

# Policy Asks for Scottish Parliament Election Candidates

April 2021

The Landworkers' Alliance is a union of farmers, growers, foresters and land-based workers with a mission to improve the livelihoods of our members and create a better food and land-use system for everyone. We operate across the UK and represent more than 1500 small and medium-scale farmers and landworkers, and a growing base of supporter members. We have been active in Scotland since 2018, and our policy and campaigns work is supported by a committee of members.



To create a more sustainable food system for Scotland and support agroecological farming, growing, crofting and forestry, we ask the candidates for the upcoming Scottish Parliament election to make the following commitments:



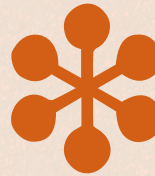
### **Value local food, fuel and fibre and agroecological farmers, crofters, growers and foresters**

We will recognise food and land as being much more than commodities. Scotland can and should grow and produce genuinely local food, fuel and fibre within communities, for communities. We will lead a vision for agroecological farmers, crofters, growers and foresters serving local communities, as the main way for Scotland to provide for its needs. Designing our farming system as one that concentrates on producing for our own needs in Scotland understands our role in a global food system as one that respects the rights and dignity of agroecological producers worldwide and pays better respect to our environment.



### **Restrict GMOs and boost local seed production**

We will protect Scotland's status as a GM-free nation and continue to strictly regulate all GM products. We will boost small-scale production of seeds and participatory breeding programmes in Scotland and support research into heritage and locally adapted varieties.



### **Create local food economies and reward good food**

We will improve the competitive position of genuinely local food producers and recognise their value for communities and the environment. We will build local infrastructures, promote genuinely local production and improve the routes to market.



### **Reform subsidies and support agroecological farming and land management**

We will recognise the reform of farm support payments as an important opportunity to transition the food and land-use system in Scotland to a system that produces good food, fuel and fibre, protects and enhances biodiversity and helps address the climate crisis.

We will redesign farm support payments and agri-environmental schemes to make them more accessible to small- and medium-scale, agroecological and organic farmers, growers, crofters and foresters and we will support genuinely local production of food, fibre and fuel by creating a more flexible policy environment.





## **Make food sovereignty and food justice a reality**

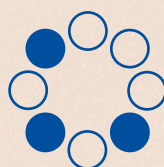
We will support a whole system approach to the regulation of food, agriculture and land use, which promotes the wellbeing of people and planet together. Such an approach recognises the potential of agroecological and agroforestry practices to contribute both to local food production and targets related to biodiversity protection and climate mitigation.

We will support the introduction of a Good Food Nation Bill which supports food producers with fair compensation, safe working conditions and access to land and markets and ensures that everyone has dignified access to nutritious and sustainable food.



## **Educate, train and create diversity in agriculture and land based employment**

We will provide children and young adults with the skills necessary to grow, choose and prepare nutritious food. We will create degree level opportunities in local and agroecological food education, and seek to enhance the diversity of people in the land-based sectors.



## **Enhance transparency and improve participation in policy making and land governance**

We will enhance the transparency of decision-making processes in relation to food and agriculture and create an inclusive policy environment with meaningful and equal opportunities for participation by all relevant stakeholders, and, notably, agroecological farmers, crofters, growers and foresters.



## **Diversify land ownership and provide access to land**

We will provide access to land for new entrant farmers, crofters, growers and foresters in Scotland and foster the uptake of agroecological practices. We will support the diversification of land ownership and continue to take proactive steps to change Scotland's highly concentrated pattern of landownership. We will increase the amount of opportunities for agroecology on publicly and community owned land, and recognise the importance of rural housing for land access needs of new entrants.



## **To join as a member or supporter get in touch:**

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