



Globalicemos La Lucha, Globalicemos La Esperanza Globalize Struggle, Globalize Hope



About the ATC, La Via Campesina, Food Sovereignty & Agroecology



The **Asociación de Trabajadores del Campo (ATC)** fights for the rights of rural workers and small-scale producers in Nicaragua. Since its founding year in 1978, the ATC has supported union organizing, advocated for agrarian reform, and strengthened agricultural cooperatives for small producers throughout the country. The organization has active employment training programs, political formation workshops, agricultural practicums, and rural women and youth movements. It directly represents approximately 50,000 Nicaraguan workers.

In the 1990s, the ATC helped found **La Via Campesina**, an international social movement that defends the rights of peasants, agricultural workers, women farmers, fishermen and women, pastoralists, indigenous peoples, and migrants around the world. Today the movement consists of organizations in approximately 80 countries, representing about 220 million people. It is guided by the struggle toward food sovereignty, in which small-scale farmers have autonomy in their production systems to grow healthy, culturally appropriate, sustainably produced food for local consumption. The ATC and other Via Campesina organizations work in solidarity with one another against neoliberal economic policies, free trade agreements, and agribusiness corporations.

Today, the ATC is Central America's regional hub of activity for Via Campesina organizations. It regularly hosts gatherings and trainings on topics including political education, food sovereignty, gender equity, youth, communications, and popular education. Recently, the ATC has put a particular emphasis on agroecology, a form of low-input, sustainable food production based upon a set of principles that values traditional knowledge and peer-to-peer education. The ATC and La Via Campesina believe that agroecology is a pillar of food sovereignty that is necessary for the survival of peasant peoples and of the planet. To this end, the ATC is now working to construct a Mesoamerica region peasant agroecological university and network known as **IALA Mesoamerica**.

As an autonomous organization and movement, the ATC relies on the time and skills of passionate leaders and as well as monetary contributions in solidarity from individuals and organizations. Consider joining the Friends of the ATC today to support this important work. To learn more, please contact National Coordinator of the Friends of the ATC: Erika Takeo, erikatakeo.atc@gmail.com.

Above: Political formation course participants from throughout Central America at the Francisco Morazán Peasant Worker School in Managua.



Right: Chinandega youth leader Orquidea Martínez with compañeras from Guatemala.



ATC's National Coordinator of Agroecology Marlen Sánchez coordinates the making of lombricultura (worm composting) at IALA Mesoamérica in the department of Chontales.

Doña Lola Esquivel, founder of the Gloria Quintanilla women's cooperative in Santa Julia, is a leader in political organizing and agroecology.



Youth from northern Nicaraguan cooperatives affiliated with the ATC learn how to make biofertilizer at the ATC's agronomy school Santa Emilia, Matagalpa.



Interested in learning more or getting involved?

Please contact us today:

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[facebook.com/friendsatc](https://www.facebook.com/friendsatc)

Consider joining us for our next delegation to Nicaragua (scheduled for June of 2016). Please email us for more information or an application.



Women in Esteli can receive training in cigar rolling and union organizing at the ATC's School of Tobacco to find well-paying jobs in local factories.

Students from throughout Central America learn medical plant propagation techniques from plant propagation expert Ramón Potosme.

