



CLIMATE JUSTICE EXTRACTIVE AGRICULTURE

WHY IT MATTERS

To achieve profitability, all inefficient systems necessitate unsustainable extraction of resources. This holds true for industrial agriculture as well, which extracts from both people and the planet. Farm workers endure abuses around the world. Whether stemming from practices rooted in the legacy of slavery in the United States or colonialism and other systems of oppression in the Global South, these abuses consistently include low wages, exploitation, and pesticide exposure. Environmental, ecological, and climate damage encompass a litany of harms, including land, soil, and water degradation; loss of habitat, wetlands, and rainforest; imposition of monocultures; collapse of plant and animal webs; loss of pollinators; and proliferation of chronic and infectious diseases.

Extractive agriculture – a subset of industrial agriculture – also refers to the extreme dominance of only a few companies that control the food and feed supply chain, whose business models directly drive biodiversity loss, excessive greenhouse gas emissions, elimination of small-hold farms, abuses of farm workers, the proliferation of toxic and carcinogenic chemicals, topsoil loss, and other harms.



The industrial food chain uses at least 75% of the world's agricultural resources and is a major source of greenhouse gas emissions, but provides food to less than 30% of the world's people.

INTERSECTIONALITY

To effectively address the full scope of injustices perpetrated by extractive agriculture, Adasina believes we must approach it through an intersectional lens informed first and foremost by those affected by those injustices. Here are just a few examples of how extractive agriculture intertwines climate injustice with racial, gender, and economic injustices:



The harmful impacts of industrial agriculture, like deforestation, result in the displacement and loss of livelihood for many communities. These effects are particularly severe for BIPOC communities, with up to 90% of those living in extreme poverty relying on forests for their survival.



Extractive agriculture has a history of exploiting Black and Indigenous communities in the U.S. through stolen land and labor.



The use of pesticides and agrochemicals poses specific risks to women and girls, who are more susceptible to health issues resulting from chemical exposure.



Working in the field or living in the vicinity of crops can also lead to direct chemical exposure, putting female workers in direct contact with endocrine-disrupting properties of some pesticides. The harmful impacts on health have become evident through the connection between pesticides and breast cancer rates.



Agriculture work is consistently listed as one of the most dangerous jobs, employing some of the most vulnerable workers, with 73% of workers being foreign-born, often lacking healthcare and immigration security.



Industrial agriculture exacerbates hazards associated with climate change, which also disproportionately impact the most vulnerable populations, especially children.



Climate change and industrial agriculture primarily impact women and girls, with 80% of those displaced by climate-related disasters being female and women, and children being 14 times more likely to die in a disaster.



Extractive agriculture doesn't just harm the environment – it disproportionately impacts women, and gender expansive individuals, and Black, Indigenous, or People of Color (BIPOC) communities. These communities bear the brunt of land degradation, water pollution, and health risks associated with unsustainable farming practices. At Adasina, my team and I are committed to addressing these inequities for a more just and equitable food system for all.

— ALLISON MURPHY (She/Her)
Communication Specialist | Adasina Social Capital

ABOUT THE CAMPAIGN

Adasina is preparing to formally launch our [Extractive Agriculture Campaign](#) in 2024, in response to an absence of investor focus on the harmful effects of industrialized agriculture on communities and the environment. In collaboration with our Social Justice Partners, the Campaign addresses the injustices, inefficiencies, and environmental damage caused by the global food system.

In our own investment products, Adasina defines extractive agriculture as industrial agricultural practices that extract unsustainably from people and the planet, including corporate concentration in the following areas:



SOCIAL JUSTICE PARTNERS HIGHLIGHTS

ETC Group: ETC Group is a global organization with direct farmer engagement worldwide. For nearly 40 years, they have documented the damaging effects of soil erosion, corporate consolidation, and technology infiltration in agriculture. Their research spans India and the Philippines to Canada, and has enabled us to build an international coalition of climate justice advocates.

Food Justice Coalition: In 2023, a larger food justice coalition coalesced to transform our efforts into an international movement. The global coalition comprises 30 organizations, including our campaign partner ETC Group as well as movement partners such as [Friends of the Earth](#), [Action Aid](#), [Profundo](#), and [Rainforest Action Network](#).



Corporate concentration describes the degree to which a small number of companies control a large part of a market. It has become the defining feature of today's global economy, with profound implications for livelihoods, well-being, the environment, and human rights.



Adasina movement partners collaborate with us to integrate intersectional social justice issues into our investment criteria and focus our investor organizing efforts. As social justice organizations embedded within the communities we seek to impact, they are our national and international leaders in movements for racial, gender, economic, and climate justice.



The impacts of Adasina's partnership with ETC Group to develop the first-ever extractive agriculture investor campaign stretch far beyond our home pantries to the farmers whose livelihoods are impacted by the dominance of corporate agricultural giants. This campaign has allowed Adasina to highlight the valuable expertise and research that ETC Group is known and celebrated for.

— KEVIN (YAA SH KANDA. ÉTS') O'NEAL-SMITH (He/Him)
Impact Strategist | Adasina Social Capital

ADASINA LEADERSHIP IN PROGRESS

Our Extractive Agriculture Campaign is being structured to pursue a coherent set of initiatives, in keeping with our [Theory of Change](#). Prior to launching the Campaign, we have already achieved the following milestones:



Defining Intersectional Climate Injustice Criteria and Screens: Adasina conducted a nine-month investigation on climate, racial, gender, and economic injustices perpetrated by extractive agriculture. This investigation yielded an Extractive Agriculture Investment Screen – which we have implemented in our portfolio – that measures corporate concentration across seven agricultural segments.



Funding ETC Group Food Barons 2022 Report: We contributed to and secured funding for our Social Justice Partner [ETC Group's Food Barons 2022 Report](#), examining the leading corporations that control key industrial agricultural sectors.



Launching Extractive Agriculture Investor Dataset: Drawing from the Food Barons Report findings and our own research, we developed our first-ever Extractive Agriculture Investor Dataset and published it for anyone to use at no cost on our [BRIDGE](#) platform.



Raising Awareness and Mobilizing Investors on Extractive Agriculture Consequences: Adasina conducted and participated in a series of initiatives to raise awareness about the impacts of extractive agriculture on people and the planet. These included:



Adasina Panel: Adasina and ETC Group hosted a [panel](#) to mobilize investors to recognize and act on the material consequences of extractive agriculture.



Industry Events:

Along with Friends of the Earth and Domini, Adasina participated in the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility's (ICCR) 2023 event, [A Seat at the Table: Centering Workers to Build a More Inclusive and Equitable Economy](#), where we explored the intersectional impacts of extractive agriculture.

At the [Adasina-ETC Group Impact Experience](#), Adasina's staff members along with other investors and social justice movement leaders discussed the racial, gender, economic, and climate repercussions of the extractive "food chain" model of agriculture.



We're excited to be working with our social justice partners to advance extractive agriculture as a climate risk factor in the field, bringing this important – and to-date under-discussed – issue to the attention of investors. Your support of our campaigns and involvement in our work moving forward will help us combat the detrimental impacts of extractive agricultural practices on people and the planet.

— AFSANA JAHAN (She/Her)
Director, Business Development | Adasina Social Capital



Our engagement with Adasina in the Extractive Agriculture Campaign opened new horizons for ETC Group. Our research on the extractive agriculture screen enabled us to work with non-conventional partners in socially responsible impact investing, beyond our "comfort zone" as a civil society organization tracking corporate concentration in global food and agriculture and the impacts of new technologies on marginalized communities. We are inspired to go into this uncharted territory, assured that we are taking the journey with colleagues at Adasina Social Capital who share our commitment and passion to work for social and environmental justice, human rights and the defense of just and ecological agri-food systems and the web of life.

— NETH DAÑO
ETC Group



KEY TAKEAWAYS



Forge Partnerships That Amplify Your Impact and Expand Your Reach

Because Adasina is primarily focused in the U.S., our Extractive Agriculture Campaign can only be truly global thanks to partnerships. ETC Group has proven to be an ideal partner, with its extensive team, global networks, and deep connections to local farming communities.

Commit to Understanding the Complexities of the Issue



The multi-dimensional complexities of extractive agriculture present a unique challenge for impact investing, requiring specialized expertise and a partnership approach distinct from our previous initiatives. We have been able to tackle this issue thanks to close collaboration with ETC Group, renowned for their expertise in deconstructing the complexities of extractive agriculture. Together, we translated their insights for our investor community.

WHAT'S NEXT

Adasina's Extractive Agriculture Campaign will launch in 2024 and continue to unfold through numerous initiatives, starting with:



Investor Statement

Look out for our statement mobilizing investors to take action against the damaging impacts of extractive agriculture. This statement will call on corporations to abandon specific harmful practices.

White Paper



Because there are limited scholarly resources available to inform stakeholders, Adasina is crafting a white paper to shed light on the material harms attributable to extractive agriculture. We aim to offer a first set of actionable solutions for the industry to rein in its escalating impact, and for other researchers and investors to build upon.

CALLS TO ACTION – WHAT CAN YOU DO



Adasina ETF Investors

Your investment in the Adasina ETF uses our Extractive Agriculture Investor Dataset, which seeks to exclude companies that participate in harmful agricultural practices. Keep up the great work, and raise awareness with your community.



Institutional Investors

If you hold any of [these companies](#), we encourage you to engage with them and demand they create safe and equitable food and feed supply chains, and/or exclude companies that continue to practice climate and other injustices from your portfolio.



Individual Investors

Let your financial advisor or plan administrator know you want to take action in your investment portfolio, and ask them to consider Adasina products. They can reach out to invest@adasina.com to learn more.



Community-at-Large

Support our [Social Justice Partners](#) identified above, and contribute to their efforts to advance social justice.

