

This month's main theme focuses on seeds – the real things, that is.

In their bounty, however, they also offer a lazy metaphor for almost anything that flourishes. So here goes.

The next time you see *New Internationalist* magazine it will have grown. For the past few months a fresh variety has been germinating in the fertile soils of Oxford, Adelaide, Ottawa and Christchurch. It has evolved organically in response to runaway climate change in the media, but without genetic modification to its roots. It will blossom in October to attract the pollinators it needs (not beleaguered bees, by the way, but you, our beloved subscribers, and your friends) to fertilize an ecosystem otherwise suffocated by invasive corporate monoculture. People have three-colour vision just to tell the difference, so the red of this new growth's delicious fruit will be set against a background of leafy green. A staple crop of information, ideas and inspiration from around the world is, assuredly, the best way to nourish and propagate a future worth having.

So, elsewhere in this 'heritage' magazine, there's a foretaste

of greater diversity to come: the long-awaited cross-fertilization of a major trade union (the United Steelworkers in the US) with a big co-operative (Mondragón in the Basque Country); a bloom of activism, and another potential infestation of corporate control, on the World Wide Web. The seeds of possibility may lie dormant in ground made barren by corporate globalization, but they are still fertile.

David Ransom



David Ransom for the New Internationalist Co-operative

MAIN FEATURE

Seed savers



DANIEL MUNOZ / REUTERS

4 Seed savers

The world's seed markets are being gobbled up by 'life-science' corporations – but peasant farmers still feed the world. David Ransom reports.

8 Crops of truth

You have to travel with Jaideep Hardikar to meet the women at the bottom of the social scale in rural south India to find knowledge and wisdom.

10 SEEDS – THE FACTS

12 The seeds of sovereignty

Francisca Rodríguez talks with Camila Montecinos about the women who work with Vía Campesina, the world's largest and most active organization of peasant farmers.



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SPECIAL FEATURE

21 A world wide web of change

Digital activism has come a long way, but its principles still reflect its analogue ancestry, argues Adam Ma'anit.



ISAIAH ESIPISU

14 Surviving climate change

What was once almost a sacred duty provides a vital clue to the future, reports Isaiah Esipisu from Kenya.



16 A very short natural history of seeds

18 Merchants of death!

The troubling story of a corporate bid to take control of the world's food supply, told by Sue Branford.

20 Action

Contacts, links, books...



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DAVID PARRY / PA ARCHIVE / PRESS ASSOCIATION IMAGES

REGULAR FEATURES

2 Letters

Time to investigate the Bolivarian alternative, and a Canadian comes clean.

3 Letter from Cairo

María Golía witnesses an unlikely form of protest in the heat-addled capital.

25 Currents

A Canadian filmmaker wins damages from the government; Burmese military complicity in opium growing exposed; and climate wars in Kenya's nomadic communities.

27 Only Planet

Getting humans' attention is a ball, discovers Gort in **Marc Roberts'** cartoon.

28 Big Bad World

A matter of concern in **Polyp's** cartoon. PLUS: **NI Prize Crossword.**

29 Worldbeaters

Big coal equals big profits, so **Don Blankenship** doesn't worry too much about pollution.

30 Mixed Media

Super Furry Animals (and a penguin) on a Patagonian quest in new film **Separado**, and a musical trio collaborates on the **Road to Damascus.**

32 Southern Exposure

Andrés Lofiego's photograph is symbolic of a threatened way of life in Argentina.

33 Mixed Media

PV Rajagopal seeks a return to Gandhian values and wonders what happened to his country.

34 Essay: Working together

A common vision has joined two major players in the labour and co-op movements. **Erbin Crowell** considers the implications.

36 Country profile: Bangladesh

Front cover photograph: Jaideep Hardikar. Magazine design: Alan Hughes. All monetary values are expressed in US dollars unless otherwise noted.