

# GR IN AFRICA: KEY ISSUES, ADDITIONS, RESPONSES AND STRATEGIES



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# RE CAP ISSUE ISSUES

- Revolution to fundamentally change agriculture production in Africa-industrialisation model-empty out the country side; **farmer tenancy**
- Extremely clever and strategic: Gates brought Microsoft to the world; Koffi Anan-but driven by agri-business (seeds, pesticides, fertilisers)-**as in Asia**



# ADDITIONS

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- ‘New’–targeting many ‘orphan’ ‘crops-  
drought tolerance and enhanced nutrition  
being promoted-already one success  
NERICA-Monty Jones
- Creation of agri-business dealers at  
village level to provide farmers with seeds  
(supply chain-and co option of farmers)
- Role of fertiliser industry-YARA/oil indust
- African Development Bank-infrastructure  
and NERICA in 8 WA countries

# Challenges

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- Africa is sexy
- Gates is sexy
- AGRA is one component but highly visible
- Where to put our energies?
- Divisive nature-giving money for consultation

CGIAR has peasant seeds-what do we say about this?

Socio welfare programmes by Monsanto e.g seeds of hope campaign-free seeds GR seeds-initially subsidised, later debt and destruction (**India**)

# Responses/strategies

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- Work at the national level-information sharing and mobilisation –build on existing struggles
- Greater transparency must apply to all aspects of GR push
- Get organized and strong campaign on agriculture to mobilise farmers
- Demand accountability from govt, researchers etc.

# Strategies

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- Launch here the notion/an international network against the GR push in Africa?
- The resistance to GR is a broader struggle for agrarian reform and justice



# Strategies

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- Agreement on some aspects that we completely reject as starting point for this discourse/struggle