



# Right to Agrarian Reform for Food Sovereignty Campaign

We are the Right to Agrarian Reform for Food Sovereignty Campaign or the Food Sovereignty Campaign in short. We focus on building a movement of emerging farmers and poor farm dwellers in the parts of the Western, Northern and Eastern Cape where we are active.

The problems facing our people include:

- Land hunger – we do not have enough or good enough land
- Food insecurity – we do not have enough or good enough food
- Food powerlessness – we do not have enough power to make decisions about producing, distributing, preparing and consuming food
- Unsafe and damaged environments
- Absent and inadequate basic social services including housing, water, electricity and healthcare
- Unemployment
- Poverty wages
- Retrenchments
- Sexist discrimination and violence against women
- The abuse and oppression of women and children
- Alcoholism and drug abuse
- Racism and race conflict

**The underlying causes of our problems are among others:**

- The effects of colonialism and Apartheid that were never repaired
- The country's constitution that protects the property rights of white, rich land owners
- The chemical-industrial model of agriculture that promotes concentration of land ownership, maximum use of pesticides, single crops and genetically modified organisms
- The capitalist system that creates a class of rich property owners with the right to exploit the rest of society and that makes maximum profit the supreme goal of economic activity instead of the meeting of human needs
- Patriarchy – the system that promotes the oppression of women by men
- Sexism – the idea that women are inferior to men
- The neo-liberal policy of the government that makes all of the above worse

**As the Food Sovereignty Campaign we fight for:**

- Agrarian reform that takes the farm land away from the current racist, sexist, greedy owners and share it among the people on an equitable basis
- Food sovereignty – enough good food for everyone plus democracy and liberty in decision making about food. No more control by business corporations. Control by all the people
- Agro-ecology – a way of doing agriculture that does away with the unequal land access, environmental damage, racism and sexism of the current chemical-industrial model of agriculture
- A socialist system that abolishes class divisions between people and make meeting human needs the primary objectives of economic activity
- Basic social services as a human right delivered by public sector workers in decent jobs. No more privatisation and outsourcing
- Decent jobs for all. No more casual labour
- A living minimum income for all. A fair system of rewarding work
- Stop retrenching workers – especially farm workers
- A constant focus on fighting sexism and gender based violence

- Fighting the oppression of women and children is everybody's duty
- Drug and alcohol rehabilitation centres, preventative education, democratic control over the alcohol industry
- A constant focus on fighting racism
- An end to neo-liberal, pro-capitalist government policies of the ANC

**We know these things are not easy to achieve. It will not just be given to us. We must fight for it. In order to get what we want we will do and are doing the following:**

- Arrange meetings and other gatherings of emerging farmers, farm workers and farm dwellers to discuss their problems, share experiences and work out strategies
- Arrange and take part in marches and other protest actions that promote our goals
- Training and education to strengthen our participants and allies
- Direct actions like occupying land and blocking roads
- Submissions to state institutions such as parliament, the Human Rights Commission, local governments and government departments
- Practice direct democracy which means equal participation in decision making and respecting the autonomy of local groups and the rights and dignity of individuals
- Focus on fighting sexism and racism in everything we do
- Make alliances and practice solidarity with other groups and movements across the world whose agendas are supportive of food sovereignty
- Practice agro-ecological agriculture that respects environmental and social justice

In conclusion we declare that the Food Sovereignty Campaign will continue to focus on the interests of small-scale farmers, farm workers and farm dwellers. We will fight all kinds of oppression and discrimination against rural people. We stand for equal rights, dignity and liberation of small-scale farmers, farm workers and farm dwellers.

### **THE STRUCTURE OF THE FOOD SOVEREIGNTY CAMPAIGN**

The structure and internal practice of the Food Sovereignty Campaign is based on the following principles:

- Equal participation in decision making
- Respect for the autonomy (self-government) of local groups
- Respect for the dignity and rights of every individual

The campaign consists of:

- Local groups of emerging farmers, farm workers and farm dwellers that live in the same communities
- Regional forums that unite these local groups
- The campaign task team where all regional forums and local groups are represented
- A supporting non-government organisation, the Surplus People Project

The above structures all have full powers to decide for themselves but not for the others. Coordination and unification take place on a voluntary basis.

The office bearers of the campaign are:

- A task team coordinator that is replaced every six months
- A task team chairperson and secretary that get elected at every meeting
- SPP performs administrative and financial functions as requested by the task team.

The purpose behind the structure of the Food Sovereignty Campaign is to recognise and encourage the need and capacity for sovereignty of every person.