

DELEGATION TO VENEZUELA: Seeds of Solidarity

October 24-November 1, 2016 (optional add-on trip to Afro-Venezuelan coast Nov.1-4)

Sponsored by the Task Force on the Americas and SOA WATCH

Organized and led by Lisa Sullivan, 30 year resident of Venezuela



Most have read about the brutal economic war that has engulfed Venezuela and caused a grave food shortage. Fewer have heard about the creative efforts of many Venezuelans to provide food for their families and communities by *growing* it. In balconies, backyards, median strips, old tires, vacant lots and more.



Come to Venezuela in October this fall to bring solidarity to local Venezuelan communities who are stepping out of food lines and into the soil to grow healthy local food. They are forging an alternative economy to the half-century-old model of *fossil fuel exports for food imports* that was a key cause of this crisis. This incipient economy is based on local production, barter, solidarity and sustainability.



The delegation will also be bringing heirloom vegetable seeds collected by the Venezuelans Solidarity Seeds campaign. These seeds will be shared and celebrated at the festivities of Venezuela's National Seed Day, on October 29th, in the Andean village of Monte Carmelo. Venezuela has the world's most progressive seed law that prohibits GMO seeds and encourages community seed banks.



The delegation will visit urban and rural *conucos* (Venezuela's traditional food garden) They will also meet with leaders of the new Urban Agriculture Ministry and agronomists and campesino leaders involved in this local food-growing movement.



An optional add-on trip to the Afro Venezuelan communities of Ocumare and Cata is offered from November 1-4. This group will spend a day visiting the tropical small farming and fishing initiatives on the coast, and enjoy 2 relaxing days at one of Venezuela's most pristine and peaceful beaches on the Caribbean, Bahia de Cata.

The delegation fee of \$1150 covers all meals, lodging, in-country transportation, translation, materials and visa application free. ***It does not cover international travel to and from Caracas.*** **The fee for add-on trip to the Afro-Venezuelan coast is \$300.** A visitor's visa is required for U.S. citizens. TFA will streamline the visa application process, for an additional \$45 to cover visa fee and mailing.

Interested? Contact Lisa: lisavenezuela@gmail.com