADM 20%; Monsanto 45%; Cargill 86%; General Foods 61%
Figure 7. Local Food Prices and Global Food Price Index, Jan. 2007-Jan. 2011
(local food prices in unweighted average index values; Jan. 2007=100 for both metrics)

Source: FAO (2010a and 2010f) and authors’ calculations
Note: The grey lines connect corresponding local and global food price ascents and descents, with the grey number representing the estimated global-to-local price transmission time number of months
Rise of the Global Food Regimes

• Colonial Food Regime 16\textsuperscript{th}-18\textsuperscript{th} Century
  – Dispossession
  – Indentured labor, Slavery
  – Immigrant labor

• Post WWII Food Regime
  – Green Revolution 1960-80s

• Corporate Food Regime
  – Structural Adjustment Policies 80s-90s
  – Free Trade “mania” 1990s-present
  – Financialization and Land Grabs
Results?

- Global South Food 1970-2001: $1 billion surplus—$11 billion deficit
- Industrial Agriculture: 20% GHG; 80% water
- Loss of 75% crop diversity
- Increase food per capita = increase hungry = 11%
- Immigration: 1.3 million Mexican smallholders bankrupt
- One in Seven people are hungry (globally and in US)
- Diet-related disease=$150 billion a year in US health costs
- 88 million acres grabbed worldwide
- Financialization of farmland ($30-40 billion)
- Increase of Inequality and Loss of the Public Sphere
INEQUALITY ON A GLOBAL SCALE

3.5 BILLION POOREST

$1.7 TRILLION

RICHEST 85
Loss of the Public Sphere

- Privatization
- Deregulation
- Militarization

- Loss of public goods
- Shrinking of health, education & welfare
- Increasing debt and dispossession
- Increase in state violence, social tension, racism
- Increase in social, economic & environmental vulnerability of underserved communities
- Loss of informed civic engagement, community networks, social cohesion necessary for a healthy public sphere
Fixing a broken food system?
Food Sovereignty Movement: creating the political will for an equitable, sustainable food system
Food Justice

A movement of movements

Ecological Defense
Racial Justice
Immigrant & Refugee Justice
Anti-Militarism
Religious & Spiritual Movements
Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Trans, & Queer Justice
Environmental Justice
Community-Building
Prison Abolition
Economic Justice
Indigenous Sovereignty
Feminism & Gender Justice
Free Breakfast for Children Program
WE WANT

1. FREEDOM & POWER to determine the destiny of our black community.

2. FULL EMPLOYMENT for our people.

3. End to robbery by the CAPITALIST of our black community.

4. DECENT HOUSING, fit for human beings.

5. EDUCATION for our people that exposes the true nature of American society & teaches us our true history & role today.

6. Exemption from military service for all black men.

7. End to POLICE BRUTALITY & MURDER of black people.

8. Freedom from PRISON & JAIL for all black people.

9. A jury of peers or people from the Black community for all black people brought to court, as defined in the U.S. Constitution.

10. LAND, BREAD, HOUSING, EDUCATION, CLOTHING, JUSTICE & PEACE. representation as a black community at the United Nations for the purpose of determining the will of our people.

-from the Black Panther Party's 10 Point Program and Platform 1966
Corporate Food Regime Management

- *Liberalization period* characterized by unregulated markets and breathtaking capital expansion, followed by devastating busts.

- *Reformist period* in which markets, supply, and consumption are regulated in an effort to re-stabilize the regime.

- While these phases may appear politically distinct, they are actually two sides of the same system.

- (Polanyi 1944)
# Politics, Production Models & Approaches

## Corporate Food Regime vs. Food Movements

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<th>POLITICS</th>
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<th>REFORMIST</th>
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<td>Main Institutions</td>
<td>International Finance Corporation (World Bank); IMF, WTO; USDA; Global Food Security Bill; Green Revolution; Millennium Challenge; Heritage Foundation; Chicago Global Council, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation;</td>
<td>International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (World Bank); FAO; U.N. Commission on Sustainable Development; International Federation of Agricultural Producers; mainstream Fair Trade; Slow Food; some Food Policy Councils; most food banks and food aid programs.</td>
<td>Alternative Fair Trade &amp; many Slow Foods chapters, many organizations in the Community Food Security Movement; CSAs; many Food Policy Councils &amp; Youth food and justice movements; many farmworker &amp; labor organizations</td>
<td>Via Campesina, International Planning Committee on Food Sovereignty; Global March for Women; many Food Justice and rights-based movements</td>
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<td>Orientation</td>
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<td>MODEL</td>
<td>Overproduction; Corporate concentration; Unregulated markets and monopolies; Monocultures (including organic); GMOs; Agrofuels; mass global consumption of industrial food; phasing out of peasant &amp; family agriculture and local retail.</td>
<td>Mainstreaming/certification of niche markets (e.g. organic, fair, local, sustainable); maintaining northern agricultural subsidies; “sustainable” roundtables for agrofuels, soy, forest product, etc; market-led land reform</td>
<td>Agroecologically-produced local food; investment in underserved communities; new business models and community benefit packages for production, processing &amp; retail; better wages for ag. workers; solidarity economies; land access; regulated markets &amp; supply</td>
<td>Democratization of food system; Dismantle corporate agri-foods monopoly power; parity; redistributive land reform; community rights to water &amp; seed; Regionally-based food systems; sustainable livelihoods; ; protection from dumping/overproduction; Revival of agroecologically-managed peasant agriculture to distribute wealth and cool the planet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Approach to the Food Crisis</td>
<td>Increased industrial production; unregulated corporate monopolies; land grabs; expansion of GMOs; public-private partnerships; Liberal markets; Int’l. sourced food aid;</td>
<td>Same as Neo-liberal but w/increased middle peasant production &amp; some locally-sourced food aid; more agricultural aid, but tied to GMOs &amp; “bio-fortified/climate-resistant” crops.</td>
<td>Right to food; Better safety nets; sustainably-produced, locally-sourced food; agroecologically-based agricultural development; guiding document:</td>
<td>Human right to food sovereignty; Locally sourced, sustainably produced, culturally appropriate, democratically controlled focus on UN/FAO negotiations guiding document:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Building Alliances
Doing Food Justice

Control Exchange
Redistributive Land Justice
Labor and Immigration Reform
Stop Oppression and Heal Trauma

Slocum and Cadieux 2015

- Dismantling racism
- Dismantling white privilege
- Overcoming internalized oppression
Transformational Solidarity
Overcoming Historical Trauma

Confronting The trauma

Understanding The trauma

Transcending The pain

Releasing The pain
Transformative Vision

What would our food system be If?
If food workers were food secure?
If farmworkers received living wages and had decent working conditions?
If women were recognized as the producers of 70% of the world’s food?
If Black lives mattered?
Explore your global food system with FoodFirst

South Korea: Land, Food & Democracy | May 9-17, 2015
Hawai‘i: Food Justice and ‘Ahola Aina | August 14-22, 2015

Learn more @ www.foodfirst.org/tours
Since 1975, we have been an independent think-and-do tank because of supporters like YOU!

We depend on individual donors ... and don’t answer to corporate funding or Big Philanthropy.

Food First is dedicated to re-building the public sphere and this includes through the way we manage our organization – with a truly public interest agenda responding to the needs and priorities of people around the world struggling to build a more just, democratic, and sustainable food system, together.

Please support the way we run our organization with your donation today – so that we can continue to explode myths and inspire change!

www.foodfirst.org
In celebration of our 40th Anniversary, you can ...

- Join as a member for a $40 donation and get a year’s worth of Quarterly newsletters, store discounts, and VIP invitations to our upcoming events...
- Come or sponsor our 40th Anniversary special events
  - May 20th Panel Event in Emeryville CA
  - October 16th World Food Day Gala and Auction in Oakland CA
- Not in CA for those dates? Host a Food First 40th Birthday party
- Sign up for our e-newsletters to stay up to date on events, publications, and news

www.foodfirst.org