

LaFEM:

Empowering Women Farmers through Food Sovereignty and Environmental Stewardship

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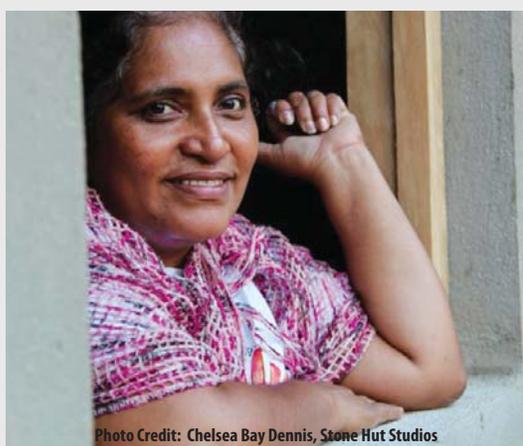


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Juana says, “Through feminism, I have learned to question the machista, patriarchal and neoliberal capitalist mandates which society has taught us to believe are natural. But they are not natural; they are learned and can be changed in favor of justice for women and equality for all.”

Faced with the challenge imposed by climate change and the use of indiscriminate agrochemicals that degrade our natural resources, 260 women farmers in the north of Nicaragua, organized in cooperatives and backed by La FEM, have started a series of initiatives that are environmentally friendly. La FEM is a cooperative of women farmers, organized with the Foundation of Women from the north of Nicaragua, that promotes the production of native seeds and the use of methods to help address climate change as forms of resistance to the use of seeds and technological packages offered by multinationals like Monsanto.

In Nicaragua, multinational companies continue to promote the use of indiscriminate agrochemicals through enormous public relations campaigns that try to manipulate peoples’ consciences while hiding the negative consequences.

Nicaraguan soils have been continuously degraded as the result of poor agricultural practices in the past, combined with the effects of climate change and the emergence of chemical-resistant diseases. This presents a serious threat to the production levels of many different crops that not only provide food for rural communities, but also supply local and foreign markets. In response, the women farmers have taken huge steps in the production of organic crops.

These multinationals offer “terminator seeds” that don’t germinate after a single season, technological packages that only generate further dependencies and are a threat