

## International School of Agroecology Transforming the Global Governance of Food and Agriculture



The **global governance of food and agriculture\*** has a substantial impact on small-scale food producers around the world. It is therefore essential that **food producers' organisations** improve their understanding of global governance mechanisms and policy instruments. However, there is currently no structured or permanent framework for knowledge transmission on this subject of importance. **Schola Campesina fills this gap and offers training programmes** specifically dedicated to the global governance of food and agriculture. This framework allows for an improved and broader participation of producers' organisations – including youth, women and indigenous people – in global spaces of decision-making. We employ a rights-based approach, which underpins **Agroecology and Food Sovereignty\*\***, and build an analytical framework through which to address issues of global governance of food and agriculture. Through its work, Schola Campesina also actively promotes the implementation of the [United Nations Declaration on the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas](#).

In addition to capacity development, Schola Campesina provides unique spaces in which small-scale food producers/actors can **share knowledge** on various important topics, such as: local food policy-making; building and accessing territorial markets; capacity development within organisations; facilitating the dissemination and sharing of sustainable techniques in rural areas; and building autonomy (e.g. water and energy management). There is a wealth of knowledge that is extremely valuable and yet, thus far, poorly shared. Different actors are involved in this global **dialogue of knowledge**, including food producers, academia and social movements. Schola Campesina's training programme allows for the mutual reinforcement of different actors.

The upcoming United Nations *Decade of Family Farming* (to be launched in May 2019) is a unique opportunity to establish a political framework that supports smallholder food producers, their knowledge and their livelihoods. It highlights the importance of strengthening food producers' organisations, who represent smallholders. With the right tools and instruments for advocacy, facilitators from these organisations can:

- play a central role in the global governance of food and agriculture institutions ([FAO](#), [CFS](#), etc.);
- make better use of the outputs negotiated at the global level (e.g. policy recommendations, UN voluntary guidelines, etc.) to promote and defend their rights.

Schola Campesina provides:

- ➔ Capacity development activities on the global governance of food and agriculture
- ➔ Innovative spaces for knowledge sharing
- ➔ Improved dialogue among diverse kinds of knowledge and know-hows
- ➔ Participatory Action Research activities

\* International processes setting up policy framework influencing national governments action on food and agriculture issues

\*\* "**Food sovereignty** is the right of peoples to healthy and culturally appropriate food produced through ecologically sound and sustainable methods, and their right to define their own food and agriculture systems. It puts the aspirations and needs of those who produce, distribute and consume food at the heart of food systems and policies rather than the demands of markets and corporations" [Declaration of Nyéléni 2007](#)

Schola Campesina will soon offer a **permanent place** for knowledge sharing, mutual learning and participatory action research through the construction of an **e-learning platform**.

[www.scholacampesina.org](http://www.scholacampesina.org)

## Objectives

General objective: To strengthen and empower food producers' organisations (peasants, fisherfolk, pastoralists, landless, urban poor, agriculture workers, etc.) in their efforts to implement Agroecology and achieve Food Sovereignty.

Specific objectives:

- ✓ To improve the participation of food producers' organisations within global governance mechanisms of food and agriculture;
- ✓ To develop advocacy capacities at the local level (applying global tools);
- ✓ To share experiences and knowledge related to peasants' autonomy, rural extension, agroecological practices, peasants' organisations, seeds and biodiversity, food policies, and women's empowerment amongst family farming actors;
- ✓ To foster and strengthen collaboration amongst diverse kinds of knowledge held by different actors involved in sustainable food systems, agroecology and the human right to adequate food and nutrition, such as small-scale food producers, practitioners and academics.

Link to the Sustainable Development Goals 2, 4, 5 and 12 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development:

- Goal 2: *End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture*
- Goal 4: *Ensure inclusive and quality education for all and promote lifelong learning*
- Goal 5: *Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls*
- Goal 12: *Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns*

## Activities in 2019

### Two learning programmes on the global governance of food and agriculture

(for more information on the 2017 pilot project, [see video](#)).

- **May 2019**. Directed to **young people** from food producers' organisations, in collaboration with [ROPPA](#). A 1-week training programme on the global governance of food and agriculture, followed by participation in the launch of the United Nations *Decade of Family Farming*.
- **October 2019**. Directed to members of **food producers' organisations** (priority given to youth and women). A 2-week training programme on the global governance of food and agriculture followed by participation in the [Civil Society Mechanism](#) Forum and the [Committee on World Food Security \(CFS\)](#).

### The development of an e-learning platform

This will include audio and video documents of participants and external speakers of the learning programmes, as well as relevant documentation. All documents will be displayed by topic. They will be available on [www.scholacampesina.org](http://www.scholacampesina.org) for free, thereby supporting food producers' organisations and other actors in their further actions and advocacy work.

### A Participatory Action Research activity

A collective reflection on the emerging topic of *Innovation* in the framework of agroecology will feed into Schola Campesina's [working paper](#) on this critical matter. Family farmers will thus provide input into an ongoing debate about what kind of innovation is needed in order to achieve the SDGs.

# Expected outputs for 2019

Capacity-building -via face-to-face trainings and Schola's online platform- of 200 new leaders, able to:

- actively participate in international negotiations in spaces of global food and agriculture governance (FAO, Committee on World Food Security (CFS), IFAD Farmer's Forum);
- make better use of global guidelines at the local level – e.g. *Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests* (VGGT), other CFS policy recommendations, and the *UN Declaration on the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas* (UNDROP) – with a view to strengthening regional and national food and agriculture policy-making that includes and supports smallholder food producers, in the context of the *International Decade for Family Farming*.

## Expected outcomes

1. To raise the voice of small-scale food producers in spaces of global food and agriculture governance, thereby influencing debates and decision-making by:
  - strengthening FAO's Scaling-up Agroecology Initiative
  - achieving favourable Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition at CFS negotiations, in line with principles of agroecology and the UNDROP
2. To guarantee a regeneration of leadership in smallholder food producers' organisations (peasants, fisherfolk, pastoralists, indigenous peoples, the landless, agricultural workers etc.).

## Financial means required for 2019

Learning programme 1 (May 2019) Including interpretation equipment and implementation of e-learning platform	USD 100.000
Learning programme 2 (September 2019)	USD 100.000
Participatory Action Research activity on Innovation for family farming	USD 40.000
Support to local agroecology processes (in partners' organizations)	USD 40.000
General expenses	USD 20.000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>USD 300.000</b>

## Our partners

Schola Campesina is developing partnerships with a variety of actors who promote Food Sovereignty and Agroecology in various part of the world. These partners are part of the pedagogical committee of the Schola.

Below is a non-exhaustive list:

- **Food producers' organisations**
  - [Coordination Nationale des Organisations Paysannes du Mali – CNOP \(Mali\)](#)
  - Zimbabwe Small Organic Farmers Forum – ZIMSOFF (Zimbabwe)
  - [Serikat Petani Indonesia – SPI](#) (Indonesia)
  - [Amrita Bhoomi International Center for Rural Development \(India\)](#)
  - [World Forum of Fish Harvesters & Fish Workers – WFF](#)
- **Universities (Research centres)**
  - [Centre for Agroecology, Water and Resilience – CAWR / Coventry University \(UK\)](#)
- **NGOs involved in the global governance process**
  - [Terra Nuova \(Italy\)](#)                      [FIAN International](#)
  - [CENESTA \(Iran\)](#)
- **NGOs involved in local development**
  - [Il Biodistretto della Via Amerina e delle forre \(Italy\)](#)