

Member State Representatives of the FAO Council  
UN Food and Agriculture Organization  
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla  
00153 Rome, Italy

9 June 2022

**Civil society and Indigenous Peoples' appeal to the FAO Council  
to rescind the FAO partnership agreement with CropLife International**

Dear Member State Representatives of the UN FAO Council,

We would like to take the opportunity to urge you to bring forth in the discussion of the Strategy for Private Sector Engagement in the upcoming 170<sup>th</sup> FAO Council Session (13-17 June 2022) the strong recommendations of civil society, Indigenous Peoples and the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food for the FAO to review and rescind its existing [partnership agreement](#) with CropLife International (CLI).

In a [report](#) made to the 49th Session of the UN Human Rights Council, UNSR Michael Fakhri recommended the FAO Council *“to review the agreement with CropLife International with an eye to human rights concerns”* and *“to consider directing the Director-General of FAO to rescind the agreement.”*

We urge you to act urgently on these recommendations. CLI is a global trade association whose members are the world's largest agrichemical, pesticide and seed companies: *BASF, Bayer Crop Science, Corteva Agriscience, FMC and Syngenta*. CropLife International member companies make [over one-third \(35%\)](#) of their sales from Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHPs) — the pesticides that pose the highest levels of risk to health and the environment.

We believe that FAO's agreement with CropLife International is **incompatible with FAO's obligations to uphold human rights**. The use of hazardous pesticides is inconsistent with the rights protected by the United Nations to: *Health; Clean, healthy and sustainable environment; Safe working conditions; Adequate food; safe and clean water and sanitation; A dignified life; and Rights of Indigenous Peoples, women, children, workers, and peasants and other people working in rural areas*.

We are concerned with how CLI member companies have interfered in national policy and exert enormous pressure on governments that take measures to protect people and the environment from pesticide harms. As [pointed out](#) by former UNSR on the Right to Food Hilal Elver in 2017, “The pesticide industry's efforts to influence policymakers and regulators have obstructed reforms and paralysed global pesticide restrictions globally.” Recent examples are how CLI and Bayer [influenced Thailand's decision](#) to overturn a ban on the cancer-causing glyphosate, and applied similar lobbying tactics to [pressure Mexico](#) to drop a decree to phase-out glyphosate and GMOs.

It cannot be ignored that as profit-driven corporations, CropLife International's primary aim is to maximize sales of their members' products, especially in the Global South. CLI member companies [explicitly target](#) countries in Africa, Latin America and Asia, where the proportion of their HHP sales is even higher. **FAO deepening its collaboration with CropLife International directly counters any efforts toward progressively banning HHPs, as [recommended](#) for consideration by the FAO Council as early as 2006**. The FAO and WHO Code's [Guidelines on](#)

[HHPs](#) recommends phasing out and ending the use of HHPs through banning, canceling or withdrawing registration, and “ending use” as a mitigation option.

Further, **FAO’s partnership with CropLife International undercuts the FAO and several Member States’ [support for agroecology](#)**, an approach that offers viable and sustainable proposals for generating ecologically-based food and farming systems without the use of toxic pesticides.

In the year and a half since the Letter of Intent between FAO and CLI was signed in October 2020, civil society and Indigenous peoples have submitted [various letters](#) of appeal to the FAO leadership, including a [global petition](#) signed by over 187,300 individuals from more than 107 countries. However, to date, Director General Qu has not addressed the calls from rights holders, [scientists and academics](#), [funders](#) or even the UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Right to Food to rescind this agreement. **Therefore, today we elevate our concerns to the FAO Council as the governing body which can properly address this urgent matter.**

The FAO’s new due diligence framework (FRAME) under its Strategy for Engagement with the Private Sector outlines a specific set of criteria for assessing potential private sector partnerships. It should be pointed out that FAO’s partnership with CLI was entered prior to the adoption of FRAME, therefore, it is unclear whether it was evaluated through an adequate due diligence screening. If CropLife International were to be evaluated on such criteria now, e.g. Exclusionary Criteria, which lists companies involved in **human rights abuses** as excluded from potential partners; and reputational risk criteria which checks companies’ alignment to Environmental, Social and Governance components (page 17 and Appendix I, II, and III of *FAO Strategy on Private Sector Engagement – Updates and Implementation Status [PC 132/2](#)*), it is unlikely that it would be deemed fit for a partnership with the FAO without undermining the FAO’s integrity, credibility, impartiality, independence and neutrality.

With the FAO and its Member States’ crucial role in enacting and promoting policies to reduce reliance on toxic pesticides, the FAO Council must not allow the agency to continue its partnership with CropLife International through an LOI or any other engagement mechanism. FAO Director General Qu Dongyu has [said](#) that prior to the partnership, the agency had already been working with CLI on the “on the removal of highly hazardous obsolete pesticides.” The FAO should continue to ensure that the pesticide industry fulfill its obligations to clean up the planet, not enter into a broad-ranging agreement to collaborate on “[expanded areas of engagement](#)” in line with the FAO’s private sector strategy.

We respectfully urge Members of the FAO Council to call on the agency leadership to instead prioritize the increase of farmer access to agroecological practices and tools that help them grow their crops sustainably without harming their health. ***To safeguard the health and well-being of the people and the planet, we call on the Council to direct the Director-General to end FAO’s partnership with CropLife International.***

Signed,

Keith Tyrell, Chair  
Pesticide Action Network International

Million Belay, Coordinator  
Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA)

David Azoulay, Environmental Health Program Director  
Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL)

Sofía Monsalve, Secretary General  
FIAN International

Kirtana Chandrasekaran and Martín Drago, Food Sovereignty Program Coordinators  
Friends of the Earth International

Sophia Murphy, Executive Director  
Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (IATP)

Andrea Carmen, Executive Director  
International Indian Treaty Council (IITC)

Pam Miller and Tadesse Amera, Co-Chairs  
International Pollutants Elimination Network (IPEN)

Sue Longley, General Secretary  
International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco and Allied  
Workers' Associations (IUF)

Laurent Gaberell and Carla Hoinkes, Agriculture and Food Experts  
Public Eye

Chee Yoke Ling, Executive Director  
Third World Network

**On behalf of the undersigned 430 civil society and Indigenous Peoples organizations from  
69 countries:**

*International and Regional organizations*

ActionAid International

Agroecology Europe

Asociación Americana de Juristas

Coalition of Agriculture Workers International (CAWI)

Corporate Europe Observatory

Food & Water Action Europe

Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives (GAIA)

GRAIN

Health Action International Asia Pacific

Health and Environment Justice Support (HEJSupport)

Higuayagua Tainoof the Caribbean

Pesticide Action Network (PAN) Africa

Pesticide Action Network (PAN) Asia Pacific

Pesticide Action Network (PAN) Europe

Red de Acción Plaguicidas y sus alternativas de América Latina (RAPAL / PAN Latin America)

Society for International Development

Transnational Institute (TNI)

Transnational Migrant Platform Europe (TMP-E)

United Confederation of Taíno People

*Argentina*

Department Of Natural Resources, Comahue National University  
Movimiento Laudato Si' – Capítulo Argentina  
Red Argentina Ambiente y Desarrollo (RAAD)

*Australia*

Australian Food Sovereignty Alliance  
Bellingen Environment Centre  
National Toxics Network  
TPEH

*Austria*

Brot für die Welt Österreich  
DKA Austria  
Dreikönigsaktion  
FIAN Österreich  
ÖBV-Via Campesina Austria

*Bangladesh*

BARCIK  
Environment and Social Development Organization (ESDO)  
Gonoshasthaya Kendra (GK)  
Labour Resource Center (LRC)  
Participatory Research & Action Network (PRAAN)  
SHISUK

*Barbados*

Caribbean Amerindian Development Organisation

*Belgium*

BeeLife European Beekeeping Coordination  
Broederlijk Delen  
Fed. Apicole Belge (FAB-BBF)  
Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL)  
SOS Faim – Belgique  
Viva Salud

*Benin*

La Grande Puissance De Dieu

*Brazil*

Associação de Combate aos Poluentes (ACPO)  
Agapan  
Associação Brasileira de Agroecologia/aba-agroecologia  
Centro Vocacional Tecnológico da Universidade Federal da Fronteira Sul  
Fórum Mudanças Climáticas e Justiça Socioambiental (FMCJS)  
Instituto do Bem-Estar (IBEM) / Welfare Institute  
Movimento Sem Terra (MST)  
Movimento Urbano de Agroecologia (MUDA)  
Slow Food Brasil  
Ufscar

*Burkina Faso*

ACF Burkina

Association Jeunesse pour l'Environnement et le Développement Durable (AJEDD)

Coalition des Jeunes pour la Coopération Régionale

*Burundi*

Acecodad

*Cambodia*

Rural Women's Association

*Cameroun*

Alternatives Durables pour le Développement (ADD)

Association d'Assistance Au Développement (ASAD)

Coopérative des Producteurs Vivriers et Pérennes du Noun (COOPROVIPNOUN)

Concertation Nationale des Organisations Paysannes du Cameroun (CNOP-CAM)

Women Coalition for Agenda 2030

*Canada*

PINAY

Safe Food Matters Inc.

Toronto Non-GMO Coalition

Vigilance OGM

*Chad*

ATRENVIRO

Cabinet d'Expertise Six Sigma

Observatoire des Filières Agricoles Porteuses du Mayo Kebbi Est et Ouest

ONG Espoir

Plate Forme Provinciale de l'agriculture Durable du Mayo kebbi Est

Société Agro Sylvo Pastorale Koté Na Ma

*Chile*

Afzo

Agrupación de Usuarios Prais Oriente

ANTIMAFIA Chile

Asociacion Apicultores Maule Sur

Asociación Biodinámica de Chile

Asociación Nacional de Mujeres Rurales e Indígenas (ANAMURI)

BioAudita Ltda.

Bosque Matilde

CAP Paine

CEC CAC Casablanca

Centro Ecoceanos

Cesante

CETSUR

Chile Mejor sin Tratados de Libre Comercio

Chile Sin Ecocidio

Chilemiel AG

Colectiva por la defensa de las semillas

Colectivo Cabildos Constituyentes

Colectivo de mujeres

Colectivo Somos Constituyentes Limarí

Colectivo VientoSur

Comité Ambiental Comunal de Casablanca  
Comité Ambiental Comunal Paine  
Comite Oscar Romero Sicsal Chile  
CONFUSAM  
Convocatorias Concón  
Cooperativa Semilla Austral  
Coordinadora Ambiental Valles en Movimiento  
Coordinadora Ecológica de Casablanca  
Dosel  
Encargada de Derechos Humanos de Comunal San Bernardo de COLPROCH  
Exige Vivir Sano  
Freesouls  
Huerta-Escuela Agroecológica Ketrawe Amantu  
Huerto Agro Ecológico Antumapu Universidad de Chile  
Huerto Funaltun  
La Colmena  
La Milpa  
Movimiento por el Agua y la Tierra (MAT)  
Movimiento SocioAmbiental Valles en Resistencia  
Mujeres Autoconvocadas de Macul  
Observatorio Latinoamericano de Conflictos Ambientales (OLCA)  
Organización Antroposofica Aurora  
Polifen  
Proyecto Agroecológico PichiWekén  
Red de Acción en Plaguicidas de Chile (RAPAL Chile / PAN Latin America Chile)  
Red de Acción por los Derechos Ambientales (RADA)  
Red de Semillas Libres  
Slow Food Chile Asociación Gremial  
Social Hip-Hop  
Sol del Sur  
Somos Cerro Blanco  
Visionandina

#### *Colombia*

Alianza Global ConVida20  
CompazCol  
FIAN Colombia  
Red de Desarrollo Sostenible

#### *Costa Rica*

Red de Coordinación en Biodiversidad

#### *Croatia*

Društvo istraživača mora - 20000 milja / Marine Explorers Societiz – 20000 Leagues  
Earth Trek  
Eco Hvar  
Eco Pan – Association for Nature and Environment Protection  
Zasadi stablo, ne buđi panj!

#### *Democratic Republic of the Congo*

Association des Exploitants Miniers Artisanaux pour la Pacification et la Reconstruction de l'Ituri  
(AEMAPRI)  
Front Commun pour la Protection de l'Environnement et des Espaces Protégés

*Ecuador*

Centro de Documentación en Derechos Humanos "Segundo Montes Mozo SJ" (CSMM)  
Colectivo Agroecológico del Ecuador  
FIAN Ecuador  
FUNBBASIC  
Que Rico Es Comer Sano y de Nuestra Tierra  
RAPAL Ecuador / PAN Latin America Ecuador  
Red Chakiñán  
Red por una América Latina Libre de Transgénicos

*Ethiopia*

Afar Pastoralist Development Association  
Pesticide Action Network (PAN) Ethiopia

*Fiji*

Pacific Organic and Ethical Trade Community (POETCom)

*France*

ActionAid France  
Attac France  
CCFD-Terre Solidaire  
Engineers without Borders - Agriculture and Food Sovereignty  
Génération Futures  
Justice Pesticides  
TERRE D ABEILLES  
Union Nationale de l'Apiculture Française (UNAF)  
URGENCI

*Germany*

Association of Ethical Shareholders Germany  
Aurelia Stiftung  
Bündnis für eine enkeltaugliche Landwirtschaft  
Coordination gegen BAYER-Gefahren  
Deutsche Umwelthilfe e.V.  
FDCL - Center for Research and Documentation Chile-Latin America  
FIAN Germany  
foodwatch international  
INKOTA  
MISEREOR  
Partner Suedmexikos e.V.  
Pestizid Aktions-Netzwerk e.V. / PAN Germany  
Save Our Seeds  
Schweisfurth Stiftung  
Umweltinstitut München e.V.  
University of Bayreuth

*Ghana*

Abibinsroma Foundation  
Food Sovereignty Ghana

*Greece*

ECOCITY

*Guatemala*

Asociación Comunitaria par el Desarrollo SERJUS  
Asociación de Agricultores las Ilusiones (AGRIDIV)  
Asociacion de Desarrollo Tzuul Taqa  
Centro Ak Kutan

*Guinea*

Carbone Guinée

*India*

Basudha  
Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies  
Gram Bharati Samiti  
Inclusive Media for Change  
Initiative for Health & Equity in Society  
Kalpavriksh  
KHaaNA  
Maharashtra Association of Pesticide Poisoned Persons  
National Alliance of Agriculture-Allied Workers Union (NAAWU-India)  
Pesticide Action Network (PAN) India  
Save Our Rice Network  
Society for Rural Education and Development  
Sunray Harvesters  
Thanal  
The Sidhwa Trust  
Torang Trust

*Indonesia*

FIAN Indonesia  
Indonesia for Global Justice (IGJ)  
Institute for National and Democracy Studies (INDIES)  
SERUNI

*Ireland*

Trócaire

*Italy*

IPES-Food  
ISDE, Associazione Medici per l'Ambiente  
Parma Sostenibile  
Schola Campesina

*Ivory Coast*

Jeunes Volontaires pour l'Environnement (JVE) Côte d'Ivoire  
PNPA

*Jamaica*

The Caribbean Poison Information Network

*Japan*

Consumers Union of Japan

*Kazakhstan*

Feminist League



Greenwomen Analytical Environmental Agency

*Kenya*

Centre for Minority Rights Development (CEMIRIDE)  
Common Ground for Africa  
Growth Partners Africa  
Kenya Food Right Alliance  
Rural Initiatives Development Programme (RIDEP)

*Lebanon*

Human Environmental Association for Development

*Luxembourg*

Action Solidarité Tiers Monde  
Cercle de Coopération des ONGD  
SOS FAIM Luxembourg

*Malaysia*

Consumers' Association of Penang  
North South Initiative  
Sahabat Alam Malaysia (Friends of the Earth Malaysia)  
Saya Anak Bangsa Malaysia (SABM)  
Tenaganita Womens Force

*Mali*

ADJMOR  
IRPAD/Afrique

*Malta*

Moam

*Mexico*

BDTR MEXICO  
Asociación morelense de lucha contra el Cáncer A.C. (AMORCC)  
Asamblea de los Pueblos Indígenas por la Soberanía Alimentaria (APISA)  
Asociación Nacional de Empresas Comercializadoras de Productorxs del Campo (ANEC)  
Calmil Comunicación  
Centro de Apoyo Solidario, Documentación y Estudio, A.C.  
Centro de Capacitación en Ecología y Salud/ Defensoría del Derecho a la Salud  
CIBA-IPN TLAXCALA  
Colegio de Postgraduados  
CONACYT  
Cooperativa Servicios Agroecológicos Holísticos (COSEAH)  
ECOSUR  
EDUCE, A.C.  
FCPYS  
FIAN México  
Fronteras Comunes  
Fundación Semillas de Vida, A.C.  
Grupo de Trabajo Agroecología Política CLACSO  
Grupo Ecológico Sierra Gorda  
Grupo Multidisciplinario en Agricultura Sostenible SC  
Madre Tierra Colectivo  
Maela

Mercado Agroecológico Del Valle  
Observatorio Universitario de Seguridad Alimentaria y Nutricional del Estado de Guanajuato  
Proyecto Bosque de Agua  
Red de Acccion en Plaguicidas y Alternativas en Mexico (RAPAM / PAN Mexico)  
Red Mexicana de Periodistas Ambientales  
RIAAVER  
Salud Crítica  
Sociedad Cooperativa de Productores del Tianguis Orgánico Chapingo  
UNAM  
Universidad Autónoma Chapingo  
Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana  
Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana – Xochimilco  
VIDA AC

*Morocco*

Fédération Nationale du Secteur Agricole

*Nepal*

Agricultural Technology Center

*Netherlands*

ASEED Europe  
Both ENDS  
Pesticide Action Network Netherlands

*New Zealand*

BioGro New Zealand Ltd.  
Organics Aotearoa New Zealand  
Pesticide Action Network (PAN) Aotearoa New Zealand  
Soil & Health Association of New Zealand  
Tidal Organics

*Pakistan*

Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum

*Palestine*

Gaza Urban & Peri-urban Agriculture Platform (GUPAP)

*Paraguay*

Conamuri - Organización de Mujeres Campesinas e Indígenas  
Iniciativa Amotocodie

*Philippines*

International League of People's Struggle (ILPS)  
Kilusan para sa Repormang Agraryo at Katarungang Panlipunan  
People's Coalition on Food Sovereignty (PCFS)  
Possible Futures  
SEARICE  
Sibat  
Sining na Naglilingkod sa Bayan Inc. / Art for the People Inc.  
Southeast Asia Regional Initiatives for Community Empowerment  
Unyon ng mga Manggagawa sa Agrikultura (UMA) / Federation of Agricultural Workers

*Portugal*

ZERO - Associação Sistema Terrestre Sustentável

*Puerto Rico*

Proyecto Agroecologico Juan Antonio Corretjer

Taller Baira

*Senegal*

ADEC

ADK

ALSE

Association Sénégalaise des Producteurs de Semences Paysannes (ASPSP)

Association Sénégalaise pour un Développement Equitable et Solidaire (ASDES)

BAMTAARE PODOR

Enda pronat

Fahamu Africa

Fédération des Agropasteurs de Diender (FAPD)

FENAGIEPECHE

ISRA

Nous Sommes la Solution

RECODEF

Réseau Koussek

UCEM

*Serbia*

Earth Thrive

*Slovenia*

Association Organic Gardens for Education

*South Africa*

10 Million Makers

Abalimi Bezekhaya

African Centre for Biodiversity

BDAASA

Biowatch Trust

Coalition of various local citizen groups

EarthLore Foundation

Farm and Garden National Trust

GeaSphere

Good Food Network

groundWork, Friends of the Earth South Africa

Happy earth people

Lindros Whole Earth Consultants

Masifundise/WFFP

Rural Women's Assembly

Stellenbosch University

Trust for Community Outreach and Education (TCOE)

UnPoison

*Spain*

Amigos de la Tierra

Ecologistas en Acción (Área Tóxicos)

Ecologistas en Acción-La Rioja

*Sri Lanka*

National Fisheries Solidarity Movement (NAFSO)  
We Women Lanka

*Switzerland*

Alternative refugee center  
Biorespect  
Bio Suisse  
Biovision Foundation  
BirdLife Schweiz  
ETH Zürich  
Fastenaktion (previously Fastenopfer)  
FIAN Suisse  
Geneva Global Health Hub (G2H2)  
HEKS Swiss Church Aid  
Solidar Suisse  
SWISSAID  
UNITERRE

*Tanzania*

TABIO

*Thailand*

Ecological Alert and Recovery-Thailand (EARTH)  
Focus on the Global South

*Uganda*

Center for Food and Adequate Living Rights  
FIAN Uganda  
Support for Women in Agriculture and Environment

*United Kingdom*

Baby Milk Action IBFAN  
Buglife - The Invertebrate Conservation Trust  
Earth Thrive  
GMWatch  
Pesticide Action Network (PAN) UK  
The Gaia Foundation  
Zero Hour

*United States*

Agroecology-Research Action Collective  
Alliance for Natural Health USA  
Beyond Pesticides  
Californians for Pesticide Reform  
Caribbean Agroecology Institute  
Center for Biological Diversity  
Center for Food Safety  
Clean and Healthy NY  
Coming Clean Inc  
Community Alliance for Global Justice  
Community to Community Development Projects  
CRLA Foundation  
CS Fund

Cuba-US Agroecology Network  
DeepAgroecology.net  
Empire State Consumer Project  
Family Farm Defenders  
Farms Not Arms  
Farmworker Association of Florida  
Food & Water Watch  
Friend of The Earth US  
Friends of the MST (US)  
GMO/Toxin Free USA  
Groundswell International  
Growing Health and Justice Coalition  
Harambee House Inc.  
HEAL Food Alliance  
Herbicide-Free Campus  
Indigenous Environmental Network  
Informed Green Solutions  
Los Jardines Institute  
Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns  
Maryland Pesticide Education Network  
Millennium Institute  
National Family Farm Coalition  
National Young Farmers Coalition  
NOFA-VT  
NOFA/Mass  
North American Climate, Conservation and Environment (NACCE)  
Northeast Organic Farming Association of New York  
Northwest Center for Alternatives to Pesticides  
Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association  
Organic Consumers Association  
Organic Seed Alliance  
People & Pollinators Action Network  
Pesticide Action Network (PAN) North America  
PODER  
Pollinate Minnesota  
Real Food Media  
Safe Ag Safe Schools – Monterey Bay  
Science and Environmental Health Network  
Sciencecorps  
Seeds for All  
Small Planet Institute  
Smart on Pesticide Coalition  
Springstead Construction  
Start:Empowerment  
Sustainable Agriculture of Louisville  
The Oakland Institute  
Toxic Free North Carolina  
University of Vermont  
Until Justice Data Partners  
Urgent Action Fund for Women's Human Rights  
US Food Sovereignty Alliance  
Women's Voices for the Earth

*Uruguay*

RAPAL Uruguay / PAN Latin America Uruguay

*Venezuela*

Fundacion Aguaclara

IPIAT

*Zambia*

Children's Environmental Health Foundation

Zambia Alliance for Agroecology and Biodiversity (ZAAB)

*Zimbabwe*

Njeremoto Biodiversity Institute NBI-Zim