

*The Austrian Association of Mountain farmers and Smallholders*  
**ÖBV-Via Campesina Austria**  
[www.viacampesina.at](http://www.viacampesina.at)

**We are a member of:**  
**La Via Campesina**  
[www.viacampesina.org](http://www.viacampesina.org)

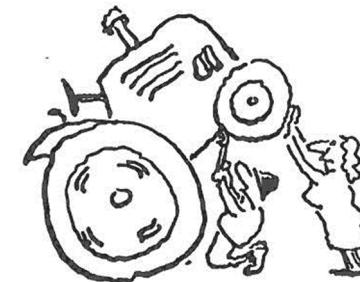
La Via Campesina is the international movement which brings together millions of peasants, small and medium-size farmers, landless people, women farmers, indigenous people, migrants and agricultural workers from around the world. It defends small-scale sustainable agriculture as a way to promote social justice and dignity. It strongly opposes corporate driven agriculture and transnational companies that are destroying people and nature.

La Via Campesina comprises about 164 local and national organizations in 73 countries from Africa, Asia, Europe and the Americas. Altogether, it represents about 200 million farmers. It is an autonomous, pluralist and multicultural movement, independent from any political, economic or other type of affiliation.



## Let us work for A good life for women in mountain regions!

We are very concerned about the difficult situation in which mountain-region farming finds itself currently in Austria. There is a distinct lack of political will to support ecological, democratic and gender-equal initiatives in rural areas. Women are particularly affected by these developments.



Cartoon: MUCH

### **We are fed up with the fact that:**

- in farming, a policy of **“expand or die”** prevails;
- **farms are going out of business** and jobs are getting lost;
- agricultural production in unfavourable areas e.g. mountain regions is not sufficiently supported and production therefore **migrates from the mountain to valley**;

### **We are fed up with the fact that:**

- **animal feed is imported** to boost overproduction, with negative consequences for people in the global South, for livestock and for the environment;
- **industrial agricultural and factory farming** receive higher subsidies than ecological agriculture that cares about animal welfare;
- **affected people aren't involved in policy making** (neither in the organisation of conferences such as this one);
- **in agricultural policy, women are primarily used as an adornment**; despite the appearance of gender equality, there is clear male dominance;
- in advertising, images of mountain farming, small organic farms and women are **misused to gain profits** and subsidies ;
- **young women in rural areas** who are striving for more self-determination are not being sufficiently supported. There is a lack of childcare facilities, support for care work, public transport, women's(networking)spaces, access to land etc.

### **We are peasant women. We have experience and plenty of ideas.**

We demand fair conditions for farming in mountain areas and policies which are orientated towards food sovereignty, equality of all genders, the fair distribution of housework and care, direct democracy and on a good life for all.

### **We demand:**

- **50% women in all agricultural policy bodies.** Targeted support for women of all political orientations in becoming politically active on agricultural issues, both within and outside institutions;
- **a reorientation of agricultural education**, focused on agroecology and good nutrition for all; girls and boys should receive joint education and be taught the 50-50 principle;
- **targeted support for small, eco-efficient farms** that use local resources to produce food for the region, protect the climate and provide good living and working conditions for people of all genders;
- **equal access to fertile land for women**;
- **an openness** to new, feminist, ecological initiatives, projects and philosophy.

For a good life in mountain regions, holistic solutions are needed that include environmental, economic, social and cultural aspects. And: the time is ripe for a female Minister of Agriculture!

**Let's work together, for new feminist, democratic food policies that enable a good life for all people in mountain areas and elsewhere!**

*Women's working group of the  
Austrian Association of Mountain farmers and Smallholders  
(ÖBV-Via Campesina Austria)  
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