Who moved my food?

The politics & business of controlling what we eat
How do we look at food?

- Does it define who we are?
- Is it part of our culture?
- Or is it just a commodity?
- Has it become the primary goal of the global trade and investment?
Food choices

- Do we really have the option to choose what we eat?
- Or, is it decided by
  - Governments
  - Seed companies
  - Traders
Two meals

- If you like such food, are you sure what’s in them?
Two meals

Or in these?

Makki di roti

Lassi

Baingan ka bharta
Food Sovereignty

**Food sovereignty** is about the right of people to define their own food systems.

- It is about **putting the people at the centre of decisions on food systems** – those who produce, distribute and consume food.
It means we value food providers – by respecting the rights of peasants and small scale farmers, pastoralists, fisherfolk, forest dwellers, indigenous peoples and agricultural and fisheries workers, including migrants, who cultivate, grow, harvest and process food.
Food Sovereignty

- It means we bring food providers and consumers closer.

- It means building on the skills and local knowledge of food providers and others who conserve, develop, and manage localised food production and harvesting systems.

- It means developing appropriate research systems to support this.
Food Sovereignty

- It means working with Nature in diverse, low external input, agroecological production and harvesting methods so as to improve resilience and adaptation of agriculture in the face of climate change.

_____ from declaration of Nyeleni, 2007

- Sounds good, but can we make it happen?
But monopolies are growing

- 3 companies control more than half (53%) of the global commercial market for seed.
- Top 10 companies account for 73% of the global market (up from 67% in 2007).
- **MONSANTO** world’s largest seed company and fourth largest pesticide company, now controls more than one-quarter (27%) of the commercial seed market.
- **DOW AGROSCIENCES** world’s fifth largest pesticide company – made a dramatic re-entry on the top 10 seed company list in 2009 following a series of buyouts of seed companies across the world.
### Global Sales in € bn

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Company</th>
<th>Sales (€ bn)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monsanto</td>
<td>6.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DuPont / Pioneer</td>
<td>5.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Syngenta</td>
<td>1.9</td>
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<td>KWS</td>
<td>1.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vilmorin</td>
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*1,33 USD/EUR*
In Rajasthan, Gujarat, Orissa...

- Government is pushing hybrid corn
- Changing the traditional food security system
- Increasing farmers’ dependence on high-cost inputs
- Putting small cultivators at risk
The case of \textit{ragi}

- Government’s food policy
- Price and Procurement issues
- Skewed public distribution system
What can we do?

- Give control over territory, land, grazing, water, seeds, livestock & fish population to local food providers & respects their rights.
- Build knowledge and skills of food providers and their local organisations that conserve, develop and manage localised food production and harvesting systems.
- Develop appropriate research systems to support this and examine closely technologies that undermine or contaminate these before opting new systems.
Tragedy of AFRICA

- Thrust on GM by governments and do-gooders