

# Resistance is fertile! - Action network Global Agriculture mobilises against the G8 summit

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Global Agriculture in disastrous conditions Each year 30 million people die worldwide as result of hunger and malnutrition. Different processes like the enforced opening of markets, prices being dictated by supermarket-chains and the subsidisation of food production for export, systematically destroy the basis of existence of countless small farmers especially in the poorer countries.

Monocultures and large-scale animal husbandry have disastrous effects on natural resources like soil, water or biological diversity. The quality of food is also strongly affected by this.

Globally acting companies of the north like Monsanto or Bayer appropriate the genetical resources of the south by means of "intellectual property rights", trying to gain control of food production. In other words: They decide what is grown where, how and for whom.

Also in the industrialised countries there are massive concentration processes taking place and the pressure on prices is ruinous. Confronted with these developments small farmers don't have a chance. The consequences are that a lot of farms get deserted.

## Resistance is rising

Worldwide small farmers, farm workers and landless are organising themselves to assert their interests against big landowners, big corporations, governments and institutions. They squat lands, fight against the privatisation of water, burn down fields of genetically manipulated plants, found cooperatives and projects to preserve their traditional seeds.

They struggle against the destructive neoliberal strain on policies of agriculture and fishery, and for food sovereignty, which means that they fight for the right to decide themselves about their agriculture and their nutrition.

On summit meetings of international organisations like the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, as well as on G8-meetings of the rich industrialised countries, the contradictions between ruling politics and the demands for a different, meaning non-industrialised, non-capitalist agriculture become clear.

Politicians, bureaucrats and representatives of Agribusiness talk about fighting hunger and poverty, while they pursue policies leading to more expulsion, hunger and rapidly increasing inequality.

Those who profit most are the transnational companies and big agrarians worldwide.

In solidarity with worldwide resistance, and because of food and agriculture are the basis of life for everyone, we will carry the protest to the G8 summit in Heiligendamm.

## On the following dates we will have public actions and presentations:

**Beginning of March 07:** Infotour starting in Austria, visiting several cities in Germany before coming to Mecklenburg Vorpommern. All facets of global agriculture will be on the agenda, while the focus will be on the miserable working and living conditions of migrant farm-workers in

industrialised agriculture in Europe.

**17<sup>th</sup> of April 07:** Global action day of Via Campesina (worldwide network of small farmers organizations). Presentations in several cities. Subject: Land conflicts and struggles

**22<sup>nd</sup> of May 07:** International day of biological diversity, Action in Gatersleben, Subject: Seeds and biological diversity.

**3<sup>rd</sup> of June 07:** Action day on 'Global Agriculture & G8'. Subject: Gentech and supermarket-chains.

As the destructive conditions and developments will presumably not be redressed after the G8, we plan further actions, presentations and campaigns beyond the G8.

**Next occasions will be amongst others:**

23<sup>rd</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> of June 07: Economic Partnership Agreement Meeting of EU and the AKP states (77 states from Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific). Subject: bilateral free trade agreements.

**May 08:** UN Conference on biological diversity (COP9) in Bonn.

More Infos: [www.g8-landwirtschaft.net](http://www.g8-landwirtschaft.net)

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Involved in the "Action network Global Agriculture" are individuals as well as representatives of different groups, associations and networks, amongst others from the BUKO-Campaign against Biopiracy, the Barnim Action Alliance against Gene Technology and the Attac-AgriNet. Our common footing is that we want to get active in view of the outrageous circumstances in global agriculture. We eat every day - we are all responsible!

We still need a lot of support in planning things and putting them into action. Join in, all of you! We appreciate every donation, no matter the size.

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The general protests against the G8 in the region around Heiligendamm already start on the 1<sup>st</sup> of June, the alternative summit will take place from the 5<sup>th</sup> to the 7<sup>th</sup> of June while the G8 itself will be from the 6<sup>th</sup> to the 8<sup>th</sup> of June 2007.