



Friends & colleagues:

Your support matters. Because of you, our 2016 was one for the books (literally!).

You, friend, are our foundation. You maintain Food First's vision for a world without hunger. This year, you've continued to fight alongside us, frontline communities, and grassroots organizations for a sovereign, just, and hunger-free future. Without you, we wouldn't be the food policy think tank that we are today, producing radical research and analysis *for and by the people*.

We've been creating radical research and analysis to inform and amplify the voices of those on the frontlines for social change since 1975. Though 2016 brought many political challenges, your backing, as always, enabled our transformative work. In an age where everything—including funding—is becoming privatized, your support for a more just future has kept us strong. Thank you. Together, we've accomplished a lot; from research for action and education for change, to projects for transformation—looking back on the last year has been a joy:

**FOOD FIRST
INSTITUTE FOR FOOD AND
DEVELOPMENT POLICY**

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Food First is a “peoples’ think tank” and
education-for-action center. Our work
highlights the root causes and solutions to
hunger and poverty, with a commitment to
fighting racism and establishing food as a
fundamental human right.

Research for Action

Food First’s research provides information and analysis for food sovereignty locally and globally. In 2016, our research brought the perspective of community-based struggles for sovereignty and justice to broader audiences. From photography and coverage at Standing Rock from Mashpee Wompanoag tribal member Hartman Deetz, to analysis supporting the scaling of agroecology in politically relevant ways by Food First’s Eric Holt-Giménez and Ahna Kruzic, we connected the movements and issues you care about to broader struggles for global justice, ultimately growing networks of solidarity and support. Though we couldn’t possibly cover it all, here are a few of 2016’s highlights:

Dismantling Racism in the Food System Launch

This year, we launched a new cross-cutting focus area, Dismantling Racism in the Food System. The US food justice movement has stepped up and is fighting back against a food and economic system dependent on inequality and exploitation. They are working to counteract the externalities inherent to the corporate food regime. But they can’t do it without addressing the issues that divide us, including ongoing racism within our institutions and movements. That’s where Food First’s research and analysis comes in.

As we reflect on 2016, we celebrate a record of inspiring *Dismantling Racism* publications, community events, and discourse from leaders of Color in food and agrarian struggles. Eight hard-hitting issue briefs, 1 impactful policy brief, 1 ground-breaking book in production, and countless community events, trainings, lectures, and discussions later—food justice leaders are continuing to shift and transform movement spaces to include an emphasis on the importance of racial liberation.

SOCLA (Sociedad Científica Latinoamericana de Agroecología) North America Founding

Food First has long worked with farmers and researchers around the world to teach and scale agroecology—the science of sustainable agriculture. Now, hundreds of NGOs, institutions, and farmers’ collectives promote agroecology through courses, undergraduate and masters’ programs, and legal instruments. Many of these activities are coordinated through SOCLA, the Latin American Scientific Society of Agroecology.

More than 800 members strong, SOCLA and Food First have launched a North America chapter of SOCLA. By linking hundreds of researchers and practitioners of agroecology in North America with the larger SOCLA network, we are scaling up the flow of information and political projects. Together, we’re connecting agroecology, food justice, and food sovereignty across the North and South American continents.



SOCLA North America students discuss how to organize around agroecology.

By the Numbers



Education for Change

Food First's research, analysis, and publications are used around the world—and our tours, courses, lectures, network facilitation, and other educational programming provides a platform for leaders embedded in frontline communities to increase the reach, influence, and impact of their work. From coordination of the US Food Sovereignty Alliance, to keynoting Iowa State University's Sustainable Agriculture Symposium, to hosting monthly panel discussions with local movement leaders at La Peña Cultural Center, 2016 was truly an inspiring year of education for movement-building. Below are a few key highlights:

International Honors Program Launch

This year, Food First started a new project with World Learning's International Honor's Program (IHP) Study Abroad. Studying food and agriculture policy, as well as food justice movements here in the United States, students go on to conduct a global comparative analysis of food systems via travel across 3 other countries: Tanzania, India, and Italy. In all, we hosted approximately 40 students as they learned to question systems of power and how the food system is affected by technology, geo-politics, and climate change both in the Bay area and globally.

Food Sovereignty Tours

Food Sovereignty Tours offer an opportunity to travel to international destinations to experience local food systems and the food sovereignty movement first-hand. The tours are also dedicated to supporting local economies and local farmers. In 2016, we provided 12 scholarships to people of Color, researchers, and farmers to travel to Cuba on our Food Sovereignty Tours. **In all, we took three tours and over 50 people to Cuba to see how institutions, people, and their movements can support agroecology in practice.**

Projects for Transformation

Food First is not just a "think tank." We generate research and education for action. We support community-based projects around the world that are creating real change for real people.

East Bay Urban Farmer Field Schools

Farmer Field Schools (FFS) and Farmer-to-Farmer methods have been instrumental in building local capacity to develop sustainable food systems in many parts of the world. Farmers, accompanied by a facilitator, establish a peer-learning network based on innovation, solidarity and empowerment.

In 10 years, California's population will grow from 36 to 46 million people, with 80 percent concentrated in cities. Over the last decade, urban agriculture has improved access to fresh, affordable and nutritious food in the greater Bay Area—where in many neighborhoods one in three residents are food insecure. As we continue to grow, the San Francisco nine-county Bay Area will need effective urban food production to meet the demand for fresh, healthy, affordable food in low-income communities. The East Bay Urban Farmer Field Schools (EBUFFS) project emerged from the need of urban farmers and gardeners in the San Francisco East Bay region to share agroecological knowledge. With technical support from Food First, East Bay urban farmers are learning to build the capacity to develop their own agriculture and sustainable food systems using their own knowledge, networks and locally available resources. This is truly a grassroots project—finding local solutions to local problems.

2015-16 Fiscal Year:

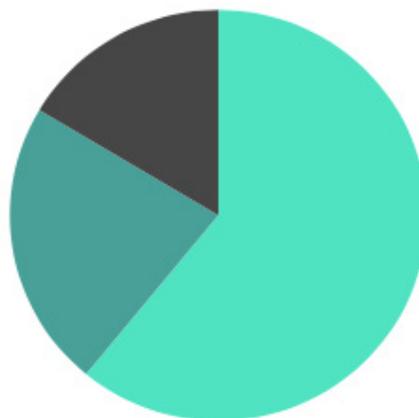
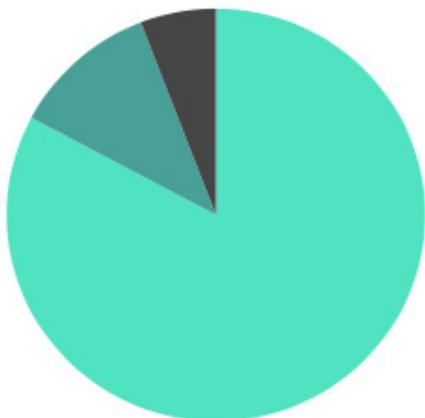
Expenses: \$582,953

Revenue: \$696,597

■ Publications, Education (82.80%)
■ Membership & Development (11.35%) ■ Administration (5.85%)

■ Individual Contributions (60.94%) ■ Foundation Grants (22.62%)
■ Publications & Other Income (16.44%)

Food First



THANK YOU TO OUR:

- stellar interns who thrill us with their passion for our mission,
- fellows who contribute valuable expertise to keep us growing,
- volunteers and contributors who devote their gifts so generously,
- tour coordinators who fearlessly lead our global delegations,
- board whose guidance and vision keep us motivated,
- readers who give our words the chance to change the world,
- donors who invest in ending the injustices that cause hunger,
- and most importantly, to the movements that struggle every day for the right to food, land, and dignity.

FOOD *Sovereignty*
T  **OURS**

Cuba: Organic Revolution & Evolution
June 16th-27th, 2017 • foodfirst.org/cuba
\$2,975 • Register today!

So many ways to support our impact into 2017 & beyond:

- Food First accepts tax-deductible contributions in cash, check, credit and debit cards, and stock. You can give in person, over the phone, through the mail, or online at www.foodfirst.org/support.
- Become a monthly sustainer so we can count on your support throughout the year!
- Name Food First in your will, IRA, or life insurance policy to leave a living legacy for future generations fighting for a fair food system.
- Donate real estate, set up a pooled income fund, or create a charitable remainder trust for your investments. Check with your tax and legal advisors to determine what is best for your situation.
- Help a young activist or farmer connect with the global food sovereignty movement by supporting the Food Sovereignty Tours Scholarship Fund. www.foodfirst.org/tours/scholarships/food-sovereignty-tours-scholarship-fund/
- Have other kinds of gifts you can share? Check out our opportunities to intern and volunteer with Food First.