

# Activity Report



20  
22



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# Vision and Mission

# 1958 2023

**“65 years of  
struggles  
for food  
sovereignty”**



The ecological and social crisis oppressing societies is reflected in the daily lives of each and every one of us, at every latitude. We see inequalities growing, the spaces of democracy shrinking and we witness the degradation of ecosystems, in a destructive process fuelled by a development model that erodes the very foundations of life on the planet.

The first victims of this generalised crisis are the small-scale food producers, hundreds of millions of people across the planet who work every day to feed the vast majority of humanity. In addition to nourishing the planet, these local communities are responsible for the sustainable management and reproduction of biodiversity, cherishing practices and cultures in harmony with the environment and other living forms. But today their existence is threatened by industrial agriculture and fishing, land grabbing and colonial conservation projects, and repressive and violent governments.

Reaffirming the rights of small-scale producers and making them binding is urgent and essential today for the survival of their cultures, economic and social systems. Supporting and protecting their modes of production is the only way to guarantee the right to food, food security and food sovereignty for a growing world population.

As the Crocevia International Centre, we have been fighting since 1958 to support the demands of small-scale food producers everywhere, to ensure their prominence at the highest levels of governance and to open up political spaces in which they can assert their collective rights to resources, their ways of life and production.

For decades, we have been facilitating and organising dialogue between movements of farmers, artisanal fishermen, farm labourers, Indigenous Peoples, the urban poor and consumers from five continents and brought together in the International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty (IPC). The aim is to keep alive a global conversation that strengthens the self-organising capacity of small-scale food producers' movements and their public voice on the ground and in the international arena.

We strive every day to cultivate spaces for participation and confrontation, to influence the regulatory frameworks produced at the international and national levels so that they reflect the demands of the food sovereignty movement, from agroecology to the right to food, from the right to seeds to the rights of access to land and water.

Our mission is to fight for agroecology and food sovereignty, i.e. for locally produced and traded food that is respectful of ecosystems, rights and cultural contexts, nutritious and biodiverse. We take it forward by nurturing a horizontal and free dialogue between movements, networks and civil society organisations. Because only through participation and encounter can we build another model of development and coexistence on this planet.

# Introduction





2022 was a key year for movements fighting for food sovereignty. On the one hand, it was a year that reconfirmed the importance of our struggles: the conflict in Ukraine worsened the structural problems of the industrial food system, based on monocultures and linked to the international market. This system was already strained by the disruption of supply chains during the pandemic and the ongoing climate crisis. On the other hand, however, it has been a year in which international institutions have had, but also failed to seize, opportunities to set in motion a deep transformation of agriculture and food supply chains.

Crocevia has done a lot of work in the spaces of the United Nations to move governments in this direction. We've been in Geneva and Montréal, to follow the work of COP15 on biodiversity, supporting peasants' movements. We supported small-scale fishermen from five continents by organising their gathering in Rome ahead of the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI). With them we also travelled to Lisbon for the UN Ocean Conference, and facilitated regional meetings in South Africa and Thailand. We also travelled to New Delhi (India), to defend farmers' rights and keep up the pressure on governments involved in the negotiations of the Plant Treaty (ITPGRFA). In Italy, we have seen a work of years on the Law for Peasant Agriculture fade away. After it was passed by the House of Representatives, the fall of the government led to the decay of the law proposal.



But we are ready to relaunch our commitment to having this law finally tabled and approved. The new right-wing government change the name of the Ministry of Agriculture to Ministry of Food Sovereignty, but we know that there's much to be done to safeguard the true meaning of this term. The government headed by Giorgia Meloni, in fact, plans to promote national industrial agriculture, oppose the transition to agroecology, and support the deregulation of New Genomic Techniques, a range of biotechnologies developed in the last decades to produce new GMOs. In this worrying scenario, we believe that our work will be even more necessary, and that is why we have put in place an internal reorganisation effort that will help us strengthen both Crocevia and the social movements that rely on us to bring their voices to the highest levels of international governance.

# Crocevia at the global level



The lifting of the toughest pandemic restrictions in 2022 allowed us and the other movements and organisations of the International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty (IPC) to meet in person again. We had several opportunities to do so, from New Delhi to Lisbon, from Rome to Montréal, to Geneva, Cape Town and Bangkok. As always, our work has involved facilitating IPC working groups on agrobiodiversity, small-scale fisheries and youth, as well as running the secretariat of this large independent platform. In addition, over the past two years we have supported the launch of a broad consultation between different sectors of civil society (small-scale farmers, fishermen, pastoralists, agricultural workers, urban consumers, youth, climate and social justice activists). This has resulted in a large conversation on a global and regional scale, the Nyéléni Process, expected to conclude in 2025 with a global meeting of all these actors, to redefine together priorities and goals of the global food sovereignty movement.





## In defence of agricultural biodiversity

As facilitators of the IPC Working Group on Agrobiodiversity, we worked hard to follow the technical negotiations that took place in 2022 between Geneva and Montréal. The Canadian city, in particular, hosted the 15th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP15). Our engagement in this context was twofold: on the one hand, we lobbied to push the governments to approve an ambitious list of targets to halt global biodiversity loss; on the other hand, we brought the voice of small-scale producers into a space dominated by large NGOs that tend to promote conservation projects from above, instead of working to support those living in the most critical ecosystems.

The final agreement, unfortunately, is not up to the task. Much work remains to be done to push countries to implement policies consistent with their commitments. However, our work has paid off, because we have succeeded in having agroecology included among the solutions to halt biodiversity crisis.

Together with a broad coalition of organisations and movements we have also achieved that the free prior and informed consent of Indigenous Peoples in biodiversity conservation projects was included in the Global Biodiversity Framework. We have also managed to obtain that (for now) the use of digitised information on genetic resources (both animal and plant) be subject to the same constraints as material biodiversity.

This sounds like a technicality, but it is not: such

an achievement helps to prevent biopiracy by seed industries. The deregulation of Digital Sequencing Informations (DSI) would have opened the door to a huge amount of potential profits for the agrochemical, pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries, at the expense of small-scale food producers. Luckily, these resources will not be freely accessible from now on, and the countries from which this biodiversity originated must be adequately rewarded.

Unfortunately, the COP was not able to decide how and how much, which will be matter of fierce debate in the next future. Governments gathered in Montréal were not even able to include in the final agreement an obligation to respect the UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants (UNDROP). In 2023, we will work to ensure that the right to food, enshrined in these important declaration, becomes binding in national policies.

This will be an effort we will also put into the ongoing discussion within the framework of the Plant Treaty. In 2022, in fact, we have continued to follow the work of the Treaty's governing body, which is still focused in updating and refining the interpretation of the articles approved in 2001.

This is a very complex task, especially because of the scale of the interests at stake. Here too, in fact, the battle of the peasants' movements against the agribusiness multinationals continues, in defence of peasants' rights to reproduce seeds and to get a fair share of the benefits deriving from their marketing by the industry. ●



## The year of artisanal fishing

With launch of the International Year on Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture (IYAF) by the FAO, we have intensified our work with social movement of small-scale fishers. From 5 to 9 September, an IPC delegation attended the 35th session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) in Rome. Some days before, in order to better organise for the COFI, we brought together the entire IPC Working Group on Small Scale Fisheries, hosting 35 delegates representing the group's 4 main networks (World Forum of Fisher Peoples, World Forum of Fish Harvesters & Fish Workers, International Indian Treaty Council and La Via Campesina).

IPC delegates also contributed to the first Small-Scale Fisheries Summit, organised with the support of FAO, the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) and the SSF Hub platform. This moment, as well as the UN Ocean Conference in Lisbon in April, has been an important space to bring the claims of small-scale fishermen, who are dealing with the attack on their livelihoods by large

industrial fishing companies. Moreover, coastal communities are increasingly having their access to water taken away by biodiversity conservation projects supported by big NGOs and governments. As we have denounced in two articles published by The Guardian, there are many cases of human rights violations linked to the development of marine protected areas preventing local fishermen's access to water.

Kicked out from their territories and fishing grounds in the name of conservation, small-scale fishermen lose their food sovereignty and rights, often compromising the right to food of other communities depending to their work.

Much remains to be done to ensure respect for human rights for small-scale fishing communities: in 2023 we will work display monitoring and advocacy actions to push more and more countries to implement the SSF guidelines endorsed by COFI in 2014. ●

## Fostering generational turnover

Generational turnover in the food systems is a major and underestimated issue. Talking about food sovereignty makes no sense if young people's access to land and resources is not facilitated.

If governments do not invest in generational turnover, we risk losing traditional knowledge and practices of millions of small-scale food producers worldwide.

As facilitators of the IPC Working Group on Youth, in 2022 we carried out a self-organised and independent process of consultation and debate among young farmers, Indigenous Peoples and artisanal fisherpeoples. We did this to gather their needs, interests, map the obstacles they face and the good practices that luckily still exist.

We also believe in the importance of the transmission of political skills among activists in food sovereignty movements.

That's why we are working on projects that open up opportunities for them to meet, exchange, and train. In 2023, we want to strengthen this work of cohesion of young small-scale food producers, to support them in pushing for policy action in the UN spaces. ●

18

Participants

12

Meeting  
(in 2022)

15

Country

# Crocevia in Italy



In addition to the intense work at the international level, in 2022 we have also carried out activities at the Italian level. In our country, we are fighting to get peasants' rights fully recognised, to counter the threats of agribusiness and to strengthen local movements for food sovereignty.

## 400,000 signatures against new GMOs

An important campaign we carried out was the European petition against the deregulation of new GMOs (New Genomic Techniques – NGTs). The EU alliance of NGOs, CSOs and social movements collected 400,000 signatures in six months.

At the Italian level, the initiative involved the national coalition against GMOs, composed of 30+ farmers', environmental and civil society organisations, including Crocevia. The petition's demand was to keep research on GMOs within laboratories, and the release of biotechnology products subject to the EU Directive 2001/18, imposing accurate risk assessment, tracking and clear labelling of genetically modified organisms.

To circumvent these rules, the European Commission is set to propose a separate, weaker regulation for NGTs in 2023.

The early months of next year will be a key moment to increase pressure from civil society and farmers' movements, to prevent the EU from definitely watering down its precautionary approach. ●

27  
Associations

Signatures  
400.000



## The true meaning of food sovereignty

With the Ukraine war outbreak and the entering into force of the new government led by Giorgia Meloni, politicians in Italy revamped a narrative on food sovereignty.

But as we could foresee, they distorted this concept, bending it to the interests of the agribusiness sector, willing to get more subsidies and less environmental constraints, to better compete on the international market. We have written extensively and given media interviews to defend the true meaning of food sovereignty.

We were invited to 4 public events and we organised 3 more in Rome, to discuss food sovereignty, inform about the risks of new GMOs, and analyze the impacts of the war in Ukraine on food systems. ●

## Agroecology betrayed

After its approval in the House of Representatives on 20 May 2021, only one passage in the Senate was missing for the Peasant Farming Law to finally enter into force.

Since 2009, Crocevia, has been pushing for a law recognising peasant agriculture and supporting true agroecological practices, as well as making farmers' rights fully implemented and respected. However, with the change of government and the alternation between Mario Draghi and Giorgia Meloni, the legislative process stopped, and will have to start again from scratch.

An important opportunity was missed due to the slowness and weakness of Italian institutions, but our work to put farmers' rights and the transition to agroecology back on the agenda will continue in 2023 and beyond. ●





Participants  
500



## Our work for (agri)culture

After finding a new space in the Parco delle Energie, Rome, in 2021, our Archive "Mediateca delle Terre" (which collects over 2000 photos, films, magazines and other audiovisual media collected by Crocevia over decades of cooperation) hosted and organised 11 events in 2022, including meetings, seminars, screenings and photo exhibitions.

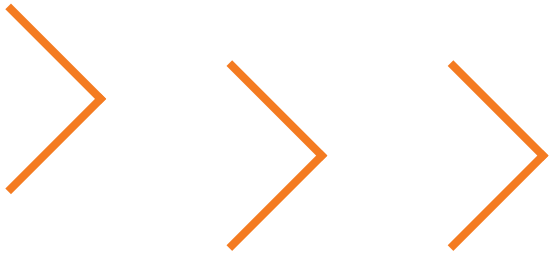
At least 500 people participated in the initiatives, that have been useful to strengthen relationships with different organisations and social movements: from the Associazione Rurale Italiana (ARI) to RomAgricola, the international solidarity association Lazio Chirurgia Progetto Solidale, and youth organisations such as OSA and Cambiare Rotta.

We proposed the screening of movies/documentaries selected from the current international offer or selected from Italian archives, renewed the collaboration with the Experimental Centre of Cinematography activated in past editions of the Festival delle Terre, a thematic festival organised until 2018. In 2022 we also realised video interviews with prominent personalities in the field of human rights and agroecology, such as Blandine Sankara or Kassem Aina.

The wish for 2023 is to bring the initiatives of the Mediateca delle Terre to a next level, organising a new edition of the Festival delle Terre. ●

Events  
11

# Crocevia's Networks



For decades, Crocevia has played a key role in the dialogue among social movements for agroecology and food sovereignty.

We are an organisation supporting networks of small-scale food producers worldwide, facilitating the global dialogue between all these actors through the International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty.

Moreover, Crocevia supports and organises advocacy within the FAO, as long as European and national institutions, enabling local communities and their representatives to bring their voices to the highest level of policy making. Our networks are therefore our greatest asset.

## The Italian Network

At the Italian level, Crocevia has a longstanding friendship with the Associazione Rurale Italiana (ARI), member organisation of La Via Campesina in our country.

Together with ARI we often organise events, campaigns and advocacy activities, e.g. the campaign for the law on peasant agriculture, which involves a broader network of rural collectives and organisations, such as Campi Aperti, and Community Supported Agricultures (CSAs), such as Arvaia (near Bologna) and Semi di Comunità (in Rome).

We provide communication support and technical expertise in monitoring legislation, fostering the connection with IPC movements and organisations.

Thanks to the support of Waldensian Church of Italy, in 2023 we will organise training activities for small-scale farmers with the aim of strengthening peasants' seeds systems at the local level.

Last but not least, we have an open dialogue with the trade union USB (Unione Sindacale di Base), to strengthen the link between peasant agriculture and farm workers. ●

## The European Network

At the European level, Crocevia works in a network with the European Coordination Via Campesina (ECVC), participating in discussions on EU agricultural and food policies.

Our organization is able to monitor and contribute with advocacy activities in several regulatory processes, from the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) to biodiversity, biotechnology and seeds regulation. Crocevia is also member of the European Coordination "Let's Free Diversity" (ECLLD), a network of organisations active in several EU countries to safeguard farmers' rights to seeds. ●

# "Networks are our greatest asset"

## The Global Network

On a global level, networks are even more fundamental to the work of Crocevia: today we have a unique experience in facilitating the dialogue between social movements participating in the International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty (IPC).

Several movements and organisations from all over the world collaborate in this self-organised platform: among them, the Indigenous Peoples from the International Indian Treaty Council and peasant networks such as Via Campesina, International Federation of Rural Adult Catholic Movement (FIMARC) and Mouvement International de la Jeunesse Agricole et Rurale Catholique (MIJARC). Crucial then is the relationship with feminist networks such as the World March of Women: the feminist approach is indeed transversal to the IPC activities and proposals.

A leading role is also played by movements and organisations representing small-scale fishing communities, from the World Forum of Fish Harvesters & Fish Workers (WFF) to the World Forum

of Fishers People (WFFP). We also have relations with networks active in combating poverty in urban areas and organisations representing solidarity economy and fair trade (Habitat International Coalition, URGENCI - The international network for Community Supported Agriculture). In the rural world, Crocevia is also in contact with pastoralist movements (World Alliance of Mobile Indigenous People - WAMIP).

Moreover, we are in touch with organisations active in different continents and world regions, which are linked to the above-mentioned global constituencies. Networking is therefore at the heart of our commitment and characterises our approach, making it coherent at global, regional and national levels.

Therefore, the wish is to continue and further strengthen these alliances through projects, campaigns and advocacy activities, so that small-scale producers always have a space to dialogue and take common positions with an international perspective on food sovereignty. ●

# Budget, fundraising, personnel



At the end of 2022, Crocevia's staff, including permanent staff and collaborators, totals 7 people, with a decrease from the beginning of the year due to several reasons: one is the closure of a major European project after five years; the other is the closure of a project dedicated to youth in agriculture. In spite of this, the project writing has increased in the last months of 2022, in an effort to strengthen Crocevia's staff. We won a Horizon project that will allow us to invest in a new permanent employee to take care of Crocevia's communication. We also started new relationships with international foundations to support IPC's work. For the first time we won a project with the Waldensian Church too. We hope this will be the first step of a long collaboration, to strengthen our work in support of peasant seed systems in Italy. In the meantime, the project carried out with the civil service continues, enabling us to have the support of 3 volunteers for Crocevia's activities, especially at the Mediateca delle Terre. Income in 2022 reached EUR 792.400, up from EUR 500.600 as at 31 December 2022 due to an increase in project activities.

The deficit for the year amounted to EUR 9.600. There were no fundraising activities from private individuals. Our funding comes mainly from

institutional donors and public institutions. We would like to thank the donors who believed in the work of Crocevia and allowed us to continue our activities in a year that represents a rebirth for us: after the pandemic period, we are working to further strengthen the relationship with donors and increase the variety of actors supporting our activities. In particular, for this year our gratitude goes to:

- **European Commission**
- **FAO**
- **Stockholm University**
- **University of Molise**
- **WhyHunger**
- **New Venture Fund**
- **Grassroots International**
- **Thousand Currents**
- **Waldensian Church**
- **Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Activities**

Thanks to this constant and brave support, in addition to the 1,149 EUR raised through the 5x1000, our organisation can continue playing a key role by supporting the dialogue and struggles of the global food sovereignty movements. ●

4 Employees

3 Collaborators

3 Volunteers

Income in 2022  
792.400

# Press review and social media



In 2022, we consolidated our investment in communication, to ensure a permanent management of Crocevia and IPC websites and social media channels. In 2023, our plan is to further consolidate this area, to better support social movements work at the global level, as well as Crocevia's work at the national and local level, with the aim of improving the dissemination through the general public, media and institutions. Our objective is also to find resources to restyle our main communication channels, strengthen the press office and organise more public events.



# Press review

January 2022 - **La Nuova Ecologia**

<https://www.lanuovaecologia.it/sovranita-alimentare-affamati-giustizia-agroecologia/>

16 February 2022 - **Mundo Acuicola**

<https://www.mundoacuicola.cl/new/conapach-es-designada-como-asesor-regional-para-el-comite-internacional-de-planificacion-para-la-soberania-alimentaria/>

14 March 2022 - **Comune-info**

<https://comune-info.net/chi-specula-sul-prezzo-del-grano/>

24 March 2022 - **Economiacircolare.com**

<https://economiacircolare.com/prezzi-grano-mais-guerra-ucraina-speculazione/>

16 April 2022 - **Comune-info**

<https://comune-info.net/respingere-lassalto-dei-nuovi-ogm/>

9 May 2022 - **Rinnovabili.it**

<https://www.rinnovabili.it/agrifood/crisi-alimentare-syngenta-biologico/>

1 July 2022 - **The Guardian**

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2022/jul/01/talk-with-us-not-for-us-un-urged-to-domore-to-protect-fishing-communities>

August 2022 - **La Nuova Ecologia**

<https://www.lanuovaecologia.it/sovranita-alimentare-semi-agrochimica/>

September 2022 - **La Nuova Ecologia**

<https://www.lanuovaecologia.it/crisi-alimentare-speculatori/>

14 September 2022 - **Ecoportal**

<https://www.ecoportal.net/alimentacion/soberania-alimentaria-y-agrobiodiversidad/>

20 September 2022 - **Krishi Jagran**

<https://krishijagran.com/news/rakesh-tikait-reminds-the-global-community-of-indian-farmer-scollective-strength/>

22 September 2022 - **Mongabay**

<https://news.mongabay.com/2022/09/a-millennial-advocate-pushes-for-a-youth-led-digital-future-for-indonesian-fisheries/>

26 September 2022 - **Comune-info**

<https://comune-info.net/il-diritto-alla-biodiversita/>

2 October 2022 - **Norte**

<https://www.diarionorte.com/222870-los-barones-de-la-alimentacion-global>

24 October 2022 - **Comune-info**

<https://comune-info.net/la-sovranita-dellagrobusiness/>

29 November 2022 - **Rabble.ca**

<https://rabble.ca/columnists/big-ag-food-barons/>

8 December 2022 - **Resilience.org**

<https://www.resilience.org/stories/2022-12-08/spirituality-is-deeply-anti-systemic-an-interview-with-indigenous-thinker-antonio-gonzalez-from-the-aj-mayon-collective-in-guatemala/>

10 December 2022 - **The Guardian**

<https://www.resilience.org/stories/2022-12-08/spirituality-is-deeply-anti-systemic-an-interview-with-indigenous-thinker-antonio-gonzalez-from-the-aj-mayon-collective-in-guatemala/>

11 December 2022 - **EnviroNews Nigeria**

<http://www.environewsnigeria.com/cop15-president-urges-delegates-as-observers-list-new-biodiversity-framework-demands/>

29 December 2022 - **Agencia prensa rural**

<https://prensarural.org/spip/spip.php?article28798>



Facebook followers  
**4989**  
(+8% compared to 2021)

Twitter followers  
**96**  
(+18% compared to 2021)

Instagram followers  
**327**  
(+ 26,7% compared to 2021)



# Support the fight for food sovereignty!

Support our work to organise the Food Sovereignty Movement!  
You can help us in many ways:

>>> Donate your 5×1000 **CF 80096570587**

>>> Make a liberal donation on  
**[WWW.CROCEVIATERRA.IT/FAI-UNA-DONAZIONE/](http://WWW.CROCEVIATERRA.IT/FAI-UNA-DONAZIONE/)**

If you are a CSO, an NGO or another collective, and if you want to be part of the International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty, you can email us at **[info@croceviaterra.it](mailto:info@croceviaterra.it)**

If you want to know more on our work follow us on the web and the social networks!

