FOOD AS A COMMONS

Achieving Food Security by Student Activism, Food Citizenship and Community Enterprises

Rationale

Students have an unalienable right to healthy food. Therefore, students are logical activists for a green campus. This implies the participation of universities (and schools) in the co-creation of fair and sustainable food systems. Food systems depend on urban-rural collaboration. Students are co-responsible citizens towards guaranteeing inclusive food security for present and future generations. Food security should be understood in the framework of addressing climate emergency and multi-stakeholder collaboration for ecosystem and bio-diversity restoration. New efforts will have to be made towards shaping and enforcing international environmental law. Organic agriculture, regenerative farming, permaculture and agro-ecology are methods that transform food systems from causing climate change to practices of “healing the Earth”. This requires social entrepreneurship in a spirit of community, respecting the dignity of farmers as environmental caretakers, as well as engagement of urban citizens of all standings.

Food as a Commons

The above rationale leads to the conclusion that in essence food should be understood as a “commons”. This implies that food should be subject to sharing and care rather than profit making and market dominance by consumers who can pay most. Given the daily engagement of every and each person with food, the food system may qualify as a unique opportunity for co-creating an economic system which is driven by “social entrepreneurship”.

UN Food Systems Summit (UNFSS) and a “new economy”

The follow-up to the UN Food Systems Summit in New York, 23 September 2021 – although it brought pertaining serious conflicts of interest to the surface – will provide a platform for the global and local commons movement to articulate its direction. New opportunities for multi-stakeholder
collaboration towards transforming food systems in compliance with sustainability and social justice may arise. Civil society leadership — including student activism — may ultimately converge towards co-creating an alternative economic pathway. The G20 in Rome, COP26 in Glasgow, and **Stockholm+50 in June 2022**, will offer pivots to changing direction from extractive and exploitative practices to collaboration, sharing and regeneration of life forces. In this context Common Home of Humanity (CHH) convenes a **Stockholm+49 Summit** — we organize CURLS 2021 online exactly preceding it — so that participants can have dialogue and critical exchanges towards advocacy for **people’s Earth Democracy scenarios** and Earth Trusteeship.

**Aim**

CURLS 2021 intends to be an exploratory starting point for student activism towards a **movement** for food citizenship and food community, in a long-term perspective.

**Format** **CURLS 2021 FOOD AS A COMMONS** Online 19 – 20 October

The program consists of four independent activities which are partially overlapping. In this format there will be ample space for the expression of different opinions and perspectives.

**TUESDAY 19 OCTOBER** morning and afternoon **CONNECTING THE COMMONS** (CTC) Focus Group 2 “Collaboration of Commons Initiatives in Thailand” organized by the CTC Team.

International CURLS Forum 16.00-18.00 hours **FOOD AS A COMMONS**: Achieving Food Security by Student Activism, Food Citizenship and Community Enterprise

**WEDNESDAY 20 OCTOBER** 16.00-18.00 hours Right Livelihood College Bangkok and Earth Trusteeship Working Group (ETWG) organize an international forum **50 Years after Stockholm 1972. A GLOBAL PACT FOR THE ENVIRONMENT?** Ecosystem Restoration, Earth Trusteeship and Local Engagement with Food Communities

**WEDNESDAY 20 - 21 OCTOBER** 19.00-23.00 hours Common Home of Humanity **Stockholm+49 SUMMIT**.

“The United Nations Food Systems Summit (UNFSS) that took place in New York, 23 September, was, as expected, going in the wrong direction for many. As civil society members, as well as past and current Rapporteurs on the Right to Food, have denounced, this summit is yet another instrument to reinforce corporate control over food and agriculture, while attempting to restrain civil society’s role in global food governance. Full text: [https://navdanyinternational.org/](https://navdanyinternational.org/)

Therefore a 24 hours **People’s Food Summit** is being organized on World Food Day 16 October

[https://regenerationinternational.org/peoples-food-summit](https://regenerationinternational.org/peoples-food-summit)
CURLS 2021 PROGRAM

• TUESDAY 19 OCTOBER – FORUM 16.00-18.00 (+ 30 minutes future activities consultation until 18.30)

FOOD AS A COMMONS.

Achieving Food Security by Student Activism, Food Citizenship and Community Enterprises

Resource persons

Right Livelihood Laureate Dr. Vandana Shiva, Navdanya, India; David Bollier, USA and Silke Helfrich (video); Jiyoung Moon, Hansalim cooperative federation, Korea; Justice Suntariya Muanpawong*, Court of Appeal, Thailand; Professor Marina Chang*, Coventry University, U.K.; Connecting the Commons (CTC) partners, Thailand. Moderator: Yanunthon Buakamsri, Students Council, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand (* = to be confirmed).

Right Livelihood
COLLEGE BANGKOK

• WEDNESDAY 20 OCTOBER – 16.00-18.00 hours

50 Years after Stockholm 1972: A Global Pact for the Environment?

Ecosystem Restoration, Earth Trusteeship and Local Engagement with Food Communities

16.00 – 18.00 hours RLC Bangkok International Forum

Resource persons:
Right Livelihood Laureates: SEKEM, Mona Abouleish, Egypt, and Raúl Montenegro, Universitas Córdoba, Argentina; Seng Raw Lahpai, Founder, Metta Development Foundation, Myanmar; Neshan Gunasekera, Sri Lanka, World Future Council; Gunnar Rundgren, “Garden Earth”, Sweden; and Wallapa van Willenswaard, INI, Thailand. Moderators: Alyn Ware, Peace educator, New Zealand and Justin Sobion, Ph.D. Candidate, University of Auckland (NZ), Trinidad and Tobago.

Join CURLS 2021 ZOOM Online Event, both 19 and 20 October
https://zoom.us/j/94456822521?pwd=VUZpSXZQSDVjTUQrcGszMUFmVNnUT09
Meeting ID: 944 5682 2521
Passcode: 326583

Direct access to the zoom link, registration not needed

Common Home of Humanity, Portugal, the Global Pact Coalition and partners organize a two-day online event anticipating the Stockholm+50 commemorations in 2022. See program and register separately via websites below.

• 20 - 21 OCTOBER START 19.00 HOURS BKK TIME

Make 2022 a Game Changer

The Stockholm+49 Summit

https://www.commonhomeofhumanity.org/
https://www.pathway2022declaration.org/