



7th Slow Food
International Congress
Chengdu, China
September 29-October 1, 2017

South America Network

In an effort to form a powerful South American Slow Food Network, 10 countries from our broad and bio-diverse region of South America have been working to identify common problems in our region, gathering experience in each of our countries, and seeking out joint actions so we can grow stronger as a network and join forces with farmers' organizations, indigenous communities, producers' collectives and chefs, and above all to highlight our principles and philosophy, focusing on the search for a good life and better options on our continent.

The areas in which we have been working are: Land, Water, Seeds and Culture, because they form the foundation of good, clean and fair food. We have reviewed them and analyzed them with regard to the range of threats they face, such as contamination by agrochemicals, mining or GMOs; as well as land and water grabbing and its effects on our environment; our indigenous communities, our cuisine and gastronomy, human rights; and above all the exclusion and marginalization of female and indigenous farmers who are the guardians of our biodiversity and food sovereignty.

We have found many avenues to pursue in these areas, but also gathered a wealth of experiences and hopes in each of our countries.

At the 7th Slow Food International Congress, here in Chengdu, China, we are stating, as South America, our commitment to promoting joint actions to protect biodiversity, safeguard our cultural food heritage and legally protect the pleasure of local food.

In particular, we will commit to launching educational, information and political actions at all possible levels, focusing on the four areas we have developed:

- Free, thriving land in the hands of farmers, women and indigenous communities,
- Water as a source of life for the benefit of all,
- Free seeds and a GMO-free South America,
- Culture as a central theme, both as a source of strength for building identity, and as a key element of development.

We will promote our regional integration, as South Americans seeking common bonds to enable us to tackle the similar challenges we face in each region, to share experiences of each network on our continent and also to experience the joy with which we live our daily lives.

We will share this integration with the Slow Food network around the world.

**FOR SOUTH AMERICA IT IS VITAL TO THINK OF THE COMMON GOOD,
BECAUSE IT MAKES US STRONGER AND MORE RESILIENT**