

# Food Sovereignty in the U.S.: A National Overview of the Movement

Elena Seeley

Department of Nutrition and Food Studies

## Background

- Food sovereignty emphasizes the right to sustainably grown, culturally appropriate, healthy food and with that, a community's right to control their own food system.
- Efforts facilitate agency and resilience in local communities while working to dismantle larger power structures and oppression.
- In 1996, the international peasant movement, Via Campesina, introduced food sovereignty to a global audience and has since been taken up as a movement around the world.
- Food sovereignty efforts are often shaped by local histories, challenges, and political conditions and vary across regions and demographics.

## Purpose

To better understand the landscape of food sovereignty efforts in the U.S. by looking at how different organizations are approaching food sovereignty and what motivates individuals who are working in this field.

## Methods

- Conducted a survey of English speaking adults who self-identify as engaging in food sovereignty efforts, which was distributed via food systems focused email listservs.
- Conducted 12 interviews with survey participants who identified their willingness to speak further about their work.

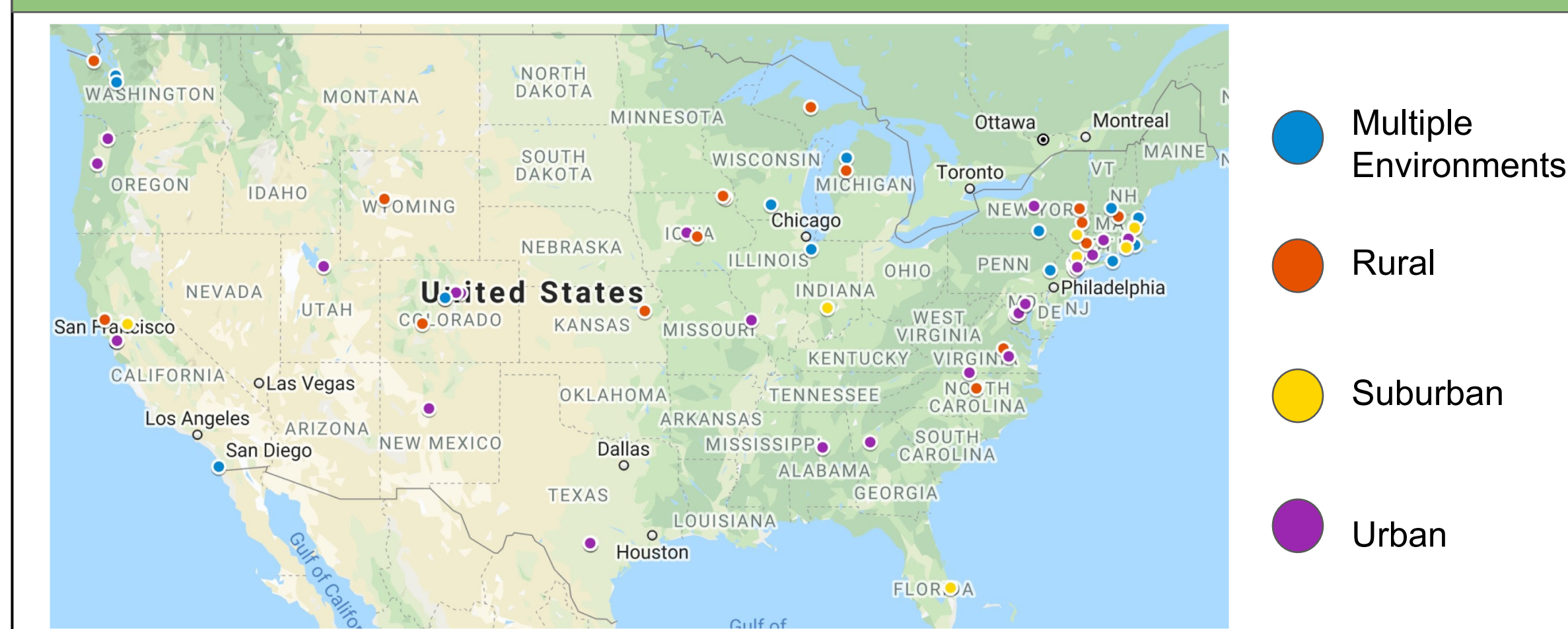
## References

- Brent, Z.B., Schiavoni, C.M., & Alonso-Fradejas, A. (2015). "Contextualising food sovereignty: the politics of convergence among movements in the USA." *Third World Quarterly*, 36(3), 618–635. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01436597.2015.1023570>
- Holt-Gimenez, E. & Shattuck, A. (2011). "Food crises, food regimes and food movements: rumblings of reform or tides of transformation?" *Journal of Peasant Studies*, 38(1), 109-144. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/03066150.2010.538578>

## What Do Food Sovereignty Projects Look Like?

Organizational-focused questions help us understand what communities organizations are working in, what aspect(s) of food sovereignty are most important to their work and how they are working toward food sovereignty.

## Location and Environment



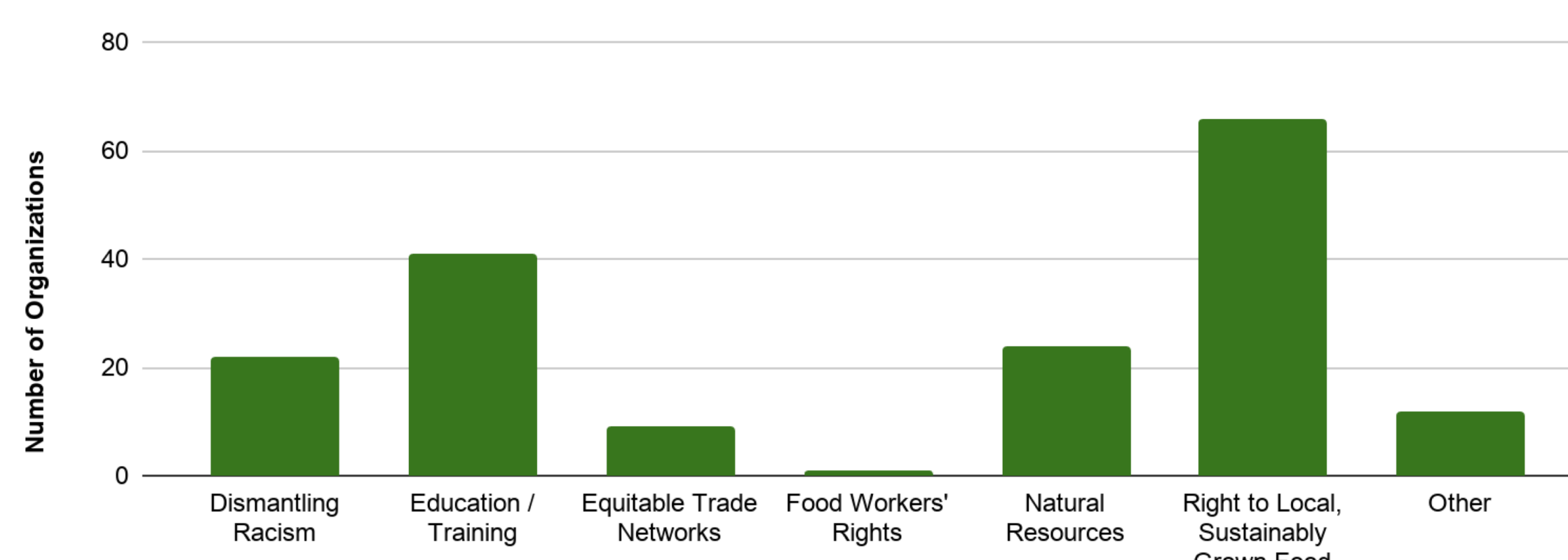
## Who is Engaged in Food Sovereignty Work?

Questions focused on participant background help shed light on the common experiences or concerns that people engaged in food sovereignty share and how they may differ.

## Experience in the Field



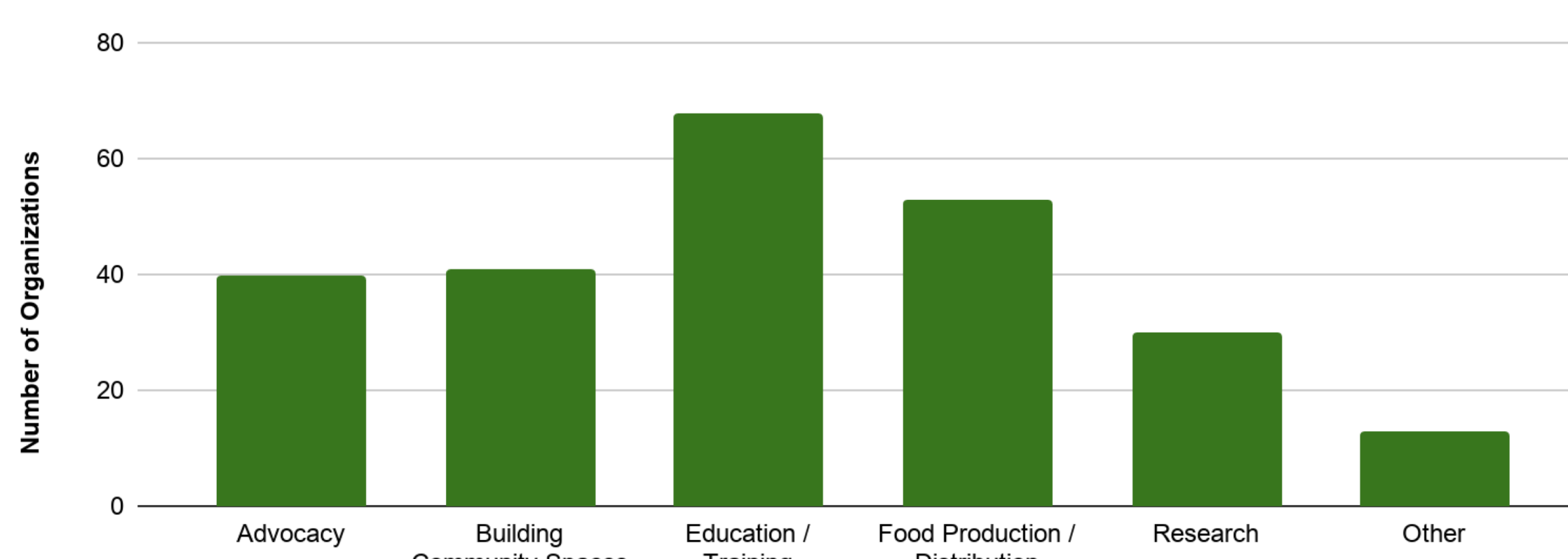
## Focus of Food Sovereignty Work



## Issues Motivating Work



## Tactics Employed



## Traits Impacting Relationship to Work

