

Black Yield



# “Cultivating Self-Determination Through Black Land & Food Sovereignty”

## **Overview**

Black Yield Institute is an emerging Pan-African think think and collective action institution based in Baltimore, Maryland. Since our beginning in November 2015, we endeavor to build independent power by establishing an action network and incubator with a community of and for black people and entities in pursuit of Black Food Sovereignty. We are unapologetically a Black-led institution, utilizing Afrocentric, Pan-African, and human rights frameworks to anchor our thought and works toward liberation through food.

## **Mission**

Black Yield Institute is on a mission to create a self-determined and self-reliant community of Black institutions, Black-owned businesses and people of African Descent in Baltimore’s poor and Black food environments. We endeavor to define and govern all aspects of our food systems, including black food politics, economics, agriculture, culinary practices, community, wellness and knowledge creation.

## **Vision**

Black Yield Institute envisions a healthy, cooperative and powerful black community where black people in that community govern the politics, economics, health, land and development around food, from seed to waste (and beyond). We also imagine food environments, where Black people work cooperatively to continually reduce dependence on White and other People of Color for food and overall sustainability, while affirming African Diasporic cultural practices.

**64%**

**Population  
Black or  
African  
American**

**84%**

**People in  
Healthy Food  
Priority Areas**



## Shifting How We Imagine the Problem, Changes the Interventions...

### Food Apartheid:

“The systematic destruction of Black self determination to control our food (including land, resource theft and discrimination), a hyper-saturation of destructive foods and predatory marketing, and a blatantly discriminatory corporate controlled food system that results in our communities suffering from some of the highest rates of heart disease and diabetes of all times. Many tend to use the term “food desert,” however food apartheid is a much more accurate representation of the structural racialized inequities perpetuated through our current system.”

**(National Black Food and Justice Alliance)**

# What is Food Sovereignty?

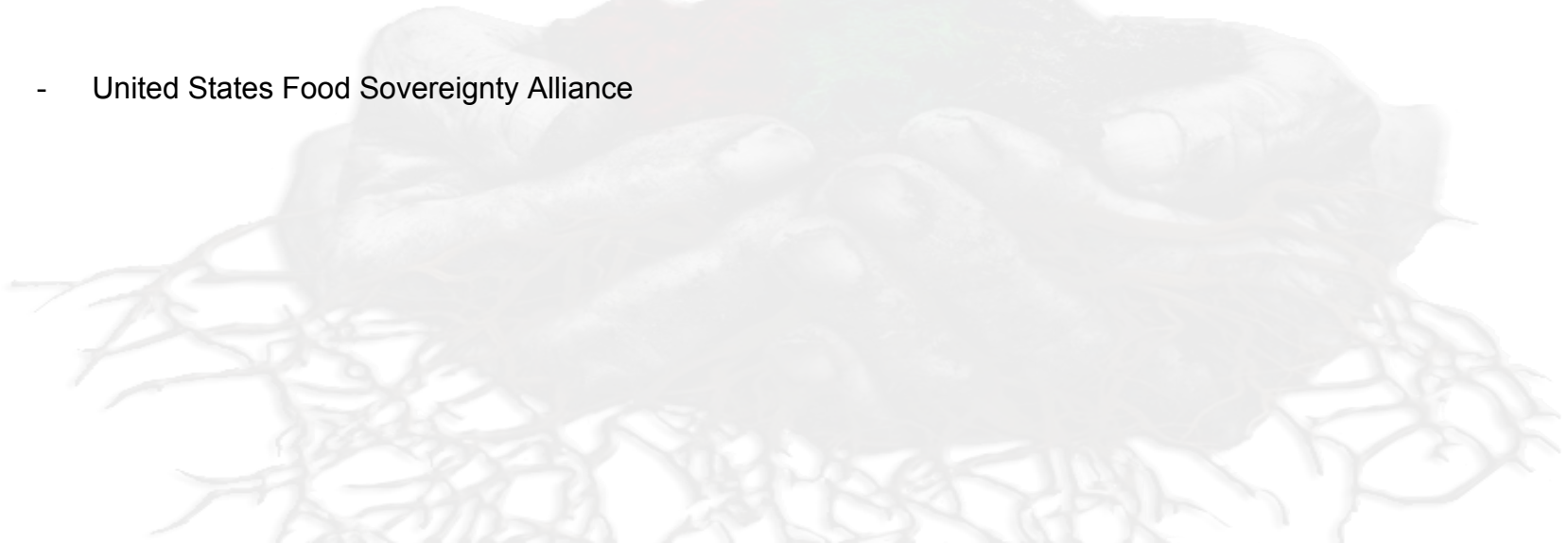
**“Food sovereignty** is the right of peoples to **healthy and culturally appropriate food** produced through **ecologically sound and sustainable methods**, and their right to **define their own food and agriculture systems**. It *puts the aspirations and needs of those who produce, distribute and consume food at the heart of food systems and policies rather than the demands of markets and corporations.*”

– Declaration of Nyéléni, the first global forum on food sovereignty, Mali, 2007

# A word about Food Sovereignty...

“Food sovereignty is a movement growing from the bottom up, from the farmers, fishers, indigenous peoples and landless workers most impacted by global hunger and poverty. Food sovereignty goes well beyond ensuring that people have enough food to meet their physical needs. It asserts that people must reclaim their power in the food system by rebuilding the relationships between people and the land, and between food providers and those who eat. First framed by the international peasant movement La Via Campesina at the World Food Summit in 1996, food sovereignty is rooted in the ongoing global struggles over control of food, land, water, and livelihoods.”

- United States Food Sovereignty Alliance



**Black Food &**

*Black Yield*

**Land**

**Sovereignty!!!**





Land is the bases of Independence!



# Toward a Conceptual Understanding

“Food sovereignty is the right of peoples to healthy and culturally appropriate food produced through ecologically sound and sustainable methods, and their right to define their own food and agriculture systems.”

“Black Africans and their descendents organizing ourselves for the people's truly democratic control over their food and agriculture systems.”

*Black Yield*

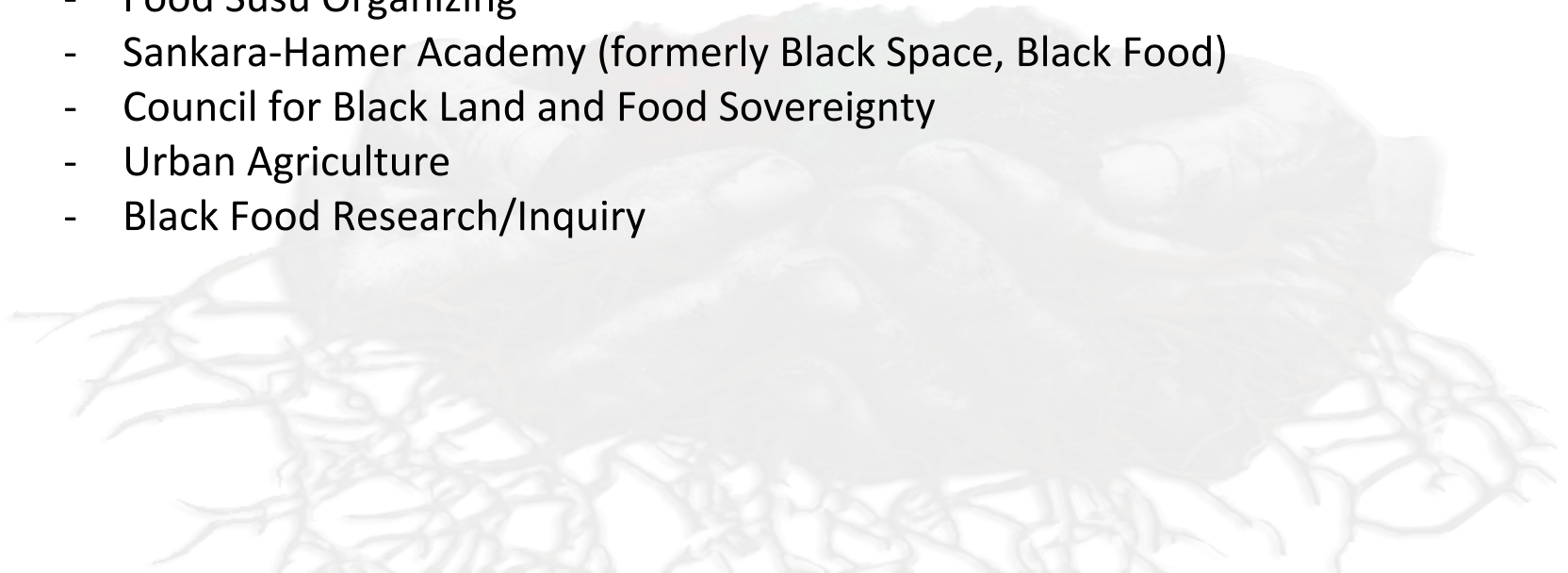
Skin in the Work (It's Not a Game)

# **The Role of Black Yield Institute**

# Black Yield Institute: The Programs

Leading Thought and Collective Action Through:

- Food Susu Organizing
- Sankara-Hamer Academy (formerly Black Space, Black Food)
- Council for Black Land and Food Sovereignty
- Urban Agriculture
- Black Food Research/Inquiry



# On Producing Knowledge: Data and Research

Sovereignty requires ownership of the **language and lens** of the Problem and Solution

*Apartheid*  $\longleftrightarrow$  *Sovereignty*

# On Defining and Control

“[T]hose who define are the masters. White Western society has been able to define, as that's why she has been the master... [A] slave seeks [their] liberation when, and only when, [they stop] obeying a master... when a slave stops accepting definitions imposed upon [them] by [their] master, then, and only then, [they begin] to move and create a life “

-Kwame Ture, in the *The Dialectics of Liberation* (essay)

# How to Support & Get Involved

Black Yield Institute

[www.blackyieldinstitute.org](http://www.blackyieldinstitute.org)

[www.facebook.com/blackyieldinstitute](https://www.facebook.com/blackyieldinstitute)

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