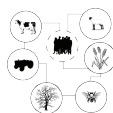


Food Sovereignty Assembly

Gaining control of our food



Food
Sovereignty
Ireland

Afri

Date: 16th May,
Venue: TF Royal Hotel,
Old Westport Road,
Castlebar, County Mayo.
(Opposite Mayo General Hospital)
Time: Beginning 7.30pm

This event is organised to coincide with the Annual Famine Walk in the Doolough Valley, County Mayo.

Introduction

Our food system is failing, both in Ireland and internationally. Failing to provide a secure income for farmers, failing to provide healthy food for citizens, and failing to nurture and care for our environment and the heritage of future generations.

The globalblization of agricultural markets long promised to bring prosperity and stability to farmers and consumers. Instead we have seen the eradication of our own local and traditional high quality food production and an abundance of low quality, mass produced food. Farmers cannot guarantee prices which cover the costs of their production and are increasingly trapped in a vicious circle of falling prices and rising input costs. Furthermore, processors and retailers undermine and fail to reward the work that farmers do by selling adulterated and heavily processed food to citizens.

At the same time, organisations, individuals and collectives are developing new ways of organising the production, distribution and consumption of food in their localities. They propose an alternative political framework for food and agriculture in our society, based on the principles of Food Sovereignty.

Food Sovereignty means the people of Ireland reclaiming the right to how our food system is organised. It means dignity for farmers in their work, and healthy food for Irish citizens. It means ensuring high quality food for our local markets instead of high quantities for global markets. It means working with nature and developing production systems which do not rely on external inputs. It means citizens and farmers coming together to take a stand and build a better way of producing, distributing and consuming food in Ireland and around the world.

This conference in Castlebar is a first step in starting this discussion, and towards building a better food and agricultural system both in Ireland and worldwide.

If you are interested in joining this process - we would love to have you join us in Castlebar this 16th of May.

Fergal Anderson
Food Sovereignty Ireland

Contributors

Paul Nicholson, EHNE Bizkaia (Basque Farmers Union) and member of Via Campesina, International Peasant Movement (www.viacampesina.org)

Luis Jalandoni (involved with sugar workers and peasant settlers in Negros, Central Philippines)

John Brennan (Leitrim Organic Farmers COOP)

Rose Kelly (Afri)

United Farmers Association (Speaker TBC)

Chair

Dr. Mark Garavan (Programme Coordinator
Galway Mayo Institute of Technology)

Following input from speakers time will be allowed for questions, answers and discussion

Background

Food Sovereignty is a process which starts from the ground up – from where farmers and food producers are producing food to feed their communities. It means prioritizing quality food for Irish people over high quantities of food for export overseas –and is the first step in regaining control over how we farm our land, produce our food, make a living and ensure a future for coming generations.

On the eve of the Annual Afri Famine Walk in the Doolough valley, join us for discussions on the Irish and International challenges of building a better food and agriculture system, with contributions from our speakers.

We aim to have an inclusive discussion which will not be a simple one-way talk. We want to hear about how people are taking the initiative to build a better food and agricultural system across Ireland, and take the first steps towards building an Irish movement for Food Sovereignty.

**Join us in Castlebar on the 16th of May
– Food Sovereignty in Ireland starts here.**

**If you are planning to come, please let us know
at admin@afri.ie.**

**There is no registration fee for this event.
Donations welcome on the day.**



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