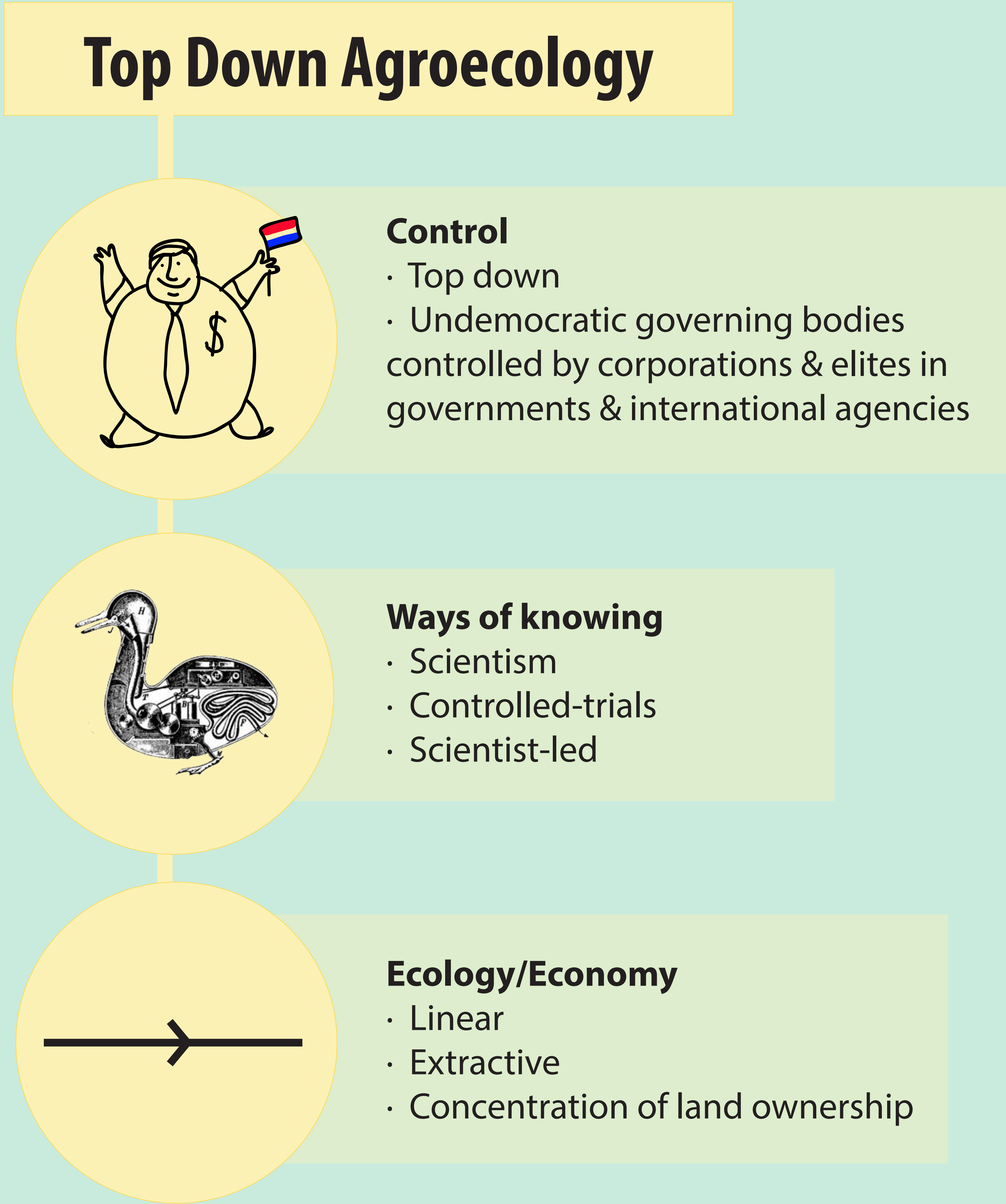
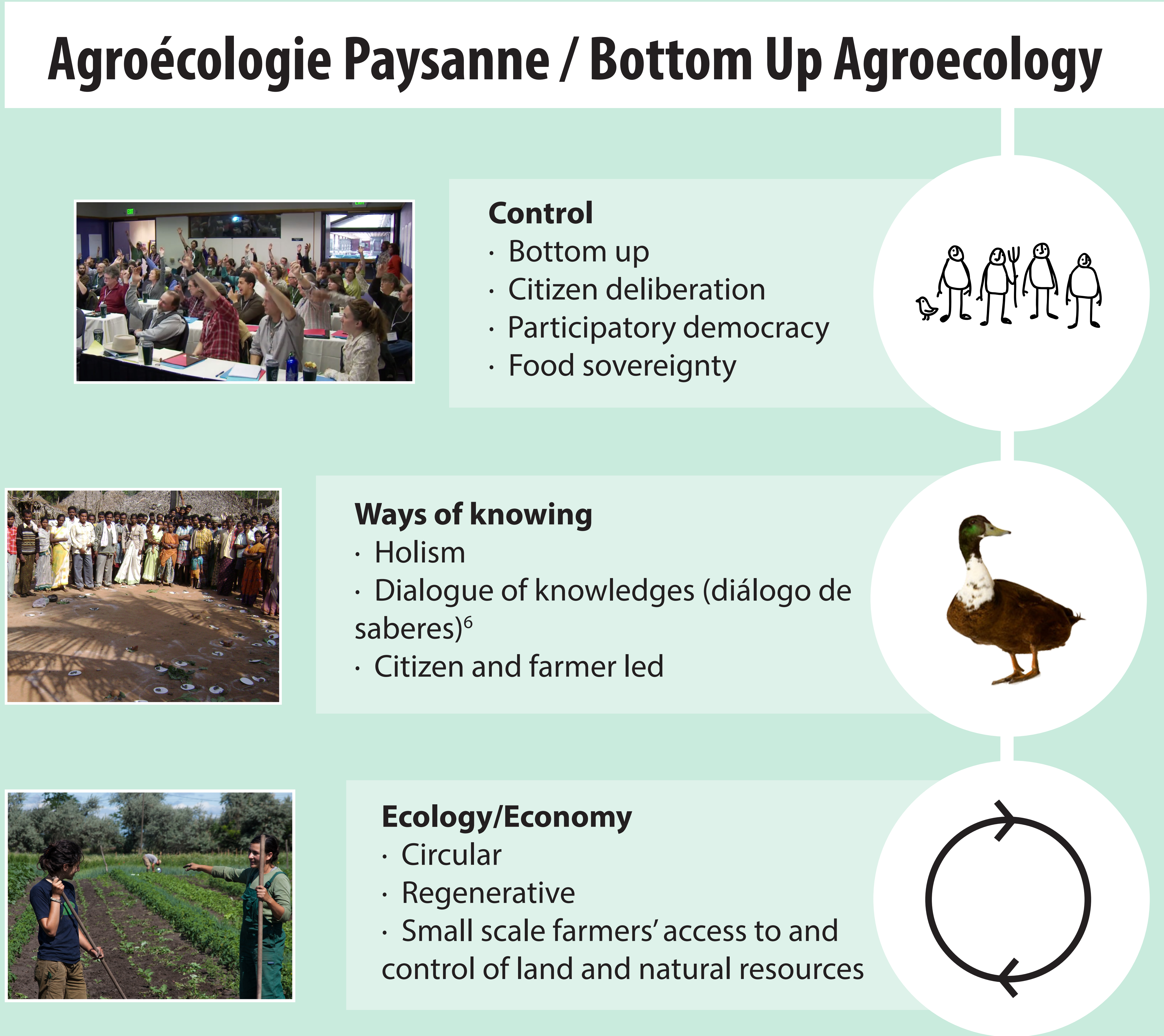


Reimagining Agroecology: Food Sovereignty and the Politics of Cooptation

Agroecology is now being incorporated into the plans of powerful governing bodies. It is widely seen as a framework to address the environmental, energy, food and water crises related to agriculture and food^{1,2}. However, civil society organizations have raised concerns that these institutions are mainstreaming agroecology in a way that reproduces the dominant logics and political-economic relations that underpin these intersecting crises^{1,3}. This cooptation of grassroots discourses has historical precedence as exemplified in regards to organic food, local food and other languages of sustainability. Civil society groups are thus contesting the cooptation of agroecology and asserting an Agroécologie Paysanne or a Peasant Agroecology³ - one that reflects fundamentally different socio-political relations based on principles of food sovereignty⁴. Food sovereignty emphasizes the political and economic rights of farmers, indigenous peoples, fishers, and consumer-citizens to determine food and agricultural policy and practice.^{4,5}



References
¹ Levidow, L., Neubauer, C. & M. Pimbert (2014). Agroecological Research in Europe: Fitting or transforming the dominant agro-food regime? Presented at the International Workshop on System Innovation, Paris, France, May 2014.
² IAASTD (2009). Agriculture at a crossroads. The global report of the International Assessment of Agricultural Knowledge, Science, and Technology. Washington, DC: Island Press.
³ Fédération Nature & Progrès, BEDE et al. (2014) Toward a Peasant Agroecology, 27 January, www.bede-asso.org/lang/fr/notes_actu/doc_actu/Agroecologie-paysanne_communique27janv2014.pdf
⁴ Nyéléni Forum for Food Sovereignty. (2007). Declaration of the Forum for Food Sovereignty. Selingué, Mali, 23–27 February. Retrieved September 11, 2014 from nyeleni.org/spip.php?article290
⁵ McMichael, P. (2005). Global Development and The Corporate Food Regime, in Frederick H. Buttel, Philip McMichael (ed.) New Directions in the Sociology of Global Development: Research in Rural Sociology and Development. (11) pp. 265 - 299.
⁶ Martínez-Torres, M. E., & Rosset, P. M. (2010). La Via Campesina: the birth and evolution of a transnational social movement. Journal of Peasant Studies, 37(1), 149–175.