**Global Food Crisis – Food Insecurity**

**Sample Introductions**

For thousands of years of human agriculture, the intrinsic nature of a seed — the capacity to reproduce itself — prevented it from being easily commodified. Grown and resown by farmers, seeds were freely exchanged and shared.

1. **Causes of Global Food Crisis:**

* Climate Crisis
* Conflict
* Hijacking of Global Food Supply System by big companies

Today, four corporations — Bayer, Corteva, ChemChina and Limagrain — [control more than 50% of the world's seeds.](https://www.dw.com/en/patents-on-plants-is-the-sellout-of-genes-a-threat-to-farmers-and-global-food-security/a-49906072) These staggering monopolies dominate the global food supply.

"Seeds are ultimately what feed us and the animals we eat," Jack Kloppenburg, a rural sociologist and professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, said. "Control over seeds is, in many ways, control over the food supply.

Not only are the channels through which seeds can be exchanged and distributed narrowing: Seeds themselves are becoming less diverse. According to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, 75% of the world's crop varieties disappeared [between 1900 and 2000.](https://www.dw.com/en/one-in-four-historic-german-vegetables-extinct/a-43364085)

Major producers of genetically modified and bioengineered seeds, like Bayer and Corteva, [strictly limit how farmers can use the varieties](https://grain.org/fr/article/entries/5142-seed-laws-that-criminalise-farmers-resistance-and-fightback#1%20making%20seeds%20illegal) they sell. Usually, buyers must sign agreements that prohibit them from saving seeds from their crops to exchange or resow the following year.

The varieties that ordinary farmers develop, and those handed down through generations, are genetically diverse and continually evolving. Unable to meet these criteria, farmers not only lack intellectual property rights to the plant varieties they breed themselves: In many countries their varieties can't be certified as seeds at all.

In addition to Plant Variety Protection, seed marketing laws in many countries forbid the sale — and often, even the sharing — of seeds that haven't been certified to meet standards such as a high commercial yield under industrial farming conditions. Often, the only legal option is to buy seeds from corporate agribusinesses. And that means more and more of the world's food relies on less and less genetic diversity.

Around the world, [food sovereignty movements](https://www.dw.com/en/eco-swaraj-environment-india-democracy-climate-change-agriculture-gandhi/a-54572712) such as the transnational La Via Campesina, the Alliance for Sustainable and Holistic Agriculture in India, the Third World Network in Southeast Asia and Let's Liberate Diversity! in Europe, are advocating for seed networks that allow farmers and communities to bypass the corporate agribusiness giants and manage seeds on their own terms. For the last six years, rural sociologist Jack Kloppenburg has been packaging seeds and sending them to farmers through the Open Source Seed Initiative (OSSI).

* Slow Economic Growth of Giant Economies such as China’s economy due to COVID-19 (zOptional)

1. **Impacts of Broken Food Supply System on the World**