

Our food system, climate change, and the need for transformation





The conundrum...

- n Traditional diets are part of our cultural heritage, and therefore linked to food sovereignty
- n Food systems have become linked to the governance of global food and agriculture, with commodification of seeds and inputs as well as commercialisation of processed foods...and far removed from food sovereignty

**We have important choices to make.
Do we want our food system to look
like this?**



Or like this?





Climate Change: Industrial agriculture versus peasant agriculture

- n Monoculture versus polyculture
- n Externalities
- n Agroecological methods: inputs and soil health: science, practice and social movement
- n Sustainable local food systems and CSA as a vector for social change and low carbon footprint
- n Green public procurement and Local Authorities

CONNECTING SMALLHOLDERS TO MARKETS



Do we want more food scandals and
NCDs?



**The 1% of the wealthy are trying to
silence the 99%**





What is the global reality today?

- n 20 global corporations control the food chain
- n The 3 biggest corporations control over 50% of the seeds
- n 4 corporations control over 99% of the livestock breeding
- n 10 corporations control 55% of fertilisers
- n 4 traders control 75% of the grain and soybean market
- n 11 corporations control 30% of the food processing industry



Some more figures...

- n One in ten people in the world is malnourished, hunger is rising
- n 30% of the global population is overweight or obese
- n One in five people in the world today in developed countries like France can't afford 3 meals a day or fresh fruit and vegetables
- n Approximately 15% of the population in developed countries (in Europe) need food support through food stamps and food banks...



And yet 70% of our food is produced by small-scale food producers & can be sourced locally

- n Local farmers' markets**
- n Allotments**
- n Community gardens**
- n Grow-it-Yourself**
- n Community Supported Agriculture**
- n Local food coops**
- n Local collective producers' shops**
- n Solidarity shops and systems**
- n Farm gate sales**



Extract from the Nyéléni Forum on Agroecology (March 2015)

- n « **IV. Build local economies**
- n Promote local markets for local products.
- n Support the development of alternative financial infrastructure, institutions and mechanisms to support both producers and consumers.
- n Reshape food markets through new relationships of solidarity between producers and consumers.
- n Develop links with the experience of solidarity economy and participatory guarantee systems, when appropriate. »

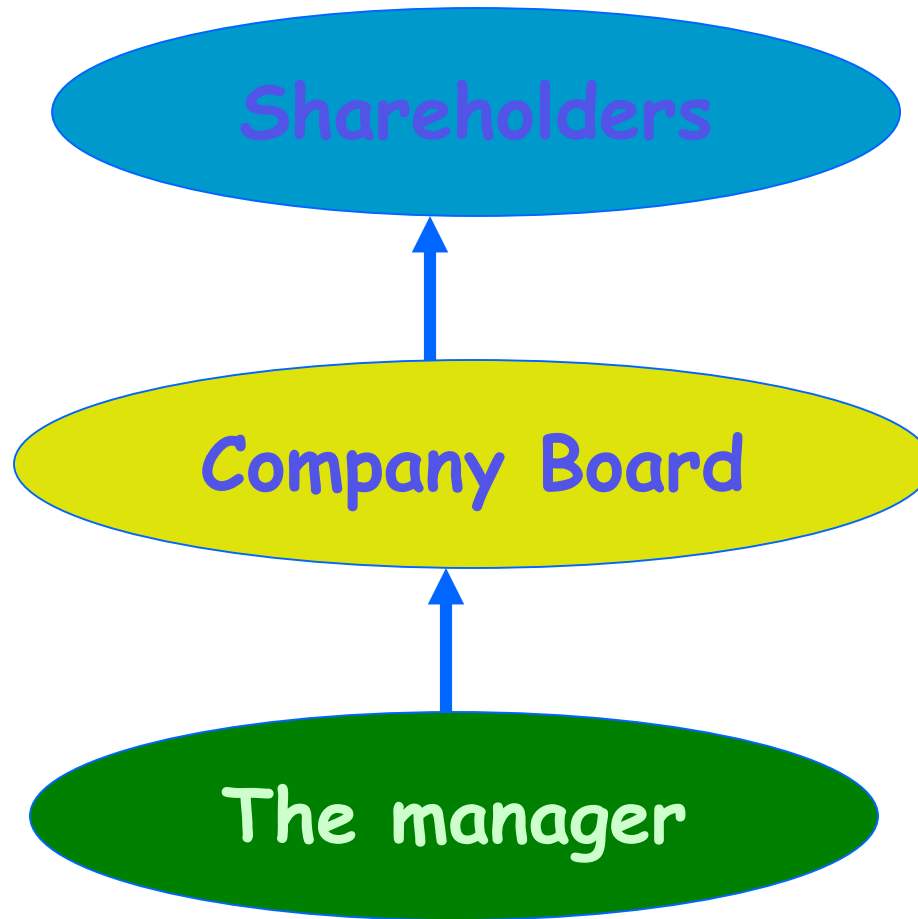


The key question: Our economy or theirs?

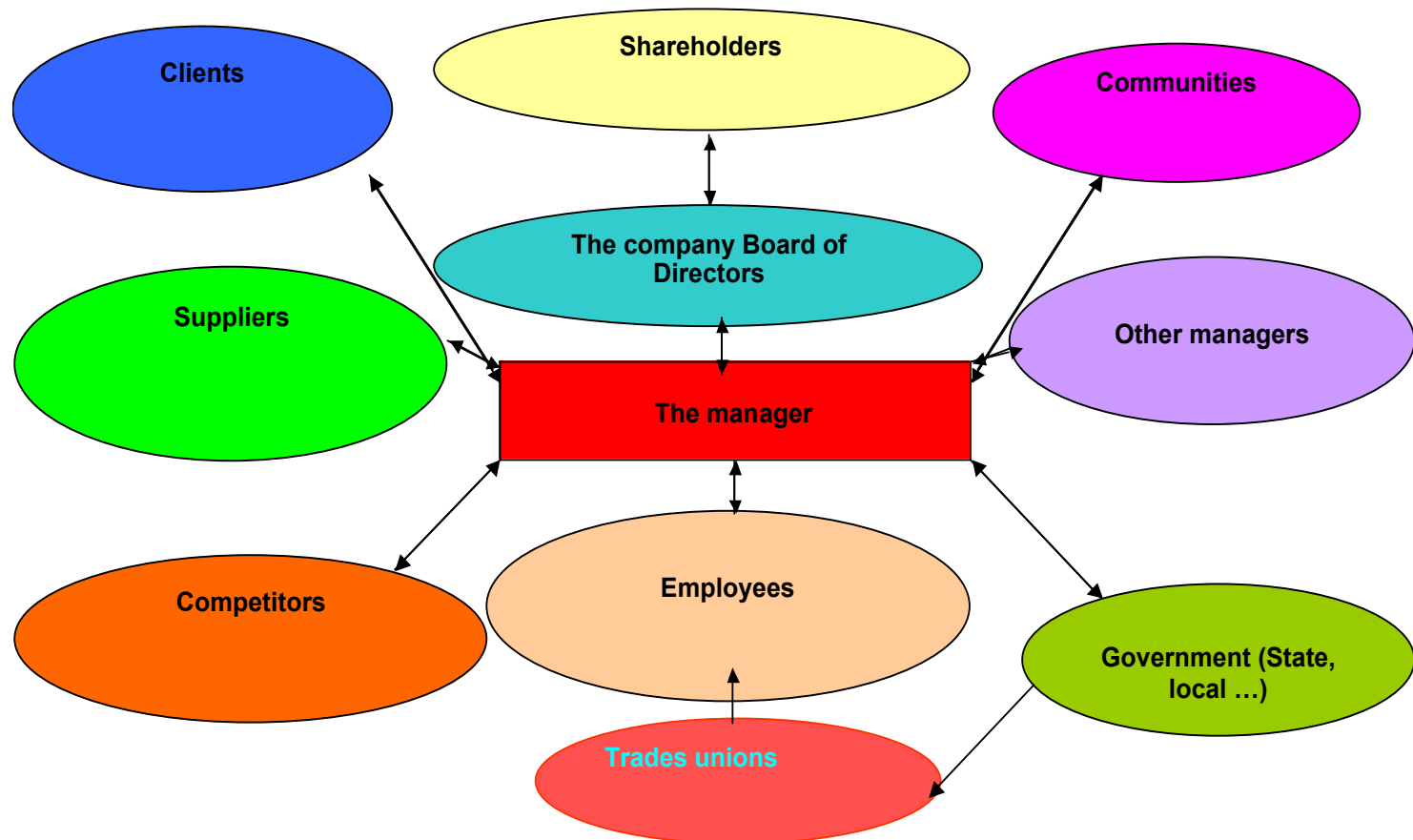
- n **Neoliberalism versus grass-roots ownership of systems/outcomes**
- n **The stakeholder model is more participatory but can tend to just green capitalism**
- n **Solidarity economy and food sovereignty represent systemic change and are part of agroecology... (10 elements of FAO)**
- n **Food sovereignty and agroecology must include an economic paradigm change!**

The evolution of the capitalist model

n The Friedman model (1970s)



The stakeholder model: greening the economy?



Solidarity economy and the Commons: a holistic approach





Challenges that impact our ability to strategize

- n Repression: legislation, violence, non-respect of human rights...betrayal by elected duty-bearers: TTIP, TPP, TISA, ISDS...
- n Corporate capture (of legislation, agroecology, short distribution chains, our successful initiatives...)
- n Green and blue-washing
- n Compartmentalisation of institutions & their inability to work with complex adaptive situations
- n Social movement's consensual approach takes time
- n Sustainable Development Goals, HIII and post 2015 Finance for Development: how to get grassroots access to and control of funding?



The importance of municipal engagement and commitment

- n All the framework legislation exists
- n There is broad delegation to Municipal level globally
- n Possible to implement preservation of agricultural zoning, public procurement and policies
- n Active citizen participation and participatory governance: Food Policy Councils, Community Land Trusts...
- n Local solidarity public procurement: rebuilding an integrated sustainable food system
- n Communities are strongest at local level but need to be networked beyond local



Some key questions:

- n So where and how is food produced & can consumers buy their food outside the industrial food system?
- n What are the impacts of an increasingly urbanised society?
- n What are the options?
- n What systems of governance for the alternatives?
- n And how does this connect to the nutritional dimension?
- n How can we move forward from cheap industrial food and poverty for farmers/farm workers to decent livelihoods and affordable healthy nutritious food?



Some of the answers...

- n **Community Supported Agriculture:**
 - Each CSA is self-governed: shared risks and benefits
 - Commitment to agroecology and local community
 - Minimal carbon footprint: short food chain, low impact farming
 - Nutritious fresh local seasonal food
 - Possibility to work with Local Authorities & use food stamps and/or local currencies
 - Possibility to include sliding scale payments or work shares
 - CSA networks are national and international so strong coherent advocacy possible jointly with other social movements. Global recognition.



The difference between CSA and some other solutions

Typology	Benefits	Challenges
CSA	Shared risks and benefits. Guaranteed, planned and agreed income for producer	Commitment of consumers; social and economic change
Box scheme	Flexible	Producer not guaranteed sales; ; no social or economic change or cohesion
Farmers' markets, cooperative shops...	Flexible	Producer not guaranteed sales; less social or economic change or cohesion



n **Farming risk**

- n Poor weather
- n Volatile market price
- n Unreliable market
- n Poor health, lack of social protection
- n Lack of capital

n **How consumers can help**

- n Consumer takes share regardless
- n Fair prices agreed in advance
- n Consumers advance commitment = farmer plans production
- n Consumers step up and help on the farm
- n Needs included in annual negotiation



SDG 12: Responsible production and consumption

- n SDG 12.3: “By 2030, halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses”*

Table: Complete Food Chain (CFC) comparison of FLW

Food system	Supply chain FLW	Household FLW	Total CFC FLW
Canalside CSA	0.65%	6.1%	6.71%
Supermarket	36%*	30%	55.2%

Figures courtesy of Nigel Baker, Comparative Study of Food Waste and Loss between UK Supermarkets and Canalside CSA, 2014

Urban-rural regeneration and cooperation through solidarity partnerships



Agroecology is based on traditional, local sustainable systems



Food Sovereignty

Solidarity Economy



FAO 10 principles of agroecology

- n **Diversity**
- n **Co-creation and sharing of knowledge**
- n **Synergies**
- n **Efficiency**
- n **Recycling**
- n **Resilience**
- n **Human and social values**
- n **Culture and food traditions**
- n **Responsible governance**
- n **Circular and solidarity economy**



CSA & Benefits to producers

- n More secure income and planning
- n Higher return (direct sales)
- n Meet consumers' real needs
- n Reduce waste at all levels
- n Possibility to agree differentiated pay scale (unemployed, retired, students...)

Distributing the weekly share: active consumer involvement!





Some of the other solutions

- n Local producers' markets
- n Farm gate sales
- n Food banks working with local producers
- n Community gardens and allotments
- n Collective purchasing schemes
- n Collective farmers' & coop shops
- n Box schemes



Delivery methods

- n Several producers deliver to one drop off point
- n A producer can deliver to one drop off point
- n A producer can deliver to several drop off points
- n Consumers can be responsible on a rota basis for pick up at farm
- n Producer prepares box
- n Consumers prepare box according to a list given by producer
- n Self-service, self-management



Payment method variables

- n CSA can hire a farmer and pay an agreed salary: the food is free
- n Farmer and consumer group negotiate price based on annual needs of both producer and consumers
- n Share in an animal
- n Annual/monthly/weekly payment
- n Sliding scale based on consumers' situation



Benefits to local community

- n Safe fresh nutritious food from trusted source
- n Low food miles, no/low packaging, ecological farming
- n Build agroecological community system
- n Build local economy and decommodify food
- n Re-educate community on food
- n Break with industrial agriculture and agrifood, protect from land-grabbing



Food systems are highly complex

- n They involve natural resources**
- n Many different producers**
- n Human settlements**
- n Governance**
- n Distribution**
- n Consumption...**



Levels of governance

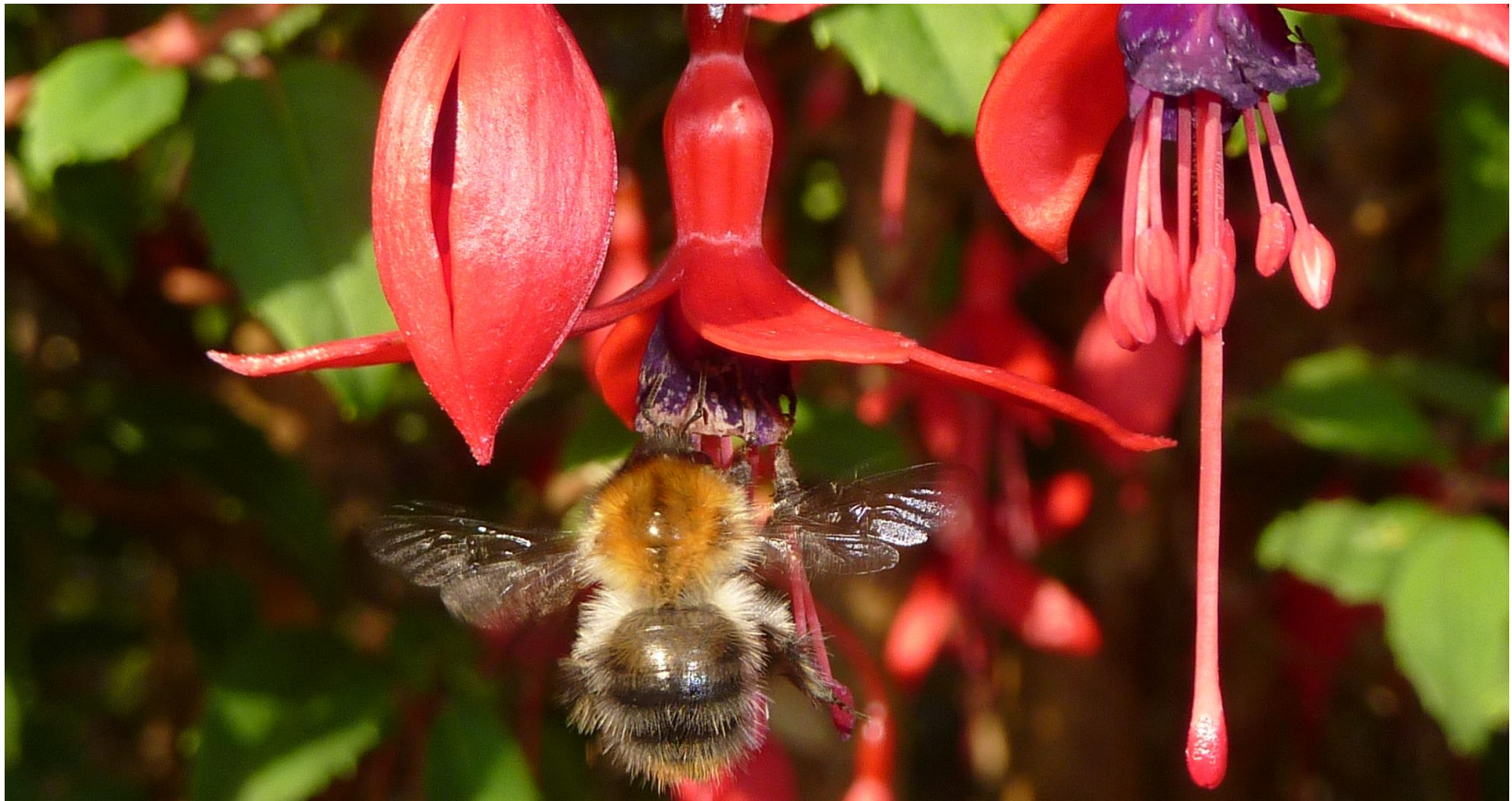
What	Level of governance
Land use	Local Authorities (Council...)
Food Policy Councils; Allocation of grants and subsidies for social inclusion	Local Authorities
Allocation of grants and subsidies for capacity building	Specific UN programmes, E.U., National, Regional government and Local Authorities
National laws and policies	National governments
European policy (seeds, pesticides, CAP, TTIP...)	European Authorities (subsidiarity!)
International guidelines / policies	United Nations



The United Nations institutions play a key role in building policy

- Realising the right to food and nutrition
- Protecting peasants' and pastoralists' rights (access to land, water and seeds)
- Protecting small scale fishers' rights
- Protecting indigenous peoples' rights
- Protecting workers' rights
- Protecting consumers' rights
- The SDGs and their localisation...

Seeds and biodiversity





Water



Pastoralists



Indigenous peoples



Fishers



Consumers



Climate change



		International Institution of governance	International , national or local scope	Existing instruments
	Land rights,	CFS-CSM, New Urban Agenda	National and local	VGGTs; SDGs,
	Worker's rights	ILO	International and local	Many different
	Seeds and Biodiversity	COP	International and national	Conv on Biodiversity; Seed Treaty
	Water	ECOSOC; CFS-CSM	International, National and local	CFS; Water Human Rights Treaty
	Peasants rights, pastoralists rights	Human Rights Council; UNPFII	International, National	VGGT; rai; Peasant's rights
	Fishers rights	CFS-CSM; FAO	International, National	VGSSF
	Consumers' rights	UNGPC	International	National consumer protection legislation
	Indigenous Peoples rights	UN Permanent forum	International and national	UNDRIP Treaty
	Climate	COP; CFS-CSM	All levels	Different parts of COP
	Trade	WTO; UNTFSSSE; HRC	International and national	Framework SSE. "People's Treaty", Treaty movement
	RIGHT to FOOD	CFS-CSM	All levels	Ongoing...

The Right to Food





From grassroots to policy: strategies and alliances

- n Strategy and policy positions are always built on consultative, consensual approaches within the social movements!
- n They are the result of peer-to-peer exchange, internal discussions and alliances
- n We have our grassroots strategies to build alternatives, and also simultaneously work at institutional level...



A few words on nutrition

- n Need to build consumer awareness of need to cook from scratch, less fat, less sugar, less meat...
- n Fresh fruit and vegetables must be affordable to consumers but not at the expense of producers and farm workers = need for system change
- n Nutrition is clearly linked to agroecology through soil health and plant vitality and agrobiodiversity





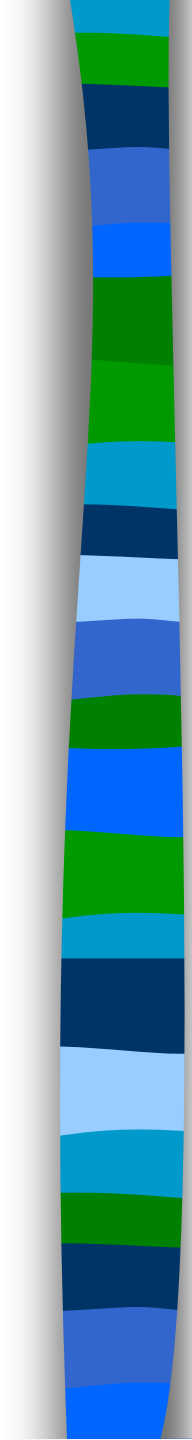
Key concerns

- n Social and food justice
- n Agroecology
- n Connecting farmers to markets
- n Advocacy for policy framework legislation
- n System change not climate change!
- n Urban – rural linkages
- n Access to and preservation of land, water and seeds...



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- n Importance of building framework legislation that links food sovereignty, solidarity economy, nutrition and agroecology.**
 - n Social movements support policies for system change that focuses on participatory governance and truly sustainable food systems**
 - n Consumers represent a constituency and are part of social movements, not individuals**

The importance of the United Nations, FAO and the SDGs



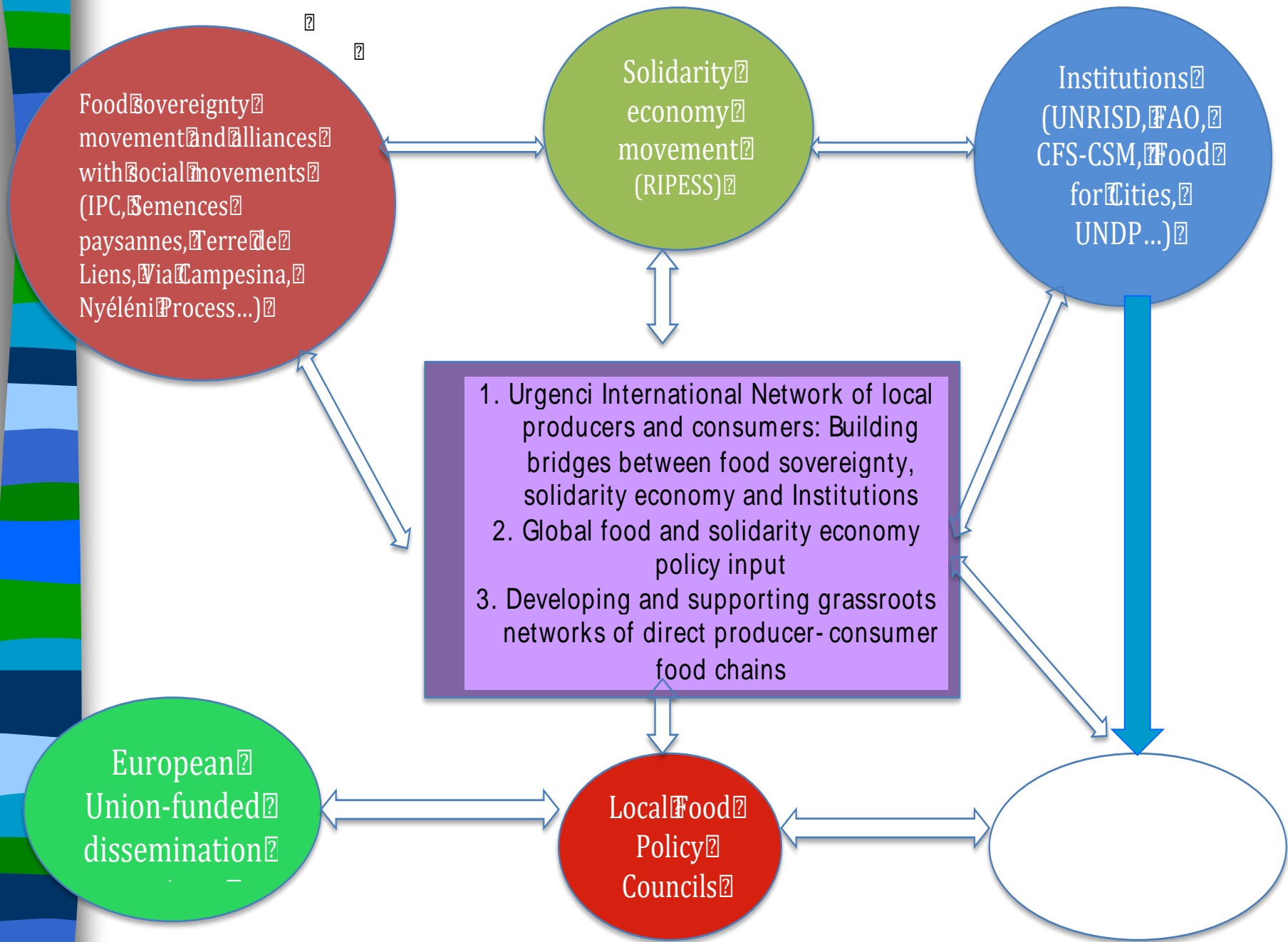
Civil society collective positions





Building grassroots social movements and alliances

- n Food systems based on local solutions
- n Agroecological production, distribution and consumption & cultural practice
- n Local food policy councils
- n Led by social movements working together
- n Low-carbon, solidarity, adapted to local needs
- n Food sovereignty in action!



Signature of the Memorandum of Understanding with FAO



What does this look like?

A biodiverse bouquet of community-centred flavours!



Thank you!

