

**Sustainability, Civil Society and International Governance:
Local, North American and Global Perspectives**
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Session 1: Local and Transboundary Networks and Corporations

Three Recent Developments in the Global Agricultural and Food Movements:

1. Formation in 1992 of the first international organization of peasants and farmers -- the Via Campesina.
2. Unity between European farmers and developing world food producers at the 1999 Seattle trade meetings.
3. Joint campaigns of northern environmentalists and southern peasant farmers is successful in 2000-2001 in blocking the expansion of genetically modified crops and seeds.

Three Proposals to Build Linkages Amongst Agriculture and Food Organizations:

1. Develop common demands that articulate shared analysis and vision, and brand the movement. Initiate joint campaigns, which both express agreement, and broaden the programmatic common ground.
2. Establish organizations and campaigns from below. In the prevailing political climate, the starting point for all successful movements for social change is a firm and vibrant popular base.
3. Build international organizational capacity - communications, networks, campaigns, coalitions, policy think tanks. These are the basic elements of strong international movements.

Three Lessons about Grass Roots Democracy and Political Change:

1. Particularly in a period of political reaction - like the one we are in - the only way to influence the policy framework and effect lasting progressive legislative change is by educating, organizing and mobilizing the majority of society.
2. Build the politics of the 75%. At every stage, our success is based on popular, multi-class support.
3. Building a transnational movement and the institutional framework required to sustain it, must be based on the on the third sector - non-profit organizations with deep roots in the communities they serve.