



Institute for Agriculture & Trade Policy

**October 16th at 7:00pm CDT**

# Celebrate World Food Day at the Bell Museum with Sheelu Francis

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The Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy and the Bell Museum of Natural History invite you to a World Food Day event featuring Sheelu Francis of the Tamil Nadu Women's Collective, honoree at the [2013 Food Sovereignty Prize](#).

The [Tamil Nadu Women's Collective](#) in southern India has organized over 100,000 marginalized women, many in unofficial worker unions or small collective farms, to strengthen their food sovereignty and thus their broader power. In addition to organizing locally and nationally on issues from their own families' food security to land rights to opposition to genetically modified seeds, the collective encourages cultivation of native millet varieties—the hardy traditional grain is nutritious, drought-resistant and easier to grow in the region than wheat or rice. Our guest, Sheelu Francis, is the president of the collective and will be honored at the Food Sovereignty award ceremony on behalf of the collective in New York on October 15, 2013.

The United Nation's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) created World Food Day in 1979 to bring attention to the profound issues of hunger and malnutrition in the world. As the conditions that fuel hunger intensify, it is more vital than ever to find creative and constructive ways to engage people everywhere on the challenges of feeding and nourishing a world population of 7 billion in ways that are fair, sustainable, healthy and environmentally sound.

Event supported by IATP, the [Bell Museum of Natural History](#), the [India Association of Minnesota](#) and the University of Minnesota's [Institute for Global Studies](#) to celebrate World Food Day.

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## **Keywords**

[Food security](#)

[Sustainable Agriculture](#)

[Food](#)