

You are invited to...

...attend all or some of the sessions at the UKFG World Food Day event

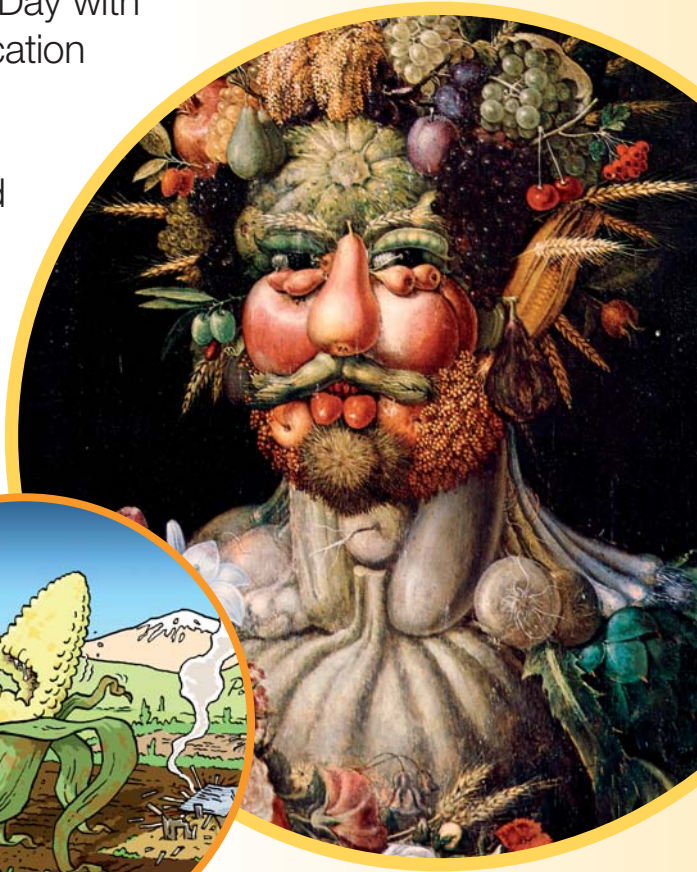
“Defending Farmers and the Right to Food”
9:30am – 5:30pm Tuesday 16th October 2007

NCVO, Regent's Wharf, 8 All Saints Street, London, N1 9RL (*Light lunch provided.*)

The UK Food Group will be marking World Food Day with a series of member-led seminars, briefings, publication launches and debates. These will describe how food providers should be integrated into decision making processes and could be better supported in order to realise the Right to Food and food sovereignty.

PROGRAMME

- 9:30 am** Registration and Coffee
- 10:00 – 11:15** ‘Livestock for Life’ – Send a Cow
- 11:30 – 12:30** ‘Farmers’ Rights to Seeds’ – Practical Action
- 12:30 – 13:45** Activity Updates, Media Release, Lunch
- 13:45 – 16:00** ‘The future for marginalised farmers in Africa’ – panel presentations and debate – chaired by Concern UK, with Oxfam GB, SEND Foundation, Ghana, DFID, Christian Aid and Farm-Africa
- 16:30 – 17:30** ‘How Terminator technology is a threat to poor people's livelihoods and food security’ – Progressio



RSVP to...

anita_mccabe@yahoo.com indicating whether you will want lunch.

Defending Farmers and the Right to Food

9:30am – 5:30pm Tuesday 16th October 2007

NCVO, Regent's Wharf, 8 All Saints Street, London, N1 9RL

The theme for this year's World Food Day on 16th October is the Right to Food. On the 19th October the World Bank will also be publishing its World Development Report 2008 that focuses this year on Agriculture. The Global Campaign Against Poverty (GCAP) event is on 17th October with 24 hours of action against poverty 'Stand up Speak out!'

Before the end of the year there will also be the conclusion of the European Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) negotiations and the publication, later, of the final report of the World Bank's International Assessment of Agricultural Science and Technology for Development.

In this context, the UK Food Group will be marking World Food Day with a series of member-led seminars, briefings, publication launches and debates. These will describe how food providers should be integrated into decision making processes and could be better supported in order to realise the Right to Food and food sovereignty. This will help to ensure food for the hungry and poor consumers, to secure the livelihoods of small-scale food providers and to sustain local environments, enabling adaptation to climate change.

The UK Food Group is the principal civil society network of organisations concerned with global food and farming issues. It provides a forum for debate on topical issues, conducts research and provides information to members, the public and decision makers. It serves as the BOND working group on these issues and is the UK focal point for relevant regional and international networks and organisations. www.ukfg.org.uk



Co-organisers

Concern UK www.concern.net

Concern Worldwide is an international humanitarian organisation working towards the elimination of extreme poverty in the world's poorest countries.



Practical Action www.practicalaction.org

Practical Action's mission is the use of technology to challenge poverty



Progressio www.progressio.org.uk

Progressio is an international development agency that works with people of all faiths and none for the eradication of poverty and an end to injustice.

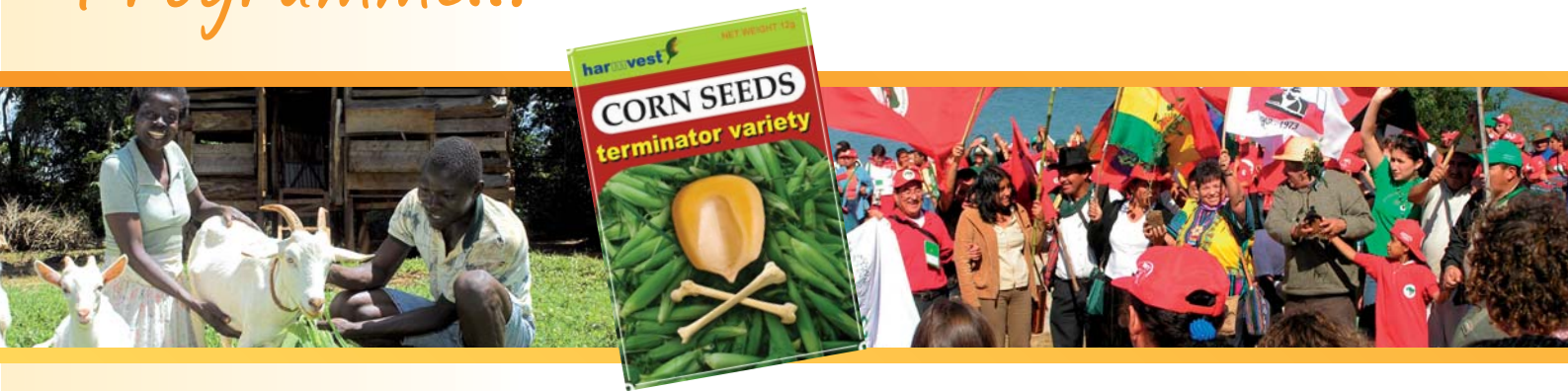


Send a Cow www.sendacow.org.uk

Send a Cow is a charity that enables poor farmers in Africa to become self-reliant by providing them with livestock, training and advice.



Programme...



9:30 Registration and Coffee

10:00 – 11:15 'Livestock for Life'

This seminar asks the question, what can be done to improve community based livestock production in Africa, increasingly recognised as crucial for agricultural development, food security and environmental sustainability? However, pastoralists and smallholder farmers are also increasingly threatened by land pressures and global warming. Yet, it is only their systems that support local production and improve soils, adapt to climate change, and sustain diverse livestock which provide important foods, fibre and fuel. FAO is highlighting livestock this year with a report on the environmental impacts of livestock production and an internationally agreed Global Plan of Action to defend livestock diversity.

In this context, the seminar will present the findings of two recent studies of the work of 'Send a Cow' in Uganda, followed by discussion.

Speakers:

- **Monica Kapiriri**, independent Ugandan consultant, on the importance of livestock in developing sustainable livelihoods and food security
- **Richie Alford**, Send a Cow, on the A Rocha Conservation Group's study on the environmental impact of Send a Cow's smallholder livestock programmes.

Chair: Martin Geake, Chief Executive, Send a Cow: livestock for life.

11:15 Coffee break

11:30 – 12:30 'Farmers' Rights to Seeds'

The seminar will present the findings of a recently published paper "Negotiating the Seed Treaty" - Practical Action Publishing's critique of NGO contributions to negotiations for the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. The authors will describe how the provisions on Farmers' Rights, in particular, were agreed. They will raise the critical importance, in the context of climate change, of Farmers' Rights to enhancing their seeds and other agricultural biodiversity in situ and on-farm in order to secure future food supplies. Looking at Africa in particular, they will describe the urgency for implementing the Treaty to counter the threat of "genetic meltdown" from the wide spread use of limited numbers of modern varieties through, for example, (GM) food aid and maize/fertilizer starter packs. On the eve of the second meeting of the Governing Body of the Treaty that will discuss the implementation of Farmers' Rights, they will describe the roles that NGOs, farmers' organisations and other actors could have in formal negotiations as well as in promoting practical work that will ensure seed security.

Speakers:

- **Stuart Coupe**, Practical Action
- **Roger Lewins**, independent consultant

Chair: Patrick Mulvany, UK Food Group Chair

12:30 – 13:45 Activity Updates, Media Release, Lunch

12:30 Participants Info Exchange – a short session during which participants can announce current work plans, new publications, events and campaigns e.g. Concern UK's 'Unheard Voices' campaign.

13:00 Media Release on the World Food Day event "Defending farmers and the right to food" linked to the release of the World Bank's World Development Report 2008 that focuses on agriculture

Lunch

UK Food Group - World Food Day event

Defending Farmers and the Right to Food



13:45 – 16:00 *'The future for marginalised farmers in Africa' - panel presentations and debate*

This panel addresses the question of the future of poor farmers in Africa. The poorest farmers are left out when governments and donors support only those with the most potential. They are advised to get out of agriculture and look for alternative livelihoods. There is very little focus in making marginal farming viable so farmers can grow enough food for their families and communities now and in the future. The panel will comment on the current situation affecting poor farmers in Africa, donor interventions and national government priorities as well as the constraints faced by poor farmers, reasons to support them and potential solutions.

Chair: Ruchi Tripathi, Head, Policy and Campaigns, Concern UK

Panel debate participants:

- **Chris Penrose-Buckley**, Christian Aid on their 'Farmers Left Behind' report, detailing how markets, governments and donors have failed African agriculture, drawing on research from Malawi, Ethiopia, Mozambique and Kenya.
- **Arabella Fraser**, Oxfam GB, analysis of the forthcoming World Bank's WDR 2008.
- **Mohammed Issah**, SEND Foundation, Ghana. With the current EPA negotiations due to be completed by December 2007, drawing on experience from Uganda, Zambia and Ghana, this presentation will ask, what is the impact of the EU's agricultural trade policy on smallholders in Africa?
- **Tim Waites**, DFID Policy Division, what DFID is doing in agriculture.
- **Alistair Bradstock**, Farm-Africa, Getting Policies Right for Small-Scale Farmers.

16:00 *Tea Break*

16:30 – 17:30 *'How Terminator technology is a threat to poor people's livelihoods and food security'*

Terminator technology has been developed by seed corporations to degrade the germination of seeds so that farmers have to buy new seeds each season. It removes the option for farmers to save seed. There is a moratorium on their field testing and sale agreed by the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

Progressio is launching a campaign on World Food Day directed at the UK government to ensure that the current moratorium on Terminator is maintained and strengthened at the next CBD meeting. This session will describe:

- What is Terminator technology and why it is being developed;
- Recent developments around 'Zombie' seeds;
- What is wrong with the current UK and EU position on the issue;
- Why defending farmers' seed systems is vital.
- The importance of the forthcoming meeting of Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) next year in deciding the future of Terminator.
- What individuals and organisations can do to support this action.

Chair: Christine Allen (Executive Director, Progressio): Brief introduction to the issue of Terminator technology in the context of Progressio's work on sustainable environment and why Progressio is launching the campaign

Speakers:

- **Tsitsi Choruma** (Progressio Zimbabwe- Country Representative): Seed conservation to support adaptation to climate change
- **Sol Oyuela** (Environment Advocacy Coordinator): Outline of the campaign. Here's what you can do about the problem of Terminator

17:30 *Concluding remarks, Patrick Mulvany, Chair, UK Food Group*

Ends