

# Ag One: Recolonisation of Agriculture



# Ag One:

## Recolonisation of Agriculture

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# Colophon

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First Edition 2020

Published by: Navdanya/ RFSSTE

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New Delhi-110016, India

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# Indian Agriculture

Agriculture in the Indian subcontinent (South Asia) has evolved over centuries on the principles of diversity, the law of return, Rna (duty, debt, obligation, gratitude), self organisation, sovereignty, swaraj and autonomy.

The science, ethics, economy of an agriculture of permanence based on working with nature's diversity has evolved India's ecological civilisation which respects the earth and the soil, sees food (Anna) as the connector and currency of life, recognises farming as the highest vocation and the happiness of the farmer as an indicator of good farming (Anna data Sukhi Bhava).

India emerged as the world's most prosperous economy based on the deep knowledge of biodiversity and agriculture. Our spice trade attracted Columbus (who landed in the Americas looking for India). The East India Company was created to colonise India and extract her wealth. The EIC and British rule exploited Indian peasants, created famines which killed 50 million people. Agriculture in colonies in India and Africa was reduced to becoming supplier of raw materials for the Empire. Farmers were reduced to becoming slaves and indentured labour.

After Independence in 1947 we created policies for land sovereignty of the peasants and food sovereignty of the country. In 1965, Indian agriculture was colonised again for forcing India to use chemicals in farming through the so called Green Revolution, but food security was still the aim and objective.

Source: Shiva, V. (1991). The Violence of the Green Revolution.

In 1991, trade liberalisation policies were introduced. In 1995, WTO rules opened the doors for the corporate take-over of agriculture. Monsanto's GMO Bt Cotton was introduced in 1990's. Corporate entry in Indian agriculture triggered an agrarian crisis and a crisis of food insecurity and has been seen as the recolonization of India.

Source: Shiva, V. (2001). Stolen harvest: The hijacking of the global food supply. Zed Books.

V. Shiva and Andre Leu. 2018. Biodiversity, Agroecology, Regenerative Organic Agriculture. Westville Publishing House.

Bill Gates who became a billionaire through the deregulation of corporate globalisation is now leading the recolonization of Indian and African Agriculture. Bill Gates has taken the failed Green Revolution to Africa as AGRA, the Alliance for the Green Revolution in Africa. He is promoting the failed Golden Rice and banned Bt Brinjal.

He is now planning Ag One to shape the future of Agriculture.



## What is Ag One ?

It is a new initiative announced by the Gates foundation called “The Bill & Melinda Gates Agricultural Innovations LLC”, or “Gates Ag One” in short. Gates Ag One will be a subsidiary of the Gates Foundation and will be led by Joe Cornelius, who is currently a director within the foundation’s Global Growth & Opportunity division. It is being hailed as a new non-profit to “bring scientific breakthroughs to smallholder farmers whose yields are threatened by the effects of climate change”. It will work with the Gates Foundation’s Agricultural Development Team and other partners across sectors to “accelerate the development of innovations” that are “needed to improve crop productivity and help smallholder farmers, the majority of whom are women, adapt to climate change”.

Source: <https://www.devex.com/news/exclusive-gates-foundation-launches-new-agriculture-focused-nonprofit-96384>



Rodger Voorhies, president, Global Growth & Opportunity division, Gates Foundation has been reported to say that Gates Ag One plans to work with partners from the public and private sector to commercialize “resilient, yield-enhancing seeds and traits”. He adds, “We needed to accelerate the access to the kinds of products and services that low-income people and smallholder farmers need.”

Source: <https://www.devex.com/news/exclusive-gates-foundation-launches-new-agriculture-focused-nonprofit-96384>



## What are the aims of Ag One?

The goal of Gates Ag One is claimed to be “to empower smallholder farmers with the affordable, high-quality tools, technologies, and resources they need to lift themselves out of poverty.”



## Where will it work?

In a document released by the Gates foundation itself, it is claimed that Ag One will work in:

- South Asia, with a population of about 1.8 billion.
- Sub-Saharan Africa, home to around 1 billion people.



According to the document, “yields on farms in these regions are already far below what farmers elsewhere in the world achieve, and climate change will make their crops even less productive.”

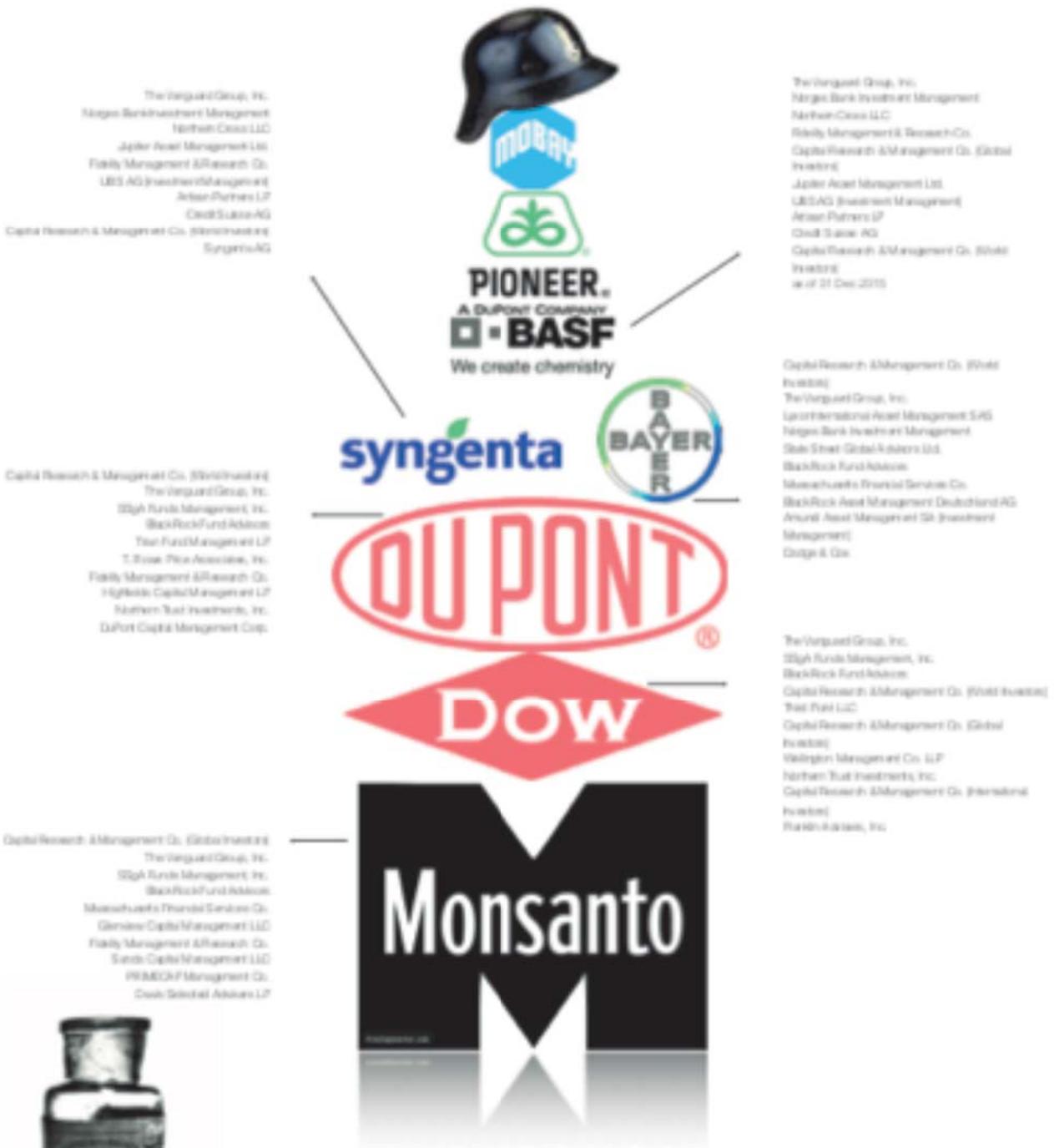
Source: [https://docs.gatesfoundation.org/Documents/GatesAgOne\\_OverviewandFAQ.pdf](https://docs.gatesfoundation.org/Documents/GatesAgOne_OverviewandFAQ.pdf)



# Poison Cartel and Gates foundation

The fact that Ag One will be based in St. Louis, Missouri USA, home of Monsanto and other GMO and pesticide giants, is not a coincidence. Gates and the poison cartel are linked.

## Poison Cartel.Toxic Capital.



# MONOPOLY



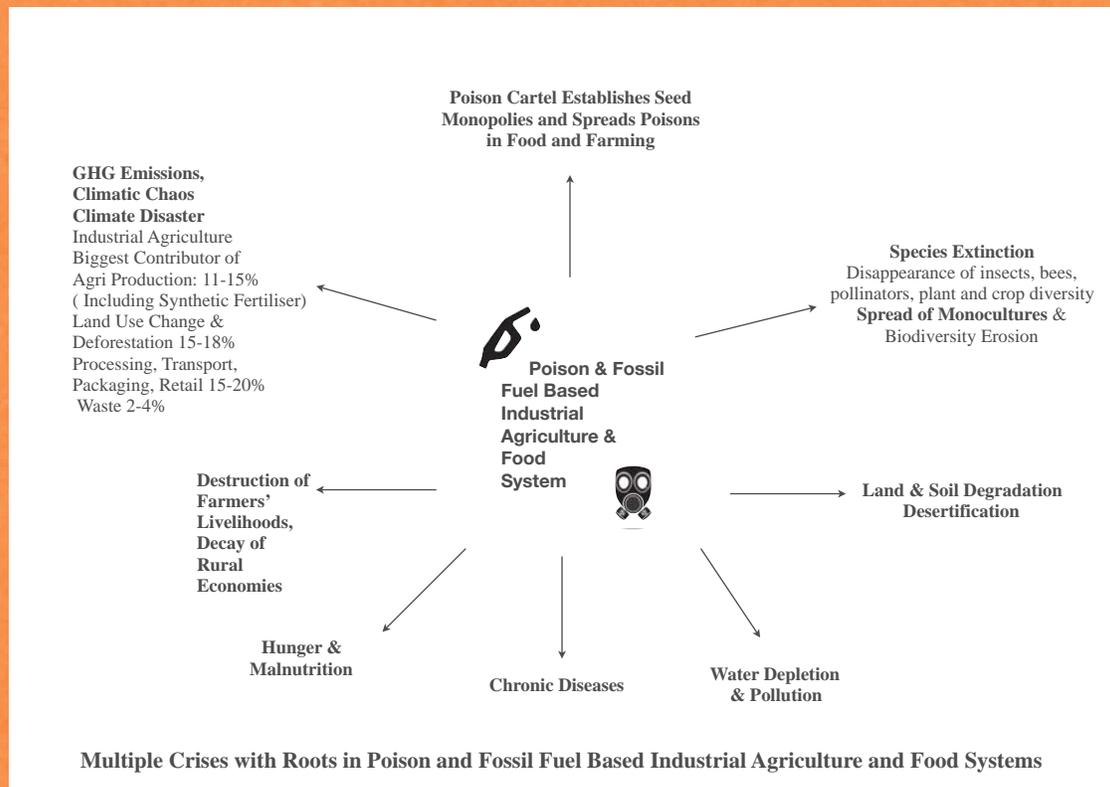
Ag one claims to “empower smallholder farmers” by providing more accessible technology to help them face climate change. This sounds exactly like Bayer who also claims to “empower 100 million smallholder farmers around the world by providing more access to sustainable farming solutions – all by the year 2030.”

Source: <https://www.politico.eu/sponsored-content/farmings-future-belongs-to-all-of-us/>

It is the same narrative.

Same manipulation.

They all create the problems we face today in our food system and then work their PR machinery to hide these problems from the public discourse.



US financial website published the Gates foundation's annual investment portfolio, which showed it had bought 500,000 Monsanto shares worth around \$23m in 2012.

Source: <http://www.ecofriendlyshelters.org/index.php/news-stay-up-to-date/727-why-bill-gates-owns-500-000-shares-of-monsanto>

There have been numerous ventures where Bill and Melinda Gates foundation and Monsanto have invested together. Agbiome and Pivot Bio are a few examples of startups where the two most corrupted and powerful forces have come together with a false narrative of “helping the poverty in South Africa.”

Source: <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/poverty-matters/2010/sep/29/gates-foundation-gm-monsanto>

<https://xconomy.com/san-francisco/2018/10/02/pivot-bio-gets-70m-led-by-bill-gates-fund-to-replace-fertilizer/2/>

<https://agfundernews.com/bill-melinda-gates-foundation-first-agtech-investment-agbiome-011.html>

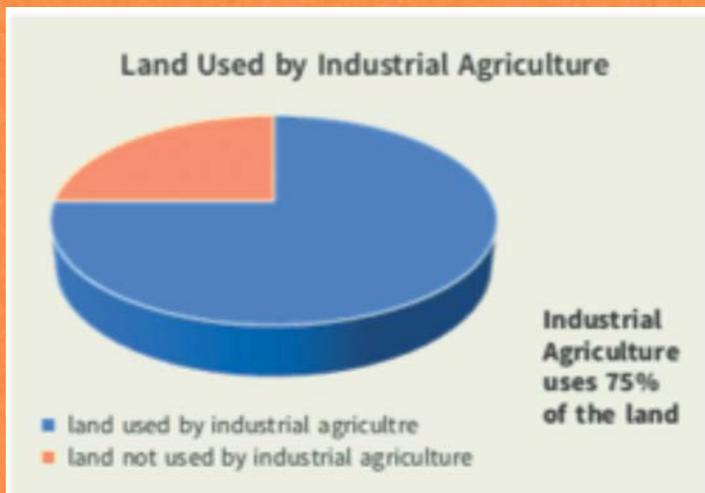
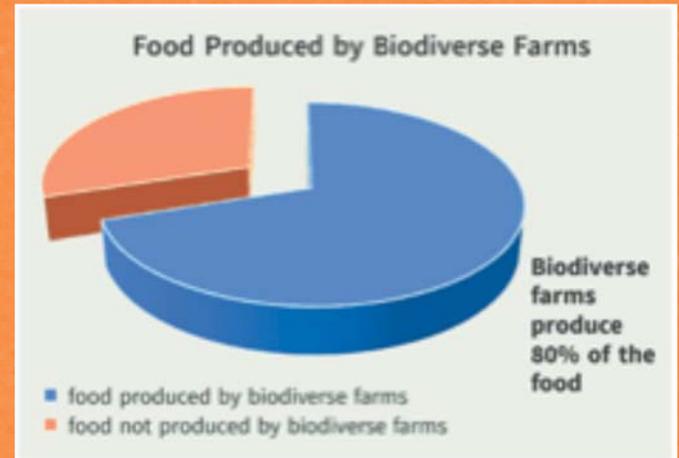
Bill and Melinda Gates foundation has also teamed up with Cargill (part of the Poison Cartel) in a \$10m project to “develop the soya value chain” in Mozambique and elsewhere.

Source: <http://biosafetyafrica.org.za/index.php/20100901330/Soya-Gates-Foundation-Cargill-Paper/menu-id-100025.html>

# Unveiling the Rhetoric of Ag One

Rhetoric 1: “Yields on farms in regions like Sub-Sahara and South Asia are already far below what farmers elsewhere in the world achieve and in the future the crop production will further worsen because of climate change” and so we need Ag One to “accelerate the development of innovations” that are “needed to improve crop productivity”.

Reality : Contrary to the myth that small farmers and their agroecological systems are unproductive, and we should leave the future of our food in the hands of the Poison Cartel, small farmers are providing 80% of global food using just 25% of the resources that go into agriculture.



On the other hand, Gates supported industrial agriculture is using 75% of the land while providing less than 20% of our food.

At this rate, if the share of industrial agriculture and industrial food in our diet is increased to 45%, we will have a dead planet. One with no life and no food.

Rhetoric 2: Ag One will “empower smallholder farmers with the affordable, high-quality tools, technologies, and resources they need to lift themselves out of poverty.”

Reality: Navdanya’s 2011 study found that Biodiversity based organic farming practiced by smallholder farmers created a revenue of Rs. 33,160 per acre for farmers.

In India, the total land for cultivation = 45,22,02,848.

If Biodiversity based organic farming is practiced on all of this land the extra revenue that would be generated = 15% of India’s GDP.

Thus, biodiversity based agroecology can increase farmers’ incomes by more than 10 times.

Rhetoric 3: Smallholder farmers are involved in unsustainable practices like grazing into forests which affects fragile ecosystems and will cause further damage to the environment and exacerbate the effects of climate change.

Reality: The commodity-based fossil fuel intensive and chemical intensive agriculture supported by the Gates foundation has contributed 50% of the greenhouse gas emissions that are causing climate havoc and threatening agriculture, it has caused 75% of the destruction of soils, 75% of the destruction of water resources, and the pollution of our lakes, rivers and oceans; 93% of crop diversity has been pushed to extinction through industrial agriculture. The manufacture of synthetic fertiliser which is integral to the industrial agriculture supported by the Gates foundation is highly energy-intensive. One kg of nitrogen fertiliser requires the energy equivalent of 2 litres of diesel. Energy used during fertiliser manufacture was equivalent to 191 billion litres of diesel in 2000 and is projected to rise to 277 billion in 2030. This is a major contributor to climate change, yet largely ignored.

Source: Shiva, V. (2008). Soil not oil: environmental justice in a time of climate crisis. South End Press.

The Gates foundation is investing millions in a biofuel project which is one of the bigger threats to our biodiversity and fragile ecosystem. Biofuels have been responsible for the clearance of rainforests all around the world, especially in the Amazon in Brazil, and GM soya has been one of the main drivers of the amazon fires. Biofuels contribute massively to climate change. A 2016 study published by an environmental group found that Europe's biofuel regulations created 80 percent more carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions than the conventional oil they replaced. The report estimated that the biofuels create new emissions equivalent to putting an extra 12 million cars on the road.

Source: <https://sunshinehours.net/tag/biofuels/>

The projects funded by the Gates Foundation propagate crop plantations and support the clearing of native vegetation which releases carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases. Through the propagation of these crop plantations, about 140,000 square kilometers of Cerrado were lost from 2006-2017, releasing 210 million tons of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions (CO<sub>2</sub>).

Source: <https://news.mongabay.com/2019/04/brazil-soy-trade-linked-to-widespread-deforestation-carbon-emissions/>

Since synthetic fertilisers are fossil fuel based, they contribute to the disruption of the carbon cycle. But they also disrupt the nitrogen cycle. And they disrupt the hydrological cycle, both because chemical agriculture needs ten times more water to produce the same amount of food than agroecological farming, and because it pollutes the water in rivers and oceans. Synthetic fertilisers have contributed to the death and desertification of soils, climate change, and dead zones in the oceans.

It is this that causes the disruption of our fragile ecosystems.

by framing the narrative in a way that pins the responsibility of climate change on “smallholder farmers who are involved in unsustainable practices” the Gates foundation evades responsibility for the destruction it has been instrumental in causing.

We cannot address climate change, and its very real consequences, without recognising the central role of the industrial and globalised food system, actively supported by the Gates Foundation. The globalised food system contributes more than 40% to greenhouse gas emissions through deforestation, animals in concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs), plastics and aluminium packaging, long distance transport and food waste.

We cannot solve climate change without small scale, ecological agriculture, based on biodiversity – living seeds, living soils, living and local food systems.



Rhetoric 4: “we believe that everyone has the right to live a healthy, productive life. But many of the world’s poorest people—those who make their living through agriculture—will not have that opportunity unless they can access the innovations needed to adapt to the challenges caused by climate change” and we will “help smallholder farmers, the majority of whom are women, adapt to climate change”.

Reality: They make it sound like farmers cannot live a healthy and productive life without technology from the billionaires and the Poison Cartel aimed at making more profits. They also make it sound like the only way to face climate change is with the help of their “innovations”. The technology and innovations that they talk about only aggravate climate change. They are the root of the problem. The tools of colonization cannot be tools of liberation for the Earth, for farmers, for eaters.

Technology is just a tool which we adapt to human needs and human freedom. When humans are coercively adapted to a corporate tool designed to control nature and society it becomes a tool of slavery. Since technologies are tools, they are chosen.

The Failure of the Green Revolution seeds and the GMO Bt cotton seeds is a failure of the Corporate driven technologies for making superprofits through selling poisons and non renewable seeds, and the technological approach of control and ownership .

With the ecological emergency, climate emergency and the food emergency, the technologies that are needed are participatory and evolutionary, breeding for climate resilience, for increasing nutrition, and making agriculture poison free.

The Poison Cartel uses three main constructions and technological myths to colonise our food and farming systems.

**1** Corporations turn a blind eye to farmers' innovations and the knowledge and tools farmers have evolved over millennia to breed seeds, renew soil fertility, manage pests and weeds ecologically and produce good food.

**2** They elevate corporate tools to a new religion and new civilizing mission which has to be imposed to civilize the ecological, independent, knowledge sovereign farmers who are seen as the new barbarians. A new technological fundamentalism makes corporate tools a measure and indicator of human progress, immune to social and democratic assessments. Farmers have a fundamental democratic right to compare their agroecological tools with what the Poison Cartel has to offer and with full knowledge and information make a democratic choice. Through this elevation of technological means to human ends, the corporate agenda is made the human agenda, imposition is defined as "inclusion" and "democratization".

**3** Corporations endow their tools with inevitability and rob societies of thinking of options and alternatives. However, there is no inevitability in the tools humanity uses. Chemicals and the Green Revolution were not inevitable. They were imposed through conditionalities. GMOs are not inevitable and are failing as tools of pest control and weed control, leading instead to emergence of superpests and superweeds. There is multiple and diverse intelligence in nature and society. Artificial Intelligence or machine learning is not inevitable. It is being imposed through forced digitalization, making us forget the intelligence in nature and her diverse living beings, the intelligence in the soil food web, the ecological intelligence of farmers and women, the intelligence of the microbes in our gut and the enteric nervous system: our second brain.

When society develops and chooses technologies democratically the questions we ask are:

What does the technology do? What is the tool for? Who controls the tools?

Do we have technological alternatives to address the same problem?

Do we need them for improving human wellbeing and the wellbeing of all species?

What are the ecological impacts of the tools on life on earth and human health?

What are the social impacts of the tools?

If these questions had been asked of synthetic chemical fertilisers, pesticides and weedicides we would not have allowed them in our agriculture since they fail to improve soil fertility, control pests or weeds. Instead they have led to desertification of soils, creation of superpests and superweeds. On the other hand, as Navdanya's work over the last 3 decades has shown, ecological technologies regenerate the soil and manage pests and weeds through biodiversity intensification.

# Corporate patriarchy and the masculinist view of time: “In agriculture, time is your biggest enemy.”

This statement was made by Rodger Voorhies, president, Global Growth & Opportunity division, Gates Foundation when he was explaining Ag One. Ag One has been reported to be created because of how impatient Gates is getting with the speed of existing institutes and initiatives.

According to Rodger Voorhies, “Research and development takes years to get from the lab to the field, and while the Agricultural Development team funds the development of new tools and technologies designed to meet the needs of smallholder farmers, there were delays in translating these discoveries to affordable products”. He added, “we didn’t think that research was flowing down to the crops that matter most to smallholder farmers in a timeframe that could reach them.”

Source: <https://www.devex.com/news/exclusive-gates-foundation-launches-new-agriculture-focused-nonprofit-96384>



## Time is not our enemy, but our friend

The English word “agriculture” comes from a combination of the latin words agrum (form of “ager”, meaning “field, farm, land, estate”) and cultura (“care”, “growing”, “cultivation”).



Care needs time.

For farmers, time is everything. Time is a companion. Time is a friend, not the biggest enemy. Working with the cycles of nature and seasons is working with time: when to work the soil, when to plant, when to weed, when to harvest.

How can there be care without time and patience?



How can we care for the land without honouring the cycles of nature?

Also, time is not linear. It’s a circle. It’s a cycle of life. And this cycle needs time to complete. Life needs time to be shaped and take its form.

Friendship with time is what nourishes life.

Making an an enemy out of time is what destroys life.



Working with time leads to responsibility.

Working against time leads to recklessness.

This is why Ag One is the ultimate disaster. It is just another way of pushing the Gates agenda for agribusiness. Industrial Agriculture has treated time and care as an obstacle. It has promoted technologies of carelessness through claiming that they were "saving time". Instead of letting crops ripen with time, Roundup has been promoted as a desiccant for instant drying. More and Bigger machines based on fossil fuels have been introduced to speed up farm operations, destroying biodiversity, farm livelihoods and economies of care.



Ag One is the latest attempt at colonisation of Agriculture, declaring diversity across space and time itself as an enemy.



Space-time are the ontological foundations of life, its self-organisation and its variation and evolution.



AgOne is an assault on life itself.



Space -Time (Desh- Kal) is life in its diversity and evolution.



First insects were made an enemy, and we have Insectagaddon .

Now time is being made an enemy, threatening to accelerate the race to extinction and ecological collapse .



By saying that "In agriculture, time is your biggest enemy", they have negated the intelligence of nature evolved over billions of years and indigenous knowledge and intelligence of farmers evolved over thousands of years.



Ag One is based on epistemic racism and arrogance. It assumes farmers have no knowledge and nature has no intelligence.



It is turning a blind eye to the new movements such as "slow food", "slow fashion", "slow clothing" and "slow money" that are growing in response to the destructive economies of "fast food", "fast fashion", "fast clothing" and "fast money" (FinTech).





“Slow” is nature’s way

“Slow” is life’s way



### Slow Food

In response to the epidemic of “fast food” which thrived on the disease ridden, globalised industrial and chemical food system, there emerged the Slow Food movement. Founded by Carlo Petrini in Italy in 1986, Slow Food linked pleasure and food with awareness and responsibility. It defended biodiversity in our food supply by opposing the standardisation of taste and called for the protection of our cultural identities tied to food. It essentially revolves around slowing down in life and taking the time to prepare and eat whole, locally-sourced foods.

### Slow Fashion

In reaction to fast fashion, which intensified the exploitations of our environment and our labour with its sweat shops, the slow fashion movement was created to emphasise on sustainability instead of senseless consumerism which had become central in the society. It advocated for more local, ethical and environmentally conscious consumption. Slow fashion revolves around quality manufacturing to lengthen the life of the garment. Developing a garment with a cultural and emotional connection and wearing it with an equal sense of care and connection is crucial to the movement which saw how disconnected people had become in their consumerist frenzies.

### Slow Money

As a response to Fast Money which brought the whole financial world to collapse with its high investments and high interest rates, we have the Slow Money movement which talks about bringing “money back down to earth.” Slow Money is dedicated to connecting investors to their local economies by channeling financial resources to invest in small food enterprises and local food systems. This strengthens the local communities instead of multinational corporations. Instead of venture capital bankrolling far flung high tech start-ups, the movement talks about “nurture capital” which funds local merchants and producers who would put half of their profits back into their communities.



Making time as an enemy is making enemy of the society and planet.



# Ag One: The new Agricultural Imperialism

There is a total lack of clarity about what the project Ag One is. However, if we synthesise other initiatives of the Gates Foundation and put together the pieces of the jigsaw puzzle, the agenda of Ag One starts to emerge clearly.

Ag One is an expression of the Gates philosophy of him as a billionaire being the only one who has knowledge about agriculture and the only one who has the power to determine the lives of billions of farmers who produce our food and the 7.8 billion who have a right to eat and the right to choose what they eat, choose how it was grown and choose who grew it.

Ag One builds on other initiatives Gates has announced such as “One Agriculture One Science”.

Source: Shiva, V and Shiva, K. 2018. Oneness Vs The 1%: Shattering Illusions, Seeding Freedom.

“One Agriculture One Science” essentially means “one research and one knowledge”.

In a world of diversity, claiming to be the “One” is a design for Imperialism. It is a design for epistemic colonisation. It is a denial of the richness of agroecological knowledges and practices that are resurging around the world. It is the ultimate monoculture of the mind which has already devastated agriculture around the world through the extinction of species and the extinction of knowledges and cultures.

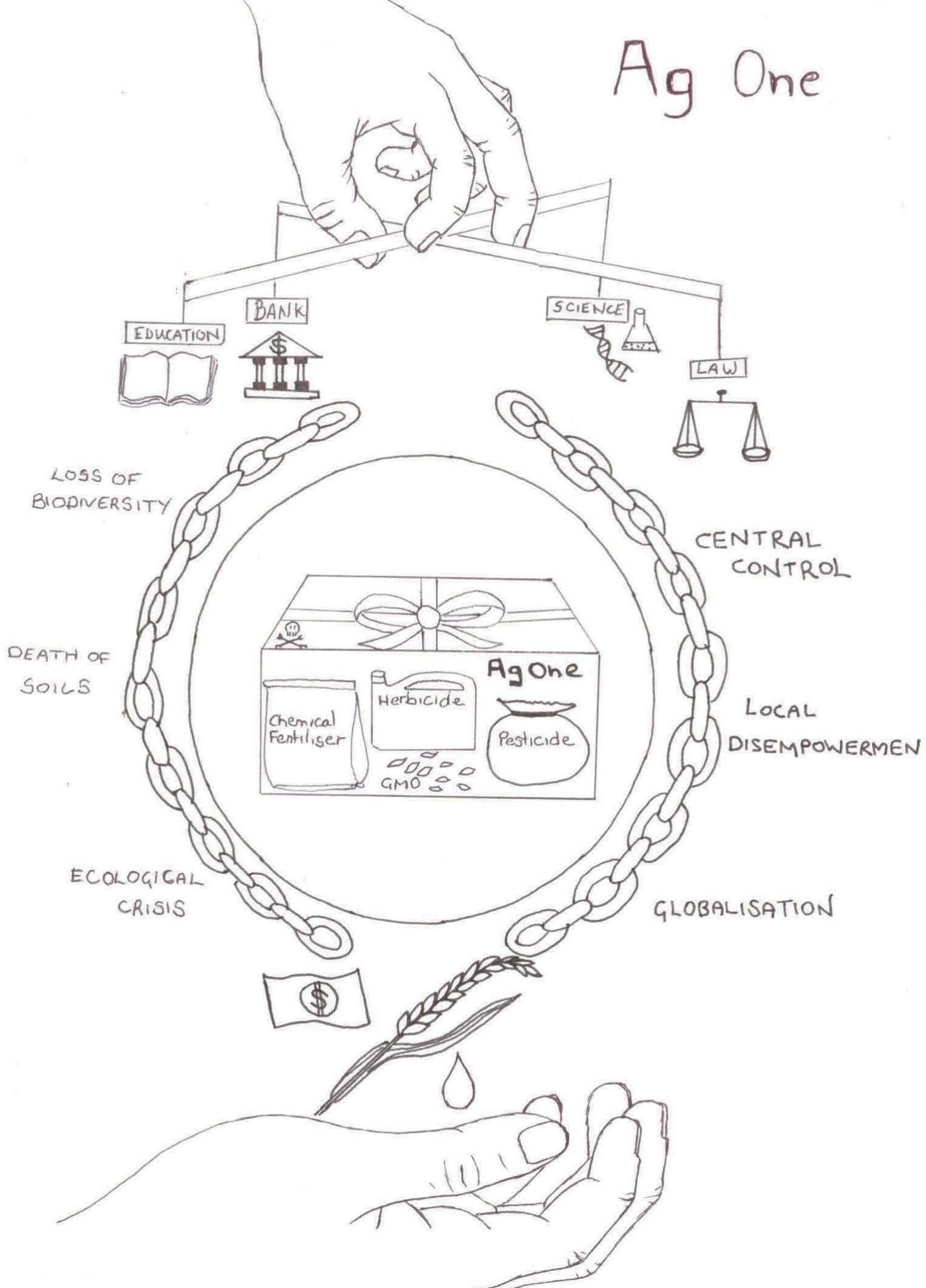
It is a recipe for impoverishing and enslaving Asia and Africa, intellectually and economically. “One agriculture, One science” is a call against diversity. It will further erode the ecological foundations of agriculture, leaving the world's food systems at the mercy of billionaires and big corporations.

It is also a recipe for undermining the seed sovereignty and food sovereignty of small farmers and agrarian economies.

While farmers have bred hundreds of thousands of varieties, of thousands of species, the Green Revolution has reduced the agriculture and food base to a handful of globally traded commodities. Genetic Engineering has further narrowed the commercially planted crops to four - Corn, Soya, Cotton, Canola and 2 traits - Bt and HT (herbicide tolerant). Indian farmers evolved 200,000 kinds of rice, they evolved thousands of varieties of wheats, pulses and oilseeds. They evolved thousands of varieties of Brinjal and Banana and Mangoes.

The One Mega Monoculture of One Agriculture, based on One Flawed Science, has no place for the diverse knowledges of our diverse cultures. It is top down, driven by “experts” who have no knowledge of diversity, and no respect for the knowledge of farmers: the very foundation of the Science of Agroecology.

# Ag One



# Ag One: An Agenda for Pirating the World's Seeds, Undermining International Laws and Sowing the Seeds of Surveillance

Ag One will include Digitalisation of Agriculture including digitalising of life and mining data from the farmers to sell it back to them as a new commodity: Big Data.

Mr. Gates as Mr. Microsoft has made his billions through patents in the digital world. He sees his future billions coming from the convergence of agriculture and information technologies, digitalisation of every aspect of our daily lives especially our agriculture and health. The Gates digital empire in agriculture includes control over the world's genetic resources by controlling the CGIAR system which holds the world's seed supply, digital genomic mapping of seeds and our genetic diversity, undermining laws and treaties that prevent biopiracy, pushing new GMOs based on CRISPR/ gene editing and deregulating our biosafety laws as well as data mining from farmers to build their digital slavery through surveillance technologies.

## Takeover of the CGIAR system

The consultative group on International agricultural research (CGIAR) formed in 1971, is a consortium of 15 international agricultural research centers. By 2011, the Gates Foundation was among the top CGIAR funders and has given more than US\$700 million to the CG's Trust.

Because it holds a lot of the farmers' seed heritage in its seed banks, taking over of the CGIAR is also a taking over of our seeds.

Dr. R.H. Richharia, India's pre-eminent rice research scientist, headed the Central Rice Research Institute (CRRRI) at Cuttack, Orissa. The Indian institute existed before International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), and had the largest collection of rice diversity the biggest rice "bank" in the world. Dr Richharia refused to allow IRRI in the Philippines to pirate the collection. The World Bank removed Dr Richharia, the guardian of Indian rice knowledge, from CRRRI so that it could transfer Indian peasant intellectual property to the international institute, which later became part of the Consultative Group of International Agriculture Research.

As the recently released ETC report states, a new System Reference Group (SRG) struck in 2018 has delivered its recommendations in July 2019 calling for the formal consolidation of the 15 Centers of the (CGIAR) into one. The meeting of the 15 Center Chairs was convened at Bioversity International (BI) headquarters outside Rome in December 2019 to discuss the “mega- merger”. The consolidation would involve one international board which would be responsible for all 15 Centers.

source: ETC group. (2020). The Next Agribusiness Takeover: Multilateral Food Agencies.

The dangers seem imminent when one looks deeper and sees that the SRG is co-chaired by Tony Cavalieri, Senior Program Officer of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and Marco Ferroni, Chair of the System Management Board and recently retired as head of the Syngenta Foundation. The unification is being pushed by Gates and Syngenta Foundations, USAID, UK, Canada, Australia and Germany.

Unification will mean an even stronger blurring of lines between the private and public sectors. Private agendas of making profits will be clothed as the public agenda.

The unification will have huge implications on the eleven CGIAR gene banks. The legal status of these banks would change if the agreements between the host country and the centers change and this could mean the banks would be governed by another framework which would also be shaped by the agenda of the Gates foundation.

source: ETC group. (2020). The Next Agribusiness Takeover: Multilateral Food Agencies.

## Biopiracy by another name: the Sub1 gene

The Ag One agenda will include Biopiracy such as the false claim that the flood tolerant rice of India are an “invention” of the Gates Foundation.

One such initiative of Gates foundation already exists and is called the Sub1 gene. They see Submergence tolerant rice as an agricultural research frontier for “more productivity and less risk”. And once again they claim to have “invented” stress tolerant rice. The foundation made one of its first big investments in Stress Tolerant Rice for Africa and South Asia, or STRASA in 2007 with an aim of “delivering improved varieties of rice tolerant to stresses including drought, salinity, iron toxicity, cold, and submergence to 18 million farmers on the two continents over next 10 years”. The Gates Foundation initially funded the STRASA project with \$40 million and in 2014 the foundation issued a third grant of \$32.7 million through 2017.

Source: <https://www.devex.com/news/why-the-gates-foundation-is-flooding-a-new-rice-variety-with-funding-88095>

STRASA is coordinated by the International Rice Research Institute in partnership with the Africa Rice Center. Both of these are members of the CGIAR consortium. Furthermore, inside the Gates foundation, the project is handled by Rob Horsch, who leads the agricultural research and development team and who was formerly the leader of international development partnerships at Monsanto. Gates and the Poison Cartel are one.

Gates has pushed the Sub1 gene to be adopted in South east Asia and Sub Sahara Africa by investing more than \$60 million dollars and pushing the modified gene varieties to fulfil his agenda.

Source: <https://www.devex.com/news/why-the-gates-foundation-is-flooding-a-new-rice-variety-with-funding-88095>

## The rich agroecological knowledge of our Indian farmers

**SOME OF THE FLOOD TOLERANT RICE VARIETIES**

		
NALIDHULIA-150 days	RABANA-150 days	SEULAPUNI-150 days
		
DHOSARAKHUDA-150 days	BENASALI-155 days	DHALAKHUDA-150 days
		
MUSAKANI-155 days	GUDAMATHIA-155 days	

In the picture here, there are 8 flood tolerant rice varieties from Orissa, India, evolved by the farmers with care and knowledge about their land.

Our farmers have evolved rices that would survive droughts and floods and cyclones, they evolved climate-resilient rices. They are not “inventions” of the Poison Cartel. They have been bred and nourished over hundreds of years, with the cycles of nature and time, shaped by the rich and sophisticated agroecological knowledge of the farmers.

In last 20 years, Navdanya has conserved 54 flood tolerant varieties in Odisha. Of these 8 varieties are extremely water tolerant. These varieties are being conserved and multiplied at Navdanya's biodiversity conservation farm and Seed Bank in Odisha.



# The Gates Agenda: Subverting our International Treaties and Biodiversity



## Undermining the Protection of Biodiversity

### Convention on Biological Diversity

In 1992, the international community adopted this convention at Rio De Janeiro at the Earth Summit.

The objectives of the convention were:

- Conserving biological diversity
- Sustainable use of resources
- Fair and equitable sharing of benefits that arise out of commercial use



Under CBD, there are multiple protocols created. One of them is the Nagoya protocol on access and benefit sharing, 2010.

The objective was to establish a legally binding framework for the implementation of the concept of access and benefit sharing as birthed in the convention on biological diversity. The protocol creates duties and obligations on the parties engaging with indigenous communities for the use of genetic resources and knowledge.

### Nagoya Protocol



# International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources Treaty for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA)

Also known as the International Seed Treaty, the objective is: conservation and sustainable use of all plant genetic resources for food and agriculture and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of their use, in harmony with the Convention on Biological Diversity, for sustainable agriculture and food security.

## Digital Mapping: Subverting these Regulations on Access to Biodiversity

These international frameworks made to protect our biodiversity are being completely subverted through digital mapping of the genome. Biopiracy is being carried out through the convergence of information technology and biotechnology by taking patents through “mapping” genomes and genome sequences. While living seed needs to evolve “in situ”, patents on genomes can be taken through access to seed “ex situ”. This undermines farmers’ rights as you don’t need the permission from the farmers anymore once the genome has been digitally mapped.

## New GMOs: CRISPR and Gene Editing

Gates has been pushing for it several years now, with a huge investment of \$120 Million dollars (along with his capitalist friends). Gates used to fund others to get this done, but impatient with lack of progress, he now wants to do it himself.

Source : <https://www.cd-genomics.com/blog/120-million-investment-for-crispr-technology-from-bill-gates-and-other-13-investors/>

Gene editing is a failed technology.

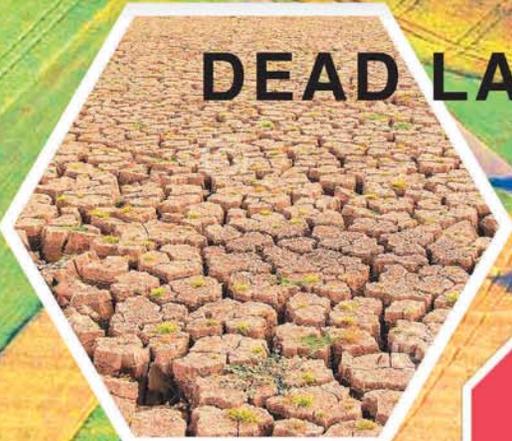
Gene editing has been proven to be a failure because of how inexact and unpredictable it is. It was found that CRISPR introduced more than 1,500 single-nucleotide unintended mutations, more than 100 larger deletions and insertions into the genome of mice.

Source: Shiva, V and Shiva, K. 2018. The Future of our daily bread: Regeneration or Collapse. Navdanya International / Research foundation for science, technology and ecology.





## DEAD LAND



## CRISPR



## GENE DRIVE ORGANISMS

First they said chemicals will feed us. Then they said GMOs will feed us. The people and planet were left poisoned. Now we are being told, 'Big Data' will feed us.

# The Gates Agenda: Undermining our Biosafety

## Laws

### The Cartagena Protocol

Biosafety is the multi-disciplinary assessment of the impact of genetic engineering on the environment, on public health and on socio-economic conditions. At the international level, biosafety is international law enshrined in the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. It is a legally binding protocol to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). It is an international agreement that addresses the safe handling, transport and use of living modified organisms (LMOs) resulting from modern biotechnology. The Protocol covers the “transboundary movement, transit, handling and use of all living modified organisms that may have adverse effects on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, taking into account risks to human health”.

### Article 1

States that it aims to “contribute to ensuring an adequate level of protection in the field of the safe transfer, handling and use of living modified organisms resulting from modern biotechnology that may have adverse effects on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, taking also into account risks to human health, and specifically focusing on transboundary movements”.

#### Risk Assessment

The Protocol requires that decisions on proposed imports be based on risk assessments. Risk assessments must be undertaken in a scientific manner based on recognized risk assessment techniques, taking into account advice and guidelines developed by relevant international organizations. Risk assessments take time.

Indian Biosafety Law Rules for the Manufacture, Use, Import, Export and Storage of hazardous Microorganisms Genetically Engineered Organisms or Cells, 1989

GMOs are regulated in India by these rules framed under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. Rule 7(1) forbids imports without approval of GEAC. It states that:

“No person shall import, export, transport, manufacture, process, use or sell any hazardous microorganisms of genetically engineered organisms/substances or cells except with the approval of the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee.”

This approval has been historically bypassed by the poison cartel in India, in its attempt to completely negate all biosafety regulations.



# Making Time an Enemy: A Push for Deregulation

Ag One includes the agenda of Deregulation of Biosafety. As the initiative announcement states, its objective is to “get the products from the labs into the fields, faster and more massive than before”. The objective seems to be to identify ‘promising’ scientific discoveries and get those as quickly as possible to the point of commercialisation with little testing, assessment and regulation.

In framing time as an enemy what it is essentially doing is pushing for deregulation. When there are hazards, precaution and safety need to be looked into. By pushing for deregulation, one is saying that they don’t care about what happens to the health and safety of the people and the planet. Their profits and agendas reign over everything else.

Wherever there is deregulation we can see Gates and his initiatives at work, not only in Africa and Asia but everywhere else too, in USA and Europe. One such example is of CRISPR and gene editing where they tried to bypass regulation all together by claiming that gene editing is a non-GMO technology and is different from transgenic.

But the ECJ (European Court of Justice) decision recognised and affirmed that gene editing is genetic modification. On 25th July 2018, ECJ ruled that CRISPR is a gene modification technology and needs to be regulated like all GMOs.

It stated:

“In today’s judgment, the Court of Justice takes the view, first of all, that organisms obtained by mutagenesis are GMOs within the meaning of the GMO Directive, in so far as the techniques and methods of mutagenesis alter the genetic material of an organism in a way that does not occur naturally. It follows that those organisms come, in principle, within the scope of the GMO Directive and are subject to the obligations laid down by that directive”.

Source: <https://curia.europa.eu/jcms/upload/docs/application/pdf/2018-07/cpi18011en.pdf>



# Data Mining from farmers through Digital Green

Digital Green, an initiative of the Gates Foundation is described as “a global development organization that empowers smallholder farmers to lift themselves out of poverty by harnessing the collective power of technology and grassroots-level partnerships.” It is an NGO that focuses on “training farmers to make and show short videos where they record their problems and share solutions”. It was first conceived as a project in Microsoft Research India's Technology for Emerging Markets. It has received a funding of \$1.3 million dollars (9 crores) from the Walmart foundation. South Asia Food and Nutrition Security Initiative (SAFANSI), a project of the NGO is funded by the World Bank. It received Rs 3 crore Global Impact Award from Google in 2013. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has funded more than \$10 million into this initiative.

source: <https://www.digitalgreen.org/about-us/>

## CropIn: Surveillance Capitalism enters Indian agriculture



CropIn Technology Pvt. Ltd. a Bengaluru-based company has raised \$12 million in funding from the Poison Cartel, Gates Foundation, Venture Capital Firms and Agtech companies like Chiratae Ventures, Strategic Investment Fund, Seeders Ventures Fund, Syngenta, Bayer and BASF. The company claims that it would utilise the funding to use its technology and machine-learning platform to control over 10 million acres of land and invade the lives of seven million farmers in India and globally. In India, CropIn has announced its presence in 70% of the states.

It is claimed that CropIn has been founded by Krishna Kumar, Kunal Prasad and Chittaranjan Jena. But it is the money of the Poison Cartel and billionaires that actually founded it. The technologies being promoted are those of the Poison Cartel. The start-up claims to be building an “agri-information dataset” to detect patterns and “predict the future” of a variety of crops.

In India, CropIn has a tie-up with the Department of Agriculture (DOA), Government of Karnataka, Department of Horticulture (DOH), Andhra Pradesh, Bihar State Government, the department of agriculture and welfare, Government of Punjab and is part of the Jeevika project that uses “smart technologies” for climate resilient agriculture.

Additionally, the World Bank has chosen CropIn as the technology partner in the public-private partnership project of the Government of India and World Bank.

Source: Shiva, V et al. (2019). Seeds of sustenance and freedom v. Seeds of suicide and surveillance. RFSTE.

# Violation of Rights of Farmers to Data Privacy

Digital farming and surveillance over the farmers, their lands, their crops is creating “data” for the poison cartel and Gates foundation which is being collected through the use of robotics and digital technologies, artificial intelligence, and devices connected to the internet (“internet of things”). Big data, data analytics and machine learning are being incorporated into agriculture through electronic tracing systems, electronic weather data, smartphone mapping and other remote sensing applications. “Precision agriculture” is essentially a “data generating agriculture” as it is based on observing and measuring crops, environment variables with sensors and satellites.

This “data” from the farms and farmers is being collected without their knowledge or prior consent. This “data” is closely connected to farmers’ personal information like the location of the farms etc. The act of taking this “data” by the Poison Cartel and the Gates Foundation is violative of the international and national regime we have in place on data privacy and data protection.

## International Laws



### Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Article 12 states that “No one shall be subjected to arbitrary interference with his privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to attacks upon his honour and reputation. Everyone has the right to the protection of the law against such interference or attacks.”

### International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

Article 17 of the Covenant (to date ratified by 167 States), provides that no one shall be subjected to arbitrary or unlawful interference with his or her privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to unlawful attacks on his or her honour and reputation. It further states that “Everyone has the right to the protection of the law against such interference or attacks.”



### European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms

Article 8 of the convention affirms the same right to privacy in a similar language.

### European Union’s General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

GDPR is now the strongest data protection regime in the world. It defines personal data as “any information that relates to an identified or identifiable living individual. Different pieces of information, which collected together can lead to the identification of a particular person, also constitute personal data.”



# National Laws of India



On August 24, 2017, a Constitutional Bench of nine judges of the Supreme Court of India in Justice K.S.Puttaswamy (Retd.) v. Union of India upheld that privacy is a fundamental right, which is entrenched in Article 21 of the Constitution.

Presently the Information Technology Act, 2000 contains specific provisions intended to protect electronic data, including non-electronic records or information that have been, are currently or are intended to be processed electronically.



India's IT Ministry adopted the Information Technology (Reasonable Security Practices and Procedures and Sensitive Personal Data or Information) Rules (Privacy Rules) in 2011 which require corporate entities collecting, processing and storing personal information to comply with certain procedures involving prior consent of the person whose information is being collected. Personal information has been defined under the IT Rules as "any information that relates to a natural person, which either directly or indirectly, in combination with other information available or likely to be available with a body corporate, is capable of identifying such person". Rule 4 states that the body corporate must obtain prior consent from the "provider of information" regarding "purpose, means and modes of use of the information". The body corporate is required to "take such steps as are, in the circumstances, reasonable" to ensure that the individual from whom data is collected is aware of :



- the fact that the information is being collected; and
  - the purpose for which the information is being collected; and
  - the intended recipients of the information; and
  - the name and address of :
  - the agency that is collecting the information; and
  - the agency that will hold the information.
- 

None of these rules and laws are being respected when it comes to our farmers. The Poison Cartel and Gates Foundation are "extracting data" out of the lives of these farmers through their surveillance technologies.



Farmers are subjects and citizens of this country. They have equal rights under these international and national laws. They have the right to their privacy. They have the right to having their consent taken as autonomous beings. They are not objects to be conquered by the profit making machinery of the colonialist Poison Cartel and the Gates Foundation.





# Hijacking our Public Institutions: Gates is stealing the UN and its Food Summit

In a recent announcement, Agnes Kalibata has been nominated as the Special Envoy of the United Nations Secretary-General to the 2021 United Nations Food Summit. She is the President of the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA). AGRA was founded through a partnership between the Rockefeller Foundation and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

AGRA is an entity that appropriates the language of the environmental and frames its work as supporting small scale farmers whereas the reality is that it promote the strategies of the poison cartel, Big Ag and the promoters of genetic engineering. It poses as a supporter of small-scale farmers working with nature while in reality, it is working with the very systems that fight nature and assault our local ecosystems.

The nomination of the president of AGRA to be the special envoy of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to the United Nations Food Summit is dangerous.

It implies that the agenda of small scale farmers and agroecology in the UN has been hijacked by Gates and the Poison Cartel.

source: <https://leadership.ng/2020/02/07/agra-is-not-the-face-of-agriculture/>



# Ag 10,000 not Ag One:

## Building on Thousands of Years of Evolution of Thousands of Diverse Agroecological Knowledges and Cultures

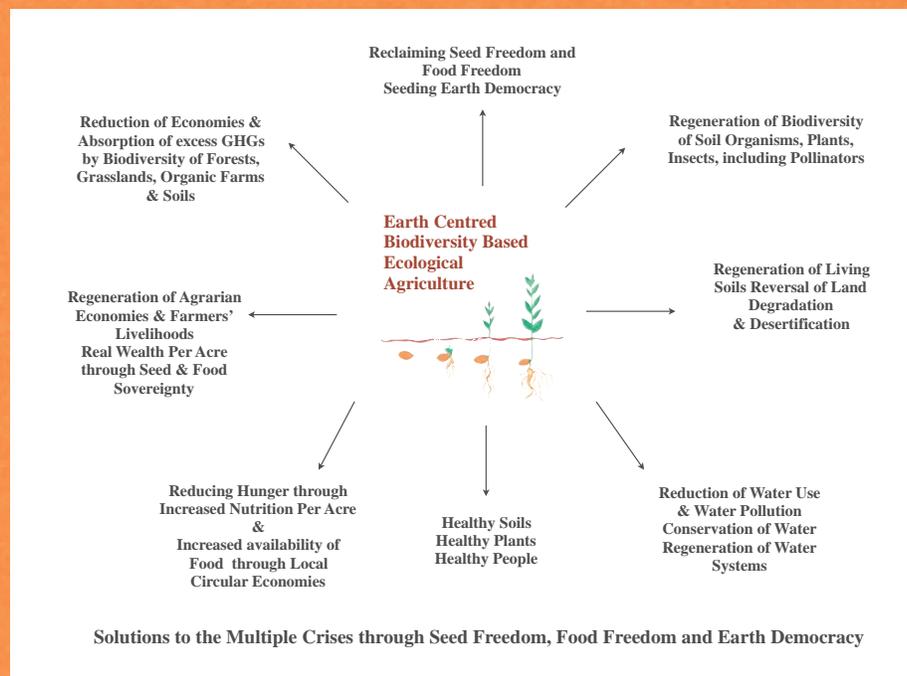
The future is based on biodiversity, seed sovereignty and agroecology, not on the illusions sold by the poison cartel.

The future is Agroecology, not “Ag tech” or “Ag One”

There is an illusion that running faster on the chemical and poison cartel treadmill, now equipped with Artificial Intelligence and Robots will be more effective in producing more food and feeding the hungry. On the contrary, the tools and technologies of the poison cartel have brought the planet and the lives of farmers to the brink with climate havoc, species extinction, water crisis, farmer incomes collapsing to zero and food related diseases killing larger numbers of people.

The tools of the poison cartel have repeatedly failed in agriculture which is about life and its renewal. Rushing faster on a road that goes over a precipice is blindness, not science.

Good science learns lessons and does not repeat mistakes. “Science” as a fundamentalist religion is imposed and it repeats and amplifies mistakes. Gates is financing every failed agricultural technology from the Green Revolution to GMOs, including Golden Rice and Bt Brinjal.





We need to rise up and look past the corporate narrative and look towards time tested indigenous knowledge and Agroecology to shape the future of Agriculture based on Biodiversity and Cultural Diversity.

Farmers have knowledge.

Plants and insects have intelligence.

Agroecology builds on the Diversity of knowledges and intelligences.

Our response to Ag One is epistemic decolonisation and reclaiming of our Seed Sovereignty, Food Sovereignty and Knowledge Sovereignty.



We already have solutions to climate change. Agroecological farming takes excess carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, where it doesn't belong, and through photosynthesis, puts it back in the soil, where it does belong. It also increases the water holding capacity of soil, contributing to resilience in times of droughts, floods and other climate extremes.

**Table 2: Showing effect of continuous farming on Soil under Organic and Chemical mode**

Nutrient	Change under Chemical Farming	Change under Organic Farming
Organic Matter	-14%	+29-99%
Total Nitrogen (N <sub>2</sub> )	-7-22%	+21-100%
Available Phosphorous (P)	0%	+63%
Available Potassium (K)	-22%	+14-84%
Zinc (Z)	-15.9-37.8%	+1.3-14.3%
Copper (Cu)	-4.2-21.3%	+9.4%
Manganese (Mn)	-4.2-17.6%	+14.5%
Iron (Fe)	-4.3-12%	+1%

**Volume of Water Retained /ha (to 30 cm) in relation to soil organic matter (SOM)**

• 0.5% SOM	80,000 litres (common level Africa, Asia)
• 1% SOM	160,000 litres (common level Africa, Asia)
• 2% SOM	320,000 litres
• 3% SOM	480,000 litres
• 4% SOM	640,000 litres (levels pre farming)
• 5% SOM	800,000 litres (levels pre farming)
• 6% SOM	960,000 litres (levels pre farming)

(Adapted from Morris, 2004).

Source: Seeds of hope, Seeds of resilience, 2017.

If we return to the path of life, and abandon the path of death, we have a future.

If we walk the path of freedom and resist the path of recolonization, we have a future.

The path of farming with nature leads to the rejuvenation of the planet through rejuvenation of biodiversity, soil and water. Small farmers are not objects to be manipulated to create markets for new commodities. Small farmers are experts in Agroecology and the foundation of food sovereignty and food security.

We need a rejuvenation of small farms, the real farms with real people who care for the land, who care for life, who care for the future and who produce diverse, healthy, fresh, ecological and real food for all.



We need many types of agriculture which work with evolution and time as a friend.

Real food with integrity comes from real farmers with integrity working with the integrity of the earth and ecological processes.



All of which takes time.