Window on the World

This edition of Window on the World annotates the work of civil society, NGOs, social movements and alliances working on land, climate justice, human rights and food security.

African Biodiversity Network (ABN)

www.africanbiodiversity.org

ABN was first conceived in 1996, in response to a growing concern about threatened biodiversity and community livelihoods in Africa – mainly due to the effects of industrial commodification – and the need to develop a strong African positions and legislation. By 2002, it was formalized in name and structure. The network now comprises over 300 Africans who are engaged in promoting these activities in Africa and strengthening alliances with like-minded others regionally and internationally. It has partners in eleven countries: Benin, Botswana, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia.

African Institute for Agrarian Studies (AIAS)

www.aiastrust.org

AIAS is a regional organization that seeks to influence land and agrarian reform policies through multidisciplinary social science research, policy dialogues, training, networking and information dissemination. The main focus of the AIAS is to mediate in the policy-making processes so as to enhance rural livelihoods through an improved policy framework.

In its work, the institute interacts with and provides policy advice and capacity support to various stakeholders who include governments, regional bodies, universities, NGOs researchers, students and the donor community.

The Asian NGO Coalition for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (ANGOC)

www.angoc.org

Founded in 1979, ANGOC is a regional association of 20 national and regional networks of Asian non-governmental organizations actively engaged in food security, agrarian reform, sustainable agriculture, participatory governance and rural development. ANGOC's members, networks and partners work in 14 Asian countries with an effective reach of some 3,000 NGOs and community-based organizations. ANGOC actively

engages in joint field programmes and policy debates with national governments, intergovernmental organizations and international financial institutions.

FIAN International

www.fian.org

FIAN International is an international human rights organization that has advocated for the realization of the right to food for more than 20 years. It consists of national sections and individual members in over 50 countries around the world. FIAN is a not-for-profit organization without any religious or political affiliation and has consultative status to the United Nations. Its mission is to expose violations of people's right to food wherever they may occur and to stand up against unjust and oppressive practices that prevent people from feeding themselves. The struggle against gender discrimination and other forms of exclusion is integral part of its mission.

Focus on the Global South

www.focusweb.org

Focus on the Global South (Focus) is a non-governmental organization based in Thailand, the Philippines and India.

Focus combines policy research, advocacy, activism and grassroots capacity building in order to generate critical analysis and encourage debates on national and international policies related to corporate-led globalization, neo-liberalism and militarization. Focus's overall goals are to: dismantle oppressive economic and political structures and institutions; to create liberating structures and institutions; to promote demilitarization and peace-building, instead of conflict. These three goals are brought together in the paradigm of deglobalization. This term describes the transformation of the global economy from one centred around the needs of transnational corporations to one that focuses on the needs of people, communities and nations and in which the capacities of local and national economies are strengthened.

Food Crisis and the Global Land Grab

www.farmlandgrab.org

This blog contains mainly news reports about the global rush to buy up or lease farmlands abroad as a strategy to secure basic food supplies or simply for profit. Its purpose is to serve as a resource for those monitoring or researching the issue, particularly social activists, non-government organizations and journalists. This blog was set up by GRAIN as a collection of online materials used in the research behind 'Seized: The 2008 land grab for food and financial security', a report that was issued in October 2008.

Food First – Institute for Food and Development Policy

www.foodfirst.org

Food First's mission is to end the injustices that cause hunger, poverty and environmental degradation throughout the world. The organization believes that a world free of hunger is possible if farmers and communities take back control of the food systems presently dominated by transnational agri-foods industries. It carries out research, analysis, advocacy and education for informed citizen engagement with the institutions and policies that control production, distribution and access to food. Its work both informs and amplifies the voices of social movements fighting for food sovereignty: people's right to healthy and culturally appropriate food produced through ecologically sound and sustainable methods, and their right to define their own food and agriculture systems – at home and abroad.

Friends of the Earth Europe

www.foeeurope.org

Friends of the Earth Europe campaigns for sustainable and just societies and for the protection of the environment, unites more than 30 national organizations with thousands of local groups and is part of the world's largest grassroots environmental network, Friends of the Earth International.

Development 54(1): Window on the World

Friends of the Earth Europe believes that the current rush to develop agrofuels is ill-conceived and will contribute to an already unsustainable trade in plant-based oils while not solving the problems of climate change or energy security.

GRAIN

www.grain.org

GRAIN is an international non-profit organization that works to support small farmers and social movements in their struggles for community-controlled and biodiversity-based food systems. Its support takes the form of independent research and analysis, networking at local, regional and international levels, and fostering new forms of cooperation and alliance building. Most of its work is oriented towards, and carried out in, Africa, Asia and Latin America. It is through collaboration and partnerships that GRAIN links in with local and national realities and play a meaningful role in its information, research, advocacy and networking activities, be it in the regions or at international level. The organization works with many groups in different parts of the world to produce and disseminate collaborative publications and analyses.

Indigenous Land Rights Fund (ILRF)

www.landrightsfund.org

ILRF was created in 2004 to defend the land rights of indigenous peoples. The strategy ILRF developed intertwines numerous partnerships and programmes that contribute to the positive resolution of indigenous communities' land conflicts. Both in-country and international partnerships facilitate activities essential to programme implementation, such as searching for funding, organizing awareness-raising events, outreach to the media, securing legal teams, legal consultation and pro bono litigation and mediation work. ILRF adopts a bottom-up approach, aiming to strengthen the capacity of indigenous communities to advocate for themselves. ILRF has recently initiated four projects in collaboration with indigenous peoples from Suriname, South Africa, the islands of Hawaii and Central Africa.

Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (IATP)

www.iatp.org

In 1986, IATP began documenting the underlying causes of America's rural crisis and proposing policies that would benefit farmers, consumers, rural communities and the environment. IATP works with organizations around the world to analyze how global-trade agreements impact domestic farm and food policies. Alongside a global coalition, IATP advocates for fair trade policies that promote strong health standards, labour and human rights, the environment and, most fundamentally, democratic institutions.

International Land Coalition (ILC)

www.landcoalition.org

ILC is a global alliance of civil society and inter-governmental organizations working together to promote secure and equitable access to and control over land for poor women and men through advocacy, dialogue and capacity building. It aims to reduce poverty and contribute to identity, dignity and inclusion. The ILC was formed in 2003 out of the Popular Coalition to Eradicate Hunger and Poverty that had been created in 1995 by over 1,000 representatives of civil society organizations, governments, the Bretton Woods institutions, United Nations agencies and EU institutions to recognize the importance of equity in access to land for rural development.

Land Research Action Network (LRAN)

www.landaction.org

LRAN is a network of researchers and social movements committed to the promotion and advancement of the fundamental rights of individuals and communities to land, and to equitable access to the resources necessary for life with human dignity. LRAN is a response to a gap in research/analysis support for grassroots movements around the world who are engaged in struggles over access to land and other resources. The purpose of LRAN is to network researchers and analysts whose work would be useful to these

movements, both with each other and with the movements themselves and provide a mechanism of feedback so that their analyses address the needs of the movements, and are made available to them in a usable form.

La Via Campesina

<http://viacampesina.org>

La Via Campesina is an international movement of peasants, small- and medium-sized producers, landless, rural women, indigenous people, rural youth and agricultural workers. It is an autonomous, pluralist and multicultural movement, independent of any political, economic, or other type of affiliation. Its 148 members come from 69 countries from Asia, Africa, Europe and the America. The principal objective of La Via Campesina is to develop solidarity and unity among small farmer organizations in order to promote gender parity and social justice in fair economic relations; the preservation of land, water, seeds and other natural resources; food sovereignty; and sustainable agricultural production based on small and medium-sized producers.

Movimento dos Trabalhadores Rurais Sem Terra

www.mst.org.br

Since its formation, the Movimento Sem Terra (Movement of Landless Peasants) has been

organized around three pillars: (a) the fight for land; (b) the fight for agrarian reform; and (c) the fight for a more just and fair society. The movement aims to solve the serious structural problems of Brazil, such as social inequality, ethnic or gender discrimination, the concentration of the media and the exploitation of the urban worker. It believes that the solution to all these problems can only be possible through a popular project for Brazil, through the organization and mobilization of the workers and, above all, through the agrarian reform.

National Land Committee (NLC)

www.pmg.org.za/docs/2003/appendices/031113nlc.htm

NLC is comprised of seven land rights NGOs covering most parts of South Africa. The main objective of the NLC is to struggle for the transformation of land ownership and to bring about people-centered rural development. This is mainly achieved through interventions in farm evictions, restitution of claimant's support, and the implementation of the Redistribution Programme. In the past 20 years, through such activities, the NLC has supported numerous landless people's organizations and their capacities to gain access to make productive use of the land.

Compiled by Laura Fano Morrissey