



States and Localities Take Action to Ban Biolabs

Corporate Takeover of the Global Food System Should Not Get UN Approval

Shalmali Guttal Sofia Monsalve writes for openDemocracy:

"A U.N. summit on global food systems should be an opportunity to address structural inequalities and tackle hunger. It should be a chance to learn from small-scale producers whose sustainable food practices feed 70% of the world. Instead, next week's conference in Rome will be a festival of greenwashing, allowing Big Agriculture corporations to tighten their grip on food systems..."

Sadly, it looks set to simply consolidate corporate control over food and natural resources.

Hundreds of grassroots groups have called out the U.N., saying they are still being excluded and claiming the summit is "poised to repeat the failures" of two years ago and want to see fundamental change in food systems.

Here's the picture as it stands. A handful of agribusinesses control more than 70% of the world's farmland. Smallholder farmers, fisherfolk, pastoralists, and Indigenous peoples, who use agroecology and other sustainable practices, feed 70% of the world's population with just 10% of global farmland."

Read more: <https://orgcns.org/44G73D6>

Stop Weaponizing Pathogens! Ban Gain-of-Function Biolabs!

People are worried about the biolabs in their backyards.

From Boston, Massachusetts, to Manhattan, Kansas, to Berkeley, California, activists have tried to stop risky gain-of-function research to weaponize potential pandemic pathogens.

Now, states and localities are starting to take action.

Florida has banned enhanced potential pandemic pathogen research and San Carlos, California, has banned higher-risk biolabs.

A bill in Texas to restrict research on potentially pandemic pathogens passed out of committee, but didn't get a floor vote.

TAKE ACTION: Ask your state legislators to ban gain-of-function biolabs! <https://orgcns.org/408S8iv>

Crazy but True: Congress Just Renewed Emergency Powers That Allow Biological Weapons Attacks on U.S. Citizens

"In a massive show of support for limitless executive power, Congress rejected legislation that would have terminated national emergency powers allowing Washington to wage war across the Middle East.

These same emergency powers give the president the power to lift bans on testing biological weapons on US citizens.

Led by Representative Paul Gosar, a handful of Republican members of Congress launched a protest against 41 nominal "national emergency" declarations, many of which are decades old.

Rep. Gosar has argued the National Emergencies Act is "tyrannical," granting 148 separate powers to the executive branch."

Read more: <https://orgcns.org/3rQPzFs>

It's Time to Ban Red Dye No. 3

"Health concerns keep shrinking the roster of approved artificial dyes.

When synthetic food dyes were newer, their shortcomings were hard to miss. One of the colorants' main ingredients was derived from the by-products of the process that turned coal into fuel—and in the absence of careful scrutiny, some early batches of the dyes ended up contaminated with arsenic, mercury, and lead. Companies also used the dyes to conceal defects or spoilage that then sickened many people.

In recent years, European countries have appended warning labels onto the products that contain them; the United States has whittled down its once-long list of approved artificial food dyes to just nine. The FDA is now reviewing a petition to delist Red No. 3, which colors candy corn, conversation hearts, and certain chewing gums and cake icings; California and New York are mulling legislation that could ban the additive, along with several others, by 2025."

Read more: <https://orgcns.org/3rNwif6>

21 Phenomenal Visionaries Who Enact Revolutionary Change and Build Indigenous Power

NDN Collective reports:

"On Wednesday, May 17th, NDN Collective announced the 2023/24 NDN Changemaker Fellow Cohort, consisting of 21 Indigenous leaders from throughout Turtle Island and beyond who are radically transforming Indigenous communities by defending Indigenous lands, waters, and rights; developing solutions for the future that regenerate the health of the Earth and our communities; and revitalizing our languages, governance practices, ceremonies, and ways of life."

Read more: <https://orgcns.org/3Owk2BD>

Seed Saving 101: Everything You Need to Know

Libby Leonard writes for Eco Watch:

"During the pandemic, many turned to gardening as a refuge. According to a survey, while many did it because they were concerned about food access and food security, others also said it was mainly a way to feel less isolated and depressed, and as a way to grow food for the community.

So many people turned to "pandemic gardening" that seed companies couldn't keep up with the demand. During this time, the practice of saving seeds also started growing in popularity, but why is it important?

Traditionally, the process of saving seeds has been practiced for thousands of years, particularly in Indigenous communities who rely on crops not just for food, but for social and cultural purposes. It has been and still is not only an investment in future harvests, but a critical lifeline to the environment, food security, and the preservation of cultures."

Read more: <https://orgcns.org/3q4kEoR>

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