Navdanya international

Annual Report 2018

Navdanya International champions agroecology, biodiversity, climate resilience, seed and food sovereignty, and the rights of small farmers around the world.

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Navdanya International
Via Marin Sanudo 27, 00176 Rome
Piazzale Donatello 2, 50132 Florence

Contacts: info@navdanyainternational.it
www.navdanyainternational.org - www.navdanya.org - www.seedfreedom.info

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Message from our President

"The year 2018 brought us news from around the world that we are at the edge of a cliff, with a window of 12 years to avoid climate catastrophe, and shift away from fossil fuels and the toxic path of annihilation. In 50 years, chemical agriculture has driven biodiversity towards extinction, with detrimental impacts on our health and the health of the planet. Democracy is also in a deep crisis, with surveillance societies and police states defending the rule of the 1%, and closing the future for our children.

As one humanity on one planet we can walk another path.

The only way we should be walking on the Earth – with love, light-footed, reducing our ecological foot-print, increasing our hands-print, increasing our heart-print, increasing our true intelligence.
We, with all of life on Earth, have so many intelligences – compassionate intelligence, emotional intelligence, ecological intelligence.

Let's wake up our intelligence with the rest of life and hand over to our children a beautiful, living, abundant, vibrant Earth. That's the call for 2019. Let's work together."

Dr Vandana Shiva, President of Navdanya International

About us

Navdanya International is an international organization, founded in Italy in 2011 to strengthen the global outreach of Navdanya and the Navdanya Movement, created 30 years ago by Dr Vandana Shiva to defend seed and food sovereignty and small farmers around the world.

In India, Navdanya pioneered the movement of seed saving and seed freedom, which began in response to the crisis of erosion of agricultural biodiversity and introduction of GMOs and patents on seeds through intellectual property rights (IPRs) and so-called 'free trade' agreements.

Navdanya International's vision is based on an alternative worldview that promotes and supports Earth Democracy, agroecology, biodiversity conservation, food and seed sovereignty and social and ecological resilience.

Navdanya International has been at the forefront of showing connections between the multiple crises in the global debate in a holistic perspective, and at the same time connecting movements and actions on the ground. Its international campaigns, convergences and assemblies and advocacy actions have been focused on exploring the context of our food systems and its connections with soil, climate resilience, biodiversity, equity, social justice and health, with the aim of adding strength to the global mobilization against the industrialization, poisoning and impoverishment of our nutrition and environment. This to create the needed change at a systems level.

To achieve our goals in support of our mobilization activities, our work entails:

Biodiversity Conservation
Navdanya has set up over 124 community seed banks in 22 states of India in the last 30 years. In 2012 Navdanya International launched the Seed Freedom Movement, which has grown into a very strong and vibrant global community, and continues to expand through the mushrooming of hundreds of local seed groups and networks throughout the world.

Capacity Building
Through workshops and conferences, we work at multiple levels to promote and strengthen seed and agroecology networks, local food economy projects, and promote active participation in resisting unjust laws and the corporate takeover of food and health.

Movement Building
In close collaboration with our partners, we work to strengthen alliances and coalitions among movements, including through mobilization tours, creating convergences and opportunities for a wide and inclusive participation.

Policy Advocacy, Communication and Campaigns
Communication is a major focus in our awareness building efforts through press conferences, dissemination of our articles and videos through our websites, newsletters and social media platforms, including calls to action, aimed at promoting dialogue for change among government, private sector and civil society stakeholders.

Research and Publications
Through our research and publications we aim at building awareness on the interconnectedness of the numerous crises we face, that of climate change, hunger, industrial agriculture and food production, and economic democracy, and the link to our food systems: from seed, to soil, to biodiversity and climate resilience, based on equity and social justice, and importantly, to seed freedom for food sovereignty. We aim to highlight and make clear the stark delineation between, on the one side, the imperative of safeguarding these basic precepts that ensure a vibrant future, and on the other side, dogged corporate determination to take control of our food, health and democracy by undermining and weakening these keystones for economic and ecological democracy.

Our key themes are:

Food for Health
Climate Resilience
Seed Freedom
Agroecology
Economic Democracy and Corporate Control
Earth Democracy

Through open, continuous dialogue with other international partners, we work towards creating a food system that is chemical-free, nutritious, and accessible and creates and promotes health and well-being. This requires global dialogue and action, coordination across multiple sectors that do not ordinarily work together, attention to local and global equity and cultural life-ways, and a strategic focus on systemic solutions and policy opportunities to support sustainable change.

OUR IMPACTS

Seed and Food Freedom

Through the Seed Freedom campaign we have worked with movements and citizens by building awareness, inspiring actions, advocacy and campaigns, and building alternatives towards the objective of empowering citizens, farmers and movements to reclaim the seed and defend our seed and food sovereignty.
Our campaigns and publications, such as the Seed Freedom Global Report, The Law of the Seed and the Seed Sathyagraha report have proved very useful tools for policy advocacy and helped in resisting and defeating laws that criminalize farmers' seed saving and undermine ecological practices across the world.

Poison Free Food and Farming

The evidence on the dangers and impacts of pesticides, brought out by the Monsanto Tribunal and the People's Assembly, co-organised by Navdanya International - along with multiple civil society organisations - at The Hague in October 2016, significantly contributed in raising attention on the issue in the international debate at the institutional level.

Climate Resilience

Navdanya International has significantly contributed in clearly defining the central role of food systems in the issues of climate change and climate justice. Our Manifesto 'Terra Viva' Our Soils, Our Commons, Our Future – a new vision for planetary citizenship' and the mobilization at COP21 in Paris with the Pact for the Earth in December 2015, have shown the impact of industrial agriculture, as major contributor to greenhouse gases emission, but also how the solution for adaptation and mitigation and resilience comes from local ecological agriculture, local circular economies, local seeds and care for the soil which has the ability of taking back carbon dioxide in the ground.

Connecting stakeholders and movements issue-wise and geographically

Movements working on social justice and climate change have taken on the issue of the impact of industrial agriculture on climate and incorporated it in their own work and advocacy actions. Similarly movements fighting against free trade agreement have incorporated the issue of pesticides and poisons in our food in their fights and actions.
Out of the Food for Health experts' meetings of 2018, an alliance of multi-disciplinary actors took root, which spur global dialogue and action towards building healthy food systems, building on the strong networking, mobilization as well as institutional commitment to healthy, local and nutritious food.

This publication provides an overview of Navdanya International's activities in 2018, highlighting some of our most significant work and achievements within the year.

2018

YEAR IN REVIEW

Over the past year we focused primarily on health and food systems, and convened in Florence a working group of leading experts in the field of food, health and agriculture - medical doctors, agronomists, organic producers, activists, jurists and policy makers - to draft the Manifesto on Food for Heath, with the aim to bring into mainstream awareness the concept that health and food are inextricably linked, as well as to raise the alarm on the mounting scientific evidence that the high chemical inputs - pervasive today in agriculture and food systems - are highly damaging our health and the health of the planet.

We have worked towards creating dynamic synergy between the movements for sustainable agriculture and public health and between consumers, producers and stakeholders for the needed systems change towards a sustainable, agroecological and biodiversity-based future of growing and producing food and shift away from the present industrial system to instituting agroecology, biodiversity-based ecological farming and toxic-free food production.

Our work towards poison-free food and faming has developed in Italy through the creation of a coalition of movements and communities, spearheaded by Marcia Stop Pesticidi, aimed at implementing strategic policy advocacy actions, including the collaboration with a number of Italian parliamentarians who are working on the new Pesticide National Plan and the new law on organic farming.
In Europe we are closely collaborating with CSOs calling for a more rigorous implementation of EU standards in pesticides regulation.
Throughout the year we have also improved our work with Latin American movements, which resulted in the creation of a continental network to combat agrotoxics and promote agroecology. We have also followed up the work started in 2017 with Indonesian agroecology and seed networks who are creating healthy local seed and food systems.

In continuation of our work for Seed and Food Freedom, and local food economies we have strengthened our collaboration with the Farmers' Market Network of Lazio Region – Mercati di Roma e Castelli Romani, and with a coalition of Sardinian Biodiversity Committees, which culminated in a Food for Health Festival in Rome. We have also continued to work with national and international seed savers and seed defenders networks, by co-organising the yearly International Olympic Seed Freedom Festival in Greece, in collaboration with Peliti, as well as by campaigning against new gene drives extinction technology along with multiple international movements.

As we witnessed through our participation at the 2nd International Symposium on Agroecology, also the FAO has now affirmed that agroecology is the only alternative to the present chemical-based industrial agricultural system of growing and producing food. To this aim, we have joined the working group of the Civil Society Mechanism (CSM) at the FAO Committee on World Food Security (CFS).
Following Navdanya's Biodiversity Celebrations in India, which saw women and farmers' movements gather from all over India, and the International Biodiversity Congress, we organized a Press Conference with Dr Vandana Shiva and the Chief Minister of Sikkim - the 100 % organic state of India - at the at the Italian Chamber of Deputies, which resulted in extensive press coverage on national media, as well as helped catalyse collaborations between Italian MPs and multiple networks and movements working on agroecological agriculture and food systems.

The work against the corporate takeover of our food, health and democracy through mega-mergers and free trade agreements continued throughout 2018 in collaboration with the international coalition of movement which was created at the People's Assembly in The Hague in 2016, and a series of actions against Bayer-Monsanto Merger were co-organized in Germany. Nationally, we worked with the Italian coalition led by Stop TTIP Italia, to put pressure on the Italian government not to ratify CETA.

We have continued to show and confirm that healthy, poison-free, biodiversity-based and just food systems, can effectively contribute to the well-being of everyone on the planet, that it is not only possible but is already being demonstrated by farmers and food producers around the world.

2018 Activities Overview

Food for Health - Poison Free Food and Farming

In the last few decades, our agriculture, food and health systems are being devastated by the assault of reductionist science, and industrial food systems based on toxic chemicals, combined with globalisation and free trade. How we produce, distribute, consume food is increasingly becoming the centre of the multiple crises we face today: whether the ecological crises of biodiversity decline, climate change or the health crisis of hunger and malnutrition and the spate of chronic diseases such as cancer, linked to pesticides and toxics in our environment and food chain. These degradations affect every dimension of the food systems upon which we all depend and involve above all, the abandonment of natural and organic food systems, and accompanying diets, that were the foundation of human health throughout the world in most of known human history. It is imperative that health, starting with the soil, to plants, animals and humans becomes the organizing principle and the aim of agriculture, of commerce, of science, and of our lives.

In continuation and enhancement of the work for Poison Free Food and Farming, Navdanya International's work on "Food for Health" throughout 2018, aimed at creating convergence between consumers, producers and stakeholders for a common vision of sustainable development in line with the Millennium Development Goals. Our Food for Health Manifesto offers an holistic view on multiple interconnected issues, by linking our right to an healthy nutrition in the context of food systems, as well as the impacts on industrial food production on local economies and food sovereignty, with a special focus on pesticides used in industrial farming and their detrimental impact on health and the environment.

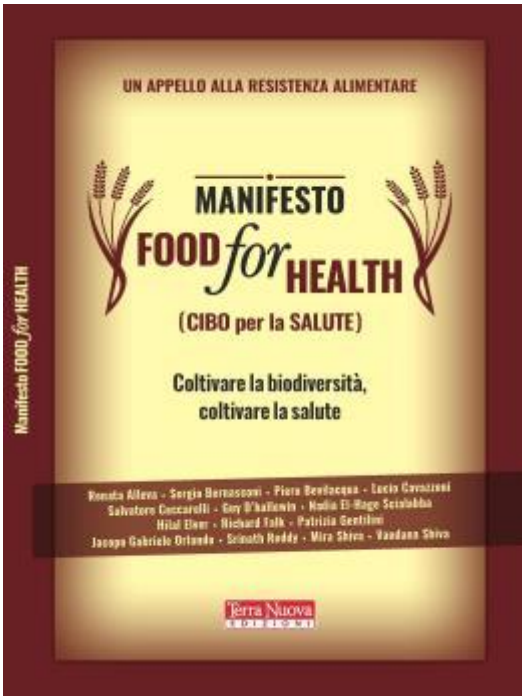
In May 2018, Navdanya International convened a Working Group of Experts, in continuation of the work of the International Commission on Future of Food and Agriculture, for a 2-day gathering in Florence to brainstorm ideas and contributions, and streamline the vision and concept structure which would be the base for the drafting of the Manifesto "Food for Health: Cultivating Biodiversity, Cultivating Health". Members of the group of experts are: **Hilal Elver**, UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, **Richard Falk**, Professor of International Law Emeritus at Princeton University, **Srinath Reddy**, President, Public Health Foundation of India, **Mira Shiva**, Director, Initiative for Health and Equity in Society, **Nadia El-Hage Scialabba,** food ecology expert and former Environment and Climate Division at FAO, **Patrizia Gentilini** and **Renata Alleva**, International Society of Doctors for the Environment (ISDE) Scientific Committee, **Salvatore Ceccarelli**, International expert in Agronomy and Plant Genetics, **Piero Bevilacqua**, Author, Sociologist, Historian, Sapienza University of Rome, **Guy D'hallewin**, Coordinator at CNR - ISPA UOS Sassari, **Sergio Bernasconi**, former Head of Paediatric Clinic of the University of Parma, **Lucio Cavazzoni**, former president of Alce Nero (organic food & products) and bee-keeper.
Also see the ***Video testimonials of the experts***

Photos: Navdanya International

The Italian edition of the Manifesto Food for Health was launched in Bologna at the Sana Fair (the largest organic fair of organic producers in Italy), on 9 September 2018. Dr Vandana Shiva together with 5 other co-authors presented the Manifesto to a packed hall which included representatives of civil society movements as well as institutional and government policy makers

An alliance of multi-disciplinary actors was created out of these meetings, consolidating the key role of Navdanya International in implementing systemic approaches across issues. The gathering of major experts in health, food, agriculture and international food policy has not only produced a publication which offers a revolutionary perspective on food systems and health, but also contributed in encouraging the convergence and action of the movements to reach a common vision of sustainable development, which must be equitable and inclusive-.

Italian Edition of Manifesto Food for Health (Cibo per la Salute)



The Manifesto, which will be published in English by the end of March 2019, has been collectively drafted by the group of international experts: medical doctors, agronomists, organic producers, activists, jurists and policy makers, in continuation of the work of the International Commission on Future of Food and Agriculture. The Manifesto offers scientific evidence, sustained by more than 200 bibliographical references to scientific studies and papers, on the inseparable link between the way our food is produced and our health. It aims at raising the alarm about the high chemical input in agriculture and food production that industrial agriculture and the Poison Cartel are spreading around the world, the harm it is causing to the health of people and the planet, and showing the way for the needed systems change towards a sustainable, agroecological and healthy future. It advocates the need for a new paradigm, a new way of thinking about health which is ecologically centred, a new paradigm based on systems thinking and not mechanistic reductionism, recognizing that the health of the earth and people's health are inextricably linked and one continuum.

Photo: The Hummingbird Project

Seed and Food Freedom - Local Food Economies

The ecological paradigm of agriculture, food, nutrition and health recognizes the complex living processes within nature and within our bodies, and between nature, other species and humans, as we are part of nature, not separate from her. It is based on a systems approach that ensures renewal, a revived reliance on the health potentialities of organic food systems.

The work on Navdanya has shown that alternatives to the current industrial food production model do exist and are based on regenerating the health of the earth through agroecology, conservation of biodiversity, promotion of local food economies "from field to table". All over the world, small farmers and gardeners are already implementing biodiverse ecological agriculture, while civil society is creating self-organized ecological districts, where the common good is at the heart of local economic systems, based on solidarity and cooperation. These experiences continue to offer creative and innovative solutions, enabling communities to regain their food sovereignty, and often succeeding in making the large agrochemical multinationals irrelevant.

To highlight **Seed's central role in local sustainable food systems**, Navdanya International co-organized a Seed Freedom Day in Rome, in March 2018, in collaboration with local partners. The Seed Swap took place at the Farmer's Market, a concrete and positive example of creation of local and ecological agricultural and food networks.

REPORT: Indonesia: an Agroecology Mobilization

The Report, published at the beginning of 2018, describes the agro-ecological mobilization launched by Navdanya and the Jaga Indonesia movement on the occasion of World Food Day in October 2017, in the context of Indonesia's civil society's growing awareness of the dangers of a production model that enriches the few, leaving the local population with little economic benefits and major problems especially related to the pollution of water and soil. The gathering represented an important opportunity to strengthen ties between the agroecological associations in the territory and the international network to which Navdanya belongs.

In continuation of the collaborative work started in 2011, Navdanya joined Peliti at the 2nd Olympic Seed Freedom Festival, in April 2018, along with people and organizations from all over the world.

The program schedule of the Festival saw two days of intense capacity building workshops in which more than twenty movements, civil society organizations, farmers and seed keepers, from across the world discussed about food and traditional seeds sovereignty, as well as how to contrast the corporate takeover of our seeds and lands, how to promote a food system based on agroecology and circular economy, which preserves the environment, diversity, and health. On the 3rd day, the festival opened its gates to approx. 6,000 visitors from all over Greece and Europe.

Photos: Isabella Troisi and Peliti

As hundreds of millions of dollars are being invested by U.S. Military, companies and foundations on gene drives, a highly controversial technology aimed at genetic extinction, our recent policy advocacy work on Seed Freedom was focused on putting pressure on governments and international institution for a moratorium on this untested technology, in the framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity COP14 discussions of November 2018, which final decision calls on governments to conduct strict risk assessments and seek indigenous and local peoples' consent ahead of potential release of 'exterminator' technology. Navdanya International joined both an international Call to Protect Food Systems from Genetic Extinction Technology, by global food leaders & movements for a moratorium on Gene Drives, and a EU coalition, which sent an Open Letter to EU Commission to support international moratorium on Gene Drives.

Photo: Isabella Troisi

Part of Navdanya International's work on **local food economies** in 2018 was aimed at making Citizens and local producers aware of the relevance of our collaborative work on local food systems in the context of the corporate attempt of taking over our seed, food and health.

In collaboration with a vibrant and very active network of local movements working on local food systems and community building, which is progressively consolidating in the area of Rome and Lazio Region, Navdanya International co-organized, in March 2018, a local campaign in support and defence of farmers' markets, which resulted in fruitful connections with policy makers and representatives of historical ecological movements, such as Legambiente Lazio and RomaNatura. By joining regional meetings with partners organization throughout the year, we have been invited to join the "World Social Forum Convergence of Transformative Economies", which will be held in Barcelona in 2020: a two-year process to build an Inclusive World Agenda for building Economic Democracy from networked local nodes.

Our International campaign and Call to Action: Our Bread, Our Freedom links the principles of our Food for Health campaign with biodiversity, agroecology and indigenous food systems. The focus of this campaign is the protection and promotion of traditional diets. We call our traditional diets and dishes our "Breads of Freedom", which are at the heart of local food systems as the expression of a value chain that works for nature and for the health and dignity of people. They come from the varieties of our indigenous grains and staples, from biodiverse poison-free agriculture, from artisanal processing.

Photos: Marcia Stop Pesticidi

In Italy the movement Marcia Stop Pesticidi, which is fighting pesticides contamination in the Prosecco area in Veneto has joined our Poison-free / Food for Health network, and invited Navdanya International to become part of the coordinating committee to create a Poison-Free coalition and co-organize the 2019 March against Pesticides, which has been the biggest demonstration of this kind in Italy in the past 2 years.

In continuation of the work on environment, health and economic democracy started in 2015, in April and June 2018 Navdanya International co-organised two meetings in Sardinia, with a regional coalition of movements, farmers, local producers, scientists and agronomists. The debates addressed health, environment and human rights issues through a systemic analysis, for a paradigm shift from the dominant economic model, based on extractivism, forced industrialization, and indiscriminate use of agrotoxins in agriculture, towards the promotion and implementation of ecological food and economic system, aimed at protecting the earth and its citizens' well-being and dignity.

On 17 and 18 November, at Città dell'Altra Economia, the Cultural Association of Sardinians in Rome (ACRASE, Maria Lai) and Navdanya International, in collaboration with the Autonomous Region of Sardinia, Sardigna Terra Bia, FASI (Federation of Sardinian Associations in Italy) and the Farmers' Markets of Rome and Castelli Romani, organized an event dedicated to the themes: Food and Health (in Sardinian: Mandigu pro sa salude) and protection of Biodiversity.

The core event was the conference, with the participation of Maria Vittoria Migaleddu, President of ACRASE Maria Lai Bastianino Mossa, of FASI (Federation of Sardinian Associations in Italy), Dr Patrizia Gentilini of ISDE - International Society of Doctors for the Environment, Guy D'Hallewin, Coordinator at Cnr - Ispa Uos of Sassari, Blanche Magarinos-Rey, of Artemisia Lawyers group, Maurizio Fadda, agronomist, of the Biodiversity Committee of Nuoro. On this occasion, the Italian edition of the "Manifesto "Food for Health: Cultivating biodiversity, cultivating health" was presented for the first time in Rome.

Photo: Acrase Sardi a Roma

Moreover, the event hosted a Farmers' Market where associations, committees and producers from Sardinia and Lazio offered their healthy, local and biodiverse products.

In terms of Capacity Building, Navdanya International workshops and conferences represented an opportunity to learn from the cutting edge ecological research combined with examples based on practical experience and participation in programs and activities.

On the International level, in Latin America Navdanya is working closely with the Grupo de Trabalho Agrotóxicos e Transgênicos of the Associação Brasileira de Agroecologia (ABA) in a national campaign aimed at both unveiling corporate deceptive tactics to spread chemical agriculture in the country and creating poison free zones/regions. Navdanya International took part in the work which led to the creation of a Latin American network to combat agrotoxics and promote agroecology.
In October 2018 - Navdanya International joined Citizens for Science in Pesticide Regulation, the coalition of over 110 Civil Society Organisations calling for a more rigorous implementation of EU standards in pesticides regulation. The new coalition is calling for a reform of the current pesticide risk assessment and risk management system, the application of the 'precautionary principle' to ensure that decision makers rely on data that is complete, public, up to date and free from industrial bias. It has launched a manifesto which calls upon European regulators to urgently reform the current pesticide risk assessment and risk management system, and suggests practical solutions to the major failings.

Manifesto on Economic Democracy

The Manifesto connects the issues of the corporate takeover of our food systems, its impacts on health and the importance of creating local circular economies, based on cooperation and participation of citizens and movements, where organic and ecological agriculture becomes the foundation for the regeneration of soil, biodiversity and human dignity.

Agroecology, Biodiversity, Climate Resilience

During the last half century myths and propaganda created by corporations have shaped our agriculture and food systems. The myth that synthetic chemicals, industrial seeds and monocultures are necessary to feed the world has made for the agribusiness to extend their power and profits. The majority of the food we consume is, on the contrary, still produced by small and medium farmers, while the vast majority of crops coming from the industrial sector, such as maize and soya, is mainly used as animal feed or to produce biofuels.

The planet and people are paying the very high costs of the industrialization of agriculture and food systems, in terms of biodiversity loss, destructions of soils, water and destabilization of the climate.

Agroecology represents a solution to the interconnected crises of our time, not only in the agricultural sector, but also in the economic and social spheres. For over thirty years Navdanya, together with other civil society organizations from all over the world, has been promoting a regenerating and ecologic circular approach to contrast the rising environmental degradation, poverty, sanitary emergencies and malnutrition. Changing the current extractive agricultural paradigm, based on the one-way exploitation of nature's resources and wealth, is to be considered a priority of our times. When farmers are sovereign in agriculture, ranging from seeds to agricultural inputs, reducing trade dependency and building resilience by using local resources, agricultural systems become ecologically, socially and economically sustainable.

A paradigm change of which, at last, the FAO has taken notice in the occasion of the Second Symposium on Agroecology held in Rome from 3 to 5 April 2018, where Navdanya International joined over 350 civil society organizations. Navdanya International contributed by presenting work and outcomes of Navdnaya's programs and actions on the ground during the last 30 years centred on Seed and Food sovereignty, Agroecology and biodiversity based organic farming. Navdanya International has been invited to join the working group of the Civil Society Mechanism (CSM) at the FAO Committee on World Food Security (CFS).

During the first week of October 2018 Navdanya organized and hosted a wide series of events celebrating biodiversity at its Farm. The celebrations began with the Women's Biodiversity Festival, where Diverse Women of the world planted Seeds of Freedom and Gardens of Hope, and communities from India and other parts of the globe cooked the diversity of breads and traditional dishes from around the world to launch the "Our Bread, Our Freedom" call to action. On 4 to 6 October the International Biodiversity Congress was held on 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam', the Earth Family, 'towards an ecological civilization', with eminent scientists from around the world. Vandana Shiva and Pawan Kumar Chamling, the chief minister of Sikkim together launched the movement for a Biodiverse Organic Himalaya. On October 5th Navadanya's gathering of farmers, Vasundhara took place. Women and small farmers of Navdanya women's' and farmers' networks from all over India were joined by international experts and civil society movements' representatives to discuss Seed and Food Sovereignty, Biodiverse Organic Farming methods and programs, and how we can create solidarity in our communities. On October 7th and 8th the Earth University hosted a Regenerative Agriculture gathering and Regeneration International General Assembly.

Celebrating Biodiversity, Agroecology and Organic Food Systems

30 years of Navdanya's work in sustainable agriculture, biodiversity, food sovereignty and the rights of small farmers around the world. This publication describes its programs of Biodiversity Conservation and Seed Saving, as well as Navdanya's learning centre, the Earth University, where women, farmers and communities from India and around the world learn to work towards a transition to an agroecological food system.

MAHARASHTRA
RAJASTHAN

Dhulia
Moti

A 100% organic world is possible. The Indian state of Sikkim shows us how

The model that Sikkim has built over a period of 15 years has shown how a 100% organic agricultural model, based on the principles of agroecology and local circular economy, is not only possible, but also advantageous, as farms that practice organic and biodiverse farming are 20% more productive than those that practice monocultures with the use of chemical inputs.
Transition to organic production isn't the kind of policy that can be implemented in the short-term, but requires many years and strong political will. The Sikkim project began in 1994, but tangible results were achieved in 2003, when the Chief Minister approved a resolution that contained a commitment to make Sikkim a 100% organic state. At the time, the process of implementing certification took another ten years. Today Sikkim can boast the highest human development index levels in India, and this fact in particular demonstrates the success of its journey. As the Chief Minister Pawan Kumar Chamling declared:"Since the resolution was announced at the Legislative Assembly to convert the entire state to organic we have met with various resistance from the opposition and from the farmers themselves, but we have continued with determination. We are pleased that others want to take inspiration from our work, such as Kerala and other states in north-east India. To achieve these results we have always been at the forefront with various public policies, such as waste management, protection of forests, glaciers and climate, as well as education. You are curious to know our experience, but we also have a great interest in knowing other experiences in this field in other parts of the world. A 100% organic world is possible and there is no reason why farmers, communities and institutions should not continue to engage in this direction".

Photo: Navdanya - International Conference on Biodiversity and SDGs, May 2018 Gangtok

Following his participation in the International Biodiversity Congress in India, co-organized by Navdanya, the Chief Minister of Sikkim was invited in Rome to receive the Future Policy Award 2018 of the World Future Council, at the FAO Headquarters, for his work of transitioning the State of Sikkim to 100% organic. Navdanya's role in the transition process has been recognized as fundamental to achieve this result.
To highlight and maximize exposure on this unique example of 100% organic, Navdanya International organized a Press Conference with Chief Minister Pawan Kumar Chamling and Dr Vandana Shiva at the Italian Chamber of Deputies in Rome, on 15 October 2018. The event was attended by Italian Parliamentarians, including the President of the Agriculture Commission at the Italian Parliament, and representatives of civil society movements and the press. Out of this meeting, new collaborations have been established with Italian MPs and members of the Agriculture Commission involved in the revision of the new National Action Plan on the Sustainable Use of Pesticides, planned for approval in 2019. The event highlighted that 100% organic is possible and gave impetus to the Italian Government's new law on organic farming to be approved early in 2019, which - among other things - significantly introduces a label for Italian organic products, together with a national plan on organic seeds, to improve quality and quantity, including supply chain agreements to enhance organic production.

Over the last decade, Navdanya International has defined the connection between food and agriculture systems with climate change and climate justice, and played a key role in the international Regenerative Agriculture movement in clearly defining the central role of food systems in the issues of climate change and climate justice. The goal of climate resilience cannot be only sequestering carbon, but the overall health of ecosystems and people, the generation of livelihoods and healthy economies, the creation of equity and justice. The debate on the climate change issue cannot avoid considering how the dominant technological and economic model, based on fossil fuels, does not take into account the finitude of the Earth's resources and is blind to the fact that the fate of societies and civilizations is intimately connected to how we treat the soil and how we grow and distribute the food we eat.

In December 2018, Navdanya International joined the call from more than a quarter million people and more than 350 organizations from around the globe, for real, just climate solutions from 2018's UNFCCC COP24 climate talks. The "People's Demands" are rooted in Global South movements, and request governments and citizens all over the world to commit in keeping fossil fuels in the ground, rejecting false solutions that are displacing real, people-first solutions to the climate crisis, advancing real solutions that are just, feasible, and essential, honouring climate finance obligations to developing countries, ending corporate interference in and capture of the climate talks, ensuring developed countries honour their "Fair Shares" for largely fuelling this crisis.

Also in December 2018, Dr Vandana Shiva, along with 100 eminent people from all over the world, signed an open letter after the disappointing results of the COP24. A call to arms for concerned global citizens to rise up and organize against world leaders' indifference and complacency on the ecological and climate emergency, who are protect economic interests to the detriment of those of humanity, and failing to address one of the most pressing emergencies of our time.

Corporate takeover of our Food, Health and Democracy

Photo: Olivia Taviah

In just 100 years, the chemicals and technologies of war-based conglomerates, which produced and profited from the chemicals that killed millions of people during the two world wars, have continued their destruction, wiping out millions of species by spreading poisonous agrichemicals, destroying our fragile ecosystems, poisoning our soils and entire web of life, undermining every aspect of our lives for financial profit. Through wide public relations and propaganda they are undermining science to ensure that health and environmental regulations do not interfere with their profit making activities, thus increasingly leading to the erosion of our democratic principles. By expanding their monopolies on seed and food, chemicals and medicines, they deepen their control over our food and health, with the burden of this system falling most heavily on the smallest farms and the poorest consumers.

The chemical giants Monsanto, BASF, Bayer, Dupont, Syngenta and Dow that own the world's seed, pesticides and biotechnology industries have now enlarged their empire with **mega buyouts**, and, by directly targeting decision-makers, increased their influence and pressure on governments and institutions. While competition is the rhetoric of **free trade agreements,** such as CETA and TTIP, monopoly is the outcome. During the last decades, this economic system has allowed a few numbers of billionaires and the corporations that they control to dismantle the dignity of work, to obstruct democratic processes, to interfere in those national laws in defence of the rights to health and a healthy environment. As such they are destroying diversity, pluralism and democracy, the systems that protect our food, health and livelihoods.

With the increasingly coordinated attacks of corporate power on our food, our health, our democracy and freedoms, a coordinated approach and a scale up of the multiple local responses is imperative.

Citizens' movements from across the world have taken a stand and embraced the imperative of a coordinated approach and a scale up of the multiple local responses, as seen at the People's Assembly at the Monsanto Tribunal in The Hague in October 2016, organized by Navdanya International, along with multiple civil society organizations, which brought together diverse movements from around the world.

This global mobilization continued throughout 2017 and 2018, and Navdanya International organised and co-organised multiple actions with movements across the world converging in a new unity across diversity to end a century of ecocide and genocide.

In January 2018, a series of conferences and debates with Dr Vandana Shiva were held in Florence to discuss corporate strategies aimed at appropriating common goods. Among the issues discussed, specific focus was given to the impact of globalization, which has progressively reduced the commons, including seeds and food, into commodities at the mercy of market fluctuations. The essential role of large corporations in this process was highlighted and the consequences that impact directly people's and farmers' health and livelihoods, as well as the ecosystem.

In March 2018, NI joined a coalition of EU Civil Society Movements, calling for the Bayer-Monsanto merger to be rejected by European Competition Commissioner Margrethe Vestager, through an open letter expressing concern that the measures proposed at the time would allow Bayer to maintain an overwhelming and unfair market advantage that will have negative impacts on competition, especially in seeds, fair prices and real innovation for farmers and breeders.

For the second year running since it began, a series of actions was co-organized in Germany. It kicked off in Düsseldorf with the "March Against Monsanto, Bayer & BASF" on May 19 and was followed, in Bonn, on May 24, by a press conference and a panel debate, organized by IFOAM – Organics International in cooperation with the Coalition Against BAYER-Dangers and Navdanya International which included the participation of Dr Vandana Shiva and Harald Ebner (Bündnis 90 / The Greens), member of the Bundestag – among others. Farmers' movements, environmental groups, trade unions and students organizations converged on May 25 at a protest in front of WCCB in Bonn, where the annual Bayer's shareholders' meeting was held. CSO's representatives were also able to speak at the meeting inside the building.

Photo: Olivia Taviah

In November 2018, a panel debate took place in Berlin: Visions for Agriculture 2050, with Vandana Shiva, president of Navdanya International and Norbert Lemken, head of the agriculture politics department of Bayer AG. The heated discussion centred mainly on the opposing views of the speakers. Norbert Lemken defined the discussion as "challenging". Dr Vandana Shiva stated: "Biodiversity is the web of life, weeds are food and pests are insects, if left in the right balance. The Poison Cartel, which began with the extermination of humans in Hitler's concentration camps, has today brought entire species to extinction. But there is much that we can do as individuals and communities. The defence of life in its vitality and diversity begins with saving one seed, planting one garden".

Photos: Magdalena Knobel

Over the last 3 years, Navdanya International had joined the widespread opposition against Free Trade Agreements. Particularly, Navdanya worked with the Italian coalition led by Stop TTIP Italia, to put pressure on the Italian government not to ratify CETA (Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement between Europe and Canada). In continuation of the ongoing collaboration, Navdanya International joined the campaign which targeted candidates of the Italian elections asking them to declare they would oppose CETA once/if elected. As an outcome of this collaboration with Stop TTIP/Stop Ceta Italy, more than 5500 candidates of the Italian elections declared they would oppose CETA once/if elected.

REPORT: The Future of our Daily Bread: Regeneration or Collapse

Navdanya presents new evidence on the imminent collapse of our food systems - ecological, social and financial if we continue on the path of industrial agriculture based on chemicals, monocultures and the corporate control of food and farming.

False narratives on feeding the world have been the misleading sign posts that have brought us to this precipice. The transition from corporate control of the food system is not just a possibility, but has become a survival imperative towards regenerating the planet and farmers livelihoods and creating resilient and healthy food systems, which at the same time mitigate climate change.

Communication

Over the year, Navdanya International, through its press and communications team, has doubled its outreach capacity through new partnerships with a network of major national and international web magazines and newspapers which regularly publish our articles in English and Italian. The team has produced over 40 articles, briefing papers, event reports in both English and Italian which can be found and shared on our Navdanya International and Seed Freedom websites. These two websites have together attracted more than 101,300 page views for the same period, while our Social Media Platforms are numbering 93,900 subscribers on Facebook pages and over 10,000 followers of our Twitter accounts. Video interviews on current topics have attracted over 51,400 views in 2018.

The strong partnership established in previous years with a number of major web-magazines in Italy and abroad, increased the visibility of our articles tenfold.

In 2018 a special magazine dedicated to Navdanya International articles was opened on Lifegate, an international platform, which publishes in English and Italian, with a focus on environmental issues. We also have a column in the weekly magazine on the environment L'Extraterrestre, in the daily national newspaper Il Manifesto. Our work with Terra Nuova Edizioni, a 40 years old Italian publishing company and magazine on ecology related issues has evolved into an editorial collaboration, with the publication of the Italian edition of the Manifesto "Food for Health"

Navdanya International's activities have been covered by the media throughout the year.

Topics which we have covered include the following:

Seed and Food Freedom, Agroecology and Climate Resilience
Some articles include:

English
- ✓ Nature, Food & Climate - Towards a Deeper Ecological Understanding to Avoid Climate Catastrophe, Vandana Shiva - Jivad – The Vandana Shiva Blog, 25 December 2018
- ✓ A 100% organic world is possible. The Indian state of Sikkim shows us how , Manlio Masucci - Lifegate, 14 November 2018
- ✓ Celebrating Biodiversity at Navdanya Farm, 8 October 2018
- ✓ Biodiversity and Sustainable Development Goals, Vandana Shiva, 22 May 2018
- ✓ An Agro-Ecological Transition to Beat the Diktats of the Green Revolution , Ruchi Shroff - Lifegate, 27 April 2018
- ✓ An Agroecological Transition is Necessary to Achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals , Manlio Masucci, Navdanya International, 23 April 2018

Italian
- ✓ La rivincita del cibo locale e naturale su quello industriale. Le storie che dimostrano che l'alternativa esiste , Ruchi Shroff - Lifegate, 19 December 2018
- ✓ L'agricoltura e i mercati contadini, Manlio Masucci - L'Extraterrestre, il manifesto, 29 November 2018

Poison Free Food and Farming, Food for Health
Some articles include::

English
- ✓ Vandana Shiva in Florence for a Manifesto against Agrotoxics: "The Health of the Planet and the People are one" , Manlio Masucci, Navdanya International, 14 May 2018
- ✓ Two futures of health, two paradigms of science, Vandana Shiva - The Asian Age, 9 February 2018
- ✓ Glyphosate and Arsenic: a Deadly Cocktail, 9 January 2018

Italian
- ✓ L'agroindustria non ha futuro, la transizione è già cominciata, Vandana Shiva - L'Extraterrestre Special 2018, il manifesto, 7 December 2018
- ✓ Le crisi che affrontiamo oggi affondano le radici nell'insostenibile produzione del nostro cibo, Ruchi Shroff – Lifegate, 16 October 2018
- ✓ Manifesto Food for Health, è ora di fare fronte comune contro le multinazionali dei veleni, Ruchi Shroff, - Lifegate, 7 September 2018
- ✓ Cibo e salute, un manifesto per vivere meglio, Manlio Masucci - L'Extraterrestre, il manifesto, 31 May 2018

Corporate takeover of our food and health – Corporate Mergers, Free Trade Agreements
Some articles include:

English
- ✓ Monsanto-Bayer: Eliminating the Name Will Not Erase the History, Ruchi Shroff - Common Dreams, 30 August 2018
- ✓ EU approves Bayer-Monsanto merger without assessing the risks exposed by civil society's representatives, small and medium-sized producers and consumers, 21 March 2018
- ✓ No to the mega-merger of Bayer and Monsanto, our rights are at stake, Ruchi Shroff, Navdanya International - Lifegate, 12 March 2018
- ✓ Dr Vandana Shiva submits objection to Bayer-Monsanto Merger, 20 January 2018

Italian
- ✓ Ceta, è ora di cambiare direzione in materia di commercio internazionale, Vandana Shiva - L'Huffington Post, 27 February 2018

#Stop Ceta Press Conference – Photo: Isabella Troisi

Future Projects and Campaigns

Navdanya International will keep promoting biodiversity based ecological food systems as a solution to the multiple crises we face resulting from industrial agriculture and industrial food production: the growing crisis of chronic disease and social injustice, climate change, and the increasing degradation of land and soils.

The FAO Committee on World Food Security is in the process of drafting guidelines for nutrition security, and as a member of the working group of the Civil Society Mechanism (CSM), Navdanya will work on food systems and nutrition and provide inputs on connecting health and safe food, as well as exposing false solutions such as bio-fortification and medicalisation of nutrition versus biodiversity-based diverse diets.

The need to collaborate with policy makers at all levels on food and health issues is an essential element of our work. At the European level we will work with the Coalition for Pesticides Reform to push for **a revision in pesticides regulation**. At the Italian level, we will keep working with parliamentarians and senators to improve regulation both on pesticide use restriction and on organic food and farming. We will at the same time strengthen our work with organic movements and anti-pesticide movements to push for stronger regulation that favour organic production.

Navdanya also has plans to build on the work we have begun on **local food economies.** We have begun working closely with movements in Rome and Lazio, such as Solidarity Economy movements' networks, Community Supported Agriculture movements and Farmers' markets, for creating Local Food Systems and Circular Economies. In line with our promoting "short chain for a long life", we plan to scale-up our work with movements, farmers' markets and regional authorities and push for regulation that favours local ecological circular food economies.

We will give priority to the connection between **Climate** and **Food systems**, and point out the importance of local biodiversity based ecological food systems as vital to building climate resilience as well as the role of industrial food systems as a major contributor to climate change. So far the focus on climate mitigation has been mainly on energy, while it is necessary to bring innovative mitigation options for carbon sequestration within agricultural systems into the global debate.

Navdanya International

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"The health of the planet and the health of the people are one. Alternatives do exist and are based on regenerating health of the earth through agro-ecology, conservation of biodiversity, promotion of local economies and food systems "from field to table". Health, starting with the soil, to plants, animals and humans must be the organizing principle and the aim of agriculture, commerce, science, of our lives and of international trade."

— Dr Vandana Shiva