

# Decentralizing the Food System @ TN Local Food Summit 2022 – Audience Handout

Irucka Embry

2024-12-10

## Notes

**NOTE:** Please consider using a [Free Software PDF reader](#) to view the PDFs on this page. Thank you.

**NOTE:** This document was created using the rmarkdown package [<https://rmarkdown.rstudio.com/>] version 2.29 in R [<https://www.r-project.org/>] version 4.4.0 on Trisquel GNU/Linux [<https://trisquel.info/>] version 9.0 [GNU/Linux name — <https://www.gnu.org/gnu/why-gnu-linux.html>]. You can find Irucka's contributions to the R Community at <https://gitlab.com/iembry> [GitLab projects] & <https://www.ecoccs.com/rtraining.html> {R Trainings and Resources provided by EcoC<sup>2</sup>S (Irucka Embry, EIT)}.

If you wish to view the R Markdown code that created this PDF document, visit <https://www.ecoccs.com/Decentralizing-the-Food-System-Audience-Handout.Rmd>

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## 12th Annual Tennessee Local Food Summit – Decentralizing the Food System Panel Discussion

This Decentralizing the Food System Panel Discussion happened on Saturday, 3 December 2022, during the 12th Annual Tennessee Local Food Summit (<https://www.tnlocalfood.org/>).

The 2022 Food Summit Resources can be found online at <https://www.tnlocalfood.org/past-conference-resources>.

## Decentralizing the Food System Panel Discussion Description

This panel discussion will focus on the various opportunities we have to decentralize the current food system which is easily disrupted by external factors. There was a time when local communities were food secure and sufficient and we can return to that

possibility. This conversation will explore topics such as abundance (we all eat) versus scarcity (what we have now where not everyone eats), growing food at home versus growing turf grass to cut, eating wild foods, and other aspects of a decentralized food system.

- Irucka Embry [Moderator/Panelist]
  - EcoC<sup>2</sup>S — <https://www.ecoccs.com/>
  - Getting Back to Nature™ @ Martin Acres – <https://www.gettingback2nature.farm/>
- Obiora Embry
  - EConsulting™ – <https://www.econsultingllc.org/>
  - Getting Back to Nature™ @ Martin Acres – <https://www.gettingback2nature.farm/>
- Jeremy Lekich
  - Nashville Foodscapes – <https://www.nashvillefoodscapes.com/>
  - Compost Nashville – <https://compostnashville.org/>

## Panelist Brief Biographies

### Jeremy Lekich

Nashville Foodscapes & Compost Nashville

Jeremy Lekich was born and raised in Nashville, Tennessee by two hippy parents who fostered a sense of reverence in him for the more-than-human environment. He received a Bachelor of Science from Warren Wilson College in Swannanoa, North Carolina (near Asheville) and majored in biology, where he focused on plants and systems design. During this time, he also got a Permaculture Design Certificate and, more importantly, he was introduced to the magic of the forest and all of the wondrous wild edible and medicinal plants that are our neighbors.

In 2010, Jeremy founded Nashville Foodscapes and in 2014, Jeremy co-founded Compost Nashville. As of January 2021, Nashville Foodscapes became a worker-owned cooperative. Jeremy's journey as an entrepreneur has allowed him to witness the value of leveraging our current systems and capital to create new ones that are more equitable and harmonious. He is a community resilience enthusiast and believes in the power of a localized economy and an inspired, well-fed community.

Nashville Foodscapes is a full service design/build foodscaping company. Our mission is to cultivate biodiverse and nourishing landscapes in Middle Tennessee. As a worker-owned cooperative, we practice just and abundant relationships to food, land, and labor. We strive to honor the past, improve the present, and embrace our responsibility to the future.

Compost Nashville is a food waste pick-up service for residential and commercial customers. We take our clients' food scraps, turn them into soil, and give them finished compost in return.

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### Obiora Embry

EConsulting™ and Getting Back to Natur™

Obiora Embry is a multi-talented, creative, and intelligent entrepreneur with a Bachelor of Science degree in industrial engineering. Obiora is a food grower, forager, photographer (Nature, landscape, event, real estate, etc.), computer developer (Web sites and applications, systems, utilities, desktop applications), speaker/instructor (workshops, classes, presentations, etc.), writer (self-published author, poet, tutorial, essay, fiction, non-fiction, etc.), consultant, and more.

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## **Irucka Embry**

EcoC<sup>2</sup>S and Getting Back to Nature™

Irucka Embry is a creative & multi-faceted person. He is an advocate of everyone eating, ecological activist, environmental engineer, herbalist (“lover and user of plants”), performing and visual artist, public speaker, and published author. Irucka recognizes that the most healthy food will be grown in healthy and lively soil that is wetted by healthy water.

Irucka is the Principal of EcoC<sup>2</sup>S, based in Nashville, Tennessee, which has joined with Obiora Embry’s Econsulting™ under the umbrella of Getting Back to Nature™ to oversee their farming operations. Irucka holds a Master of Engineering with a Concentration in Environmental Engineering. This background has provided Irucka with a wealth of knowledge on soil and water health which he uses along with agricultural knowledge to heal the land.

## **Introductory Material**

“Monsanto is the world’s largest seed company and many are concerned. Troy Roush says, “They are in the process of owning food, all food.” Paraguayan farmer Jorge Galeano says, “Its objective is to control all of the world’s food production.” Renowned Indian physicist and community organizer Vandana Shiva says, “If they control seed, they control food; they know it, it’s strategic. It’s more powerful than bombs; it’s more powerful than guns. This is the best way to control the populations of the world.” ”

—Troy Roush, Vandana Shiva, and documentary film narrator, Institute for Responsible Technology *The World According to Monsanto* [Previously found online at <https://www.responsibletechnology.org/the-world-according-to-monsanto/>]

There is an excerpt from *The World According to Monsanto* documentary film in the following music video [between around 55 seconds and 1 minute 23 seconds]:

<https://inv.nadeko.net/mu8QthIZ6hY>

FOOD FIGHT - Saving Kids From Processed Junk

By Earth Amplified featuring Stic.Man of Dead Prez (YouTube video)

This is a link to the full documentary film:

<https://topdocumentaryfilms.com/the-world-according-to-monsanto/>

Top Documentary Films: *The World According to Monsanto*

## **Centralized Food System**

<https://www.questionuniverse.com/globals.pdf>

<https://www.questionuniverse.com/global.html>

Questioning the Universe Publishing (QUP) {Irucka Embry}: What You Are Not Being Told (This is Just the “Tip of the Iceberg”)

[https://www.ecoccs.com/Future-Food-Middle-TN-Questions\\_Irucka-Embry.pdf](https://www.ecoccs.com/Future-Food-Middle-TN-Questions_Irucka-Embry.pdf)

EcoC<sup>2</sup>S [Irucka Embry]: Questions for the Local Food Movement (Our Future Vision)

By Irucka Embry

[https://www.questionuniverse.com/Irucka-Embry\\_Comment\\_Codex-Alimentarius-Commission-Food-Hygiene.pdf](https://www.questionuniverse.com/Irucka-Embry_Comment_Codex-Alimentarius-Commission-Food-Hygiene.pdf)

Questioning the Universe Publishing (QUP) {Irucka Embry}: Comment on the Codex Alimentarius Commission: Meeting of the

Codex Committee on Food Hygiene

By Irucka Embry, E.I.T.

<https://philhoward.net/2023/01/04/seed-digital/>

Recent Changes in the Global Seed Industry and Digital Agriculture Industries

By Phil Howard, January 2023

<http://www.williamengdahl.com/gr30November2022.php>

War on Global Agriculture: The Unsustainable 'Sustainable' UN Agenda 2030

By F. William Engdahl, 30 November 2022

[https://www.rockefellerfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/RF-Reset-the-Table-FULL-PAPER\\_July-28\\_FINAL.pdf](https://www.rockefellerfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/RF-Reset-the-Table-FULL-PAPER_July-28_FINAL.pdf)

The Rockefeller Foundation: Reset the Table: Meeting the Moment to Transform the U.S. Food System

July 28, 2020

<https://www.weforum.org/topics/agriculture-food-and-beverage>

World Economic Forum: Agriculture, Food and Beverage

<https://www.weforum.org/communities/agriculture-food-and-beverage>

World Economic Forum: Agriculture, Food and Beverage Community

<https://web.archive.org/web/20171125062644/https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2016/11/shopping-i-can-t-really-remember-what-that-is>

World Economic Forum: Welcome to 2030. I own nothing, have no privacy, and life has never been better

By Ida Auken {Member of Parliament, Parliament of Denmark (Folketinget)}, 11 Nov 2016 [Recovered with the Internet Archive: Wayback Machine]. Also archived at <https://archive.vn/okdCG>

<https://merylnass.substack.com/p/netherlands-to-close-up-to-3000-farms>

Meryl's COVID Newsletter: Netherlands to close up to 3,000 farms to comply with EU rules: The government of the world's #2 food exporter moves forward to reduce food production. This is only the first step. The justification is weak.

By Meryl Nass, Nov 30, 2022

<https://navdanyainternational.org/new-report-sowing-hunger-reaping-profits-a-food-crisis-by-design/>

Navdanya international: New Report: Sowing Hunger, Reaping Profits — A Food Crisis by Design

<https://fairworldproject.org/child-labor-is-on-the-rise-so-are-billionaires-in-the-food-system/>

Fair World Project (FWP): Child labor is on the rise. So are billionaires in the food system.

by Anna Canning, 06/08/2022

<https://www.mintpressnews.com/the-truth-about-cargill-the-worlds-most-evil-company/282560/>

MintPress News: The Truth About Cargill, The World's Most Evil Company

By Lee Camp, November 3rd, 2022

<https://navdanyainternational.org/cause/gates-to-a-global-empire-campaign/>

Navdanya international: Gates to a Global Empire — Campaign

<https://regenerationinternational.org/2020/11/01/one-empire-over-seed-control-over-the-worlds-seed-banks/>

Regeneration International: One Empire Over Seed: Control Over the World's Seed Banks

by Vandana Shiva, 11/01/2020 [<https://vandanashivamovie.com/>]

<http://thegaireports.weebly.com/how-bill-gates-syngenta-and-rockefeller-became-custodians-of-the-doomsday-crop-diversity-vault.html>

The Gaia Reports: How Bill Gates, Syngenta, & Rockefeller Became Custodians of the Doomsday Crop Diversity Vault: Bill Gates is investing tens of millions of dollars in this project, but why?

By Theodora Filis

<https://www.globalresearch.ca/doomsday-seed-vault-in-the-arctic-2/23503>

“Doomsday Seed Vault” in the Arctic – Bill Gates, Rockefeller and the GMO giants know something we don’t  
By F. William Engdahl, Global Research, January 28, 2016/Global Research 4 December 2007

<https://ibol.org/>

The International Barcode of Life (iBOL) Consortium is a research alliance with a mission to develop and apply a globally accessible, DNA-based system for the discovery and identification of all multicellular life. Our vision is to illuminate biodiversity for the benefit of our living planet.

## Land Use & Land Access

<https://www.ers.usda.gov/about-ers/partnerships/strengthening-statistics-through-the-icars/land-use-and-land-cover-estimates-for-the-united-states/>

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Economic Research Service (ERS)

Strengthening Statistics Through the Interagency Council on Agricultural and Rural Statistics (ICARS): Land Use and Land Cover Estimates for the United States

<https://www.npr.org/2019/07/26/745731823/the-u-s-has-nearly-1-9-billion-acres-of-land-heres-how-it-is-used>

National Public Radio (NPR): All Things Considered

The U.S. Has Nearly 1.9 Billion Acres Of Land. Here’s How It Is Used

July 26, 2019

<https://www.agrariantrust.org/>

Agrarian Trust

[https://www.ecoccs.com/Land-Loss-Middle-TN\\_Irucka-Embry.html](https://www.ecoccs.com/Land-Loss-Middle-TN_Irucka-Embry.html)

EcoC<sup>2</sup>S [Irucka Embry): Land Loss in the Middle Tennessee Region (for the Land Access Panel)

By Irucka Embry

## Food Security & Food Sovereignty

<https://www.crcworks.org/>

Crossroads Resource Center: Tools for Community Self-Determination

<https://www.ecoccs.com/resources-links.html#food-sec>

EcoC<sup>2</sup>S [Irucka Embry): EcoC<sup>2</sup>S Online Resources: **Food Security & Sovereignty**

<https://navdanyainternational.org/the-foundation-of-food-sovereignty/>

Navdanya international: Biodiverse, circular and local food systems are the foundation of food sovereignty

By Dr Vandana Shiva, 27 October 2022

## Decentralizing the Food System

<https://www.ecoccs.com/resources-links.html#food-over-lawns>

EcoC<sup>2</sup>S [Irucka Embry): EcoC<sup>2</sup>S Online Resources: **Food Not Lawns**

<https://peakmoment.tv/videos/grow-your-food-in-a-nook-and-cranny-garden-part-1-289/>

Peak Moment Television: Grow Your Food in a Nook and Cranny Garden, part 1 (289)

June 1, 2015 By Robin Mallgren

<https://peakmoment.tv/videos/food-and-permaculture/grow-your-food-in-a-nook-and-cranny-garden-part-2-290/>

Peak Moment Television: Grow Your Food in a Nook and Cranny Garden, part 2 (290)

June 14, 2015 By Robin Mallgren

<https://ellenbrown.com/2022/06/09/the-food-shortage-solution-in-your-own-backyard/>

The Web of Debt Blog: The Food Shortage Solution in Your Own Backyard: While the global food systems we depend on come under increasing strain, there's a solution to the growing crisis that most Americans can find in their own backyards—or front lawns.

Posted on June 9, 2022 by Ellen Brown

<https://slowmoney.org/>

Slow Money

<https://www.paulglover.org/>

Paul Glover: Founder of 18 Organizations & Campaigns for Ecology & Social Justice

<https://ellenbrown.com/2022/07/09/achieving-self-funding-local-sovereignty-as-global-food-systems-collapse/>

The Web of Debt Blog: Achieving Self-Funding Local Sovereignty as Global Food Systems Collapse

Posted on July 9, 2022 by Ellen Brown

## Sustainable Agriculture, Perennial Agriculture, Agroforestry, and Permaculture

<https://www.ecoccs.com/resources-links.html#pos-ag>

EcoC<sup>2</sup>S [Irucka Embry): EcoC<sup>2</sup>S Online Resources: **Positive Agricultural Paradigms (Alternatives to Industrial Agriculture and its major units: Genetic Engineering, Biotechnology, and Industrial/Factory Farming Death Agriculture)**

<https://www.ecoccs.com/resources-links.html#sust-ag>

EcoC<sup>2</sup>S [Irucka Embry): EcoC<sup>2</sup>S Online Resources: **Sustainable Agriculture**

<https://www.ecoccs.com/resources-links.html#edible-perennial>

EcoC<sup>2</sup>S [Irucka Embry): EcoC<sup>2</sup>S Online Resources: **Perennial Agriculture/(Edible) Perennials**

<https://www.ecoccs.com/resources-links.html#perma>

EcoC<sup>2</sup>S [Irucka Embry): EcoC<sup>2</sup>S Online Resources: **Permaculture**

<https://www.ecoccs.com/resources-links.html#agroforest>

EcoC<sup>2</sup>S [Irucka Embry): EcoC<sup>2</sup>S Online Resources: **Agroecology, Forest Gardening (“Permaculture Gardening”) & Agroforestry**

<https://beaconfoodforest.org/>

Beacon Food Forest is maintained by volunteers and managed by the Food Forest Collective, a 501c[3] tax-exempt organization, with support from the Seattle Department of Neighborhoods P-Patch Community Gardening Program.

## Edible & Medicinal Plants

<https://www.fao.org/fao-stories/article/en/c/1154584/>

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations (UN): "Once neglected, these traditional crops are our new rising stars: How overlooked and underutilized crops are getting their turn in the spotlight"

02/10/2018

<https://foodplantsinternational.com/>

Food Plants International (FPI): Here you will find the world's largest database of edible food plants, containing useful information on over 30,000 food plants.

<http://naeb.brit.org>

Native American Ethnobotany Database

<https://www.ecoccs.com/resources-links.html#edible-wild>

EcoC<sup>2</sup>S [Irucka Embry): EcoC<sup>2</sup>S Online Resources: **Edible & Medicinal Plants for "Wildin' Out"**

<https://www.ecoccs.com/Wilding-Out-Resources-2019.pdf>

"Wilding Out" resource guide

By Obiora Embry and Irucka Embry

## Abundance & Not scarcity

<https://commonway.org/>

Commonway: Creating a World that Works for All

<https://www.onesmalltown.org/>

One Small Town: Turning Small Towns Into Places of Prosperity and Abundance. One Small Town is a global movement to liberate humanity from the financial money-slavery system AND the societal practice of scarcity - to transform our living experience to reflect the reality of our planet: Abundance & Prosperity for all - through Cooperation and Collaboration.

<https://www.johnikerd.com/post/abundance-or-scarcity-which-is-it>

Abundance or Scarcity: Which is it?: Do we live in a world of abundance or a world of scarcity?

By John Ikerd, Sep 29, 2018

## Farm Hacks and Do It Yourself (DIY)

<https://www.opensourceecology.org/>

Open Source Ecology is accelerating the growth of the next economy - the *Open Source Economy* - an economy that optimizes both production and distribution - while promoting environmental regeneration and social justice. We are building the Global Village Construction Set. This is a high-performance, modular, do-it-yourself, low-cost platform - that allows for the easy fabrication of the 50 different industrial machines that it takes - to build a small, sustainable civilization with modern comforts.

[https://inv.nadeko.net/3gd\\_2wHLycU](https://inv.nadeko.net/3gd_2wHLycU)

Farming Hacks Everyday Farmers Use That Saves Their LIFE! (YouTube video)

Uploaded by Down On The Farm

<https://www.hobbyfarms.com/15-hacks-for-your-hobby-farm/>

Hobby Farms: 15 Hacks for Your Hobby Farm: Sometimes a tried-and-true solution won't work, and you have to hack your way into a new idea. Here are hacks designed for hobby farms.

by Hobby Farms HQ, October 11, 2018

<https://www.mccoys.com/rural-living/farm-and-ranch-hacks>

McCoy's Building Supply: Everyday Farm and Ranch Hacks

<https://modernfarmer.com/2014/08/7-homemade-farm-gadgets/>

Modern Farmer: 7 DIY Farm Hacks

By Tom Zimmerman, Aug 26, 2014

<https://www.motherearthnews.com/diy/>

*Mother Earth News*: DIY

<https://makezine.com/>

MAKE: DIY projects, how-tos, and inspiration from geeks, makers, and hackers

<https://www.instructables.com>

Instructables is a web-based documentation platform where passionate people share what they do and how they do it, and learn from and collaborate with others.

## Profitable Small Farms

<https://www.hobbyfarms.com/5-must-read-books-to-make-a-farm-living/>

Hobby Farms: 5 Must-Read Books To Make A Farm Living: Think vegetable farming and earning a profit can't go hand-in-hand? These books will tell you otherwise.

By Jesse Frost

<https://www.eatcommunity.com/>

The Institute of Ecolonomics (IOE) is a non-profit 501c3 entity providing business development services to entrepreneurs with ideas, technologies, and inventions that when implemented will make the planet better while generating a sustainable profit. Our mission is to demonstrate that creating a symbiotic relationship between a strong economy and a healthy ecology is the only formula for a sustainable future.

## Print Resources

<https://www.qup.quest/soiled-seeds.html>

*Tuning to the **Soil-ed Seed** Vibrations For Our Collective Health*

Edited & Written By Irucka Ajani Embry With Obiora Embry

ISBN-13: 978-0-9914994-9-6 (A4 paperback)

ISBN-13: 978-0-9914994-3-4 (US Letter hardcover)

Questioning the Universe Publishing (QUP)

*Farmers of Forty Centuries: Organic Farming in China, Korea, and Japan*

Franklin Hiram King



ISBN-13: 978-0486436098

Dover Publications

*Restoration Agriculture: Real-World Permaculture for Farmers*

Mark Shepard

ISBN-13: 978-1601730350

Acres U.S.A.

*The Profitable Hobby Farm: How to Build a Sustainable Local Foods Business*

Sarah Beth Aubrey

ISBN-13: 978-0470432099

Howell Book House

*The World According to Monsanto: Pollution, Corruption, and the Control of the World's Food Supply*

Marie-Monique Robin

ISBN-13: 978-1595584267

The New Press

*Seeds of Destruction: The Hidden Agenda of Genetic Manipulation*

F. William Engdahl

ISBN-13: 978-0973714722

Global Research

*Biopiracy: The Plunder of Nature and Knowledge*

Vandana Shiva

ISBN-13: 978-0896085558

South End Press

*Stolen Harvest: The Hijacking of the Global Food Supply*

Vandana Shiva

ISBN-13: 978-0896086074

South End Press

*The Blood and its Third Anatomical Element*

Antoine Béchamp, 1912

Translated by Montague R. Levenson

*Béchamp or Pasteur?: A Lost Chapter in the History of Biology*

By Ethel D. Hume

[prefaced by *Pasteur: Plagiarist, Imposter: The Germ Theory Exploded* By R. B. Pearson]

ISBN-13: 978-1467900126

*Cradle to Cradle: Remaking the Way We Make Things*

William McDonough, Michael Braungart

ISBN-13: 978-0865475878

North Point Press

*Creating a World That Works for All*

Sharif M. Abdullah

ISBN-13: 978-1576750629

Berrett-Koehler Publishers

*Banking on the People: Democratizing Money in the Digital Age*

Ellen Brown

ISBN-13: 978-0998471921

Democracy Collaborative

*Local Money: How to Make It Happen in Your Community*

Peter North

ISBN-13: 978-1900322522

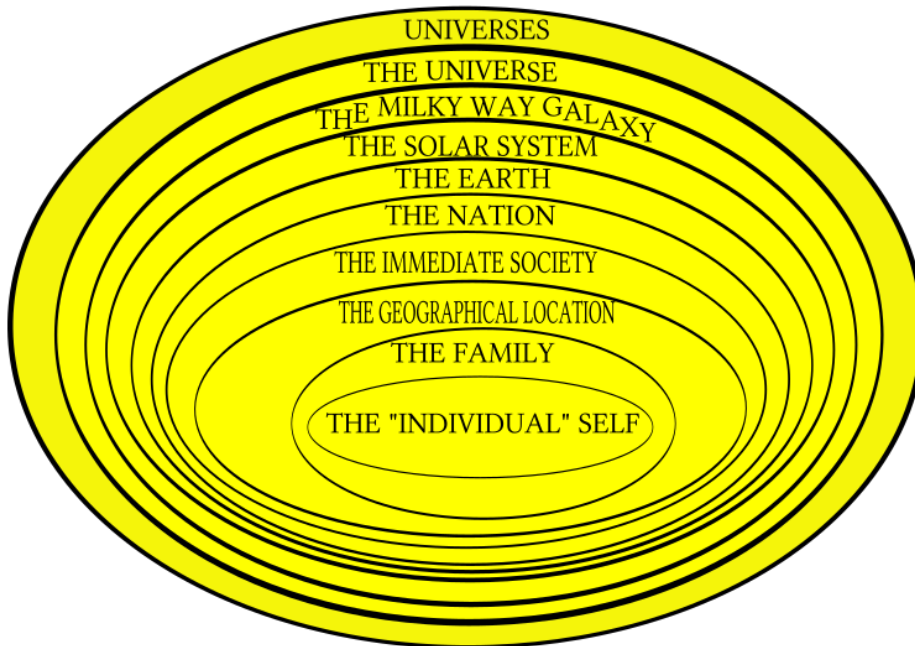
Green Books

## **Defining the Food System**

Universal Influences on the Global Food System (modeled after the Levels of Influence in the Universal Reality Impacting the Health of the “Individual” Self — see the image below — featured in Towards a New Model of Medicine by Irucka Embry (<https://www.ecoccs.com/New-Vision-HealthLO.pdf>])

- Universes
- The Universe
- The Milky Way Galaxy
- The Solar System
- The Earth
- The Nation
- The Immediate Society
- The Bio(logical)region
- The Ecosystem(s)
- The “Individual” Growing Space

Figure 1) Levels of Influence in the Universal Reality Impacting the Health of the "Individual" Self



**Source:** Drawing created by Irucka Embry and is based on the discussion of environmental influences acting on the defense mechanism in *The Science of Homeopathy* by George Vithoulkas; **License:** Copyright © 2010 by Irucka Embry, Principal of EcoC<sup>2</sup>S; Some Rights Reserved

## Defining the Global Food System From Seed to Seed Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) - systems view only

- Spirit
- Air
- Earth (Land) - creation of soils from long-term and/or short-term processes
- Fire
- Water
- Non-Human Animals
- Health
  - Ecosystems
  - Humans (Do food growing systems impact Human health and well-being?)
- Seed companies
- Plant Nurseries, Plant Retailers
- Seed banks/hubs/libraries/vaults
- Seed patenters/intellectual property (IP)
- Technology
  - (Over)use of High Tech(nology) both within the Earth and outside the Earth
  - Global Geoengineering practices
  - (Big) Data-driven Industry
  - (Nano)(Bio)Robots
  - Artificial Intelligence (AI)/Machine Learning

- Biotechnology
- Synthetic Biology
- Laboratory produced protein (“meat”) and other “foods”
- Gene Drives/Gene Editing
- RNAi-Technology
- “PharmaCrops” & “PharmaAnimals”
- Nano(bio)technology
- Cloning
- Genetic Engineering (GE)/Genetic Modification (GM)
- 1G - 6G
- “Dirty Electricity” Systems
- Agrivoltaics
- Negative Electromagnetic Frequencies (EMFs)
- Seed savers, seed sharers, seed swappers, seed bankers/hubbers/librarians/vaulters
- Food growers
  - Farms (Rural, Suburban, Urban),
  - Food Forests,
  - Gardens (Rural, Suburban, Urban),
  - Nature (wild places, including on land and in waterways),
  - etc.
- Food growing systems
  - Biological
  - Non-Biological
- Food Celebrations/Rituals
- Health of Food Growers
  - Farmer suicides & attempted farmer suicides
  - Negative Stress (financial and other causes of negative stress)
  - Injuries and/or Deaths in the fields
  - Exposure to -cides, fumigants, defoliant
  - Exposure to High Tech(nology)
  - Exposure to various pollutants in the Air, Soil, Water, etc.
  - Exposure to noise pollution
  - Exposure to genetic pollution/gene flow
- Researchers
  - Has any research has been conducted to answer the question posed in the quote featured in *Béchamp or Pasteur?: A Lost Chapter in the History of Biology* By Ethel D. Hume?: “*Is the supply of these little living bodies [Microzymas] in the food essential to the continued vitality of human beings, or is it not?*” — Irucka’s addition in []
- Pollinators
- External inputs
  - NPK (Nitrogen Phosphorus Potassium) fertilizers,
  - High Tech(nology) Devices,
  - Plastics (mulching, etc.),
  - Equipment Fluids (Oil, Transmission, etc.),
  - Fuels (Diesel, gasoline, etc.),
  - (Bio)Pesticides & other -cides, Fumigants, Defoliant,
  - Antibacterials, Antibiotics, Antimicrobials, Antivirals, Vaccines/Serums/Inoculations/Anti-Toxins, etc.,
  - Hormones,
  - Steroids,
  - Tools & Equipment (and their parts),
  - Animal Feed,

- Soils & Soil Amendments,
- Water,
- etc.
- Food Packaging (Carboard from wood feedstocks, Genetically Modified feedstocks for Carboard, Plastics, etc.)
- Food Distribution & Processing Networks
  - Caterers,
  - Community Supported Agriculture (CSAs),
  - Community Supported Kitchens (CSKs),
  - Farmer’s Markets,
  - Food Banks/Pantries,
  - Food Gleaners,
  - Food Hubs,
  - Grocery Stores – Cooperative-based or not,
  - Producers of Drinkable Products from Foods,
  - Processing Facilities,
  - Retail Stores carrying foods,
  - Restaurants,
  - etc.
- Transportation systems
- Manufacturing systems (additives, preservatives, pasteurization technology, radiation technology, equipment, tools, etc.)
- Water treatment and wastewater treatment systems (including the production of biosolids)
- Food Eaters & Drinkers
- Growing Food Education (Oral and/or Written)
- Food Education (Oral and/or Written)
  - Cookbooks/Recipes (both orally shared and passed down & written)
  - Mathematical Comprehension (fractions and modifying serving sizes)
  - Literacy
  - Where is this knowledge learned if not in the households (if the art of preparing/processing food is not done nor known in the household) or schooling centers (schools are prisons for our brains and are NOT about education)?
- Food waste
  - Does the inadequate soil health and thus plant health contribute to food waste?
  - Which contributes more to food waste: the storage of fresh produce in plastic bags dry or wet?
- Waste Management (Composting, Landfills, etc.)
- Political Economics
  - Policy & Regulatory systems (including Codex Alimentarius) and Policy and Regulatory Influencers
  - Monopolies/Consolidation of the global food system
  - Financial Institutions (Crop Loans, Equipment Loans, Land Mortgages, etc.) - Public and/or Private
  - Real Estate/Taxation/Estates/Land Leases/Land Rental Spaces/Land Conservancy/Land Trusts/Heirs’ Property - Transfer of Land Rights and the ability to have land access
  - Commodity Markets (Speculation)
- Labor
  - Volunteers and/or Interns in the overall global food system
  - Continued Trafficking (Enslavement) of Human Beings (reduced or no labor costs) in the overall global food system
  - Living Wage paid to people working in the overall global food system
  - Sub-par Living Wages paid to people working in the overall global food system

## Questions for the Panelists

### The Problems

- 1) What do you think about what Dr. Vandana Shiva said (referring to the video clip)?
- 2) Define the centralized food system.
- 3) What are some of the major problems with this centralized food system?
- 4) Do you feel that the current, centralized food system benefits all of us (abundance) or some of us (scarcity)? Why?
- 5) Does it make sense for a handful of people to control the price of our “daily bread” and thus whether we can afford to eat or not?
- 6) We grow more than enough crops to feed over 10 billion people yet we still have people that are hungry, malnourished, etc. Does that make sense? Why or why not?
- 7) What do you think about our fascination with manicured “green concrete” aka turf grass here in the USA?

### The Solutions

- 8) Define the decentralized food system.
- 9) If you were to design a decentralized food system, what would be the key parts to it?
- 10) What are some ways that seed and food sovereignty can contribute to a decentralized food system?
- 11) For people that wish to move away from growing “green concrete” aka turf grass, what are some ways that they can redesign or rethink their yards? Please also talk about the potential benefits as well.
- 12) For people that wish to eat a greater variety of edible plants, will you talk about various native vegetation that are edible?
- 13) What are your thoughts on reclaiming local food processing and production?
- 14) What are your thoughts on local seed banks?
- 15) What are your thoughts on local currencies for a local food system?
- 16) Any other thoughts or ideas that you wish to share about a decentralized food system?