



**Farida Akther** is founder and director of UBINIG which is an organisation for alternative research in development. She works with rural and urban communities on health, environment and globalization and seeds social movements. Led by small scale farming communities of Bangladesh, biodiversity-based ecological agriculture, known as Nayakrishi Andolon (New Agricultural Movement), has become popular as a peasant movement. It is not a 'traditional' farming practice in a static sense but aims at enhancing capacity of the farming communities to absorb advances in environmental, ecological and biological sciences and recent knowledge of increasing climatic variability. The central approach of Nayakrishi squarely lies in the conservation, management and use of local seed and genetic resources and adopting and improving production techniques suitable for farmers' seed.



**Anja Christinck** is an agricultural social scientist. She has worked as an independent researcher and consultant for more than 15 years. A focus of her work has been on methodologies for collaboration between farmers and researchers in plant breeding programmes. Her publications address priority setting and plant breeding strategies for food and nutrition security and sustainable use of biological diversity. Further details: [www.seed4change.de](http://www.seed4change.de)



**Debal Deb** (India) is a biologist, with doctorate in ecology from Calcutta University. Deb's work encompasses conservation of agrobiodiversity and ancient 'sacred' ecosystems in eastern India. In 1997, Deb founded "Vrihi" (Sanskrit for 'rice'), India's largest nongovernmental folk rice gene bank, conserving 920 folk rice varieties in situ. His research farm "Basudha" demonstrates ecological agriculture, ecoforestry, alternative energy use and ecological architecture. His effort to reinvigorate traditional communitarian ethos has revived many forgotten indigenous sports and musical traditions in Bengal. His latest book *Beyond Developmentality: Constructing Inclusive Freedom and Sustainability* (2009, Earthscan: London) contributes to development studies and ecological economics. Further details: [www.cintdis.org](http://www.cintdis.org)



**Famara Diédhiou** (Senegal) is the Coordinator of the "We Are The Solution" Campaign of FAHAMU, a pan-African organisation supporting and working collaboratively with movements for social justice and is a member of AFSA. The campaign is led by rural women associations in West Africa and was born out of African farmers and peasant movements struggle against market driven agricultural policies for the purpose of creating alternative models, systems and practices that promote food sovereignty. Famara is an engineer on regional planning and urban management with specialties in organic agriculture and has 10 years experience working with small scale farmers on agro ecology, organic agriculture, fair trade, domestic and export market.

Further details: [www.fahamu.org/WAS](http://www.fahamu.org/WAS)

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**Susanne Gura** is a policy analyst and author of studies and articles about agricultural biodiversity and rural development. Since 2009, she chairs the largest German seed saving association VEN and serves on the board of a seed and breed conservation umbrella organisation in German speaking countries. For many years she coordinated activities of civil society organisations accompanying multilateral negotiations such as FAO and CBD. During the 1990ies, she advised the German government on international agricultural research policy matters. In the 1980ies she has worked with FAO on gender issues as well as on African traditional food plants. She is coordinating the Association for Plant Breeding for the Benefit of Society (APBEBES) since 2013. Further details: [www.aprebes.org](http://www.aprebes.org), [www.nutzpflanzenvielfalt.de](http://www.nutzpflanzenvielfalt.de)



**Benedikt Haerlin** works for the German Foundation on Future Farming in Berlin, Germany. He co-ordinates the European initiative "Save our Seeds" to keep seeds free of GMOs and works on European Agricultural Policy issues and networks. He represented NGOs in the Worldbank and UN led IAASTD from 2002-2008. Haerlin was the global coordinator of Greenpeace International's Genetic Engineering Campaign from 1996 to 2002 and worked for the organisation since 1990. >From 1984 to 1989 Haerlin served as a Member of the European Parliament (Green Group), where he first specialized in genetic engineering issues. Before he worked as a journalist and editor.

Further details: [www.saveourseeds.org](http://www.saveourseeds.org); [www.zukunftsstiftung-landwirtschaft.de](http://www.zukunftsstiftung-landwirtschaft.de)



### **Georg Janßen**

- graduate engineer in agriculture
- since 1985 director of the National Working Group on Peasant Farming (AbL)
- since 1998 director of the National Working Group on Reproduction
- since 2011 member of the executive team of the national demonstration "We are fed up!" ("Wir haben es satt!") in Berlin
- fighting in the farmers struggle against the nuclear waste repository in Gorleben for 20 years

Further details: [www.abl-ev.de](http://www.abl-ev.de) und [www.ig-nachbau.de](http://www.ig-nachbau.de)



**Anke Kähler** is head of the independent professional organization The Bakers. Time for taste (Die Bäcker. Zeit für Geschmack). The guiding theme of the organization is to protect the sovereignty of skilled manual work in food-manufacturing by saving knowledge and skills. Their goal is to strengthen local, sustainable supply chains that last for our grandchildren.

Further details: [www.die-bäcker.org](http://www.die-bäcker.org)

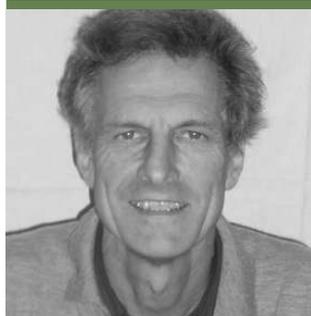


**Jack Kloppenburg** is Professor Emeritus in the Department of Community and Environmental Sociology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He has studied the social impacts of biotechnology, the controversy over control of genetic resources, and the prospects for framing food sheds as an analytical basis for developing sustainable food systems. He is the author of *First the Seed: The Political Economy of Plant Biotechnology, 1492-2000* (Cambridge University Press). He is currently jazzed by the potential of food sovereignty and by the possible application of open source principles to plant breeding. He is a founder of the Open Source Seed Initiative.

Further details: [www.osseeds.org](http://www.osseeds.org)



**Vinod Koshti** is Project Manager in Rosa-Luxemburg-Stiftung, New Delhi Office since 2011. He is responsible for the RLS South Asia programme line on Agrarian issues and Climate Change. He has worked on a variety of issues ranging from organic and contract farming, right to information, employment guarantee, human rights, homelessness, urban development.



**Johannes Kotschi** is working on rural development for more than 30 years. He advises governmental and non-governmental, national and international organisations of development cooperation. Right from the beginning he committed his work to the balance between the intensification of production and the sustainable use of natural resources in agriculture. "Back then there was little attention on it, but today sustainable intensification is more important than ever and might be the most important subject relevant for the future of agricultural development".

Further details: [www.kotschi.eu](http://www.kotschi.eu)



**Charito (Chito) P. Medina** is the national coordinator of MASIPAG, a national network of farmers, scientists and NGOs working on agrobiodiversity conservation, organic agriculture, food security, climate resilience and farmer-led development. He was involved in the design as well as a lead author in the International Assessment of Agricultural Science and Technology for Development (IAASTD). His areas of interest include food systems and sustainable organic agriculture, agroecology, pest management, climate change resilience, natural resource management, environmental science, systems analysis and rural development.

Further details: [www.masipag.org](http://www.masipag.org)



**Abdallah Mkindi** is a Coordinator of the Tanzania Alliance for Biodiversity (TABIO) which is also a member of AFSA. After his studies in Tanzania, Zimbabwe and Belgium he joined Envirocare, where he worked for 8 years in environmental conservation and sustainable agriculture. It was during this time where he gained experience of working with smallholder farmers in local seed conservation by carrying out an inventory of local seed and supporting seed savers groups in establishing seed banks. Mr. Mkindi is also a good campaigner against GMOs in Tanzania and worked intensively in creating awareness on this topic. Further details under: <http://envaya.org/TABIO>



**Shamika Mone** is an active researcher with the Organic Farming Association India. Over the past two years, she has travelled all over India by train and bus visiting every known and unknown seedkeeper. Her seed catalogue was released at the Organic Farming Convention in Chandigarh on February 28 by Maneka Gandhi. We are now printing the two volumes. She is committed to seeds, and through her work at the Intercontinental Network of Organic Farming Organisations (INOFO) is in contact with seedkeepers in Africa and Asia. She and the organic farming movement in India would benefit with further development of her expertise. Further details under: [www.ofai.org](http://www.ofai.org)



**Prof. Ramachandran** is an economist specialising in agrarian studies and development issues. He is head of the Economic Analysis Unit on the Indian Statistical Institute, Bangalore and Editor of the Review of Agrarian Studies. Further details under: [www.ras.org.in](http://www.ras.org.in)

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**Gebhard Rossmannith** is chairman of the Bingenheimer Saatgut AG. This company deals exclusively in organic non-hybrid seed to contribute to the conservation of seed-diversity in agriculture and horticulture. Another concern is to sustain the culture of seed propagation. Therefore the company works with a network of breeders and farmers multiplying seed. A transparent and social form of economy is developed in this manner. Further details: [www.bingenheimersaatgut.de](http://www.bingenheimersaatgut.de)



**Suman Sahai** is founder Chairperson of the Gene Campaign which is a leading research and advocacy organization, working on issues relating to food, nutrition and livelihoods. She has published extensively on science and policy issues and is a member of several national policy forums on scientific research and education, biodiversity and environment, biotechnology and bioethics as well as intellectual property rights. Gene Campaign has worked with a cross section of people including farming and tribal communities, academic institutions, government departments, political and activist groups, NGOs and students in 17 states, conducting over 400 district and village level meetings over the years.

Further details: [www.genecampaign.org](http://www.genecampaign.org)



**Ruchi Shroff** works with Navdanya International as the Co-ordinator for the Global Movement for Seed Freedom. The Seed Freedom movement is a network of individuals and organisations committed to reclaim seed as a commons as well as protect bio-cultural diversity of seed and agro systems as the very foundation of our food sovereignty. At the local level, hundreds of communities, networks and organizations and millions of seed keepers and seed defenders are saving seeds, working to protect and keep seeds free and fighting laws that undermine our seed sovereignty.

Further details: [www.seedfreedom.info](http://www.seedfreedom.info)

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**Cornelia Lehmann** works as a scientist at the HU Berlin coordinating the demonstration-project "On-farm conservation of heirloom vegetable varieties by building a network". She is also board member of VERN a club for the conservation and recultivation of agricultural crop in Brandenburg. Vern is conserving approximately 2000 heirloom varieties. Besides this work VERN is also engaged in public relations, education, consulting und policy on the topic. Further details: [www.vern.de](http://www.vern.de)