

11 April, 2011

Dear friends,

It seems that not a day goes by without hearing about environmental issues: from global warming to food security to oil prices. While there is a globally shared responsibility for environmental consequences, the US and a few other countries are overwhelmingly responsible for the growing negative impacts. Unfortunately, these negative impacts are disproportionately effecting developing nations. One of the main issues is the US's dependence, and exploitation, of imported agriculture from places like South America and Africa. Therefore, what is on our plates every day directly impacts your homes and communities. Firelight takes environmental issues seriously, especially since we realize these issues are directly impacting your organizations. We hope that the resources below are helpful to your organizations when focusing on environmental causes. And in case you haven't heard, Firelight has proudly been certified as a Green Business (<http://blog.firelightfoundation.org/2011/03/17/good-to-be-green/>). It's a small step, but every step counts!

Sincerely,
Firelight Team

- "Green" funders
- (Article) Global: Leaked World Bank energy strategy pushes destructive dams--
(Resource) Gender and Agriculture sourcebook
- (Resource) Gender and Agriculture sourcebook
- Resources from 'Green' Organizations
- (Resource) Agriculture at a Crossroads Global Report
- (Resource) Report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to food, Olivier De Schutter - Agribusiness and the right to food

"Green" funders

Here is a list of funders who focus primarily or completely on environmental causes:

Global Greengrants Fund

Everyone should be able to protect the places and ways they live. In much of the developing world, local communities are denied this right. Global Greengrants Fund creates opportunities by making small grants to grassroots groups working for social and environmental justice. Each grant is a chance to make a difference.

<http://www.greengrants.org/>

also, watch their video here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yoWINPgPLeg>

Pesticides Action Network

Pesticide Action Network North America (PAN North America, or PANNA) works to replace the use of hazardous pesticides with ecologically sound and socially just alternatives. As one of five PAN Regional Centers worldwide, we link local and international consumer, labor, health, environment and agriculture groups into an international citizens' action network. This network challenges the global proliferation of pesticides, defends basic rights to health and environmental quality, and works to ensure the transition to a just and viable society.

<http://www.panna.org/>

Groundswell International

Groundswell International is a partnership of local NGOs and resource people in Latin America, Africa and Asia, coordinated by a global office based in the U.S., working to strengthen capacity for positive social change in rural communities.

<http://groundswellinternational.org/>

IDEX

IDEX is a San Francisco based non-profit organization that promotes sustainable solutions to poverty by providing long-term grants and access to resources to locally run organizations in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

<http://www.idex.org/>

Grassroots International

Grassroots International works to create a just and sustainable world by building alliances with progressive movements. We provide grants to our global south partners and join them in advocating for social change. Our primary focus is on land, water and food as human rights and nourishing the political struggle necessary to achieve these rights.

<http://www.grassrootsonline.org/>

(Article) Global: Leaked World Bank energy strategy pushes destructive dams

In a time of climate change, decentralized, adaptable and diversified water and energy projects are best suited to respond to increasingly variable and unpredictable weather patterns. Large dams risk becoming uneconomic due to droughts, and unsafe due to more extreme storms. They will also further degrade freshwater ecosystems which are already reeling under the impacts of climate change. In spite of this, the World Bank's new Energy Strategy calls for increased funding for large dams. According to International Rivers, a strategy that is based

on yesterday's technologies cannot resolve tomorrow's problems.

For more, go here: <http://www.pambazuka.org/en/category/environment/72149>

(Resource) Gender and Agriculture sourcebook

Three out of every four poor people in developing countries live in rural areas, and most of them depend directly or indirectly on agriculture for their livelihoods.

In many parts of the world, women are the main farmers or producers, but their roles remain largely unrecognized. The *2008 World Development Report: Agriculture for Development* highlights the vital role of agriculture in sustainable development and its importance in achieving the Millennium Development Goal of halving by 2015 the share of people suffering from extreme poverty and hunger. Climate change and rising food prices are reminders of the need to focus on food security and agriculture for development; and the material presented in the *Gender in Agriculture Sourcebook* suggests that accounting for the different roles of women and men and gender equality in access to resources and opportunities is a necessary condition for doing so.

For more, see the attached gender and agriculture sourcebook

Resources from 'Green' Organizations

La Via Campesina is the international movement which brings together millions of peasants, small and medium-size farmers, landless people, women farmers, indigenous people, migrants and agricultural workers from around the world. It defends small-scale sustainable agriculture as a way to promote social justice and dignity. It strongly opposes corporate driven agriculture and transnational companies that are destroying people and nature.

La Via Campesina comprises about 150 local and national organizations in 70 countries from Africa, Asia, Europe and the Americas. Altogether, it represents about 200 million farmers. It is an autonomous, pluralist and multicultural movement, independent from any political, economic or other type of affiliation.

La Via Campesina has a dense website filled with resources, networks, and publications. For more, go

here: http://viacampesina.org/en/index.php?option=com_content&view=frontpage&Itemid=1

Pesticides Action Network is a funder as well as a great resource. There are several resources from PAN attached to this Newsflash! For even more, go here: <http://www.panna.org/>

See the attachment for Agroecology and sustainable development

See the attachment for Climate, agroecology, food sovereignty and gender resources

(Resource) Agriculture at a Crossroads Global Report

The objective of the International Assessment of Agricultural Knowledge, Science and Technology for Development (IAASTD) was to assess the impacts of past, present and future agricultural knowledge, science and technology on the:

- reduction of hunger and poverty,
 - improvement of rural livelihoods and human health, and
 - equitable, socially, environmentally and economically sustainable development.
- It brought together representatives from 58 countries including Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia.

For more,

go here: <http://www.agassessment.org/index.cfm?Page=IAASTD%20Reports&ItemID=2713>

(Resource) Report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to food, Olivier De Schutter - Agribusiness and the right to food

This report examines the role of commodity buyers, food processors and retailers in the realization of the right to food. These actors play a key role, as they connect producers to consumers, and as they transform raw commodities into edible food. But the vast majority of those who are hungry in the world today are part of the food system; small independent food producers or waged agricultural workers working on farms in the formal or informal sector represent over half of the billion who go hungry today. The report therefore asks how the sourcing, pricing, and wages policies of commodity buyers, food processors and retailers impact the right to food. The report seeks to contribute to a better understanding, by agribusiness corporations and States alike, of their respective responsibilities and obligations under international law. It ends with 10 recommendations to States and the agribusiness sector to ensure that the current transformation of the food chain will contribute to the realization of the right to food. The recommendations relate to a range of areas, including codes of conduct and international framework agreements, cooperatives, marketing boards, public procurement, and competition law.

The report is in multiple languages. For the report, click on the links under the 'Documents' column. Each letter stands for a different language ('E' for English, 'F' for French, etc). Go here:

http://ap.ohchr.org/documents/dpage_e.aspx?si=A/HRC/13/33

As part of the Firelight Foundation's Capacity Building Program, Firelight provides "Newsflashes" to share relevant resources and information with our active grantee-partners via weekly emails and via post on a monthly basis. We hope that by facilitating access to information for grassroots, community-focused organizations, programming for children and families, as well as organizational development, is enhanced. Past editions of the Firelight Newsflash can be found on our website: <http://www.firelightfoundation.org/newsflash.php>.

We welcome your comments, feedback and ideas for upcoming Newsflashes at newsletter@firelightfoundation.org.