



Institute for
Agriculture &
Trade Policy

2023 Annual Report

Minneapolis | Washington, D.C. | Berlin | iatp.org



A Note From Our Executive Director

In October 2023, I completed my third year as executive director of this incredible organization. Thinking about it brings up paradoxical sensations: On the one hand, I can hardly believe that three years have passed so quickly. On the other hand, I get vertigo when I consider how much has happened in that time and how much has changed. IATP moved to a new neighborhood, into a smaller, purpose-built space that is full of light, in a building dedicated to community service. With the board's support, we established term limits for our board of directors to ensure our governance remains responsive to a changing context. Our finances are stable and growing, and our budget supports decent work for staff. Slowly but surely, we are securing resources in grants that allow better forward planning. We are adding staff, too – both by turning part-time posts into full-time roles and creating new positions.

We frame our work around three broad objectives: 1) Drive public spending away from factory farms towards investment in healthy, agroecological food systems; 2) Strengthen regulatory oversight of agribusiness and delegitimize extractive models of food production; 3) Advance a narrative that supports a just and green transition for food systems in the U.S., Europe and around the world.

In 2023, we started an exploration of two huge questions: What will we eat in 2040? Who will decide? The answers are already being determined in actions taken and avoided, in choices made and implemented. The need to protect and promote democracy and the social trust on which democracy is built is also urgent.

In the pages that follow, you can read about our considerable policy achievements. They matter. While there is no escape from the fact that our world is suffering from multiple linked crises, there is also no denying how hopeful it is to see what the people united can achieve for themselves and for each other. I am proud of all we have accomplished together and excited to see what the next three years bring. Whether you are already an ally or new to our work, I hope you will join us. Read on to share in the sweetness of goals achieved.

Sophia Murphy, Ph.D.
Executive Director



Learn more about our staff:
<https://www.iatp.org/about/staff>



Learn more about our board of directors:
<https://www.iatp.org/about/board>



Learn more about our history:
<https://www.iatp.org/about/history>



Mission, Vision & Values

IATP is building a just transition for agriculture, which is not the work of one year, or five, but a lifetime.



MISSION

IATP works locally and globally at the intersection of policy and practice to ensure fair and sustainable food, farm and trade systems.

VISION

IATP envisions agriculture, trade and food systems that are good for people, farmers and food system workers, ecosystems and social justice globally.

VALUES

IATP is guided by values of economic and racial justice, environmental sustainability and resilience, and strong democratic institutions.



Program Information

Agroecology

Food systems balance competing needs, from protecting decent livelihoods for farmers and food workers, to safeguarding our soil and water from depletion and pollution. Unlike the dominant, exploitative industrial model, agroecological food systems harmonize these competing needs. IATP advocates for a just transition toward an agroecology-based food system that empowers farmers, ensures access to healthy food and builds climate resilience.



The Tamil Nadu Women's Collective develops resilient agricultural practices for local food security

Agroecology, as a set of agricultural practices, a science and a movement, addresses the interlinked challenges facing our food systems, from Southeast Asia to Mexico.

In 2023, we showcased real-world examples of this transition through our series, **Agroecology in Movement**. The collection of accounts underscores how agroecology, as a set of agricultural practices, a science and a movement, addresses the interlinked challenges facing our food systems, from Southeast Asia to Mexico. Our report, **Communities charting a new direction with agroecology**, presented compelling evidence to the U.S. government ahead of an Agriculture Innovation Mission for Climate meeting in Washington, D.C. (a U.S.-led platform advancing yield-intensive solutions and dominated by big agribusiness interests) that agroecological alternatives to the agribusiness approach can offer real climate solutions.



Seeds on display as part of local seed bank initiative in Oaxaca. Photo by Carlos Cabrera

Throughout the fall of 2023, we provided program planning and outreach support for an international conference celebrating agroecological initiatives, hosted by the Mexican government in Oaxaca. IATP convened **an event on seed sovereignty**, drawing participation from Mexican civil society, government officials and our partners from Africa and Asia. Building on these connections, we furthered our engagement at a conference on centers of origin for seeds organized by the Mexican environment ministry.



IATP staff Shiney Varghese at the agroecology conference in Oaxaca



Program Information

Community Food Systems

In Minnesota, IATP advances an agroecological transition by building model community-based food systems. Our aim is clear: ensuring that all people have sufficient access to culturally appropriate and nutritious food, while opening new markets and opportunities for small to midscale farmers. We envision local food systems that are decentralized, accountable to and controlled by the communities that depend on them and where food is produced and distributed in a way that builds equity and resilience.



A Farm to School tour in Minnesota

Our aim is clear: ensuring that all people have sufficient access to culturally appropriate and nutritious food, while opening new markets and opportunities for small to midscale farmers.

IATP creates new markets for small-scale and emerging farmers by supporting and expanding Farm to School and Early Care programs in Minnesota. In 2023, we supported the advocacy effort that led to Minnesota becoming one of eight states to enshrine Free School Meals, and we are looking for ways to leverage the program to increase investment in our communities through local purchasing. With our partners, we championed state support for Farm to School and Early Care, securing a Minnesota Agriculture Omnibus Bill that included long-term, transformative investment in our initiatives (including the new expansion of program access to include early care centers). We held state agencies accountable to commitments, conducting independent evaluations of the state’s Farm to School grant program and **publicizing our findings** on opportunities and challenges associated with the program.



IATP staff Erin McKee testifying at the MN Agriculture Conference Committee

Co-founded by IATP, the **MinneAg Network** continued its upward trajectory in 2023, adding more community-rooted farm and food systems organizations to its base. By championing nonpartisan policy solutions that protect communities, farmers and the climate, network members achieved tangible wins during Minnesota’s legislative session, from tripling the funding for the state’s emerging farmers’ office to increasing base funding for Farm to School and Early Care to \$1.15 million per year. MinneAg is becoming an established, trusted and authoritative voice in Minnesota: In November, the U.S. Department of Agriculture awarded IATP one of 10 Regional Food System Partnerships Grants for our continued leadership of the MinneAg Network, reflecting the strength of the platform we have built.



Minnesota Department of Agriculture Farm To School Grant Evaluation

Economic impact, grant administration,
grantee successes and challenges



Prepared by the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy
and the University of Minnesota Extension





Program Information

Climate Solutions

IATP is advancing a just transition to climate-resilient, biodiverse food and farm systems. We champion equitable, transformative climate and agriculture policy solutions that benefit farmers, food system workers and rural communities, respond to the urgency of the climate crisis and hold corporations accountable for their greenhouse gas emissions.



IATP marched at Climate Week in New York City in September

In 2023, IATP continued our work to hold global meat companies accountable for their climate footprint, scoring a significant **victory** against the world’s largest meat processing corporation, JBS. We successfully challenged the company’s misleading net-zero claims at the Better Business Bureau, resulting in JBS retracting some of its most outlandish greenwashed claims and paving the way for a lawsuit brought by the New York Attorney General against JBS in 2024. We also deepened our work exposing agribusiness-led climate solutions, such as carbon offset markets and factory farm gas, which delay real climate action and expand inequities in the food system.



IATP Europe marched at Climate Week in Berlin

Our engagement in the Farm Bill process in the U.S. and leadership in the **Real Zero Europe** campaign in the EU demonstrate our commitment to driving systemic change. In the U.S., IATP advocated for Farm Bill policy reforms that expand access for agroecological practices and limit spending on factory farms. In the EU, we led the Real Zero Europe coalition challenging false climate strategies, such as the **Carbon Removal Certification Framework**, that would enable companies to avoid meaningful emissions reductions.



IATP staff Ben Lilliston meets with congressional staffers in Washington, D.C.



IATP staff Steve Suppan testified at a Senate Committee Hearing



Program Information

Trade & Governance

IATP advocates for trade governance policies that prioritize the fair exchange of sustainably produced goods and services with the goal of achieving food security for all. Current international trade rules overlook environmental costs and exacerbate inequalities among nations and between global and local supply chains. Our work emphasizes the importance of vibrant local and regional food systems in shaping trade policies that benefit all stakeholders.

In 2023, the U.S. launched a **trade dispute** against Mexico under the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement,

challenging Mexico's policies aimed at protecting food sovereignty. IATP coordinated a tri-national civil society response in support of the Mexican government's fight to protect human health and Indigenous corn from contamination. We were invited by the dispute panel to **submit written testimony** in support of the protection of native corn as an Indigenous right. Our involvement in the dispute sparked crucial conversations around food sovereignty and biodiversity, shaping ongoing advocacy efforts into 2024.

IATP and other experts from the Global South and North launched a **three-year project** in June 2023 to rethink global trade rules for agriculture. By developing an alternative framework rooted in agroecological principles to the current World Trade Organization's Agreement on Agriculture, we aim to drive policy reform in international trade negotiations, aligning with the goals of the United Nations Sustainable Development Agenda.



A bounty of diverse maize and seeds on display at a field visit in Oaxaca. Photo by Michael Farrelly



IATP's Sophia Murphy at the advisory workshop for the Agreement on Agriculture Reimagined project





Program Information


Communications

Since its inception, IATP has been a trusted source of communications materials, spanning from detailed research to thought-provoking articles to engaging multimedia content. Our communications team plans, produces and promotes the work of our program staff to reshape prevailing narratives and advance our mission.

In 2023, the communications team oversaw the publication and promotion of:

 **50** articles

 **17** regulatory comments and letters

 **11** policy briefs and case studies

 **9** reports



Our popular podcast miniseries, **The Farm Bill Uprooted**, featured discussion from IATP policy experts and guest speakers about how the Farm Bill works, how it has shaped our current food system and how we can start to fix it. With almost 5,000 listeners across six episodes, the series resonated with a broad audience, fostering meaningful dialogue and understanding.

Through strategic media outreach efforts, our team secured significant coverage across various platforms, including online, print, radio and TV outlets. With IATP quoted, mentioned or cited nearly 2,000 times, our messages reached a potential audience of over 3 billion people.



IATP increased our social media following across our channels. Follow us:



NEWSLETTER SIGN-UP



2023 Financials

BALANCE SHEET

Total Assets	\$ 2,486,777
Total Liabilities	\$ 383,569
Total Net Assets	\$ 2,103,208
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	\$ 2,486,777

INCOME STATEMENT¹

Total Revenue	\$ 2,036,417
Total Expense	\$ 2,301,891

FUNCTIONAL EXPENSE ALLOCATION

Programs	\$ 1,459,232 ²
Mission Support/Administration	\$ 639,896
Mission Support/Fundraising	\$ 202,764

USE OF FUNDS

Programs	63%
Mission Support/Administration	28%
Mission Support/Fundraising	9%

¹ IATP experienced a net loss in 2023 due to a revenue shortfall. This decrease in revenue was offset by the increase in investment income and significant in-kind contributions. The summarized financial information provided in this annual report has been extracted from IATP's 2023 consolidated audited financial statements. Please refer to the complete audited financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2023 for the full generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) presentation.

² A complete breakdown of expenses per individual program is available on IATP's [website](#).





Institute for
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Our mission is made possible in partnership with generous donors. Through a tax-deductible **donation** to the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy, you can support our work locally and globally at the intersection of policy and practice to ensure healthy, fair and sustainable food, farm and trade systems.

IATP IN MINNEAPOLIS

(MAIN OFFICE)

1700 Second Street NE, Suite 200

Minneapolis, MN 55413

612-870-0453

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IATP IN D.C.

110 Maryland Ave NE, Suite 307

Washington, D.C. 20002

612-870-0453

IATP IN BERLIN

IATP EUROPE

Haus der Demokratie &
Menschenrechte, R. 1202

(Aufgang A) Greifswalderstr. 4
10405 Berlin

Germany