

# THE CORPORATE CAPTURE OF FOOD SYSTEMS



POWER OVER FOOD SYSTEMS – FROM SEEDS TO PLATE –  
IS BECOMING EVER MORE CONCENTRATED IN THE HANDS  
OF A FEW CORPORATIONS.

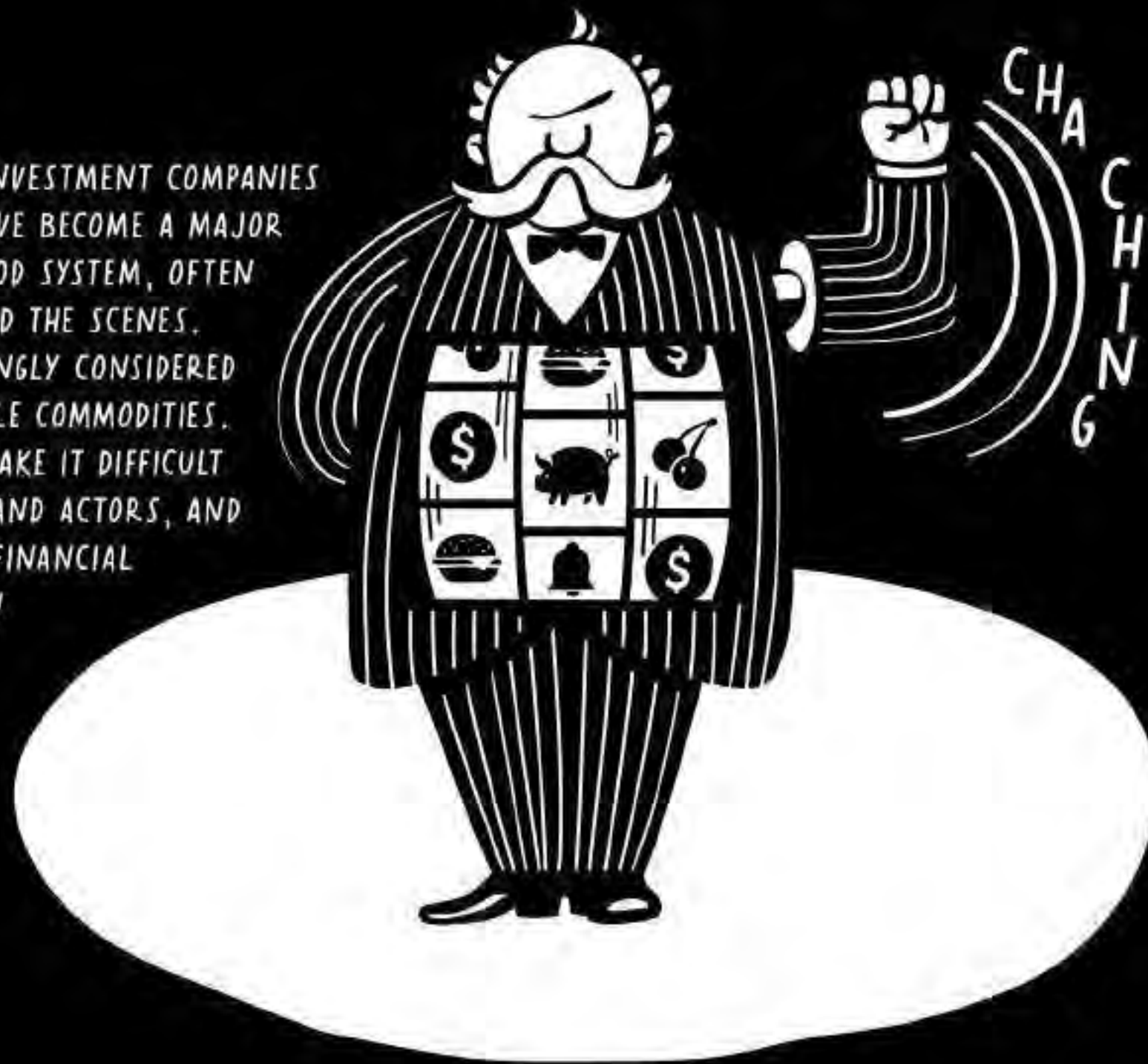
# BIG AGRO

ONLY FOUR COMPANIES – BAYER, SYNGENTA GROUP, CORTEVA AGRISCIENCE, AND BASF – CONTROL ABOUT TWO THIRDS OF THE INDUSTRIAL SEEDS AND PESTICIDES MARKET. PROGRESSIVELY, THEY DICTATE WHAT PEASANTS GROW AND HOW THEY GROW IT. A SIMILAR SITUATION IS FOUND IN THE ANIMAL GENETICS INDUSTRY.



# BIG FINANCE

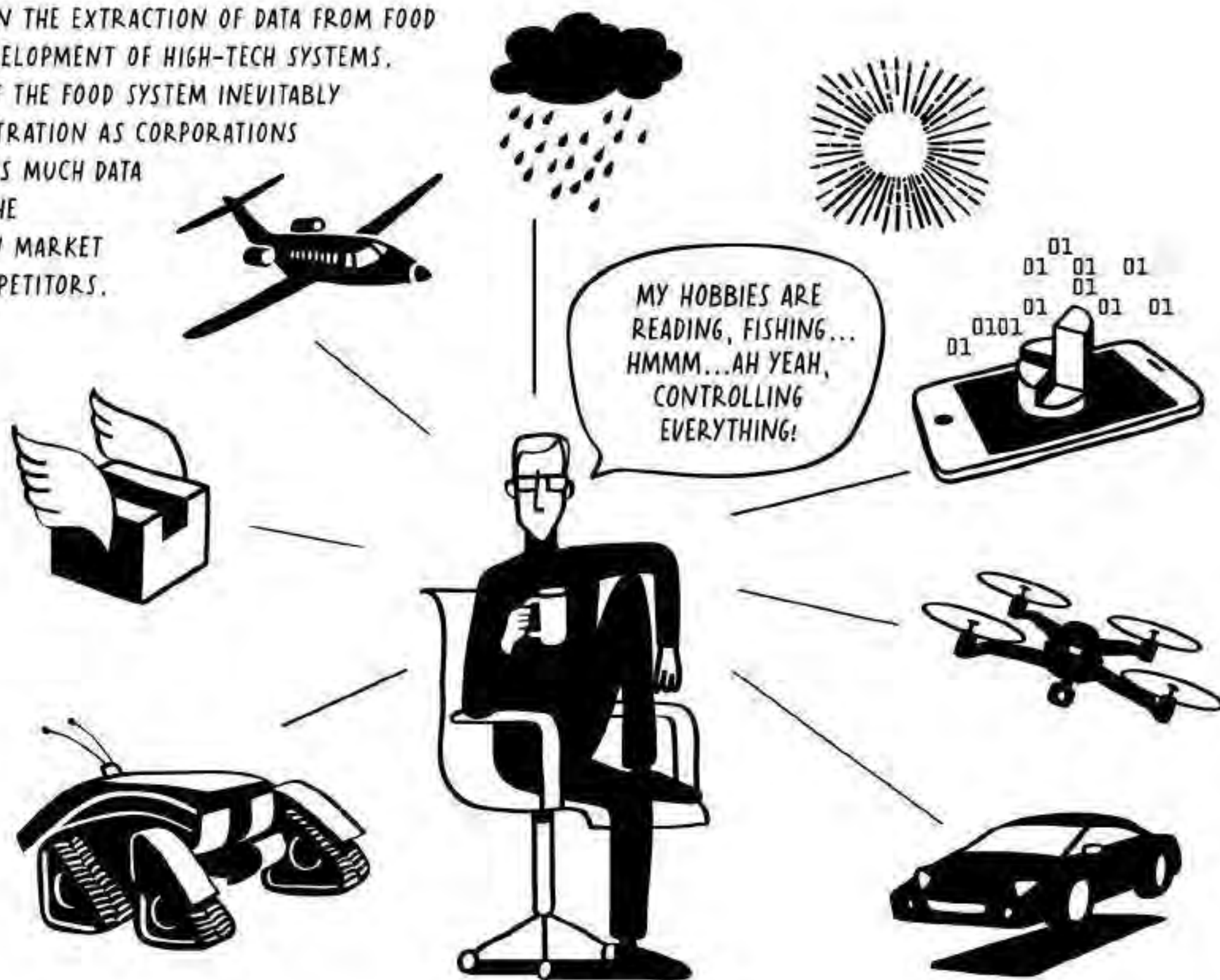
FINANCIAL ACTORS, SUCH AS INVESTMENT COMPANIES AND DEVELOPMENT BANKS, HAVE BECOME A MAJOR PLAYER IN THE INDUSTRIAL FOOD SYSTEM, OFTEN "PULLING THE STRINGS" BEHIND THE SCENES. LAND AND FOOD ARE INCREASINGLY CONSIDERED FINANCIAL ASSETS AND TRADABLE COMMODITIES. OBSCURE INVESTMENT WEBS MAKE IT DIFFICULT TO FOLLOW FINANCIAL FLOWS AND ACTORS, AND ENSURE ACCOUNTABILITY FOR FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS THAT RESULT IN HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES.





TECHNOLOGY COMPANIES, SUCH AS MICROSOFT, AMAZON, OR ALIBABA, ARE INCREASINGLY JOINING HANDS WITH FOOD AND AGRI-BUSINESS IN THE EXTRACTION OF DATA FROM FOOD SYSTEMS AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF HIGH-TECH SYSTEMS. THE DIGITALIZATION OF THE FOOD SYSTEM INEVITABLY ACCELERATES CONCENTRATION AS CORPORATIONS RUSH TO "HARVEST" AS MUCH DATA AS POSSIBLE ALONG THE "FOOD CHAIN" TO GAIN MARKET ADVANTAGE OVER COMPETITORS.

## BIG TECH



NESTLE

PEPSICO

DOLE

MAKE SURE THE  
BOOTS ARE IN  
THE SHOT

# BIG FOOD

A HANDFUL OF TRANSNATIONAL  
CORPORATIONS DOMINATE THE INDUSTRIAL  
PRODUCTION AND SALE OF FOOD AND BEVERAGES  
AND INCREASINGLY DETERMINE WHAT WE EAT.



CORPORATE CONCENTRATION  
IS NO LONGER ONLY HORIZONTAL  
(WITHIN SECTORS) BUT  
INCREASINGLY ALSO VERTICAL  
(ALONG THE FOOD CHAIN).



...AND CHANGE  
YOUR PARTNER



I HATE TO PLAY GOD,  
BUT...LET'S PLAY!

THIS IS RIDICULOUS,  
I NEED MORE SPACE.

MOOOO

NOTHING A LITTLE  
PRICE ENGINEERING  
WON'T DO.

WHAT? MORE  
REGULATIONS?  
LET'S BURY THEM  
OVER HERE.

PESTICI

MO



CORPORATE CONTROL OVER FOOD SYSTEMS – AND STATE  
SUPPORT FOR THIS – UNDERMINES THE ENJOYMENT OF THE  
HUMAN RIGHT TO FOOD AND NUTRITION IN MULTIPLE WAYS,  
AND IS ONE OF THE LEADING CAUSES OF HUNGER  
AND MALNUTRITION.

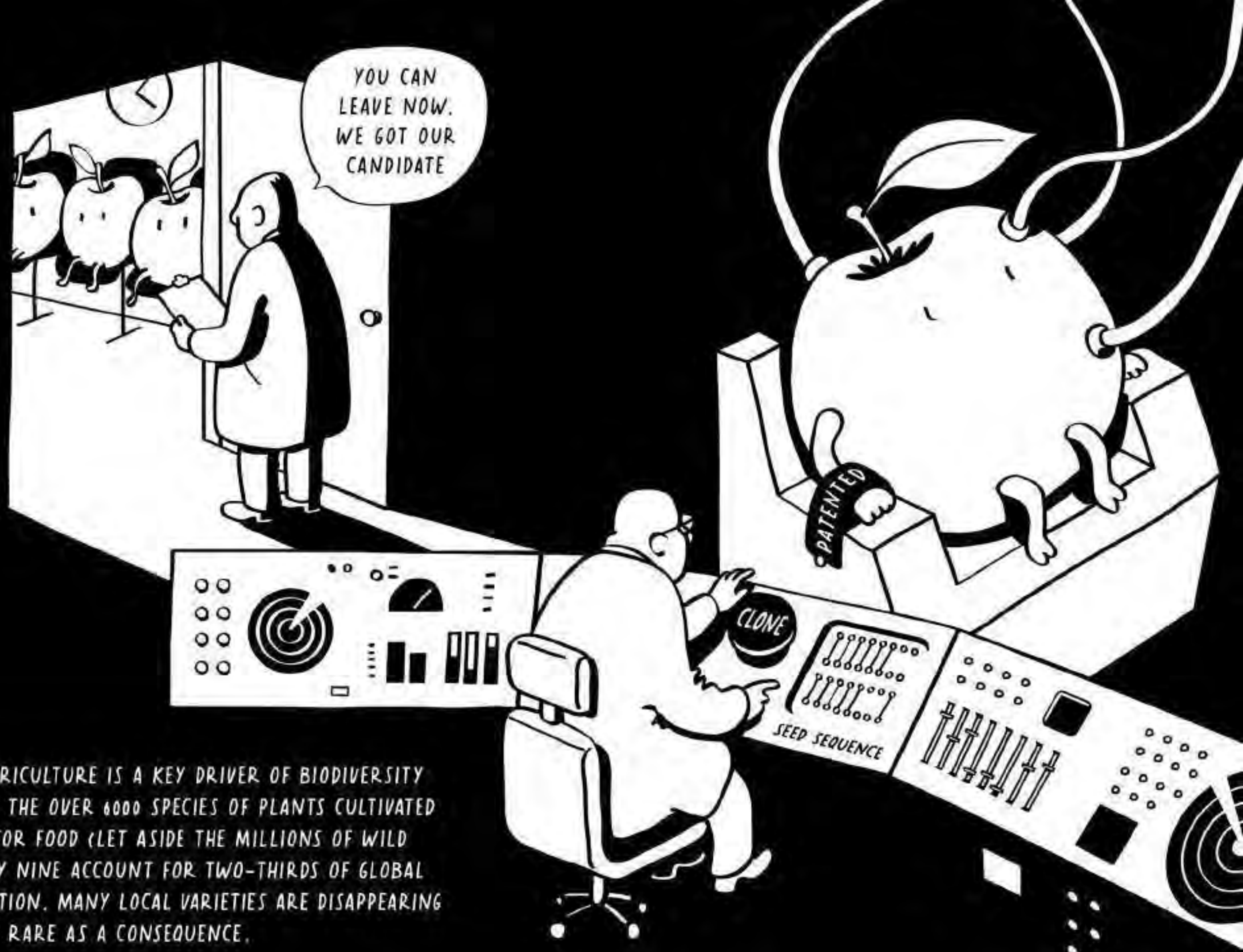
THE INDUSTRIAL FOOD SYSTEM RELIES ON THE EXPLOITATION OF  
PEOPLE AND NATURE. THIS ALLOWS IT TO KEEP COSTS LOW AND INCREASE PROFITS.

INTENSIVE AGRICULTURE – BASED ON MONOCULTURES, CHEMICAL INPUTS, AND  
COMMERCIAL SEEDS – IS A CORNERSTONES OF THE SYSTEM, AS IS THE BOLD POLITICAL  
INFLUENCE THAT FOOD CORPORATIONS HOLD.



HIGH-TECH TECHNOLOGY REDUCES THE ROLE OF  
PEASANTS AND WORKERS TO MERE EXECUTORS,  
IF NOT MAKING THEM ENTIRELY REDUNDANT.  
IT ALSO CREATES FOOD PRODUCERS' DEPENDENCY  
ON THE OWNERS OF THESE TECHNOLOGIES,  
OFTEN ASSOCIATED WITH DEBT.





INTENSIVE AGRICULTURE IS A KEY DRIVER OF BIODIVERSITY LOSS. OUT OF THE OVER 6000 SPECIES OF PLANTS CULTIVATED WORLDWIDE FOR FOOD (LET ASIDE THE MILLIONS OF WILD SPECIES) ONLY NINE ACCOUNT FOR TWO-THIRDS OF GLOBAL CROP PRODUCTION. MANY LOCAL VARIETIES ARE DISAPPEARING OR BECOMING RARE AS A CONSEQUENCE.



THE INDUSTRIAL FOOD SYSTEM PLAYS  
A CENTRAL ROLE IN THE DESTRUCTION  
OF ECO-SYSTEMS AND IS A MAJOR  
CONTRIBUTOR TO GREENHOUSE GAS  
EMISSIONS AND CLIMATE CHANGE.

DEFORESTATION, WASTEFUL USE AND DEPLETION OF NATURAL RESOURCES, AND THE POLLUTION  
OF WATER SOURCES, SOIL AND AIR ARE FURTHER FEATURES. THE RUSH FOR EVER MORE  
LAND TO PRODUCE, AND AS FINANCIAL ASSET, HAS RESULTED IN MASSIVE LAND AND WATER  
GRABBING WITH DETRIMENTAL IMPACTS ON THE COMMUNITIES WHO LIVE ON THE LAND AND  
DEPEND ON IT FOR THEIR RIGHT TO FOOD AND NUTRITION.



AN ESTIMATED  
420 MILLION HECTARES  
OF FOREST HAVE  
BEEN LOST DUE TO  
DEFORESTATION  
SINCE 1990.

SORRY,  
YOU CAN'T  
STAND IN  
THE WAY OF  
PROGRESS!

HEY THAT  
WAS OUR  
HOME...





WORKERS IN THE INDUSTRIAL FOOD CHAIN ARE OFTEN SUBJECTED TO POOR WORKING CONDITIONS, INCLUDING EXPOSURE TO HIGHLY TOXIC CHEMICALS, WITH DETRIMENTAL IMPACTS ON THEIR HEALTH AND WELL-BEING. THEY RELY ON SUB-LIVING WAGES, INADEQUATE SOCIAL PROTECTION, AND CONFRONT SEXUAL AND OTHER FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AND EXPLOITATION, WHILE THEY OFTEN SEE THEIR BASIC POLITICAL RIGHTS SUPPRESSED.







WHAT IS  
THIS BLUE  
STUFF?

IT'S MEDICINE  
FOR THE PLANTS.  
MUST BE GOOD  
FOR US TOO!

SMALL-SCALE FOOD PRODUCERS AND PEASANT FOOD WEBS ARE "SQUEEZED" BY THE CORPORATE FOOD SYSTEM AND RELATED TRADE RULES. THIS INCLUDES LOSS OF CONTROL OVER WHAT AND HOW TO PRODUCE, PRESSURE ON PRICES, DEPENDENCY ON COMMERCIAL AGRICULTURAL INPUTS AND RELATED DEBT, LAND GRABBING AND DISPLACEMENT, AND PRIVATIZATION OF AND POLLUTION OF COMMON RESOURCES THEY RELY ON.





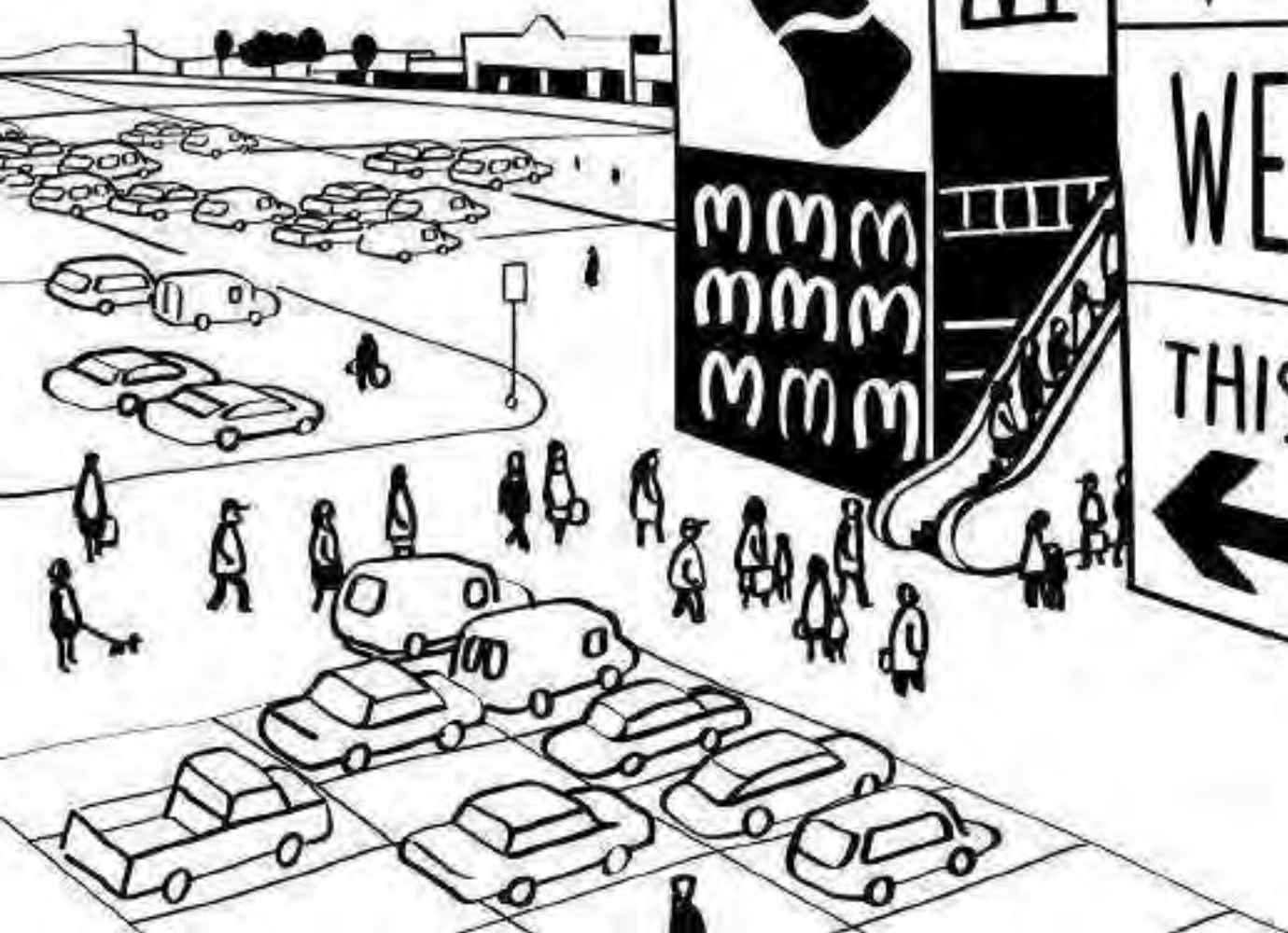




AGGRESSIVE MARKETING OF ULTRA-PROCESSED EDIBLE PRODUCTS  
("JUNK FOOD"), ESPECIALLY TO CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS,  
AND THE CROWDING OUT OF FARMERS' MARKETS AND SMALL  
VENDORS BY LARGE RETAIL CHAINS HAVE DETRIMENTAL IMPACTS  
ON PEOPLE'S FOOD CULTURES, DIETS, AND HEALTH.



WORLDWIDE OBESITY HAS TRIPLED SINCE THE MID-70S, WHILE MORE THAN ONE IN THREE ADULTS ARE CURRENTLY OVERWEIGHT. OVERWEIGHT AND ESPECIALLY OBESITY ARE MAJOR RISK FACTORS FOR NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES SUCH AS HEART ATTACKS AND DIABETES. THEY ALSO INCREASE VULNERABILITY TO SEVERE INFECTION WITH DISEASES SUCH AS COVID-19.



THE PROMOTION OF ULTRA-PROCESSED PACKAGED FOOD  
FOSTERS THE HOMOGENIZATION OF DIETS AND THEREBY  
ERODES COMMUNITIES' CULTURE AND KNOWLEDGE RELATED  
TO FOOD AND NUTRITION.

CULINARY PRACTICES THAT PROMOTE GOOD NUTRITION AND HEALTH, WHILE BEING  
ROOTED IN LOCAL CONTEXTS, RESOURCES, AND CROP VARIETIES ARE REPLACED  
BY HOMOGENOUS DIETS BASED ON A NARROW RANGE OF CROPS. CONFIDENCE OF  
COMMUNITIES ON HOW TO BEST NOURISH THEIR CHILDREN BY USING FRESH AND  
DIVERSE LOCAL FOOD AND BREASTFEEDING IS UNDERMINED.





HAS ALL THE  
NUTRIENTS YOUR BABY  
NEEDS TO GROW STRONG  
AND STAY HEALTHY!

CLEAN!!!

REAL

BBY FOOD

FOOD-OF-TODAY

STARCH

FANTASTIC  
AUTHENTIC  
PIZZA

MANGO  
FLAVOUR

PRESERV.

Coca Cola

ENERGY  
BARS

GOOD  
STUFF

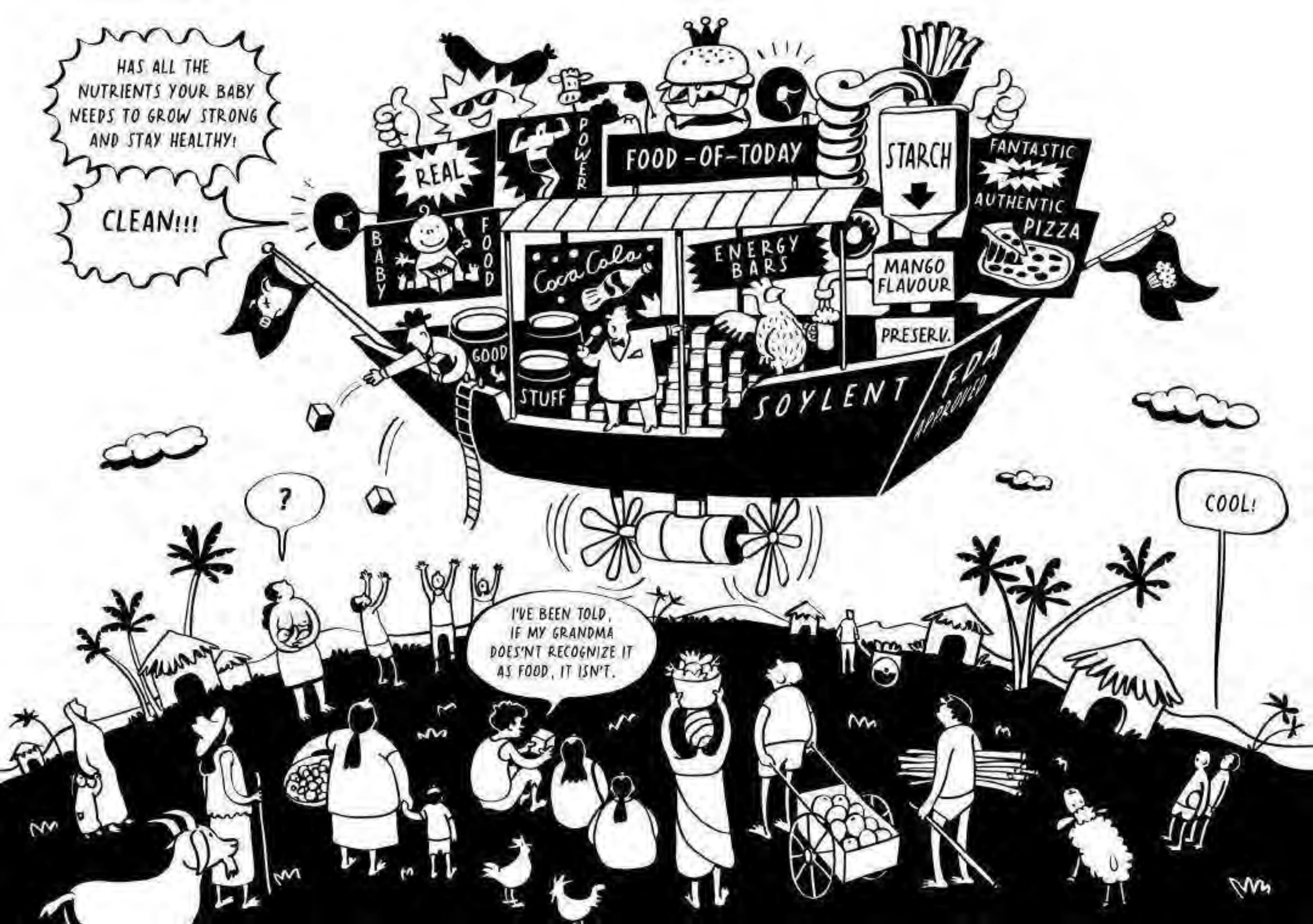
SOYLENT

FDA  
APPROVED

?

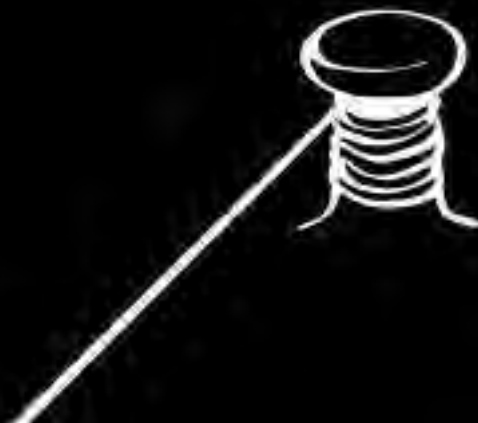
COOL!

I'VE BEEN TOLD,  
IF MY GRANDMA  
DOESN'T RECOGNIZE IT  
AS FOOD, IT ISN'T.

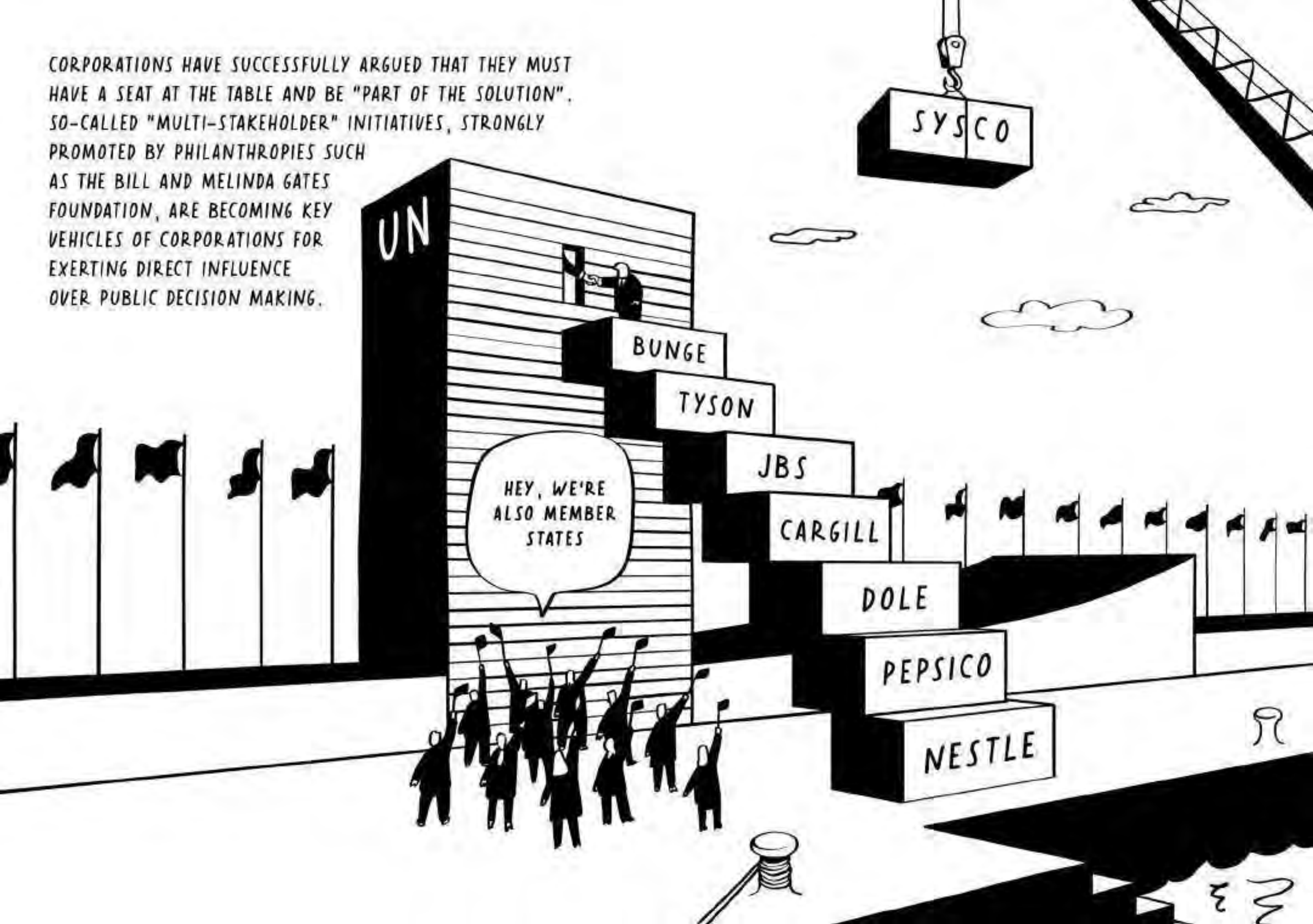




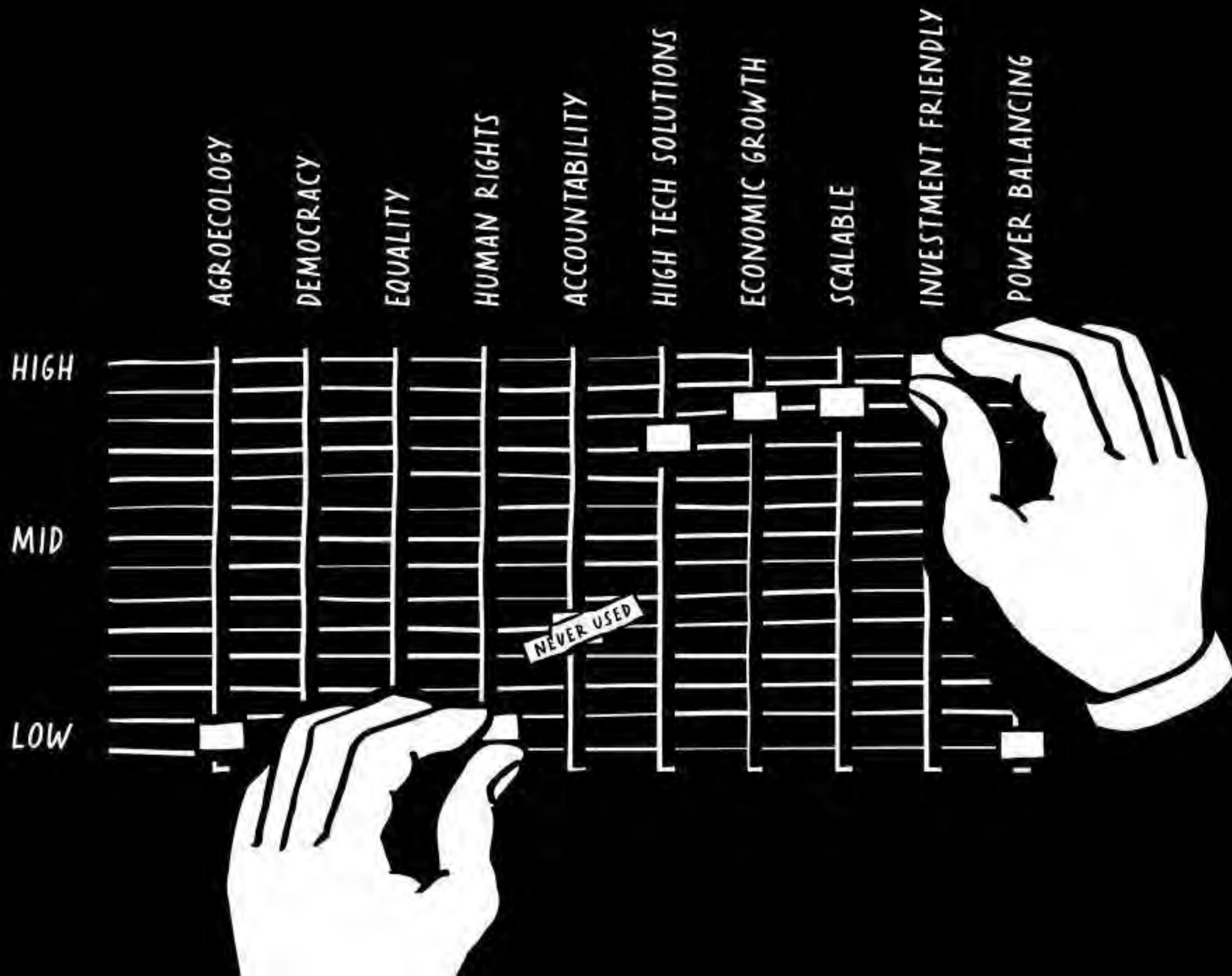
AS THE CALL FOR RADICAL FOOD SYSTEMS  
TRANSFORMATION TOWARDS MORE HEALTHY,  
FAIR AND SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES BECOMES  
LOUDER, CORPORATIONS ARE SEEKING NEW  
WAYS TO INFLUENCE PUBLIC POLICY AS  
TO PROTECT THEIR INTERESTS.



CORPORATIONS HAVE SUCCESSFULLY ARGUED THAT THEY MUST HAVE A SEAT AT THE TABLE AND BE "PART OF THE SOLUTION", SO-CALLED "MULTI-STAKEHOLDER" INITIATIVES, STRONGLY PROMOTED BY PHILANTHROPIES SUCH AS THE BILL AND MELINDA GATES FOUNDATION, ARE BECOMING KEY VEHICLES OF CORPORATIONS FOR EXERTING DIRECT INFLUENCE OVER PUBLIC DECISION MAKING.







THE PARTICIPATION IN PUBLIC POLICY FORA – DIRECTLY OR  
THROUGH FRONT GROUPS, PHILANTHROPIES, AND ALLIED  
GOVERNMENTS – ALLOWS CORPORATIONS TO DISTRACT FROM THE  
ROOT CAUSES OF HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION AND OBSTRUCT  
MEASURES THAT WOULD CURTAIL THEIR POWER AND PROFITS.  
IT HELPS THEM SHIFT THE DISCOURSE TOWARDS "TECHNO-FIXES"  
THAT ARE BASED ON THE VERY SAME INDUSTRIAL FOOD SYSTEM,  
DEEPEN CORPORATE POWER, AND FURTHER MARGINALIZE  
SMALL-SCALE PRODUCERS AND COMMUNITIES.

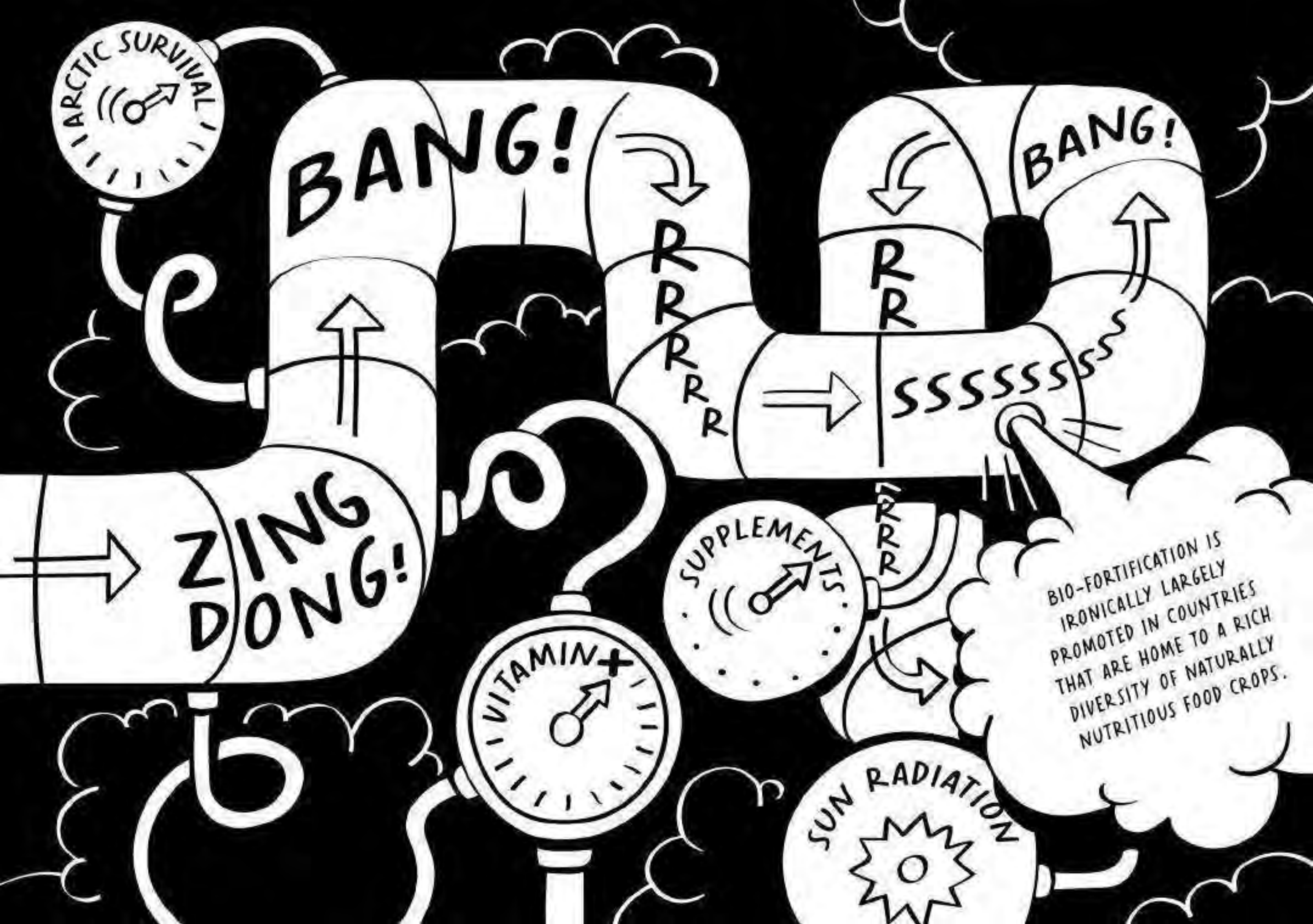
THE DEVELOPMENT OF CROPS WITH ENHANCED NUTRITIONAL QUALITIES THROUGH BIO-FORTIFICATION (INCLUDING GENETIC MODIFICATION) IS HEAVILY PUSHED AS SOLUTION TO MICRO-NUTRIENT DEFICIENCIES.



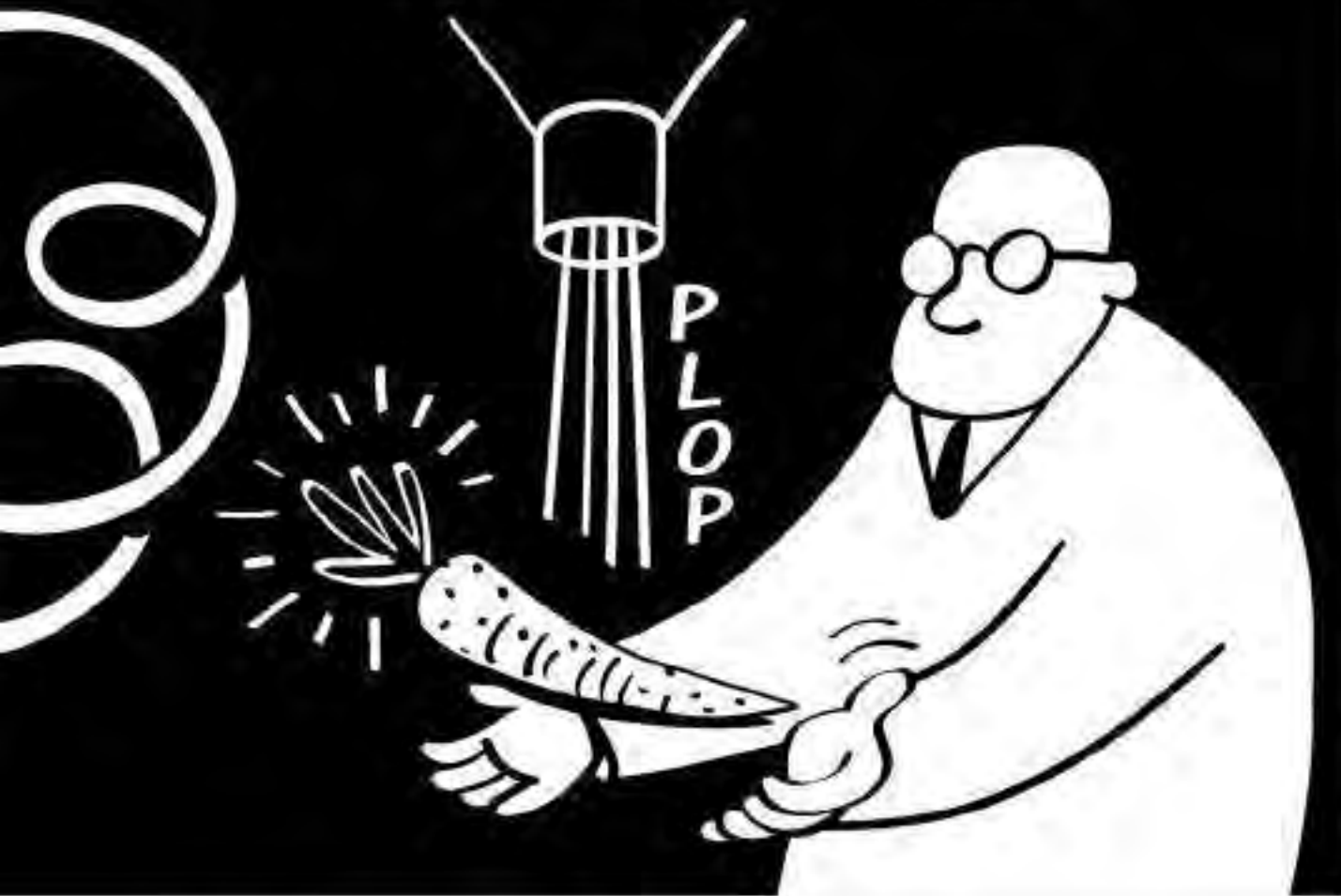


THIS IGNORES THE MANY RISKS INVOLVED, ESPECIALLY WHERE BIOTECHNOLOGY IS EMPLOYED. IT CREATES FARMERS' DEPENDENCY ON HYBRID SEEDS, BIODIVERSITY LOSS, AND HOMOGENIZATION OF DIETS, WHILE THE ACTUAL NUTRITIONAL OUTCOMES ARE HIGHLY QUESTIONABLE.





THE ROOT CAUSES OF MALNUTRITION IN THESE PLACES RARELY  
HAVE TO DO WITH LACK OF AVAILABILITY OF NUTRITIOUS FOOD,  
BUT RATHER WITH QUESTIONS OF ACCESSIBILITY.

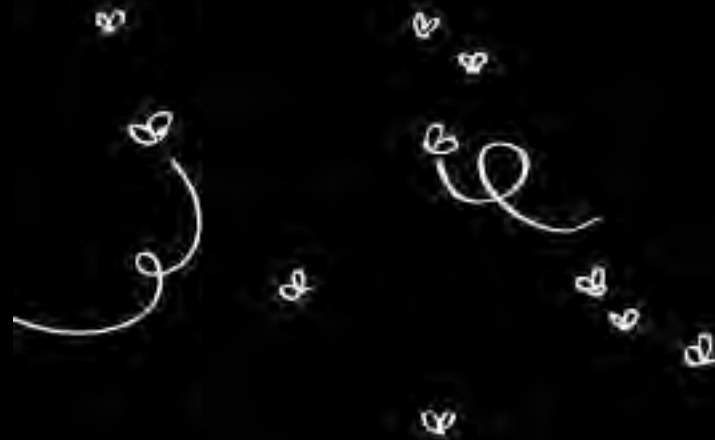


YOU KNOW, I HARVEST SEEDS,  
PUT THEM IN THE GROUND AND...  
THEY GROW!

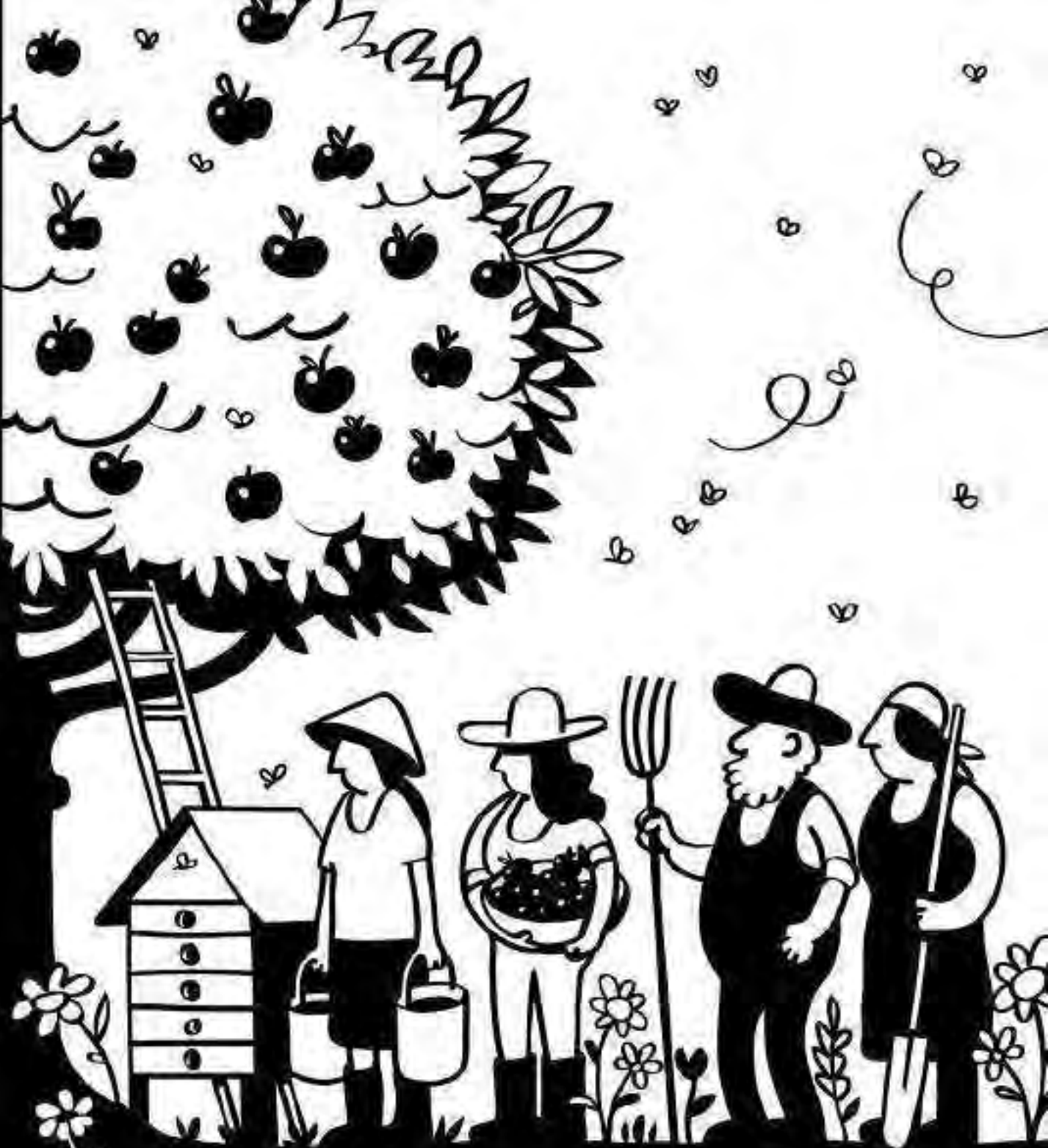




CLIMATE-SMART AGRICULTURE AND NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS  
ARE FAVOURITE BUZZWORDS THAT ARE OFTEN USED AS A COVER  
FOR WHAT AT FIRST SIGHT LOOKS LIKE SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES  
BUT - WHEN LOOKING DEEPER- EXHIBITS THE SAME DESTRUCTIVE  
MODE OF PRODUCTION.



THIS  
SHOULD  
FIX IT.



CONTROLLED FARMING

GENE EDITING

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

HIGH TECH SOLUTIONS

DIGITAL INNOVATIONS

HIGH-INPUT AGRICULTURE

BIOFORTIFICATION

HIGH TECH SOLUTIONS

NATURE-POSITIVE PRODUCTION

GREEN TECH

THE UN FOOD SYSTEMS SUMMIT  
IS ONE SUCH SPACE WHERE  
CORPORATIONS HAVE MANAGED  
TO SIT IN THE DRIVING SEAT  
AND SET THE TABLE WITH  
THEIR SOLUTIONS.

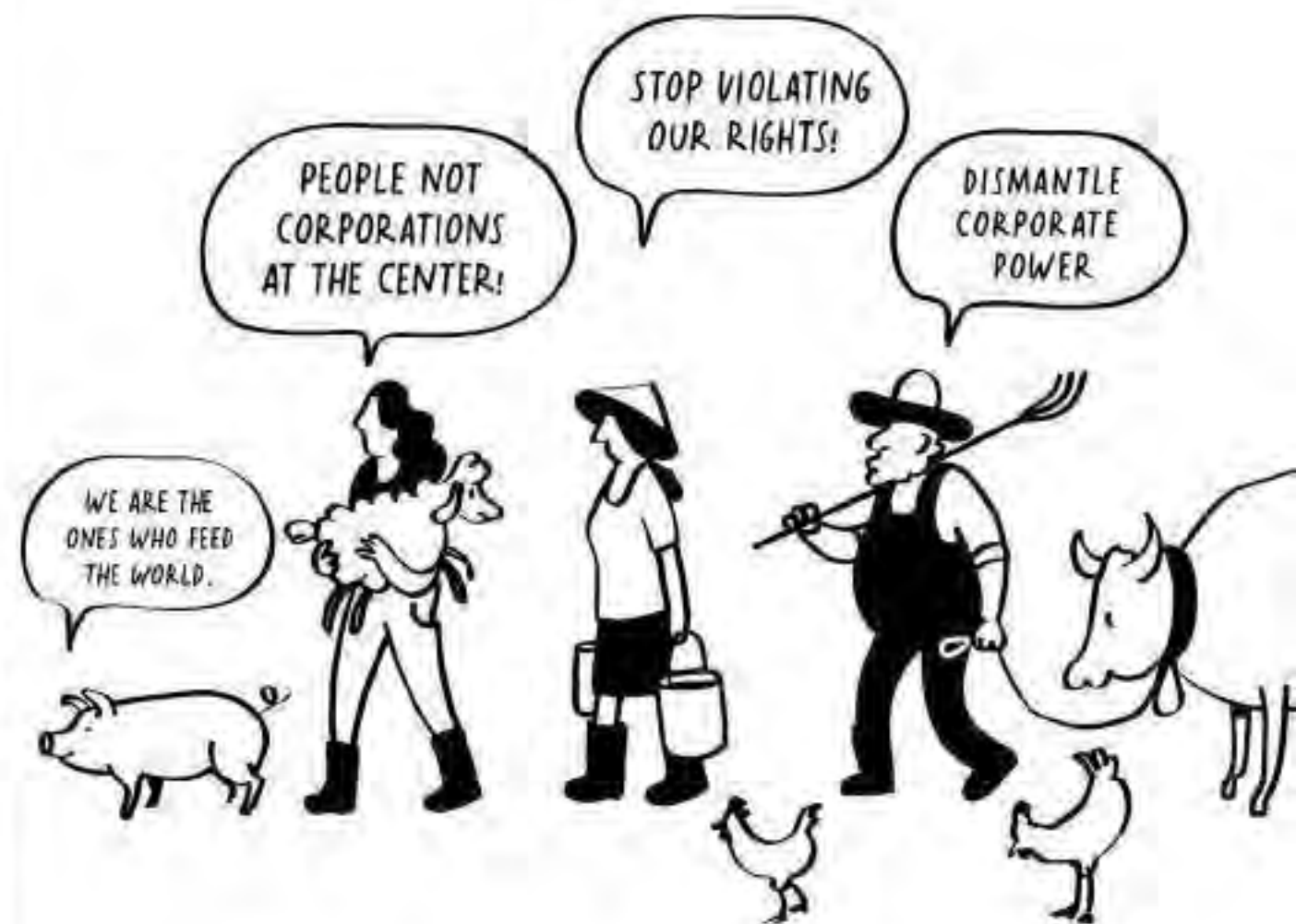
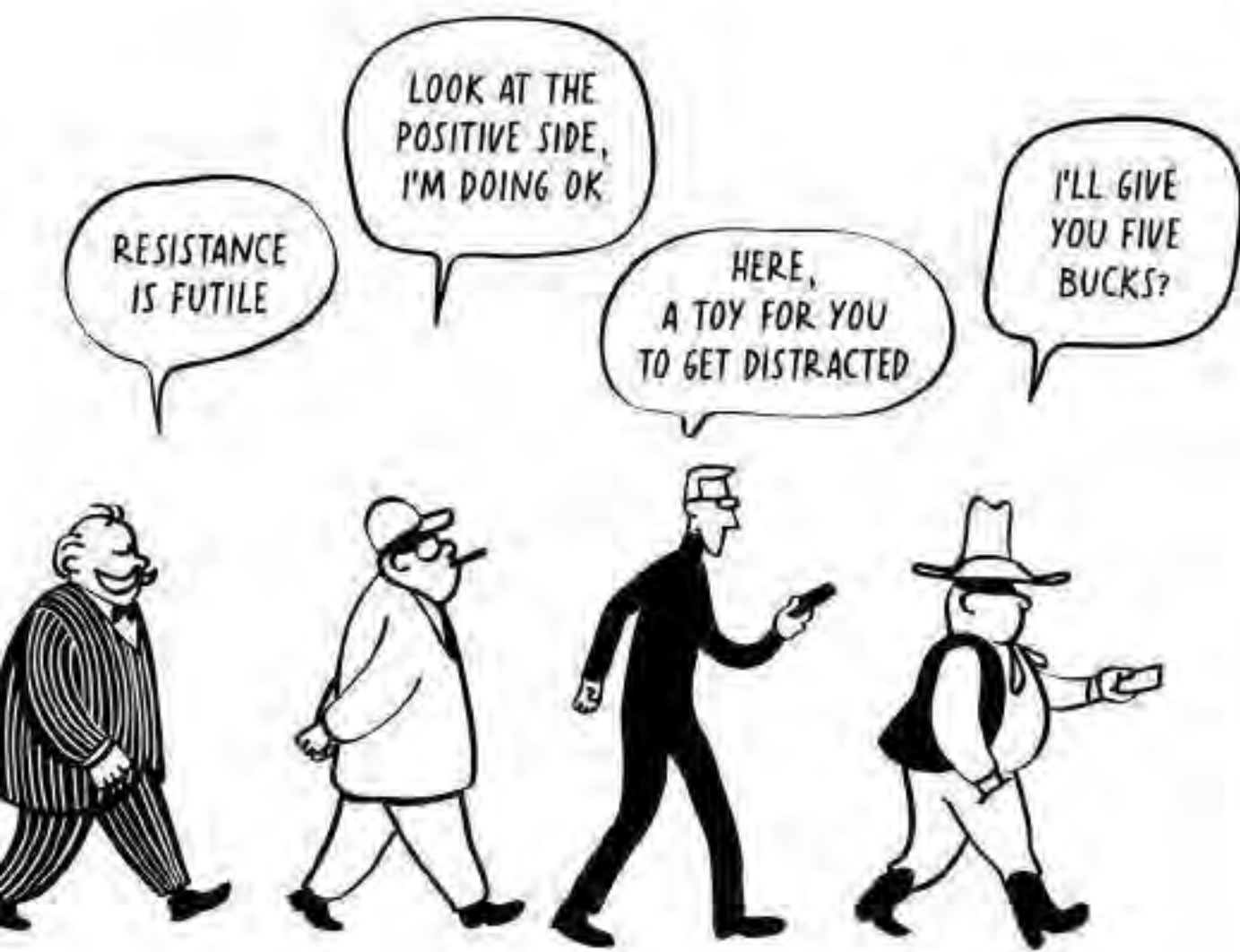


BUT WHAT ABOUT  
THE LESSONS FROM  
COVID THAT LOCAL FOOD  
SYSTEMS ARE MORE  
RESILIENT?



WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM





HOWEVER, RESISTANCE TO THE CORPORATE FOOD SYSTEM  
AND THE FAKE SOLUTIONS IT PROPOSES TO THE PROBLEMS  
IT HAS CAUSED IS GROWING.

THE REAL SOLUTIONS THAT ARE  
ALREADY PRACTICED BY  
COMMUNITIES AROUND THE WORLD  
CAN NO LONGER BE IGNORED!







YOU SAID  
IT WAS GOING  
TO BE A  
SLAM DUNK?



HANDS OFF  
OUR LAND!

BAN PESTICIDES AND  
FERTILIZERS THAT POISON  
PEOPLE AND PLANET!

WE DON'T  
WANT  
CHARITY

STOP LAND  
GRABBING

STOP  
VIOLENCE  
AGAINST  
WOMEN!

I THINK  
I'LL JUST GO  
AROUND THE  
MOON FOR  
A WHILE



FOOD SYSTEMS  
4 PEOPLE!

PROTECT OUR RIGHT TO  
FOOD AND NUTRITION!

OUR WORK  
HAS A PRICE

FOOD SYSTEMS  
4 PEOPLE!

HANDS OFF  
OUR SEEDS!

HANDS OFF  
OUR WATER!

GENDER  
EQUALITY  
NOW!

JOIN US!

JOIN  
US!

C'MON  
WE'RE  
FAMILY

STOP RACIAL  
DISCRIMINATION!





EVERYONE HAS A ROLE TO PLAY IN STRENGTHENING LOCAL FOOD SYSTEMS, AND SUPPORTING THOSE WHO PRODUCE OUR FOOD. WE CAN DO SO NOT ONLY THROUGH OUR INDIVIDUAL FOOD CHOICES BUT ALSO THROUGH ADVOCACY WITH OUR GOVERNMENTS, INCLUDING LOCAL GOVERNMENTS. WE MUST CALL ON THEM TO PROTECT PUBLIC POLICY SPACES FROM CORPORATE INFLUENCE, TO ENSURE THE MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION OF SMALL-SCALE FOOD PRODUCERS AND OTHER GROUPS MOST AFFECTED BY HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION, AND TO PUT IN PLACE POLICIES AND OTHER MEASURES THAT SUPPORT AND PROTECT LOCAL FOOD SYSTEMS THAT SUSTAIN NATURE, CONTRIBUTE TO PEOPLE'S HEALTH, AND FOSTER SOCIAL JUSTICE.

**JOIN THE PEOPLE'S AUTONOMOUS RESPONSE  
TO THE UN FOOD SYSTEMS SUMMIT!**

[WWW.FOODSYSTEMS4PEOPLE.ORG/ABOUT-2/](http://WWW.FOODSYSTEMS4PEOPLE.ORG/ABOUT-2/)

PREPARED BY FIAN INTERNATIONAL

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