



THE SEEDS OF VANDANA SHIVA

WHEN YOU CONTROL SEED
YOU CONTROL LIFE ON EARTH

- WINNER AUDIENCE AWARD
ILLUMINATE
Film Festival
2021
- BEST OF FESTIVAL
Nature Without
Borders
International Film
Festival
2021
- TOP FIVE AUDIENCE AWARD
Sydney Film
Festival
2021
- WINNER SPIRIT OF ACTIVISM
Wild & Scenic
Film Festival
2022
- WINNER - JURY AWARD
Samskara
International
Film Festival
2022
- OFFICIAL SELECTION
Hawai'i
International
Film Festival
2021
- OFFICIAL SELECTION
Big Sky
Documentary
Film Festival
2022
- WINNER AUDIENCE AWARD
The Shift Your
World Film Fest
2022
- OFFICIAL SELECTION
Santa Barbara
International
Film Festival
2022
- OFFICIAL SELECTION
Boulder
International
Film Festival
2022

BECKET FILMS LLC PRESENTS A BECKET FILMS DOCUMENTARY FEATURING VANDANA SHIVA EDITOR ANTHONY ELLISON CINEMATOGRAPHERS JIM WHITNEY, LORETO DI CESARE SOUND JASON MARTINEZ COLORIST RYAN A NICHOLS CO-PRODUCER PAIGE LIVINGSTON PRODUCERS JAMES BECKET, CAMILLA BECKET, JIM WHITNEY DIRECTORS CAMILLA BECKET, JAMES BECKET

VANDANASHIVAMOVIE.COM



FILM INFORMATION

Film Title:

The Seeds of Vandana Shiva

Logline:

When you control seed you control life on earth

Contact Info:

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luke@vandanashivamovie.com

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Trailer:

<https://vimeo.com/518756378> (Vimeo)

<https://youtu.be/YEqTo8lDivs> (YouTube)

Sizzle Reel:

<https://vimeo.com/133208432>

https://youtu.be/_wZcTnDd30o

Website:

<https://vandanashivamovie.com>

Social Media

[Instagram](#)

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)

[YouTube](#)

Film Information:

Running Time: 1:21:41

Aspect Ratio: 16:9

Shooting Format: Color

Close Captions: English

Credits:

Produced by

Camilla Becket and James Becket

Directed by

James Becket and Camilla Becket

Produced by

Jim Whitney

Co-producer

Paige Livingston

Written by

Camilla Becket

James Becket

Anthony Ellison

Director of Photography

Jim Whitney

Editor

Anthony Ellison

Interviewees

Vandana Shiva

Lionel Astruc

Ruchi Shroff

Mira Shiva

Kuldip Shiva

Kartikey Shiva

Ritu Menon

Andre Leu

Vinod Bhatt

Darwan Singh

Duke Tagoe

Debbie Barker

Ronnie Cummins

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Additional Cinematography

Loreto di Cesare
Kartikey Shiva
James Becket
Chronis Pechlivanidis

Additional Editing

Alain Jakubowicz
Artem Zuev
Jim Whitney
Ryan A. Nichols

Sound Editor

Jason Martinez

Online Editor/Colorist

Ryan A. Nichols

Music

Associated Production Music LLC

Additional Music

Volker Barber

Additional Songs

Tina Turner and Regula Curti
Manu Chao

Archival Research

Camilla Becket
Maureen Tunney
Jeff Kanjanapangka

Associate Producers

Maureen Tunney
Susan Fassberg
Shannon Rowan
Luke Poulsen

Foundation Support

[Reva and David Logan Foundation](#)

[Patagonia](#)

[Organic Valley](#)

[Documentary Australia Foundation](#)

[WWW Foundation](#)

[Triskeles Foundation](#)

The Taylor Ohringer Charitable Fund
Doc Ross Family Foundation

Graphics

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Paige Livingston
Richard Payne
Sotiri Svoronos
Moselle Singh
Sebastian Benjamins

Copywriter

Bronson Herr
Tasha Silva

Community Building

Mira Moore
Devon Fischer

AWARDS:

Illuminate Film Festival:

Audience Award for Best Feature
Debut Feature Special Jury Mention
Mangurama Award for Conscious
Documentary Storytelling

Nature Without Borders International Film Festival

Best Documentary Feature

Sydney Film Festival

Shortlist Sustainable Future Award

FESTIVALS (TO DATE):

Illuminate Film Festival
Sydney Film Festival
Nature Without Borders International
Film Festival
Hawaii International Film Festival
Newport Beach Film Festival
Spirit Film Festival
Maui Film Festival



FILM SYNOPSIS

SHORT SYNOPSIS:

How did the willful daughter of a Himalayan forest conservator become Monsanto's worst nightmare? *The Seeds of Vandana Shiva* tells the remarkable life story of Gandhian eco-activist Dr. Vandana Shiva, how she stood up to the corporate Goliaths of industrial agriculture, rose to prominence in the seed saving and organic food movements, and is inspiring an international crusade for change.

LONG SYNOPSIS:

In her colorful sari and large scarlet bindi, Dr. Vandana Shiva is an arresting presence: She galvanizes crowds, advises government leaders, fields constant calls from the media—then then retreats from big-city buzz to work alongside small farmers across the developing world.

Who is she? What is her mission? How did this woman from an obscure town in India become Monsanto's worst nightmare, a rebellious rock star in the global debate about who feeds the world?

Among those engaged with organic food and farming, climate change, biodiversity, seed sovereignty, globalization, and social justice, Vandana Shiva is an icon of a global movement.

But even among those who pride themselves on being well-informed, she's relatively unknown. Few are aware of how this daughter of a Himalayan forest conservator rose from obscurity to become a world leader of Gandhian stature.

Hers is the remarkable and unlikely story of a girl who trekked from highland cabin to cabin alongside her father, tended a garden alongside her mother, and passionately pursued an education that freed her from the caste and gender constraints of traditional Indian society that culminated in a degree in Nuclear Physics, and then a Ph.D. in the Philosophy of Quantum Theory.

But those achievements were merely a prelude to her awakening as a fully-committed activist.

Vandana Shiva brought her scientific expertise and Gandhian principles of nonviolent resistance to the struggles of Indian villagers whose livelihoods were being crushed by corporate capitalism. She has become a formidable opponent to those corporations whose drive for privatization and profit are destroying the environment and changing the climate. Their predations in the name of a 'green revolution' with its promises of wealth and freedom and 'feeding the world' through patented and chemically-dependent GMO seeds are reducing traditional farmers and entire communities to inescapable servitude. In India, the fruits of the Green Revolution have been an epidemic of rural suicides.

The Seeds of Vandana Shiva focuses on the people, circumstances and seminal events in Vandana's life—what shaped her thinking and defined her purpose. It also shows how the battle against multinational agribusiness has become an international struggle between two visions for feeding the world: The first, a multinational corporate model of chemically dependent monoculture that rewards a capitalist imperative of extraction for profit. And the other, 'Earth Democracy, that honors ecology, biodiversity, sustainability and community—what Dr. Shiva demonstrates is the only way forward for the future of food.



DIRECTORS' STATEMENT

We were first introduced to Vandana Shiva at a series of environmental conferences almost twenty years ago. And, like most people on their first meeting with her, we realised immediately that we were in the presence of an eco-activist rock star.

We were first introduced to Vandana Shiva at a series of environmental conferences almost twenty years ago. And, like most people on their first meeting with her, we realised immediately that we were in the presence of an eco-activist rock star.

The more time we spent with her, and learned about her life experiences, the more we were inspired to tell her story. Her life has embodied the notion that "one person can make a difference", and so we asked if we could capture her journey on film. She agreed. *The Seeds of Vandana Shiva* is the result.

Through Vandana's evolution as an activist against the global Goliaths of food and farming, the film also aims to shine a light on where we are today—industrial food accounts for up to 40% of carbon emissions, while pesticides destroy soils, water systems and biodiversity, and harm human health. Contrary to the spin that industrial food is essential to feeding the world, today more than two billion people face food insecurity across the globe.

Vandana speaks for an ecological vision for food and farming in which we can regenerate the environment and human democracies. Our hope is that Vandana's extraordinary story will act as a catalyst for more awareness around the issues, and to inspire audiences to be part of the change.



THE ISSUES

INDUSTRIAL AGRICULTURE

- Industrial agriculture is large-scale, intensive food production involving monocultures, chemical fertilizers, pesticides and genetically modified seeds
- These systems throw the earth's capacity to support life out of balance and result in new problems – new pests, new diseases – which need more chemicals to manage
- Corporate controlled food systems damage rural communities, local economies, public health, and the soil and water needed to sustain food production
- A handful of multinational corporations now control most of the world's seed supply – resulting in food insecurity and loss of food sovereignty.

Learn more about industrial agriculture:

- [What is Industrial Agriculture?](#)
- [Industrial Agriculture 101](#)
- [Ten things you should know about Industrial Farming](#)
- [Pesticides are "global human rights concern" say UN experts](#)
- [Corporate Power In Agriculture](#)
- [Industrialization of Agriculture](#)
- [The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World](#)
- [Hungry for land: small farmers feed the world with less than a quarter of all farmland](#)
- [Full-Cost Accounting of Food Wastage](#)

ECOLOGICAL/REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE

- Ecological food and farming is holistic, biodiverse, protects ecosystems, mitigates climate change, and produces nutrient-dense food
- Regenerative farms support the livelihoods of small farmers and food producers, as well as local communities
- The FAO of the United Nations has endorsed regenerative food and farming as best for the climate, the environment and human communities.
- Regenerative practices regenerate soils rather than mining and depleting them

Learn more about ecological & regenerative agriculture:

- [What is regenerative agriculture?](#)
- [What is organic agriculture?](#)
- [The environmental benefits of organic agriculture](#)
- [Definition of organic agriculture](#)
- [The original principals of regenerative agriculture](#)
- [Family farmers, feeding the world, caring for the earth](#)
- [4 levels of regenerative agriculture](#)
- [How ecological farming is good for the planet and people](#)
- [The Future of Food Farming with Nature, Cultivating the Future](#)

FOOD AND CLIMATE CHANGE

- The International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has declared agriculture to be a major contributor to climate change
- In particular, globalized industrial agriculture is estimated to contribute up to 30% of carbon emissions in the US alone
- Biodiverse, organic and local food and farming systems mitigate climate change by dramatically minimizing emissions and sequestering excess carbon into the soil, where it belongs.

Learn more about food and climate change:

- [International Farmers Alliance Links Climate Change to Industrial Agriculture](#)
- [How Factory Farming Contributes to Global Warming](#)
- [6 Ways Agriculture Impacts Global Warming](#)
- [Regenerative agriculture could sequester 100 percent of annual carbon emissions](#)
- [Organic Agriculture Countering Climate Change](#)
- [Food production is responsible for one-quarter of the world's greenhouse gas emissions](#)

BIODIVERSITY

- The UN Convention on Biodiversity has declared that biodiversity is fundamental to clean water and air, food, medicine, economic prosperity, and social progress



- 82% of mammals, 40% of amphibians, 30% marine mammals, and 10% of insects are under threat of extinction—largely caused by human activity
- Around 75% of plant genetic diversity has been lost as farmers worldwide have left diverse local seeds for genetically uniform high-yielding varieties.

Learn more about biodiversity:

- [Are we in the sixth mass extinction?](#)
- [What is agricultural biodiversity?](#)
- [Current agricultural practices stand in the way of sustainability](#)
- [Soils and biodiversity](#)

SEED

- Seeds are the most basic units of life and a life source that is our most basic birthright.
- From the dawn of agriculture, farmers have been cultivating, selectively breeding, and exchanging seeds to feed their communities
- Seed saving and open pollinated selective breeding methods have created seed varieties that are diverse, adapted to local climates, nutritious, and delicious
- Seed sovereignty is not only necessary for survival; it sustains culture, tradition, and biodiversity
- In an attempt to monopolize the global seed market, a handful of agrochemical corporations are attempting to strip farmers of their right to save, exchange and sell their own seeds.
- Today, 6 multinationals control 80% of the world's commercial seed supply.

Learn more about seed:

- [Seed Saving and Seed Sovereignty](#)
- [Seed is Power](#)
- [The Not-So-Free Seed Market](#)
- [One Empire Over Seed: Control Over the World's Seed Banks](#)
- [Seed Monopolies: Who Controls The World's Food Supply?](#)
- [Start a Seed Library](#)

GMOS

- Genetically modified organisms (GMOs) are living organisms whose genetic material has been artificially manipulated in a laboratory through genetic engineering
- Most GMOs have been engineered to withstand the direct application of a herbicide and/or to produce an insecticide
- More than 80% of all genetically modified crops grown worldwide have been engineered for herbicide tolerance. As a result, the use of toxic herbicides, such as Roundup®, has increased fifteenfold since GMOs were first introduced
- Farmers around the world reporting that weeds are developing a resistance to the herbicide, glyphosate, used on GM crops. These “superweeds” have evolved as a result of the intensive use of this herbicide facilitated by GM technology.

Learn more about GMOs:

- [Genetic Engineering: What you need to know](#)
- [Non-GMO Project Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [What happens when weed killers stop killing?](#)
- [A global citizens' report on the state of GMOs](#)

ECOFEMINISM

- Eco-feminism is a branch of feminism that looks at the connections between the oppression of women and the domination of nature
- Ecofeminism believes that the same mindset that leads to gender-based violence and women's oppression leads to racism, colorism, sexism, homophobia and environmental damage.
- Ecofeminism calls for putting an end to all hierarchies. Only then can humanity unlearn the oppression and domination that is destroying its only habitat.
- Vandana Shiva was one of the early pioneers of Eco-feminism.

Learn more about eco-feminism:

- [Women and Life on Earth](#)
- [All You Ever Wanted to Know About Ecofeminism](#)
- [Ecofeminism: Where Gender and Climate Change Intersect](#)



EARTH DEMOCRACY

- The globalist, capitalist economy based on the myth of limitless growth, mindless consumerism and limitless appetite for earth's resources is the root cause of multiple crises that we face today
- Earth Democracy is a worldview, paradigm and practice that is based on the recognition that everything is interconnected, the Earth Is Living, the Earth has rights, that we have a duty to care for the Earth
- All humans are equal. Our diversity enriches life and cannot be made the justification for inequality and injustice. Imposition of sameness and uniformity on a biologically and culturally diverse world unleashes violence against nature, her species, and diverse cultures.
- Rejuvenating and regenerating the planet through this participation in reciprocity with ecological processes has become a survival imperative for the human species and all beings

Learn more about earth democracy:

- [The Earth Care Handbook](#)
- [The Corporate War Against The Planet, People & Democracy](#)
- [Earth Democracy: Connecting Rights of Mother Earth to Human Rights and the Well-being of All](#)

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Buy local
- Buy organic
- Buy Fair Trade
- Save and share seeds with your community – open a seed library!
- Advocate for pesticide free public spaces where you live
- Support policy and policy makers that prioritize ecological, regenerative and democratic farming and food systems
- Resist tax payer subsidies for corporate controlled, industrial food systems
- Demand transparency in food labelling – including GMOs
- Join movements and support organizations who are working on behalf of the climate, the environment, social justice, and ecological farming and food.

Learn more about movements for change

There is a growing global movement, comprised of multitudes of diverse and talented people—farmers, food producers, health practitioners, scientists, educationalists, environmentalists, climate change, indigenous and social justice activists, lawyers, policy makers, young and older across the globe that are already embracing the vision of regenerative, ecological and fair-traded food. There are also thousands of organizations already working impactfully in this space; you may already be involved with one of them. If not, we invite you to connect with and support what they do. There is a place for everyone in the ecological food web. The time is now.

Check out some of [our partners](#), including:

- [Navdanya](#)
- [Navdanya International](#)
- [Friends of Navdanya](#)
- [Regeneration International](#)
- [Organic Seed Alliance](#)
- [Seed Libraries](#)
- [Seedsavers.net](#)



FILMMAKER BIOS

Camilla Becket

Camilla grew up in apartheid South Africa and was an activist in the anti-apartheid movement. She managed outreach for independent publishers who originated works by anti-apartheid thinkers and artists, including Nelson Mandela and Desmond Tutu. She launched Becket Films with Jim in 2005 with a mission to focus on international environmental issues, social justice, and health. Camilla has co-produced several Becket Films projects, including films for the Religion, Science, and Environment series about besieged water bodies around the world and what can be done to restore them.

Jim Becket

Jim brings a varied career to his filmmaking: Human rights lawyer, journalist, and author. As Director of Public Information for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Jim made several films about refugee problems around the world. Since then he has worked as a screenwriter and director and has produced several documentaries on environmental issues, including *The Green Patriarch*, *The Amazon: The End of Infinity*, *The Arctic: The Consequences of Human Folly* and *El Misterio del Capital de los Indigenas Amazonicos*. Jim's awards include festival Best Film awards, two Humanitas awards, and a George Foster Peabody award.

Jim Whitney

Jim began his career at A&M and EMI records as Director of Music Videos. Since then Jim has worked with both Oscar and Emmy-winning directors and has edited numerous documentaries that have appeared on PBS and Network TV. His own awards include the Focus Award for excellence in documentary editing, the Jury Award at the New York Film Festival, and the Special Award at the Ann Arbor Film Festival. He shot and edited five films for the Religion, Science and the Environment Symposia (produced by Becket Films), several of which featured Vandana Shiva. He also co-produced *Bridgewalkers*, a documentary about indigenous leaders.

Anthony Ellison

Anthony launched his film career on *Mighty Times: The Children's March*, which won an Oscar for Best Documentary: Short Subject in 2005. He went on to attend film school at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts and since then has edited documentaries for The History Channel and many reality shows for the networks, including *The Hunt with John Walsh*, which was nominated for an Emmy in 2015. More recently, Anthony worked as an editor on *Kiss the Ground*, an inspiring guide to reversing climate change through the way we grow food.

Paige Livingston

Paige's award-winning work in features, online and the television industry spans over 20 years. She most recently produced *Knots*, a documentary on forced marriage and the award-winning feature documentary *Given* (Netflix International). She also produced the independent animated feature film, *The Adventures of Charlotte and Henry*. Paige spent 10 years at ABCTV as Series Producer of *Race Around the World* and *Message Stick* and was Executive Producer of *Good Game*. She led online program development at ABC2 Digital and Disney Online originals, and in California was Head of Creative at Disney Online Originals.

Becket Films

Becket Films is an independent production company based in Ojai, California, and Sydney, Australia. We most recently completed *Sons of Africa*, a documentary about the sons of Idi Amin and Julius Nyerere who climbed Kilimanjaro on a historic peace climb between their two nations. Before that, we produced nine films for the Ecumenical Patriarch of the Orthodox Church (The Green Patriarch) who brought together religious leaders, environmentalists and scientists to focus on ecologically threatened water bodies around the world, including The Amazon, The Arctic, and the Mississippi. It is during the making of these films that we first met eco-activist Dr. Vandana Shiva.



VANDANA SHIVA

Vandana Shiva is a world-renowned environmental thinker, activist, feminist, philosopher of science, writer and science policy advocate. She is the founder of Navdanya Research Foundation for Science, Technology and Ecology in India and President of Navdanya International.

Trained as a Physicist at the University of Punjab, she completed her Ph.D. on the 'Hidden Variables and Non-locality in Quantum Theory' from the University of Western Ontario, Canada. She later shifted to inter-disciplinary research in science, technology and environmental policy, which she carried out at the Indian Institute of Science and the Indian Institute of Management in Bangalore, India.

In 1982 she founded the Research Foundation for Science, Technology and Ecology (RFSTE), an independent research institute that addresses the most significant ecological problems of our times, and two years later, Navdanya ('nine seeds') the movement in defense of biodiversity and the contributions made to the climate, environment and society by small farmers.

The recipient of many awards, including the Right Livelihood Award, (the 'Alternative Nobel Prize') and the Sydney Peace Prize, she has been named among the top five "Most Important People in Asia" by AsiaWeek and an "Environmental hero" by Time Magazine.

EDUCATION

- 1963:** College of the Convent of Jesus and Mary,
- 1967:** University in Chandigarh, Masters in Nuclear Physics
- 1977:** University of Guelph, Canada,
Masters in the Philosophy of Science
- 1978:** University of Western Ontario,
Ph.D. Philosophy or Quantum Physics

Honorary Doctorates

University of Paris
University of Guelph
University of Oslo
University of Western Ontario

AWARDS

- 1993:** Alternative Nobel Prize/ Right Livelihood Award
Order of the Golden Ark
Global 500 Award of UN
Earth Day International Award
- 2008:** Lennon Ono Grant for Peace
- 2010:** Sydney Peace Prize
- 2011:** Calgary Peace Prize
Thomas Merton Award
- 2012:** Fukuoka Award
Prism of Reason Award
- 2016:** MIDORI Prize for Biodiversity
- 2018:** Veerangana Award
The Sanctuary Wildlife Award
International Environment Summit and Award

PUBLICATIONS

Social Economic and Ecological Impact of Social Forestry: Indian Institute of Management (1981) • *Chipko: India's Civilizational Response to the Forest Crisis:* Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (1986) • *Staying Alive: Women • Ecology and Development:* Zed (1988) • *Ecology and the Politics of Survival:* Sage Publications (1991) • *Biodiversity: Social and Ecological Perspectives:* Zed (1991) • *The Violence of the Green Revolution:* Zed (1992) • *Women, Ecology and Health: Rebuilding Connections:* Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation (1993) • *Monocultures of the Mind: Biodiversity, Biotechnology and Agriculture:* Zed (1993) • *Ecofeminism:* Fernwood (1993) • *Writes Close to Home: Women Reconnect Ecology, Health and Development Worldwide:* Earthscan (1994) • *Biopolitics with Ingunn Moser:* Zed (1994) • *Biopiracy: The Plunder of Nature and Knowledge:* South End Press (1997)



PUBLICATIONS CONT.

• *Stolen Harvest: The Hijacking of the Global Food Supply*: South End Press (2000) • *Tomorrow's Biodiversity*: Thames and Hudson (2000) • *Patents, Myths and Reality*: Penguin (2001) • *Protect or Plunder?: Understanding Intellectual Property Rights*: Zed (2001) • *Water Wars; Privatization, Pollution, and Profit*: South End Press (2002) • *India Divided: Seven Stories Press* (2005) • *Globalization's New Wars: Seed • Water and Life Forms*: Women Unlimited (2005) • *Earth Democracy; Justice, Sustainability, and Peace*: South End Press (2005) • *Manifestos on the Future of Food and Seed*: South End Press (2007) • *Democratizing Biology: Reinventing Biology from a Feminist • Ecological and Third World Perspective*: Paradigm Publishers (2007) • *Water Consciousness: How We All Have to Change to Protect Our Most Critical Resource*: Alternet Books (2008) • *Soil Not Oil*: South End Press (2008) • *Staying Alive*: Women Unlimited (2010) • *India on Fire: The Lethal Mix of Free Trade, Famine and Fundamentalism in India*: Seven Stories Press (2011) • *Growing Stories from India: Religion and the Fate of Agriculture*: University Press of Kentucky (2011) • *Making Peace with The Earth*: Pluto (2013) • *Talking Environment: Vandana Shiva in Conversation with Ramin Jahanbegloo*: University of Oxford Press (2013) • *Sacred Seed: The Golden Sufi Center* (2014) • *Spiritual Ecology: The Cry of the Earth*: Golden Sufi Center (2015) • *Who Really Feeds the World?: The Failures of Agribusiness and the Promise of Agroecology*: North Atlantic Books (2015) • *The Vandana Shiva Reader*: University Press of Kentucky (2015) • *One Earth, One Humanity vs. the 1%*: Women Unlimited (2018)

WHAT DO PEOPLE SAY ABOUT HER?

"An environmental hero." - *Time Magazine*

"One of the top five most important people in Asia." – *AsiaWeek*

"She's one of the greatest eco-activists of our time." – *Bill Moyers*

"One of the world's most prominent radical scientists."
– *The Guardian*

"[She] has devoted her life to fighting for the rights of the ordinary people of India ... her fierce intellect and her disarmingly friendly, accessible manner have made her a valuable advocate for people all over the developing world." – *Ms. Magazine*

"An incredibly powerful human being and a true leader in the necessary movement to reverse the dreadful actions that are currently taking place, that are preventing us from having true access to our birthright and living in harmony with the planet and one another." – *Russell Brand*

"Vandana explains that small farms are the future and we must all participate in the movement towards regenerative agriculture, economies, and ways of being that respect the ecosystems on which we all rely." – *Cara Delevingne*

"A leading thinker who has eloquently blended her views on the environment, agriculture, spirituality, and women's rights into a powerful philosophy." – *Utne Reader*

ADD YOUR COMMENTS:



VANDANA SHIVA - CONTEXT & TIMELINE

- 1930:** Gandhi's Satyagraha Salt March
- 1960-80:** The Green Revolution introduced into India
- 1947:** The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) minimizes barriers to international trade
- 1952:** Vandana born November 5
- 1963:** College of the Convent of Jesus and Mary
- 1967:** University in Chandigarh, Masters in Nuclear Physics
- 1970:** First woman at the Indian Atomic Energy Commission
- 1970:** Becomes involved with the Chipko movement
- 1978:** Awarded her Ph.D. and returns to India from Canada
- 1978:** Indian Scientific Institute, Bangalore
- 1981:** Engages in Doon Valley limestone mining "water wars"
- 1982:** Establishes Research Foundation of Science, Technology and Ecology
- 1983:** Monsanto announces it has genetically modified a plant cell
- 1984:** Pesticide plant explodes at Bophal and thousands die
- 1984:** Under United Nations University, begins to study impacts of Green Revolution
- 1985:** World Conference of Women in Nairobi
- 1987:** Attends conference hosted by Dag Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation, learns about GMOs
- 1987:** Founds Navdanya to begin seed saving
- 1988:** Represents Nature at the People's Tribunal on the World Bank and IMF in Berlin
- 1990:** Cofounds Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO)
- 1991:** Begins Resistance of Grains movement against GATT
- 1992:** Begins resistance against W.R. Grace company patent on Neem
- 1992:** First Earth summit at Rio in Brazil
- 1992:** The Convention of Biological Diversity
- 1992:** United Nations Framework Convention of Climate Change
- 1992:** Leader in 200,000 Disobedience of Grains protest in Delhi
- 1993:** Leader in rally of 500,000 in Bangalore against GATT, biotechnology and life patents
- 1993:** Receives Right Livelihood Award
- 1994:** Cofounds International Forum on Globalization
- 1994:** Initiates legal challenge against W.R Grace patent on Neem tree
- 1995:** GATT replaced by WTO
- 1995:** Launches Diverse Women for Diversity
- 1996:** Awarded custody of her son - case taken to Supreme Court of India
- 1998:** Initiates legal challenge to RiceTec patent on basmati rice
- 1998:** Initiates legal challenge to Monsanto's GMO Bt. Cotton
- 1998:** Navdanya initiates direct marketing for farmers and fair trade
- 1999:** Orissa super cyclone - donates salt tolerant rice seeds for restoration

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- 1999:** WTO meetings/ Battle in Seattle
- 2001:** Joins protest against Coca-cola plant in Plachimada
- 2001:** Navdanya receives Slow Food Award
- 2001:** RiceTec patent on basmati annulled
- 2001:** Launches Bija Vidyapeeth (Earth University)
- 2002:** World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg
- 2002:** Navdanya starts Movement against Ganga Water privatization in Delhi by Suez
- 2003:** Co-launches Citizens Campaign against GMOs
- 2003:** Named Environmental Hero by Time Magazine
- 2004:** WR Grace Neem patent revoked
- 2005:** World Bank driven water privatization project in Delhi by Suez closed down
- 2005:** Plachimada Coke plant shut down
- 2006:** Leads march across states affected by farmer suicides
- 2007:** Begins campaign against GMO brinjal
- 2008:** FDA concludes food from clones as safe as other food
- 2008:** Initiates study on climate change in the Himalaya
- 2008:** Leads Seed March across Northern India distributing 4200 kilos of seeds to 5000 farmers
- 2009:** Initiates Seed March to collect evidence of climate change
- 2009:** Attracts crowd of thousands at COP15 in Copenhagen
- 2012:** Launches international Seed Freedom campaign
- 2014:** Campaign to resist Gates Funded GMO bananas
- 2015:** Campaign against GMO golden rice
- 2015:** Advocates for Regenerative Agriculture at COP22 in Paris
- 2016:** International Monsanto Tribunal in The Hague
- 2017:** Appears before the Supreme Court of Argentina to prohibit GMO soybean
- 2017:** Campaign against GMO mustard
- 2018:** Monsanto loses patent on GMO cotton seed in India
- 2018:** California jury awards DeWayne Johnson \$289 million from Monsanto for his non-Hodgkin's lymphoma
- 2018:** Monsanto is sold to Bayer
- 2020:** Bayer agrees to pay \$8.8 to \$9.6 billion to settle over a hundred thousand Roundup lawsuits against Monsanto.



DIRECTORS' Q&A

Why did you make a film about Vandana Shiva?

We were first introduced to Vandana Shiva at a series of environmental conferences almost twenty years ago. And like most people on their first meeting with her, we realized immediately that we were in the presence of an eco-activist rock star. The more time we spent with her, and learned about her life experiences, the more we were inspired to tell her life story—especially as it had never been told on film before.

Not only is she one of the most intelligent and articulate people we've ever met, we were especially impressed by her unwavering commitment to reforming industrial food and farming to be more ecological and more democratic.

Her evolution as an activist, the fact that her life story embodies the notion that "one person can make a difference" and what she has achieved in defense of nature, including people, is quite remarkable. We also wanted to amplify her message which offers real hope for the future of farming and food.

Now we are enjoying the process of sharing *The Seeds of Vandana Shiva* with the world, in the hope that it will inspire more people to advocate for regenerative, organic, and fair-traded food.

What do you hope your film will accomplish?

Through Vandana's evolution as an activist against the global Goliaths of food and farming, we also wanted to shine a light on how we got to the crisis where we are today—industrial food production accounts for up to 40% of carbon emissions, while pesticides destroy soils, water systems and biodiversity, and harm human health.

Contrary to the spin that large-scale industrial food is essential to feeding the world, today more than two billion people face food insecurity across the globe.

As we follow Vandana's career as she learns, discovers and connects the dots between seed, food, farming, patriarchy, policy, science, economy, the environment and the climate, our aim is for audiences to make those connections too.

Vandana's gift is that she helps us to connect healing the earth with healing ourselves. For this reason our hope is that *The Seeds of Vandana Shiva* will act as a catalyst for more people to understand the issues at stake and inspire them to be part of the change.

What were some high points and what was difficult during production?

You never really know what's ahead when you begin making a documentary, and even with the best intentions, it's little wonder that so many films are never finished. Documentary filmmaking is most often a long journey with inevitable and unexpected twists in the road. For us, finding the resources to tell a story that spanned the globe was an ongoing challenge. We filmed in India, Central America, North America, Africa, Indonesia and several countries in Europe.

However, there were infinite rewards too. The most gratifying part was all the support we received from people who care about the environment, the climate, and ecological food. So many people donated time, talent, information, and assets—we would absolutely not be where we are now without their support.

Another bonus was making trips to Dr. Shiva's organic farm, Navdanya, in the foothills of the Himalayas. Not only is Navdanya the center of Dr. Shiva's research and seed saving work, but it is also an education center where people travel from all over India and elsewhere in the world to learn about seed saving and ecological food systems. The atmosphere there is easy but mindful; there is deep respect for nature and her processes. The food is all organic and delicious. The people who come and go are diverse, curious, and generally care deeply about the environment. Most of all, Navdanya is where we found Dr. Shiva at her most relaxed and willing to share her experiences with us.