

A photograph of Vandana Shiva, an Indian environmental activist, smiling and holding a green plant stem. She is wearing a purple and orange sari and has a bindi on her forehead. The background is a field of tall, dry grass with trees in the distance.

# Vandana Shiva: Non-GMO Hero

Viscous Flow (Jon Raybin  
and Julia Murphy)  
PGC2017 Day 23 Greener

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# Background and Inspiration

- Indian physicist and social activist
- Developed an interest in environmentalism when visiting home, where she discovered that a favorite childhood forest had been cleared and a stream drained so that an apple orchard could be planted.
- She worked on grassroots campaigns to prevent clear-cut logging and the construction of large dams



# Campaigns Against GMO

Vandana Shiva has founded many activist organizations:

- Founded Research Foundation for Science, Technology, and Natural Resource Policy (RFSTN) in 1982 - devoted to developing sustainable methods of agriculture
  - RFSTE established seed banks throughout India to preserve the country's agricultural heritage while training farmers in sustainable agricultural practices
- Launched Navdanya in 1991
  - project strove to combat the growing tendency toward monoculture promoted by large corporations
  - Formed over 40 seed banks in India; educated farmers on the benefits of conserving their unique strains of seed crops
- Launched Diverse Women for Diversity (international version of Navdanya) in 1998



# A Celebration of Diversity



"There are two trends. One: a trend of diversity, democracy, freedom, joy, culture--people celebrating their lives. And the other: monocultures, deadness. Everyone depressed. Everyone on Prozac. More and more young people unemployed. We don't want that world of death."  
*Vandana Shiva*

# In India GM Crops Have Hurt Local Farmers

- Monsanto created a monopoly in Maharashtra, India, preventing farmers from buying non-GMO seeds.
- Seed prices rose by 8,000%
- Homogenization increased crop's susceptibility to weather and disease.
- When GM crops failed, over 284,000 farmers, having lost their livelihood, committed suicide.

## Yavatmal pesticide poisoning: Farmers' families battle death and despair

Around 50 farmers or farm labourers have died and nearly 800 have been hospitalised due to pesticide poisoning in Vidarbha region, known for farmer suicides.

INDIA

Updated: Oct 13, 2017 22:55 IST



Pradip Kumar Maitra  
Hindustan Times, Yavatmal

Around 50 farmers or farm labourers — 22 in Yavatmal — have died and nearly 800 have been hospitalised due to an infection, caused by spraying of a pesticide on cotton crops in Vidarbha region, known for farmer suicides. At least 20 have lost vision too.

## School meals tainted with poison kill 22 children in Indian village

By Alope Devichand and Tim Hume, CNN

Updated 10:52 PM ET, Thu July 18, 2013



Around 50 farmers or farm labourers — 22 in Yavatmal — have died and nearly 800 have been hospitalised due to an infection, caused by spraying of a pesticide on cotton crops in Vidarbha region, known for farmer suicides. At least 20 have lost vision too.

# Shiva's Agricultural Beliefs

- Critic of Asia's Green Revolution - international effort that began the 1960s to increase food production in less-developed countries through higher-yielding seed stocks and the increased use of pesticides and fertilizers.
  - She maintained that it led to pollution, loss of indigenous seed diversity and traditional agricultural knowledge, and the troubling dependence of poor farmers on costly chemicals.
- In a time of climate change, the homogenization of crop production was dangerous. Unlike native seed strains, developed over long periods of time and therefore adapted to the conditions of a given area, the seed strains prompted by large corporations required application of large amounts of fertilizer and pesticides.
  - Many such seed strains are genetically engineered and patented, preventing farmers from saving seeds from their harvests to plant the following season and instead forcing them to purchase new seed each year.
- A decentralized approach to agriculture, based upon a diverse array of locally adapted seeds, would be more likely to weather the vagaries of a changing climate than a system relying on only a few varieties.



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*Vandana Shiva*



viscous\_flo

viscous\_flo Despite attacks from Monsanto, Vandana Shiva has tirelessly crusaded against post colonialism through GM crops. Monopolistic GM monocultures have devastated local farming communities in India. Choose non-GMO! @turninggreenorg @rwgarciasnacks @nongmoproject @usrighttoknow @gmoinside #PGC2017 #nongmo #badassAntiGMOGoddess



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22 SECONDS AGO

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