



OTHERING & BELONGING IN THE US FOOD SYSTEM/MOVEMENTS

Building an Equitable and Inclusive Food System
UC Berkeley

Agenda

Context

- Implicit bias
- Structural racialization
- Structures of opportunities
- The food system

Challenges

- The current economic system
- Climate change
- Corporate control
- Financialization

Alternatives

- Food as a human right
- Reversing the current systemic crises of food
- The role of land-grant universities (e.g. UCB)

Discussion

CONTEXT

Implicit & Unconscious Bias

Implicit Bias influences our feelings, judgments, and perceptions

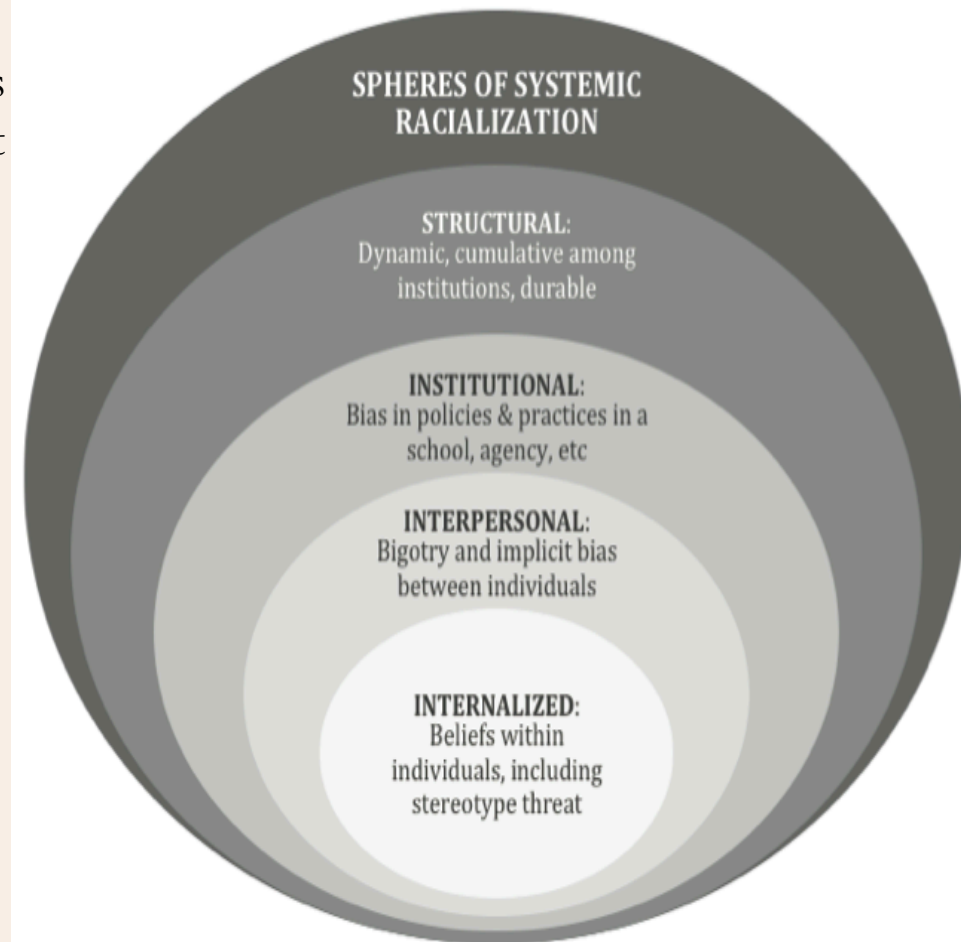
- Human brain processes **11 million bytes** of information in a second
- The process of **othering** occurs in our unconscious ‘network’, which can lead to racial, ethnic, gender, or religious bias
- Only **2%** of emotional cognition is available to us consciously
- Messages can be **framed** to speak to our unconscious



Structural Racialization

Not dependent on individual actor, beyond the practice of one institution, and produces predictable unjust & cumulative outcomes at many levels:

- **Institutional**
- **Interpersonal**
- **Internalized**



Structures of Opportunities

Not only are people situated differently with regard to institutions & opportunities, people are situated differently with regard to physical infrastructures.



People are impacted by contradictory relationships between principles and actions of institutions and systems...

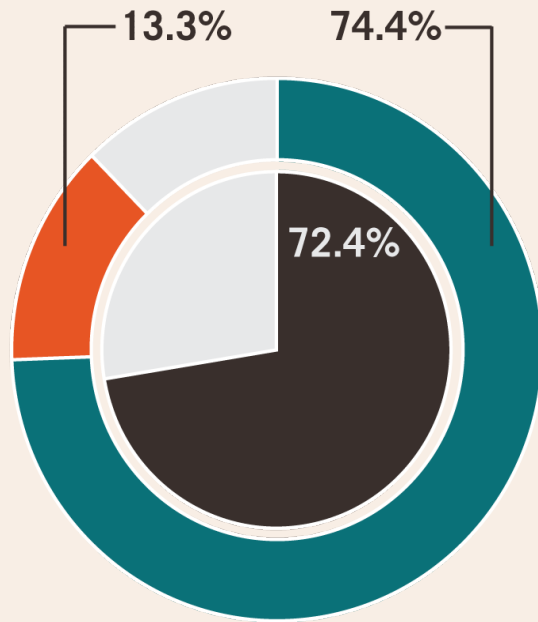


... but people also could live or die because of the structure's & system's behaviors.

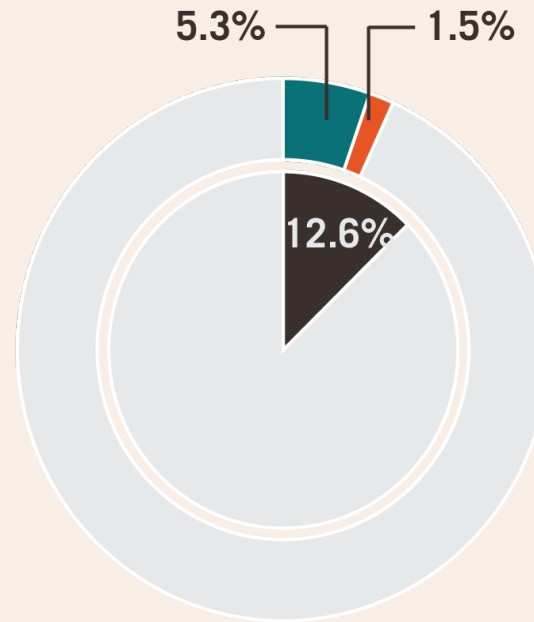
Structures of Opportunities: Racialized & Gendered

Corporate Directors of Fortune 500 Companies, 2010

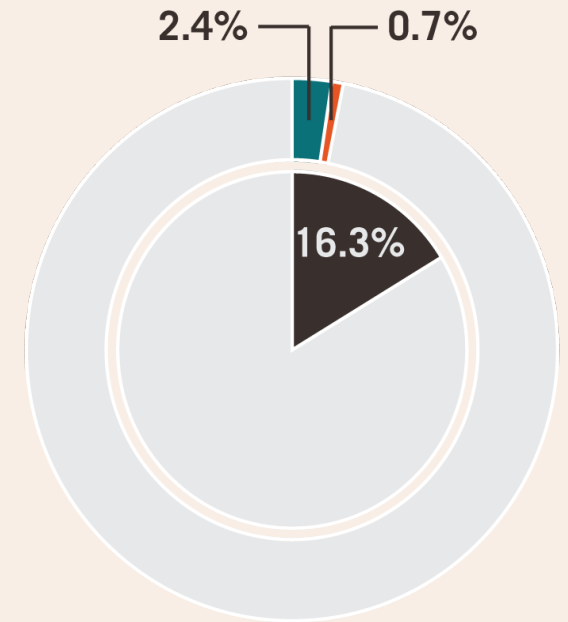
Share of population
 Male directors
 Female directors



Whites

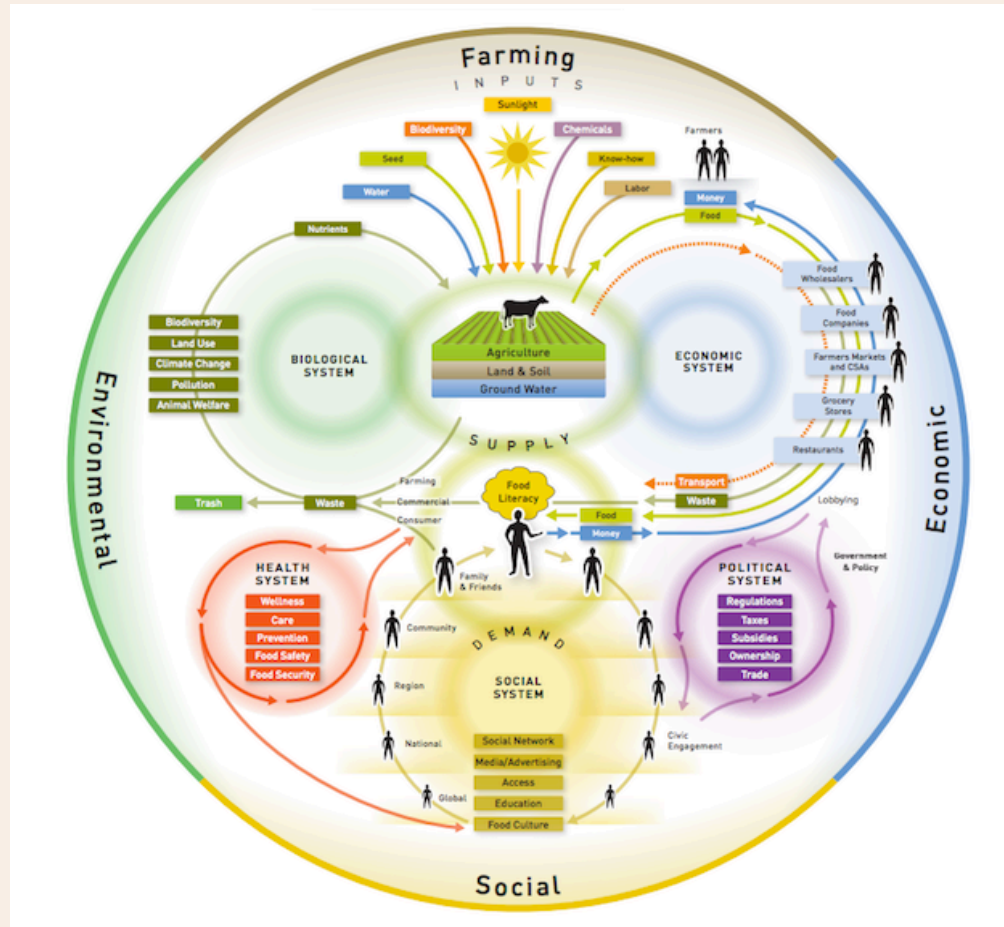


African Americans



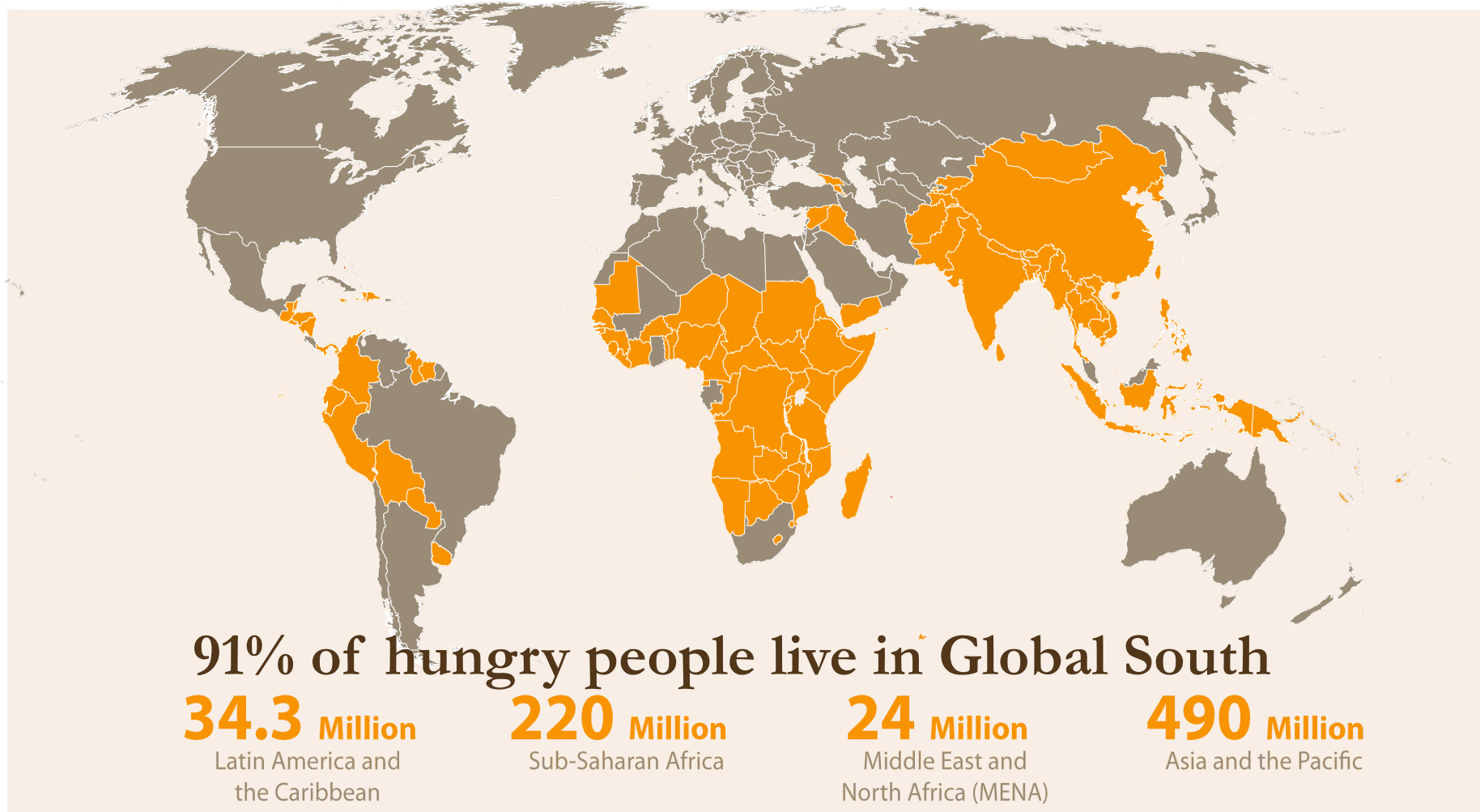
Latinos

Food System



Credit: Infograph <www.nourishlife.org/>

Globalizing Hunger in the Global South



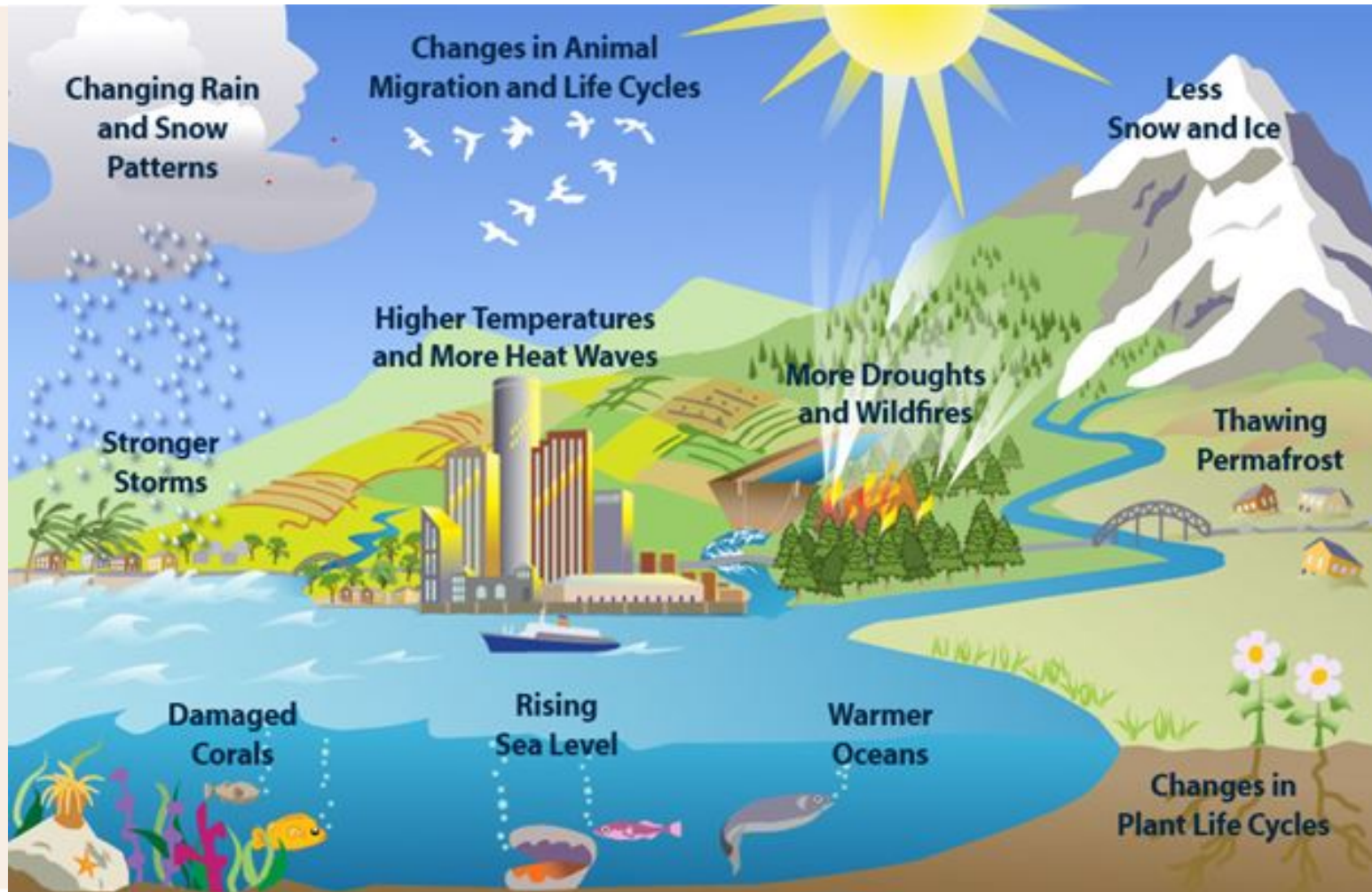
CHALLENGES

The Current Economic System

The Logic

- **Assumption of infinite growth based on carbon economy**
 - Puts stress on our ecosystem
- **The impact on the food system vis-à-vis this logic**
 - Contributes to climate change
 - e.g. GHG, degradation of: soil, water sources, etc.
 - Commodification of the commons
 - e.g. land grabs, seeds monopoly, privatization of water, etc.
 - Financialization of natural resources
 - e.g. speculation on: weather, food commodities, etc.

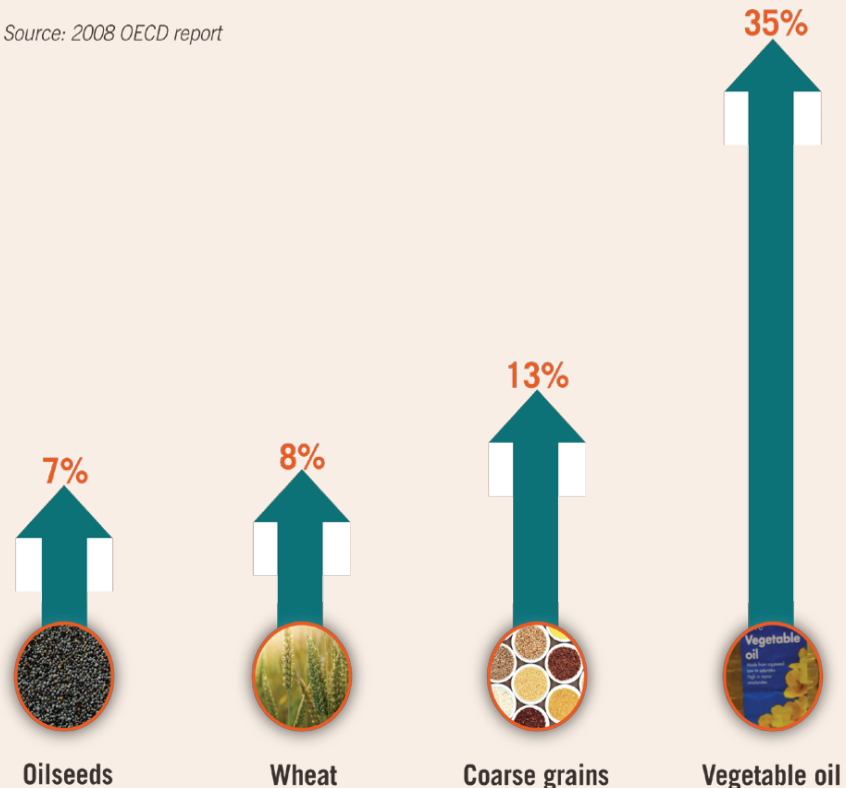
Global Climate Change



Green Washing (Not So Smart)

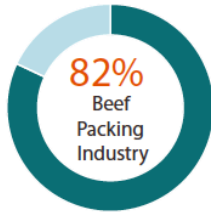
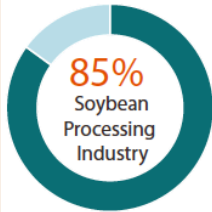
- In 2011, 99% of biofuels produced and consumed worldwide were made from food crops.
- In 2012, 4% of the world's transportation fuel was biofuel.
- 86% of biomass (e.g. wood, sugarcane, corn, animal matter, etc.) is located in the Global South where food crisis is pandemic.
- By 2017, biofuel production could significantly increase prices for oilseeds, wheat, coarse grains, and vegetable oil.

Source: 2008 OECD report



Corporate Control in the Food System

Four corporations own



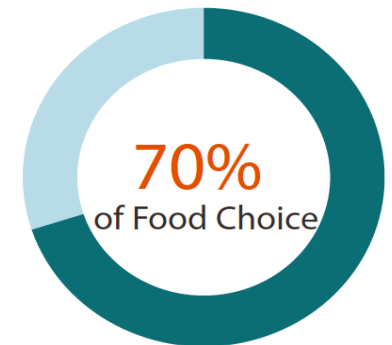
and manufacture



Five corporations control



Globally, 500 companies control



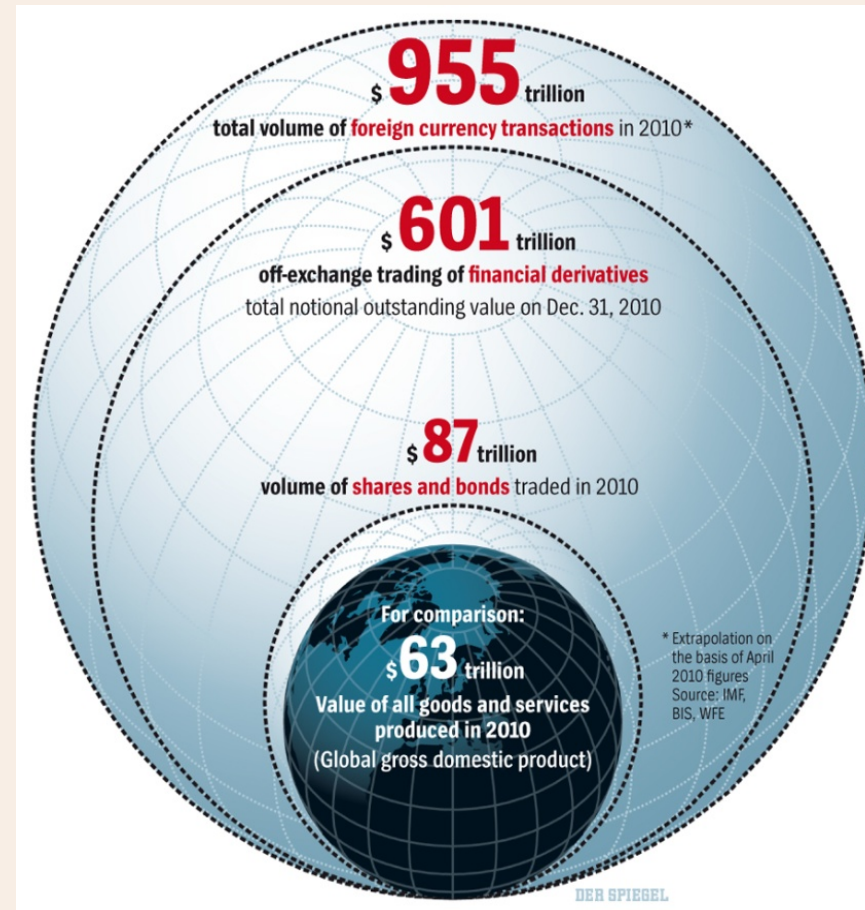
Financialization: What Is it & Why Does it Matter?

Financialization has changed the relationship between the *financial* and *real* sectors of the economy.

Financialization has enabled financial institutions to create new “non-real money” assets (e.g. derivatives, securitization, credit swaps, etc.).

In 2012:

- Total expenditure of the US govt. was **\$6.1 trillion**
- Total US GDP was **\$16.2 trillion**, and
- Total value of the US stockmarket **\$18.7 trillion**
3 times the total US expenditure!



Financialization: Derivative Markets

Year	Federal Debt	U.S. GDP	World GDP	Derivatives Contracts
2008	\$10	\$14.7	\$61.4	\$508 Trillion
2012	16	16.2	71.9	\$687 Trillion

Financialization: Structural Inequality

Global North

Advanced economies in GN accounted for 54% of global GDP @ PPP; yet they hold:

- 77% of banks assets;
- 79% of stock-market capitalization;
- 84% of insurance premiums;
- 91% of non-government funds

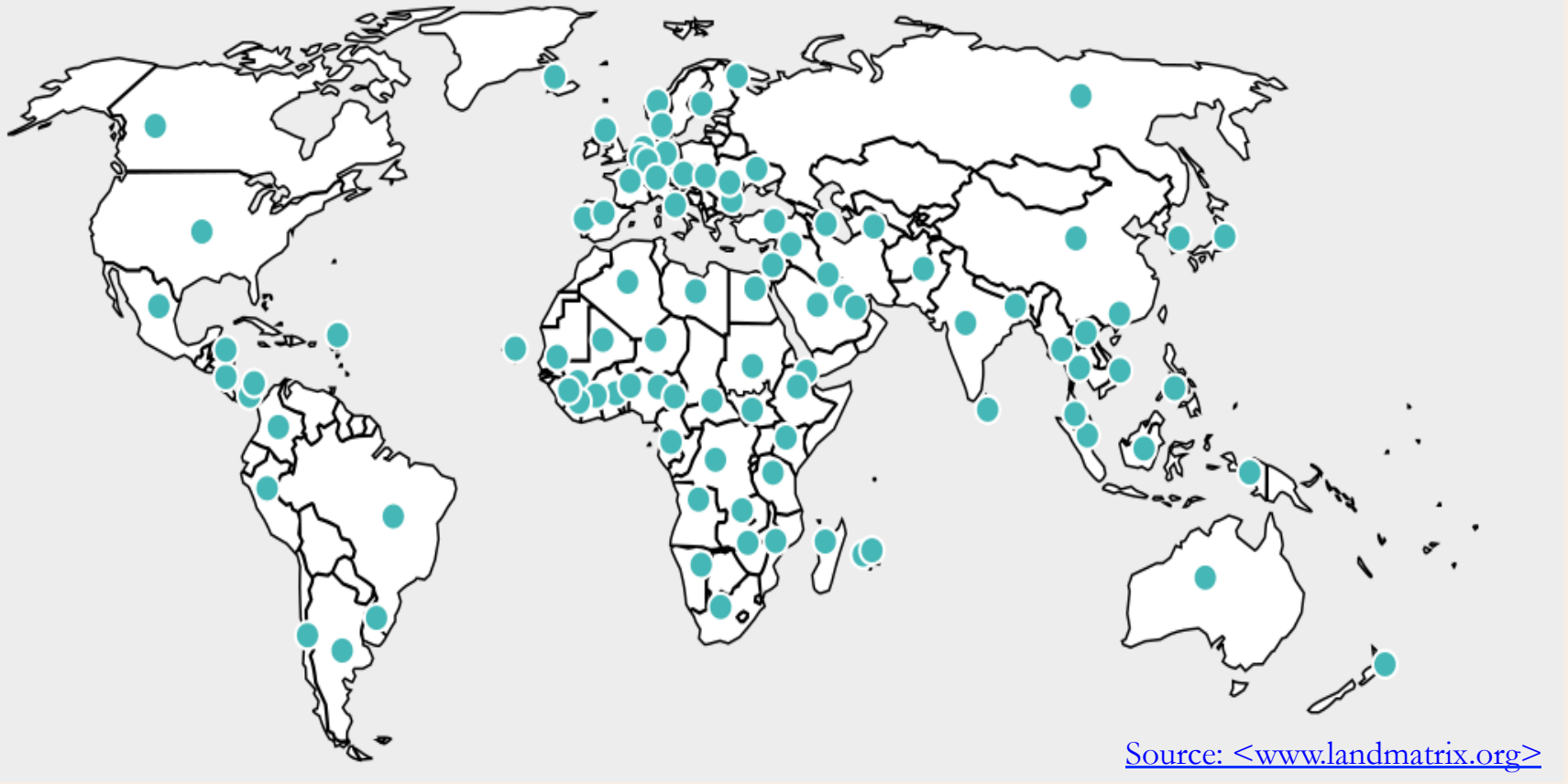
Global South

Less advanced economies in GS are subjected to extreme measures of:

- Trade liberalization
 - “too little exit & too much entry”
- Debt crisis
 - Increases the dependency & vulnerability of national economies
- Neoliberal global economy
 - Conditions and instruments of financialization

Financialization: Structural Inequality

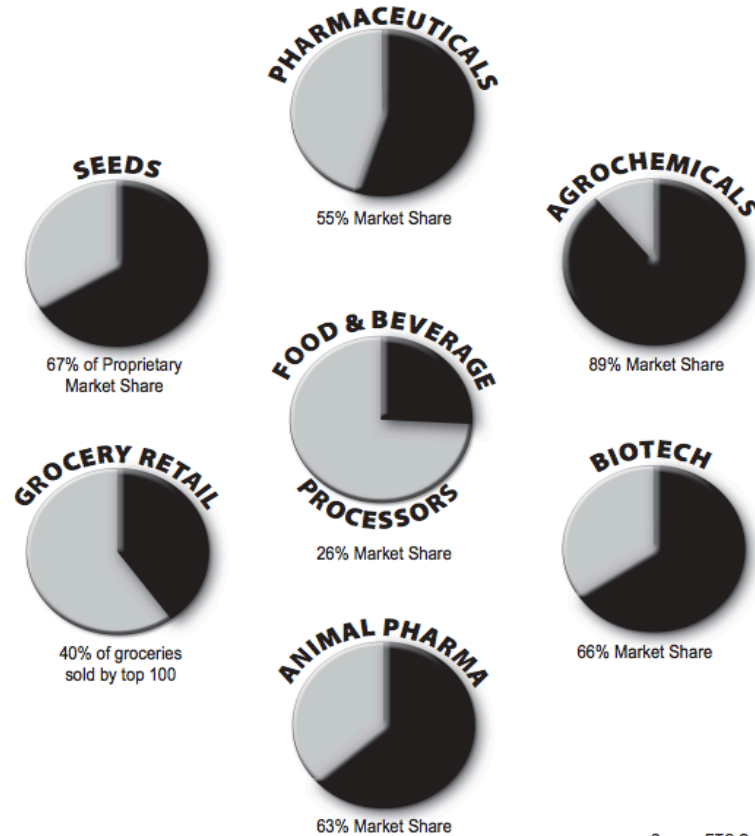
Over 220 million hectares of arable land have been grabbed worldwide



Financialization: Structural Inequality

67% of total global seed market controlled by only 10 transnational agricultural corporations

Top 10 Corporations Global Market Share by Sector



Source: ETC Group

ALTERNATIVES

Food Is a Human Right!

UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948)

- **Article 25** “Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, **including food**, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control.”

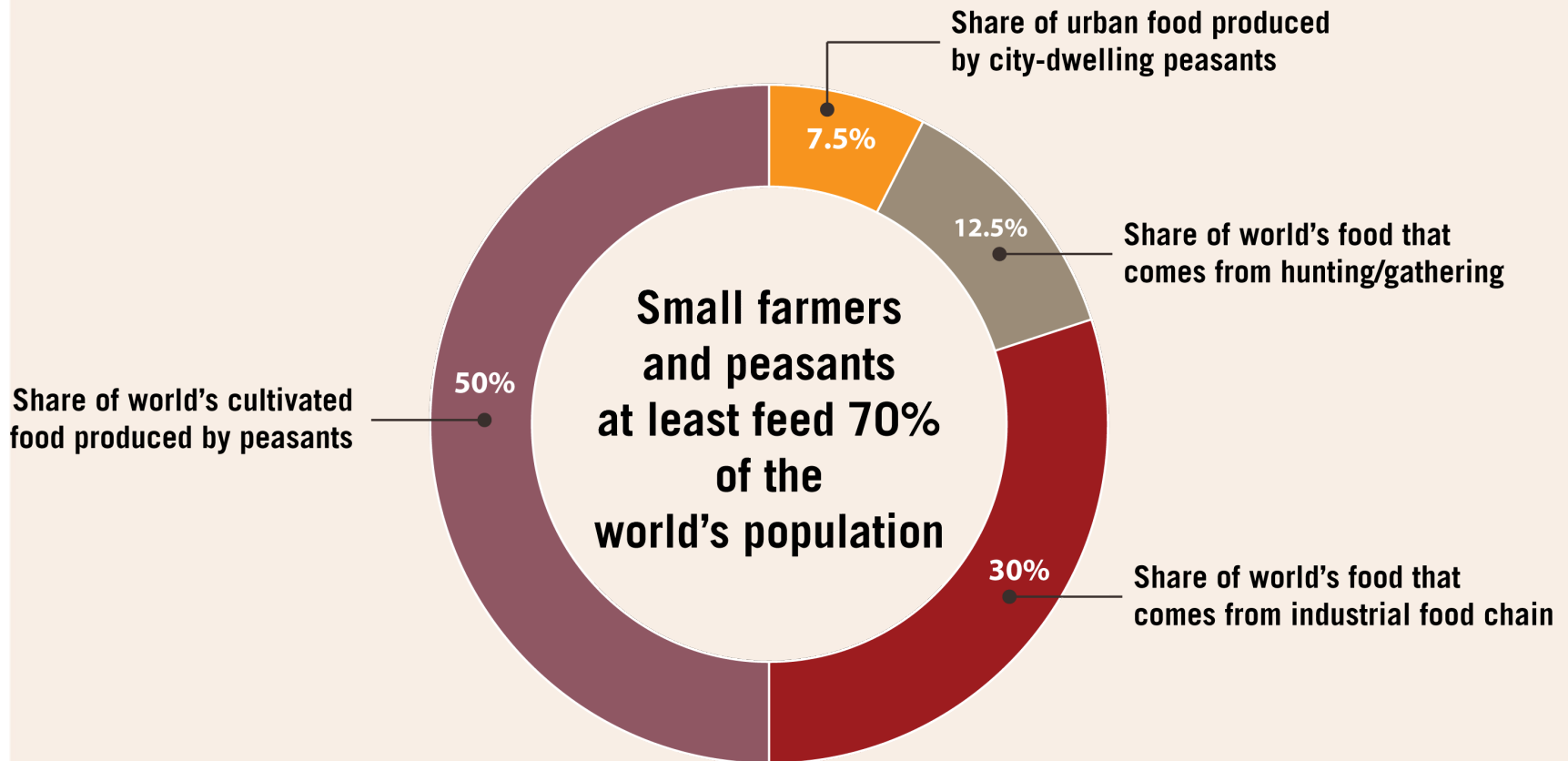
UN Sustainable Development Goals (2015)

- **Goal 2:** “End hunger, achieve food security and improve nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.”
 - However, out of 17 SDGs, 12 goals are related to **food and food production**.



Recognizing Those Who Feed Us

Over 70% of global rural food produced by women



Democratizing the Food System



Food Sovereignty

People's right to healthy and culturally appropriate food produced through ecologically sound and sustainable methods, and their right to define their own food and agriculture systems.

Mitigating Climate Change

All countries need to scale-up agroecology:

- Encourage biodiversity and discourage monocultures.
- Reduce GHG emission by discouraging industrial-scale meat and dairy production, and encouraging diets high in grains, vegetables and fruits.
- Increase support for small farming and discourage intensive mechanization of agriculture.
- Support agroforestry that reduces the use of external inputs and maximizes resource efficiency.
- Support small farmers to access land, water, funds, subsidies, and lower taxes.
- Invest in rural development by building rural infrastructure of education, health, access to water, and appropriate roads.
- Facilitate access to formal markets for peasants' and small women farmers' food productions.

Realigning Corporations

We need to minimize corporate influence by:

- Adapting regulatory systems that encourage genetic diversity among plant, animal, and aquatic food species.
- Eliminating industrial farming and fishing subsidies.
- Eliminating intellectual property regimes or unnecessary regulations that privilege genetic uniformity.
- Expanding & supporting public research to illuminate the benefits of using microbes for soil fertility and as bio-control agents.
- Encouraging and supporting peasant-based food production and facilitating direct peasant-based consumer marketing arrangements with special attention to the role of women.
- Strengthening and enforcing environmental and social regulations on corporations.
- Strengthening customary use of land and resource rights while taking special measures to protect women's rights to productive assets.

Halt Financialization

To feed 9+ billion people and to sustain our planet, the world needs to:

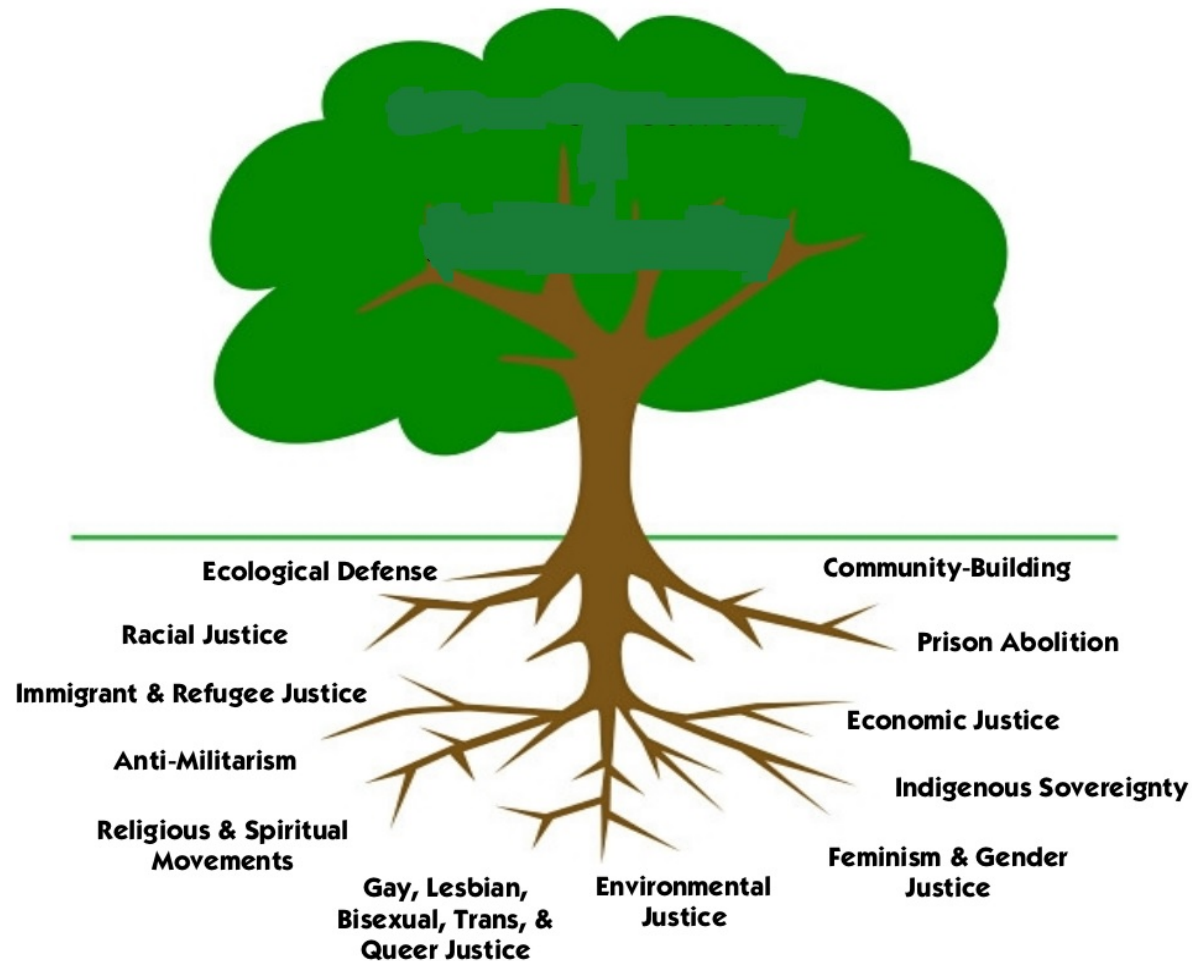
- Incorporate the Right to Food of the UN in binding law, nationally and internationally.
- Reject biofuels (agrofuels) crops except for locally produced community-based consumption.
- Prohibit land speculation and land grabs.
- Support the conservation of endangered genetic diversity for small farmers through conservation programs in gene banks.
- Reject industry-based food safety standards that discriminate against peasant farmers and small-scale businesses.
- Prohibit any measures –public or private- that constrain the right of peasants to save or exchange food genetic resources.
- Protect marginalized populations from food price volatility by avoiding excessive reliance on trade, and ensuring resilient local food production systems.

What Can Public and Land-grant Universities Do?

Advancing Food Equity for Social Change

- Recognize how equity issues in the food system intersect with societal equity.
- Align research with community needs.
- Increase collaboration between community and campus food equity projects.
- Increase awareness about both food system equity and its educational value.
- Create relevant curricula about food system challenges to advance social equity.
- Increase collaboration and resource-sharing with existing equity projects.
- Provide linked and experiential learning programs in food equity beyond campus.
- Leverage existing programs and seek new partners for collaboration.
- Further system-wide engagement on food equity.

Build a Food Sovereignty Movement for Social Change



Q & A