



**APPGM-SDG**  
ENHANCING INCLUSIVITY AND SUSTAINABILITY



# 3RD NYÉLÉNI GLOBAL FORUM



Prepared by

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# Historical Background of Food Sovereignty

**Food sovereignty** challenges the corporate-driven, globalized food production system, advocating instead for peoples' rights **to define their own food systems**. Introduced by **La Via Campesina in 1996**, it has since become a rallying point for grassroots actors, governments, and multilateral institutions seeking **to prioritize sustainable and family-based food production**.

At the **2001 World Forum on Food Sovereignty** in Havana, different dimensions of the concept were elaborated, laying the foundation for continued mobilization against exploitative trade agreements and **for the defense of land, water, seeds, and territories**.

SYSTEMIC TRANSFORMATION  
IS NOW OR NEVER!

## ABOUT NYÉLÉNI

The **3rd Nyéléni Global Forum**, held in **Kandy, Sri Lanka** from 6 to 13 September 2025, convened more than **700 participants from 100 countries**. This historic forum was one of the most **diverse gatherings** of **grassroots movements committed to systemic transformation**. Since the introduction of food sovereignty by La Via Campesina at the 1996 World Food Summit, the concept has become a global framework for resisting neoliberal food systems and advancing justice, democracy, and sustainability.

**Malaysia, through APPGM-SDG, was represented by Ms. Darshini Rawichandran**, member of **RIPESS via the Asia Solidarity Economy Council (ASEC)**. Her interventions, interviews, and field engagement reflected Malaysia's role in aligning local struggles with regional and global movements for food sovereignty and social solidarity economies.



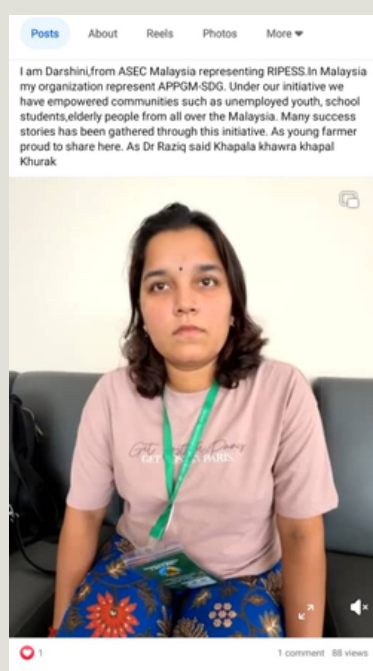
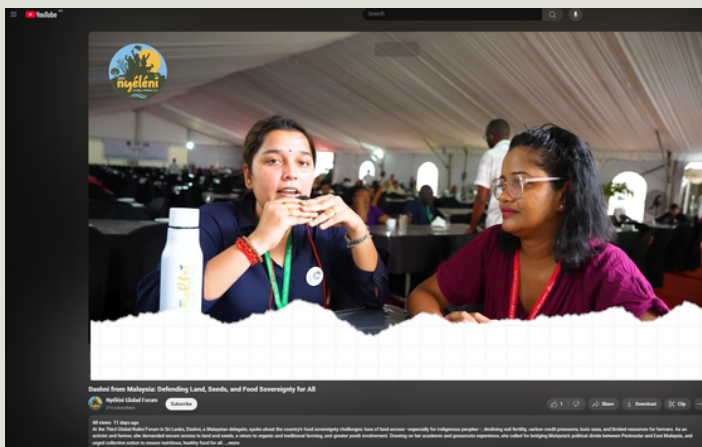


# FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

The program of the forum combined cultural, political, and strategic activities. Each day began with **Mistica**, a **collective expression through art and ritual**, anchoring the forum in **cultural and spiritual reflection**.

## Key highlights included:

- Assemblies of Women, Youth, and Diversities which centered voices of the marginalized.
- Thematic contents covering global and regional political contexts, and advocacy strategies.
- Dialogues with trade unions, academics, philanthropies, and social movements.
- Cultural events, notably “Songs of Resilience,” reinforcing art as a tool of resistance.
- Adoption of the Declaration and CPAA (Common Plan of Action for Advocacy) as the final outcome.



## Malaysia's Representation

- **Malaysia's participation** was marked by the presence of Ms. Darshini Rawichandran, who delivered interventions during plenary discussions, **contributed case studies from the Asia-Pacific region**, and was invited for an **interview that highlighted Malaysia's perspectives and grassroots work under APPGM-SDG**.
- Her involvement underscored Malaysia's role in **advancing solidarity economies, agroecology, and inclusive development**.
- The interview provided visibility to the **country's community-based struggles**, aligning them with the forum's call for systemic transformation.



# Field Visit to Dambana

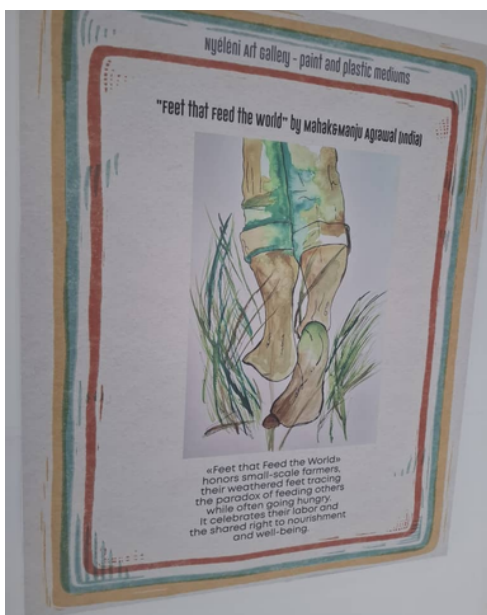
As part of the program, participants visited **Dambana**, the **ancestral homeland of Sri Lanka's Indigenous Vedda people**, nestled in the foothills of the **Central Province**. This field visit provided first-hand **experience of Indigenous systems of living and food sovereignty**.

The Vedda community maintains a **close relationship with nature**, practicing **small-scale shifting agriculture, foraging, forest-friendly hunting, and seasonal food gathering**. Their diet based on tubers, yams, forest honey, fruits, and traditional grains illustrates a sustainable and nutritionally diverse food system maintained without industrial inputs.

The visit demonstrated **how Indigenous communities safeguard biodiversity, preserve seed varieties, and sustain health systems rooted in ecological balance**.



## Outcomes and Commitments



The forum concluded with the **adoption** of the **Declaration and CPAA**. This roadmap reinforced:

- The **defense of food sovereignty and agroecology**.
- The **expansion of feminist and social solidarity economies**.
- The **advancement of climate justice, energy sovereignty, and health for all**.
- **Strengthening grassroots alliances across six regional processes**.

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