

# Food Security vs Food Sovereignty

## What's the difference?

**Food sovereignty** is different from **food security** in both approach and politics.

Food security does not distinguish where food comes from, or the conditions under which it is produced and distributed. National food security targets are often met by sourcing food produced under environmentally destructive and exploitative conditions, and supported by subsidies and policies that destroy local food producers but benefit agribusiness corporations.

Food sovereignty emphasizes ecologically appropriate production, distribution and consumption, social-economic justice and local food systems as ways to tackle hunger and poverty and guarantee sustainable food security for all peoples. It advocates trade and investment that serve the collective aspirations of society. It promotes community control of productive resources; agrarian reform and tenure security for small-scale producers; agro-ecology; biodiversity; local knowledge; the rights of peasants, women, indigenous peoples and workers; social protection and climate justice.

*The International Forum on Food Sovereignty* in 2007 in Mali was a defining milestone for food sovereignty and brought together more than 500 people from 80 countries to pool ideas, strategies and actions to strengthen the global movement for food sovereignty.

*The Declaration of Nyéléni* encapsulates the vision of the movement and asserts:

***Food sovereignty is the right of peoples to healthy and culturally appropriate food produced through ecologically sound and sustainable methods, and their right to define their own food and agriculture systems.***

*It puts those who produce, distribute and consume food at the heart of food systems and policies rather than the demands of markets and corporations.*

*It defends the interests and inclusion of the next generation...*

*Food sovereignty prioritises local and national economies and markets and empowers peasant and family farmer-driven agriculture, artisanal-fishing, pastoralist-led grazing, and food production, distribution and consumption based on environmental, social and economic sustainability...*

***Food sovereignty implies new social relations free of oppression and inequality between men and women, peoples, racial groups, social classes and generations.***