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Reclaim the Fields Bulletin

Welcome

...to this beautiful Bulletin 8 which was born right out of the RtF camp in Manheim in September. A lot of the content comes directly from this very intense meeting point of RtF connections last summer as you will see & read in the meeting notes; reflective articles; and the call out for the traveling caravan: an idea shaped at the RtF camp. Nevertheless we once again came across some essential questions that seem to pop up regularly..:Why did so many “starters”of the network stop coming to meetings and gatherings?; What is the role of this constellation?; How do we combine working on local and global scales?; How can we improve the tools we use and make our links stronger? This reflection is needed from time to time and is chosen to be the central theme of our next gathering in Austria (february 2014). “The RtF-process” was also proposed as main theme for bulletin nr. 8. Strange enough we did not receive many articles dedicated to this specific topic. However an open letter from one of our Rtf friends, addressed to all of us, reflecting a personal account of the process related to organizing Rtf meetings, was sent and we decided to publish it in this bulletin.

Also creating this bulletin, once again, was quite a process. Although we did have a big group of volunteers and a clear working plan, some people dropped out half way and we didn't manage to keep deadlines and stick to responsibilities we agreed on. Is it because of our chaotic and challenging lives? What is lacking in this process?; why do we have difficulties to concentrate on projects we choose to work on? A lot of questions and little answers.... This bulletin became a reflection of different interests and opinions: a compilation of thoughts at a specific time. B8 will bring you distraction and chaos, but also can inspire and bring ideas and news. We hope it will stimulate to recall some RtF memories and revitalize the future discussions. Change is unstoppable... See you soon!!!!

Why a RTF bulletin?

The bulletin is an inter-communication tool for the RTF constellation. It is usually published after each assembly: it contains feedback from the last assembly and a call out for the next (the assemblies are the only decision making moments within RTF).

It is also a means for the stars of the constellation to share their news: present projects, share information about actions, spread call outs and publicize events to come. The bulletin is a way to exchange and circulate ideas: texts published in it reflect the diversity of the reflections and opinions that cross within RTF, and aim to feed reflections and debates from one and other. The texts involve only their authors responsibility, and don't look to represent any position for RTF.

Hey you!!

Please join the bulletin group!! We need more people that want to commit themselves as part of a team! We need editors, translators, people that want to work on lay out and of course we like you to send articles, drawings, notes, invitations to actions etc.!

The bulletin is asking for texts from the stars ! Realize that it will be online and spread in many countries. Articles should be max. 2 A4's (times new roman, font size 10). You can write in the language you prefer. We'll be happy if you can send it in several languages if possible.

“los bulletinos...”

bulletin@lists.reclaimthefields.org

Who are we?

We are...

We are a group of peasants, landless and prospective peasants, as well as people who are taking back control over food production.

We understand “peasants” as people who produce food on a small scale, for themselves or for the community, possibly selling a part of it. This also includes agricultural workers.

We support and encourage people to stay on the land and go back to the countryside. We promote food sovereignty (as defined in the Nyéléni declaration) and peasant agriculture, particularly among young people and urban dwellers, as well as alternative ways of life. In Europe, the concept ‘food sovereignty’ is not very common and could be clarified with ideas such as ‘food autonomy’ and control over food systems by inclusive communities, not only nations or states. We are determined to create alternatives to capitalism through cooperative, collective, autonomous, real-needs-oriented, small-scale production and initiatives. We are putting theory into practice and linking local practical action with global political struggles.

In order to achieve this, we participate in local actions through activist groups and cooperate with existing initiatives. This is why we choose not to be a homogeneous group, but to open up to the diversity of actors fighting the capitalist food production model. We address the issues of access to land, collective farming, seed rights and seed exchange. We strengthen the impact of our work through cooperation with activists who focus on different tasks but who share the same vision. Nevertheless, our openness has some limits.



We are determined to take back control over our lives and refuse any form of authoritarianism and hierarchy. We respect nature and living beings, but will neither accept nor tolerate any form of discrimination, be it based on race, religion, gender, nationality, sexual orientation or social status. We refuse and will actively oppose every form of exploitation of other people. With the same

force and energy, we act with kindness and conviviality, making solidarity a concrete practice of our daily life.

We support the struggles and visions of la Via Campesina, and work to strengthen them in Europe. We wish to share the knowledge and the experience from years of struggle and peasant life and enrich it with the perspectives and strength of those of us who are not peasants, or not yet peasants. We all suffer the consequences of the same policies, and are all part of the same fight.



FEEDBACK

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RtF Process @ Manheim, Notes

The discussions about RtF and how it works (some would call it "process") took place in three sessions, two hours each, plus an entire day (last day of the gathering) to conclude and take decisions if necessary. We shared the preparation and facilitation of each session during a discussion the day before the beginning of "RtF" camp (and so came to these 4 days of discussion). It was a gathering, partly of people who have been meeting up for a while in this kind of meetings, partly of people who had been participating in organizing the camp and were joining up RtF on this occasion. The general idea was to have time for reflection and exchange information on different elements of the process before having a discussion on how to follow up everything.

1. First discussion session: "How (and why) to consolidate RtF"

This discussion session began with the presentation of a globally shared observation (at least between the ones who prepared the discussion): after 6 years of RtF, people have left RtF and others continued, but there are problems at both the strategic level and the level of the continuation of discussions and the ability to maintain what has already been created.

One of the hypotheses put forward is that if we always face the same problem it might be because the practices, methods and issues do not match the needs/expectations/capabilities of people gathering around the issue of food sovereignty. To try to dig a little deeper into this hypothesis, it has been suggested to work in three groups to answer the following questions « Where is RtF currently; what is working; what does not work and how could we change this; how to consolidate RtF based on the outcome of these questions. » Each group would address these issues from a different angle, which were: a group focusing on "the players of RtF" (including the one we would like to consider as part of the constellation and with whom there is existing links); a second group focusing on "the themes" that are worked on by RtF (which themes, how are they approached...), and a third group focusing on "the strategy". Each group discussed

the questions and produced a synthesis of their reflections which served as a basis for the following discussions.

Players:

From the questions "who are currently active in RtF, who left the constellation and why?", There is a recognition that people from collective farms do not come too much, and that meetings and camps are attracting mainly the ones that love this type of moments.

Some ideas discussed when focused on local groups :

- Assess local needs (in terms of timing, duration, location and subject of meetings, eg.)
- Develop the existing information channels, have local newsletters: it is the responsibility of local groups to spread ideas and information.
- Have "spokespersons" to stay connected to the camps and meetings
- Increase the presence on the web: make the stars more visible, share more information at European level.

Themes:

A list of topics of prior interests: seeds, seed breeding, access to land, food sovereignty, struggles against infrastructure projects, gender issues, report about work and working conditions (ours and generally in agriculture), living in community, revitalizing countrysides (not only for agricultural activities), GMO, sustainable activism....

- Make 'internal' trainings on these topics
- Create workspaces/workshops on these issues by inviting people with know how
- Create alliances with people working on these issues elsewhere
- Send "RtF-people" to meetings/events organized by other networks working on these issues (which certainly brings questions of funding)
- Organize caravans across European countries to introduce RtF and work on these topics



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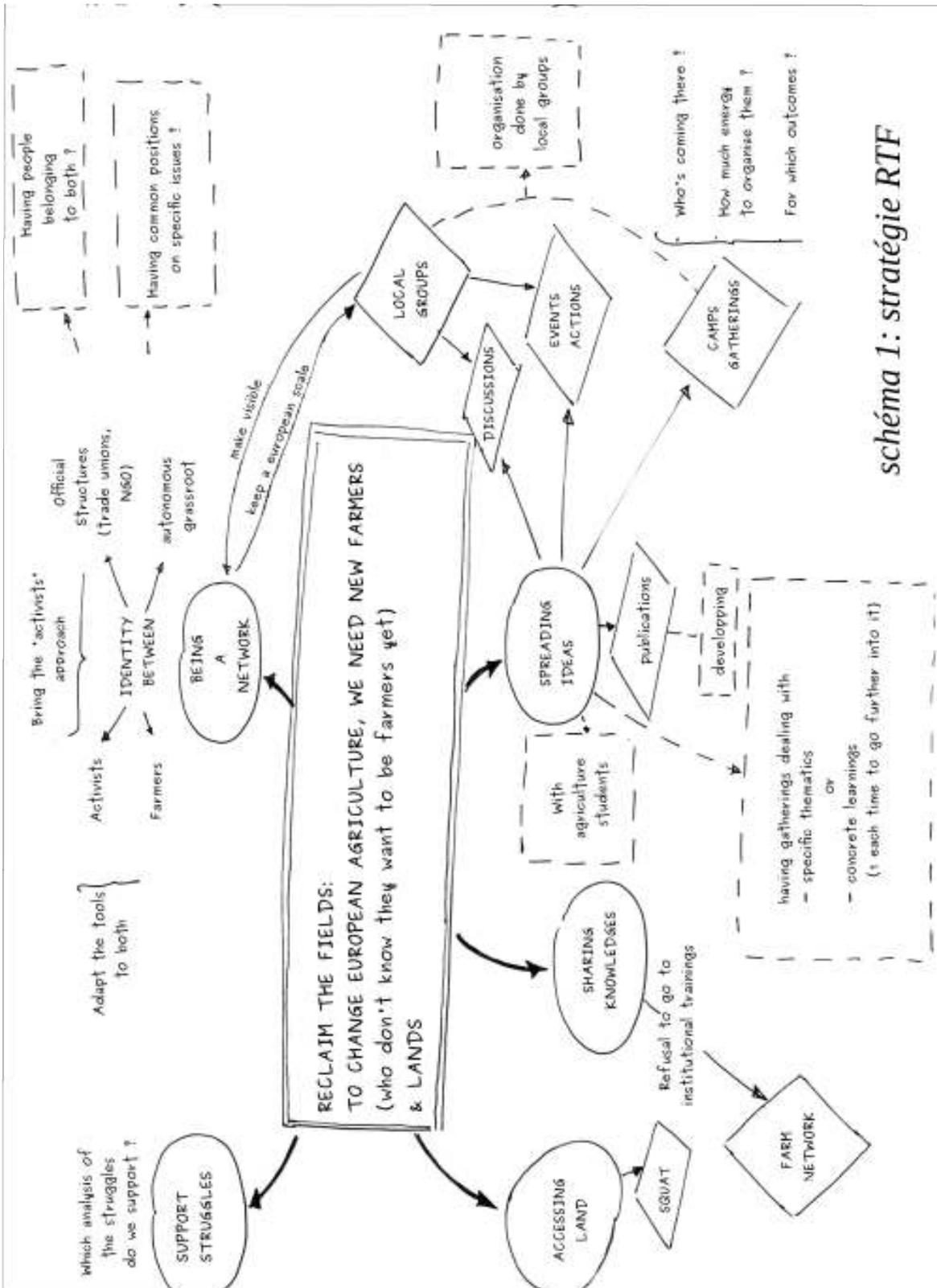


schéma 1: stratégie RTF



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Strategy :

Presentation of the discussion in *diagram #1: RtF Strategy*

(dotted lines are proposals of things that don't exist now but which could be developed)

2. Discussion session "Which tools for RtF : assessing what already exists and perspectives."

The idea was to start from the first session's reflections, as well as from a presentation of where we are with the different tools we use within the RtF network (which are for the moment a priori, the different working groups, and the means of communication) since the Can Piella meetings, to then try to decide which of these tools need to be kept as they are, improved, transformed or abandoned. Difficulties with facilitating this session made the goal of the discussion hard to understand and to reach, but each group from the previous session showed its reflections, and then with the help of Can Piella's notes and according to known information, we tried to summarize what we had on the different tools.

Here's a presentation of "thematics" groups' advance, news from the working groups on RtF tools come with the third discussion session's notes.

TABLEAU 1: News from working groups

Stuff/ideas to do mentioned in Can Piella	Where we are now
Farm Network WG	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> trying to revive the group getting in touch with ex-members of the group and existing networks : in england (wwolfing), and in spain ("Erasmus entre colectivos") 	=> contact in progress => got in touch, this network should be ready for spring, with a

Stuff/ideas to do mentioned in Can Piella	Where we are now
In france : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a flyer to be handed out principles to be translated in various languages an organization group: more persons needed. a group of farms : need to be enlarged 	dozen of squatted farms => a new team took over during last french speaking gathering => need for local connections to make the network known to potential new places
Access to land WG	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seeking for new places where a project could start, including during the gatherings -maintaining ties, still budding projects and similar (internal and external) 	=> ??? nobody and no news... maybe it's time to acknowledge that this working group never existed !
"New" ideas/projects & needs : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> list of basic common necessities Support projects (support letters, materials, seeds etc.) Need for resources (tools, seeds, money) Seeking for new places where a project could start, including during the gatherings 	



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Stuff/ideas to do mentioned in Can Piella	Where we are now
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> maintaining ties, still budding projects and similar (internal and external) <p>"New" ideas/projects & needs :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> list of basic common necessities Support projects (support letters, materials, seeds etc.) <p>Need for resources (tools, seeds, money)</p>	
<p>Seeds WG</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There was no energy anymore to carry on with the brochure on seeds, but some articles have been written. Publishing and translating written articles Needs for the brochure: complementing the article on legal infos; visuals; publishing and translating; printing and handing out. Creating games also: different groups on that (already started) Setting up a bibliography of good resources/useful 	<p>Nobody from this group present at the camp, but some rumors of news</p> <p>=> The adaptation of the "jeu de la ficelle" (string game) to the seed issue should have been shown during the camp : somebody has news ?</p>

Stuff/ideas to do mentioned in Can Piella	Where we are now
<p>information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Setting up a list of questions/conclusions stemming from the workshops made in Can Piella to take a stand in the political context Making a list/map of seeds producers Coming to the gatherings with materials, a small library, seeds etc. We invite everybody to come with seeds 	<p>=> article in the bulletin #7</p> <p>=> this is done !</p>

3. Discussion day about " how we go on "

A vision of RtF was suggested as a tool to carry on thinking about RtF process, strategies and tools: diagram #2: globalview RtF

Starting what had been discussed in groups during the previous days, the idea was during this days to try to bring out main lines to:

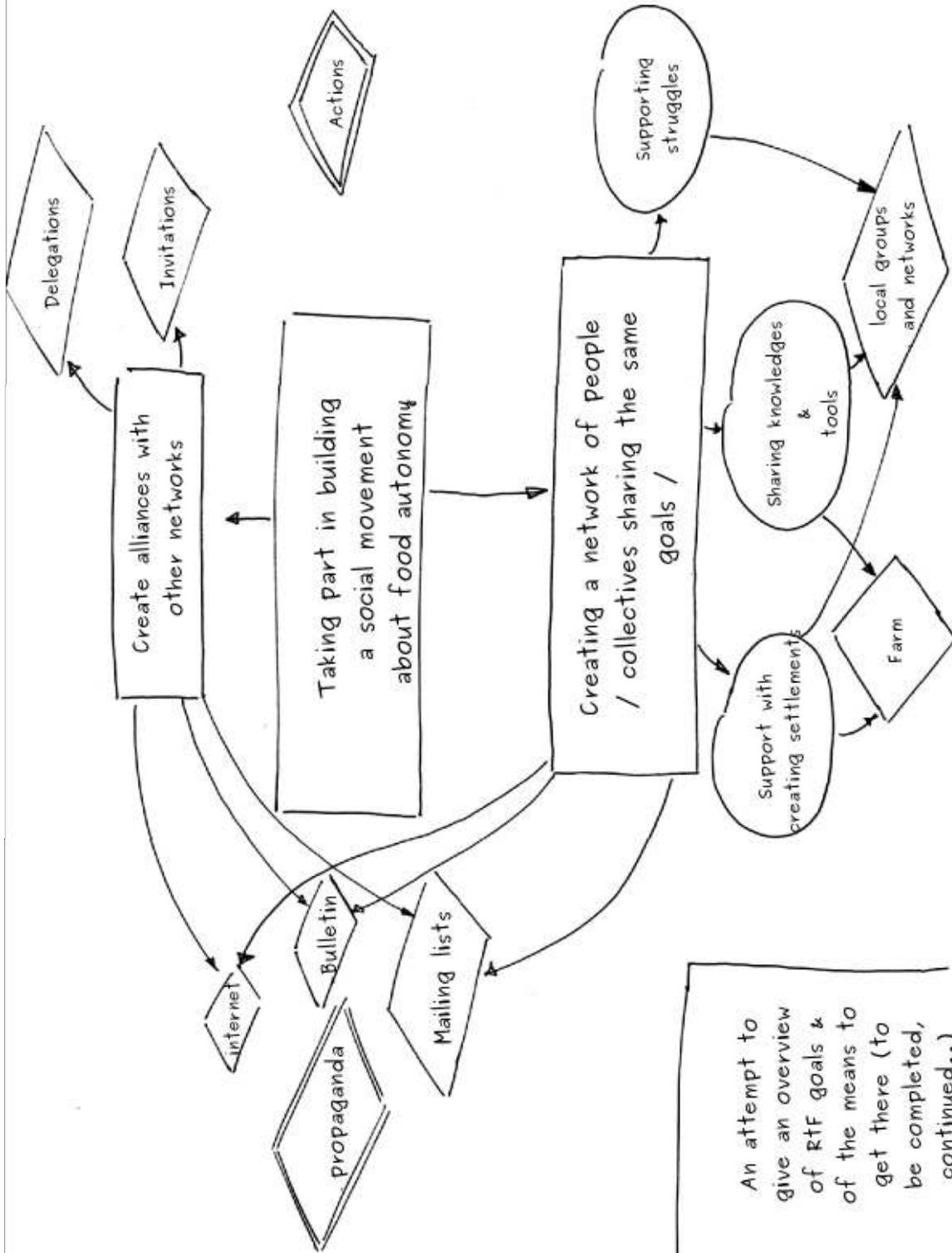
- strengthen local groups
- strengthening ties: *thanks to tools that already exist*
- strengthening ties: *new tools*
- next gatherings





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***Strengthen local groups :**

A round about different existing groups/networks gave us news:

From Spanish speaking group:

in the so called spanish state there's no formal group claiming to adhere to RtF: different networks already exist which work on the same thematics and with the same political background: the rural occupations network Rhizoma, networks for food sovereignty (in each province). Some people are connected to these networks and provide a contact with RtF: these past few years, efforts have been made to make RtF more visible: spreading bulletins, meeting in Somonte, in Granada, camp in Can Piella, links with la Cienta... There's a wish to strengthen these ties, with the idea of having these networks feeling that they take part in RtF rather than creating new ones.

From Brittany:

Revival in progress of a group that had been existing few years ago. The idea of a group at a smaller scale than the french speaking one is to facilitate meetings and sharing, to find a way that enables to preserve a tie with the people who now are part of an agricultural occupation on this territory (and who were participating to RtF in the past)... Next gathering on the 12th of october.

From Belgium :

Some people were present on the camp : there's not really a RtF group, but for a long time ties with those who participated to launch this dynamic, lists for information sharing, ... Following the camp, there's a kind of desire to revive something, a more active group, which could be a mean of making people get together, (especially to link different linguistic groups which work on the same thematics), of strengthening or creating ties with food producers networks (for the moment, mostly activists work on these issues).

The position of belgium, which host many european institutions, is particular and invites to ask ourselves about the participation to the numerous european mobilizations that often take

place there, about european politics, seeds issues, GMOs,...

From Austria :

The group exists since Rosia Montana, have known good moments, and then a fall in collective activities. The different stars which form it feel ties between themselves, but are more involved right now in their own place. One of the upcoming goals is to strengthen these ties.

From the german speaking group :

got recreated during the camp in Manheim : between 20 and 30 persons participated to the discussion about a revival of this group and are motivated to see each other again in spring or winter in germany.

From the french speaking group :

A forth gathering is planned for the month of november on the Millevaches plateau (after Dijon in 2010, Kraken in 2011 and Avignon in 2013), to create ties in this region and have thematic discussions; revival of the basic farm network team in progress; idea of training moments to set up.

From Romania :

Same situation as in spain : a network on farmers issues already exists (Eco ruralis), has an affinity with RtF political background, and some persons of this network provide connection with RtF (present at the gatherings...)

Indirect news from britain :

There would be a quite strong group, but nobody answered to the invitation to come to the camp this summer. According to someone who bumped into them during the Ecotopia Biketour and the climate camp (preceding the RtF camp), there's been actions in Glasgow, Newcastle, Heathrow, but the dynamic seems to have fallen back. There's a project of a farmer biketour for spring 2014 which would start from northern france or belgium to go to britain and meet farmers and projects about access to land, help with the organization of meetings, which could be an opportunity to redevelop ties with RtF uk.



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One of the most important things that stood out of the several discussion sessions is the importance of these groups or local networks for RtF, and the fact that some tasks/functions should be assumed by these groups.

*** Strengthening ties: thanks to tools that already exist**

Bulletin :

During the camp, most of the tasks to do for the creation of bulletin #8 were distributed, still with the idea of having a tool for internal communication.

Now a document for facilitating transmission exists, specifying the different tasks for the creation of a bulletin.

Need for people to help with translating.

Deadline to send an article: 7th of october 2013

Proposal for central thematics: current evolutions within RtF and the issue of creating alliances with other networks.

"Propaganda" group :

A group of 7/8 people to help local and working groups finding adapted means of communication, which also works on means of spreading information for RtF.

TABLEAU 2: Propaganda

Stuff/ideas to do mentioned in Can Piella	Où on est maintenant
	=> Diagrammatic presentation of RtF cyber-tools: diagram #3: internal tools RtF
website A new website under construction: RtF.ecobytes.net & reclaimthefields.org to be updated while the new one is being started up	=> we give up this site (transmission of information on how it works not possible easily) => former team of reclaimthefields.org make a minimal updating

	=> propaganda group searches for somebody liable to create a new (new) functional website
During the gatherings/camps: include new stars and "members" in the general mailing list	done a priori
Work on a global RtF flyer	validation of a flyer in french in progress
Make a "best of" bulletin	creation of an "infokiosk" group: the NEB
Create a nomad infokiosk	compilation of existing texts in progress
"New" ideas/projects. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set up a methodology for writing articles, sharing and spreading information, how to organize a workshop etc. Create a protocol : how to organize/coordinate a gathering or a camp 	

It's possible to explain to **propaganda@lists.reclaimthefields.org the needs in terms of communication tools to optimize existing tools' use (diagram #3: internet tools RtF)*

**It's possible as a local or working group to ask for a presentation/training to the different existing tools and even for the creation of new tools if it's really necessary (the persons from the propaganda group are ready to come out for that for one or more days).*

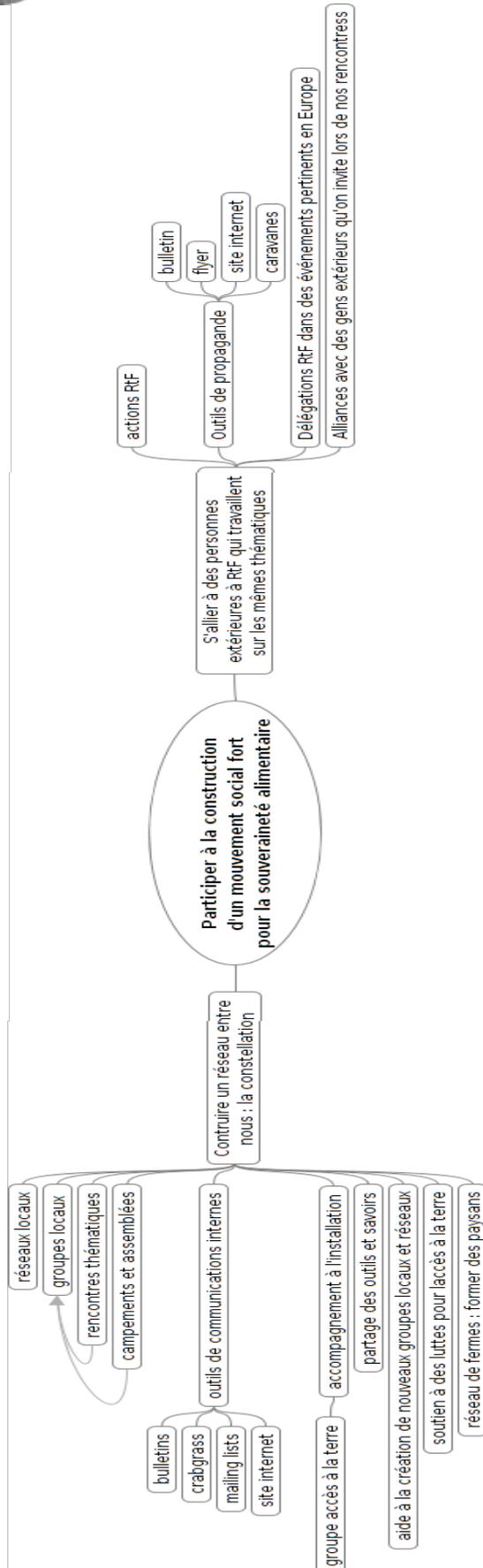


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diagram #3: internal tools RtF



Translation

2 persons (Léa, Julien) administrate a list which is used to call for translations. We need more people for administration and above all for translation. traduction@lists.reclaimthefields.org

Infokiosk :

Goals: writing/sharing/spreading, the NEB is moving forward ... meetings about thematic defined in Can Piella, searchings for ways of printing and spreading brochures.

Contact: milesdearboles@mailoo.org

* New tools

Finance :

How did it work until now, why do we need money at a european level, and how do we deal with it ? The original "RtF till" comes from the organization of the camp in Cravirola, that had been done with requesting subsidies and had received a lot of donations. It served to prepare the following camp, and was filled with the donations of the camp. After Rosia Montana: there was 3-4000 euros left over with the goal to serve as start budget for the organization of a next camp. Some money has also been spent in financing trips (in romania to prepare the camp, invitation of people from Romania to the gathering following Rosia Montana camp...) and to print documents (bulletins, ...). For the moment, this money was on an account managed by just one person who want to resign.

Proposal of a working group :

To think about how we'll deal with the account, who pays what... (is the printing of the bulletins to be financed by a european till?, how do we fill it...?)

BLA:

This collective was created following discussions with COATI, the collective who was providing interpretation during last RtF meetings, who wanted to stop being a technical support for RtF and who was rather offering to pass knowledge on to other people. A group was interested, and was trained by COATI, searched for fundings for the



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camp, bought a part of the material for interpretation and borrowed the rest.

This collective (14 persons for the moment) is a collective of technical support (material and installation, but doesn't provide interpreters) which defines its own objectives and conditions, while feeling ties with RtF. A synthesis of their discussions will be sent for the bulletin and the general list.

"Internal trainings" :

Plans of days on specific thematics (settlement,...) to train ourselves : a small french speaking group. Plans also to create moments of "discovery/introduction to RtF": to allow people to understand what is RtF, to share the political backgrounds, and why join the constellation!

* Next gatherings

People from the Field Liberation Movement (struggle against GMOs in belgium) amongst others offered to organize and host next RtF gathering. It seemed interesting for them with regard to the desire to revive a dynamic around RtF and with regard to the issues that could be tackled thanks to the strategic situation for european politics (GMOs, role of the alliances). They need to speak about it among themselves and with other belgian networks, and will give an answer as soon as they can (within a month if everything goes right)

An issue that raised quite a lot of debates was about why we meet again, what will be the next gathering's goal ?

During the preceding discussions, it became clear that there could be many goals for our time together, which are not necessarily all compatibles: getting organized at the european scale; welcoming newcomers; supporting struggles; making actions; training ourselves; thinking together,...

A long discussion after splitting in linguistic groups enabled to decide that :

- next meeting will take place in 6 months somewhere and will be a Gathering to keep on restructuring RtF and thinking about the

process (the process includes the definition of strategies and the tools we need to put them into practice), in particular to decide if working in "thematic" groups (seeds, access to land, collective farms...) is still relevant, how to strengthen ties, to work on funding, propaganda issues, ...

A group of 5 persons (for the moment) is preparing this gathering. Their mission is :

- to find a place and a group able to host such a gathering at a logistic level
- to prepare an agenda and a methodology for this gathering
- a meeting in belgium with the Field Liberation Movement will happen later, with the thematics and ideas of action that the belgian group would suggest, with the goal of inviting new people, to create ties with the local struggles, and to talk



<http://www.fieldliberation.org>



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Workshops RtF Camp Manheim

Exchange of gardening knowledge

This is just a minimal overview about subjects we discussed and I'm sure I missed something. I want to emphasize that there was a big interest in how to start a garden and the most important things to look at. I could imagine a workshop in this field within the next RtF-camp would attract a lot of people. If there is anybody who would like to think about a structure and content of such a seminar I would join! Write me: deserta@mtmedia.org

Here are the points: Weed control; methods for example mulching; how to find the compromise between less time and the wish to have a garden; soil fertility; crop rotation, catch crop, green manure; compost and manure; soil; types of soil and development of it, creatures living in the soil.

Feedback from Reclaim the seeds workshop, RtF camp Manheim

At the RtF camp this summer about 30 people came together for the workshop "Reclaim the Seeds" organized by Flip from ASEED (grassroot organization in Netherlands working on topics of food sovereignty and g.m.o.). This workshop was merely to inform ourselves about seed legislation, it's effects and what we can do! Many people with expertise brought information to the workshop. There was no representative of the RtF seed working group in the workshop, so I mentioned about the existence of the working group and email list. Many people wanted to sign up for this list. They expressed their will to stay connected with each other; exchange information about seeds & legislation; and inform each other on their local events and actions.

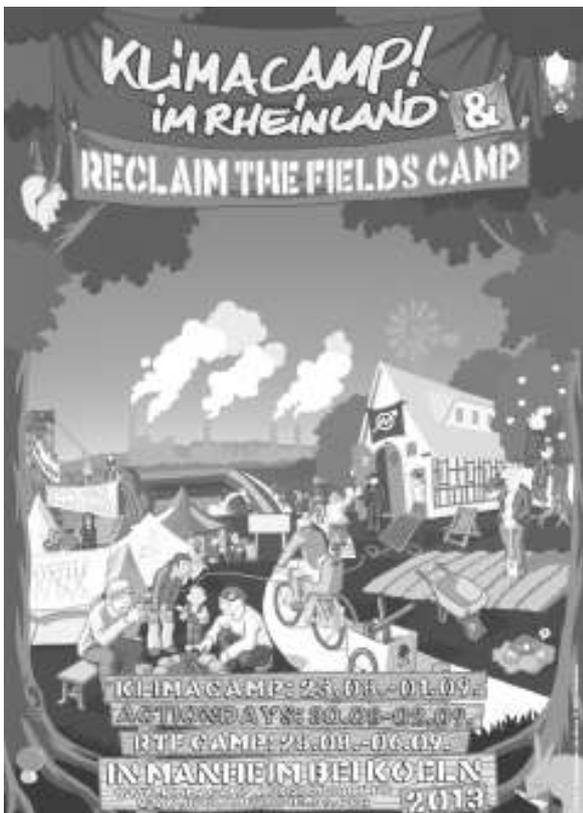
I'm not sure how the seed working group is functioning right now, but this could be a moment of revitalization and getting more links with others working on the same issues! In the workshop there were people from projects connected to seeds (campaigning, direct action, but also garden collectives, seed reproduction and seed banks) from Germany, Netherlands, Belgium, France, Romania, Portugal etc... Sounds like the seeds email list could be a good way to connect all these actors in many places! The conclusion of the workshop was that we need to link up together and take action on different levels:

- study laws, understand and inform ourselves on (changes) in EU policy
- inform us on role of corporations, confront them
- seed swap/ seed bank & make alternative practices happen
- education, inform ourselves & share info

Folder with lot of info on current state of affairs about seeds:

<http://www.seed-sovereignty.org/EN/>

("resilient seed").



During and after these camps, we noticed a couple of things which left an impression on us. In these texts, we don't want to talk about the nice time we spent together, the rich debates, discussions and meetings. The two following texts are from two different people, but we did try not to repeat ourselves too much. We have tried to highlight some important issues we faced and express our feelings about them; while trying to avoid lecturing anyone.

We hope the following will not be taken as such. We hope this can be used in the future to avoid repeating some odd situations. Above all, we hope that it will help us think about how we are and how we cooperate in such situations.

Analysis, Analysis, where did the analysis go ?

First of all congratulations to all our RfT and Climate Camp friends who organized this camp. If I am critical, it's only to help better organize/prepare the next camp.

Like many other activist camps in Germany, this camp made a callout to a group (in this case, 'Rampplan' from the Netherlands) to organise cooking using food which came in part from the supermarket (albeit organic or vegan).

Could have we done this differently ? For a Climate Camp, no problem, but for a RfT camp where we are trying to reclaim food, I would have expected us to also 'reclaim' the collective kitchen and gather some local produce.

As for the general organization of the camp, we lost a lot of time on legal issues and day-to-day running of the camp. We were far from reaching consensus and creating a shared set of guidelines through small group discussions as was done in Romania. The absence of a common basis to work from is not a problem for some activists, as there are ways to work around it, but can lead to a feeling of not having much in common and alienation (maybe my neighbour is my enemy?).

If our common aim is to come together for an action camp to stop RWE's mines from growing, at no point did I hear any analysis of RWE's arguments. RWE has put an enormous amount of work into this, writing an eight page letter to locals warning them of the people who were coming for a camp and would destroy a bunch of things, which they did.

RWE is a company which controls water, energy and employment in the area, it also gives money and services. They don't just pay compensation for what they destroy, after it's operations the company provides

"improvements" by creating natural parks, lakes, farmland, forests and even marshland out of former mines.

It's hard to say, but faced with this, what could we bring in the 15 days we were to spend there?

For the climate camp, the mass action was to block a train carrying coal (in the same way that the Castor nuclear trains are blocked). As in other years gone by, this worked out smoothly for both activists, RWE and police. The aim was to get press coverage (which happened) and to make a small video by and for activists.

The RfT action was to create a small collective garden, which was little more than cool and symbolic (just like the action on the roundabout at the Turin gathering). We'll see how it fares once the camp is over. It did feel like an action more for us than an action with a link to the situation: is it necessarily a good idea to modify some wasteland like this?

Something that really stuned me before and during the camp was the lack of analysis on the part of our local comrades who, since they were evicted from the Hambach forest last winter (at the same time as evictions on the ZAD) have failed to understand where they went wrong. I heard no analysis of the local struggle (although I did ask for this before and during the camp), the different powers at play, the main players themselves, locals and their allies.

I only found out towards the end of the camp, in spite of my disastrous German, that a local group opposing the mine did exist in the nearby village, but this was simply never presented during the camp.

I don't like political tourism, or feeling taken hostage in a struggle which is falling apart all on its own (missing opportunities to form allies). Links with local farmers are almost non existent (as soon as you define yourself as vegan you've lost your average farmer as an ally straight away!). A few of us organised a drinks and french fries party in the nearby villages and were surprised to meet a number of people who were unhappy about the mine, who were full of energy and interest. I don't think this struggle is by any means lost, but just off to a bad start, if it has started at all for us, given our capabilities and resources.

Long live french fries!
Courage to you all.

Paul

Difficult cohabitation among two activist camps

I was heavily surprised when arriving at the place where the Climate- RTF camps were taking place, to be submerged in everlasting debates on the consumption of alcohol, the legality of the site, food... It was the second time that I came to Germany, I didn't know much about the local context or on the "locals" so it was difficult to have to deal with all that and to have a clear mind in order to decide which type of action to take part in.

I took part in many interesting meetings, participated in the core discussions on RTF and lived quite some other crazy stories, but at this occasion I didn't see how my presence supported the local struggle which was one of the goals of these camp(s). It could be that I am mistaken on the goals of this type of camp. What it comes down to is that I feel to have participated rather at a RTF meeting than at a camp. And I had the impression that others also felt that RTF didn't play a role in the local struggle.

Because of their common base (I perceive radical ecology, which I define as the forms of political ecology that reject compromise and reform and give priority to direct action), the idea of a 'common' Climate - RTF camp (announced as such), I didn't perceive as too crazy, even good. Actually one of the common bases is direct action, even though I could also talk about anti-globalisation, anti-capitalism, rejection of hierarchies So I arrived at the camp perceiving the actions as highlights where the two camps and their issues mingled, creating links between both, while the collective life didn't pose any obstacles as to me they seemed to be based on common values.

Even though both follow a form of radical ecology, I do think that there are clear basic differences between the activists of the Climate Camp and of Reclaim the Fields. For example the way in which issues are presented (climate change for the Climate Camp, destruction of agricultural lands and the intrusion of the industry in rural environments for the RtF), but also the different ways of functioning, organisation, expression, ... Why then these differences were so intensively presented at the camp, until a point that the announced struggles were marginalised? Was it really to dig into alimentation and other issues that we came to Manheim?

According to me, especially in the General Assemblies, these basic and not explicit differences, which from the start were considered shared and learned and therefore left aside for effectivity, strongly shaped the camps and the contact among participants: I had to bear with things I consider unacceptable in this context,

violent and intolerant behaviours: rejection of an initial premium trust agreement, preference of restriction and interdiction to tolerance, rants without explicit scope, words targeted at certain affinity groups, 'dictatorship of minorities', no respect for decisions taken in the assembly.

All this mess repulsed and scared some people who were very interested and motivated in the issues of both camps. Because of the above mentioned behaviours and the disappearance of the announced issues in favour of sterile and repetitive debates, people who we want to join our movements have left. Who stayed were of course the 'usuals' and 'convinced'.

I thought to have seen a closing between both camps, even with the unshakable will of openness and non-hierarchalisation of the groups. As such, the very same impression of sharing common bases made us get lost in details, leaving aside the political base of our presence, the pertinence of our actions and the goal of a double camp. The Climat Camp took place, The RTF camp took place, and that's about it.

I hope that in the future we will use our differences to get strength instead of conflict about it (in the negative sense). That people will "play" more with communication than with conflict. That our future meetings will be more of sharing than of conflict.

And why not channel this conflict, to turn it into something positive? Internal conflict may be looked upon as a flagship of issues and interests of the participants, rather than being considered as an unceasing confrontation, a trigger of violence. Why not look upon conflict as a source of contradictions, of debate and in the end collective progress? For future co-organisations I think it will be important to clarify if it concerns meetings to make progress a movement, to discuss on issues that we question or to create a dynamic stronger than if we would do it by ourselves, or even to experiment with collective living.

This action could take the shape of a collective reflection in the first hand to clarify the issues of our meetings. All comes down to putting priorities, so what's left is to define them.

T.T.

Impression

I left the summer camp with the same impression as usual: we seem to spend most of the time at meetings thinking about how to make something work with very little idea of the means we have at our disposal or the goal we seek to attain; the famous "Process". If this discussion is to remain so vague and undefined, it makes me wonder "why" we bother organising, just as much as "how" we should organise. When I think about the previous european gatherings I went to, I can't remember any discussion on agricultural or food issues, which would give me the impression we are participating in a collective discussion or at least sharing our diverse perspectives, getting an idea of how much common ground we share (or not), or even of learning something about these very issues that RtF is supposed to focus on. How can we escape this tendency? How can we begin to build a movement? How to (or do we want to?) move forward from our current incarnation as a place for like-minded individuals to meet?

Building a movement together

One of the big challenges of RtF is to manage to come up with answers to these questions together. Obviously, camps are not the best place for reflection: everyone brings their own workshop or discussion, and there is no inherent coherence between them, no feedback or analysis of what's being discussed there, no goal for us to move toward, which would define our approaches or strategies. Maybe that's not the goal of a camp, but that means we have to find other spaces which would allow us to build a movement.

To my mind, the first process discussion sessions of last summer make a good case for these kind of reflections. They gave me the impression that a core group of around twenty persons were establishing themselves, people who are seeing each other at RtF organising meetings and who are getting to know each other, who have a vision (if not an understanding) of what RtF is or could be, a common knowledge of what has happened so far and a desire to build on that together. I hope that we succeed in maintaining this dynamic (while managing to integrate new people into it) and to deepen the issues that have been raised during the next "process" meetings this winter.

Creating political content and strategies

Has anyone managed to clearly explain what RtF is, when asked? I feel like I can explain the most important ideas, but I'm not quite able to see how they translate in concrete terms into a substantial movement, or find arguments that would make other people interested in participating.

During one of the discussions last summer there was a presentation of RtF's goals which had never crossed my mind before, or at least that I'd never heard expressed in this way (perhaps it was already too obvious to everybody else), and which opened up a new perspective to me. One of RtF's goals was expressed as being to find people and land in order to set up the agriculture we're dreaming of

and thus to change european agriculture. Another vision was to contribute to a social movement around food and all the issues it implies.

If one of RtF's goals is to change agriculture, encouraging people to produce with RtF's views in mind, we have to find these people, and land, to make this possible. What resources do we need to make people want to produce as self-organized collectives, rather than focus on working on say a commercial or ecological basis? What resources do we need to find lands where we would conduct these projects? How do we maintain the link between those who want to produce and those who aren't necessarily motivated to produce themselves but are interested in these issues? One of RtF's initial strengths has been to allow people to bring together those who are keen to live on the land in a more traditional way, and those who refuse more old fashioned ways of working; people from the city and people from the countryside... How do we continue to appeal to each of these audiences? How can we contribute to a broader social movement about food issues? With whom do we want to form alliances, and to what end? Is it logical to think about who are potential allies when we're not even sure what our own goals are?

Land occupation has been a resource developed by RtF in an european context where this practice wasn't necessarily common. This idea now seems more widespread, many persons can be inspired by it, most probably thanks to RtF's actions and also thanks to the development of "occupy" movements in the cities. How can we move forward with this strength? What are the outcomes of the land occupations which have happened these past few years, for example occupations against infrastructural projects? Do we want to move into to a more 'offensive' phase of occupations as Paul suggested in another text?

As many questions which, to my mind, we absolutely need to take time to discuss together these next times, at every level, and from which we should manage to elaborate a vision more or less clear of what RtF could be.

These are just some of the questions which I consider necessary to discuss collectively and from which we should create a fairly clear vision of what RtF could be.

Making the constellation exist

Last summer we talked a lot about developing local groups. But who can say what a local group is? Who feels like being a 'star' in the 'constellation'? What is the link between the individuals who come to RtF meetings and the places where they're living or farming? are there ties between these stars through or thanks to RtF. To make this movement happen, we need to feel part of something we have in common, to move forward hand in hand. That's why it seems to me that we need to think about on what scale we want to organize ourselves. We need to find one which would allow us to materialize the views we have in RtF.

We often talked about the french speaking group as a local group, but to my mind it's again a local version of the European group's vagueness and inconsistency: up to now we mostly met to prepare the next gatherings, a few projects have emerged from our desires and sometimes disappeared for lack of motivated persons. We exchange information but analyse and conclude very little... We need to organise on a scale which allows people to regularly exchange practices as well as reflections, (what's the point of meeting up every 6 months on a French speaking scale, or European, to speak about mulching or gender issues if we don't bring these reflections back locally ?). We need to organise on a scale which allows us to fight our struggles, and support each other if needed, to spread ideas. Some of us spoke about that during the last french speaking meetings in Avignon, and would like to try to do it on the more local scale of the western part of France, we'll see what happens. It would be even better if others try to do the same thing elsewhere!

The challenge still remains to link these local scales to a european vision, because that's one point where RtF is strong: to realize that these issues are raised all over "Europe", with different versions according to the local politics, the activist practices, the habits... Last summer, we came to the conclusion that we should stop believing in thematical working groups (which at the end of the day have disappeared de facto a long time ago but which we keep on mentioning just to set our minds at ease): we are not able to keep a group of persons spread all over europe active to think about the issues of access to land, collective settlement, etc ... On the other hand, these issues are really better discussed in different places on a more local level, where people can meet easily and regularly, focusing their work, each group following different issues. And European meetings about these thematics could be enriched by each of these groups' contributions on these issues: we could imagine european meetings on access to land where everyone would come with notes and analysis of how things are going in their local area.

Another issue is about how to get new people to come, and to make them feel part of this movement. However in order to feel like being part of something, one needs to have an idea of the goals, the history, the practices... For the moment, we try at every meeting, whether european level or french speaking, to make the most concise presentation of RtF that we can. But it provides little about RtF's political foundations, and about how to take part in it. More and more I think that we need to find ways to pass on political ideas, practices and what has already been done within RtF during specific times, which would allow the people who feel attracted to the ideas we seem to convey to know them better and understand how to get involved if they want. Maybe the feeling of being part of a movement still has a role to play to create hope for social change? A "RtF discovery day" is being planned by us french speakers : we'll keep you up-to-date about that !

To conclude, and despite all this, I want to keep on believing that taking part in RtF is a means to feel stronger, and not lost in a vague thing that's unexplainable to anybody! RtF could even be at a turning point of its short history: after the first years when a founding team launched the movement, most of them moved away from RtF or its way of functioning for many reasons (settlement, disappointment, others things to do...), and RtF kept going and growing without necessarily having a clear direction. This last summer gave me the impression that a new team is forming, ready to redefine strategies and goals according to what has been done before, and what each one desires now...and that's pretty exciting.

To be continued!

RtF is young and changeable, we need to take time to understand what we want to do. I'm a little bit saddened by our tendency to believe that we're incapable of having a discussion between more than 5 people. I see discussions within small groups as interesting, but only if we consider them as tools to then be able to have discussions between more people: I hope more shy people find the confidence to speak up and those who always open their mouths learn to listen and to acknowledge that other people have things worth saying. But to give up on a larger collective process seems to me, on one hand a depressing vision of humanity, and on the other hand quite an efficient way of impoverishing ideas. Ideas are built and sharpened by exposing themselves and confronting one another. To limit these exchanges to just a few people is sad... If we are to use this tool of small group discussions with a view to one day having larger discussion, i think we must pay a lot of attention when feeding back to the main group, and to allow time to discuss this feedback. We need to take time to have discussions which aren't aiming at instantly create concrete proposals, but simply to know why we do things. Discussions which take time to take stock of what has been done already; what has worked or not, and why.

Milène

Messages written during the evaluation of RtF camp

People told me it was hard with the police, etc. But you made a great work. As when I arrived on the 28th everything was solved and functioning very well. So thanks and congratulations!

More people taking responsibilities would be so great! Thanks to them now who did!!

Great for RtF german group!

Need more time to meet/exchange in between "stars"!

Wir brauchen mehr leute zum vorbereiten. Vielleicht sollte man während des camps schon nach menschen fragen die lust haben am nachstën mal vorzubereiten très interessant arrivée au tour de la presentation des differentes groupes, collectifs, luttes, utopies, de la constellation RtF!

Oui je sais un peu plus ce qu'est RtF e ça me donne envie de cooperer plus avec des autres etoilles de la constellation. J'ai pu metre des visages sur le sigle RtF... belles rencontres, belle diversité du mouvement.

Muy bueno! Lo unico: faltaba preparacion en la accion de RtF.

The food came from farmers of the area although not everything was "eco"! we carried some food from rtf stars up to cologne, and one thought can be if we want to use fuel for this. another thought is that it is good to eat food that the constellation produced. to find enough bio-vegetable from local farmers can be difficult and also depends on the local group and its connections - but it is definitely a good approach .

Très interessant arrivée au tour de la presentation des differentes groupes, collectifs, luttes, utopies, de la constellation RtF!

Really cool that the guys from rosia were there to really connect struggles that are so similar in a way! i really appreciated them to come and spread their enthusiam and experience.

For me a real problem was that some people wanted to have "process" but never voiced this before the camp, so it was organized last minute, chaotic, hierarchically and did not work very well. Personally I feel this was the most exclusive part of the camp, as nearly nobody who was not connected to the constellation before the camp joined these sessions (or their preparation for that matter, but they were also only prepared by "seniors" of the Constellation). So in the end it was the "old and wise" activists chatting about how to continue with the constellation. I think we need to reflect this and take the issue of new people wanting to join the constellation more seriously and think about how to get them engaged and hand over power/information, so that the kind of hierarchies that became clear at this point are not being carried on. (Bulletins are definately not a tool for this!!!)

Good to make process on how rtf could go on, and that we planned to have the next gathering on this focus.

The preparation was so much better than I expected it to be! Thanks a lot

Ich hatte mit euch eine wundervolle zeit voller widerstand; solidarität & liebe. Die Aktiondays never end!

reflection = action. Trop attendus - pas vraiment offensive

Every day is action day!



Workshop about gender and intimacy

Manheim

2013

First meeting (Sept, 4th)

We split first in mixed/non-mixed couples in order to talk about some important experience, either positive or negative, that we got in our life concerning gender issues. Every person has 5 minutes to tell her/his own experience, during which the other person is supposed to practice active listening.

Feedback from the discussion in couples: We split then again in mixed/non-mixed groups of approx. 3 people. We have a list of problematic issues in society (patriarchy, heteronormativity, feminism...), and we have 10 minutes to discuss among ourselves about the ones that resonate the most in our group. Then we have 5 minutes to list 3 concrete proposals that in our opinion could help improving these issues.

Feedback from the group work: many groups come out with the proposal of creating non-gender-mixed spaces for emotional sharing, and we decide to meet again the coming day to discuss about it.

Second meeting (Sept, 5th)

We meet altogether and propose to split in groups of socialized women and socialized men. A person raises a concern about which group transexual people are supposed to join. There are no transexual people present, but we decide to create the opportunity of a third group anyway, for the people who don't feel like joining one of the others. Nobody decides to join this group, so we split into a socialized women group and a socialized men group.

→ Group of socialized women: report is missing

→ Group of socialized men: we are more or less 10 people, and we decide not to set any specific topic of discussion (the trace is "intimate sharing related to gender issues") and to keep an easy group dynamic in order to ease deep sharing. We sit in circle and everyone is given the time he needs to express his feelings. When he's done the turn passes to the person sitting at his left; we try not to interrupt anybody's sharing, nor to judge it in any way. Main topics emerged are the need of deconstructing the mainstream vision of man in ourselves, the repressed need for (more) emotional and physical intimacy among men, the need for cooperation instead of competition between men, the sexual attraction to men, the relation between passion and consent-approved violence in sex, and non-violent communication.

We meet altogether again to have a short feedback about the group process. The feedback is very positive, and we decide to meet again the following day.

Third meeting (Sept, 6th)

Despite the interest of the day before, almost all the people who were present don't come, and the whole meeting resents an organizational lack. We decide to split again in non-gendered-mixed groups.

→ Group of socialized women: report is missing

→ Group of socialized men: we are 7/8 people, among which just 2 took part in the process of the day before. The sharing process is more difficult, some people keep silent for many turns, there is a general lack of attention, due also to the unhappy location (many people passing and interrupting). Despite these problems we manage anyway to discuss about a few topics, the main focus being on consent and non-monogamous relationships.

Collective feedback from the group work: the general difficulties seen in the socialized men group seem to have been present in the socialized women group too. Despite the not-so-good feedback, many participants show an interest to continue with the process, so we decide to meet once more the following day.

Fourth meeting (Sept, 7th)

We're 9 men and 2 women, so we decide to split into one non-gender-mixed group and one gender-mixed group. We scout together for a more intimate space, and then we divide.

→ Mixed group: we decided to discuss about the topic of feminism.

→ Non-mixed group: report is missing.

Unluckily rain comes, concentration runs away and the group process ends earlier than planned.

Feedback from the group work: in both groups was observed a general tendency to talk about thoughts rather than feelings, that led to a lower personal involvement of the participants, but the whole process was considered as satisfactory by most of the people who participated in it.

The RtF Camp is officially over since two days already, and most of us have to leave on the next day, so we decide that this was the last meeting.

END

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A **brief** HISTORY of RECLAIM THE FIELDS

(based on a presentation at the Manheim RtF camp)

2008

Via Campesina is aging as an organization. Members wondered how to support younger people organising around issues of agriculture and access to land. At the mobilization against the COP15 Climate summit, a gathering took place, which brought together the Black Bloc of Berlin as well as the Biodynamic hippy farmers of Sweden. There was a lot of energy to create something new and exciting. Inspired by the 'Reclaim the Streets' movement against cars and for free parties in 90's Great Britain, 'Reclaim the Fields' was born!

2009

The first gathering of 'Reclaim the Fields' took place in Cravirola, in the South of France. There was space for an expected 200 people, but 300 registered to attend, and 400 people ended up coming! At the gathering Reclaim the Fields decided to separate from Via Campesina.

2010

3 land occupations took place under the 'Reclaim the Fields' banner: in Dijon, Geneva and Basel. A gathering took place at Can Mas Deu outside Barcelona with mixed results, followed by a more successful one in Graz.



2011

A gathering happened at Grow Heathrow in London - a protest site against Airport Expansion. Later in the year, another took place at Roşia Montană, a region resisting a gold mining development in Transylvania.

2012

'Reclaim the Fields' gathered in the Mezcal in Turin, Northern Italy. The gathering was timed to coincide with mobilizations against the TAV high speed train lines being built in the area. The Mezcal squat hosted the event in their large social centre based in a park and formerly home to a Psychiatric Ward. A number of actions took place during the event, including the planting of two gardens, a seed swap and participation in a large demonstration and mass action against the rail line.

Later in the year, members met for a smaller meeting aimed at improving internal organisation. The gathering took place at the ZAD, another protest site resisting the construction of an airport in Brittany, France. The gathering was planned as a quieter event which would avoid the action and intensity of the Turin gathering earlier in the year.

2013

Can Piella hosted a gathering in Catalunya, North West Spain. The farm squat not far from Barcelona was resisting eviction, but a few months after the gathering was destroyed by police.

A summer camp was planned to coincide with the Manheim Klima Camp in West Germany. Manheim is one village among many other in the region due to be torn down for the purposes of creating the second biggest coal mine in Europe. The RTF camp overlapped the Klima Camp with three days of action during which train lines delivering coal were blocked, a community garden was planted and the Hambach Forest was occupied, among a number of other actions.

An Open Letter to Friends of RtF

Why is there so much stress and tension for those organising RtF gatherings and camps?

Introduction

I'm writing this letter because since Can Piella I've thought a lot about the tensions I've felt in gatherings I've participated in. I feel anxious and unhappy about the little clashes and squabbles. But also I've reached certain conclusions and want to bring something to the new direction we seem to have chosen since the last camp, in the hope that it helps to avoid similar situations in the future.

I'm also writing this as a form of collective and personal self-criticism, an attempt to be constructive and propose some useful options, a way to enrich the relationships between each other, at the same time as improving the quality of our environment and our work. Because it is much better to meet in a relaxed environment than a tense one.

I've been more or less actively participating in Reclaim the Fields (RtF) on a European level since the Turin gathering in February 2012. Since then I have been in Dijon, to prepare the gathering on the ZAD, which I also attended and which took place in September 2012. I made a commitment to organise the Can Piella gathering, which took place in February 2013. I was also present at the Manheim camp for the gathering to prepare the camp in May 2013 and afterwards at the aforementioned camp which recently took place. As a 'representative of RtF', I went to Somonte in December 2012, when Rizoma invited us to their gathering to get to know us and also in June 2013 in Laciana, to continue working with them.

I'm not telling you about all of these gatherings or journeys I've made to push forward the RtF process to show that I'm important or because I feel superior to the other people who have put energy into this process. I think there are people who have done much more for the RtF is seeking to achieve who haven't been to gatherings, as well as others who are working away in the shadows helping us to move forward. I just seems important to mention this so that people reading this text know that my writing comes from lived experience and not things I've heard or been told. That doesn't mean that I'm right about this subject. I might be wrong and there might be others who have experienced things differently.

Tension and Stress...

So, why is there so much tension and stress during gatherings? I've spent hours thinking about this. Especially those moments of borderline burnout which I experienced in the Can Piella gathering. I think a lot of it comes down to the lack of confidence between us, which probably comes down to the fact that we don't know each other, as most of us only see each other during gatherings and meetings. I think it also has something to

do with our habits and life experience, as well as cultural and physical backgrounds depending on where we are coming from.

On the other hand, we don't have the same ways of understanding this organisation, and maybe don't have the same idea of what we want RtF to be or how it should work. It may also be that we don't have the same level of commitment in terms of time. Still we should bear in mind that each of us is busy in their area and in their personal lives.

But also, those who have put a lot of time and travel into organising gatherings suffer a lot of tension and stress. They bring their time to the table and sometimes neglect personal needs like money, paying for travel when it's necessary, and their health, when there are situations which threaten the last six months of work. These people create expectations for themselves and put all their trust in the support they hope for when the moment comes. They also trust that everything will turn out ok, or at least, they put in all their effort for that to happen. So it's unsurprising that they are tense or stressed, although this might vary from person to person, as each of us has their own way of handling and experiencing moments like this. However, we must take this possibility into account and understand it.



An Open Letter to Friends of RtF

I'm going to quickly tell my experience of Can Piella, where I felt tired, frustrated, stressed, angry and a lot of other negative feelings, all at the same time. It was a mistake for one person to organise this gathering, but on top of this a few days before the gathering, the site's eviction was announced, which added unexpected work and an increasing level of stress. I felt that we wouldn't be able to go through with the gathering and in fact for a moment this seemed like a real possibility. However, in the end it happened... Maybe this was also a mistake.

I headed down a week and a half before the gathering to see how the logistics would work out, taking time out from my personal life and another project which was developing at the time. Fortunately someone else came down with me too, considering the situation at Can Piella, where we had to take on almost all of the logistics of the gathering, whereas in the beginning it was the local group which was supposed to do this. They were organising defences for the place.

During those very tense moments, where I was tired of it all and could only think about getting out of there, I put all my confidence in the other people in Carrots, that they would arrive a day or two beforehand, so I could explain how I had thought out the program and the course of the gathering, which would take the weight off my shoulders. The big surprise was that nobody came. Most arrived the first day of the gathering. By then, I could no longer control my frustration or hold back my anger towards everybody. I told myself I should have left the first day. I was on the edge of doing it and leaving people to sort things for themselves, but I stayed and, well, those who were there already know how I felt.

I just want to add once more, the reason I'm telling you this isn't to make me seem important, but for the sake of clarity. I'm sure, in fact I know that others have had similar experiences to a greater or lesser extent during other gatherings. Do you know how the organiser of the Turin gathering (who also did everything on his own) felt? Did you know that one of the people who organised the ZAD gathering left to avoid burning out? And do you remember all of the anger, outbursts and reproaches which happened during the last camp?

You will probably agree with me that this can't continue like this if we want to carry on working and struggling together.

... but not always

But there haven't always been big tensions in RtF.

On the French-speaking level, there have already been three gatherings and I don't remember any tension, even though each of them happened in very different environments. Maybe it was because there were never such big expectations, or because we share the same language, a common starting point in terms of activism and political struggle, which makes it easier to listen to

and understand one another for the subject we discussed.

I didn't feel these tensions in the preparation gatherings either - not in Dijon, or Manheim. Maybe because we were fewer the logistics and time commitment was lighter.

During the trip to Somonte, the five of us who attended got to know each other and become friends and still remain so today.

But to come back to the European gatherings, you can see a real joy at people seeing each other, catching up and seeing familiar faces, gathering after gathering. We know we keep working and moving forward little by little, so that by the end of each gathering, during the more festive moments, there is always a general feeling of satisfaction.

So?

I don't think it would be so difficult to solve these problems of tension and stress for those organising gatherings. But it depends on everybody, not just a few people. If we want to improve the quality of our gatherings, for all of us to come out on a positive note, we need to have some basis of respect and trust. But we also need to be honest with ourselves and those around us. We need to be aware of our limits and capacities. We shouldn't feel ashamed because of this and should be able to ask for help when we need it.

And what could have made things easier for me in Can Piella? More support, for people to have arrived earlier and to have felt loved and understood during the gathering... to have felt valued too. However, I should have been more clear when I asked for help, I should have made more explicit callouts for support and have explained the situation better. I should have been able to leave space for others and not to have created so many expectations of myself. So, those organising gatherings could try to be clear and not hesitate in communicating bad news and asking for help when needed. But other people really could support and help organisers.

I think we could trust each other more. We shouldn't demand beyond our own capabilities. For example, when a group explains what they are doing and for what purpose, the others could try to avoid negative body language and be happy about the fact that things are moving forwards, even if it's not at the speed we might want to see. We could be more honest about the time commitment we have to give to RtF, which would allow us to better gauge our strengths and the energy available.

I think we should make an effort to use the resources we already have at our disposal, to improve them if we are able and not criticise when a group doesn't do something they proposed to do? If they didn't do it, it's sure to be because they simply didn't have time or other reasons.

I don't think we have to see each other every 6 months either. We should take more time to work in our local area, communicate more and use the resources we have more and more efficiently. Carrots does not work. In

An Open Letter to Friends of RtF

Manheim, almost all of us agreed on avoiding using this list to organise gatherings. We have to find a more efficient way of organising. For the next gathering, it will be put together by a group of five people who came out of the last camp and a local group will welcome us. We will see how this works and if the organisers come with less stress and tension than at the last gathering, whether we have found a formula which works.

For the moment we are not an organisation, but we still work as if we were one, so we have the same problems that they have. But we don't have the same resources to deal with these problems. So we need to be less demanding of ourselves and those around us. We need to be more patient and create more spaces and resources to move forward. However, none of this will work unless we can build trust in one another and if we don't take time at gathering to get to know each other and speak about how we feel. When there are tensions it is important that we speak about that and it isn't neglected or ignored.

Conclusion

During the last camp we spoke a lot about the RtF process and the need to change the way we organise was raised, as well as the type of gatherings we have.

On the last day, during a meeting, someone said that we are becoming a more compact group and faces are becoming more and more familiar with every gathering. It was said that it would be good if this group could continue to move forward with the RtF process and that it is important to not lose contact. I totally agree with this and it's true that this is the way it is. Also there are new people who have joined RtF at the Can Piella gathering and the Manheim camp. These people come with motivation and are taking on responsibilities and we need to involve them more, as well as bringing back those who have left. It is important that in the next gathering we get to know these people to be able to find a new way of working together.

During the camp, we came up with ideas and a foundation which personally appeals to me a great deal and which seems to be moving forward little by little. We agreed on the need to work more on a local level, create networks and alliances.

We established a simple and direct foundation which allows us to meet and work together to focus more on the aims of RtF. The next gathering should focus on this and we should focus on Brussels (for a future gathering) with the energy and ability to show whether we are truly an organisation and collective of peasants, how we want to struggle to defend farmland from destruction and land grabbing, bringing more people to the fields in order to feed ourselves at the same time as experimenting with new ways of relating to one another which are more respectful; respectful towards each other and towards our immediate environment, at the same time becoming

more empowered in our daily lives.

To finish, I only wanted to say that I am always very pleased to see you all, I enjoy working with you and I still really want to move forwards and be a headache to those who are destroying our lives and the Countryside. I would really like to go and visit you where you are and where you are struggling. I ask for your understanding for how I lost my patience and I'm sorry for those who felt bad for it. At the same time, I would like you to know that I understand myself better now, I am more aware of my own limits and what I am capable of. See you soon and I'd love it if at the next gathering we could go for a walk together.

L



Towards an Intergalactic Zine Library

More zines means more Ideas

Hello,

Doubt is all around us as we try to find our place somewhere between revolution, transition and resignation. It seems like an important moment to be sharing ideas at this moment of massive social change. As well as breaking with the old ways of doing things, we will also need tools to be a part of these changes, to feel confident and look at the future with a cool head. But the question remains as to what we will do when there is no more dumpster diving, hospitals, public services and social security. Sharing knowledge is essential, starting from now!

With this in mind, we need to act now and reappropriate this knowledge. We can find it in published books, the experience of our elders, collective practises, by trial and error, by questioning taboos in society. Simple solutions exist for so many problems, but are often tricky to discover. The idea isn't to make a list of them or to get lost in a pile of zines, but to reach our own conclusions. Let's go out and steal books, bootleg them, invite the old lady down the hall for a cup of tea. We don't need to tell you where to look, but we want to tell you that the time is now.

We feel that rage and criticism are essential to our struggle, but are also saddened by the lack of hope and constructive solutions we see in our zine libraries. This is why we are keen to share practical information and proven alternatives which are popping up all around us, but are often apt to ignore.

Why together ?

Working on your own may be more effective, but without the presence of others, it often means constantly reinventing the wheel. Those others may be friends, or they may be people with a profoundly different view of society. In many situations, collectives prove stronger and we think the same can happen with writing.

We are not looking for THE solution, but a large range of propositions, to pick and choose and nourish as each of us chooses. With this in mind,

let's not limit our subject matter. By providing a diversity of styles and form we can provide information which is accessible to all interested persons.

Throughout the Constellation

In Can Piella, the old idea of having a communal infokiosk for Reclaim the Fields began to form. A group was created to bring together this information and share it on the Internet. RtF zines already existed and we don't intend to replace them, or even focus particularly on RtF, but rather cover a range of topics on different issues.

This is a callout to the Universe. We want to know:

- Does this interest you? Would you find these zines useful?
- Do you like writing or drawing? Do you like putting information together?
- Could you help edit, collect, review, translate, print, upload, distribute?

We wish you a merry journey. For now we await your reply, your desires and maybe one day your company.

This is a broadcast from the Intergalactic Cloud of Ideas: **NEB**

You can already access a number of these zines through the Reclaim the Fields website, or contact us by mail: milesdearboles@mailoo.org



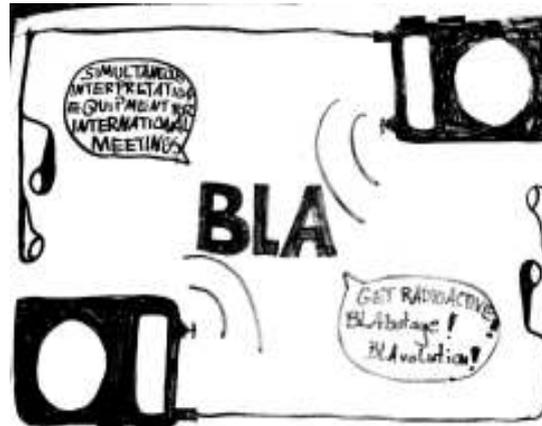
BLA-revolution!

Since late spring 2013 a group of people mostly emerging from RtF met up regularly to create a collective for the technical support of simultaneous translation.

The idea of a low-cost DIY collective technically facilitating interpretation is already practised by COATI, a collective based in Barcelona, who came regularly to help with interpretation during international RtF gatherings. So far they were the only ones in Europe to work together with groups and social movements with a not-for-profit background. As they could not come to the RtF Camp in Hambacher Forst in August 2013 some people preparing the camp decided to create a new collective to meet the needs concerning interpretation. This is how BLA came into life.

The Climate Camp and RtF Camp in August/September 2013 at Hambacher Forst were our first experiences in working together as a collective. Before the start of the camps we had met up twice, once to talk about the creation of this collective and another time to have a basic skill-sharing weekend with one of the COATI persons. At the same time some people of BLA were occupied with the organisation of the technical material needed to make interpretation possible for several hundreds of people with different needs. We achieved to buy some basic equipment and borrowed the rest from COATI and others. So there is still quite a long way ahead of us to be autonomous in terms of material but solutions are currently being prepared.

And what is happening to BLA now after the camps at Hambacher Forst?



BLA Connecting People¶

BLA was born out of a need for technical solutions concerning interpretation during RtF and Climate Camp – but this was only the very beginning! We are very motivated to continue and work on becoming more autonomous in terms of material and more experienced concerning the handling of the equipment. So we worked out

more clearly what for, with whom, how, and under which circumstances BLA wants to work in the future:

BLA wants to help reducing domination and power systems linked to language knowledge by providing technical equipment for interpretation. We are convinced of language serving as a means to maintain domination systems related to colonialism, sexism, classism, and want to work on practical solutions to fight them.

BLA wants to work as a collective supporting (radical) social and ecological movements and struggles who are horizontally organised, opposing capitalism and domination systems. BLA wants to support DIY events, and groups and organisations helping people to organise their lives in alternative ways.

BLA wants to work under circumstances making it possible to create time and space to talk about domination issues linked to language, but also address issues of sexism.



BLA-revolution!

Get Radio Active!¶

If you did not attend the camps and have never seen COATI working with their equipment you might be interested in a quick explanation of how BLA technically makes interpretation possible. Our DIY simultaneous interpretation system works with equipment consisting of small radios and radio transmitters. Each participant of a meeting or workshop is equipped with a radio and headphones through which they listen to the discussion in their language. When speaking to the group people can do this in whatever language they feel comfortable in. What they say is interpreted simultaneously into all languages needed. So in addition to the manifold amount of languages in which participants can express themselves, there is hardly any time loss. The different languages into which interpreters are interpreting are transmitted on different radio frequencies that can be listened to through the radios. So participants tune their radios to the frequency they need, thus the language they need, to follow the meeting.

If you want to get into contact with us please send an email to: blabotage@riseup.net
See you at the next international RtF gathering!!"



-„Save the Schwarze Sulm“-

The "Schwarze Sulm"- Plans to build a dam on a nature reserve and privatize its water

The "Schwarze Sulm" in south-western Styria is one of the last free-flowing rivers in Austria. For 15 years, the land-owners Peter Masser and Alfred Liechtenstein have been pushing the construction of a hydroelectric power station. Up to 65% of the water from 12 kilometres of river, would be drained by a pipeline directly next to the river. The potential electricity generated is so little, that it would only be profitable after several decades. But it's not about the electricity - a building permit grants Masser rights to the water, and it appears they are keen to sell this excellent drinking water.

For the river, flora, fauna and surrounding forest, the aftermath of the project would be fatal. From the beginning, people have mobilized to prevent the construction going ahead, especially members of the local community. In the last months, the first construction vehicles wheeled into the area. And from then on, resistance has reached another level. Little by little, three protest-camps were set up.

The ownership of the river is complex: a big part belongs to Masser, Liechtenstein, and their potential allies. Parts of the other properties belong to people who oppose the power plant.

For months, the damming of the "Schwarze Sulm" and the consequent destruction of one of the last free flowing rivers in Austria hung in the balance. However, now the Styria regional council where the "Schwarze Sulm" is located has approved the construction and also the privatization and commercialization of a large stretch of water.

The last chance to stop construction going ahead on the legal front is an objection from the Department of Environment at the Higher Administrative Court. If the Minister of Environment does not take this up, those protecting the "Schwarze Sulm" are ready to find other means to prevent the construction and save the area from destruction!!!

More information in German is available at:

schwarzesulm.org

Violent eviction

at the GangGraine and the Vis-la-Resistance in

AGAINST THE LEO AND ITS WORLD -
FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE
AGRICULTURAL LAND OF THE GREEN BELT

Avignon

Since February 2012, we have been occupying 2 houses on the edge of Avignon on greenbelt land - the GangGraine, a collective living space, and the Vis-la-Resistance, a DIY space for activities. These houses were bought up by the Council in 2007 in order to build the LEO motorway on this land, which links the East of



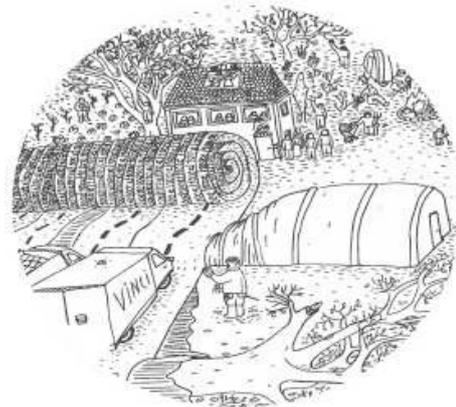
France to the West.

On Tuesday 5th November at 6am, demolition trucks along with more than 100 members of the forces of law and order arrived to evict the two houses: bailiffs, police officers, military police, undercover, council workers, removal persons, manual labourers, vehicle removal services and other state representatives. All this even though at the time we were six people, two chickens and a cat... Their arsenal was somewhat disproportionate. The police forced open the door with a battering ram and removed us from the house. They ordered us to vacate the premises immediately; it was only later we were allowed to collect some personal possessions, although not all. When we returned to collect our things, the cops were enjoying themselves smashing the windows and openly taking the piss out of us. To stop people being alerted to what was happening a wave breaker was used to disable mobile telephones. The whole greenbelt was surrounded by cops. By the end of the afternoon, both buildings, the garden, cabins, the henhouse and surrounding trees were nothing more than a pile of rubbish. This eviction was totally unexpected: a process of appeal was due to take place in February (it was sought by DREAL, the Regional Body for the Environment and Housing). The eviction was in fact wrangled through a particularly vicious interpretation of the law - it was ordered as there were no identifiable inhabitants (although all they had to do was look at the letterbox in front of the house any time in the past month for our names).

In the media we were treated in a way which was both disgusting and ridiculous. We were sickened to see the military police posing for this photo op of an eviction. The day afterwards an inhabitant had their photo published on the front page of the local paper without their consent or face blurred, which is illegal in France.

Once the inhabitants were evicted, the local Police Chief took advantage of the opportunity to parade himself in front of the house - a faultless bastion of Law and Order. He insisted that the eviction was absolutely legal, bending the Law and order of events to suit their purposes. This eviction comes at the perfect time for local politicians, just a few months away from the pantomime of the local elections, at a time when there is some scandal and political pressure around the LEO.

This occupation took place in the context of a struggle against the proposed LEO motorway. This project would join the A7 and A9 via greenbelt land, one of the last pieces of rich agricultural land on the edge of Avignon. On April 27th 2013, a demonstration-occupation took place to create publicity for the struggle, followed by 5 days during which the land was occupied. Since February, there have been about 15 of us at the GangGraine, and since the inauguration of the Vis-la-Resistance at the beginning of May, the collective has organised a number of events: cinema nights, concerts, canteens, debates, meetings... The collective 'Horta' has been growing vegetables in the area. This place is somewhat unique in being 15 minutes on a bicycle from the town centre but still in the countryside. A number of links have been built up with neighbours in the area.



Even though there is no financial support for the LEO until sometime between 2030 and 2050 they still destroyed these houses. In fact, it was only this summer that a government body decided to refuse financial support for the project until between 2030 and 2050. Still, local politicians remain quite attached to the project. Farmland and buildings are evicted although the LEO may never happen. One house was already destroyed in July 2013. In spite of the delay in finances, the LEO is beginning to bulldoze its way through the countryside, destroying everything in its path.

It may have been violent, but it is not the death knell of this collective. We're still full of beans!

The GangGraine collective

The next European assembly

13-16 February 2014

When and where?

The next European assembly of RtF will take place from 13 till 16 February 2014 at Hofkollektiv Mühle Nikitsch in Nikitsch, in the South of Graz in Burgenland in Austria.



Why?

During the discussions about the functioning ("process") of RtF during the camp in Manheim last summer, it was decided to focus the next European meeting on the question of our functioning to end with decisions that we can experiment then. It was asked to organize this meeting rather to the east of Europe, to not be almost only between French... That explains the choice of Austria.

For whom?

This meeting is addressed to the persons already involved in RtF, so that we move forward together on this internal question of the functioning. It is always possible to invite persons from "outside" RtF, with the condition of explaining to them beforehand what it is because we shall not dedicate time to present and to explain RtF. We recommend to the local groups or the stars that are geographically close, to get organized to send only few persons because we can not be more than 40 persons for logistic reasons.

To help in the preparations of these meetings

What you can do:

- Get organized with the other stars of the constellation around you to know who of you will come in Austria from 13 till 16 February for the meeting
- Get organized with the other stars of the constellation around you to transmit what will have been discussed and decided
- join the preparation group, at the moment we are 5 among which are 4 french people. Besides we are going to need translators, thus be ready!
- You can also organize an event of support so that we have a bit of money for expends.

Sketch of the program

Day 1: functioning of RTF/ objective: to discuss and find decisions to restructure the fonctionneemnt of RTF, and modify if needed some tools

Day 2: local groups/ objective: discussion and experience sharing to help in the development of the local groups

Day 3: strategy and alliances/ objective: discussion to direct us to priorities and clarify the question of the alliances

Day 4: rest, spare time between us! Obviously, we shall take time to share information, give news, understand the local context, to redo the world and all that!

Logistic tracks (more details later):

Transport: there is busses towards Austria. There will be cars leaving from France, in which spanish, portugueses, english, etc people could get a ride.

Translation: BLA will be with us!

THE BIG CARAVANE

OF POSSIBILITIES AND IMAGINATION



The caravan is a small nomad troupe. Friends who travel together, who follow their own way and then meet up again, at the next stop.

The caravan is on a journey, but it doesn't go that fast. It stops two weeks here, three weeks there... to take the time to live on the spot.

It tries to create solid ties, without imposing even so. We want to leave in Spring, with bikes and saddlebags, small trailers and tandems...

Some trucks to load yurts, tipis, and material of all kinds. Hitched in the back, converted caravans : a travelling kitchen, a library, a craft work workshop... and also, why not, a studio for radio, photo, a screen printing workshop...

And here we go...

Let's go happy troupe!

Events in the countryside where we invite citizens, and vice versa... the milk shake technique.

In town we can give a good hand on collective gardens, to help squat projects move forward, with non-profits... trying to make all these persons who are going towards the same direction, but who don't always know each other, meet.

We make big paintings on the walls, post cool posters, make improvised spectacles-parties, all kind of actions, fly projections, we hand out brochures, books, we plant vegetables in the flower-beds, we cook in the street...

And then the caravan sets off again, with new ideas, new persons and new knowledge within its luggage.

Some of us stay longer on the spot, others go their own way... Who knows ? We'll probably meet again at some stopover.



AND YOU WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO ?

THE BIG CARAVANE



OF POSSIBILITIES AND IMAGINATION



**News
in
january 2014**

In december 2013, there was a two week long gathering in the French Dordogne with the aim of making some firm plans for the Caravan. At various moments there were between ten and thirty of us!

We began to get to know to each other, shared experiences of former caravans, our nomadic lives, our struggles and political actions, our dreams and some practical stuff. Beyond this, we also built some beautiful flexi-yurt structures, a "skipping choir" attended the local market, we had a party and much more.

Beside all that we started to get organized: some small working groups formed at the heart of our great caravan! As for food, there will be a kitchen collective following us, preparing meals here and there. There is the funloving troupe of activists which will use every possible moment to raise havoc with clownery, music, dancing and song... What can we say about the library bus? Well it'll be an endless source of readings, film showings, mouse clickings and all manner of weird and wonderful ideas. Oh yeah! And for all our friends interested in political actions, there are a lot of ideas to plan and put into action. As for planting, we'll be carting along a travelling garden, tools, plants and much more...

Our objectives are: to live as nomads and build links between us through this process; experience living collectively; question societies' norms; do 'political' work, intervene, inform, intrude...

Finally the question of our date of departure remains fixed as Spring, although when is not exactly clear...the working groups will meet over Winter to prepare, work, discuss and generally have a good time together...

For further information, share ideas, get involved or anything else...

caravane@riseup.net

Once upon a time there was a family of peasants in France¹ - the Lavoine's. For generations, they had their cows, a great range of different crops, a few pigs and a little garden next to the house. They might not have had an easy life, but it was a joyful one, and they knew what they were eating.

In 1953, their plates were full of meat and dairy like almost anywhere in France².

It was early one morning in 1962, and they were listening to the radio just before milking time, when they first heard a journalist announce the first CAP³ (Common Agricultural Policy)

But these big political decisions seemed along way away from their cows and pigs...

The years go by and they decide to make the farm bigger and their family more comfortable. Little by little they start to follow the instructions comig from Europe. The Lavoine's get bigger and bigger and get more and more profits.⁴

The farm is full of pigs, because that's where the money is. A relative in the US is growing soya on a big scale, so there's no trouble finding a way to feed them. That uncle in the US doesn't even need to pay any taxes to ship it over.⁵ Perfect!

As for the waste milk produced, it wasn't too bad. The farmer comes up with a solution in the pub with his mates : "We can send the rest to our poor little brothers in Africa". We're talking about powdered milk of course.⁶ But after a few years, the State says: "OK Lavoine's, enough of this already! We ain't gonna keep paying all your production costs forever."⁷



*Now⁸ friends, readers, ladies and gentlement,
it's up to you to decide the ending to this tale:
is it to be a happy one or not?*

The Sad Ending:

The family adapts its production to demmand. The Lavoine's get rid of their cows and their traditional stronghold. The fields lie empty and become corn fields. They increase the number of pigs and build bigger buildings for them thanks to loans on 'special offer' from the bank. The new tractor with GPS makes work easier with so many acres. It's good things are going well as they need to keep producing more and more if they are to pay off those bank loans. The paperwork is stacking up on the desk and they seem to spend more time filling out paperwork than in the fields. The Lavoine's have no time to spend with their children or teach them about their practices. Instead they send them to agricultural school, so they'll know exactly how to get those EU subsidies. Lucky for them, a talented psychiatrist moved into the village, and now two thirds of their clients are local farmers...

The Happy Ending:

The Lavoine's realise the absurdity of the situation and to appease their anger take a few pots of paint. Along with their friends they write across the walls of the Ministry of Agriculture: "Long live Food Sovereignty! We can go it alone!" Together they decide that they can still be independent of the CAP and grow the quanties they want and need by organising with their neighbours. As they begin to share more and more of their lives with those around them they become aware of the awesome change it has made to their daily lives. But the Lavoine's still sometimes need money and appeal to their friends for solidarity when they need to make large purchases. Their friends are happy to come and have parties together, workdays and days of struggle. And above all, eat well...

This text comes from a workshop at the RtF camp in August 2013 where a small group of us talked about our feelings towards the CAP and its recent reform⁹. The idea was above all to show that the PAC affects all of us even if we are not benefitting from it. During the discussion, we asked ourselves a number of questions, which lead to a few responses we'd like to share with you.

We quickly realised that none of us are interested in reforming or replacing the PAC, as it is essentially part of the capitalist system. Since the beginning, the CAP has been a means of acquiring capital which has defined farming practices for the market. It is more a case of understanding the reality faced by farmers today and helping them search for alternatives.

One question concerned us in particular. How can we escape this dependency on EU grants? Most farmings collectives we know are financed by donation, dole money or other grants. How do these forms of funding affect our visions and practices? Is it that bad to be dependent on money coming from the outside, money which doesn't directly come from the sale of our produce?

Who decides what we produce and how? How can we take the power back on a local level and stop being dependent on the State and the markets? What resources could we develop collectively to make us less dependent and reliant on the CAP which only really benefits the big players?

Can we disassociate ourselves entirely from the norms already established by the CAP? How could RtF develop a position towards peasant movements faced with the latest reform? Or should we have a position?

These are a lot of questions, which we'd like to see discussed at future gatherings...

Some reading that inspired this article:

- * Comprendre notre agriculteur et la PAC, 2002, Olivier de Gasperet , Editions Vuibert
- ** Une agriculture pour la XXIème siècle, 2007, Mathieu Calame, Editions Nature et Progrès
- *** Un viel homme et la terre, 2004, Edgar Pisani, Editions du Seuil

notes:

1. This text is written from a French point of view, France being the country which has put most energy into creating the CAP and the country which has benefitted most from it for some time. The financing of the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund or EAGGF was created in 1964 with contributions from member states according to VAT rates. Each member state received according to the size of their agricultural sector and contributed according to the wealth of their economy: the consequence of this is that France did very well out of this system, while Germany with its sizeable contributions chose to develop its agriculture to simply break even.
2. One way of saying that since the 50's, France has produced excess meat and dairy*, and that 'saving the population from famine' was no longer a believable claim for the supporters of the PAC to make. The Marshall plan had already done this when it converted arms factories into tractor factories, and those producing gas and munitions to fertiliser and pesticides.**
3. This came into force in 1962. It was planned since the Rome treaty in 1957 and was especially pushed forward by France. Their objectives were (and still are) to fix common prices for most raw agricultural produce, to give farmers a fair income on condition they are sufficiently productive and to implement measures to stabilise prices. There are three basic principles behind the measures which have since been implemented: the creation of a single agricultural market (i.e. import and export taxes within Europe have disappeared), community preference (i.e. import/export duty which protect 'us' against 'the rest of the world') and economic solidarity (i.e. all countries contribute to putting these measures into practice). In practice, this guaranteed lucrative prices for staple farm produce while assuring an outlet for European farmers in a competitive international market by fixing two prices: an 'intervention' price (where the authorities would buy any merchandise which could not find a buyer) and a 'threshold' price (which would be the cost of production in Europe and below which produce could not enter the European market).

4. The idea was to make European farming competitive (and at the same time 'free up' resources and workforce for developing Industry). In 1968, the Mansholt plan was adopted to restructure the CAP system (for example, qualifying farmers required a minimum of 40 dairy cows), to improve performance and to help more than 5 million peasants leave farming.
5. Since its creation, the CAP has found a place for farming in global economic negotiations. It was accepted by the United States (and other GATT signatories) on condition that it would not affect taxes on oil-producing seeds or corn. A major factor influencing this policy was to maintain competition between European agriculture and the US, which explains why the focus was on produce and not on structures. "For a long time I believed that this result was achieved due to excess production. We were asking for it. If I hadn't have been so naive at the time, I might have questioned the constant debate between those favouring 'prices' and those favouring 'structures' " Said Edgar Pisani***, at the time Minister for Agriculture and major player in the implementation of the CAP. In 1972, 1973, he claimed that the CAP had reached its primary goals and needed reform, but came up against a wall of productivist bureaucracy which prevented any change of direction. In the 80's, a reform of the CAP was created (which would end in 1992) with the aim of replacing aid measures with market warnings which could influence the direction of European agriculture.
6. Changing agricultural structures quickly leads to a growth in production of dairy, cereals and meat and rapidly creates surplus which States must sell at a loss and/or stock : hence the existence of products such as 'Christmas butter', at a low price, or powdered milk sent to the so-called 'Third World'.
7. The consequence of this costly surplus to the State is that measures are actually taken to decrease production: quality control is put in place to benefit from the 'intervention' price, the periods of intervention are restricted, quotas were created (in 1984 for milk, in 1986 for oily seeds...). Then came the 1992 reform, which attempted to make the CAP compatible with the rules of international commerce. It created grants based on the number of hectares or animals, rather than interfering with prices. The reform also forced farmers for the first time to leave fallow land in order to benefit from these grants (15% of useable land in 1992, 5% in 1997). With the creation of the World Trade Organisation, Agriculture became included in its agreements and grants provided by the CAP were divided into different 'boxes': The 'green box' for grants which would not affect the market ('disconnected' grants separate from production, grants linked to protection of the environment, etc.) which still exists today; The 'blue box' concerns grants for those limiting their production, which would continue to exist until January 1st 2004; A 'red box' for grants which could distort the market and which should ultimately disappear (this includes grants linked to price, production, grants for investment, purchases of material, etc.)
8. A shift in time which added conditions to grants from 1997 onwards (they would have to comply with environmental legislation) and created a second pillar of the CAP in 1999 linked to rural development (Agro-Environmental Measures, support for poor areas, support for modifying and commercialising farming produce, etc.). The 2003 reform then disconnected all grants from production: support was still linked to payment per acre. At this point a number of countries entered the EU with very different agricultural situations, doubling the population of farmers in Europe.
9. The new reform in 2013 was subject to massive Union demonstrations and somewhat surprisingly made almost no difference whatsoever. Demonstrations continued on a national level and the 2013 reform introduced the notion of regional differences of CAP within a State.



green



manure

plant	month for sowing	g seeds per m ²	time for development (in weeks)	
Egyptian clover, berseem clover (<i>trifolium alexandrinum</i>)	III-IX	5	8	nitrogen fixing, hardy, don't plant before peas of beans
pea (<i>pisum sativum</i>)	III-X	25	10	nitrogen fixing, not hardy, don't plant before peas of beans
lupin (<i>lupinus sp</i>)	IV-IX	15	10	very good nitrogen fixer, not hardy, good apt for deep subsoiling, a lot of green matter
lucerne/alfalfa (<i>medicago sativa</i>)	III-X	3	10	nitrogen fixing, apt for deep subsoiling, also for fairly dry locations, hardy
phacélie	III-IX	1.5	9	deep rooting, feed for bees, a lot of leaves and root matter
Rapeseed, colza (<i>brassica napus</i>)	IV-IX	2	9	not before other cabbage/brassica, good for feed, hardy, lot of leaves and root matter.,
mustard	III-X	10	8	loosens soil, grows fast, not before other cabbage/brassica, lot of green matter
serradella (<i>Ornithopus sativus</i>)	IV-IX	20	10	nitrogen fixing, good for light soil, resistant to dryness, not hardy,
Sunflower (<i>Helianthus annuus</i>)	IV-IX	2,5 – 3	9	lots of green matter, also apt for dry locations
clover (<i>trifolium</i>)	III-IX	1 – 2	9	nitrogen fixing, feed for bees, good for heavy soils, good root penetration, hardy
Winter rye (<i>secale cereale</i>)	IX-X	16	until spring	hardy, good root penetration of the soil, competitor for quitch

GÉNESIS Y CONTEXTO DE:



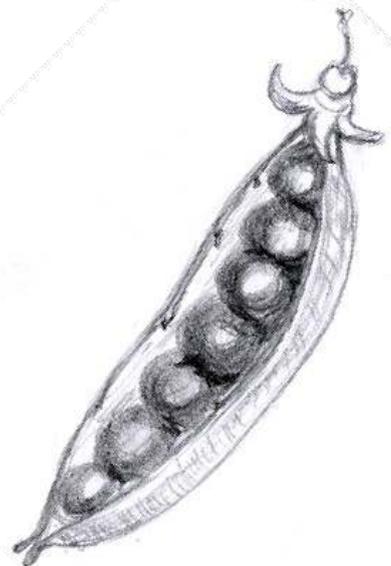
"EL ROCK DEL GARBANZO"

Genesis an context of the « garbanzo Rock »
(by french people sorry)

In a place of Andalousia, more concretly in a province known as Granada, more precisely in a small village called Dilar, a five unthreatenable group, after a long group work and several occupations in cities and countryside, we occupied an old and racked Andalous farm with two hectares of land (between other land and olive fields). There one day us and close friends decided to grow GARBANZO. The harvest was very good (more than half a tonne) and we decided to throw a party, the Garbanzo party, during the harvest, inviting all the village to dance, « The Garbanzo rock » among other songs, choregraphy included.



These dances were enjoyed over an old meddow that was full of stones, was unburried and reclaimed as an occupied land. There we sorted out the chick pea. More than 20 centimeters of sand, earth and vegetation hid it, and conserved it for let's say more than 20 years. The party was a full success, the garbanzos delicious, and the work done TODO ILLUSION and the song was recorded for the posterity. This happened in, the summer of 2012, and until today, the persons of this feature still remain politically and peasantely active.



EL ROCK DEL GARBANZO



BIS

(Sol) (Re)
EL GARBANZO ES REDONDO ①

(Do) (Mi)
EL GARBANZO ES MUY GORDO ②

(Sol) (Re)
LO RECOBEREMOS JUNTAS ③

(Do) (Mi) (Mi) (Mi)
CON GUAANTES ^① Y CON GORRO ^② ④

(Sol) (Re)
ES UN CULTIVO EXIGENTE ⑤

(Do) (Mi)
LE GUSTA MUCHO A LA GENTE ⑥

(Sol) (Re)
PROTEINA ^① DENTRO DE MI ^② ⑦

(Do) (Mi)
PARA ASÍ VIVIR FELIZ. ⑧

CHORUS
the chick pea is round
the chick pea is very big
it's an exigent culture
people like it a lot
proteins inside myself
so i can live happy

(Sol) (Mi)
OCUPAMOS UN SECANO
(Do) (Re)
Y UN CORTIJO EN MAL ESTADO

(Sol) (Mi)
Y UN CAMINO SIN ASFALTO

(Do)
NI AGUA NI LUZ
(Re)
NI UNA TIENDA A MANO.

(Sol) (Mi)
Y UN BUEN DÍA AL CALOR DE LA LUMBRE

(Do) (Re)
DECIDIMOS PLANTAR LEGUMBRE

(Sol) (Mi)
AVISAMOS A NUESTROS COLEGAS

(Do) (Re)
A LOS DEL VALLE Y A LOS DE LA VEGA

we are the fucking black chick pea
of the financial system

→ BIS

[Sol-Mi-Do-Re]

CUANDO SE LO CONTAMOS A LOS PAISANOS
QUE QUERÍAMOS PLANTAR GARBANZO
NOS DIERON QUE SI NO ECHÁBAMOS SULFATOS
ESTÁBAMOS FLIPANDO...

YO QUIERO CRECER FUERTE Y SANDO
NO QUIERO COMER QUÍMICOS GUARROS
YA NO VOY AL MERCADONA
LA NUEVA ERA EMPIEZA AHORA.

→ BIS

[Sol-Mi-Do-Re]

SALGO DE CASA, COJO UN KILO DE GARBANZOS
VAYA DÓNDE VAYA TENGO EL TRIUNFO ASEGURADO
EL LECHOSO O EL PEDROSILLANO
¿CUAL PREFIERES? ESTÁ EN TU MANO.
SOMOS EL PUTO GARBANZO NEGRO
DEL SISTEMA FINANCIERO
SOMOS EL PUTO GARBANZO NEGRO
DEL SISTEMA FINANCIERO.

→ BIS

BAILE COREOGRÁFICO

(del estribillo -bis-)



Reclaim the Fields
is a constellation of
individuals and collective
projects willing to go back
to the land and reassume the
control over food production.

We are determined to create
alternatives to capitalism through
cooperative, collective autonomous,
real needs oriented small scale production
and initiatives, putting theory into practice and
linking local practical action with global political struggles.

www.reclaimthefields.org

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