



Our International Work: Big Wins and What's Next

by Simone Adler, Organizing Co-Director, Marcia Ishii, Senior Staff Scientist, and Emily Marquez, Senior Staff Scientist

As our International Team's work is often fast-moving and technical, we thought you might enjoy a behind-the-scenes look at who we are, some exciting recent wins, and what's ahead this year.

Who is the PAN International Network?

In 1982, activists from 17 countries gathered in Malaysia to work together on eliminating the toxic chemical pesticides that drive industrial agriculture. They decided to build a global movement to halt the poisoning of farmworkers and ecosystems, block the global trade of hazardous pesticides, and promote just and sustainable solutions. Pesticide Action Network was born.

Today, PAN North America is one of five regional centers. Along with PAN Africa, PAN Asia Pacific, PAN Latin America and PAN Europe, we form the core of PAN International, a global network of hundreds of community groups and national organizations representing farmers, workers, health, human rights and environmental advocates and more. Here at PAN North America, we work daily with PAN colleagues in Argentina, India, Malaysia, the Philippines, Benin, Senegal, Ethiopia, Mexico, the UK, Germany, and elsewhere. Across the regional centers, we work with many other social movement partners around the world.

PAN's ambitious goal is to replace Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHPs) with agroecology by 2030. Through our campaigns, we seek to build policymaker and public support for agroecological practices, advance HHP bans internationally, end the double standard allowing HHPs to be dumped in the Global South, and expose and challenge corporate capture of international policy processes.

Key wins in 2022

- We marked a major win in the Stop the #ToxicAlliance campaign when the Deputy Director General of FAO and other high-level FAO leadership met with PAN and our coalition partners, and stated that FAO will **not** advance further in its engagement with CropLife International. This came on the heels of a major mobilization of 450 civil society and Indigenous people's organizations across the world putting pressure on the FAO Council.
- For the first time, explicit pesticide reduction targets have been included in the UN Convention on Biological Diversity. The CBD's 15th Conference of Parties (COP) formally adopted a global target for 2030 of reducing the risk from pesticides by one-half—a major win that PAN has been focused on for years. PAN UK's policy briefs were distributed by partners to their

continued on back page



Inside This Issue

The Farm Bill We Need p. 2
The Many Benefits of Intercropping p. 3

The Farm Bill We Need



A new Farm Bill is passed every five to seven years, and it determines much about the food we eat, how it's grown, and the impact agriculture has on all of us. PAN's 2023 Farm Bill priorities are informed by our ongoing work with partners across the country. We strive for farmworker justice, healthy rural communities and fair farm economies—locally, nationally and internationally.

Worker justice and healthy communities

- The overwhelming presence of pesticides in our food, air, soils and water can lead to pesticide-related diseases in our people and biodiversity loss in our environment. Children and farmworkers are especially at risk for exposure to these chemicals. We support policies that protect families and workers and support the use of crop and pest management practices that do not rely on the use of hazardous pesticides.
- We believe the U.S. should take responsibility for foreign policies that displace people from land and livelihood, and allow the right of entry into the country for those economically or politically displaced. The U.S. should eliminate exploitative guest worker programs and provide a pathway to citizenship for all who want it.
- We advocate for living wage policies so that all workers and all people have access to an adequate supply of healthy food. Until poverty is eliminated, we will continue to strongly support food assistance programs including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

Fair farm economies

- We advocate for income opportunity and fairness for small and mid-sized family farms and we support supply management policies. These include parity pricing, grain reserves, secure contracts and fair market access for livestock and agricultural products.
- In an era of historically high land transfer, we support policies to assist with land access for new and beginning farmers. We also support policies that make land accessible to those who have been historically excluded from land ownership or had their land dispossessed.
- In partnership with land trusts, states and tribal entities, we support ensuring that protected farmland will remain affordable and viable for future generations.
- We advocate for the implementation and enforcement of measures that protect farmers' access to diverse markets, seeds,

and other farm inputs. We support farmer access to decentralized regional livestock processing facilities, and access for all to healthy, nutritious and affordable food.

- We affirm a community's right to pass legislation to protect themselves from hazardous agricultural chemicals. We oppose any federal preemption of local pesticide ordinances, and stand with the nearly 200 communities across the country that have passed their own policies to restrict the use of toxic pesticides.

A food system for the future

- We advocate for programs that support agroecological practices that promote diversified cropping systems, healthy soils, robust and resilient communities, and protect vital natural resources — all while mitigating the effects of climate change. We also advocate for policies that support the political, social and cultural conditions necessary to establish and maintain these systems.
- We support programs that reduce the need for inputs of petroleum-derived pesticides, fertilizers and fuel. We support on-farm renewable energy production reliant on minimal (or no) synthetic inputs.
- In addition to on-farm agroecological practices that prevent climate change, we support programs that provide relief for those impacted by severe weather events such as heat, drought, wildfire, and flooding. We must also ensure that disaster relief programs cover impacted farmworkers in addition to farmers.
- We advocate for policies that support the next generation of farmers, ranchers, and workers while breaking down barriers to entry, especially for people of color and Indigenous people. We are especially interested in policies that are designed to right historical and ongoing discrimination against individuals or groups based on their race, ethnicity or socioeconomic class. —

See our full platform here: bit.ly/PANFarmBill.

ABOUT PAN PAN works to create a just, thriving food system, working with those on the frontlines to tackle the pesticide problem — and reclaim the future of food and farming. One of five regional centers worldwide, PAN North America links local and international consumer, labor, health, environment and agriculture groups into an international citizens' action network. Together, we challenge the global proliferation of pesticides, defend basic rights to health and environmental quality, and work to ensure the transition to a just and viable food system.

Sustain PAN's Work Give Monthly



When you join PAN as a Sustainer, you become part of a vital group that donates each month to fund grassroots science, collaboration with frontline communities, and policy change. We rely on consistent support from Sustainers to work towards a healthy, fair and resilient system of food and farming.

Become a Sustainer today by going to www.panna.org/give-monthly.

The Many Benefits of Intercropping

by Rob Faux, Operator, Genuine Faux Farm, Communications Manager, PAN

After nearly two decades of vegetable and fruit production, I have found that intercropping, the intentional use of plant diversity within a growing system, is one of the most under-used tools in a farmer's toolbox.



I offer up the image at the top of this article as Exhibit A. We introduced diversity within our cash crops by growing three types of melons and two types of watermelons in this plot. We enhanced the diversity in the field further by introducing several types of flowering plants as well as some things that are considered to be cover crops (buckwheat and sunn hemp). The flowering crops help to support pollinator services and the cover crops will improve soil health.

As a matter of fact, intercropping is a key technique for a food system based on the principles of agroecology:

1. Put farmers first
2. Promote soil health, biodiversity, and natural ecosystem function
3. Integrate science with knowledge and practice
4. Promote complexity over simplicity
5. Minimize waste and optimize energy use

Intercropping techniques

Every farm has different needs and different strengths, so intercropping may not be entirely the same from farm to farm. Row crop farms could add diversity to their fields by using "strip intercropping." I noticed a couple of farms on a recent drive that integrated corn and soybeans into the same field along with grassy terraces in some of the steeper areas. I was also pleased to see a farm that added perennial prairie strips into their fields to support pollinators and add diversity to their land.

On my own farm, we have always implemented row intercropping. Each row or bed in our fields is intentionally paired with other rows in hopes that we can introduce positive interactions between crops. The increase in necessary labor is minimal, and the positive interactions can take many forms.

Over time, we've taken our intentional diversity further by doing more with mixed intercropping (putting different plant types in the same row or bed) and relay intercropping (having two crops in different stages of development in the same bed).

It seems complicated. Why do it?

Research in ecology has shown us that biological systems are healthiest and most productive when there is more, not less,

diversity. So, it stands to reason that the closer we get to a single plant type for large areas of land, the less healthy it is because the natural services of the ecosystem are hindered.

But, if you need an argument from the standpoint of farm productivity, consider the natural crop insurance a farm can enjoy when it raises multiple crops. Some years favor one crop; some years favor other crops. A diversified cropping system is more likely to provide consistent returns from year to year without external support.

There is research that shows us that intentional diversity in cropping systems can provide natural pest control, improve soil health, decrease weed biomass, attract beneficial organisms and — believe it or not — improve overall production. —🌱

Read more on Rob's intercropping story here: bit.ly/Intercropping.



government representatives and provided technical expertise during the COP that enabled partners to effectively intervene.

- Thanks to PAN Germany's leadership, Germany is moving forward on prohibiting the export of EU-banned pesticides! This legal ruling will go into effect this spring, making Germany the second member state in the EU with such a law, after France. Germany is a major pesticide producing and exporting country, home to Bayer, the world's biggest pesticide corporation. This win signals that human rights violations linked to the export of HHPs to the Global South is a double standard that cannot be ignored.

What's ahead in 2023

- Pesticides are a climate justice issue. As we move forward this year, we're working with partners in the movement to end the fossil fuel extractivist economy and strengthen our advocacy of agroecology — not industrial agriculture — as a climate solution.

- Our new report *Pesticides and Climate Change: A Vicious Cycle* offers critical scientific evidence for how pesticides cause climate change and why we need international support for agroecology. We'll be joining in solidarity with our comrades in PAN Asia Pacific who are participating in a climate caravan mobilization leading up to the Climate COP28 in December!
- We're working strategically across the Network to push for stronger action on HHPs and get more pesticides listed in the Rotterdam Convention. We'll be mobilizing around the Global Alliance on Highly Hazardous Pesticides, which was just proposed by the Africa Region at the recent International Conference on Chemical Management (ICCM). This Alliance would help achieve a global phaseout of HHPs and adoption of sustainable alternatives under the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM). —🌱

Read the full team update here: bit.ly/PANIntNews.

Midwest Farmers of Color: Seeding Cultural Foods in Community

In February, Midwest Farmers of Color Collective held their second Big Convening at the historic Capri Theater in Minneapolis. BIPOC farmers and growers came together in community to share stories and resources, and participated in a seed-saving workshop with Ujamaa Cooperative Farming Alliance.

Together they harvested teff, an ancient African grain used for injera bread. Seeding traditional foods is an act of both sustenance and resistance for farmers of color striving to preserve their culture and autonomy over food, and protects viable alternatives to the corporate seed industry. —🌱



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