

# HELP US STOP DEFORESTATION AND HUNGER DUE TO BIOFUELS

“While Europeans maintain their lifestyle based on automobile culture, the population of Southern countries will have less and less land for food crops and will lose its food sovereignty.” – *Latin American NGO networks*.

“The grain required to fill a 25-gallon SUV gas tank with ethanol will feed one person for a year.” – *Lester Brown, Earth Policy Institute*.

Since April this year, the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation (RTFO) forces all UK drivers to buy petrol and diesel which is blended with biofuels. Worldwide vast areas of rainforests, other ecosystems and farmlands are being turned into biofuel (agrofuel) monocultures. This is a disaster for people, for the climate and for biodiversity, essential for stabilising the climate and for maintaining life.

### Climate change

Fossil fuel emissions and ecosystem destruction are the key drivers of catastrophic climate change. More monocultures mean more deforestation, more carbon lost from peat and other soil, and more fertilisers made from fossil fuels.

### Agrofuels destroy rainforests

Agrofuels are becoming the main reason for rainforest destruction. This is the quickest way to make climate change worse. Without tropical forests, there can be no stable climate – forests have helped keep the climate remain stable for life on Earth for millions of years.



### Agrofuels steal land and push up food prices

Diverting food to cars and land to growing fuel means less people can afford the food they need. Last year, food prices went up by 75% and 100 million more people are going hungry. Agrofuels are one of the main causes of food becoming more expensive.



Forests burned in Indonesia to clear land to produce palm oil.

### More human rights abuses and refugees

A UN spokesperson has warned that 60 million people may soon become “biofuel refugees” – people forced off their land to make way for huge areas of biofuel crops. In Argentina alone, 200,000 families have been forced off their land for soya – many more will be displaced by the new agrofuel soya boom.

### Our wildlife at risk

Across Europe, “set-asides” of cropland have been scrapped following strong lobbying from the biofuel industry. Our well-loved birds such as the sky lark and lapwing are at risk.



### WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE?

We need an immediate **moratorium** on agrofuels from large-scale monocultures. This includes scrapping the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation in the UK, and biofuel targets and incentives in the EU. Agrofuel monocultures cannot be sustainable. We need to dramatically reduce our fuel use and also invest in true renewable energy such as wind and solar. Stopping agrofuel monocultures means taking on one of the biggest corporate alliances and a government still committed to supporting them. Only a strong and diverse grassroots campaign can achieve this.

### Please help to make a difference...

- Sign up to regular email action alerts and campaigns: Email [info@biofuelwatch.org.uk](mailto:info@biofuelwatch.org.uk) or sign up via the website.
- Contact Biofuelwatch if you would like to get involved in the campaign – we are all volunteers and welcome any help people can give!
- Get together with friends and organise a local protest/action against an agrofuel company, or organise a local meeting or film evening. Contact us for information and resources.
- Visit your MP or MEP and tell him or her that we need an agrofuel moratorium now.

# www.biofuelwatch.org.uk

email: [info@biofuelwatch.org.uk](mailto:info@biofuelwatch.org.uk)