16 DAYS of Global Action on Agroecology
OCTOBER 1-16, 2019

“YOUTH MARCH ON FOR AGROECOLOGY AND FOOD SOVEREIGNTY!”
16 Days of Global Action on Agroecology

This year’s 16 Days of Global Action on Agroecology gives focus on the youth’s role in agroecology. Their contribution in the struggle for food sovereignty, agroecology and the fight against corporate agriculture is vital and needs to be supported by movements and advocates everywhere. With the theme “Youth March on for Agroecology and Food Sovereignty” the 2019 16 Days of Global Action on Agroecology will consist of a series of collective action of youth groups, farmers groups, women’s groups, movements and advocacy groups from different countries from October 1 to 16. Activities range from awareness-raising activities (from symposium to public assemblies and other creative events) to media and social media campaigns and lobbying. At least 20 countries from different sectors, movements and organisations are expected to join and reach out to 600,000 people across the globe. It will culminate on 15 October (Rural Women’s Day) and 16 October (World Foodless Day) through coordinated actions and events around the globe.
What are the aims of the 16 Days of Global Action 2019?

(1) **To raise awareness** to the public on the benefits of agroecology on food security, health, the environment, on land and resources and on the economy of food producers and rural communities.

(2) **To generate solidarity** among the youth across the globe to push for policy changes in the local, national and international level for agroecology and gather the support of all other sectors within the rural community and beyond, in the struggle to defend collective rights to land and resources and mobilise people to be involved in the global resistance against corporate agriculture, land grabbing and all forms of repression.

(3) **To gather the broadest support** possible and promote youth’s leadership and initiatives and advance further the widening call for agroecology as an alternative to corporate agriculture.

Significant dates in October 2019 that can be highlighted in the campaign:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>1 October</td>
<td>International Day of Older Persons and World Habitat Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 October</td>
<td>International Day of Non-Violence</td>
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<td>5 October</td>
<td>World Teachers’ Day [UNESCO]</td>
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<td>10 October</td>
<td>World Mental Health Day [WHO]</td>
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<td>11 October</td>
<td>International Day of the Girl Child</td>
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<td>13 October</td>
<td>International Day for Disaster Reduction</td>
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<td>15 October</td>
<td>International Day of Rural Women</td>
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<td>16 October</td>
<td>World Food Day [FAO]</td>
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Fighting for Food Sovereignty  For millions of small-scale farmers and food producers, especially in poor countries, access to land and resources is being undermined by the corporate control over agriculture and profit-oriented solutions to food security and climate change. Industrial agriculture has led to increasing conversion of forests, grass and wetlands. Land grabbing for one, has placed the food security and sovereignty of small food producers in grave peril. Threats to traditional and indigenous crop varieties have intensified because of the many trade policies in place, and the revitalized push of states and corporations to favor genetic engineering such as the Golden Rice, in countries like the Philippines and Bangladesh. These are just few of the many threats to achieving food sovereignty for all. And with the ever-growing threat of climate crisis, it is now more than ever, that movements across the globe advance and further strengthen solidarity to fight for food sovereignty by combating food insecurity and industrial agriculture as a whole through more viable, biodiverse, agroecological systems of food production and continuing their different methods of facing the challenges and threats in their communities and countries.

Agroecology is the way to go  One of the most viable solutions to achieving food sovereignty is the shift to agroecology. Studies and experiences of small food producers worldwide have demonstrated that agroecology (including all forms of biodiverse, integrated and diversified farming approaches combined with local knowledge systems) have sustained and fed communities while coping with the changing climate. It is being practiced by millions of farmers on millions of hectares on all continents. Farmers have also responded to various conditions by evolving and innovating their farm and resource management practices and techniques. These helped them develop a wide repository of local knowledge and skills that are efficient, appropriate and time-tested measures of adaptation to climate change – changing crop cycles and crop pattern; developing local varieties; diversifying and mixing crops; soil and water conservation measures, etc. In agroecology, what is crucial is the strengthening of initiatives, innovations on the ground to preserve, develop and promote community-owned and managed, integrated, biodiverse, climate-resilient and food secure farming systems; and linking these with the broader farmers’ movements across the globe to achieve food sovereignty.

Youth stand on the frontlines, march towards Agroecology  There are about 1.2 Billion youth aged 15-24 across the globe, making up 16% of world population. This massive number brings along infinite possibilities and potential for development in urban and rural communities. The youth are a well of resources to their communities and countries. However, they face many challenges that prevent them from achieving their full potentials: landlessness, lack of services such as education, health and shelter, and lack of jobs among others. In rural communities, because of these challenges, many young women and men leave their communities to flock to urban areas where they ironically suffer the same fate. On the other hand, such conditions motivate many young people to organize among themselves and lead initiatives. Initiatives such as learning and experiences exchange, on-job trainings on agriculture practices, organizing the rural and urban youth and advocating farmers, small food producers and farm workers’ rights through education, community immersions and artistic productions- these are connected with agroecology as a viable alternative to corporate farming. The youth are a positive force in building a global solidarity of movements of farmers, rural women, fisher folks, indigenous peoples, small-food producers, co-strugglers, consumers, advocates and others, towards agroecology.

The youth of today takes centerstage- in the midst of challenges and opportunities, they play very important roles in the dialogue, discourse and the actual shift towards agroecology. They march on. They carry the torch and lead the way to building global agroecology movement and achieving food sovereignty all over the world.
what can you do to join the 16 days of global action 2019?

1. **Organize a Collective Action**

Organize a collective action or activity any day from October 1 to 16 zeroing in on promoting youth initiatives, capacities and youth-led campaigns and policy advocacy for agroecology in the local and national governments and up to international platforms and include other youth issues. You can link up and get together with other farmers’ organization, women’s groups, youth groups or similar advocacy groups in your country.

2. **Focus on a Range of Issues**

Focus on a range of issues related to Agroecology and Food Sovereignty and highlight youth’s roles, leadership and initiatives.

3. **Post on Facebook & Twitter Your Photos & Videos**

Post on Facebook & Twitter your photos & videos with the campaign logo, slogan and demands. Share to:

- PAN Asia Pacific
- @PANAsiaPacific
- terence.lopez@panap.net

or reach us via +639150711374

4. **Use the Following Hashtags**

Use the following hashtags:

- #AgroecologyNow!
- #YouthMarchOn
- #YouthRiseUp
- #AgroecologyInAction

5. **Contact PANAP**

Contact PANAP so we can share your activities in all our platforms and among participating groups across the globe.

Contact us via terence.lopez@panap.net, elnard.arellano@panap.net or +639150711374

6. **Organise Coordinated Actions**

Organise coordinated actions to forward our demands during these significant dates:

- **October 15:** International Rural Women’s Day
- **October 16:** World Hunger Day