



ORGANICS EUROPE YOUTH EVENT



Organic And You(th)
Building Resilient Food Futures



in collaboration with





Access to Land

From Commodity to Commons Exploring problems and possible solutions

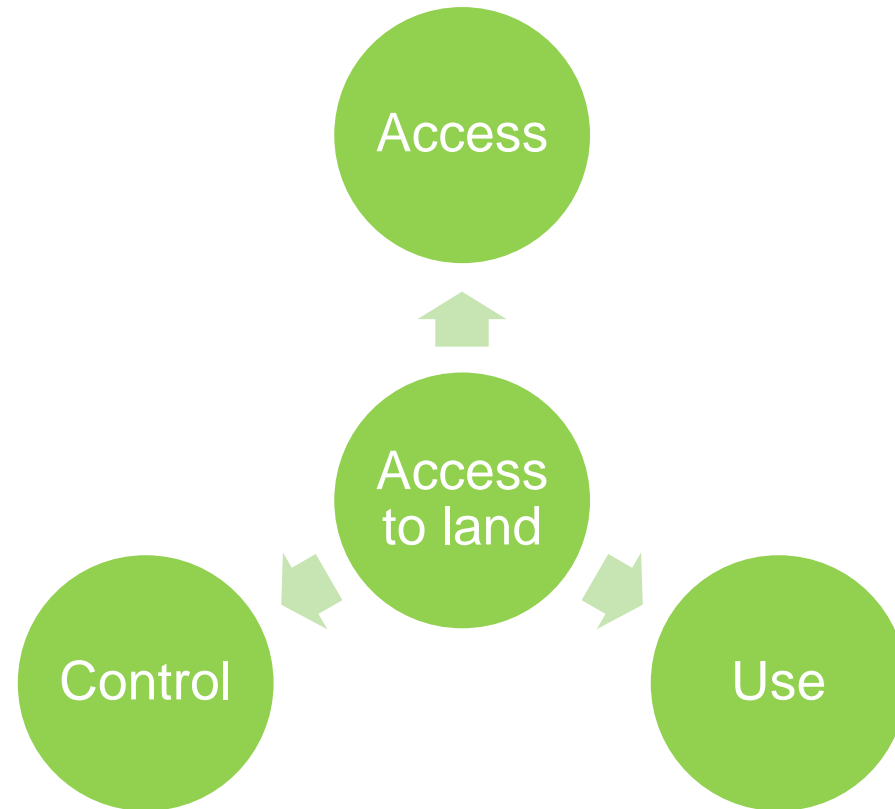
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Food expert, ICLEI Europe
PhD Researcher, University of Antwerp



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Exploring the problems

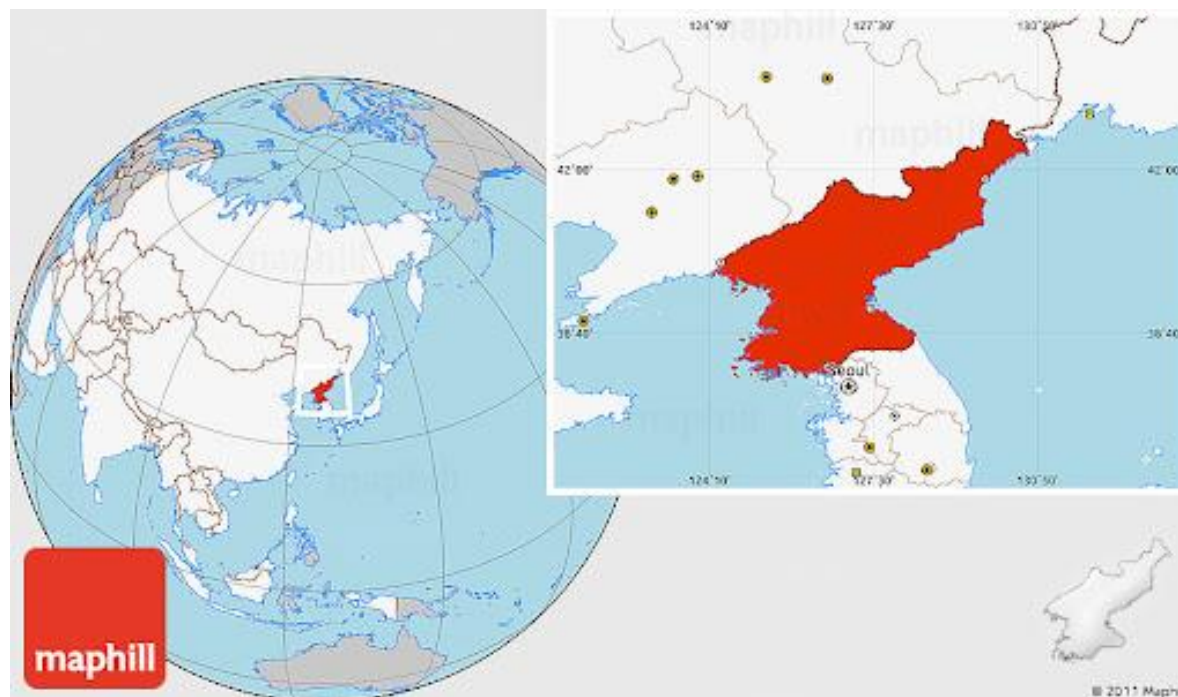
Access to land: what are we talking about?



Who can access land?

Availability

- 12 million hectares are lost every year due to climate change (UN 2019)
- Raising sea levels, desertification, land degradation and pollution



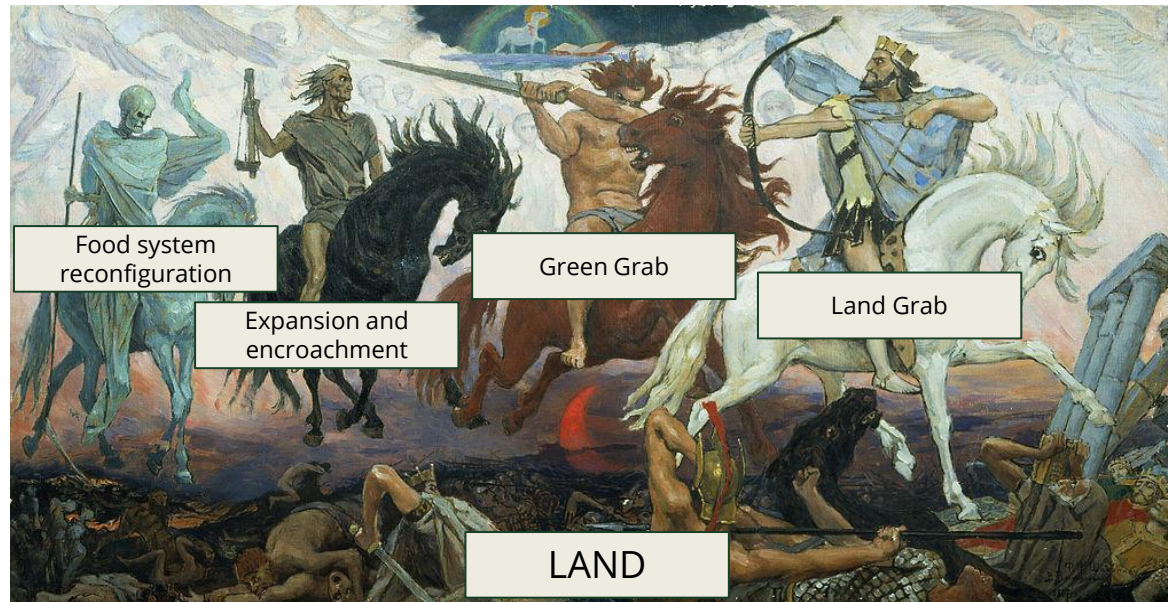
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Land grabbing

The appropriation of control (ownership, lease, concession, shares, etc.) of huge swathes of land by any person or entity for the purpose of speculation, extraction, commodity production at the expense of agroecology, stewardship, and human rights. (IPES-Food 2024)



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(1) Land grabbing, (2) Green Grabbing, (3) Expansion and encroachment, and (4) food system reconfiguration (IPES-Food 2024)

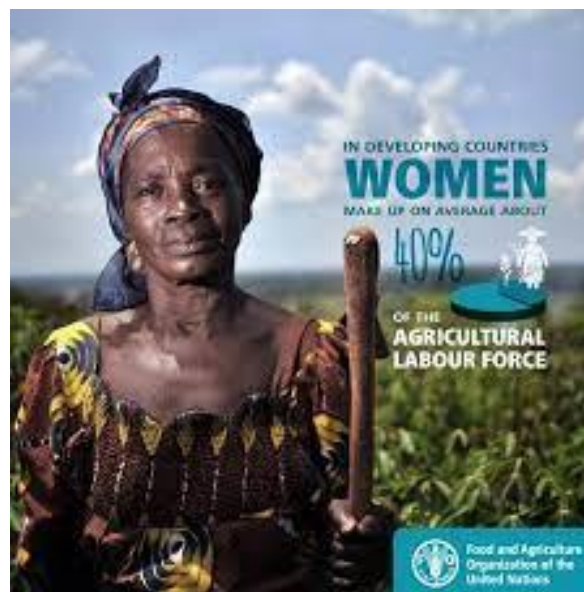
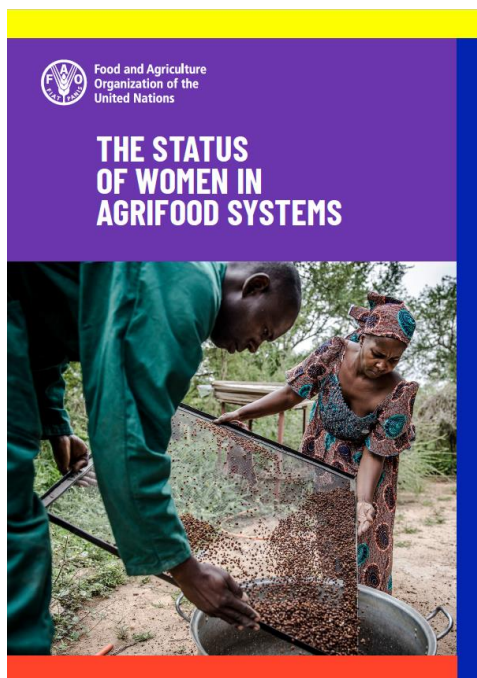
Accessibility

(1) Land is expensive, (2) farmers hold-on to their land, (3) sexist and racist ideology

Who is controlling land?

Women, Indigenous people & land titling

- Securing land titles for indigenous people is not certainty against land grabbing



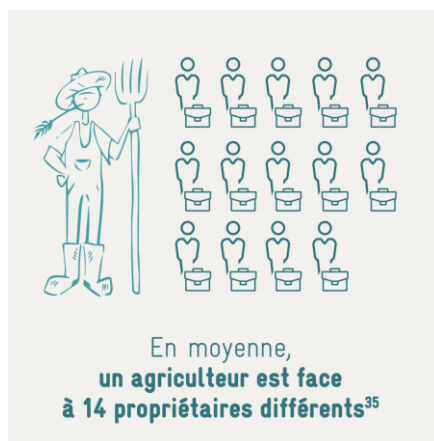
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Medium and small-scale farmers and land insecurity

- Multiple landowners, indebtedness and risk of losing their land



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State and the growth narrative

- Example: South Africa mining project and community evictions



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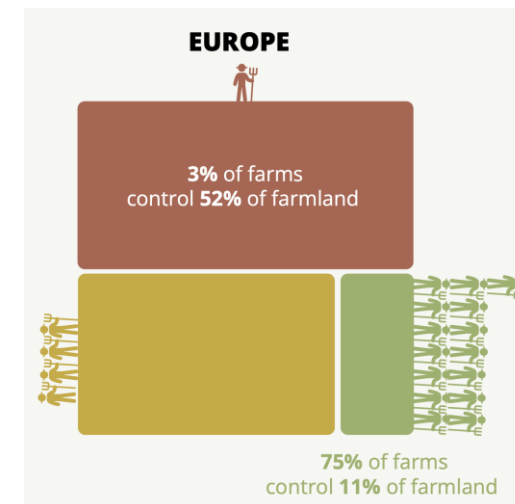
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Big agri-business and financial actors

- Land concentration and land exploitation



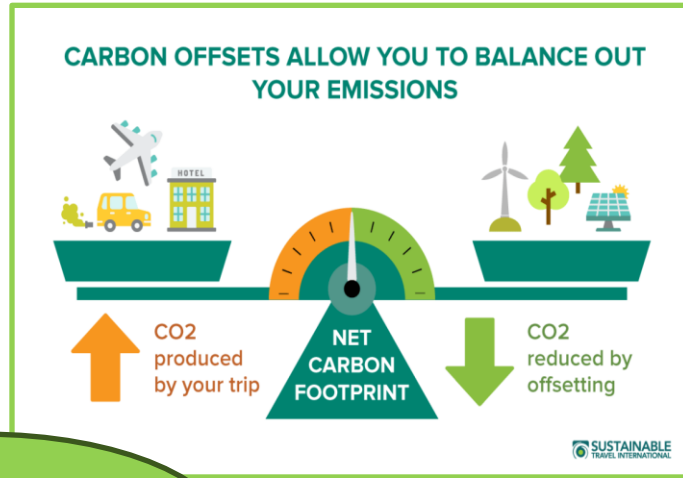
Pension Funds

Hedge Funds

Sovereign Funds

Asset Managers

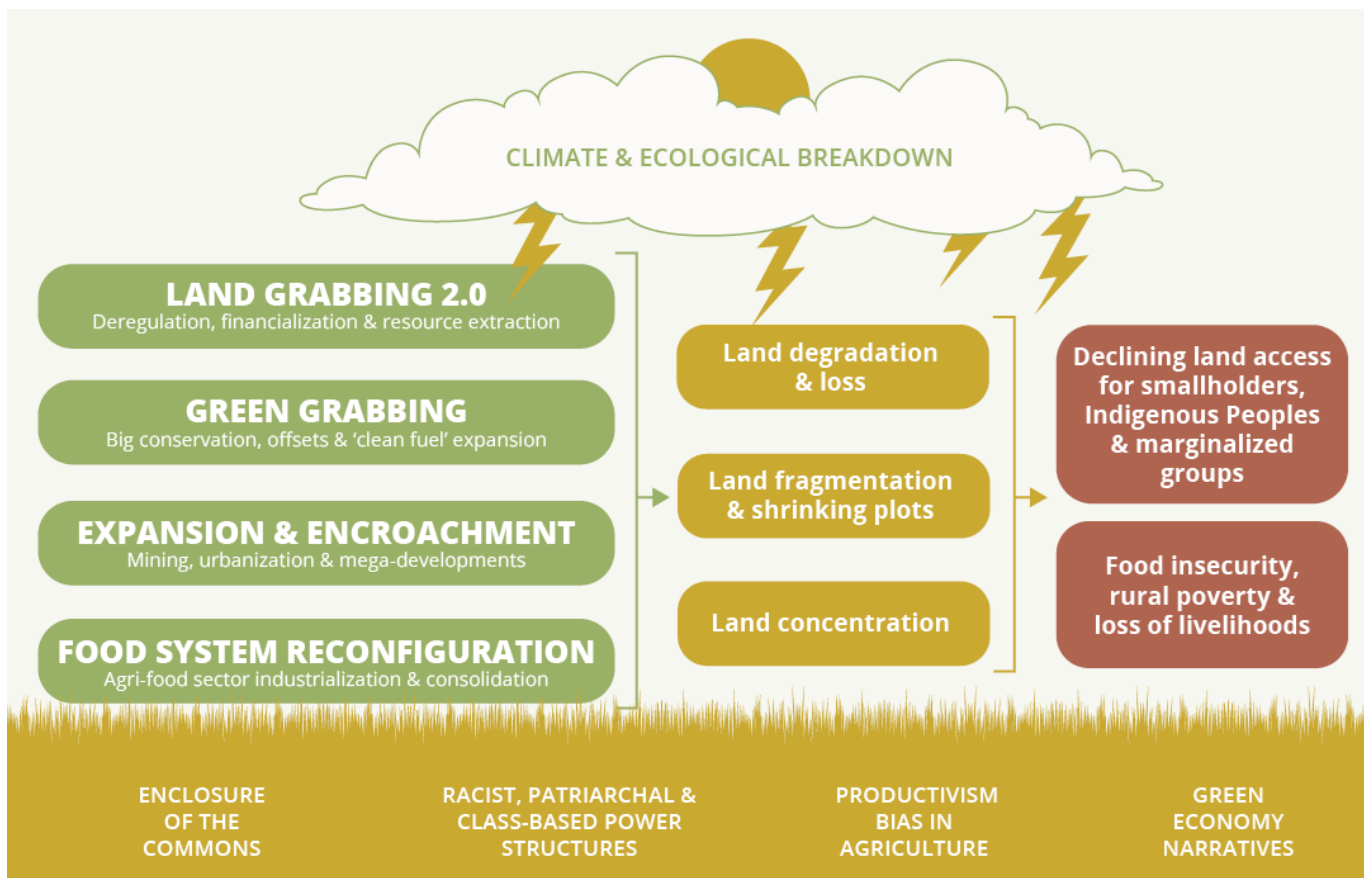
How is land used?



LAND FOR PROFIT



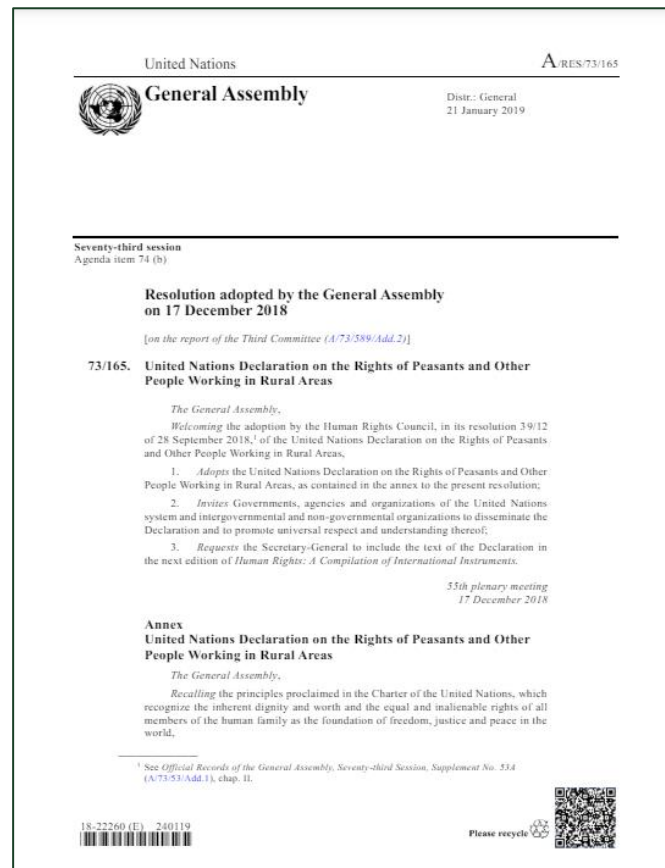
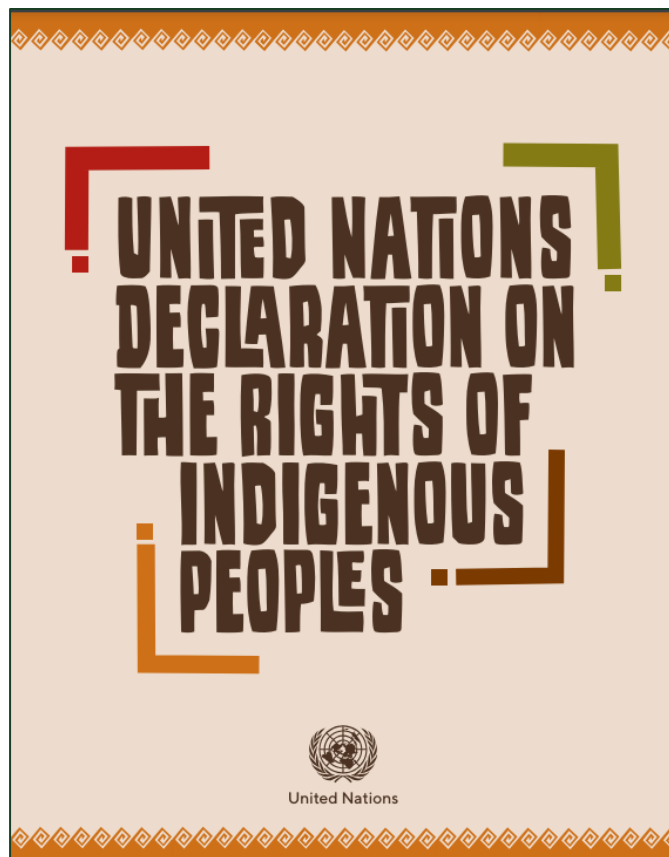
Land as nothing but a commodity



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Exploring the solutions

Right to Land in International Law



There is no «right to land» in International Law

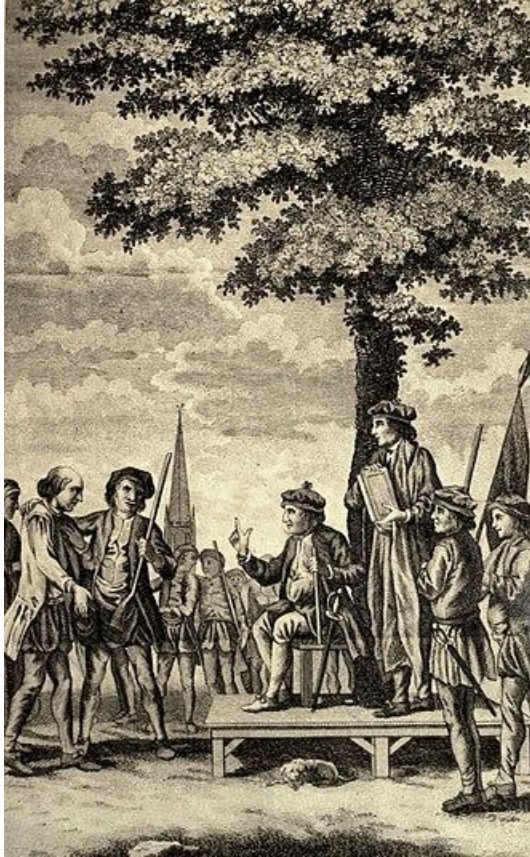
- UDHR: right to property
- ICESCR: right to food

However:

- UNDRIP (2007) Article 26
- UNDROP (2018) Article 17

FAO (2012) *Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Land Tenure*.

Resist the ongoing enclosures



Kett Rebellion 1549



Illustration entitled 'Catching A Poacher' from The Graphic newspaper pub. October 17th, 1874

Black Act 1723



Florence 2020

Commoning land



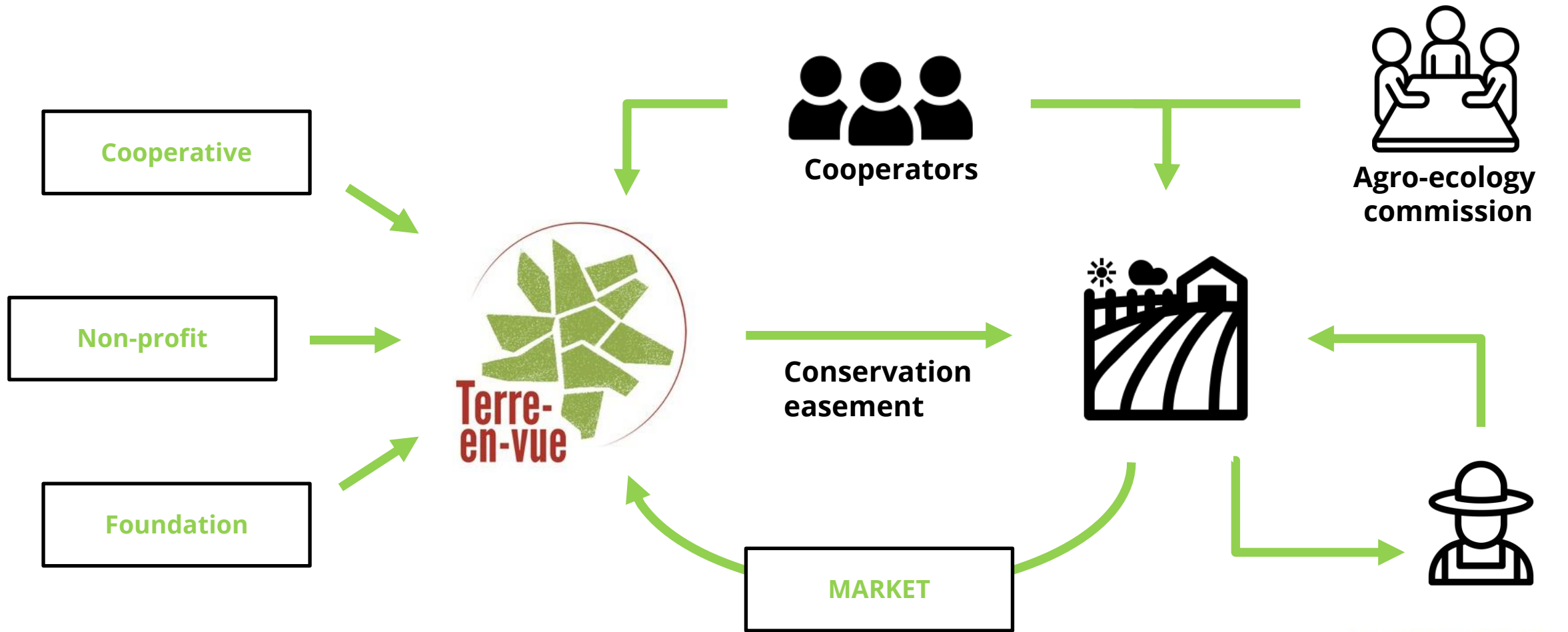
my photo



De Landgenoten
Landbouwgrond voor bioboeren



Commoning land



Land market control

SAFER is a public agency for market land control:

Its powers are:

- Stopping land transaction
- Pre-emptive rights to land
- Since 2023, intervention in transfers agricultural companies shares:

Its objectives are:

- Provisioning of land for new entrants
- Preventing land concentration
- Consolidating small holdings in viable units



Reshaping property law

Highest rate of land concentration:

- In 2013, 430 people owned 50% of land

Land Reform Acts (2003 – 2016)

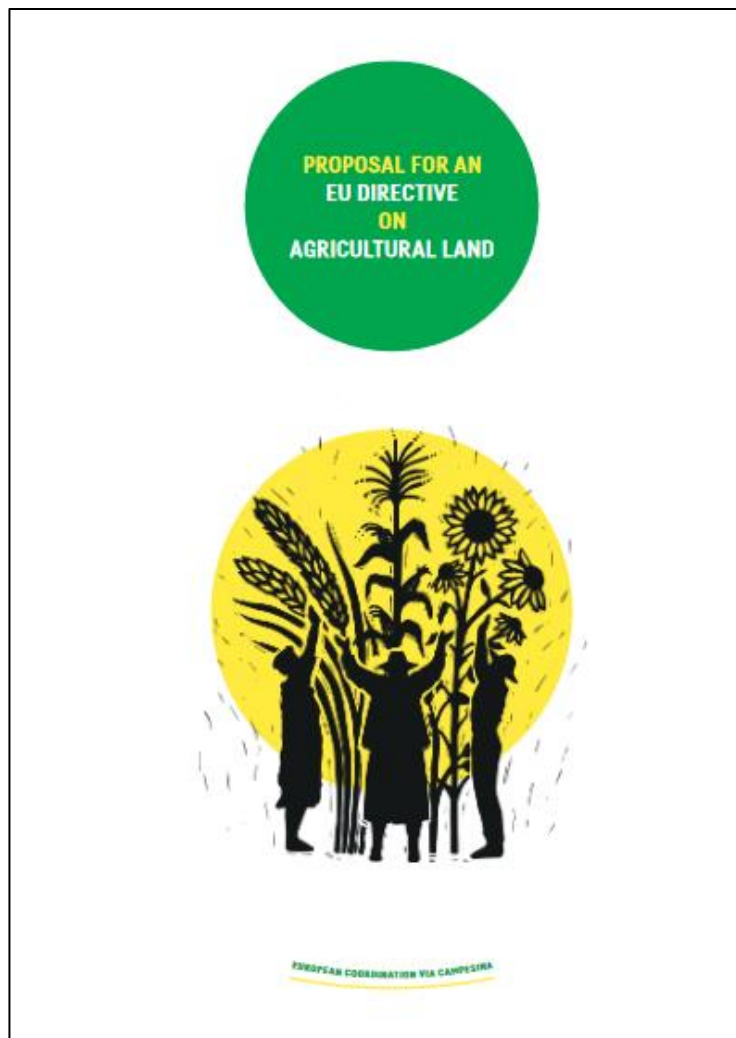
- Community pre-emptive right to buy land in a willing seller willing buyer situation
- Community right to buy «neglected or abandoned» land from an unwilling seller
- Community right to buy land for «sustainable development» project from an unwilling seller

Scottish Land Fund

- 1 million grant to buy land



Land reforms



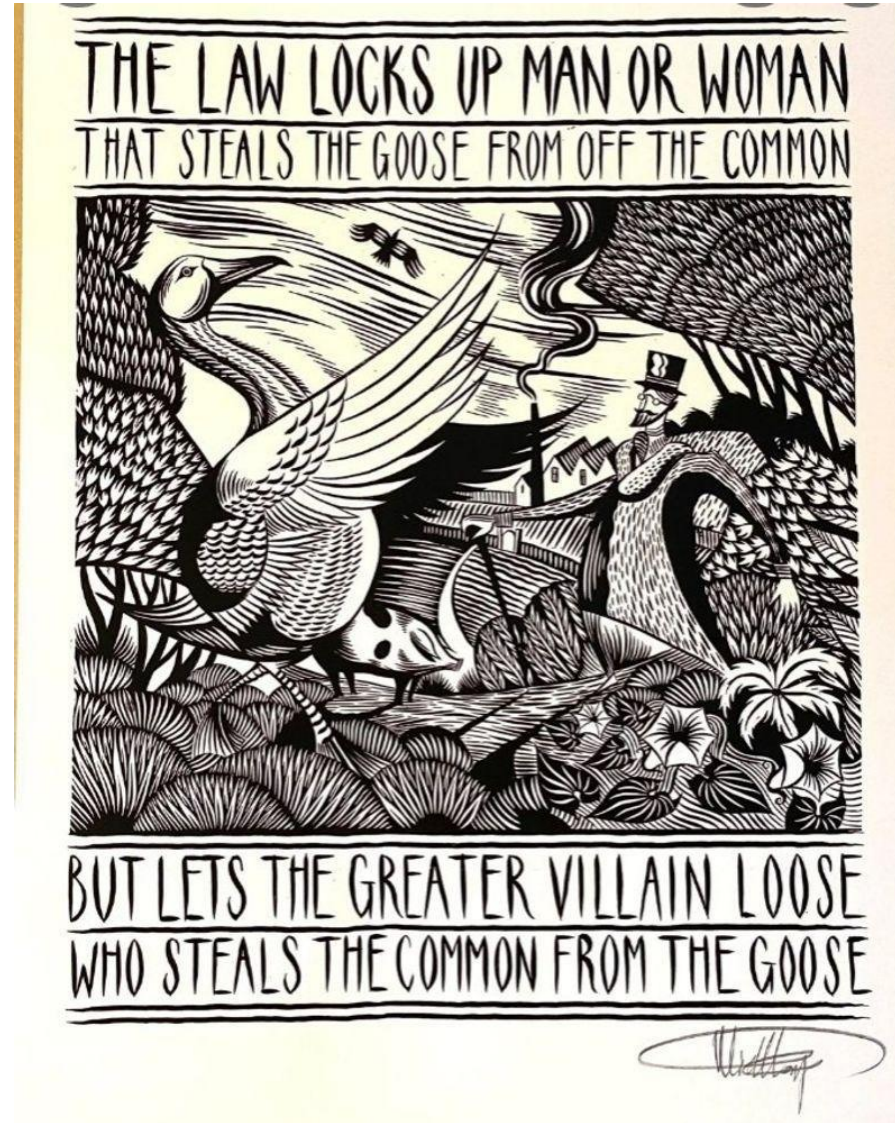
Proposal EU Directive on Agricultural Land (ECVC 2023)

- Define land as a common
- Set up measures to fight land grabbing (art.3)
- Create a European land observatory (art.4)
- Stronger land market regulation (art.6)
- Plans to improve soil health (art.14)
- Promote agro-ecological land uses (art.18)
- Set up public land banks (art.21)

From land to agrarian reform: from CAP to CAFP

- Access to land
- Democratic control
- Farmers autonomy
- Market access and fair remuneration

THANK YOU!



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