



Preliminary translation

A Manifesto by the women farmers of ÖBV-Via Campesina Austria

Enough already! The negative developments in agriculture and food policy are shocking us. At the same time, in our daily life, we take care for food, humans and nature. We want to encourage and invite you:

Economy for a good life for all – for “Buen vivir”!

Our current economic system is based on the logic of growth. The consequences are, on the one hand, profit and the concentration of power for a few, and on the other hand, hunger and the exploitation and oppression of people and nature.

Instead, we want an economic system which has at its core a good life for all!

A good life, to us, means to eat and drink well, to dance, to sleep well, to be able to work, to live one’s spirituality, to love and be loved, to be able to hear, to be able to express oneself, and to be able to walk.* To us it means to have time to dream and time to realize those dreams – with others, but also for oneself. To live well means to be able to rest and to be active. A good life for us is to exchange ideas, to connect with others, to be curious and open-minded, to live with passion and humor. It also means to lead a self-determined life. “Buen vivir” is not a standardized model, but it encompasses the diversity of humans and their basic needs and creates a free space that can be socially, culturally, emotionally and sensually molded.

We are women who orient our work at the farm towards a good life for all. We integrate natural cycles into our daily work. We produce food for our region and care for the life in our soil, clean water, healthy air and a beautiful landscape. We learn from our ancestors as well as through trainings, and use this knowledge and skills to improve our own well-being and the well-being of our fellow humans and fellow creatures. An economy for a good life for all is a concrete alternative to, and a resistance against, the dominating logic of growth and profit maximization.

We are women farmers who publically express our opinion for a system change in agriculture. We expose practices that condemn humans and nature, offer resistance against these practices and advocate alternatives. We claim an agricultural policy that concentrates on food sovereignty. We need more farmers and access to land for those who want to work for a good life for all.

Based on our experiences with agriculture, we stand up for an economic and political system which is oriented towards a good life for all and preserves our livelihood – Mother Nature. We are not rulers, but part of nature and highly dependent on biodiversity. Such an economic system positions responsibility for humans, animals and plants at its center. This important and valuable work needs to be appreciated, fairly distributed appropriately paid.

For such a societal change we need a lot of people who focus on a good life for all in their living environment. Let us unite!

Women’s working group of *ÖBV-Via Campesina Austria*

October, 2016

** These definitions of a good life for all are taken from the concept of “Buen Vivir”, of “Sumak kawsay” by the indigenous people of Bolivia.