

Preface

Many organizations working to promote agroecology and food sovereignty around the world are engaging in different kinds of mapping initiatives. People are mapping farms, markets, crop varieties and livestock breeds, soil fertility and water management practices, policies and more. In this guide, we focus on online interactive platforms that aim to list, communicate and/or share ‘what is going on where’ with respect to agroecology or food sovereignty.

The urge to map responds to a need to document, better understand and make visible the rapid emergence and evolution of agroecology and food sovereignty initiatives and movements. When we refer to these terms, we consider them to be interlinked visions for a food system that puts people and planet first, that is rooted in the agency and knowledge of food producers and citizens and that presents as an alternative to corporate-industrial food systems and other forms of oppressions.

Proponents of these movements are looking both to strengthen what already exists, and to facilitate the further scaling up and out of food system change, through understanding and communicating what is going on, and where it is happening. For more background information on agroecology and food sovereignty see the Nyeleni Declarations on Food Sovereignty (tinyurl.com/yyruc8ya) and on Agroecology (tinyurl.com/y52jlgj).

In 2018-2019, we carried out a small study to explore how mapping is being used in relation to agroecology and food sovereignty. Through an examination of a selection of 30 on-line mapping initiatives, interviews with their organizers and three focus group discussions with mappers from all over the world, we set out to ask: *Who is mapping? What are they mapping? And, how are they doing it?* This guide was built from the insights that emerged from this process. This document aims to highlight the issues, challenges and emerging opportunities that might arise when designing mapping processes to support mapping efforts to be more powerful tools for food system change.

This is just a start. We know that there is much more to learn about mapping practices that is not included here, including, for example, communication styles for social change, technical information about on-line mapping platforms, etc. We hope that you will take this forward and that future work will help to augment and improve this guide.



Nyeleni Europe Meeting, Romania

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www.agroecologynow.com

www.cultivatecollective.org

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Introduction

If you are reading this document, you are most likely thinking of starting a mapping project, or already are participating in one. Most mapping initiatives (Box 1) have a common aim of collecting information about agroecology or food sovereignty and to share it with others. Through our study, we have identified a series of questions that can help you reflect on your mapping project and think critically about how it can be most effective as a tactic for food system change:

- a) Why map? What are the objectives of the mapping project?
- b) Who is doing the mapping?
- c) What is being mapped (by what criteria)?
- d) What is the format of the final outcome?

While you most likely have already thought through some of these questions, they are important because the answers to each of them imply consequences and trade-offs for the mapping process and results. In the following section, we elaborate on each of these the questions and their implications as they can help evaluate exiting mapping initiatives or make informed decisions for how to design and undertake a new mapping initiative.

Box 1 - What is Mapping for Agroecology and Food Sovereignty?

Mapping helps us understand both what is going on in agroecology and food sovereignty, where it is happening and by whom. For this work, we understand mapping to go beyond associating an experience or initiative with geographical coordinates on a cartographic map to convey spatial information. We consider 'mapping' to include a searchable compilation of information about, for example, initiatives, policies, or actors at various levels (local, regional, national) that include geographical location. We also include evolving, interactive mapping projects that are intended to be used to advance sustainable and just food systems. Rather than a one-off static report/map, most of these maps are built up over time as web-based platforms that generally have interactive features such as clickable data points or the possibility to find or add further information on a pop-up window or nested page.

1. WHY: What are the objectives of your mapping project?

We have identified four common objectives driving mapping work: inspiring (1.1), networking (1.2), evidence-building (1.3), marketing (1.4). These objectives are not mutually exclusive categories, but often one objective is more dominant. Furthermore, each of these different objectives implies a particular primary audience for the map and a different intended learning process that leads that particular audience to action.

1.1 Is your objective to *inspire* people?

Maps that intend primarily to inspire people aim to show what is working, what is possible, and the extent to which agroecology or food sovereignty initiatives are thriving in a particular area. These maps make agroecology or food sovereignty initiatives visible and evident to the public. If your objective is to inspire people, different approaches are needed for different audiences.

- *Do you want to inspire new people to get involved in food movements?* In this case, the implicit audience you are intending to reach are people outside of the food movement. To engage people in a learning process that helps them to think deeply about their food system or change their behaviors or practices, language and style must be written for and targeted to a less-informed audience.
- *Do you want to inspire your own movement to stay motivated?* Some maps aim to keep people involved in a movement inspired. Reflecting back the vibrancy of the movement, making other initiatives visible or highlighting successes from other cases in the form of a map can provide confidence to a growing movement. Here, movements learn about what they are doing well and gain consciousness of their collective-ness. In this case the audience you are intending to reach is the people who already understand and believe in agroecology and food sovereignty. Stories and evidence can aim to provide a deeper analysis, or a motivating case of success.

Some important things to consider with this objective are: presenting compelling visual material (e.g. photos, video) to accompany your map; giving users an opportunity to click through to more comprehensive case study information; presenting a diversity of inspiring experiences to appeal to a wide array of users.

Box 2 - To INSPIRE! - The example of Access to Land in the European Union

This mapping initiative, focused on increasing access to land for agroecology (Accesstoland.eu), aims to promote the emergence and consolidation of grassroots initiatives. It brings existing grassroots organizations from across Europe together “to strengthen practical knowledge - on both problems and solutions - in the field of access to land for agroecological farmers”. The collective work of 15 groups represented on the website addresses an existing movement which they form a part. The map and accompanying information aim to inspire, strengthen and provide resources for groups working to secure access to land for agroecology. The map highlights some cases around Europe—it is not meant to be an exhaustive map of all initiatives in Europe. Systematic information on each case is available with the click of a button.

1.2 Is your objective to build an evidence base?

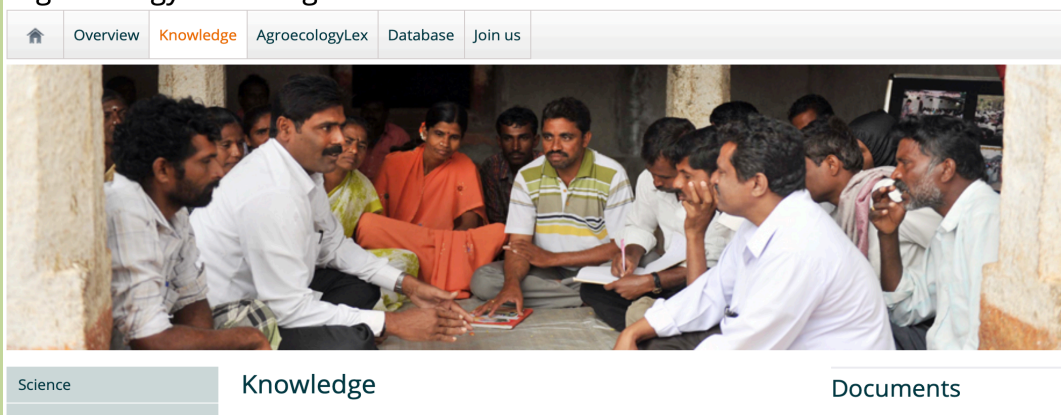
Mapping initiatives that aim build an evidence base collect and organize information about agroecology or food sovereignty. Initiatives with this objective seek to better understand different aspects of agroecology or food sovereignty, track changes over time or to reach a deeper understanding of what is happening with agroecology or food sovereignty. Sometimes this might include using standard variables and characteristics in order to analyze the dynamics of agroecology or food sovereignty efforts in a particular region or context. The audience for this objective is typically external funders, policy-makers and institutions to which proponents intend to advocate to for further support for agroecology or food sovereignty efforts. The intention, in this case, is to show the legitimacy of agroecology and food sovereignty.

Some important things to consider with this objective are: collecting and presenting rigorous information; using a systematic approach to finding entries for the map; being transparent about the methodology for populating the map.

Box 3 - To build an EVIDENCE BASE. The example of The Agroecology Knowledge Hub

The Agroecology Knowledge Hub (<http://www.fao.org/agroecology/home/en/>) hosted by the United Nation's Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) has two components: the database and the AgroecologyLex. The database contains downloadable articles, videos, case studies, books and other relevant material in one online location. FAO staff add entries in a case-by-case process, further organizing the material based on its content using the 10 elements that the FAO has identified as properties of agroecological systems and approaches: diversity, co-creation and sharing of knowledge, synergies, efficiency, recycling, resilience, human and social values, culture and food traditions, responsible governance, circular and solidarity economy. The database is also searchable by location and includes material in many different languages. It also includes an option to search for information with gender related content. AgroecologyLex is a specialized database that contains legal frameworks, policies and programmes concerning agroecology around the world. Together, these two databases are building an evidence base for Agroecology.

Agroecology Knowledge Hub



1.3 Is your objective to facilitate networking?

Maps for networking are created with the purpose of helping to link different actors involved in agroecology or food sovereignty initiatives in a particular region. The very process of generating and keeping up the map was reported to help to widen and strengthen a network. The intention is that the map can act as a mechanism for actors to learn about both who else is out there, what is going on nearby, but also about how to connect, exchange knowledge and work together for collective action. These networking initiatives are being carried out at different levels, from local to global, depending on the scope of the mapping project.

Some important things to consider with this objective are: to use the map-making process itself to start to connect actors; to bring actors together in-person who are represented on the map; to incorporate the mapping into ongoing processes of network building.

Box 4 - For networking. The Example of the Community Seed Network

The Community Seed Network (<https://www.communityseednetwork.org>) connects and supports community seed initiatives and a platform for networking. Anyone working with seeds, as a seed saver or looking for a seed swap can create a profile and appear as on the map.



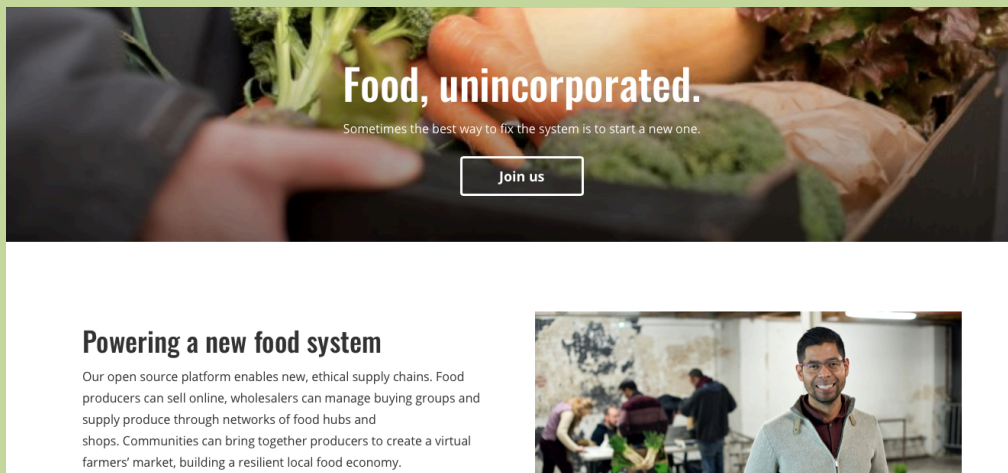
1.4 Is your objective to help to market products or services?

Maps aimed at marketing create an online platform for farms or stores to sell agroecological products. This kind of map intends to create a short chain economic transaction for producers to be able to sell directly to consumers, arranging points of pick up or delivery. Other maps aimed at marketing have a different focus, one in which organizations populate a map with the projects they are doing or supporting to showcase their work.

Some important things to consider with this objective are: creating a system for keeping the map up-to-date; including contact information;

Box 5 - For marketing. The example of the Open Food Network

The Open Food Network has developed an online platform for creating a global community to build a better food system with ‘social and ecological health at its core’. Each country involved has a map which anyone, a producer, store, consumer group, etc. can join (see the main platform, <https://openfoodnetwork.com>; for an example of a country map see, <https://www.openfoodnetwork.org/find-your-local-open-food-network>).



2. Who is doing the Map-Making?

The identity and interests of the people who are doing the map-making shapes the nature of the map and its potential for food system transformation. This brings up two points: representation, who is included or excluded from the map, and participation, who is making the decisions about what goes and what doesn't go on a map.

2.1 Representation

When looking at a map, it is important to think about what and who is represented, and who is not. Initiatives carried out by marginalized groups, including indigenous people, women, elderly or young people, etc. may be more likely to be overlooked or excluded than those of more privileged actors. Mapping, thus, has the potential to increase the visibility of already advantaged and visible groups and actors. Furthermore, the conscious mapping of marginalized groups could produce the opposite effect, bringing visibility to otherwise invisible initiatives. This, however, raises the issue of whether visibility is or is not desired by particular groups, especially where it could bring risks to groups working “under the radar” or facing direct threats of repression.

2.2 Participation

Maps can be developed through more or less participatory processes, involving a large group of people, or limited to a small team of professionals.

Less Participation: Some mapping initiatives are initiated by people who are not directly involved in the food system they are mapping and incorporate limited participation of the people and groups represented on the map. These initiatives aim to meet an observed need to strengthen the food system and may be initiated unilaterally or on the request of farmers, civil society or other organizations. They are often led by people working in NGOs, universities, or organizations such as the FAO who may have an overview of the agroecological landscape at a larger geographical scale.

In these mapping initiatives, decisions about who and what to include in the map are mostly carried out by the professionals doing the mapping and may target an audience beyond the direct participants in the local food system, such as policy-makers or interested citizens. In some cases, there may be some degree of consultation about the needs of the map users, however the locus of control rests with the professionals in the organization carrying out the mapping project. Maps made with less participation can be beneficial for certain objectives, such as mapping to build an evidence base and if the maps cover large geographical areas where active participation of large groups of actors may be more difficult.

More Participation: Highly participative mapping processes are often initiated by groups of producers and concerned citizens who identify a need for a map for their own use. When people come together to make a map, a process of learning and group building can occur. The exercise of jointly making visible who is doing what and where in a territory (figure 1) or defining the criteria for what to include as ‘agroecological’, or what is ‘food sovereignty’ can be a valuable exercise for the growth and evolution of a movement. When the map is created through a collective process, the feeling of ownership may be increased, and people may be more likely to continue to contribute to the map over time. Highly participatory mapping processes, led by grassroots organizations, can thus strengthen connections and agency within territories, ensure that the control of the process rests with front-line food system actors and resonates strongly with the principles of food sovereignty. It can also be difficult and time consuming to come to agreements.

clear criteria about what does and what does not get onto the map. This seems evident, but quickly cases can emerge that are borderline or bring up doubts about whether or not they should be included. Being clear on these issues can also help to contain a mapping project to keep it manageable in its scope with the possibility to expand in the future.

3.1 Criteria and control over what goes on the map

The issue of deciding when to include something or not as being agroecological can be complex. Because agroecology is based on principles, rather than firmly policed criteria, there is ambiguity around what is agroecological. The process of deciding how to determine what is or isn't included is, thus, a difficult and potentially contentious issue. It is important to think through your inclusion criteria and the process for adding or turning away an entry on a map. We found that mapping initiatives fall along a continuum of loose to rigorous control over inclusion/exclusion criteria.

Loose control is when the inclusion/exclusion criteria are loosely defined, or when the application of the criteria is flexible. For example, these kinds of maps tend to be open to the public to upload their own experiences, profiles, or initiatives with little or no vetting process. The advantage of this kind of map is that it can be more inclusive of diverse perspectives and is more accessible for all. The process of uploading a personal profile can lead to learning, create motivation and a feeling of belonging. The maintenance of this kind of map can be less dependent on the ongoing labor of a central coordinator. If you want your map to be as inclusive as possible, allowing people to self-identify what is agroecology/food sovereignty, you may go for an initiative that is loosely controlled. This approach is easier to implement as it is less labor intensive than more centralized approaches. The risk, however, is that the map may include entries that are more or less useful for users, or that may violate some principles of agroecology/food sovereignty.

Box 6 - Add your own profile

Ripe Near Me is an initiative to connect people who may have excess food growing in their garden with others who might be interested in purchasing it directly from the farmer or neighbor. You sign up, post what you have growing or ripe or search in your area to see who might have some food growing that you are interested in. Make your own profile and start! (<https://www.ripenear.me>)



Rigorous control is when there are strict control and criteria for what goes on the map and a process by which proposed entries are vetted against these criteria. When the criteria are clear and the mechanism for applying the criteria has been worked out, the information presented on the map is more likely to be consistent and coherent. This might

be particularly important for social movements who seek to maintain a strong political identity for agroecology/food sovereignty, or to exclude entries that cross red-lines (e.g. to exclude food grown using chemical pesticides). Another aspect of this kind of approach is a clear definition of, and control over the type of entry mapped. For example, a local map of people contributing to an agroecological food system would either only map one type of actor (food producer, for example) or clearly label the food producers, seed savers, research groups, etc. This approach can involve a systematic search for entries based on the criteria defined. This means that an organized attempt is made to cover a topic or a geographical region and record as many cases as possible (whatever they may be—for example, farms, varieties of seeds or policies) that fit the criteria. If you want to maintain a map with maximum rigor and reliability of the information presented, then you should consider setting rigorous criteria and a strong vetting process. It may be, however, more time and energy intensive to manage a rigorous vetting process.

Box 7 - A vetting process

In this mapping initiative, food system actors from all around Madrid came together to create a group called Agroecological Madrid (Madrid Agroecológico) and collectively make a map for the city. There are two maps, one of producers and one of agroecological alternatives, consumer groups, cooperatives, etc. (<http://madridagroecologico.org/mapas/mapeogruposconsumo/>).

They engaged in a collective process of deciding the criteria for their maps. The group published a blog explaining the objectives of the mapping initiative, where they are in the process, and the difficulties they encountered when defining criteria (see the text in Spanish: <http://madridagroecologico.org/mapeo-agroecologico/>). This kind of information is very useful for map users and also for those wanting to be represented on the map, as well as map users. In order to appear on the map, an individual or group can contact the organizers and the petition will get reviewed before deciding to add the initiative or not.

Medium Control: Many mapping initiatives fall in between ‘loose’ and ‘rigorous’ control, in which an organization or platform has made an inventory of related entries with clear criteria, but without intensive systematic control over the entries and curation of the final output. This means that criteria have been agreed upon, and that there is some mechanism for checking that these criteria apply to the case, but where the entries are still relatively ad/hoc (added to the platform as they are found, rather than actively searching for entries), more likely to be inclusive of borderline cases, and may mix different types of entries (informal documents, case studies, interviews, academic papers, websites, etc.) labeling them as such, or not.

These two components, control and participation interact with each other. In Box 8 we offer a visualization to think through where your initiative (or proposed initiative) is located against the two important dimensions of mapping projects: control and participation.

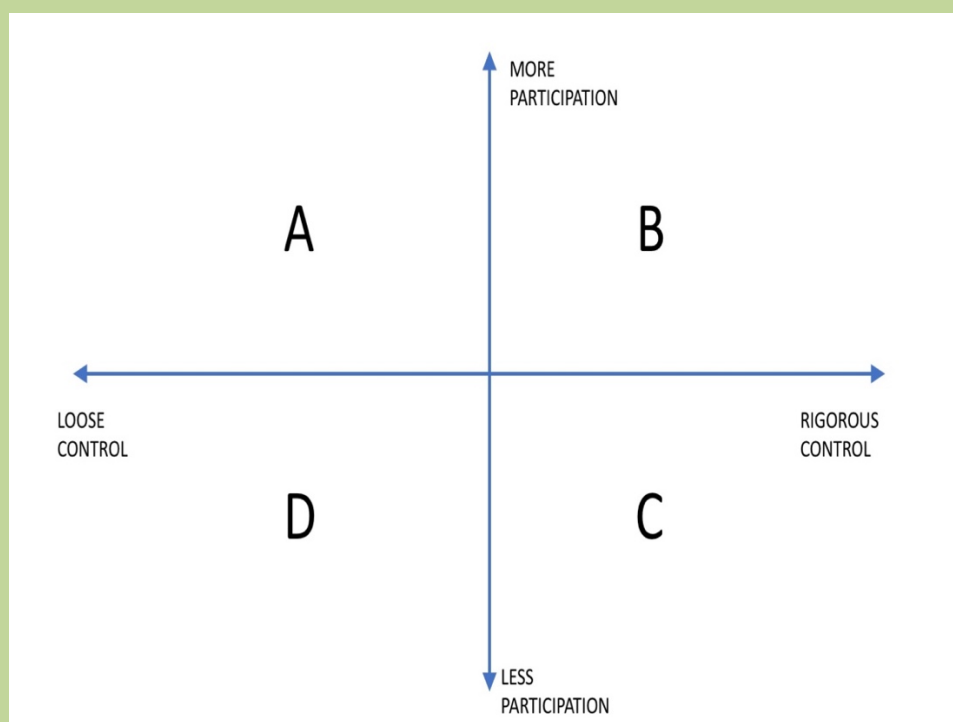
Figure 3 – Spectrum of control over entries on the map

Loose Control	Medium Control	Rigorous Control
Potential entries onto the map self-identify as agroecological or not and add themselves to the map with little or no vetting process.	Potential entries are examined against inclusion/exclusion criteria, but with variable consistency in the vetting process	Potential entries onto map are examined against strict inclusion/ exclusion criteria with a robust vetting process

Box 8 - Possible Scenarios Using the Two Dimensions of Mapping for Agroecology and Food Sovereignty

We have identified 4 broad characterizations of mapping initiatives combining different approaches of control and participation (Figure 4). There are tradeoffs involved in all of the mapping approaches, described below. It is highly recommended that map-makers openly communicate to the users of the map the criteria used (whether rigorous or loose), the process of criteria-development that was undertaken (whether participatory or not and how the criteria were reached). This information should be transparent and readily available as an addendum to any mapping product.

Figure 4 - Four broad characterizations of mapping initiatives



Scenario A: LOOSE CONTROL WITH MORE PARTICIPATION

In loose control with a higher degree and quality of participation, the entries included in these initiatives are likely to be diverse, broad and result from collective process involving multiple groups and individuals. This kind of mapping has the potential to reflect different ways of thinking about agroecology or food sovereignty and to collect a broader range of experiences but has the disadvantage of potentially being less reliable in terms of the relevance or rigor of the information presented.

Scenario B: RIGOROUS CONTROL WITH MORE PARTICIPATION

Rigorous control with more participation entails a carefully managed, closely facilitated participatory process in which a group collectively determines the criteria of what goes on the map and how the criteria are applied in practice. This approach can include a diversity of voices, perspectives and needs. For the most part the process itself has an intrinsic value, enabling learning and relationship building that is an important part of deepening agroecology or food sovereignty in a territory.

The advantage of this kind of mapping is that the relevance of the information collected is, in theory, more reliable (in that it matches a set of clear criteria defined by the group). The disadvantage is that it is highly labor and time intensive.

Scenario C: RIGOROUS CONTROL WITH LESS PARTICIPATION

In this approach, the selection of what does or does not appear on the map can be controlled by a closed group of people or even a single individual - this allows for homogeneous application of agreed upon criteria. The advantage of this approach is that the information presented has high consistency and more rigorous evaluation prior to inclusion, and can be done more quickly and is easier to manage than Approach B. The disadvantage of this kind of mapping is that it may exclude entries that fall out of view of the group of people controlling the mapping. For example, if the organization or initiative only speaks English, it may miss non-English areas or initiatives, or an initiative may somehow appear to fail to meet predetermined criteria but may still be relevant for agroecology or food sovereignty efforts in the region. One way to remediate this is to identify these blind spots and ask other groups to fill in any gaps. Another possible disadvantage is the high cost of verification and the challenge of keeping such a map up to date.

Scenario D: LOOSE CONTROL WITH LESS PARTICIPATION

This type of mapping is most likely to result in a 'repository' that documents events, cases, reports etc., related to agroecology or food sovereignty, but the entries may be unrelated to each other and there are no mechanisms in place to prevent the inclusion of non-agroecological initiatives. This type of map compiles information as a resource, and can mix different types of entries to include, for example, documents, farmers, or seeds in the same repository. The main advantage of this is that the map can be built little by little in an ad hoc way with minimal effort and resources. The decisions are made by one person or a small group of people, and while there are criteria for what does and doesn't get onto the map, they are somewhat loose, making space for different kinds of information and requiring less effort for evaluation and curation.

4. Outputs of mapping

Different approaches to mapping lead to different types of outputs or final products. These final products include anything from clickable maps with educational material or brief

descriptions of cases, to lists of initiatives associated with a particular place or a group of people, to un-curated repositories of articles or documents. All of the approaches mentioned above can lead to similar outputs--for example, rigorous control does not necessarily lead to a clickable map. Factors that may determine whether one type of approach or output is better than another for your case may include: financial resources, maintenance plan over time, your target audience and the technology or technical know-how you have available to you.

Making and maintaining maps is highly time, effort and resource consuming. Using this guide can help give an idea of where gaps in available resources may inhibit achieving certain objectives, or where compromises or synergies may be achieved through careful planning and avoiding having to make ad hoc course corrections later. Particularly, careful consideration should be given not to underestimate the time and resources required to keep a map up-to-date - both in terms of content and technology. To this end, there are examples of mapping software that automatically reminds initiatives on the map to update their profiles to systematically keep the map current (e.g., <https://www.localharvest.org/>).

Map makers must also choose what base-data and mapping system to use. Open source mapping systems like OpenStreetMap provide always-free and user-owned maps in the creative commons. Google Maps is ubiquitous and likely the most familiar system to users. However, Alphabet, Inc. (which owns and runs all Google products) is a technology giant and with questionable commitments to privacy, transparency, and democratic control. As a private company, Google Maps may also come at a cost - especially when maps become more successful and incur costs based on usage (Box 9).

Box 9 - Proprietary Mapping System Blues

Several of our case studies used Google's mapping platform, Google Maps. When these maps were built, the "Map API" had been a free-to-use platform, enabling initiatives to embed a Google Map within their website without cost. However, in 2017, google introduced a new pay-as-you-go pricing structure that requires websites and

applications that exceed a certain number of “calls” within the Google Maps API to use paid plans. Without warning, these maps became unusable and watermarked with the text “For development purposes only” (see map below from <http://map.seedmap.org>). In order to reinstate the maps, organizations will need to register and begin to pay. The technological underpinnings of many of these mapping initiatives were either set up without a budget or based on limited project funds and have no plan to cover ongoing costs associated with the new billing system.



5. Food for thought: Critical Reflections

on Mapping for Agroecology and Food Sovereignty

The maps we evaluated in our study highlighted a wide range of actors, approaches, objectives and possibilities for making visible, representing and amplifying agroecology and food sovereignty efforts at different scales. There are a range of exciting and powerful mapping initiatives that are helping to advance agroecology and food sovereignty with different approaches, goals and protagonists.

At the same time, we also heard from many of the map-makers we spoke to that there are some uncertainties and critical reflections on mapping. We reflect on some of these here to prompt your thinking on how to recognize, confront and reconcile the challenges and contradictions that arise when mapping for agroecology or food sovereignty. Making maps and releasing them to the public influences the public understanding of agroecology and food sovereignty. Therefore, it is important to critically reflect on our map-making practices.

A. Maps have the potential to shape how we understand agroecology and food sovereignty

Maps have the potential to shape what we understand to be agroecology or food sovereignty; it is important to be aware of the unintended consequences of mapping. For example, if something is not on the map and its absence is not addressed in

another way (see Box 10), implicitly the map is communicating that it does not exist or does not count. When blank areas on the map look like ‘nothing is happening’ in an area, it may be merely a lack of information, or a difference in terminology, access to certain resources or networks, or language in a particular place or process.

Mapping is a method that potentially creates exclusion. This may indeed be intentional - where actors intentionally exclude initiatives and other entries that do not meet their criteria for agroecology/food sovereignty (i.e. they cross red lines). But exclusion can also be unintentional and inadvertent - where actors and experiences are missed or not included for other reasons (such as lack of data availability or where actors lack the connections or know-how to connect with a mapping initiative).

For example, people or initiatives not calling their work agroecology/food sovereignty may not be included, despite the fact that in practice their actions may reflect the principles of agroecology/food sovereignty. Initiatives in languages other than English are often excluded from global maps and there are many other possible modes of exclusion. Initiatives carried out by marginalized groups, including indigenous people, women, elderly or young people, etc. are more likely to be overlooked or excluded than those of more privileged actors. Indeed, each map gives only a partial view of agroecology/food sovereignty - one that is shaped by the dynamics of power and the politics of representation. Effective agroecology/food sovereignty mapping will need to engage in the challenging work of mapping multiple types of knowledges and help move away from a Northern/Western domination of the concepts of agroecology and food sovereignty.

B. Placing significant information about agroecology or food sovereignty initiatives and details about individual experiences or people on accessible maps may put certain people, or the movement as a whole at some risk.

This can open the movement up to potential cooptation or for repression. Further, mapping initiatives that choose to use proprietary mapping systems like google maps create other risks where google maps records, for example, all of the searches that are made or webpages consulted by the user. Furthermore, some people may benefit from being under the radar and mapping them could expose them.

C. There are significant pragmatic and economic challenges to mapping

We found that mapping projects are often abandoned or cease to be actively updated because of lack of funding or energy to maintain them. In some cases, the purpose of the mapping project is not clear, the information is not specific enough, or it is too specific—meaning that it ends up not meeting the needs of the intended end users. We hope that this guide will help mappers critically consider these issues so these processes and maps can be as useful to the agroecology and food sovereignty movements as possible.

Box 10 - How to address what is not on the map

Although not a map directly related to agroecology or food sovereignty, the map of solidarity economy provides an example of one way to deal with recognizing that some people have been left off the map. The designers of this map added a section called “Participant Consent and Limits to the Map” that recognizes who is not represented on the map and why (<https://solidarityeconomy.us/howto/>).

Participant Consent and Limits to the Map

We have made an effort to place as many solidarity economy initiatives as we can on the map. At the same time, it is important to recognize that not all initiatives are as easy to map as others. For example, it would be misleading to assign a precise location to network-based initiatives such as freecycle and barter networks. Additionally, some solidarity economy organizations prefer to remain off the map. We strive to operate through the consent of the organizations themselves and respect such preferences.

6. Conclusions

We suggest that mapping processes include a reflective approach that involves thinking carefully through the implications of mapping. Regardless of the approach chosen, we suggest it is important to communicate to the users and viewers of the map the criteria used (whether rigorous or loose), the process of criteria-development that was undertaken (whether participatory or not and how the criteria were reached) and a recognition of what might be left off the map. Transparency and accountability are important for the integrity of the process.

We also suggest that the users of the map, as well as the individuals and groups represented on the map, should be involved as much as possible in all parts of the process of developing, implementing and maintaining the map, and that the process is often as important as the outcome. An approach with high levels of participation as well as control over what is included under the banner of agroecology/food sovereignty on the map, so that it resonates with the political intentions and principles of agroecology and food sovereignty will be most effective in ensuring that the resulting maps are of greatest value in advancing agroecology/food sovereignty.

Mapping is but one piece of a wider repertoire of actions to advance agroecology and food sovereignty and should be viewed in relation to these wider actions for change: advocacy, protest, network building, generating alternative narratives, etc. The question is, how can mapping best amplify these efforts in a process of transformation? We contend that, with a careful, reflective and bottom-up approach, mapping has an important role to play in strengthening processes of transformation.

See this link for a list of some agroecology and food sovereignty mapping initiatives from around the world:

<http://www.agroecologynow.com/mapping-for-food-system-change-list/>

Please add your map here!