



**PRESS RELEASE**

**For immediate release  
June 4, 2015**

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**About IATP**

Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy  
works locally and globally at the intersection  
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sustainable food, farm and trade systems. IATP  
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# **G7 food initiative driving hunger in African countries, say global civil society groups**

**MINNEAPOLIS**—Politicians and executives from some of the world's biggest agribusiness companies are today meeting in Cape Town, South Africa for the leadership council of the controversial New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition. On the same day, a coalition of a hundred farmers organisations, social movements, unions and civil society groups around the world have released a statement calling on the G7 and African governments to stop supporting the New Alliance.

The policies of the New Alliance have been criticised as they “facilitate the grabbing of land and other natural resources, further marginalize small-scale producers, and undermine the right to adequate food and nutrition.”

Launched by the G8 in 2012, the New Alliance provides aid money from the G8 countries and helps big business invest in different countries in the African agricultural sector. But in return, African countries are required to change their land, seed and trade rules in favour of big agribusiness companies. In the last year, controversies associated with the New Alliance have included:

- In Ghana a proposed bill—dubbed the ‘Monsanto Law’—would bolster the power of multinational seed companies whilst restricting the rights of small farmers to keep and swap seeds. This bill, which is being brought in as part of the Ghanaian government’s commitment to the New Alliance, will see the control of seeds being transferred away from small farmers and into the hands of large seed companies.
- Farmers in Nigeria’s Taraba State are being forced off lands that they have farmed for generations to make way for U.S. company Dominion Farms to establish a 30,000 ha rice plantation. The project is backed by the Nigerian government and the New Alliance.
- In Tanzania about 1,300 people are at risk of losing their land or homes to make way for a sugarcane plantation, which is a New Alliance project. An area of land the size of Washington D.C. will be used by a plantation to produce sugar for biofuels.

According to Shiney Varghese of the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (IATP),

The New Alliance is more about creating conducive environment for huge agri-food businesses to restructure food production across Africa to their own advantage, while it claims to be about addressing hunger and food security across Africa. African countries need to develop their own food, fertilizer and agricultural policies in consultation with small scale food producers that are effective in meeting the needs of the communities, and uphold their food sovereignty; coercive aid mechanisms like the New Alliance should become history.

Three years after it has launched, the New Alliance has not been able to provide evidence of its impact. The August 2014 Progress report states that US\$1.1 billion out of US\$8 billion committed in aid money had been delivered, and three million smallholders had been “reached”. However, of the overall figure of “small holders reached” only 21 percent are women (p.9). The New Alliance has at no time publicly defined what ‘reached’ means. The Progress Report attempts at no point to indicate or estimate its overall impact on food security and poverty—and the New Alliance has not done so since.

In May 2015 an independent audit of the UK’s aid spending singled out the New Alliance for particular criticism, saying that it was “little more than a means of promotion for the companies involved and a chance to increase their influence in policy debates,” while in 2013, over 100 African civil society organisations branded the New Alliance a ‘new wave of colonialism’.

### Organizations endorsing the statement:

**INTERNATIONAL:** ActionAid International, Africa Europe Faith and Justice Network, Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA), CIDSE, Coalition for Equitable Land Acquisitions and Development in Africa (CELADA), Compassion in World Farming, Corporate Europe Observatory, Fahamu Africa-Networks for Social Justice, Fern, Food & Water Europe, Friends of the Earth International, GRAIN, Grassroots International, Greenpeace Africa, La Via Campesina Southern and Eastern Africa, Inades-Formation, Organisation des Jeunesses Panafricanistes (OJP), Oxfam International, Panafricaine pour l’Éducation au Développement Durable (PAEDD), Transnational Institute (TNI), VECO West Africa.

**ARGENTINA:** Unión Solidaria de Comunidades - Pueblo Diaguíta Cacano.

**AUSTRALIA:** MADGE Australia Inc.

**BELGIUM:** SOS Faim Belgique.

**CAMEROON:** SAILD (Service d’Appui aux Initiatives Locales de Développement).

**CANADA:** National Farmers Union, The Ram’s Horn, The United Church of Canada.

**ETHIOPIA:** MELCA.

**FRANCE :** CADTM-France (Comité pour l’annulation de la dette du Tiers Monde), CCFD-Terre Solidaire, Peuples Solidaires-ActionAid France, Réseau Foi & Justice Afrique Europe Antenne France, SOLIDARITÉ.

**GERMANY:** Agrecol e.V. (Associaton for AgriCulture & Ecology), Bread for the World - Protestant Development Service, Forum Umwelt und Entwicklung, German NGO Forum Environment & Development, INKOTA-netzwerk, Pesticide Action Network Germany.

**GHANA:** Agriculture Sovereignty Ghana (ASG), Farmers Development Movement (FDM), Food Sovereignty Ghana, General Agricultural Workers Union of the Trades Union Congress, Peasant Farmers Association of Ghana (PFAG).

**INDONESIA:** KRuHA (People’s Coalition for the Right to Water).

**ITALY:** Terra Nuova.

**KENYA:** Growth Partners Africa –GPA, Kenya Community Development Foundation (KCDF), Kenya Food Rights Alliance –KeFRA, PELUM-Kenya.

**MALAWI:** Coalition of Women’s Farmers (COWFA).

**MOZAMBIQUE:** ADECRU (Academic Action for the Development of Rural Communities).

**NEPAL:** Garjan-Nepal.

**NIGERIA:** Center For Environmental Education And Development, Environmental and Rural Mediation Centre, Hope Foundation for the Lonely, Justice Development and Peace Centre (JDPC), WOFAN Women Famers.

**SENEGAL:** Enda Pronat, Fédération des ONG du Sénégal (FONGS - Action paysanne), Forum social sénégalais (FSS), Réseau Africain Pour le Droit à l’Alimentation (RAPDA), WiLDAF/Sénégal

**SOUTH AFRICA:** Surplus People Project (South Africa).

**SWITZERLAND:** Bread for all, the Development Service of the Protestant Churches in Switzerland.

**TANZANIA:** Green Belt Foundation, Irrigation Training and Economic Empowerment Organization (IRTECO), MVIWATA Kili-manjaro, Tanzania Alliance for Biodiversity (TABIO).

**THE NETHERLANDS:** Saka Mese Nusa AlifURU Foundation, Stichting Down2Earth, The Netherlands Centre for Indigenous Peoples.

**TOGO:** Friends of Earth-Togo.

**UNITED KINGDOM:** Biofuelwatch – UK, EcoNexus, Find Your Feet, Global Justice Now, Permaculture Association, Scientists for Global Responsibility, UK Food Group, Women’s Environmental Network (WEN), World Family.

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:** Africa Faith and Justice Network, Biofuelwatch – US, Bioscience Resource Project, Food First/Institute for Food and Development Policy, Food & Water Watch, Friends of the Earth, Inclusive Development International, Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy, Labelmos.org, Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns, Oakland Institute, Other Worlds, PLANT (Partners for the Land & Agricultural Needs of Traditional Peoples), Washington Biotechnology Action Council.

**ZAMBIA:** PELUM Association.