Feeding the 9 Billion
Industrial food chain vs peasant food web

Peasants Feed at Least 70% of the World’s Population

- Share of world’s food that comes from hunting/gathering: 12.5%
- Share of world’s food that comes from the industrial food chain: 30%
- Share of urban food produced by city-dwelling peasants: 7.5%
- Share of world’s cultivated food produced by peasants: 50%
Resource use

**Industrial chain uses:**
- more than 80% of fossil fuels and 70% of agricultural water.
- Contributes 47-55% of GHG.
- Destroys 75 billion tons of topsoil annually
- controls the 15% of food that is internationally traded
- 70% of resources to produce 30% of our food

**Peasant web uses:**
- Less than 20% fossil fuels and 30% water
- Controls the 85% of food that stays within national borders
- 30% of resources to produce 70% of food
Genetic resources

**Industrial chain:**
5 commercial species of livestock and has bred 72500 plant species, mostly ornamental

**Peasant web:**
40 domesticated livestock species and bred 1.9 million plant varieties since the 1960’s
Health impacts

At Least Half of the World’s Population is Badly Served by Today’s Food Production Systems*

- 1 billion: People hungry
- 1 billion: People with micronutrient deficiencies
- 1.3 billion: People overweight and obese
- 3.3 billion: Presumed adequately nourished

*Total Population: 6.3 billion

80% of global hunger is rural
Who are the peasant farmers and why are they disappearing?

Globally
- 85% of the 450 million farms have less than 2ha – that’s 382 million farms – 1.5 billion people
- 190 million pastoralists
- 30-35 million small-scale fishers
- 800 million people involved in urban agriculture

Europe
- 10.8 million farms, 75% under 10ha, 3% over 100 ha
- 91.8% family labor
- 4 million farms lost between 2003 and 2013 – that’s 33%
- 2 million between 2010 and 2013

UK
- 215 000 holdings, 45% under 20ha
- 68% family labor
- Lost 33 500 holdings between 2005 and 2015 – 13% loss

Militarisation, resource grabs, unjust trade
Green Revolution and Structural Adjustments

- Opening of markets to global trade
- Suppression of state aid to agriculture and price controls
- Encouragement of monoculture production for export to repay foreign debt
- Adoption of industrial techniques
- Loss of food sovereignty
2008 Food Crisis

- Huge price increases. 181% for wheat
- 40 worst affected countries, all less than 60% self sufficient, saw average food bills rise by 37% between 2006 and 2007 and 56% between 2007 and 2008
- Fuelled by biofuels, fuel prices and food speculation. 40% of land leases concerned crops for biofuels.
- Led to huge land grabs and militarisation
Why protect the peasant model?

• More efficient use of inputs
• Greater productivity per ha
• More employment
• Ecological benefits
Strengthening the Peasant Model

Peasants rights, Agroecology and Food Sovereignty