

Press Release SAFSC Call For solidarity with International Day of Peasant Struggle

19 April 2024

In support of agroecology and food sovereignty against the corporate food system's expansion, the South African Food Sovereignty Campaign (SAFSC) joins the International Day of Peasant Struggle, a worldwide mobilisation of farmers and their allies. SAFSC reconfirms its dedication to community-led solutions and grassroots activity in the face of difficulties posed by corporate dominance in food systems, having emerged from ten years of campaigning, notably during the greatest drought in South Africa's history. At the heart of our movement are the voices of peasants and small-scale farmers, often marginalized and overlooked. We recognize their vital role in the fight for food sovereignty and climate justice.

The corporate conquest of agriculture, which aims to commercialise and dominate every facet of food production, is something that SAFSC vehemently opposes. We oppose the digitilization of farming methods because we know it will negatively affect farmers independence and expertise. Under the pretext of innovation, digital agriculture advances the goals of large agribusiness corporations at the expense of local authority over food production, commerce, and consumption.

To support this cause, we invite individuals to engage with our resources, such as our <u>food</u> <u>sovereignty activist guide</u> which aims to equip activists with a comprehensive understanding of hunger's societal roots, connecting it to broader injustices and wealth disparities, while empowering them to build alternative food systems grounded in solidarity, food sovereignty, and agroecology. We also have a comprehensive <u>water tool</u> which functions as an educational tool for communities and grassroots activists, empowering them to comprehend the complexities of the water crisis and its associated power dynamics. It equips them with foundational knowledge of water resources, practical techniques for water conservation, and

the capacity to organize responses to water policies while promoting the protection and celebration of local and indigenous water science. We also stand with peasant struggles to protect the ocean commons and advance the rights of small-scale fishers. Additionally, we recently hosted a webinar titled "The Ocean Commons: Risks and Challenges for Food Sovereignty," which individuals can find linked to our here.

Together, let us amplify the voices of peasants and small-scale farmers, defend agroecology and food sovereignty, and build a future where communities have control over their food systems.

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For Further Information Contact:

Qhawekazi Mahlalela, SAFSC Coordinator, 0733693551 Awande Buthelezi, SAFSC Gauteng Provincial organiser, 0796138191