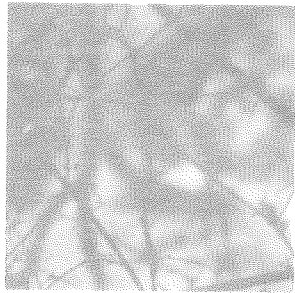
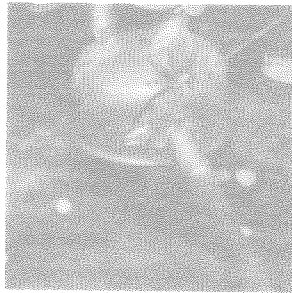


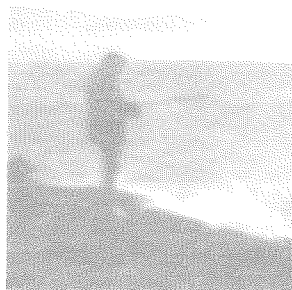
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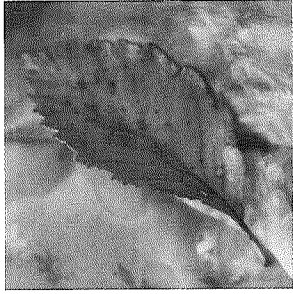


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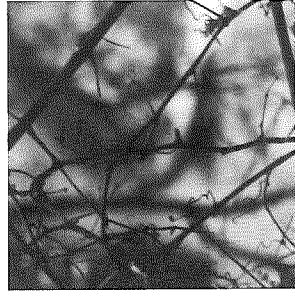


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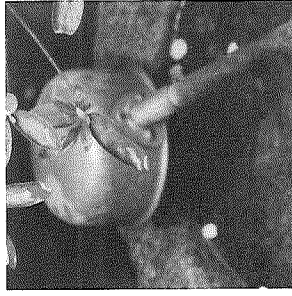
Annual Report



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AND TRADE POLICY



2000~2001

Annual Report

UNIFYING OUR WORK

From the cool beverage in your hand, to our rivers, lakes and oceans, to the food we eat, the ubiquitous role of water in our lives is mostly taken for granted. Fortunately, this is changing. In many places around the world, people are recognizing the importance of water to all aspects of life — from health and food to the environment and commerce.

In Bolivia, a citizens' movement protested attempts by their government to turn over drinking water to a transnational corporation. At the mouth of the Mississippi River, high levels of nutrients in the water are creating a "dead zone," killing plant and animal life. In Ohio, North Carolina and many other states, manure run-off from gigantic hog and chicken factory farms has contaminated entire water systems. In the Pacific Northwest, farmers are forced to idle land while some species of fish face extinction due to severe water shortages. A number of U.S. states and some Canadian provinces have vowed to block attempts by private corporations to export water from the Great Lakes. In many areas of the world, water has replaced oil as the most fought-over natural resource.

Today an estimated 1.3 billion people — one out of five worldwide — lack access to clean drinking water and twice that number lack basic sanitation facilities. If current levels of water consumption continue, half the world's people and many endangered plants and animals will eventually lack adequate water.

IATP works globally to promote resilient farms, communities and ecosystems. Issues that center on water are crucial to all aspects of our work. This report looks back over the last year with a special emphasis on our activities unified by the right to water.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Every once in a while a new theme emerges that brings together many of the various strands of our work – something that seems very obvious in retrospect but largely hidden until now.

Reflecting on our work over the last year, it became clear to us that water is one of those “cross-cutting” themes. Many of our staff work on topics related to water, ranging from who controls our water to practical efforts to keep it pure and affordable. Some of our staff work on organized campaigns to protect our oceans, lakes, rivers, streams, wetlands and coastal estuaries. Some work on maintaining healthy waters for our fish, birds, plants and animals.

Other IATP staffers are working at the international level to ensure the right to water for everyone. This work has included everything from practical, grassroots projects assisting villagers in rural India in accessing their own water, to helping craft an international treaty designed to ensure the right to water embodied in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

As we look into the next year, we can also see a number of exciting new avenues for our water-related work. First, we are pulling elements of this work into a comprehensive Water Project. Our work to protect oceans and freshwater is expanding to include a consumer campaign to address the destructive nature of industrial aquaculture. Our work to preserve fish and marine biodiversity will include an intensive focus on the new ecological and public health challenges coming from soon-to-be-released genetically engineered fish.

We will be working with partners in both North and South America to further examine the environmental and economic impacts of massive infrastructure projects on rivers in Paraguay, Brazil and the United States, and to address the giant “dead zone” at the mouth of the Mississippi River. We are launching a new “Green Benefits Marketing Program” to reward farmers, foresters and other private landowners for changes in their production and harvesting practices designed specifically to protect the water resources of the Great Lakes, the Missouri and Red Rivers, and

other fresh water systems here in the Upper Midwest.

We will continue to work with partners in the United States and overseas to support the Global Water Contract, a citizens’ initiative to ensure that every person has access to adequate supplies of drinkable water, no matter how poor or excluded from society. We are very excited about several major international conferences coming in the next year that will be important forums for promoting this initiative, including the United Nations Conference on Investment and Development and the World Summit on Sustainable Development, scheduled for Johannesburg in September of 2002.

The past year has been a watershed of sorts for IATP itself. We purchased a beautiful neighboring building listed on the National Historic Register. We invested in the establishment of a donor program, and we hired more stellar colleagues. Just one example is Chela Vazquez, Ph.D. Dr. Vazquez is building our connections with Latin American counterparts in the fields of global governance and food systems. For more information on IATP’s extraordinary staff, not to mention our programs and accomplishments, please see our Web site, www.iatp.org, and contact us!

We are dedicating this report to the people of Cochabamba, Bolivia, who through their courage and determination fought to maintain their human right to water in the face of attempts by the government and military of Bolivia to turn over control of their water to a private global corporation. The powerful resistance by the people of Cochabamba to this attempted human rights violation has helped transform water into a global social issue. We want to express our deepest appreciation to them for this gift.

Thank you for taking time to read this report. You will find it full of hope and inspiration.

Mark Ritchie, President

FAIR TRADE

Last year, IATP's Trade and Agriculture Program focused on two main strategies – the democratization of global trade institutions like the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the promotion of fair trade practices. This work took us around the globe – from China, where we worked with farmers on how best to prepare for China's entry into the WTO, to Geneva, where we worked with governments trying to bring an end to the export dumping of agricultural products by transnational agribusiness firms based in North America and Europe.

IATP has long argued that persistently low world prices for agricultural products are, in part, the result of export dumping – the selling of crops at less than the cost of production. In 2000, we released a major report documenting agricultural dumping by U.S.-based exporters, the impact of this unfair trade practice on family farmers and peasants around the world, and ways that national governments and the WTO could address this problem. As part of this initiative, Trade and Agriculture Program Director Sophia Murphy co-organized a major seminar in Geneva for UN and WTO staff and non-governmental organization (NGO) leaders to discuss ways to improve global agricultural trade rules. Recently, several national delegations at the WTO have spoken out about the problem of dumping and begun to explore how agricultural trade rules could be reformed.

While we have been working to reform the international rules of trade, IATP is also engaged in the day-to-day promotion of fair trade. Our Peace Coffee, the first certified fair trade coffee company in the United States, continues to help small producer cooperatives in Mexico, Guatemala, Cameroon and Indonesia by paying fair prices to producers despite record low prices on the manipulated world coffee market.

In recognition of our work to promote fair trade and international cooperation, the Working Day Media Consortium selected IATP for the 2000 Joady Award – named after the John Steinbeck character Tom Joad.

GLOBALISM AND GLOBAL GOVERNANCE

IATP's Global Governance Program focuses on democratizing existing and emerging global institutions. Last year in Bellagio, Italy, International Programs Vice President Kristin Dawkins organized a ground-breaking gathering of 23 leading thinkers from 19 different countries to re-examine globalization and consider how to shift global activism toward identifying and advocating for alternative models. This gathering has been the basis for a series of articles and other meetings moving toward a major re-organization of the post-World War II global architecture.

An important component of our work on globalism is the emergence of new types of global treaties and institutions. One example is the patenting of life forms, such as plants or animals, despite widespread public concern and opposition. Last year, we spearheaded the launch of a global coalition to counter this challenge. We have advocated for significant reforms to the WTO Trade-Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Agreement and national patent systems, particularly for AIDS drugs, seeds for food crops and medicines. IATP is now helping coordinate regional sub-groups in the U.S. and Western Hemisphere as part of a global effort to reform the patent rules pertaining to living organisms and essential drugs.

Another critical aspect of our work has been active participation in the United Nations as an accredited civil society organization. IATP is very active in the UN Commission for Sustainable Development (CSD), with a specific focus on their work around sustainable rural development and agriculture. A significant initiative has been campaigning in the international arena for the Precautionary Principle, which puts safety first in setting health and environmental regulations. Last year we brought together 30 policy analysts from 11 countries to strategize on how to use the Precautionary Principle in global food safety and environmental treaties.

In recognition of our pioneering work on globalization and globalism, the mayors of Minneapolis and St. Paul awarded IATP President Mark Ritchie the 2000 Twin Cities International Citizen Award.

KEEPING FARMERS ON THE LAND

Modern economic and environmental pressures have raised new challenges for our water, air, soil and biodiversity systems. Whether it is truck and barge traffic, the destruction of wetlands or increased runoff of soil, fertilizer and pesticides, many of our important life support systems are under stress. IATP is working on local, regional, national and international projects to protect and strengthen the resiliency of our natural systems. A critical focus for us has been the three major river systems in the Midwest – the Missouri, the Red River and the Mississippi – and on vital watersheds that flow directly into the Great Lakes.

Environment and Agriculture Program Director Dr. Steve Light is working with a National Academy of Sciences (NAS) committee to evaluate the management of the Missouri River. An important aspect of this work is developing innovative strategies for managing rivers all over the world in ways that strengthen the watersheds. Dr. Light will continue his work with the NAS this year, evaluating recovery efforts in the Florida Everglades.

The Red River Basin, which drains farmland and forests in Minnesota, North Dakota and Manitoba, Canada, is an essential ecological resource for the Upper Midwest. IATP is working with a number of citizen organizations in the Red River Basin, including the Clay County Wildlife Alliance and the Red River Valley Coalition for Farmers, Farmworkers and Community. Our goal is to protect natural resources and improve living and working conditions for farmers, migrant and seasonal farm workers, and employees in the local industries. IATP has played a special role working to reduce pesticide dangers in the region, including the publication of a resource guide on farmworker safety issues and the development of a Web site that tracks pesticide work among different governmental agencies.

IATP has continued to focus a great deal of attention on the Mississippi River and the river systems that feed the Mississippi. There has been much public debate during the last year over the role of the Mississippi in the global grain trading system. For the past eight years, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has studied the feasibility of expanding the navigational infrastructure on the Mississippi River by lengthening locks and dams to move more barges of grain down the river toward world markets.

Led by Senior Associate Mark Muller and Senior Fellow Dr. Dennis Keeney, we have worked in coalition with other farm, consumer, environmental and taxpayer organizations to make sure that any efforts to increase Mississippi River navigational structures truly benefit farmers, river communities and the environment. In 2000, IATP published four papers on the topic:

- Assessing lock and dam expansion benefits to farmers;
- Evaluating the impact of expanded navigation on nitrogen use and runoff in the Mississippi River Basin;
- Comparing the relationship between midwestern U.S. and South American soybean production and transportation; and
- Documenting deficiencies of the grain forecasting methods used by the Corps of Engineers to justify the massive lock and dam project.

In the aftermath of these analyses and other concerns raised around the nation, the Army Corps of Engineers and Congress are re-evaluating the lock and dam project.

The growing “dead zone” at the mouth of the Mississippi River must be confronted. One of the major environmental problems facing river systems worldwide is known as hypoxia. “Hypoxia” means “out of oxygen.” Each summer a hypoxic or “dead” zone develops in the Gulf of Mexico; this summer it engulfed over 8,000 square miles. Federal, state and local agencies have determined that this problem is caused by a number of human actions, including fertilizer and manure runoff from agricultural lands throughout the Mississippi River Basin. To address the economic, social and environmental impacts of this dead zone, IATP is working for changes in federal farm policy that will promote more sustainable and organic agriculture, grazing and forestry practices.

Next year, with support from the National Science Foundation, IATP will look at the bio-complexity of the Red River Basin.

This research presents an invaluable opportunity to bring all of these efforts together into one major study.

PROMOTING WORKING LANDSCAPES AND MULTIFUNCTIONAL AGRICULTURE

Our food system is at a crossroads. Exciting new markets are expanding for local, organic and sustainably produced foods. At the same time, family farmers are barely surviving, largely due to low prices set by national and international policies designed to promote the industrialization of agriculture and commercial fishing.

IATP is helping family farmers and fishers take advantage of some of these new niche markets. For example, last year we organized a conference, *"Adding Value through Environmental Marketing: Opportunities for Food Producers, Processors and Retailers,"* that brought together farmers, processors, retailers and representatives of governmental and nonprofit organizations to share strategies for taking advantage of this burgeoning niche market.

While helping small producers survive through niche marketing, we are working to change the policies that push families off the land and replace them with factory farms and industrial fish farming. Last year, we worked with a wide range of constituencies, including farmers, farmworkers, environmentalists, church leaders, community groups, labor leaders and consumers to promote a safer and more nutritious food supply, healthier and more profitable farms, greater ecological benefits and more resilient rural communities.

One of IATP's most exciting developments in 2000 was our participation in a Greening Sprawl Working Group that documented dozens of the most effective ways that concerned citizens and landowners are combating the loss of farmland to urban sprawl. We are part of an effort to develop economically and ecologically successful alternative enterprises at the fringes of metropolitan areas. On an even larger scale, IATP, the Great Plains Institute for Sustainable Development and the Northeast Minnesota Sustainable Development Partnership at the University of Minnesota are collecting pictures and stories about individual initiatives that revitalize farms, landscapes and communities throughout the Midwest. Hundreds of these inspirational examples are on the "Renewing the Countryside" Web site: www.mncountryside.org. We have now published the best of these initiatives in a beautiful volume.

Many of these important initiatives embody what we call "Conservation-based Rural Development" — the idea that we can improve the lives and livelihoods of rural citizens by promoting economic, cultural and social activities that help to protect natural resources and increase biological diversity.



Farming, Bali

We can improve the lives and livelihoods of rural citizens by promoting economic, cultural and social activities that help to protect natural resources and increase biological diversity.

GENETIC ENGINEERING IN AGRICULTURE

IATP has been documenting the impacts of genetically engineered crops since the technology was first introduced nearly a decade ago. So far, we are not impressed. In fact, we are concerned. We are a founding member of GE Food Alert, a coalition which helped uncover and expose genetically engineered StarLink corn that is illegally appearing in our food and contaminating the crops of many family farmers.

In the wake of the StarLink scandal, IATP has worked with attorneys general in seven states to protect farmers from financial losses and legal liability associated with massive recalls of StarLink corn. IATP has helped raise liability issues related to the risks of genetic engineering with the publication of a legal handbook for negotiators and an international legal briefing paper.

Other IATP genetic engineering work includes:

- Working with the Midwest Sustainable Agriculture Working Group to create a policy approach for genetically engineered crops;
- Co-authoring a report examining the use of the Precautionary Principle in regulations on genetically engineered corn varieties;
- Working with family farm organizations to coordinate the Farmer to Farmer campaign, designed to help farmers talk to other farmers about the economic and environmental risks associated with genetically engineered crops;
- Designing the action-oriented Web site for GE Food Alert - www.gefoodalert.org - and coordinating several popular list serves on biotech issues such as transgenic fish and genetically engineered trees.

KEEPING OUR FOOD SAFE

IATP is committed to eliminating dangerous contaminants from the food supply. These include toxic pollutants such as dioxin and mercury, which may fall on farmland after being dispersed by medical or municipal waste incinerators; disease-causing pathogens that may be contained in sewage sludge spread on farmland; and toxic heavy metals such as cadmium, lead and arsenic found in fertilizer containing hazardous industrial waste.

We continue to be active leaders in the national Health Care Without Harm (HCWH) campaign working to close medical waste incinerators and eliminate mercury thermometers to reduce the release of toxic chemicals that eventually enter the food supply. Our Food Safety Project Director, Jackie Hunt Christensen, has worked with health care facilities, schools, regulators and community groups all over the country to help coordinate HCWH campaigns to eliminate dioxin and mercury from our food.

An emerging public health crisis is resulting from the way we treat food animals. Recent research reveals that up to 80 percent of all antibiotics in the U.S. are used in agriculture, mostly to artificially boost the weight of chickens, pigs, cattle and farmed fish. Scientific evidence now points to this antibiotic misuse in agriculture and aquaculture as a significant contributor to growing problems with infections caused by antibiotic-resistant bacteria in people.

Led by Dr. David Wallinga, IATP is working with the Keep Antibiotics Working Campaign – a coalition of farm, public health, consumer and environmental groups – to reduce inappropriate antibiotic use in agriculture and ban the use of the most medically important drugs for this purpose. IATP has produced the first on-line guide for consumers who want to find antibiotic-free meat at www.iatp.org.

Dr. Wallinga is also directing IATP's groundbreaking work on children's health. Dr. Wallinga has authored and contributed to a number of reports on children's health issues. The National Conference on Alternative Medicine recently recognized Dr. Wallinga and IATP for our "contribution to children's health."

SEEING THE FORESTS AND THE TREES

IATP's Forestry Program helps farmers and other woodland owners manage their forests more sustainably to protect biodiversity, our water supply and endangered habitats. Equally important, we help landowners who practice responsible forest management find ways to increase their financial return from their forests and woodlots by facilitating "green" certification for their forest products and finding premium markets for these products. Our Forestry Program runs the Community Forestry Resource Center (CFRC) which helps landowners form green certified associations or cooperatives to increase the value of their wood products.

In 1998, IATP's forestry staff assisted forest owners who established the very first value-added, sustainable forestry cooperative in the country: the Sustainable Woods Cooperative in Spring Green, Wisconsin. As of 2001, there are nearly 30 groups around the country creating forestry cooperatives – with three of these groups already fully functioning with sawmills, solar dryers and green certified wood and wood products in the marketplace.

Working with public and private landowners as well as wood products companies, IATP has helped to significantly expand the number of acres of Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified forests in the United States. Next year, through our partnership with Altermec in Guatemala, we hope to help expand FSC certification and the sustainable woods cooperative model throughout Central America.

To promote the expansion of forest cooperatives, IATP co-hosted a conference in Madison, Wisconsin that trained others on how to use forest owner cooperation to balance ecology and economics. The conference attendees came from throughout the United States and Canada. IATP staff have been called upon to speak and present workshops at sustainable development and forestry conferences including events in London, Ontario, Maryland and Mexico.

CFRC produces one of the most informative newsletters on sustainable forestry in the nation, *Community Forestry Connections*, and maintains a rich and valuable Web site at www.forestrycenter.org.

INTERNET COMMUNICATIONS AND DIGITAL ORGANIZING

IATP remains on the leading edge of the communications and information revolution, continuing to create new ways to use the Internet to advance our mission and support our partners. For example, our international trade site, www.wtowatch.org, is the premier site for information on global trade rules and the WTO, reaching nearly 250,000 people last year. In addition, we launched two new on-line magazines. The *WTO Watch* magazine covers a wide range of trade and globalization news, including regional trade agreements and disputes, consumer and environmental issues and development features from around the world. *Qatar Update* is designed to help governments and NGOs plan for the WTO's Fourth Ministerial Conference, coming up in November 2001 in Doha, Qatar.

The most exciting new development has been the opening of our Water Observatory Web site at www.waterobservatory.org, which is quickly becoming the most widely used source of information on water related issues. For a look at the full range of IATP's Internet resources, visit our homepage at www.iatp.org.

IATP's computer work is recognized both for the many innovations that IATP staff has created and for contributions to the broader NGO community. For example, Zeal.com rated IATP's www.wtowatch.org the number one international trade site, and *The Ecologist* named it one of their top five favorite on-line bookmarks.

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Headwaters Initiative (Peace Coffee)

Headwaters International markets organic, shade-grown coffee as "Peace Coffee" label. It is a separate entity owned by IATP. Its financials are not included in IATP's, and this report's financials are limited to IATP.

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