# South African People's Tribunal on Agrotoxins affiliates:

# **African Centre for Biodiversity**

The African Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) is research and advocacy organisation working towards food sovereignty and agroecology in Africa, with a focus on biosafety, seed systems and agricultural biodiversity. ACB is committed to dismantling inequalities and resisting corporate-industrial expansion in Africa's food and agriculture systems. Initially, our focus was exclusively on GM and biosafety, thus the organisation was established in 2003 as the African Centre for Biosafety. Over the years, this expanded into working on the interconnected issues affecting food sovereignty and biodiversity in Africa, including seed laws, farmer seed systems, agricultural biodiversity, agroecology and corporate expansion in agriculture. ACB's current geographical focus is mostly Southern, West and East Africa, with extensive continental and global networks.

ACB strives for a socially just, democratic and cultural biological diverse landscapes and food systems in Africa, based on the interconnected and harmonious diverse and cocreation between people and nature.

#### **Blackburn Community**

In July 2021, a warehouse belonging to Indian chemical company UPL was torched in unrest in KwaZulu Natal. The warehouse, located in Cornubia, contained thousands of tons of pesticides. At least three "banned" or unregistered products that contain highly hazardous chemicals – including 2.4-D, Chlorpyrifos and Atrazine, were amongst them. The disaster poisoned the nearby river and necessitated the closure of 40kms of beaches. Residents of the nearby village, called Blackburn, breathed in the toxins that burnt for 11 days and lived in the aftermath of poisoned soils and water. Residents have instituted a class action suit against UPL.

#### Commercial Stevedoring Agriculture and Allies Workers Union (CSAAWU)

CSAAWU is a trade union that was established in 2006 to address the appalling working and living conditions faced by farm workers, primarily in the wine lands of the Western Cape. CSAAWU is recognized as one of the most vibrant, caring unions in the agriculture sector. It has gained the respect of trade union federation, the South African Federation of Trade Unions (SAFTU), and is expanding from the Western Cape Province to the Northern Cape Province and other provinces in South Africa.

# groundwork

groundWork is a non-profit environmental justice service and developmental organization working primarily in Southern Africa in the areas of Climate & Energy Justice, Coal, Environmental Health, Global Green and Healthy Hospitals, and Waste. The organisation seeks to improve the quality of life of vulnerable people in South Africa, and increasingly in Southern Africa, through assisting civil society to have a

greater impact on environmental governance. groundWork places particular emphasis on assisting vulnerable and previously disadvantaged people who are most affected by environmental injustices.

groundWork is guided by the Section 24 of the SA Constitution which provides that everyone has the right:

- (a) to an environment that is not harmful to their health or well-being; and
- •
- (b) to have the environment protected, for the benefit of present and future generations, through reasonable legislative and other measures that-
  - (i) prevent pollution and ecological degradation;
  - •
  - (ii) promote conservation; and
  - •
  - (iii) secure ecologically sustainable development and use of natural resources

while promoting justifiable economic and social development.

## Khanyisa/Kouga Workers Forum

Khanyisa Education and Development Trust [Khanyisa] is a land rights non-governmental organization whose operation is located in Gqeberha [formerly Port Elizabeth] in the Eastern Cape, South Africa.

Khanyisa supports the mobilisation and struggles of small-scale farmers and farm workers/dwellers associations in peri-urban areas and commercial farms in the Nelson Mandela Metro [Kariega], Sundays River Valley, Kouga, and Ndlambe [Alexandria] municipal regions.

#### **SDCEA**

South Durban Community Environmental Alliance (SDCEA) is an environmental justice organization based in South Durban, South Africa. It is made up of 19 affiliate organizations and has been active since its formation in 1995. It is a non-government organization existing solely on finances sourced from funders and sponsors in order to remain totally independent. It makes no profit and exists solely for the benefit of the people it represents. It is a vocal and vigilant group active in lobbying, reporting and researching industrial incidents and accidents in this area.

SDCEA continuously struggles for clean air, water and soil and for the alleviation of environmental racism and poverty. SDCEA works with and is located in South Durban Community; working closely with affected communities. The people of South Durban are SDCEA's target audience as they are immersed in the polluted basin and directly affected by the numerous negative consequences.

The motto of SDCEA is: The Right to Know, The Duty to Inquire, The Obligation to Act.

# Trust for Community Outreach and Education (TCOE)

The Trust for Community Outreach and Education (TCOE), is a national collective of six NGOs and was established in 1983. TCOE envisages a society where the rural poor, both men and women, have access and rights to land, marine and other natural resources for food security and the creation of sustainable livelihoods – a society that is responsive to the needs of the poor and that recognises and values the potential of all its citizens.

TCOE commits itself to building a mass based national formation of poor rural peoples organisations with strong, democratic and accountable leadership that is able to organise, mobilise and co-ordinate the struggles of all sectors of the rural and coastal poor, including women, small scale farmers, commodity groups, fishers, farmer workers and youth, for control and ownership of natural resources.

Such a formation actively forges links with urban and rural organisations and institutions at local, national, regional and international levels that advocate for basic services, economic rights, social and environmental justice and an end to poverty.

## Women on Farms Project (WFP)

Women on Farms Project (WFP) is a South African feminist organisation operating in the Northern and Western Cape that works with women who live and work on commercial farms. WFP seeks to empower farm women primarily through rights-based capacity building as well as support for their organisation in community-based structures. WFP enables farm women to know and claim their rights. Recent campaigns have targeted Gender Based Violence (GBV), access to proper sanitation facilities on the farms, as well as feminist-centred land redistribution.

Woman on Farms Project strives to strengthen the capacity of women who live and work on farms to claim their rights and fulfil their needs. It does this through socio-economic rights-based and gender education, advocacy and lobbying, casework and support for the building of local structures of farmwomen. WFP promotes self-reliance, accountability and sustainability of organisations so that women organise themselves, speak for themselves and mobilise resources to support their needs and dreams. Such self-organisation counteracts the marginalisation, abuse and vulnerability experienced by women in the workplace, home and farming community and ensures their leading role in accessing services and securing employment, land and housing.