HOPE’S EDGE
Bangladesh

Grameen Bank & Microcredit
Children in a field on the way out of Dhaka, Bangladesh.
A construction site outside our hotel room window. Dhaka, Bangladesh
Women Grameen Bank members, several of the millions who’ve become part of the “microcredit” movement in Bangladesh.
india

navdanya farmers movement
A woman carrying rice in the foothills of the Himalayas on our way to meet villagers in Vandana Shiva’s Indian farmers’ network.
Farmers, at a meeting organized by Navdanya in India’s Punjab, telling us about increasing pest resistance and crop loss and their mounting debt.
A forest of Pepsi painted on Eucalyptus trees on the road to Dehra Dun. In some parts of India today, it’s easier to find Coke (or a Pepsi) than to find drinking water.
Village members in the Navdanya network show us their bioregistry, a recording of the community’s biodiversity and indigenous knowledge.
brazil

landless workers movement
Landless Workers Movement encampment near Curitiba, Brazil.
Landless Workers Movement families in settlements in Paraná, Brazil. Since the mid-80s, the MST has settled 300,000 families on formerly idle land.
The MST has created hundreds of enterprises, thousands of schools, and the first organic seed line in Brazil. This truck is headed to the Erva Mate tea factory near Pitanga in the state of Paraná, Brazil.
Since the mid-80s, more MST members have been murdered in the struggle for land than those who were “disappeared” during Brazil’s military dictatorship.

This MST poster says: “Governor Lerner Doesn’t Respect Human Rights… Workers tortured & assassinated Children traumatized…”
brazil belo horizonte

food as a human right
One of the dozens of local farmers’ produce stands in Belo Horizonte, the city that declared healthy, organic food a right of citizenship.
The face of food as a human right: kids at a Belo Horizonte city government nursery school receiving four healthy, organic meals a day.
KENYA

green belt movement
Schoolchildren at a tree planting party organized by the Green Belt Movement. Near Nairobi, Kenya.
When Wangari Maathai started the Green Belt Movement, government foresters told her village women couldn’t plant trees. Twenty million trees later, maybe they’re starting to rethink.
Tree planting with
Green Belt Members
Kyaume tree nursery
Near Nairobi, Kenya
Green Belt Movement member Lia Kisomo sorts grain. Gunnysack gardens helping villagers gain food security.
poland & france

sustainable agriculture
A farm in Southern Poland where we met organic farmers preserving traditional farming practices and the Polish countryside in the face of chemical agriculture.
madison, wi

linking consumers & farmers
Heirloom tomatoes at the Madison, Wisconsin farmers market.
Nature à la chemical agriculture
Wisconsin has one of the highest concentrations of community-supported agriculture farms in the country – connecting urban consumers with local, organic farms.
bay area, ca
urban & school gardens
The Edible Schoolyard in Berkeley, California. This is their “classroom:” bales of hay for seats, intertwined branches for the roof.
Hope cannot be said to exist,
nor can it be said not to exist.
It is just like the roads across the earth.
For actually there were no roads to begin with,
but when many people pass one way
a road is made.

Lu Hsun, 1921