

2022

# Annual Report



Navdanya International Onlus  
Italy

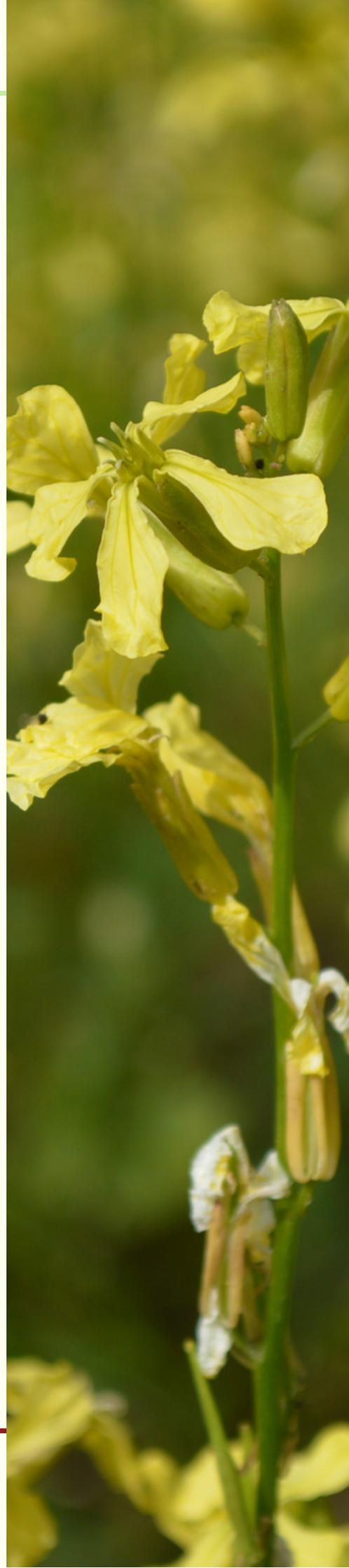
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# WHO WE ARE & WHAT WE DO

Over the last 30 years, the Navdanya Movement has focused on creating a food system that is chemical-free, nutritious, and accessible to all, and which creates and promotes health and well-being. We work to build a holistic vision as the way to tackle the multiple ecological, social, and health crises we face today.

Navdanya International was established in Italy in 2011 to strengthen Navdanya's (India) global outreach in its mission to protect nature, Earth's biodiversity, defend farmers' rights to save, exchange and evolve seeds, and protect indigenous knowledge and culture.

Over the last 10 years we have focused on creating an agroecological food system that is chemical-free, nutritious, and accessible to all, through participatory research and publications, policy advocacy, dynamic communications, local and global movement building, and horizontal capacity building.



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# Year In Review

Over the course of the year, we have seen an even greater consolidation of a new generation of false solutions, their imposition and the next phases of the industrial agriculture takeover. Navdanya International (NI) has been focusing on bringing coherence in the global narrative for food systems change, as well as deepening our common understanding of the roots of the false narratives pushing for this new consolidation. We have been expanding our outreach to showcase the importance of regenerative cultures to new audiences, and in new forms. Bringing to the forefront the true solutions rooted in ecological cultures, policies and economies of regeneration and care.

We have been at the forefront of the defense of real food, having started the discussion on the dangers of fake foods. Over the course of three years, we have catalyzed this conversation to come to the forefront of food movements on the ground, reaching a variety of new audiences. Now that work has expanded to combine research on the ground done by the team and creative outreach and communications collaborations to begin to deepen the conversation around the importance of local regenerative economies and cultures. Dialogues have started with pastoralists in Patagonia, Chile as well as a field trip undertaken in Sardegna Italy to begin to capture stories from the ground to combat the reduction of climate narratives to be anti-animal and pro fake foods.

Creative communications tools, such as our Biodiversity is Life booklet has been used in a variety of NI events, and has allowed us to expand the reach of these key messages to young people in schools as educational material and teachers, and in farmers trainings, and been showcased by the UN Convention on Biological Diversity.

NI has been heavily involved in the steering committee for the creation of a Biodistrict around Lake Bracciano in the Lazio Region, and around Martignano Lake. the steering committee. The creation of this biodistrict stems from back in 2021, when the Food for Health Manifesto, Terra Viva and NI's vast experience were used to shape policy changes around the region. The administration continues to collaborate with NI to expand the Biodistrict, run educational programs and local events.

NI has continued to support, and seen a growing and deepening defense of real food, local biodiversity based agroecology, and a greater awareness of the need to transition food systems to be regenerative. In order to bring local struggles and local solutions to the global narrative, NI has also kept close touch with partners to continue the strengthening and promotion of local ecological food systems, working with policy makers, citizens and movements.



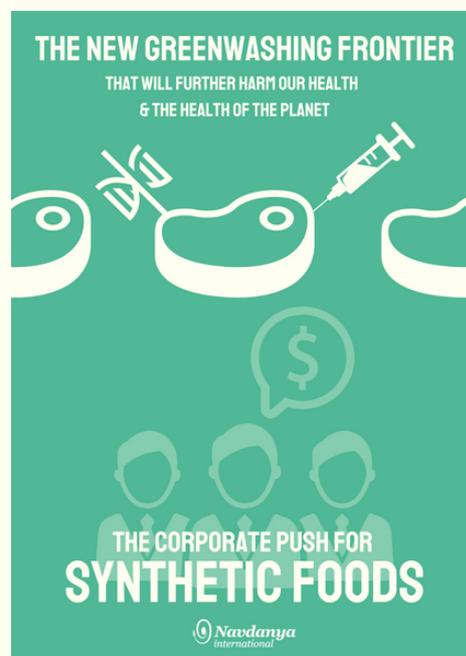
# Revealing False Narratives

In line with our broader outcome exposing the industrial paradigm as the root of global crisis, as well as informing movements of incoming threat, in the wake of the UN Food Systems Summit, and the Covid pandemic, new initiatives, based on the false assumptions that we are separate from nature, are being pushed all over the world. International discourses based on false narratives have begun to have local implications and effects. Through our research and reports we have been closely monitoring and proactively denouncing the false solutions and narratives continuously being rolled out in the face of the new phases of the global food, climate and health crisis.

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# The Corporate Push for Synthetic Foods: False solutions that endanger our health and damage the planet

On March 31, 2022 NI published the report, *The Corporate Push for Synthetic Foods: False solutions that endanger our health and damage the planet*, which detailed all the research NI has done on the issue of synthetic, fake foods since 2020. In alignment with our project objective of denouncing false solutions to build resistance against industrially exploitative systems, NI reveals how these products are perpetuating the root problems of industrial agriculture & its environmental & health consequences. Hope instead lies in participating & rejuvenating the earth's natural processes, eating real food which nourishes the biodiversity of the Earth, our guts & our cultures, to regenerate the well-being of all. The report was a culmination of a work that has catalyzed the debate around these synthetic foods for the last three years.



## The Age of Fake Food: a conversation with Satish Kumar and Vandana Shiva

Navdanya International participated in the annual Oxford Real Farming Conference with a session titled "Healing Our Connection With Food In The Fake Food Era", with Dr. Vandana Shiva, President of Navdanya International, and Satish Kumar, Editor Emeritus of *Resurgence & The Ecologist*, and co-founder of the Schumacher College. The speakers discussed how we must re-establish our connection with eating as an ecological act in defiance of the false solutions that shift political power away from regenerative farmers and local communities. This event showed us that the solutions to our global crises come from building cultures of interconnection and regeneration and of healing our relationships to food, nature, and community. Food is not a commodity, it is not stuff put together artificially in labs. Food holds the contributions of all beings that make the food web.

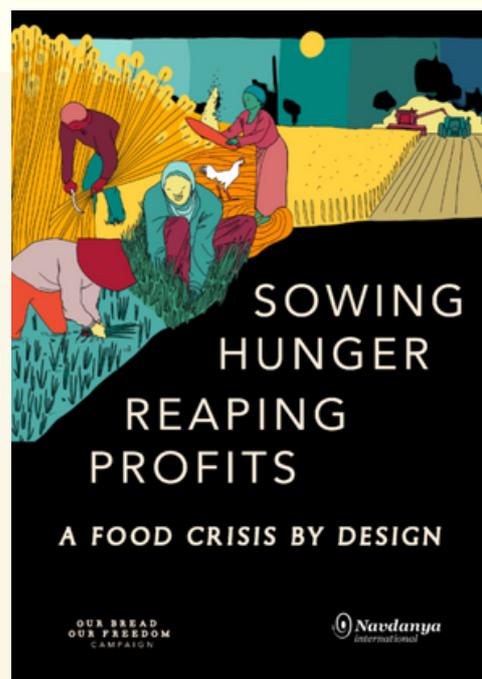


# Sowing Hunger, Reaping Profits – A Food Crisis by Design

In the wake of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, and the expected food crisis, NI detailed the many historical aspects that have led to our current food crisis in the report, *Sowing Hunger, Reaping Profits – A Food Crisis by Design* (July 14, 2022). This report also showed how most diagnoses of the current food crisis are failing to address how the problem does not lie in a lack of supply, or lack of market integration, but instead in how the food system is structured around power. The current globalized, industrial agrifood system is a food system that creates hunger by design. The report also comes as a response to international institutions, governments and corporate actors who are using the current crisis to further consolidate this failed model. Especially as false solutions and redundant calls for failed approaches abound in headlines and international responses. The Report saw the relaunching of the NI “Our Bread, Our Freedom” campaign to defend against this further consolidation of the industrial model and false solutions to food crises.

## New GMO Wheat Banned in Province of Buenos Aires, Argentina

In the wake of the supposed wheat crisis, the new GMO HB4 wheat was being fast tracked all over the world as a false solution to the global food crisis. In response *Naturaleza de Derechos* and NI collaborated on the article, *New GMO Wheat Banned in Province of Buenos Aires, Argentina*, detailing the recent judicial order to halt the distribution and production of the new GMO wheat in the province of Buenos Aires, the largest wheat producing region in the country. This article acted as a showcasing of policy best practices amidst the pushing of new GMOs under the excuse of a crisis.



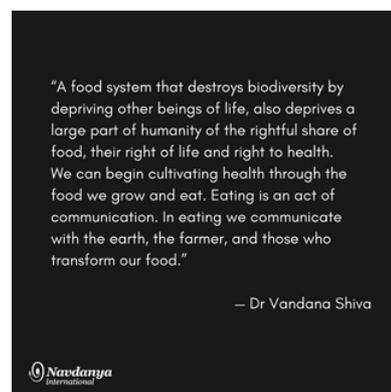
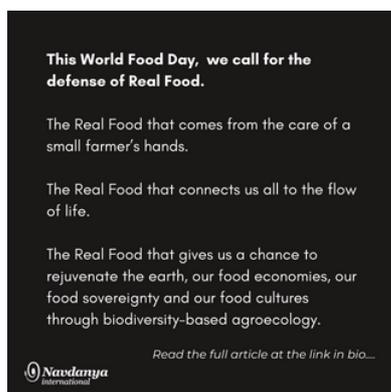
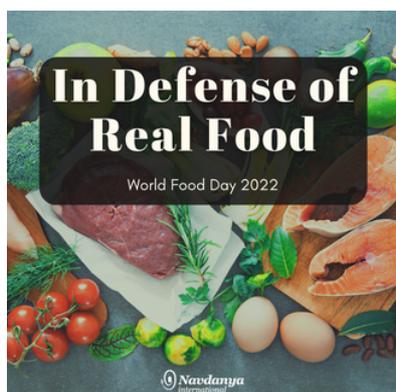
# The Convention on Biological Diversity must resist the commodification of all life.

On December 13, 2022, on the occasion of the 15th COP meeting of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) which took place in Montreal, Canada from Dec 7- 19, NI published, The Convention on Biological Diversity must resist the commodification of all life. This article also acted as the next iteration of our work on the digitalization of biodiversity started during the Gates to a Global Empire report and the 2021 webinar, The Future is GMO free. The publication layed out the details on the double angle attempts to commodifying life, both through the digitalization of genetic information, and the financialization of biodiversity and ecosystems. All at risk due to the corporate lobby and false narratives of the needs to digitalize and financialize nature in order to protect it.



## In Defense of Real Food – World Food Day 2022

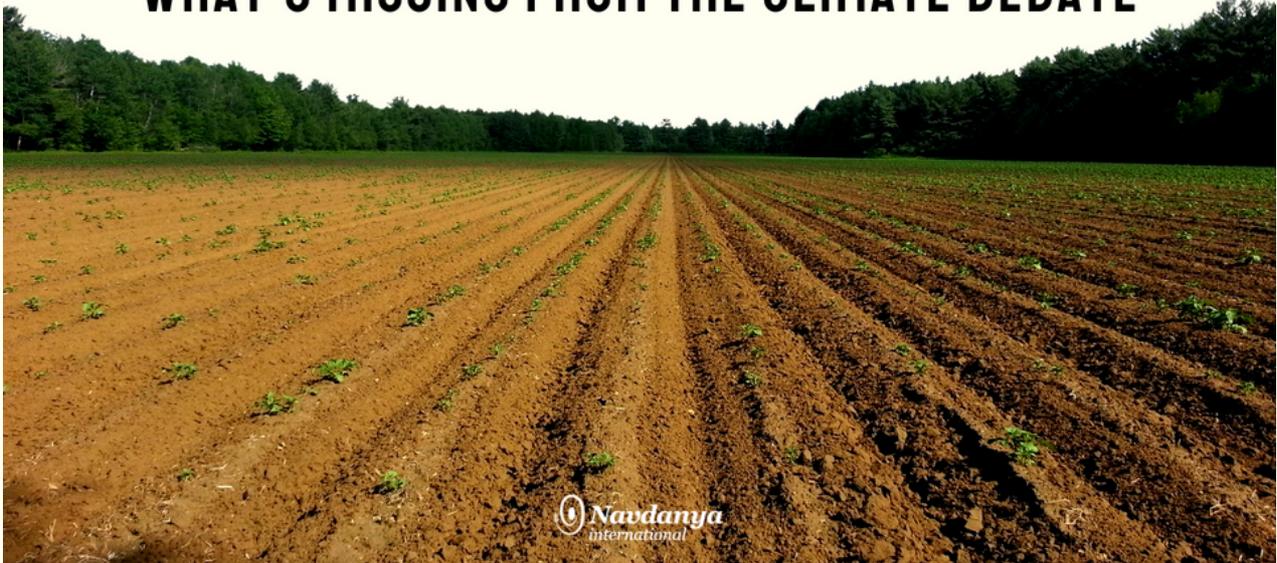
The article layed out the push for food without farmers, and farming without the Earth, which represents the agenda of the next corporate takeover of food systems in the final elimination of real farming through digital agriculture, and elimination Real Food through lab-made synthetic foods. An agenda being pushed through corporate aligned, false climate-change policies to eliminate animal agriculture, vertically integrate supply chains and digitalization.



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# What is Missing from the Climate Debate

## WHAT'S MISSING FROM THE CLIMATE DEBATE



In the wake of yet another year of unprecedented climate chaos, skyrocketing fossil fuel profits, and little to no climate action taken from the previous COP, NI detailed the key aspects missing from the current climate debate especially as the central role food systems play in climate has been reduced into dualistic narratives around plant versus animal, and percentages of CO2 emissions. Instead of addressing the larger crisis of how current industrial practices are destroying Earth's ecosystems and cycles. The dangers of such reductionism, is a greenwashing that omits the real root of ecological destruction- industrial systems in all their iterations, while distracting from intentions to greater control of the food supply chain. This means that to understand how to slow, adapt and heal climate chaos, it is fundamental to understand how each of the planetary cycles is being ruptured and thrown off balance, and not just attempt to 'solve' carbon emissions. The report was translated and republished in *Naturaleza de Derechos* magazine, *Pospandemia*, and the Chilean Environmental outlet *Tomate Rojo*. The social media campaign of this article also went viral on platforms reaching over 20,000 impressions.

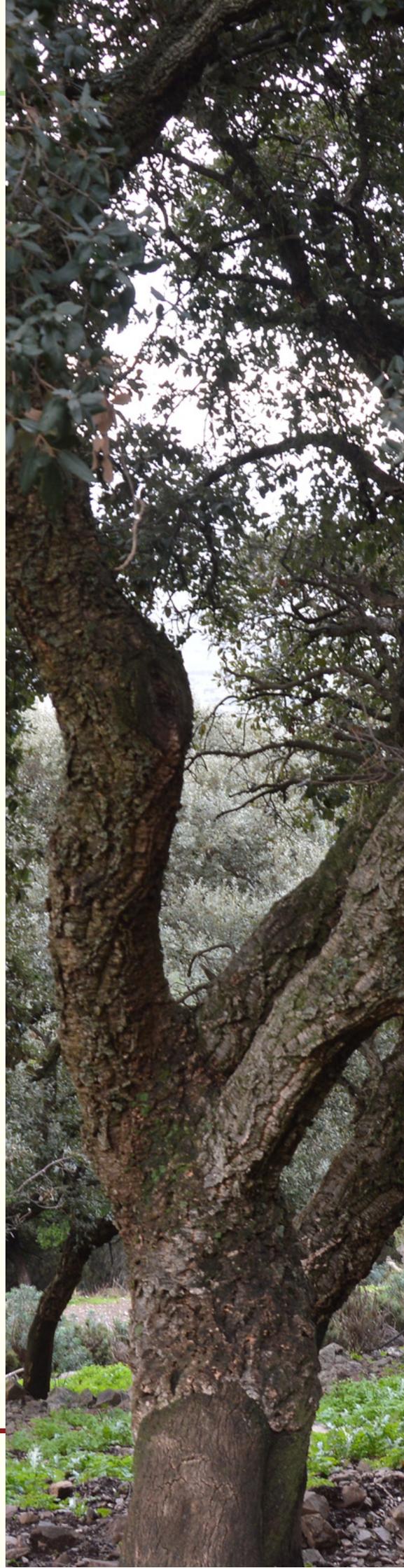
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# Promoting Regenerative Food Cultures

As part of the project objective of showcasing principles of what makes a real food systems and regenerative economy, NI has been working globally with partners to document, support and collaboratively create communities that integrate culture, territory, health, biodiversity and the regeneration of living systems.

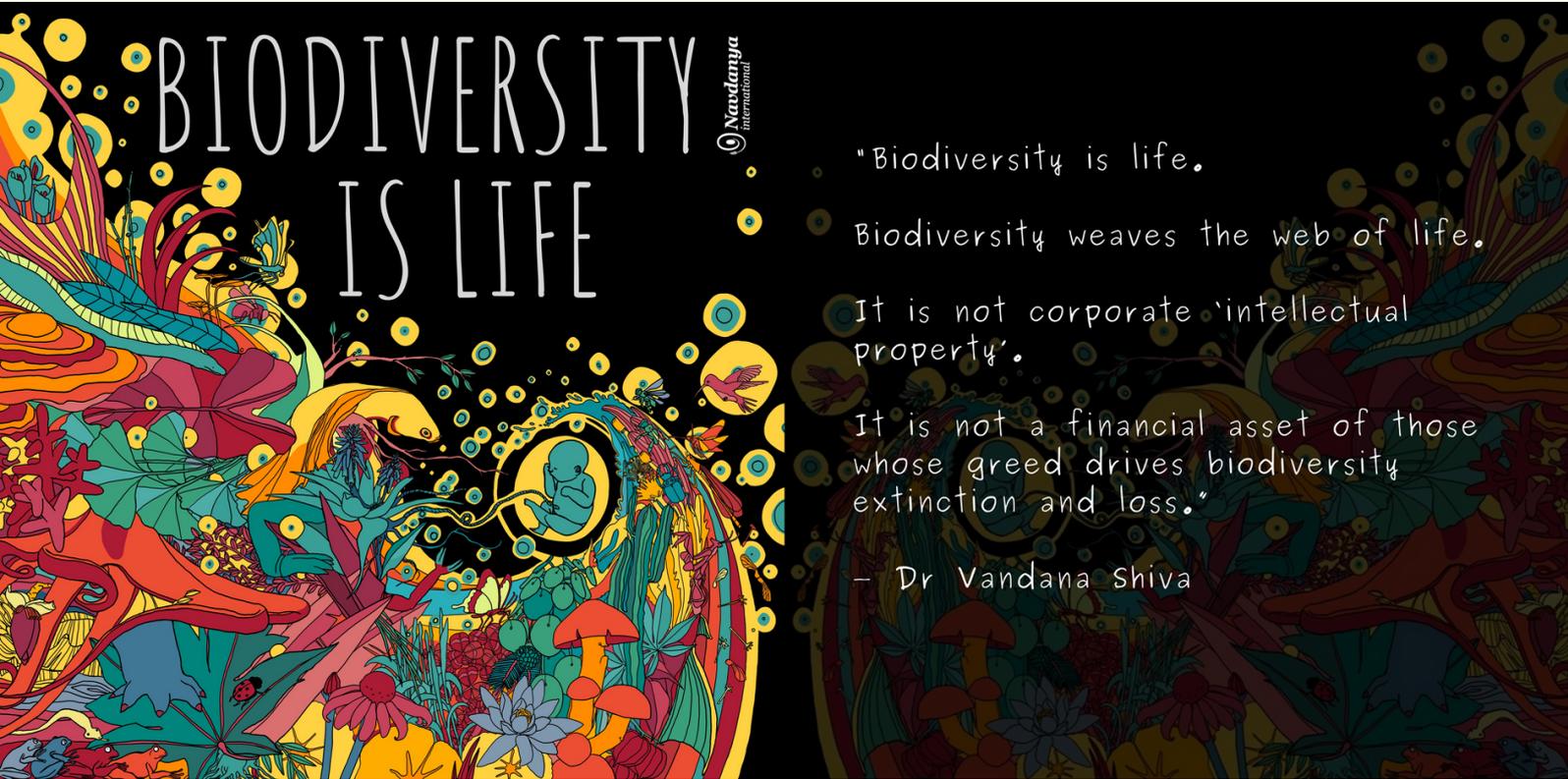
We work to promote inter-linkages between action at the local level and international movement building to inform and create change at the institutional and systems levels and provide a vital platform that joins the various voices across the planet towards an interconnected planetary movement of Earth Democracy.

This year, NI has done this through helping strengthen biodiversity-based agroecology, Seed Freedom, and Ecological Food Systems Transformation through helping support movements on the ground to defend or help implement local ecological food systems and local food economies, as has been the case with Indonesia, Italy, Bangladesh, Mexico, Argentina, and Chile, as well as bringing those local struggles or initiatives to the global discourse.



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# Biodiversity Is Life



"Biodiversity is life.

Biodiversity weaves the web of life.

It is not corporate 'intellectual property'.

It is not a financial asset of those whose greed drives biodiversity extinction and loss."

– Dr Vandana Shiva

In honor of World Biodiversity Day 2023, and as a creative communications tool, Navdanya International presented the illustrated booklet, Biodiversity is Life. The booklet written by NI and illustrated by Sarah Plotegher shows how biodiversity intimately ties the health of ecosystems to human health. We break down how all levels of biodiversity have a direct and tangible tie to human health. Especially as an intimate connection exists between the biodiversity of our diets and gut, and our surrounding ecosystems, making health a continuum.

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# Biodistricts in Bracciano and Martignano Lake

NI has been heavily involved in the creation of a Biodistrict around Lake Bracciano in the Lazio Region, and around Martignano Lake. On September 10, 2022 the project for the new biodistricts was officially announced in a regional meeting consisting of regional Lazio government officials, the Mayors of the areas around Bracciano and Martignano Lakes, and the environmental secretaries of the municipalities of Bracciano and Trevignano Romano, along with NI and other supporting organizations, with NI heading the steering committee. On October 8, 2022 a debate was held on the importance of establishing Biodistricts and the promotion of ecological practices in agriculture.



The creation of this biodistrict stems from back in 2021, when the political party Bracciano Ora Cambia of Bracciano Italy, used NI reports, manifestos and documents to write the party's political platform on food, environment and agriculture. In September 2021, the party won the mayorship, and as of Dec 2021, the administration has used The Food for Health Manifesto, Terra Viva and NI's vast experience to shape policy changes around the region.

## Our Bread, Our Freedom- Call to Action

The call was made in the wake of the food crisis brought on by the Russian invasion of Ukraine, and as a response to the false solutions being implemented because of it (see above for more details). The call to action received responses from all over Europe, Asia and Latin America. One response that stood out and was also a follow up of the June 2022 mobilization tour in Italy, was the association Inifnitimondi of Naples who issued a call to action for the region of Campania.

In response, various independent events were organized around the region. All culminating in an event in Naples on October 15, where seeds were sown that were distributed in a preparatory event, and Dr. Shiva participated live. Out of our Call to Action and the subsequent call of Inifnitimondi of Naples, a new network has now been established in the region of Campania, Italy on the principles of our campaign. The initiative involved more than 30 stakeholders: from schools, to producers and civil society organizations of the Campania region.



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# Ecological Agriculture: Sardinia



In order to promote and support the regenerative ecologies, economies and cultures that are daily taking care of the territories and their living communities by integrating animal biodiversity and traditional knowledge in food systems. In December 2022, NI team visited Sardinia for seven days to meet and interview small-scale traditional shepherds as well as seed & biodiversity networks. In the Sardinian context, many define the local food systems as agro-pastoral systems, highlighting the inherent integration of pastoralism (e.g. traditional animal husbandry) and agricultural practices. The field trip to Sardinia set out to explore this complexity, discover the existing practices of farmers and shepherds who are still living in symbiosis and exchange with their animals and surrounding environment. Interviews with shepherds were undertaken to investigate the main obstacles and problems they face in their work, and to improve our understanding on the cultural and territorial meaning of animal husbandry within an agroecological approach.

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# Earth Democracy



NI has been working to support the building of a global community of transformative initiatives sharing best practices, solutions to issues and threats, and policy strategies. This has also meant working with partners and movements to build broader understanding of Earth Democracy consciousness, as well as support local initiatives in whatever ways are required by our partners. Catalysing and supporting agroecology and regenerative economies by breaking silos, building solidarities between movements, and creating a coherent narrative of Earth Democracy. The overall aim is to support the building of a global community of transformative initiatives to facilitate exchanges between agroecological practitioners, regenerative economies, and other actors involved in an ecological transition by connecting different regions to share best practices, methods and techniques, approaches to transition, solutions to issues and threats, policy strategies, and so on.

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# Chile's Constitutional Process

As part of our policy advocacy, in November 2021, NI began participating with a coalition of civil society organizations to draft articles on the themes of food sovereignty, seed freedom, farmers rights and agroecology for the new Chilean Constitution. By late December 2021, the drafted articles were approved by the constitutional convention to be used as raw material for the different conventional committees. From January onwards, NI kept in close contact with different civil society organisations, convention members and advisors to help support the process of the constitutional debates by providing research, and previous publications to help fortify evidence, in order for versions of the articles drafted by NI and other civil society groups to be ratified in the final draft. NI also provided international coverage of the ecological themes being discussed by the constitutional convention through the article, *For an Ecological Chilean Constitution* published February 9, 2022.

In May 2022 NI was informed that many of the articles drafted by the civil society coalition had been consolidated and accepted into the final draft as five different articles. The articles covered the duty of the state to guard and guarantee food sovereignty and food security, the right to free exchange of traditional seeds, the right to food, the fomenting of local markets, and the recognition, in multiple ways, of the rights and sanctity of Nature. (Specifically articles 54, 55, 56, 241, and 243).

In partnership with the ecological coalition of constitutional conventionalists, [NI released a video of NI president](#), Dr. Vandana Shiva showing her support for the new constitution, as part of the national campaign for approval. Even though the referendum was lost, NI will work to support the next constitutional process.



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# Mobilization Tour: For the Economy of Care

From June 3 to 11, 2022, Dr. Vandana Shiva, President of Navdanya International, took part in a series of events and festivals in various locations in Italy and France, as a Mobilisation Tour for the Economy of Care. The tour started in Naples and up to Turin, passing through Rome and Florence and ending in Sorgues, France. The tour comprised 9 different events and covered a wide range of topics including the economy of care in comparison to our current exploitative paradigm. Dr. Shiva highlighted throughout the tour how an economy of care is the only possible future for the sustainability of agri-food systems, because it creates abundance and life for soils, plants, animals and humans. A Memorandum of Understanding was also signed between Navdanya International and the Association for Biodynamic Agriculture through which all farmers who want to co-design the future of caring for the planet are called to join forces.



## Lectures with Washington State University

As part of expanding our outreach to students and teachers, in May 2022, NI was invited to give four lectures to a group of students from Washington State University, studying abroad in Italy. The students who came from multiple disciplines, were in Italy studying the food systems and food cultures in Italy. NI hence gave interactive discussion lectures on the topics of: Power in the Food System, The false solutions of fake foods and the dichotomies of plant versus animal, Stories of resistance of local food movements, and on the issue of Hazelnut monocultures and the strategic solutions found in the biodistrict model. The Hazelnut lecture served as a continuation and presentation of the previous work done by NI on the issue. The lectures served to sensitize the young students to the multiple and interconnected issues of food systems, as well as viable solutions found in a variety of local food movements. The collaboration has now resulted in a planned long term partnership with Washington State University to continue lectures for subsequent study abroad programs.

## Communications and Articles:

In 2022, Navdanya International website collected more than 34,760 views, while the number of subscribers to our newsletter has reached over 15,150. Our YouTube channel collected over 9,600 views. Our outreach on Social Media Platforms for the same period has reached over 101,000 subscribers on Facebook pages, over 19,700 followers of our Twitter accounts, and over 9,270 followers of our Instagram account.

The team has produced over 30 [articles](#), briefing papers, event reports in English, Italian, Spanish, and other languages, which can be found on our NI website and have been shared through our [newsletters](#) and social media platforms. Among the topics covered:

### Exposing False Solutions

[Mother Earth is Not for Sale!](#) (20 April 2022)

[How finance is speculating on the wheat crisis - Interview with Dr Vandana Shiva](#) (16 June 2022)

[Press Release - Sowing Hunger, Reaping Profits](#) (24 June 2022)

### Towards an Ecological Food System

[Biodiverse, circular and local food systems are the foundation of food sovereignty](#) (31 October 2022)

[Rewilding Food, Rewilding Our Mind & Rewilding the Earth](#) (20 September 2022)

### The threat of Pesticides and the Industrial Agriculture model

[The Nitrogen Problem in Agriculture](#) (7 July 2022)

[New GMO Wheat Banned in Province of Buenos Aires, Argentina](#) (21 July 2022)

### [Press coverage](#)

A section dedicated to Navdanya International articles and reports, translated into German, was published on [vandana-shiva.de](https://vandana-shiva.de) website <https://vandana-shiva.de/navdanya-international/#artikel>

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