

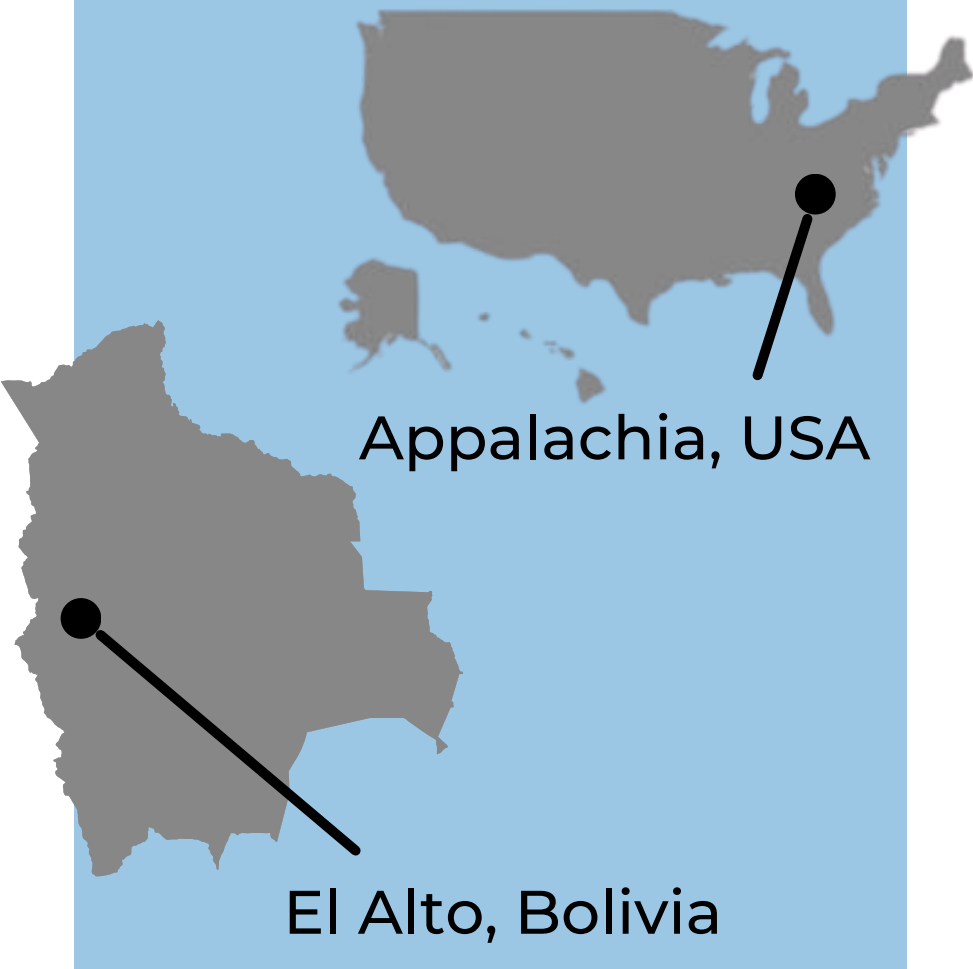


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ed by my initial passion and interest in farming and and local food movements, I began began learning about diverse movements across the Americas that centered on challenging hunger through food sovereignty. For people all over the world, food sovereignty has been a rallying cry for communities which have struggled to feed themselves, as they have lost the rights to their land in processes of colonization. It nests the problem of hunger within global systems of power, positioning it as a product of economic dependence and the extraction of resources, promoting instead the rights of people to cultivate and eat food that is both culturally and ecologically theirs.

Continued



Feeding Resistance

During my time as a Burch Fellow, I sought to understand how food sovereignty as an approach to hunger might look like within a wealthy colonial power like the US. I chose to focus on Bolivia and Appalachia as case studies because of their shared history of violent colonization and economic dependence on mining. I



spent the summer living and working on farms and with advocates working on hunger and sustainable food production. Through my time at the markets, in the fields, and in the kitchen, I explored some of the ways people are concretely challenging their economic dependence and the dominant agriculture industry through food. I was able to connect with people working with many organizations, but spent most of my time living and working at Earthaven ecovillage and Dreaming Stone arts and ecology center and connecting with the Food Justice Planning Initiative, a collective of NGOs, farmers and organizers working for



a more sustainable and equitable food system. I met people who were working hard to connect local farmers with the needs of the community through local food councils, public distribution, and coalition building.

My experience in Bolivia speaking with community advocates and friends demonstrated a firmly critical and global approach to hunger in both mainstream politics and social movements. Food sovereignty was a



core political message, imbued in subsidy information posters in the supermarket, in locals' proud knowledge of dozens of varieties of native corn and potatoes, in libraries, and headlines.

It seemed for Bolivians, hunger was inherently linked to its position within the global economy and the hegemony of multinational agriculture firms. At the same time,



land access as well as the money to distribute food were major barriers to these movements. Many nonprofits which were using the language of food sovereignty, for example, to address hunger were funded by foreign people.

