



SOUTHERN AFRICAN FAITH COMMUNITIES' ENVIRONMENT INSTITUTE

# **SAFCEI's Open letter: African Faith Leaders Demand Reparations from the Gates Foundation**

**14 August 2025**

# INTRODUCTION

- For nearly 20 years, the Gates Foundation has funded industrial farming in 13 focus countries in Africa
- Despite over \$1 billion having been spent, this “Green Revolution” has failed to improve crop yields, the incomes of small-scale farmers, or food sovereignty in Africa.
- On the contrary, according to FAO statistics, hunger has risen by 31% during that time in AGRA focus countries.



# SAFCEI's open letter to the Gates Foundation

- Since 2021, we've been campaigning for change, but the harm to farmers and ecosystems continues.
- SAFCEI and African Faith leaders are sending an open letter to the Gates Foundation to end funding for destructive practices to Africa's food systems.

Open letter:

<https://safcei.vercel.app/uploads/gates-sign-on-letter-2025.pdf>

# SAFCEI's concerns

Our concerns are:

- The Gates foundation promotes an industrial farming model, relying heavily on expensive synthetic inputs (fertilisers, seeds)
- Harms to the environment
- Threatens natural resources
- Undermines local communities
- Reduces biodiversity

# SAFCEI and Faith Leaders call for reparations:

We call on the Gates Foundation to cease funding AGRA and other such programs and make reparations through:

- Supporting the agroecology movement on the continent
- Promoting policy frameworks for agroecology
- Funding African-based efforts that center on local knowledge systems and communities.
- Investing in agroecology, namely the scaling up of the organic input supply chain

# Call to action:

## How to Get Involved:

- Make sure you have [signed the open letter](#).
- Spread awareness by sharing the open letter and sign-on widely with your networks.
- Encourage your faith networks to sign

Your support is crucial in amplifying the voices of African faith leaders!

Every signature strengthens our collective call for a more sustainable and equitable food system.

**So far, over 300 faith leaders have signed, let's aim to reach 600+ signatures by 31 August 2025. Together, we can make a significant impact.**



# Resources/Readings:

- Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa still failing Africa's farmers by Timothy Wise:  
<https://www.iatp.org/documents/alliance-green-revolution-africa-still-failing-african-farmers>
- Going hungry or going green? A critical look at the 'Green Revolution' project in Africa:  
<https://gga.org/going-hungry-or-going-green-a-critical-look-at-the-green-revolution-project-in-africa/>
- Youtube video: [How philanthropists are destroying African farms](#)