



THE RAM'S HORN

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF FOOD SYSTEM ANALYSIS

No. 282, June-July, 2011

ISSN 0827-4053

It's the Economy, Stupid

Canada's ruling prime minister, Stephen Harper, seems to have persuaded voters that, as an 'economist', he is fit to rule the country, since there is nothing more important than 'the economy'. But just what is it that he is talking about?

An economy is how we organize our material affairs, from the household to the state and, now, internationally. It's how we meet our daily needs, such as for food and water, share our wealth, and consider our future and the world our children will have to live in – not as individuals but collectively, as a society.

The late-capitalist economy we currently endure is presented to us by its corporate-minded sponsors as the best of all possible economies – in fact, the only possible economy. Its sole measure of success is 'growth': growth in GDP, growth in corporate profits, growth in CEO compensation. Criteria such as meeting everyone's basic needs or equitable distribution of wealth, not to mention what kind of world will be left for our children and grandchildren, are relegated to that mysterious force called 'the market'.

If our present capitalist economy is the only one possible, then it stands to reason that it must perform well. If it falters, a life-support system must be called up and implemented. Since, according to the doctrine, there is no alternative (TINA), the life support system must take the form of resuscitation, more colloquially referred to as 'stimulation'. Then the question arises, who is going to do the stimulating? Obviously those

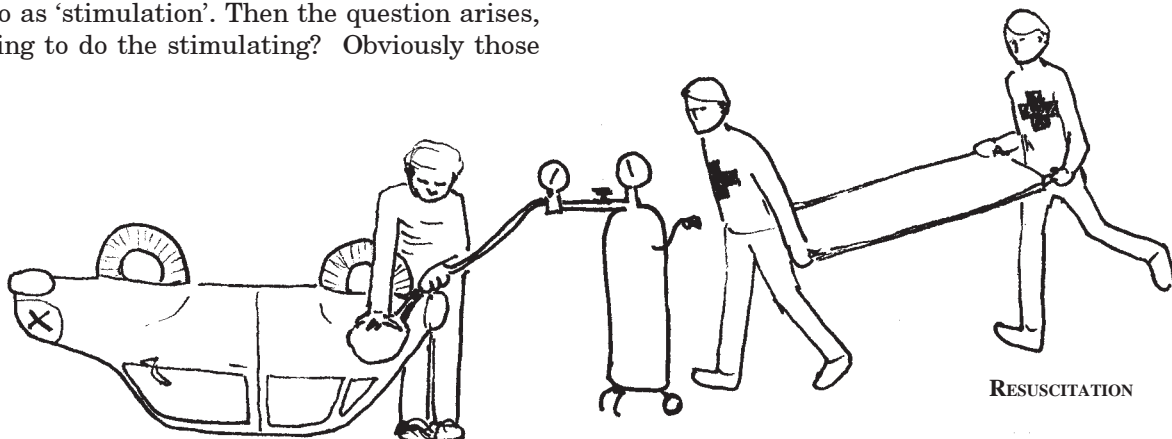
responsible for the faltering – the bankers, investors and speculators – cannot be called upon since they are the ones to be resuscitated. That leaves the state: that vile institution that can do no good, according to neo-liberal doctrine, and must be privatized or at least downsized, not to say eviscerated.

The 'tough on crime' agenda of the Harper regime illustrates well what constitutes an economy in neo-liberal minds. Start with the long history of prison farms.

Once upon a time 'old peoples' homes' also had farms so their inhabitants could grow their own food and engage in pleasurable social activities. This was considered to improve their quality of life, thus reducing medical and nursing costs.

Prison farms, economists will tell you, were bad for the economy. They significantly reduced the economic activity of purchasing corporate food for the prison population. Indeed, they provided food for the local community and charitable institutions. They also contributed to the rehabilitation of prisoners and improving their mental health, thus reducing future prison costs. By eliminating the prison farms, the Harper regime boosted the economic welfare of the food industry. Reducing the rehabilitative effect of the prison

... continued next page



farms also adds to the recidivist prison population. This, combined with an increase in what is defined as criminal (except for white collar crime, which is good for the economy) and increased jail times, will require the building of more prisons, also good for the economy, particularly if they are privately built and operated, as seems highly likely. So you can see that Harper's 'tough on crime' agenda is really an economic stimulus program. With the courts instructed to deliver a growing number of prisoners, this won't be good for Canada and the Canadian people, but it will contribute to growth of the economy.



PRISONS: ECONOMIC STIMULUS, CANADIAN-STYLE

Now take this logic a bit further. The food movement, with all its emphasis on local, and with its recruitment of unpaid labour, such as school children and seniors growing their own gardens and sharing cooking (processing) 'from scratch', is really a negative factor in the economy. Self-sufficiency is a bad thing for the economy and its growth advocates. Breastfeeding is a fine illustration of this. It is obviously bad for the manufacturers of infant formula, the packaging industry and the marketers which are all denied a very profitable product. It's also bad for the pharmaceutical industry insofar as it reduces the market for drugs for obese kids, or kids with asthma or even hyperactivity. Globalization, of course, is just the opposite, requiring as it does ever greater measurable official economic activity. The word 'measurable' is important, because what counts in a neo-liberal economy is only what can be counted. The satisfaction and intimacy of breastfeeding, for example, is invisible to the 'bottom line'. If you grow your own food, this is not counted, but if you go to Sobeys and pay for the same food, this is counted. Perhaps this is what Harper means when he talks about "accountability"?

Value is counted in dollars. The garbage collector is essential to the orderly life of the CEO, but his value, measured in annual 'compensation', is infinitesimal. This economy values the CEO but not the public servant. The pay of the clerk in the supermarket would be virtually invisible placed alongside the income of the supermarket chain's CEO.

If this description seems a bit harsh, consider the 'compensation' some of Canada's highest paid executives received in 2010. (Average CEO pay, including salary, bonus, and share units, was \$6 million. Their average base pay was \$939,000. The average bonus was \$1.6 million. – *GM, 10/5/11*)

- Bill Doyle, Potash Corp. of Saskatchewan, \$11,600,000 – that's right, \$11.6 million!
- Michael Wilson, Agrium, \$8,900,000
- Mayo Schmidt, Viterra, \$4,390,000
- Galen G. Weston, Loblaw Cos., \$3,900,000
- Donald Schroeder, Tim Hortons, \$3,580,000
- Eric La Flèche, Metro, \$3,100,000
- Lino Saputo, Saputo, \$2,850,000
- Alain Bouchard, Alimentation Couche-Tard, \$2,270,000
- W. Galen Weston, George Weston Ltd, \$2,098,000
- Paul Sobey, Empire Co., \$1,800,000

That's a total of roughly \$44.5 million for those ten men at the top of various corporations involved in the business of food, from fertilizer (Potash Corp, Agrium) to grain handling/trading (Viterra), food manufacturing (Saputo) food distribution (Loblaw, Weston, Empire, Metro, Alimentation Couche-Tard) and fast-food (Tim Hortons).

Harper: Corporate Economy First!

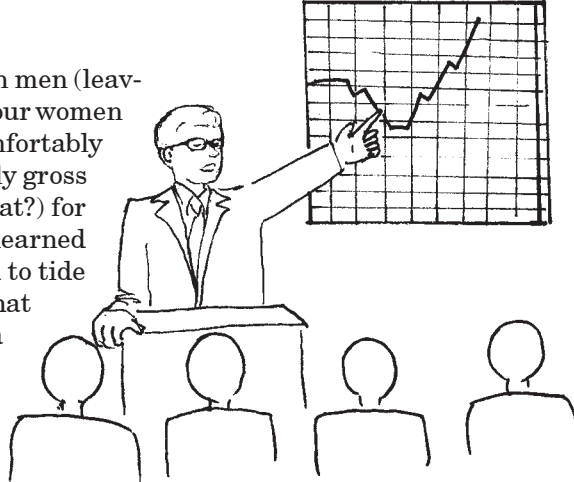
- ◆ No action on climate change: 'We won't jeopardize the economy.'
- ◆ No action on environmental restrictions on greenhouse gas emission and water pollution from Tar Sands: 'We won't interfere with recovery of the economy.'
- ◆ Public services: 'We cannot afford them.'
- ◆ Regressive taxation: 'We must lower corporate taxes and personal income taxes on the wealthy.'

- ◆ Corporations and their executives need incentives to grow the economy.' Finance Minister Flaherty says, "I think we should be moving toward a flatter personal income tax system because it encourages economic activity . . . it encourages entrepreneurial activity in Canada."
- ◆ Exporting hazardous substances (asbestos): Stimulating the economy in Quebec (where Harper's Conservatives lost badly in the recent election) is certainly more important than the ill-effects of asbestos on those mining it and handling it all along the way to its final destination in India.

Now consider that it is quite possible to live very comfortably in Canada on \$200,000 a year (most Canadians get by on considerably less) and subtract 10 x \$200,000, or \$2 million, from \$44 million.

Think of what we could do with \$42 million towards creating a real economy for the people of Canada, and the world!

We are quite sure that those ten men (leaving out for now the other 90 men and four women in the top 104) could get by quite comfortably if they gave up most of their absolutely gross 'compensation' (compensation for what?) for just one year. (Think of all the unearned money they already have in the bank to tide them over.) We would recommend that they give their over-compensation to a foundation dedicated to building a real food economy in Canada – from ecological agriculture research and training to community kitchens and school and hospital food programs.



WHAT HARPER MEANS
BY "ACCOUNTABILITY"

Moving outside of the food system, there is one other man that deserves attention, the CEO of Gildan Activewear, Glenn Chamandy as an example of the inequity between top and bottom – CEOs and the workers who actually make things and make things work. Gildan Activewear is a large Montreal-based company that supplies garments such as T-shirts to screen-print businesses and major chain stores (look for the label). It utilizes the cheap labour available in Central America and Bangladesh.

Gildan has third-party contractor operations in Haiti that sew the majority of garments from the fabric produced at its Dominican Republic textile facility. Its largest manufacturing hub is in Honduras with two integrated manufacturing operations knitting, bleaching, dyeing, finishing and cutting textile facilities. After the earthquake last year, Gildan issued a press release for its investors, assuring them that production by its Haitian sweatshops would not be interrupted and also making a number of generous commitments in relation to its employees and the families of the victims. However,

"It was eerie to realize how little the earthquake had changed for these people. The street merchants continue to sell their plates of rice to the workers who pour out of the doors of the big factory everyday at the same time. As before, they sell the rice on credit, because the workers cannot afford to pay for it until payday, every two weeks. Two months after the earthquake, there was no more talk of compensation for the families of the victims. No one had seen any food or medical aid."

– Nik Barry-Shaw, CHAN

Glenn Chamandy received 'compensation' of \$11.2 million last year. His 28,000 employees?

For more information on Gildan, see <http://gildan.com/corporate/downloads/2010%20AIF%20for%20website.pdf>

Democracy is supposed to be about the voice of the people and the government listening to the people and acting accordingly. We are now in a situation where there are only two voices the government hears: one is that of those artificial personae, the corporations, the other is that of their own right-wing ideology of individualism, greed, aggression and privatization – often wrapped up together and presented as "competitiveness".

Harper's Speech from the Throne (3/5/11) was titled "Here for all Canadians: Stability, Prosperity, Security". What Harper means by these three words is not quite what some of us would like them to mean. By Stability he means shutting out or shutting down critical voices or organizations; by Security, he does not mean equitable access to food and housing, he means a greater role for the military and the police, with more weapons and higher visibility, internally and internationally, and the strengthening of a criminal justice system based on revenge and retribution rather than rehabilitation. Prosperity? Not for everyone. Harper's policies all favour increasing inequity in Canadian society. It's the monied class of bankers, investors and corporate brass that he's addressing. Breaking the unions is obviously part of the plan. That's the only possible explanation for Canada Post locking out its workers and the government then legislating a return to work at lower wages than Canada Post was offering.

"For the Harper government, the issue has become one of protecting the economy versus the right to collective bargaining." – GM, 24/6/11

What Harper, and his mate John Baird, mean by the economy does not refer to how economic activities are organized for the public good, but how material matters are organized for corporate profit. "All Canadians" refers, it seems, to very few people. — **B.K.**

The Invisible Giant becomes more visible

We've been neglecting Cargill. News of its latest expansion in this or that supply chain – cocoa, soy, maize, you name it – seems never-ending. So does news of its latest innovation in food de-/re-construction. But if one wants to understand what the future of food might look like, a periodic review of Cargill's activities is certainly in order. So here goes, with thanks to a long-time correspondent in Cargill's home town who sent us a 'care' package of current Cargill publications.

For more than a century and a half it has been Cargill practice to do as much as it can to shape the kind of world it wants to operate in. As discussed in *Invisible Giant* (see our website for the text version) the corporation has always been generous with its advice to governments, whether that be Canada or China. The Canadian government's understanding of economic priorities is clearly taken from Cargill's playbook, as stated in the company's 2010 Summary Annual Report: "Cargill is moving forward with confidence. We are investing in our people and innovation, in facilities and technologies, and in supply chains and solutions. As we grow we connect our knowledge and insight to help customers succeed and to help communities meet the challenges of building a better world. We are a company committed to growth."

Don't look for any financial details or results in this report; the company has never published these. What this summary report does tell us is that Cargill earned \$2.6 billion in fiscal 2010, down 22% from the previous year, while revenues dropped 6% to \$107.9 billion. Just what is included (or not) in these figures is anybody's guess. Cargill is proud of the increase in its 'overall giving' from \$36 million in 2006 to \$57.5 million in 2010. This is something like .05% of its corporate revenues – a rather low rate of giving or 'self-taxation'. (See p. 6 for a report on its public tax-paying in Argentina.)

The summary report also tells us that "The past year confirmed the relevance and value of Cargill's strategic intent. Its power has never been tethered to any one economic environment. This strategy's five tenets . . . allowed us to guide the company out of harm's way, stay flexible and opportunistic, and invest to prosper in the future."

Opportunistic is an appropriate word, spelled out a bit in connection with rising commodity prices: "Cargill is preparing to reenter base metals trading. . . Applying the trading and risk management skills we've honed over many years to new, yet unrelated, endeavours is another way our company can grow."

A colourful booklet addressed to students describes "Cargill's dedication to Forests, Wildlife and Our Communities. . . Cargill works hard to protect rainforests

and cares about all the people and wildlife that live in our communities." It does not elaborate on what it means by "our communities", but it sounds very much as if Cargill owns the people inhabiting the areas in which Cargill seeks to grow soy or oil palm. The back page of this booklet, which is full of empty but attractive notions about caring and responsibility, tells students, "We hope you understand more about what Cargill does in the rainforest..." Actually, the booklet does not make any mention of what Cargill does in what was the rainforest, like growing genetically engineered soy for cattle feed and biofuels. It simply says it will not and will not "purchase soybeans from lands in the Amazon rainforest where trees were cut down since July 2006".

Cargill's Corporate Responsibility Report is a substantial, colourful booklet titled 'Growing Together'. By the time I've looked through its 38 pages, I've decided that the word 'responsibility' should be banned from all corporate usage. Along with 'sustainable'. The first highlight is on Responsible Supply Chains, and it tells us that "Responsible sourcing is an important part of our commitment to conduct business with integrity and responsibility, treat people with dignity and respect, and help protect and conserve the environment. We work with business partners, governments, nongovernmental organizations and communities to foster sustainable economic development and promote responsible practices throughout our supply chains."

The language is impressive – except that there is precious little description of what being responsible actually means. The Roundtable on Responsible Soy, for example, does not mention that the soy is genetically engineered and aerially sprayed – 'fumigated' as the Argentinians say – with massive amounts of herbicide that has serious effects on the communities and their crops growing nearby. (*See Round Table on Responsible Soy, p 6*)

. . . and a sampling from Cargill's website — condensed, but their own words:

- Cargill, the largest North American importer of palm oil, is now offering palm oil certified by the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) to North American food manufacturers. Cargill's palm plantation, PT Hindoli in Sumatra, Indonesia, was one of the first to receive RSPO

certification in 2009 and smallholder farmers at Cargill's PT Hindoli site were the first to be certified under the RSPO's Smallholder Principles & Criteria in late 2010.

- Cargill has introduced its newest healthier oil – Clear Valley® 80 High Oleic Canola Oil with low levels of saturated fat, zero grams trans fat (per 14 gram serving), and a cost-saving solution due to its exceptional shelf life. High oleic oils have natural resistance to oxidation.
- Cargill Beef Australia and Teys Bros have agreed to form a 50-50 joint venture company under the name of “Tey's Australia – A Cargill Joint Venture.” The new joint venture will include the assets of both companies' existing beef processing and cattle feeding businesses as well as Teys' tannery and value adding facilities, and Teys' share of its wholesale divisions. The combination of the two beef businesses will consolidate Teys' position as the second largest beef processor and exporter in Australia. The joint venture will have the capacity to process 1.5 million head of cattle per year.

Cargill Beef Australia operates a vertically integrated beef business that includes a 17,000-head capacity feedlot and two export-licensed beef processing facilities in New South Wales with a combined capacity of 2,100 head per day.

- Last December, Cargill Australia purchased the former Australian Wheat Board (AWB) grain marketing and pool operations, international grain trading businesses, grain distribution and storage assets as well as other international operations. from Agrium. Agrium had purchased AWB earlier in December. “The combined business should accelerate Cargill's growth and provide value for Australian growers.”

- In March, Cargill concluded the acquisition of Unilever's tomato product business in Brazil. The transaction is part of the company's strategy to keep expanding its presence in Brazilian retail. The deal will help Cargill diversify its product portfolio in the food sector, including solid, well known brands such as Pomarola and Tarantella brand tomato sauce, Elefante and Extratomato brand tomato paste, and Pomodoro brand tomato pulp, and add to Cargill's operations the tomato processing plant based in Goiânia, state of Goiás. Cargill's entrance into the tomato products market will bring it closer to the lives of Brazilian consumers and to its customers in the retail segment. With the new acquisition, Cargill plans to expand the Foods Brazil Business Unit. Tomato products, such as sauces and pastes, are the seventh most important category in non-perishable food products with a high penetration in households (70 percent) and a high purchase frequency. Considering that oils are the second most important category, Cargill is now present in two key Brazilian consumer food categories.

- In April, Cargill's Wichita-based pork business acquired a 21,500-acre hog production site near Dalhart, Texas, from the Premium Standard Farms subsidiary of Smithfield Foods, Inc. for approximately \$33 million. The facilities, which have been idle since spring 2010, will be used to produce pigs that will be transferred to Midwest grow-out facilities after they are weaned. These pigs will then become a portion of the animals Cargill Pork harvests annually at its two meat processing facilities in Illinois and Iowa. In addition to sow inventory that will be introduced to the property, Cargill Pork plans to make additional investments to improve and expand existing assets on the property, as well as add infrastructure as required. The site will employ approximately 272 people. (Cargill does not reveal how many sows (pigs) it will employ in its weaner production.) *[emphasis added]*



“RESPONSIBLE” SOY PRODUCTION

- Under the name Cargill Meat Solutions, the company operates two Canadian integrated beef processing facilities, including Case Ready operations. Cargill Meat Solutions specializes in products that are marketed and sold around the world. The High River, Alberta, plant is a fully integrated beef processing facility where 2,000 employees process 4,500 head of cattle per day. The Dunlop facility in Guelph, Ontario employs 950 people and processes 1,500 head of cattle per day. Dunlop is the only large scale Halal facility in Canada. Combined, these facilities make up 55% of the beef processing market in Canada.

The ABCDs of Tax Evasion

Argentina accuses world's largest grain traders of huge tax evasion:

The world's four largest grain traders, ADM, Bunge, Cargill and (Louis) Dreyfus, often referred to as the ABCD group, are responsible for the vast majority (75-90%) of global corn, soya and wheat trading and processing. From their terminals at the Argentine ports of Rosario and San Lorenzo-San Martín on the Paraná River they ship about 55m tonnes of soy a year, worth \$24b, to China, India and Europe. In May, the Argentinian authorities took the dramatic step of suspending all four from their export register this year, accusing them of tax evasion, and are preparing legal cases against them.

Ricardo Echegaray, the head of AFIP, the country's revenue and customs service, gave a detailed account of the charges his department is bringing against ADM, Bunge, Cargill and Dreyfus. "These companies have gone into criminality," Echegaray said. "2008 was when agricultural commodities prices spiked and was the best year for them in prices, yet we could see that the companies with the biggest sales showed very little profit in this country."

AFIP is seeking to claim \$476m for what it says are unpaid tax and duties from Bunge, \$252m from Cargill and \$140m from Dreyfus. The companies have all denied all the allegations and have said they will defend themselves vigorously.

Echegaray said he had begun investigating Argentina's large business taxpayers towards the end of 2008, cross-checking information given to his authorities with that from other countries where their exports were destined, by making use of tax information exchange treaties – some of which have been newly signed. He also cross-checked declarations made to

Argentinian customs with corporate income tax returns.

Until 2007, he said, Bunge paid about \$100m in corporate income tax in Argentina a year. "Then it decided to set up an office in the tax-free zone of Uruguay's capital, Montevideo. From that date, it suddenly declared no gains in Argentina. We cross-checked with Uruguay and we found they had not exported anything from Montevideo and had almost no staff there." He said he had evidence from his detailed inquiry that all four traders had submitted false declarations of sales and routed profits through tax havens or their headquarters, in contravention of Argentinian tax law. He also alleged they had on occasion used phantom firms to buy grain. He further alleged that they had inflated costs in Argentina to reduce taxable profits or claim tax credits there and that Cargill had also used Uruguay and Swiss subsidiaries to evade taxes in Argentina.

"The agro-exporters have extracted the most profit from the economy here in recent years, and our policy is that those who gain most should pay most. We have noticed the companies with the biggest sales show the least profits here. But all the work is done here. The soil is Argentinian, the harvest is done with Argentinian machinery by Argentinians, it is transported on Argentinian roads, through Argentinian ports. It uses Argentinian services and resources – so why are all the gains made in Argentina appearing on paper in other countries?" – *Felicity Lawrence, Guardian Weekly 10/6/11*

'RESPONSIBLE' SOY

The Dutch food and feed industry has bought the first batch of 85,000 tons of soy produced according to the principles of the World Wildlife Fund-sponsored *Round Table on Responsible Soy (RTRS)*. This RTRS certified soy



originated from the Brazilian producer Grupo André Maggi, whose first soy fields were certified by independent auditors in May 2011. This first ever certification of a producer, and the subsequent market uptake, are important milestones for the RTRS, which began its quest to become the global standard for responsibly cultivated soy in 2006. Respecting the land rights of local communities and preventing the degradation of valuable nature areas are among the RTRS objectives. One certificate covers one tonne of soy products: beans, flour or oil.

– *Initiatief Duurzame Handel, The Netherlands, 8/6/11*

“This soy label is a typical example of consumer deceit”, says Nina Holland of Corporate Europe Observatory. “The criteria for responsible soy are very weak. Importing soy for industrial livestock farming in the Netherlands is inherently unsustainable. Apart from that, the soy is produced with intensive use of agrotoxins, and even genetically manipulated soy can be called ‘responsible’. There are no limits on pesticide use and it is considered ‘responsible’ to spray pesticides from airplanes close to homes. The label offers no solution to the struggle for land that is being fought in countries like Paraguay between smallholder farmers and the agri-industry.”

– *ASEED, The Netherlands, 8/6/11*

Peddling Poison

Science and health have both been pushed aside by Harper in favour of currying votes in Quebec. On June 23rd, the UN conference in Geneva (referred to as the Rotterdam Convention) sought to place strict limits on the export of chrysotile asbestos by requiring labelling of it as a hazardous material and requiring exporters to obtain ‘Prior Informed Consent’ before the material can be exported by Canada (or anyone else).

Canada agreed with the UN scientific panel that found chrysotile asbestos to be a hazardous substance, but voted against the motion. Since the convention operates on consensus, Canada’s lone vote against inclusion of chrysotile asbestos on the list means that Canada can continue to export the asbestos, mined in Quebec, without warning to the importers and users.

At the same time, the Harper government continues to claim it has the backing of scientific studies, despite outcry from the public and statistics which show that asbestos is the leading killer of workers in Quebec, accounting for 277 of the 493 deaths in the past three years, according to the province’s Workers Health Safety Board.

Forget Food, We Need Biomass

After years of promoting biotech interests in and around Saskatoon and Guelph, Murray McLaughlin is now, appropriately, in Sarnia, working for the Sustainable Chemistry Alliance promoting the chemical industry. The Ontario Federation of Agriculture is a partner in the Alliance. In a decade or so, McLaughlin says, agriculture will no longer be synonymous with food production. Instead, it will be associated with chemical production, medicine, consumer goods and energy.

A little to the south, US Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack says its time for ‘America’ to end the food versus fuel debate. It’s more important, he says, to move to double-cropping existing farmland as a way to produce enough grain and biomass to satisfy the demand for both food and fuel. Vilsack was referring to a report calling for double cropping one-third of the 50 million acres of corn and soybean acres in the US to produce 400 billion litres of ethanol annually without decreasing US food production or agricultural exports.

— *WP 28/4/11*

Poisons not needed

Brazil doesn’t need poisons to maintain food production, according to Jono Pedro Stédile, leader of Brazil’s Landless Workers Movement (MST). On lands settled by small farmers as part of the agrarian reform process, a change of mentality is already underway towards food production in harmony with the environment. “We have learned in the last 10 years that having land and producing food is not enough,” he said. “It is important to produce healthy food. Over the last few years there has been growing alarm around the world regarding the effects of agrotoxins, and this was when Brazil became the country that uses the most agricultural poisons. Aside from the global alert, the National Cancer Institute announced that there are more than 40,000 new cases of stomach cancer every year, and in half of those cases it is fatal. The cause is contaminated food.”

According to Stédile, it is entirely possible to maintain the same output of food produced for consumption in Brazil without using a single kilogram of poison. There is enough scientific knowledge to stop using these poisons, and there is plenty of land and labour to grow food in Brazil. This is one of the great contradictions of agribusiness. It is precisely on these large landholdings that it has been impossible to produce crops without poisons, because they have replaced human labour with machines, while family farms and agrarian reform settlements enjoy this advantage.



Agro-ecological techniques make it possible to produce organic food at a cost that is 84% lower than through industrial agricultural methods, according to a research study conducted by the Luiz de Queiroz Higher Institute of Agriculture at the University of São Paulo in Piracicaba, Brazil. The system analysed in the study consists of planting crops in clearings in natural forests. For every 300 metres of forest, areas measuring 25 by 25 metres are used for crop farming. In this way, the forest biome is preserved and acts as a regulator of pests, doing away with the need for agrottoxins that can raise production costs by as much as 70% in monoculture farming systems. — *Tierramérica* 25/4/11

'PUSH-PULL' Pest Control

Since its development in 1997 by Hans Herren at the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE) in Nairobi, Kenya, the 'push-pull' technique has helped nearly 40,000 farmers in East Africa. Maize yields have increased by up to 3.5 tonnes per hectare, bringing 300,000 people out of hunger and poverty, according to ICIPE.

The 'push-pull' strategy intercroops cereals with a repellent plant bordered by an attractive trap plant.

For example, maize can be intercropped with desmodium, which repels ('pushes') pests such as the maize stem borer away from the crop, and bordered by Napier grass, which lures ('pulls') stem borers so they lay their eggs in the grass instead of the maize. Napier grass also produces a gummy substance that traps freshly hatched stem borers so only a few survive to adulthood.

The centre has now launched a project to disseminate the technique more widely and to find new push and pull plants with drought and temperature tolerance. The Adaptation and Dissemination of Push-Pull Technology (ADOPT) initiative, launched in March, will benefit a further 50,000 farmers living in dry areas vulnerable to climate change in Ethiopia, Kenya and Tanzania. ADOPT has received \$4.2 million from the European Union.

However, both desmodium and Napier grass struggle in dry conditions, so ICIPE has started collecting desmodium seeds and grasses from different parts of Africa to see which ones can withstand high temperature and drought conditions in arid and semi-arid areas of Africa.

— *SciDev.Net, UK,26/4/11*



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2746 Cassels Street
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Subscriptions:

Canada, \$25(regular), \$50 (patron)
United States: US\$25, CDN \$27
outside North America: \$28 (airmail)

cheques payable to The Ram's Horn

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Published 10 times a year; subscriptions expire with the issue number on the label.