

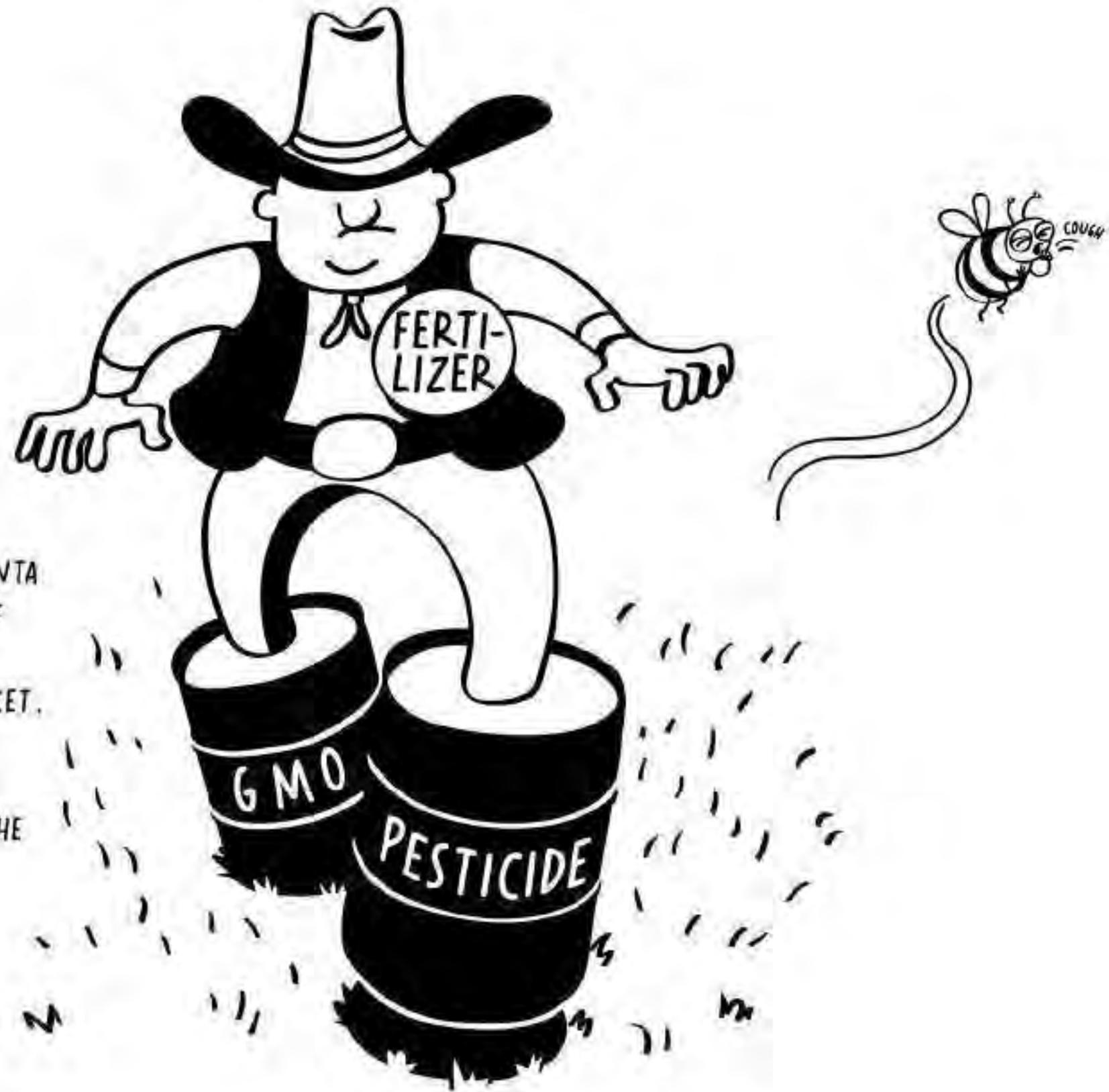
THE CORPORATE CAPTURE OF FOOD SYSTEMS



POWER OVER FOOD SYSTEMS – FROM SEEDS TO PLATE –
IS BECOMING EVER MORE CONCENTRATED IN THE HANDS
OF A FEW CORPORATIONS.

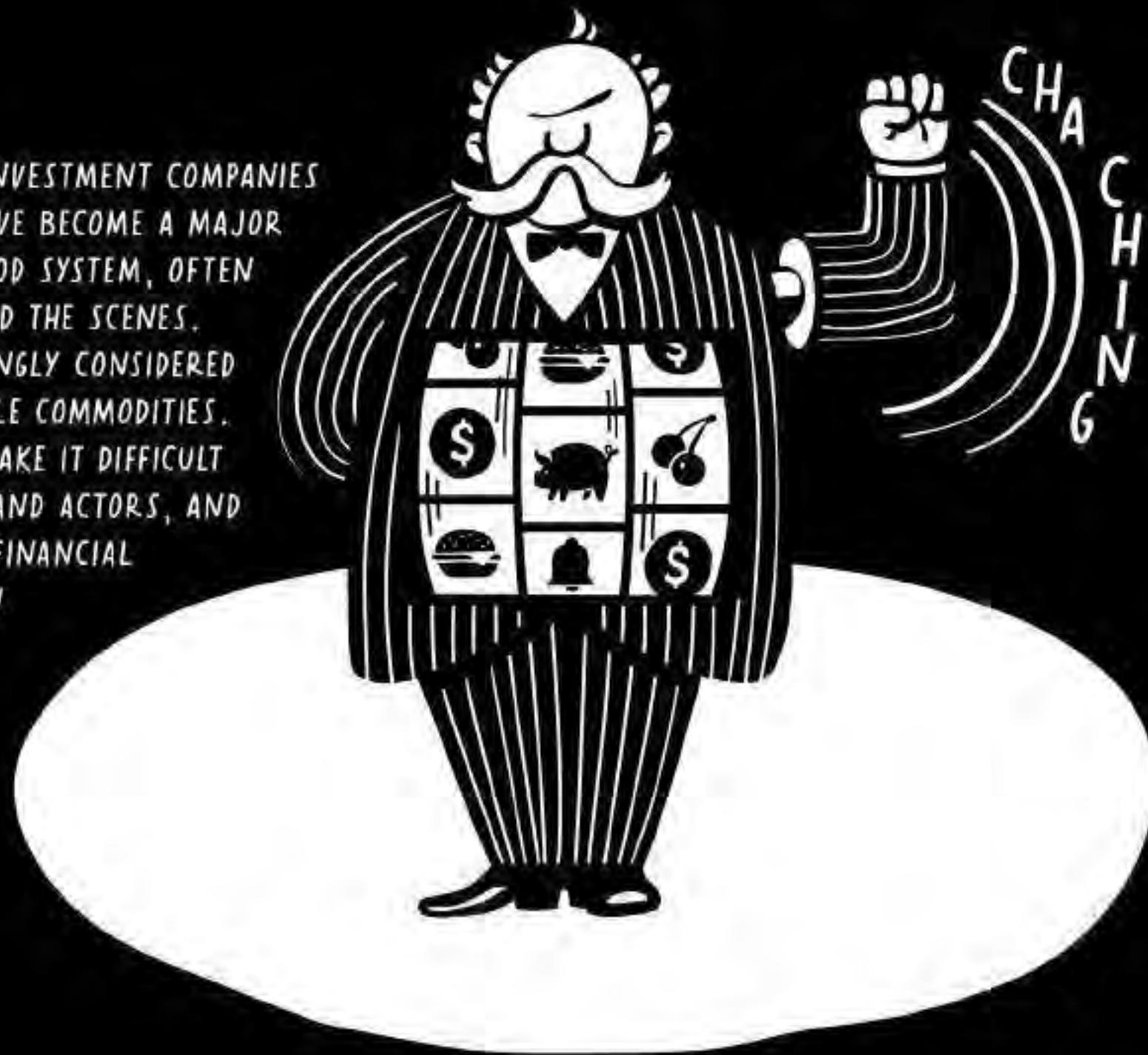
BIG AGRO

ONLY FOUR COMPANIES - BAYER, SYNGENTA GROUP, CORTEVA AGRISCIENCE, AND BASF - CONTROL ABOUT TWO THIRDS OF THE INDUSTRIAL SEEDS AND PESTICIDES MARKET. PROGRESSIVELY, THEY DICTATE WHAT PEASANTS GROW AND HOW THEY GROW IT. A SIMILAR SITUATION IS FOUND IN THE ANIMAL GENETICS INDUSTRY.



BIG FINANCE

FINANCIAL ACTORS, SUCH AS INVESTMENT COMPANIES AND DEVELOPMENT BANKS, HAVE BECOME A MAJOR PLAYER IN THE INDUSTRIAL FOOD SYSTEM, OFTEN "PULLING THE STRINGS" BEHIND THE SCENES. LAND AND FOOD ARE INCREASINGLY CONSIDERED FINANCIAL ASSETS AND TRADABLE COMMODITIES. OBSCURE INVESTMENT WEBS MAKE IT DIFFICULT TO FOLLOW FINANCIAL FLOWS AND ACTORS, AND ENSURE ACCOUNTABILITY FOR FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS THAT RESULT IN HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES.



TECHNOLOGY COMPANIES, SUCH AS MICROSOFT, AMAZON, OR ALIBABA, ARE INCREASINGLY JOINING HANDS WITH FOOD AND AGRI-BUSINESS IN THE EXTRACTION OF DATA FROM FOOD SYSTEMS AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF HIGH-TECH SYSTEMS. THE DIGITALIZATION OF THE FOOD SYSTEM INEVITABLY ACCELERATES CONCENTRATION AS CORPORATIONS RUSH TO "HARVEST" AS MUCH DATA AS POSSIBLE ALONG THE "FOOD CHAIN" TO GAIN MARKET ADVANTAGE OVER COMPETITORS.

BIG TECH





NESTLE

PEPSICO

DOLE

MAKE SURE THE
BOOTS ARE IN
THE SHOT

BIG FOOD

A HANDFUL OF TRANSNATIONAL
CORPORATIONS DOMINATE THE INDUSTRIAL
PRODUCTION AND SALE OF FOOD AND BEVERAGES
AND INCREASINGLY DETERMINE WHAT WE EAT.

CORPORATE CONCENTRATION
IS NO LONGER ONLY HORIZONTAL
(WITHIN SECTORS) BUT
INCREASINGLY ALSO VERTICAL
(ALONG THE FOOD CHAIN).



...AND CHANGE
YOUR PARTNER



I HATE TO PLAY GOD,
BUT...LET'S PLAY!

THIS IS RIDICULOUS,
I NEED MORE SPACE.

MOOOO

NOTHING A LITTLE
PRICE ENGINEERING
WON'T DO.

WHAT? MORE
REGULATIONS?
LET'S BURY THEM
OVER HERE.

PESTICI

MO

CORPORATE CONTROL OVER FOOD SYSTEMS – AND STATE SUPPORT FOR THIS – UNDERMINES THE ENJOYMENT OF THE HUMAN RIGHT TO FOOD AND NUTRITION IN MULTIPLE WAYS, AND IS ONE OF THE LEADING CAUSES OF HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION.

THE INDUSTRIAL FOOD SYSTEM RELIES ON THE EXPLOITATION OF PEOPLE AND NATURE. THIS ALLOWS IT TO KEEP COSTS LOW AND INCREASE PROFITS.

INTENSIVE AGRICULTURE – BASED ON MONOCULTURES, CHEMICAL INPUTS, AND COMMERCIAL SEEDS – IS A CORNERSTONES OF THE SYSTEM, AS IS THE BOLD POLITICAL INFLUENCE THAT FOOD CORPORATIONS HOLD.



HIGH-TECH TECHNOLOGY REDUCES THE ROLE OF PEASANTS AND WORKERS TO MERE EXECUTORS, IF NOT MAKING THEM ENTIRELY REDUNDANT. IT ALSO CREATES FOOD PRODUCERS' DEPENDENCY ON THE OWNERS OF THESE TECHNOLOGIES, OFTEN ASSOCIATED WITH DEBT.





INTENSIVE AGRICULTURE IS A KEY DRIVER OF BIODIVERSITY LOSS. OUT OF THE OVER 6000 SPECIES OF PLANTS CULTIVATED WORLDWIDE FOR FOOD (LET ASIDE THE MILLIONS OF WILD SPECIES) ONLY NINE ACCOUNT FOR TWO-THIRDS OF GLOBAL CROP PRODUCTION. MANY LOCAL VARIETIES ARE DISAPPEARING OR BECOMING RARE AS A CONSEQUENCE.

THE INDUSTRIAL FOOD SYSTEM PLAYS
A CENTRAL ROLE IN THE DESTRUCTION
OF ECO-SYSTEMS AND IS A MAJOR
CONTRIBUTOR TO GREENHOUSE GAS
EMISSIONS AND CLIMATE CHANGE.

DEFORESTATION, WASTEFUL USE AND DEPLETION OF NATURAL RESOURCES, AND THE POLLUTION
OF WATER SOURCES, SOIL AND AIR ARE FURTHER FEATURES. THE RUSH FOR EVER MORE
LAND TO PRODUCE, AND AS FINANCIAL ASSET, HAS RESULTED IN MASSIVE LAND AND WATER
GRABBING WITH DETRIMENTAL IMPACTS ON THE COMMUNITIES WHO LIVE ON THE LAND AND
DEPEND ON IT FOR THEIR RIGHT TO FOOD AND NUTRITION.



AN ESTIMATED
420 MILLION HECTARES
OF FOREST HAVE
BEEN LOST DUE TO
DEFORESTATION
SINCE 1990.

SORRY,
YOU CAN'T
STAND IN
THE WAY OF
PROGRESS!

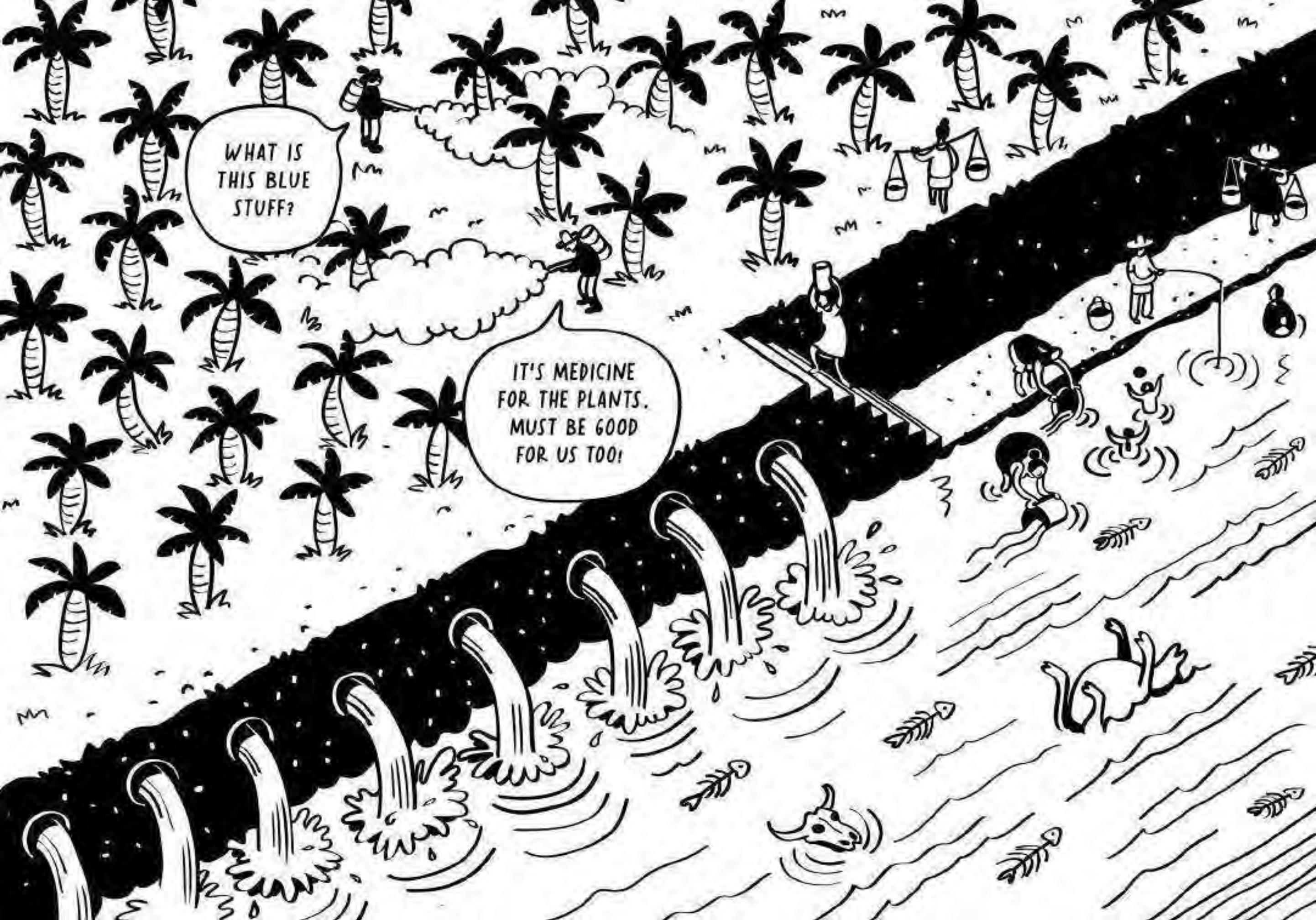
HEY THAT
WAS OUR
HOME...





WORKERS IN THE INDUSTRIAL FOOD CHAIN ARE OFTEN SUBJECTED TO POOR WORKING CONDITIONS, INCLUDING EXPOSURE TO HIGHLY TOXIC CHEMICALS, WITH DETRIMENTAL IMPACTS ON THEIR HEALTH AND WELL-BEING. THEY RELY ON SUB-LIVING WAGES, INADEQUATE SOCIAL PROTECTION, AND CONFRONT SEXUAL AND OTHER FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AND EXPLOITATION, WHILE THEY OFTEN SEE THEIR BASIC POLITICAL RIGHTS SUPPRESSED.



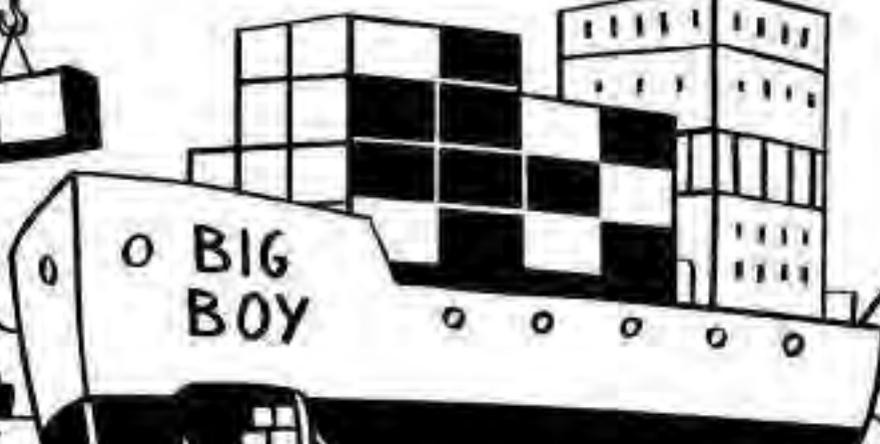


WHAT IS
THIS BLUE
STUFF?

IT'S MEDICINE
FOR THE PLANTS.
MUST BE GOOD
FOR US TOO!

SMALL-SCALE FOOD PRODUCERS AND PEASANT FOOD WEBS ARE "SQUEEZED" BY THE CORPORATE FOOD SYSTEM AND RELATED TRADE RULES. THIS INCLUDES LOSS OF CONTROL OVER WHAT AND HOW TO PRODUCE, PRESSURE ON PRICES, DEPENDENCY ON COMMERCIAL AGRICULTURAL INPUTS AND RELATED DEBT, LAND GRABBING AND DISPLACEMENT, AND PRIVATIZATION OF AND POLLUTION OF COMMON RESOURCES THEY RELY ON.





FOOD MARKET

CLOSED

BIG BOY

CUTE LITTLE GARDEN YOU HAVE HERE

WR00000MM

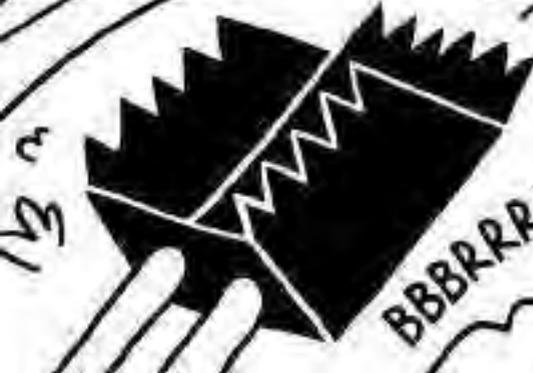
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RATTLE RATTLE

ZZZZZZZZZZZZ

BBBBBBBBBBBBBBBB

OUR WATER



AGGRESSIVE MARKETING OF ULTRA-PROCESSED EDIBLE PRODUCTS ("JUNK FOOD"), ESPECIALLY TO CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS, AND THE CROWDING OUT OF FARMERS' MARKETS AND SMALL VENDORS BY LARGE RETAIL CHAINS HAVE DETRIMENTAL IMPACTS ON PEOPLE'S FOOD CULTURES, DIETS, AND HEALTH.



THE PROMOTION OF ULTRA-PROCESSED PACKAGED FOOD
FOSTERS THE HOMOGENIZATION OF DIETS AND THEREBY
ERODES COMMUNITIES' CULTURE AND KNOWLEDGE RELATED
TO FOOD AND NUTRITION.

CULINARY PRACTICES THAT PROMOTE GOOD NUTRITION AND HEALTH, WHILE BEING
ROOTED IN LOCAL CONTEXTS, RESOURCES, AND CROP VARIETIES ARE REPLACED
BY HOMOGENOUS DIETS BASED ON A NARROW RANGE OF CROPS. CONFIDENCE OF
COMMUNITIES ON HOW TO BEST NOURISH THEIR CHILDREN BY USING FRESH AND
DIVERSE LOCAL FOOD AND BREASTFEEDING IS UNDERMINED.



HAS ALL THE NUTRIENTS YOUR BABY NEEDS TO GROW STRONG AND STAY HEALTHY!
CLEAN!!!



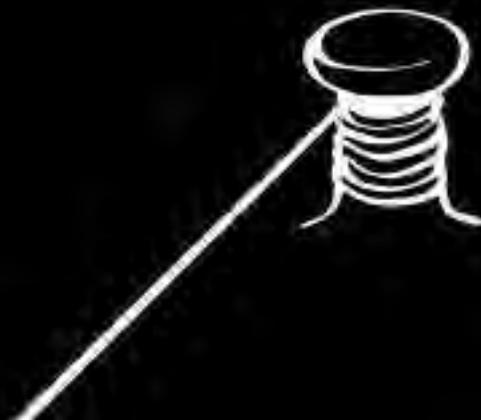
?

COOL!

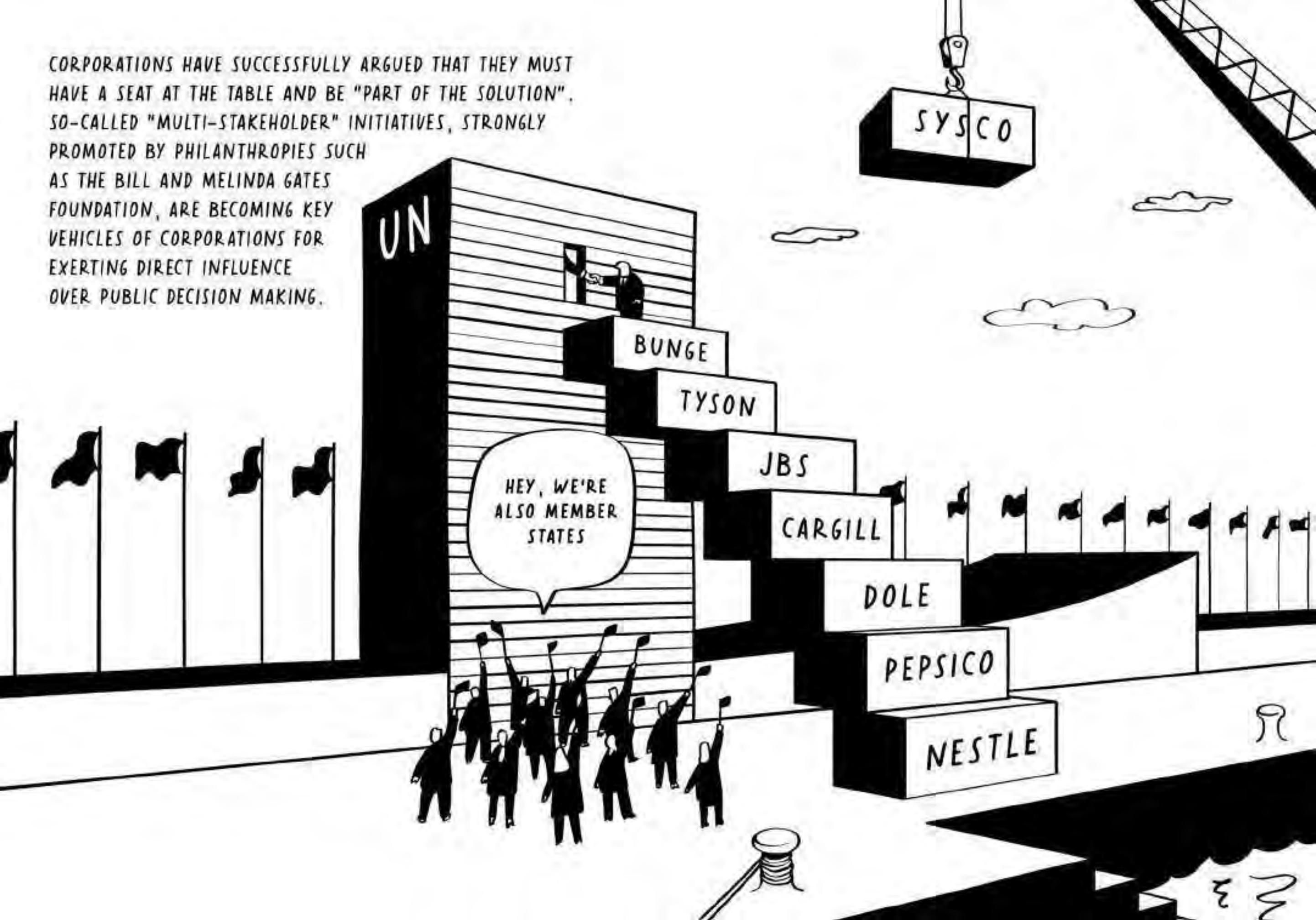
I'VE BEEN TOLD, IF MY GRANDMA DOESN'T RECOGNIZE IT AS FOOD, IT ISN'T.



AS THE CALL FOR RADICAL FOOD SYSTEMS
TRANSFORMATION TOWARDS MORE HEALTHY,
FAIR AND SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES BECOMES
LOUDER, CORPORATIONS ARE SEEKING NEW
WAYS TO INFLUENCE PUBLIC POLICY AS
TO PROTECT THEIR INTERESTS.



CORPORATIONS HAVE SUCCESSFULLY ARGUED THAT THEY MUST HAVE A SEAT AT THE TABLE AND BE "PART OF THE SOLUTION", SO-CALLED "MULTI-STAKEHOLDER" INITIATIVES, STRONGLY PROMOTED BY PHILANTHROPIES SUCH AS THE BILL AND MELINDA GATES FOUNDATION, ARE BECOMING KEY VEHICLES OF CORPORATIONS FOR EXERTING DIRECT INFLUENCE OVER PUBLIC DECISION MAKING.



HIGH

MID

LOW

AGROECOLOGY

DEMOCRACY

EQUALITY

HUMAN RIGHTS

ACCOUNTABILITY

HIGH TECH SOLUTIONS

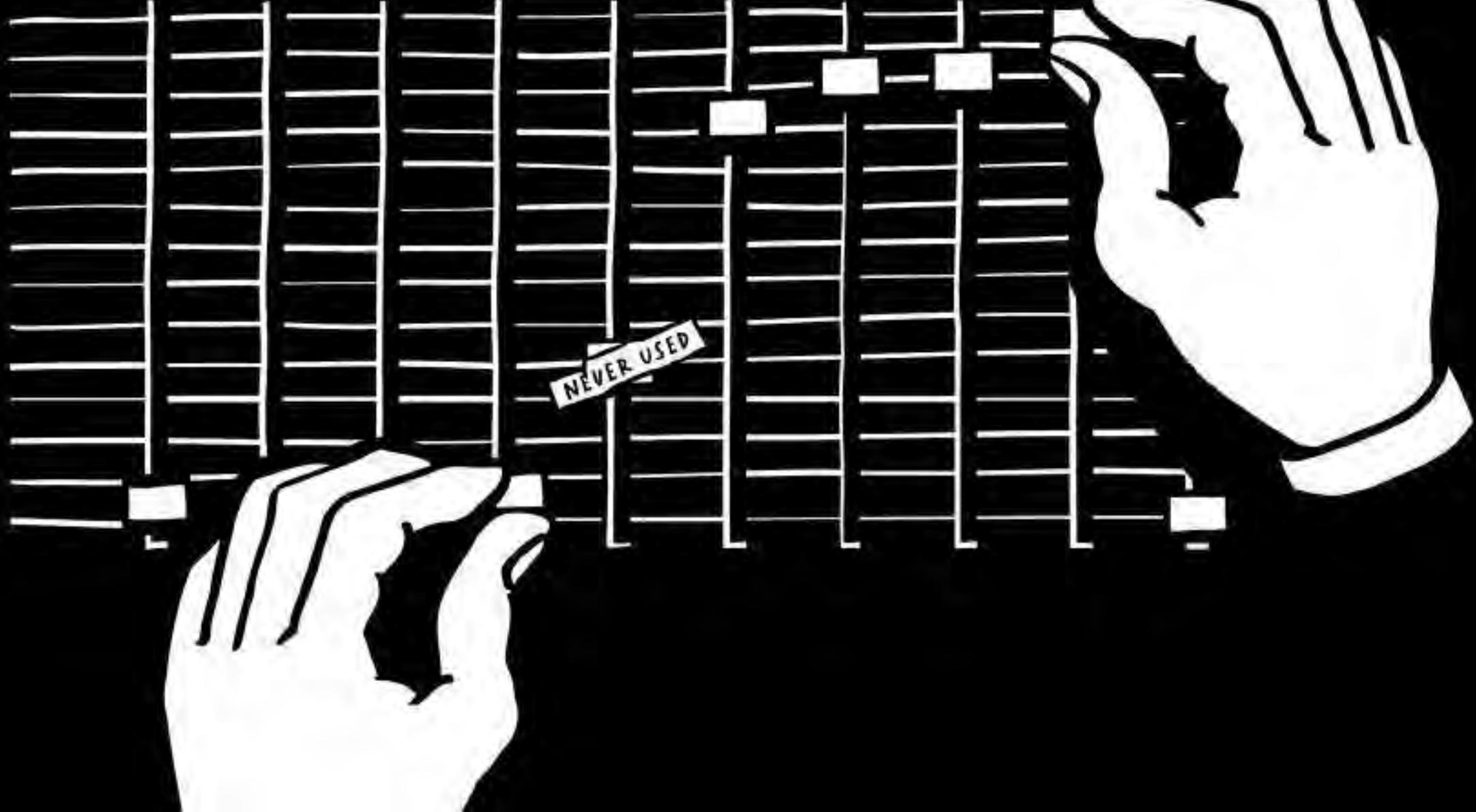
ECONOMIC GROWTH

SCALABLE

INVESTMENT FRIENDLY

POWER BALANCING

NEVER USED



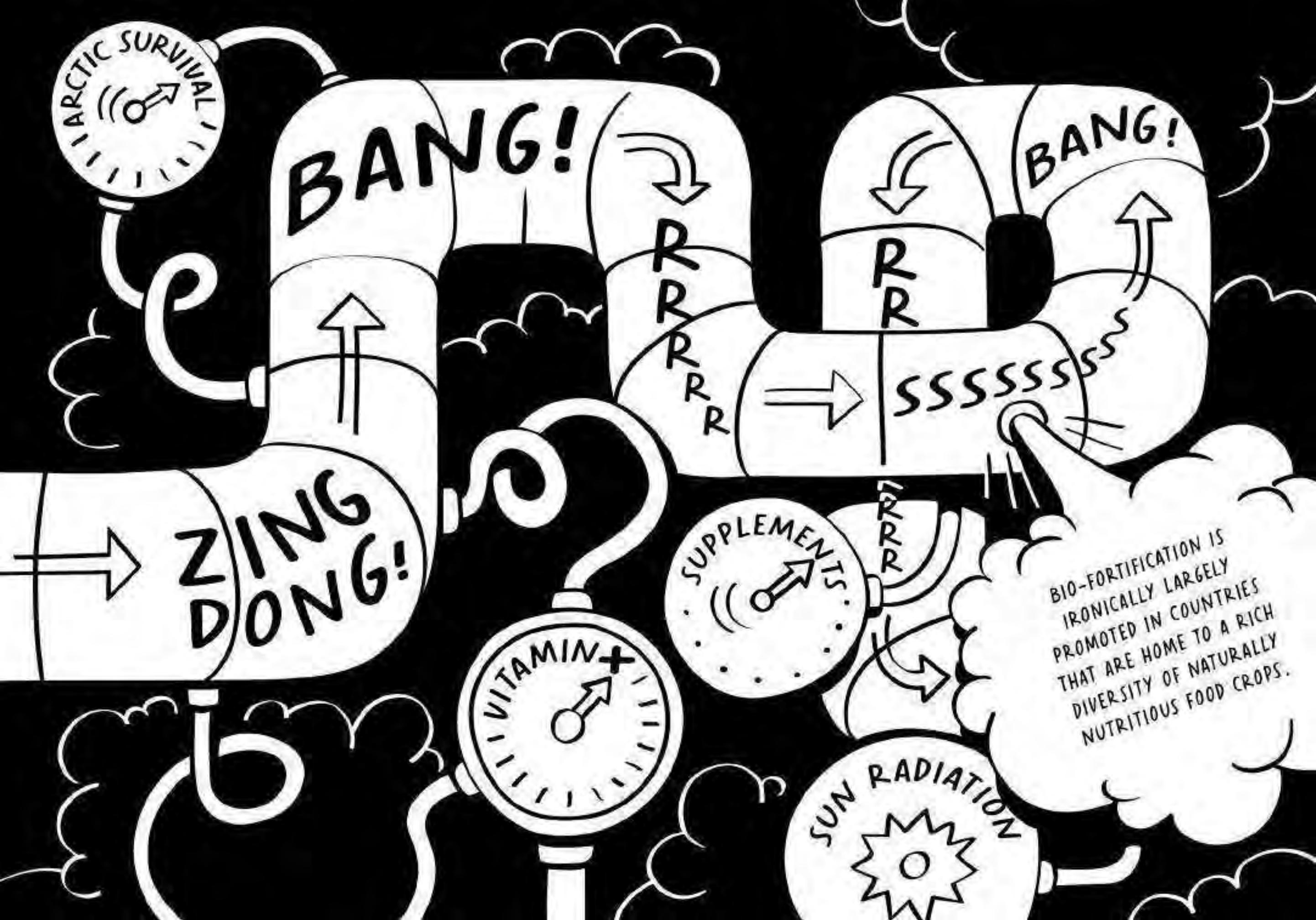
THE PARTICIPATION IN PUBLIC POLICY FORA – DIRECTLY OR THROUGH FRONT GROUPS, PHILANTHROPIES, AND ALLIED GOVERNMENTS – ALLOWS CORPORATIONS TO DISTRACT FROM THE ROOT CAUSES OF HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION AND OBSTRUCT MEASURES THAT WOULD CURTAIL THEIR POWER AND PROFITS. IT HELPS THEM SHIFT THE DISCOURSE TOWARDS "TECHNO-FIXES" THAT ARE BASED ON THE VERY SAME INDUSTRIAL FOOD SYSTEM, DEEPEN CORPORATE POWER, AND FURTHER MARGINALIZE SMALL-SCALE PRODUCERS AND COMMUNITIES.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF CROPS WITH ENHANCED NUTRITIONAL QUALITIES THROUGH BIO-FORTIFICATION (INCLUDING GENETIC MODIFICATION) IS HEAVILY PUSHED AS SOLUTION TO MICRO-NUTRIENT DEFICIENCIES.





THIS IGNORES THE MANY RISKS INVOLVED, ESPECIALLY WHERE BIOTECHNOLOGY IS EMPLOYED. IT CREATES FARMERS' DEPENDENCY ON HYBRID SEEDS, BIODIVERSITY LOSS, AND HOMOGENIZATION OF DIETS, WHILE THE ACTUAL NUTRITIONAL OUTCOMES ARE HIGHLY QUESTIONABLE.



ARCTIC SURVIVAL

BANG!

BANG!

ZING DONG!

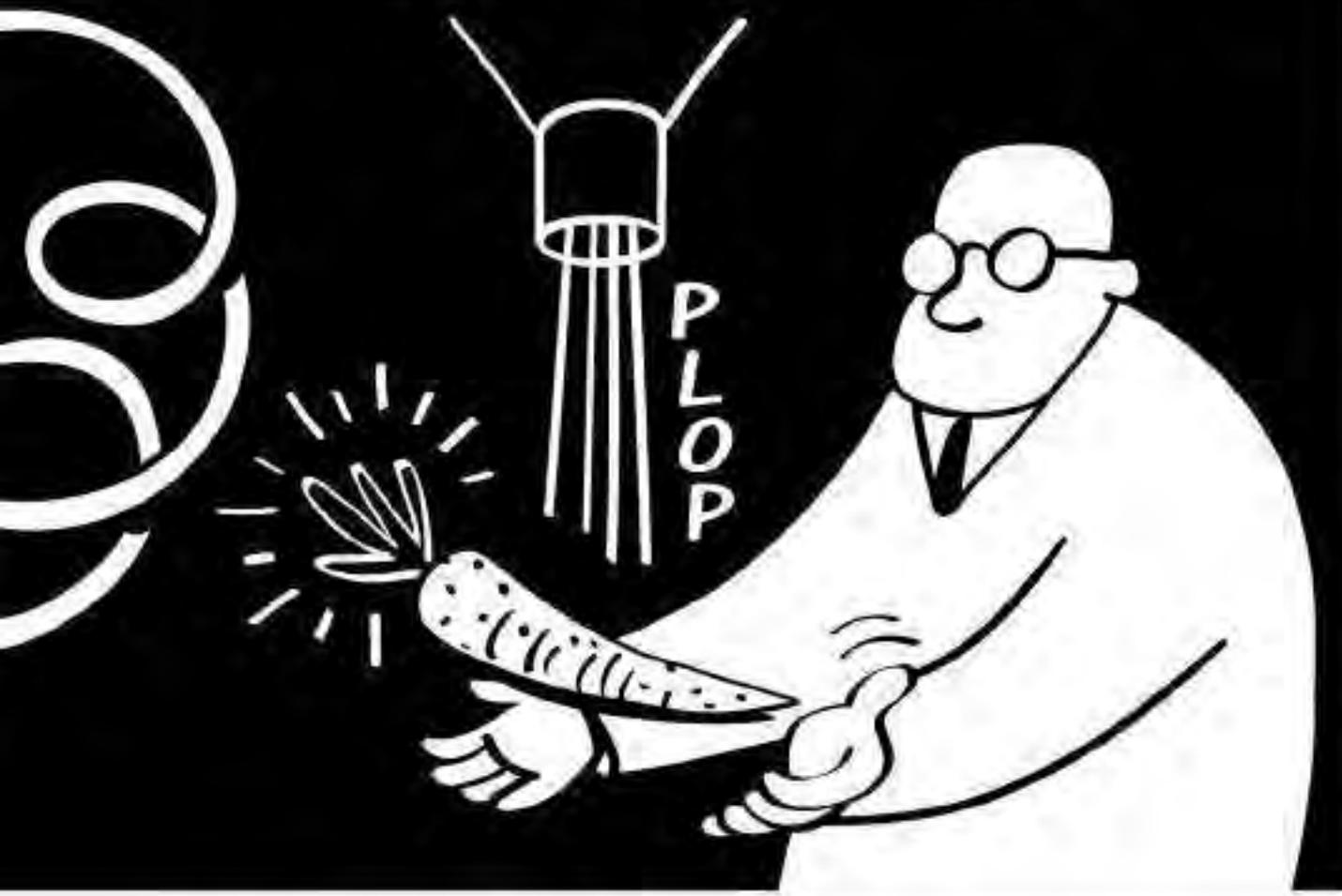
VITAMIN+

SUPPLEMENTS

SUN RADIATION

BIO-FORTIFICATION IS IRONICALLY LARGELY PROMOTED IN COUNTRIES THAT ARE HOME TO A RICH DIVERSITY OF NATURALLY NUTRITIOUS FOOD CROPS.

THE ROOT CAUSES OF MALNUTRITION IN THESE PLACES RARELY HAVE TO DO WITH LACK OF AVAILABILITY OF NUTRITIOUS FOOD, BUT RATHER WITH QUESTIONS OF ACCESSIBILITY.



YOU KNOW, I HARVEST SEEDS,
PUT THEM IN THE GROUND AND...
THEY GROW!



CLIMATE-SMART AGRICULTURE AND NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS
ARE FAVOURITE BUZZWORDS THAT ARE OFTEN USED AS A COVER
FOR WHAT AT FIRST SIGHT LOOKS LIKE SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES
BUT - WHEN LOOKING DEEPER- EXHIBITS THE SAME DESTRUCTIVE
MODE OF PRODUCTION.



THIS SHOULD FIX IT.



CONTROLLED FARMING

GENE EDITING

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

HIGH TECH SOLUTIONS

DIGITAL INNOVATIONS

HIGH-INPUT AGRICULTURE

BIOFORTIFICATION

HIGH TECH SOLUTIONS

NATURE-POSITIVE PRODUCTION

GREEN TECH

THE UN FOOD SYSTEMS SUMMIT IS ONE SUCH SPACE WHERE CORPORATIONS HAVE MANAGED TO SIT IN THE DRIVING SEAT AND SET THE TABLE WITH THEIR SOLUTIONS.

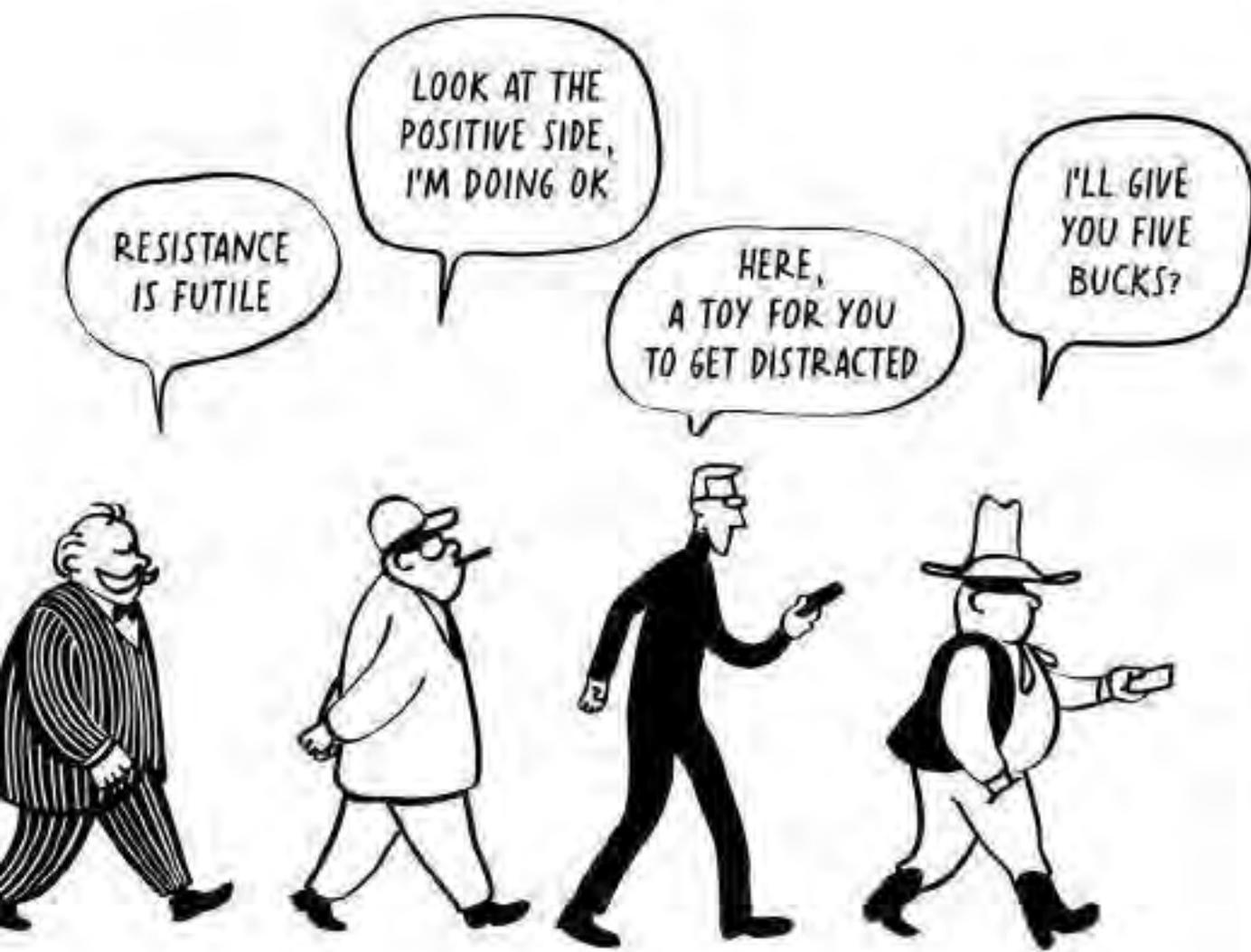


BUT WHAT ABOUT THE LESSONS FROM COVID THAT LOCAL FOOD SYSTEMS ARE MORE RESILIENT?



WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM





HOWEVER, RESISTANCE TO THE CORPORATE FOOD SYSTEM AND THE FAKE SOLUTIONS IT PROPOSES TO THE PROBLEMS IT HAS CAUSED IS GROWING.

THE REAL SOLUTIONS THAT ARE
ALREADY PRACTICED BY
COMMUNITIES AROUND THE WORLD
CAN NO LONGER BE IGNORED!





AGROECOLOGY NOW!

FOOD SOVEREIGNTY NOW!

REDISTRIBUTION OF CARE WORK!

WE TAKE CARE OF MOTHER EARTH, AND SHE TAKES CARE OF US.

PROTECT AND FOSTER TRADITIONAL COLLECTIVE KNOWLEDGE!

REDISTRIBUTION OF LAND, NATURAL RESOURCES IN THE HANDS OF PEOPLE NOT CORPORATIONS.

HUMAN RIGHTS-BASED GOVERNANCE OF FOOD SYSTEMS.

REGULATE MARKETING OF ULTRA-PROCESSED FOOD. WE WANT REAL FOOD!

PEOPLE NOT CORPORATIONS AT THE CENTER!

PROTECT AND FOSTER TERRITORIAL/ LOCAL MARKETS.

HEALTHY SOIL, HEALTHY FOOD, HEALTHY PEOPLE. WE NEED A SHIFT TO AGROECOLOGY!

PEOPLE NOT CORPORATIONS AT THE CENTER!

STOP EXPLOITATIVE AND HARMFUL WORK CONDITIONS, LOW WAGES, AND GENDER INEQUALITIES.

PEASANTS', INDIGENOUS PEOPLES', AND WORKERS' RIGHTS!

DECENT LIVELIHOODS FOR ALL WORKERS ACROSS THE FOOD SYSTEM. STOP EXPLOITATION!

WOMEN'S RIGHTS NOW!

WE KNOW WHAT IS BEST FOR OUR CHILDREN. STOP MANIPULATING OUR CHILDREN!



YOU SAID IT WAS GOING TO BE A SLAM DUNK?



I THINK I'LL JUST GO AROUND THE MOON FOR A WHILE



C'MON WE'RE FAMILY



HANDS OFF OUR LAND!

BAN PESTICIDES AND FERTILIZERS THAT POISON PEOPLE AND PLANET!

WE DON'T WANT CHARITY

STOP LAND GRABBING

STOP VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN!

FOOD SYSTEMS 4 PEOPLE!

PROTECT OUR RIGHT TO FOOD AND NUTRITION!

OUR WORK HAS A PRICE

FOOD SYSTEMS 4 PEOPLE!

HANDS OFF OUR SEEDS!

HANDS OFF OUR WATER!

GENDER EQUALITY NOW!

JOIN US!

JOIN US!

STOP RACIAL DISCRIMINATION!



EVERYONE HAS A ROLE TO PLAY IN STRENGTHENING LOCAL FOOD SYSTEMS, AND SUPPORTING THOSE WHO PRODUCE OUR FOOD. WE CAN DO SO NOT ONLY THROUGH OUR INDIVIDUAL FOOD CHOICES BUT ALSO THROUGH ADVOCACY WITH OUR GOVERNMENTS, INCLUDING LOCAL GOVERNMENTS. WE MUST CALL ON THEM TO PROTECT PUBLIC POLICY SPACES FROM CORPORATE INFLUENCE, TO ENSURE THE MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION OF SMALL-SCALE FOOD PRODUCERS AND OTHER GROUPS MOST AFFECTED BY HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION, AND TO PUT IN PLACE POLICIES AND OTHER MEASURES THAT SUPPORT AND PROTECT LOCAL FOOD SYSTEMS THAT SUSTAIN NATURE, CONTRIBUTE TO PEOPLE'S HEALTH, AND FOSTER SOCIAL JUSTICE.

**JOIN THE PEOPLE'S AUTONOMOUS RESPONSE
TO THE UN FOOD SYSTEMS SUMMIT!**

WWW.FOODSYSTEMS4PEOPLE.ORG/ABOUT-2/

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VISIT FIAN.ORG TO LEARN MORE.

READ ALONGSIDE THE ESCR-NET COMIC SERIES
"THE POWER OF THE 99% TO STOP CORPORATE CAPTURE".

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