



Defense Committee to Kokopelli



“Manifesto For the Freedom of Seeds”

The Seeds, foundation of Life, are today under threat. The Seeds, the voice of our ancestors, are the fruits of 12 000 years, or more, of co-evolution between Man, Earth and Plants. The Seeds are also the fruits of 12 000 years, or more, of reciprocal domestication: men have domesticated plants as much as plants have domesticated men. This dynamic of co-evolution and kinship has created a very rich cultural heritage and a very diversified plant wealth which is the common good of all. This heritage is being confiscated by a very small minority.

The confiscation of seeds by agro-industrial transnationals constitutes an unprecedented danger for food sovereignty and human health. In their laboratories or in their fields, burnt out by toxic substances, the pesticide dealers are fooling around with life to create degenerate hybrids or genetically modified chimeras which they dare call seeds. These industrial seeds are sick: they can not survive without pesticides, chemical inputs or genetic manipulations. A source of pollution for the environment, they are the first link of a chain of nutritional deficiencies, poison-food, cancers and other degenerative diseases in men and animals.

To take over a common resource, the petro-agro-chemical corporations, supported by the States, seek to suppress the inalienable right of every farmer and gardener to reproduce his seeds. Toxic agriculture is a recent invention of the war and pesticide industry, supported by a cast of technocrats who has already utterly destroyed traditional farming in western countries. Mankind has been nourished, during 12 000 years or more, by healthy and tasty plants stemming from seeds of life, from seeds growing in natural and fertile ecosystems.

As past generations have been doing before us, it is our duty to give our children, and children of our children, the possibility to choose their future.

Association Kokopelli, thus, is conserving food biodiversity, developing agro-ecological practices and encouraging farmers and gardeners to reclaim their right to reproduce their own heirloom seeds.

Association Kokopelli's survival is today under threat as we are attacked by the French Department of Agriculture and the French seed lobby. We have been harassed by different court trials for the past 2 years. These attacks, which target Association Kokopelli, are meant to destroy the right to conserve and share seeds. Association Kokopelli's survival is also today threatened by national and international seed legislations which are a recent invention of western countries and of industrial seed and agro-chemical corporations and which make seed saving and seed sharing a crime. We demand for all the farmers, gardeners, seed growers and organizations dedicated to the conservation of food biodiversity:

- **the freedom to conserve the seeds of life, the heirloom seeds, the open-pollinated seeds.**
 - the freedom to reproduce these seeds.
- **the freedom to decline, for these seeds, any registration, any national list, any patent, any intellectual property right.**
 - the freedom to give, to exchange and to commercialize these seeds.
- **the freedom to breed new varieties adapted to a specific land, to a specific cultural life, to specific agro-ecological practices and to new climatic conditions.**
 - the freedom to ban genetic chimeras which are a source of contamination.
- **the freedom to share and exchange, in reciprocity and cooperation, the knowledge and technical know-how stemming from millennia of traditional agriculture.**
- **the freedom to use, commercialize, advise and teach any agro-ecological practice (nettle tea, plant extracts...) respectful of Man and natural ecosystems.**

We demand, very simply, the unconditional right to pass on biodiversity and fertility to future generations.

**If yourself or your organization wish to join the Defense Committee for Kokopelli,
please contact: dominique@kokopelli.asso.fr**