



Special Issue: Mapping the Global Food Landscape

Section V

Food sovereignty

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Citizens in many countries are increasingly wary of the global industrial neoliberal food system. A number of food scares, growing awareness of human rights abuses in the countryside, a global food crisis, and climate change have all prompted many to form alternative food movements that are intent on building sustainable, just, safe and healthy food systems based on food sovereignty.

This section explores various dimensions of food sovereignty. Annette Desmarais traces the peasant roots of food sovereignty and its initial focus on production to concerns about distribution and consumption as it is embraced by urban based social actors. Desmarais also highlights the challenges of implementing food sovereignty and points to the important role that research plays in the conceptualization and implementation of food sovereignty. Hannah Wittman raises some important questions related to how food sovereignty can be institutionalized by analyzing the specific case studies of Ecuador and Brazil. She ends by making the case for a multi-scalar approach to food sovereignty that recognizes the importance of local and national spaces while also acknowledging the importance of the global policy arena. Blain Snipstal encourages us to get down to the nitty-gritty, to the practical and production aspects of food sovereignty, by exploring what it means to be a peasant and how this is linked to the practice of a radicalized and politicized form of agro-ecology. In doing so, he demonstrates

how the revolutionary aspects of food sovereignty lie in better understanding the significance of ancestral peasant knowledge and wisdom in shaping new practices and cultures.

The section rounds off with a thoughtful contribution by Andrés García Trujillo that focuses on three key challenges that the Global Food Sovereignty Movement faces in its efforts to effect change. García Trujillo points to the complexities involved in, and the need for, working at multiple scales: the local, national, and global. He then points to the importance of ensuring mechanisms and processes that ensure democratic practice, a central component of food sovereignty. He concludes by highlighting the need as well as the challenges to forging broader alliances in efforts to build food sovereignty.