



INSTITUTE FOR AGRICULTURE AND TRADE POLICY

2009 Annual Report

Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy

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Overview

In 2009, our cross-cutting work on food security, public health, climate change and rural livelihoods found itself at the middle of important debates and policymaking at the local, national and international level. Small successes helped lay the groundwork for larger changes. We look forward to continuing our work in 2010 to ensure that farmers and workers can make a fair living, everyone has access to enough healthy food, and our environment is protected for generations to come.

Trade and Global Governance

In 2009, we focused on responses to the global food and climate crises, and developing trade and investment alternatives that support human rights and environmental norms. We convened several conferences and meetings, including international meetings in Rome and Washington, D.C. on food reserves to reduce volatility in agricultural markets; workshops on agriculture and climate change parallel to the Bonn, Bangkok and Copenhagen climate change negotiations; a meeting of livestock producers from the U.S., Mexico and Canada to discuss NAFTA's impact on this sector; and a regional meeting in Bangkok to discuss the impacts of the growing demand for biofuels in the region. IATP also opened a new office in Beijing to assist in investigation of sustainable agriculture policies that would be appropriate to China.

IATP Trade and Global Governance reports, fact sheets and commentaries in 2009 included: *Putting Agriculture on the Global Climate Agenda*; *Eye of the Storm: Integrated Solutions to the Climate, Agriculture and Water Crises*; *Speculating on Carbon: The Next Toxic Asset*; *Strategic Grain Reserves in an Era of Volatility*; *Global Food Responsibility: The European Union and United States Must Chart a New Path*; *Responsabilité alimentaire mondiale L'Union européenne et les Etats-Unis doivent impulser une nouvelle politique*; *A Better future for Food and Energy: Reforming Commodity Futures Markets*; *The Canadian and Mexican WTO Challenges to U.S. Country of Origin Labeling*; *Betting Against Food Security: Futures Market Speculation*; *Free Trade in Agriculture: A Bad Idea Whose Time is Done*; *Global Land Grab*; *Food, Agriculture and Doha*; *Hunger: Is the G-8 Ready to Clean its Plate?*; and *The G-20's Opportunity on Commodities Exchange Regulation, as well as four issues of the Geneva Update newsletter*.

Food and Health

In 2009, we focused on advocating for chemical policy reform, reducing toxins in food and agricultural processing, and mobilizing health professionals to promote healthy food and farm policies. Through Health Care Without Harm, we played a leadership role in leveraging health care's purchasing power to drive sustainability in the food economy. Through our Healthy Legacy project, IATP educated consumers

about chemicals in products, developed business leadership on "green chemistry," and successfully advocated for a state ban on bisphenol-A in baby bottles and sippy cups—and laid the groundwork for comprehensive chemical policy reform in Minnesota. Working with health professionals and their professional associations, IATP explored the connection between farm policy and health, and outlined specific proposals for healthy food systems in various regional and national forums.

Publications included: *Research and Action Priorities for Linking Public Health, Food Systems, and Sustainable Agriculture*; *Mercury and High Fructose Corn Syrup: Frequently Asked Questions*; *Not So Sweet: Missing Mercury and High Fructose Corn Syrup*; *Antibiotics, Animal Agriculture and MRSA: A New Threat*; *Smart Guide to Food Dyes*; *Smart Guide to Minnesota Dairy without rBGH*; *Smart Guide to Hormones in the Food System*; and various articles in outside journals including *Journal of Hunger and Environmental Nutrition*, and *Health Affairs*.

Local Foods

Our Local Foods work centered on a variety of strategies to build local food systems, expand opportunities for small and sustainable farmers and improve access to healthy foods for people of all income levels. Major initiatives included developing a statewide support system for Farm to School programs that make fresh, locally grown foods available in K-12 school environments, and working with municipal government partners and farmers markets to allow Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) participants to use their federal food support benefits at Minneapolis farmers markets. The Local Foods program launched a new model for making fresh produce available in corner stores across the state and promoting the availability of fresh fruits and vegetables in such retail settings. The program worked with 12 small markets and local farmers to increase access to locally grown produce, particularly in low-income areas of Minneapolis. Additional activities included efforts to build local and regional supply chains, develop municipal policy to support urban agriculture, and advocacy for federal food safety and child nutrition legislation.

Publications included: *Bridging the Gaps: Strategies to Improve Produce Safety, Preserve Farm Diversity and Strengthen Local Food Systems*; *Farm to School: Growing Healthy Eating Habits in the Fields of Minnesota*; *Farm to School: A Survey of Foodservice Leaders in Minnesota*; *Healthy Food for All*; *A How-To Guide For Hosting Mini Farmers Markets in Minneapolis*; *Faith Communities and Healthy Eating: Issues and Opportunities for Moving Forward in Minnesota*; and *Food and Faith: Action Strategies for Healthy Eating*.

Rural Communities

Our Rural Communities program promotes sustainable land use and the development of a “green” economy that benefits farmers, rural communities and the environment. In 2009, our work had four primary components: sustainable biomass, climate and agriculture, Mississippi River protection and rural organizing around rural priorities.

IATP continued to advocate for sustainable biomass production and harvesting from agricultural and forest lands. Our work included demonstration projects, policy development, workshops and trainings for landowners and natural resource experts. In particular, IATP helped guide the development and implementation of a promising new Farm Bill program—the Biomass Crop Assistance Program. We also worked closely with Minnesota agriculture, forestry and biofuels sectors throughout the year on the development of low-carbon fuel policies and studies to promote more sustainable biofuels. Similarly, IATP has worked to promote sustainable bioplastics, with a strong focus on more sustainable feedstocks for bioplastics as well as the development of purchasing criteria for retailers and institutions.

In conjunction with the Copenhagen COP 15 climate talks, IATP analyzed the role of agriculture and food systems in climate policy, and presented at public meetings in Copenhagen on these issues. To hasten the shift to equitable and sustainable energy production, IATP’s Center for Earth, Energy and Democracy (CEED) worked with community-based organizations on Sustainable Energy Utilities and understanding justice concerns in climate and energy policy and planning.

Working to protect the Mississippi River, IATP monitored the Army Corps of Engineers and other agencies whose policies affect the health of the river, and collaborated with partners to enhance the integrity of the river and a thriving agricultural system in the river basin.

Our work to connect rural citizens around rural policy priorities culminated in the first Midwest Rural Assembly, held in August, and the formation of an ongoing Rural Assembly network which IATP helps coordinate. Efforts to better integrate new immigrant populations from Africa into their new Midwest rural communities included organizing focused on leadership development and increasing connections with and among target communities.

Publications included: *U.S. Climate policy and Agriculture; Agriculture and Climate Change—The Critical Connection; Climate Inequity; Identifying Our Climate Foodprint: Assessing and Reducing the Global Warming Impacts of Food and Agriculture in the U.S.; Growing a New Crop for a New Market; Growing Greener*

Biofuels; Questionable Start for a New Biomass Program; Why Agriculture and the Climate Bill Don’t Mix; Reflections of Climate Change and Social Justice; Delaware’s Sustainable Energy Utility; and Overview of the 2009 Midwest Rural Assembly.

IATP Food and Society Fellows

Our Food and Society Fellows program provides fellowships to professionals in food and agriculture from across North America, enabling them to use mass media channels to inform and shape the public agenda. The goal of the program is to create sustainable food systems that promote good health, vibrant communities, environmental stewardship, worker justice and accessibility for all. Fellows come from many disciplines, including chefs, farmers, nutritionists, activists, public health professionals, fishers, policy experts and academics.

In 2009, the program had 23 fellows in two classes; it also increased efforts to bring alumni fellows back into the fold through a new series of webinars. The fellows worked on a wide range of issues from a campaign for fair wages for farm workers in Florida to pushing successfully for an organic garden at the White House to advocating for safe, affordable, healthy food for all. The program provided workshops for fellows, and hosted gatherings on sustainable food for policymakers, foundation staff, journalists and others, and premiered two campaign videos on the importance of child nutrition. With professional communications support provided by the program, the fellows were able to publish articles in national media outlets from the Washington Post to the Los Angeles Times. A new website for the program was launched in September. See www.foodandsocietyfellows.org.

Communications

In 2009 IATP published nine issues of *IATP News*, an electronic newsletter describing organizational activities; distributed 35 press releases and 16 commentaries to and for news outlets; maintained regularly updated websites, online resource centers for IATP’s reports, fact sheets and other relevant publications, and an online media center; published the Think Forward blog, where IATP staff comment on issues related to their work; produced a podcast called Radio Sustain—a program on fair trade, resilient rural communities, safe food and a healthy environment; and hosted 18 public educational events in Minneapolis, including film showings, brown bag lunches and Minnesota Globals—events featuring speakers on local and global issues.

2009 Financial Summary

Assets

	2009	2008
Current Assets	3,741,889	5,861,618
Property and equipment, net	1,032,756	1,058,978
Other assets	1,777,524	1,500,202
Total Assets	<u>6,552,169</u>	<u>8,420,798</u>

Liabilities and net assets

Current liabilities	563,863	609,374
Long-term debt, net of current portion	569,610	575,091
Deferred tax liability	66,800	64,200
Total liabilities	<u>1,200,273</u>	<u>1,248,665</u>
Net assets:		
Unrestricted	911,139	856,789
Temporarily Restricted	2,940,757	4,815,344
Permanently restricted	1,500,000	1,500,000
Total net assets	<u>5,351,896</u>	<u>7,172,133</u>
Total liabilities and net assets	<u><u>6,552,169</u></u>	<u><u>8,420,798</u></u>

Revenues

	2009	2008
Grants and contributions	1,806,435	7,256,624
Program services and other revenue	433,441	138,195
Coffee sales, net	1,006,344	989,952
Total revenues, gains and other support	<u>3,246,220</u>	<u>8,384,771</u>

Expenses

Program expenses	4,430,670	3,540,553
Supporting services		
Management and general	305,717	213,386
Fund development	312,080	263,727
Total expenses	<u>5,048,467</u>	<u>4,017,666</u>
Change in net assets before income tax	(1,802,247)	4,367,105
Income taxes	(17,990)	(22,510)
Change in net assets	<u>(1,820,237)</u>	<u>4,344,595</u>
Net assets, beginning of year	<u>7,172,133</u>	<u>2,827,538</u>
Net assets, end of year	<u><u>5,351,896</u></u>	<u><u>7,172,133</u></u>