Corporate Control Over Seeds: Limiting Access and Farmers' Rights
(Abstract)

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Agricultural seeds, and the agricultural biodiversity of which they form a part, are key resources of rural poor people, created through generations of cultivation, and used and exchanged freely through specific local institutions and networks. However, control over seeds by commercial interests developed increasingly during the twentieth century. And the past decade has been marked by exceptional concentration and privatisation of seeds in the hands of a few transnational corporations, facilitated by international trade rules. Genetically engineered crops have resulted from and contributed to this increasing control. African organisations at the continental, national and local level are attempting to, retain rights of access through innovative legislation, policies and actions.

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