

The Connection between Urban and Rural Areas

Report on the solidarity work with peasant movements in Mali by Olaf Bernau. This text has been first published in the monthly journal ak – analyse & kritik in april 2015

Since 2012 the transnational network Afrique-Europe-Interact has been forming alliances with small-scale farmers in Mali, who have been affected by different forms of land grabs. In this report we want to take stock from different perspectives, to join the processes in Mali to the debates on transnational organizing and internationalistic solidarity work in Europe.

The scene that takes place in March 2015 seems completely anachronistic from a European perspective: A very old and blind village mayor, sits down in front of his doorless hut between two other very old men. The three of them want to welcome the 12-member delegation of the transnational network Afrique-Europe-Interact (AEI), among them three activists from Europe.

Peasant's assembly in Sanamadougou

April 2015

With financial support of Afrique-Europe-Interacta further peasant's assembly has taken place in the Office du Niger, this time in Niono. At this assembly peasants from all zones of the Office du Niger have participated. In addition a delegation of cotton farmers from the south of Mali and 50 activists from the section Bamako of our network have come as well. Generally this one-day assembly has taken the decision to support the unlimited protest of the two villages Sanamadougou and Sahou which are supposed to start on the 2nd of June 2015.

Peasant's assembly in Sanamadougou

November 2014

With financial support of Afrique-Europe-Interact a big peasant's assembly has taken place in November 2014 in Sanamadougou et Sahou. On the one hand side farmers from the two villages and several neighbour villages have participated, on the other hand 40 activists from the section Bamako of our network have come as well. In the [french version](#) of this website one can find an article about this meeting.

Video: Struggle against Landgrabbing in Mali (Via Campesina 2012)

Complex Realities

Small-scale agriculture is under massive pressure in Mali

By Olaf Bernau – first published in: ak – analyse & kritik – zeitung für linke Debatte und Praxis / Nr. 574 / 17.8.2012

The plans were ambitious, when in the beginning of March 2012 a 30-headed delegation of the transnational network Afrique-Europe-Interact – among them 10 activists from Europe – started their journey from the Malian capital of Bamako to Office de Niger, which is situated 270 kilometers north-east of the city . What started the idea for this trip was the fact, that the

government of this Westafrican country has sold over 900,000 hectares of the crop and grazing land of this highly fertile Niger inland delta to transnationally operating banks, investment funds and corporations between the year 2003 and today. Correspondingly this region has frequently become the arena for public actions against landgrab.

Nyéléni, Mali : A global alliance against land grabbing

FIAN-Report about International Peasant Conference (December 2011)

By Brigitte Reisenberger and Sofía Monsalve Suárez

From 17-19 November 2011 women and men peasants, pastoralists, indigenous peoples and their allies from across the world gathered together in Mali to participate in the first international peasants' conference to stop land grabbing. The meeting took place in Nyéléni Village, a centre for agro-ecology training near Sélingué and a symbolic place for the global struggle for food sovereignty: the first international forum on Food Sovereignty was held here 2007.

Two-hundred-fifty participants from 30 countries around the world came together to share with each other their experiences and struggles against land grabbing and to build and strengthen their alliances.