

Initiated by **IFOAM - Organics International**, this is a **Common Table Creative** film and an **iCoolKid Production**.



**2019 | 12 minutes | Audio German**

Subtitles in **Czech, Dutch, English, French, German, Greek, Italian, Lithuanian, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Slovenian**





# Logline

Farmers. Citizens. Unite.

## Synopsis (short)

Accompany organic farmers Carlo Horn and Hanna Erz as they drive their tractors to Berlin to protest for a better food and farming system.





# Synopsis (long)

The 12-minute film **'We Unite'** is a window into the lives of two organic farmers and the reasons they join the yearly 'We are Fed-Up' demonstration in Germany. Along with hundreds of other farmers, they drive their tractors into the heart of Berlin where they unite with thousands of citizens calling for a better food and farming system for all.

Carlo Horn and Hanna Erz talk about why they farm organically, the impact it has on soils and yield, and how, even in times of drought, they are still able to harvest crops. They highlight the need for sustainable food systems that give farmers access to land, protect the environment, pay fair prices and provide good food for all.





# The Story

## Access to Land

<sup>1</sup> The number of farmers around the world is decreasing. There is a global process of consolidation underway whereby large-scale operations are taking over more and more land. <sup>2</sup> Land grabbing and difficulties accessing land are forcing small and medium-scale farms out of agriculture, something Carlo talks about from personal experience.



1. [https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Farmers\\_and\\_the\\_agricultural\\_labour\\_force\\_-\\_statistics#Fewer\\_farms.2C\\_fewer\\_farmers](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Farmers_and_the_agricultural_labour_force_-_statistics#Fewer_farms.2C_fewer_farmers)

2. Land grabbing is described by the [European Coordination of La Via Campesina \(ECVC\)](#) as: the legal or illegal control of 'larger than locally-typical' amounts of land by any persons or entities for purposes of speculation, extraction, resource control or commodification at the expense of peasant farmers, agroecology, land stewardship, food sovereignty and human rights.



## Out of Sight, Out of Mind

Fewer farmers also means fewer opportunities for us to interact with the men and women, like Carlo and Hanna, who grow our food. We are not always aware of the challenges farmers face and how we can support them. Hanna speaks about selling her produce directly from her farm shop and how this is a great way for consumers to support farmers.

## Feed the Soil, Feed the Plant

Carlo and Hanna believe that treating soil well is crucial for producing healthy food. Neither of them apply chemical inputs that pollute the soil. Hanna tells us that by caring for the soil she manages to get a good yield. Carlo talks about how despite a drought last year, he was still able to harvest crops because of the organic farming practices he applies.

## Public Money for Damaged Goods

According to the recent <sup>3</sup> IPBES Global Assessment Report on biodiversity and ecosystem services, financial support in OECD countries (2015) to agriculture that is potentially harmful for the environment is estimated to be \$100 billion. The same study says that organic agriculture and agroecological practices can play a major role in achieving sustainable food systems, the uptake of which can be supported by policy-makers. Carlo talks about the need for public money to be spent on public goods such as policies that protect biodiversity and contribute to good health and well-being for everyone.

## Good Food for All

We have the facts. Now we need action. Carlo and Hanna share their hopes for the future and call on farmers and citizens to unite in shaping a food system that protects soils and preserves biodiversity. A food system that pays farmers and farmworkers fair prices and doesn't just feed people but nourishes them.

Done right, agriculture can provide Good Food for All, generate decent incomes, and protect the environment.

---

3. [https://www.ipbes.net/news/Media-Release-Global-Assessment#\\_Scale\\_of\\_Loss](https://www.ipbes.net/news/Media-Release-Global-Assessment#_Scale_of_Loss)



If you would like to know more about this film,  
please contact Niamh Holland-Essoh, [\*\*n.holland@ifoam.bio\*\*](mailto:n.holland@ifoam.bio)

---

 [ifoam.org](https://www.ifoam.org)

 [@IFOAMorganic](https://twitter.com/IFOAMorganic)

 [ifoam-organicsinternational](https://www.linkedin.com/company/ifoam-organicsinternational)

---

[www.ifoam.bio](https://www.ifoam.bio)

[campaigns.ifoam.bio/we-unite](https://campaigns.ifoam.bio/we-unite)

[www.makeeuropesustainableforall.org](https://www.makeeuropesustainableforall.org)