

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

A freelance journalist, Éric Tariant has been writing since 2006 about alternatives, real utopias, and ecology, with a few favorite topics (the limits of growth and alternative indicators, agroecology and the farming world, complementary currencies, universal basic income), as well as on living spiritualities. And, at the same time, for more than twenty-five years, he has been writing about the visual arts, modern and contemporary painting, primitive arts, and outsider art. Thirteen years ago, he created thirteen years ago, he created a website (utopiesdaujournhui.fr) where all his articles are freely accessible.

GATES FOUNDATION

Twenty years of philanthrocapitalism in Africa

By Éric Tariant

Last May, on the 25th anniversary of his *charity business*, Bill Gates announced that within twenty years, he would give away 99% of his fortune—which is expected to reach \$200 billion by 2045—focusing most of this windfall on Africa. This is an opportunity for *Nexus* to look back on twenty years of philanthrocapitalism in Africa, where the Gates Foundation has poured tens of billions of dollars into reshaping and shaping agricultural policies.

LThe greatest benefactor of all time. That's how some describe him. newspapers. For 25 years, since the creation of his foundation, Bill Gates has been using his phenomenal fortune to influence global policies in the fields of education, health, agriculture, and climate, with a focus on technological solutions. His "charitable" works are carried out with the support and for the benefit of multinational corporations in which he is also a shareholder. In 2000, when Bill Gates and his wife created the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

and Melinda Gates Foundation at the age of 44, he was the richest man in the world. In 25 years, by focusing on patenting and abusing his monopoly, he had turned Microsoft, the company he founded in 1975 with Paul Allen, into a formidable money-making machine. His MS-DOS and Windows operating systems, used by nine out of ten PC users, have a virtual global monopoly. He has managed to turn his mantra—a computer equipped with Microsoft software on every desk and in every home—into a reality.

Bill Gates in court

In 1998, when Internet Explorer was launched, Bill Gates stumbled. Using unfair methods, he drove Netscape, his only competitor, which had created the first consumer browser, into bankruptcy. The US antitrust division took up the case with the support of the Department of Justice. The courts accused Microsoft of violating free competition laws. The trial lasted four years, and the company, whose stock price fell 30%, escaped



Excerpts from the video of Bill Gates' testimony during the United States v. Microsoft trial in August 1998. Source: U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ).

narrowly avoided being broken up. But the image of the company and its CEO—that know-it-all who came across as rude and arrogant—was badly tarnished. It was at this point that the billionaire decided to set up his foundation. Within a year, it had been endowed with \$20 billion. In the space of a few years, it became the largest philanthropic foundation in the world and Bill Gates the greatest benefactor of all time. His image as an icon of generosity was further polished and restored last May, on the 25th anniversary of his foundation, when he announced that he would donate 99% of his fortune—which is expected to reach \$200 billion—by 2045, before closing up shop.

In early June, during a speech delivered in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, before the African Union, Bill Gates stated that "the majority of these funds will be devoted to helping meet Africa's challenges," on a continent where his foundation has offices in Addis Ababa, Johannesburg, Dakar, Nairobi, and Lagos. And where dozens of Microsoft offices are scattered.

A fortune of \$107 billion

What does Tim Schwab, an American journalist who published a book about the billionaire philanthropist in November 2023, think of these announcements? "There's nothing really new here. Bill Gates has been saying for twenty years that he will give away his entire fortune by 2045. He makes these kinds of announcements when he wants to capture the media's attention. If he were really giving away all his money, how is it that his personal fortune has continued to grow over the past two decades?" points out the author of *The Bill Gates Problem: Reckoning with the Myth of the Good Billionaire* (Metropolitan Books).

Estimated at \$50 billion in 2006 when he left Microsoft (of which he remains the largest individual shareholder with a 4.5% stake), his fortune has continued to grow since then, reaching \$124 billion in 2021. In 2019, nearly twenty years after announcing that he "giving" a large part of his fortune to his foundation, *Forbes* magazine still ranked Bill Gates as the second richest man in the world, with a fortune of \$105 billion.

just behind Amazon founder Jeff Bezos (112 billion). If this impressive fortune melted away by a few tens of billions in 2024, "falling" to \$107 billion, it was mainly due to his divorce in 2021 from Melinda French Gates after twenty-seven years of marriage.

A windfall windfall for multinationals

Another important point to note is that the billions allegedly "donated" to his foundation by the businessman do not, in fact, reduce his capital.

"This money is entrusted to an investment fund that invests it in hundreds of companies. Only the dividends are used so that the capital is protected," explains journalist Lionel Astruc in his

book *The Art of False Generosity: The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation* (Actes Sud, 2019).

It is multinational corporations that reap the benefits of this windfall. Primarily mega-corporations operating in the fossil fuel sector, such as Total and BP, agrochemicals (Bayer, Syngenta), arms and aerospace (BAE Systems), mass retail (Walmart), and junk food (McDonald's, Coca-Cola). "These are companies that are diametrically opposed to the Foundation's stated missions: fighting poverty and malnutrition and protecting health," continues the journalist, adding: "The companies that make the Foundation's money grow contribute significantly to poverty and social and economic injustice around the world."

He gives with one hand and takes back with the other

What Gates claims to give with one hand *through* his foundation, he takes back with the other *through* dividends from his investment fund.

In fact, Bill Gates' billions do not go directly to the beneficiaries, not to sick citizens, nor to the poor who suffer from anal-

illiteracy, hunger, or malnutrition. They are not distributed to charities, but to hundreds of universities, research centers, international organizations, media outlets, and NGOs, some of which are largely funded by the Foundation, and indirectly to multinational corporations for which he opens up new markets.

Bill Gates thus follows in the footsteps of John D. Rockefeller (1839-1937), Andrew Carnegie (1835-1919), and later the Sackler family, who created their own *charities* to divert attention from the destruction caused by their commercial activities, which made them obscenely rich.

In 2023, the Gates Foundation employs more than 2,100 people. In the space of twenty-five years, it has granted some \$100 billion.

in subsidies, making it the largest philanthropic enterprise that has ever existed.

Technology will save the world

How does the Gates Foundation (its new name, replacing the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation since the divorce between the former spouses) spend its billions?

A technophile, Bill Gates is convinced that technology will save the world, with the support of multinational corporations in particular. Welcome to the world of philanthrocapitalism, a world in which philanthropists ride the waves of market mechanisms to "do good," while hoping for lucrative financial returns in return. Philanthrocapitalism, or how to continue promoting globalization and neoliberal economic policies that destroy social ties, the climate, and biodiversity, under the guise of noble intentions. It is about trying to provide solutions *"without fundamentally changing the way the world works: without putting an end to tax havens, without limiting the power*



The 28th Conference of the Parties on Climate Change (COP 28), held from November 30, 2023, to December 12, 2023, in Dubai (United Arab Emirates), brought together a record number of 2,56 lobbyists from the fossil fuel and meat industries.

of corporations, and without changing neoliberal economies," writes Lionel Astruc. Nor does it involve revising the tax rules and global inequalities that fuel poverty and social instability.

Focus on African agriculture

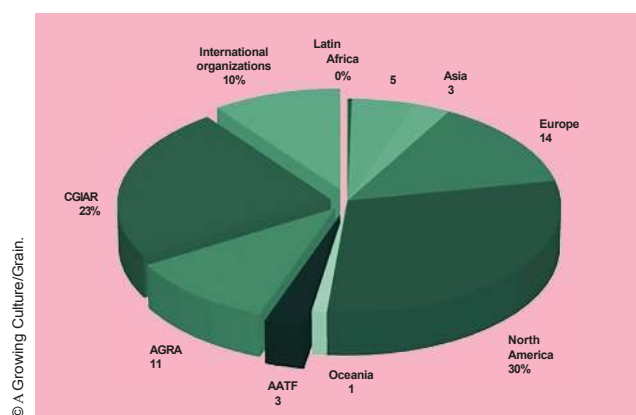
After making commitments in the education and health sectors to combat AIDS, tuberculosis, polio, and malaria through vaccines, the Gates Foundation turned its attention to agriculture. It has shown a keen interest in agriculture on the African continent.

Why focus on Africa? Because this continent is the *"last frontier"* for agricultural and food markets, according to the World Bank, with 2.4 billion mouths to feed by 2050. Of the 1.5 billion people living in Africa today, 10% live in a situation of severe food insecurity and hundreds of millions do not know what their next meal will consist of. In 2006, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

Melinda Gates Foundation founded the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), which would be its arm on the continent, with the support of the Rockefeller Foundation. The latter was the main force behind the promotion of the green revolution in the 1950s, creating, with the support of the US government and the Ford Foundation,

The billions allegedly "donated" to his foundation by the businessman do not, in fact, reduce his capital. [...] It is multinational corporations that inherit this windfall.

A huge global market in America, Europe, and Asia for seed, pesticide, and fertilizer companies. The first president of AGRA was Gary Toenniessen, a former director of the Rockefeller Foundation, where he was responsible for food security. Bill Gates is convinced that industrial agriculture will lift the continent out of malnutrition and hunger.



Agricultural grants awarded by the Gates Foundation, by region and by organization in 2021.

Source: grain.org, "https://urls.fr/ITuIKNI."

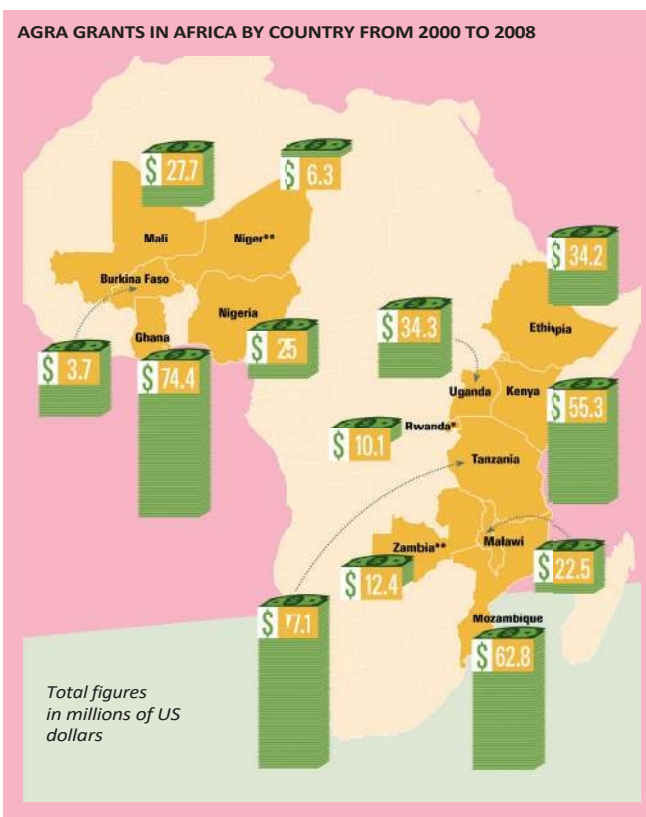
Grants awarded to the 13 main AGRA target countries amount to US\$8 million.

Infographic taken from the report "False Promises: The Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA3)" edited by several German donors and NGOs, with groups in Tanzania, Kenya, Zambia, and Mali, on the rosallux.de website: [https://urls.fr/U3oaool.

Caption: * [Rwanda] Number of grants in 2017; total 2007-2017; no data available for 2018;

** Number of grants in 2016; total 2007-2016; no data available for 2018.

Data source: AGRA (Nairobi, Kenya) "Annual Progress Report 2007-2016" [https://urls.fr/aODysw]; "Annual Report 2017" [https://urls.fr/1KXnNS]; "https://urls.fr/_sffSG."



Yields for corn, the world's most widely grown cereal ahead of rice and wheat, are 11 tons per hectare in the United States, compared to 1.4 tons per hectare in Kenya, for example. Gates' dream? To bridge the gap between these two figures by focusing on much larger farms, hybrid seeds, GMOs, chemical fertilizers, and pesticides.

Helping Africa by giving to the North

Very quickly, the Gates Foundation established itself as one of the main donors in agricultural research and development. A report published in 2014 by the international NGO Grain, which supports the struggle of farmers and social movements and advocates for food systems based on biodiversity, shows that the Gates Foundation is fighting hunger in Africa by giving money... to organizations located in the Global North. "More than 80% of grants were awarded to

organizations based in the United States and Europe," the study points out. The main beneficiary of these grants is the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), a consortium of 15 international agricultural research centers that controls most of the world's seed banks. In the 1960s and 1970s, these structures were responsible for spreading the "model" of the green revolution in Asian and Latin American countries, distributing high-yield seeds along with chemical fertilizers and pesticides.

AGRA has also provided significant funding to the African Agricultural Technology Foundation (AATF), which promotes green revolution technologies.

One of AGRA's main programs in its early days was to establish a network of agro-dealers in Africa, small private distributors responsible for selling plant protection products and commercial seeds to farmers. In Malawi, for example,

For example, the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa awarded a \$4.3 million grant to the Agro-Dealer Strengthening Program to supply farmers with hybrid corn seeds, pesticides, herbicides, and chemical fertilizers¹. Between 2006 and 2014, the main supplier to these agro-traders was none other than Monsanto.

Gates and Monsanto, fighting the same battle

Bill Gates works hand in hand with the Missouri-based multinational, which was acquired by Bayer in 2018. Sam Dryden, the former director of the Foundation responsible for agricultural development programs, previously worked for Monsanto. The same is true of Bob Horsch, deputy director of the Gates Foundation from 2006 to 2018, who was responsible for improving agricultural yields in Africa, after also having worked for the manufacturer of Roundup.



Local seed varieties on display at a farmers' fair in Zimbabwe, 2011.

Photo: Zimbabwe Smallholder Organic Farmers Forum (Zimsoff), [http://zimsofforum.org].

The keys to preserving local seeds , a key issue for the sovereignty of African countries.

Source: grain.org [https://urls.fr/o_WFL1].



for twenty-five years. "What Monsanto did in the seed industry, by making a small modification to a seed and then claiming—under this pretext—to prevent anyone from having access to the modified seed and all of its genetic heritage, Microsoft did in the information technology sector by filing the most lucrative patents," explains Vandana Shiva in the afterword to the book *The Art of False Generosity*.

GMOs to solve world hunger?

Gates shares the same worldview as the company behind Agent Orange, the same desire for privatization and monopolization. He also shares the same desire to introduce GMOs in Africa. In 2022, Bill Gates traveled to Kenya to promote his commitments to Africa in the agricultural sector and announce \$7 billion in new grants for the continent. On this occasion, he gave a speech—scandalously misleading—which wrongly suggests that all Western countries have already adopted GMOs and that 99.9% of crops there are already GMO crops.

false – that wrongly suggests that Western countries have already adopted GMOs and that 99.9% of crops there are already GMOs.

The Seattle billionaire, surrounded by courtiers, convinced himself that GMOs would increase agricultural yields and solve the problem of hunger in Africa.

In the early 2000s, the Foundation funded an organization called Africa Harvest Biotech Foundation International (AHBFI), led by Monsanto associate Florence Wambugu and supported by agrochemical companies, including DuPont-Pioneer, to develop a variety of genetically modified sorghum that was supposed to be richer in nutrients. It subsequently attempted, without success, to launch a genetically modified sweet potato and a genetically modified banana, which has still not seen the light of day, despite many years of funding for research centers.

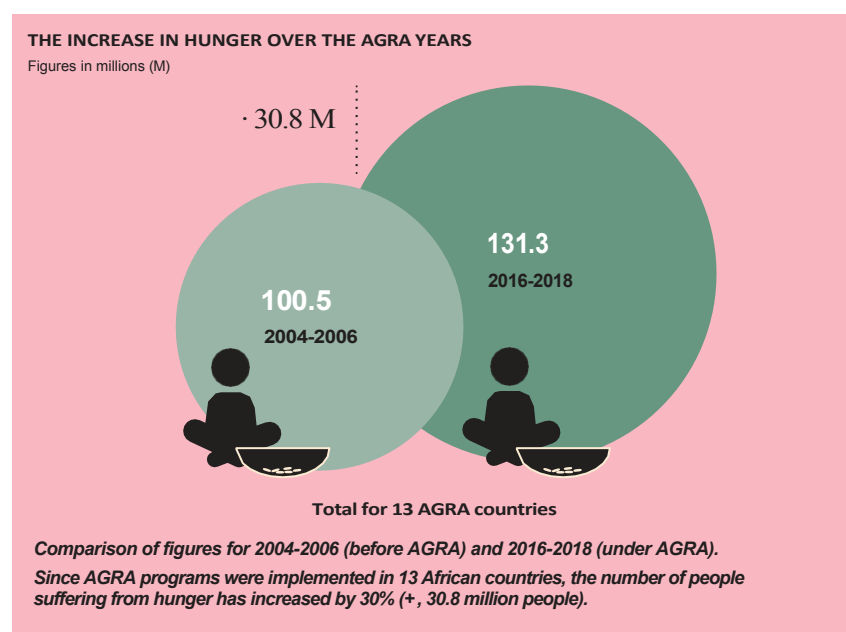
"Without the Gates Foundation's money, the myth that GMOs would end world hunger would have disappeared and all projects would have been stopped

. But this structure keeps them artificially alive," laments Vandana Shiva.

Training in agribusiness

Nothing is left to chance in the attempt to convert countries in the South to these patented technologies. In 2014, the Gates Foundation launched a training program aimed at promoting biotechnologies, drawing on the Cornell Alliance for Science (CAS), which it funds. This organization was affiliated with Cornell University, a private American university located in Ithaca, New York, in order to lend scientific credibility to its agro-industrial programs and spread pro-business narratives. Each year, CAS offers a 12-week intensive training course at its US facilities—the

Global Leadership Fellows – for 20 to 30 young professionals from countries in the Global South, mainly Africa. They receive training aligned with



Number of undernourished people between 2004–2006 (before AGRA)
Number of undernourished people between 2016–2018 (under AGRA)
Infographic taken from the report "False Promises: The Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA)"
[<https://uris.fr/U3oao0>].
Data source: FAOSTAT food security indicators, [<http://www.fao.org/faostat/en/#data/IS>], updated in October 2019.

on agribusiness messages, which promote biotechnologies without any critical distance, while undermining the principles of agroecology. AGRA is also one of the main organizers of the annual Forum on the Green Revolution in Africa, which has been held for the past 15 years.

Far from declining, hunger has, on the contrary, increased by 30% in these countries and [...] soil quality has been degraded due to the introduction of chemical inputs.

The next edition of this event, renamed the Annual African Food Systems Forum, will be held from August 31 to September 5 in Dakar, Senegal, which has become a new target for the Gates Foundation, explains Ange-David Baïmey, who works in Abidjan (Ivory Coast) for the NGO Grain. Six thousand participants from various backgrounds – representatives gouvern

Mental health professionals, agricultural experts, NGOs, businesses, and researchers are expected to discuss strategies and innovations aimed at transforming African food systems, and the central role of young people in this process. "We will campaign to speak at this forum," explains a communications officer for the Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa, a Kampala, Uganda-based organization that fights for food sovereignty and agroecology on the continent. "West Africans are not aware of the damage AGRA is causing to African agricultural and food systems. We will try to communicate and raise awareness among these populations," continues the spokesperson for this influential organization, the most important civil society organization in Africa.

Hunger has increased by 30%

The damage caused by the Gates Foundation in Africa, through AGRA? Let's talk about it. This is the subject of a report entitled "False Promises: The Green Revolution in Africa," which was published in July.

let 2020, by Tim Wise, a researcher at Tufts University of Global Development, a university in Massachusetts. Tim Wise sought to determine the impact of the programs launched in 2006 by AGRA in selected African countries: Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia.

It shows that AGRA's initial goals of doubling agricultural yields in these countries and also doubling the incomes of 30 million farming families, while halving food insecurity, have not been achieved. It reports an 18% increase in agricultural yields in five of these countries (far from the 100% announced), while in the other eight states, yields declined.

It also reveals that, far from declining, hunger has actually increased by 30% in these countries and that soil quality has deteriorated due to the introduction of chemical inputs. With criticism of its agricultural policy in Africa growing, the Gates Foundation decided in 2021 to conduct its own assessments based on the work of Mathematica, a Washington-based research firm. Unfortunately, the study confirmed that AGRA had not achieved its objectives of increasing farmers' incomes and improving food security in these African countries. However, it did find that AGRA had been successful in accelerating agricultural reform policies on the continent, drawing on AGRA, which had become a political organization capable of influencing governments.

Shaping African agriculture

First, on a continental scale, by organizing or supporting major events that exert considerable influence and

shape African agriculture, such as the African Food Systems Summit or the African Union Summit on Fertilizers and Soil Health (like the one held in Nairobi in May 2024, which called for a threefold increase in fertilizer use over the next ten years).

"The Gates Foundation's main success lies in its ability to spread new narratives, even if they are false," says Million Belay, head of the Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa. *The narrative that African land is not fertile and that farmers' knowledge is archaic. That Africans must use hybrid seeds and chemical fertilizers to produce more food.*" The assumption behind the

The Gates Foundation's argument is that African nations have neither the expertise nor the tools to set up their own food systems, and therefore need those of the Northern countries to get by.

Armed with these beliefs, the Gates Foundation has managed to infiltrate African governments by placing AGRA consultants within the agriculture ministries of certain countries in order to redesign their agricultural policies. This was particularly the case in Zambia, where a subsidy program was introduced in 2009. With government support, this program encouraged farmers to abandon local seeds in favor of commercial hybrid and sterile varieties, including corn, wheat, and soybeans, and to use chemical fertilizers. AGRA began to set up what it calls "farmer development blocks" of 100,000 hectares each in this country, installing networks (roads, water and electricity supplies, digital communications) to support export crops in order to boost economic growth. These agricultural policies have had extremely damaging repercussions.



Introduction of Bt (*Bacillus thuringiensis*) genetically modified corn in Kenya (2003).

Source: "Genetically Modified Corn - Environmental Benefits and Risks," Virginia Gewin, PLoS Biology vol. 1, n° 1, p. e8, [https://urlis.fr/5KtY5H].

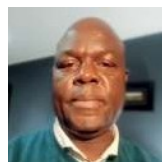
Damning assessment

"We conducted a study in the Chibombo district, located in the center of the country, which highlights that reforms to the agricultural system have led to debt among farmers, who can no longer afford seeds and pesticides, which are far too expensive for them," says Mutinta Evelyn Nketani, coordinator of the Zambian Alliance for Agroecology and Biodiversity. *Furthermore, there has been no increase in land productivity since the reforms came into effect, nor any increase in farmers' incomes.* Despite these alarming signs, the AGRA consultant attached to the Zambian Minister of Agriculture continued to push his agenda, securing the adoption in 2021 of the five-year National Agricultural Investment Plan, which he alone understood and was able to explain. This plan aims to transform the agricultural landscape by prioritizing large-scale commercial crops and an industrial approach, while dismantling the biosafety framework. These reforms increased farmers' vulnerability during the severe droughts of 2023 and 2024 to the point that

driving the Zam-Bien food system to the brink of collapse, according to a study published on July 18, 2024, by the African Center for Biodiversity. Half of the corn harvest has been lost, and prices for everyday food items have skyrocketed, leading six to ten million farmers, encouraged to practice corn monoculture, to severe shortages and the risk of famine. The study also shows that hybrid seeds and chemical fertilizers have degraded the soil, polluted the water, and weakened biodiversity.

Demands for compensation

In August 2024, it happened again: new complaints against the Gates Foundation were made public in an open letter published by the Southern African Faith Communities' Environment Institute (SAFCEI). This open letter⁽²⁾ signed by hundreds of NGOs, farmers' organizations, and religious leaders from South Africa and East African countries, refers to the serious ecological and social damage caused to African food systems by the green revolution implemented by AGRA, an initiative of



Interview with Gabriel S. Manyangadze,

Head of Food and Climate Justice Programs

at the Southern African Faith Communities' Environment Institute (SAFCEI)

Interview by Éric Tariant

“The Gates Foundation must stop pushing for laws that criminalize the poorest people.”

nexus What do you hold against the Gates Foundation?

Gabriel S. Manyangadze: We

We are criticized for introducing industrial agriculture to Africa and for bringing commercial seeds to our continent and spreading them, seeds that are systematically associated with artificial fertilizers and pesticides. African plant and animal biodiversity, which is among the most important in the world, has suffered particularly from the introduction of these chemicals into the environment. Insect and bee populations have been severely affected.

In addition, the Gates Foundation, through AGRA, is pressuring governments to adopt new agricultural policies that criminalize the exchange of traditional seeds that are not certified or listed in the official catalog. This is particularly the case in Malawi, Ghana, and Kenya. In these countries, economic interests have succeeded in passing laws that prohibit the use of farm-saved seeds and require the purchase of commercial seeds. However, rural populations, who are often very poor, cannot afford to buy these seeds. They have been producing and exchanging their own seeds since time immemorial.

This is now prohibited by laws stipulating that only registered seeds may be cultivated and sold. We denounce the obligation imposed on rural populations to purchase these

commercial seeds. These laws, which criminalize the ancestral right to produce and reuse one's own seeds, deprive farmers of the means to feed themselves. Traditional seeds are the first link in the food chain and the ultimate symbol of our food security. For thousands of years, farmers have worked with nature to select thousands of varieties of plant seeds adapted to the diversity of our climates and cultures. They save the best of these to replant the following season.

In your open letter, you also write that soil fertility has declined since the introduction of the green revolution in Africa...

We have indeed observed that it has become increasingly difficult to grow seeds and obtain crops in soils that have become sterile due to the chemical fertilizers that have been spread on them. It is usually governments that purchase these fertilizers and then distribute them to farmers. Many farming families cannot afford to buy these products, fertilizers, and pesticides, which are far too expensive for them. The laws passed that prohibit them from feeding themselves and require them to buy seeds are responsible for an increase in the number of households suffering from hunger.

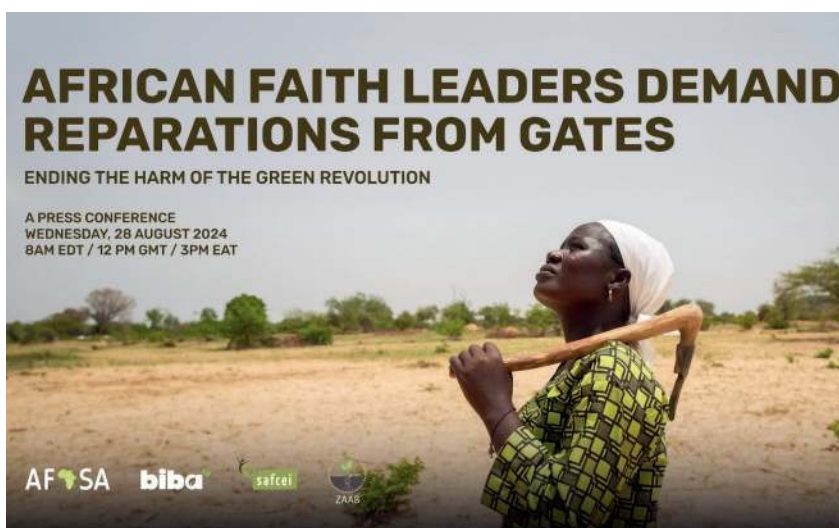
What is your view on the Gates Foundation's lobbying efforts

by the Gates Foundation in favor of introducing GMOs in Africa? More and more agricultural scientists and agricultural economics trainers are coming out in favor of GMOs. African governments are facing intense pressure—particularly from seed companies—which they are finding difficult to resist. For the moment, GMOs are mainly used and consumed in South Africa. More and more NGOs and farmers want to ban them from their countries. This is because GMOs deprive Africans of their food sovereignty. They make them dependent on seeds from foreign countries, in an international context where agricultural prices are highly volatile.

How are Africans resisting this philanthrocapitalism?

We have decided, as far as we are concerned, to contact the Gates Foundation directly to explain the deplorable and damaging our part, to contact the Gates Foundation directly to explain the deplorable and damaging impact of its actions in Africa on farmers and the environment. We criticize it for taking no account of poor populations, who must be able to continue practicing agroecology to feed themselves.

We have asked it to stop pushing for laws that criminalize the poorest. We are convinced that agroecology will make farmers more resilient to climate change and the crises that lie ahead. Agroecology will enable them to maintain their food sovereignty. •



Poster for the press conference held on August 28, 2024, to launch the open letter published by SAFCEI, demanding reparations from the Gates Foundation for the considerable damage caused to African food systems [<https://urls.fr/TO31g0>].

Bill Gates. SAFCEI is also demanding reparations from the Gates Foundation. (See the interview with Gabriel S. Manyangadze, SAFCEI's food and climate justice program manager, opposite.)

"The failure of the agricultural policies initiated in Africa by the Gates Foundation is such that the very people it is supposed to help are asking it to stop its programs and compensate them for the problems it has caused, ana-

"One Agriculture" [...] is the most dangerous aspect of Bill Gates' approach, because it involves imposing a single agricultural model everywhere on the planet."

Lionel Astruc, journalist

Tim Schwab explains. *Why doesn't Bill Gates listen to what these organizations and farmers are telling him and rethink his approach? Because he is not a philanthropist and has no humanitarian goals. He is an oligarch who knows nothing about Africa, let alone agriculture. He is an engineer from Seattle who dreams only of setting up*

monopolies. His agricultural policies are a form of disguised colonization," the author continues.

What's more, the *top-down* policies designed and implemented at the initiative of the Gates Foundation, whose power exceeds that of many states, are not subject to any democratic control. This "philanthropic" organization, headquartered in Seattle, is not accountable for its programs and policies to the public institutions it supports or the populations it affects. *"Worse still, the Foundation indirectly buys the silence of academics, NGOs, and the media, who would otherwise be in a position to condemn certain aspects of its actions,"* points out Lionel Astruc. Vandana Shiva does not hesitate to denounce and condemn the billionaire's aims. *"One Agriculture [...] is the most dangerous aspect of Bill Gates' approach, because it involves imposing a single agricultural model across the planet. [...] A single, unique form of agriculture based on a single pillar: biotechnology and the green revolution. This is unprecedented,"* insists the activist. •

Author's note

We sent interview requests to the Gates Foundation and AGRA. We did not receive any response from either organization.

> Further reading

- Schwab, Tim, *The Bill Gates Problem – Reckoning with the Myth of the Good Billionaire*, Penguin Group, 2023.
- Astruc Lionel, *L'Art de la fausse générosité – La Fondation Bill et Melinda Gates (The Art of False Generosity – The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation)*, Actes Sud, 2019.
- The NGO Grain has published two reports on the Gates Foundation, both available on its website [www.grain.org]: "How does the Gates Foundation spend its money to feed the world?" (2014) [<https://urls.fr/uD3ABv>] and "How the Gates Foundation is pushing the food system in the wrong direction" (2021) [<https://urls.fr/levVbH>].
- In August 2024, the Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa website: [<https://afsafira.org>]) published a entitled "<https://urls.fr/N-P6wd>."
- A wealth of information about the Gates Foundation is available on the U.S. Right to Know website [<https://usrtk.org>].
- And on the website of AGRA Watch [<https://cagj.org/agrawatch/>], a Seattle-based association that monitors the Gates Foundation's agricultural programs in Africa, which are developed there by the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA).

Notes

1. "Malawi Agro-Dealer Strengthening Program, Interim Evaluation Phase 1 Report," Center for Agricultural Research and Development (CARD), Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANAR) [<https://www.luanar.ac.mw>], 2009, in "The hunger games – How DFID support for agribusiness is fuelling poverty in Africa" [<https://urls.fr/2qeLNC>].
2. Open letter "African Faith Leaders Demand Reparations from the Gates Foundation to End the Harm of the Green Revolution" (*African religious leaders demand reparations from the Gates Foundation to end the damage caused by the green revolution*) [<https://urls.fr/kieO1P>].