



**Frances Moore Lappé Bios**  
[www.smallplanet.org](http://www.smallplanet.org)

**Frances Moore Lappé** is a democracy advocate and world food and hunger expert who has authored or co-authored 16 books. She is the co-founder of three organizations, including [Food First: The Institute for Food and Development Policy](#) and, more recently, the Small Planet Institute, which she leads with her daughter Anna Lappé. In 1987 she received the Right Livelihood Award (a.k.a, the “Alternative Nobel.”) Her first book, [Diet for a Small Planet](#), has sold three million copies and is considered “the blueprint for eating with a small carbon footprint since long before the term was coined” [JM Hirsch, Associated Press].

Her most recent book is [Getting a Grip: Clarity, Creativity, and Courage in a World Gone Mad](#), awarded the Nautilus Gold/“Best in Small Press” award. In June 2008, that book and *Diet for a Small Planet* were designated as must-reads for the next U.S. president (by Barbara Kingsolver and Michael Pollan, respectively) in *The New York Times Sunday Review of Books*. Other recent books include [Hope’s Edge](#), written with Anna Lappé, about democratic social movements worldwide, as well as [You Have the Power](#) and [Democracy’s Edge](#).

Lappé has received 17 honorary doctorates from distinguished institutions including The University of Michigan and was a visiting scholar at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 2000-2001. She received the 2008 James Beard Foundation Humanitarian of the Year Award for her lifelong impact on the way people all over the world think about food, nutrition, and agriculture. [See the JBF’s video introduction to Frances and her work here.](#)

In 2008, *Gourmet Magazine* named Lappé among 25 people (including Thomas Jefferson, Upton Sinclair, and Julia Child), whose work has changed the way America eats. The same year, *Diet for a Small Planet* was selected as one of [75 Books by Women Whose Words Have Changed the World](#) by members of the Women’s National Book Association in observance of its 75th anniversary.

Articles by or about Frances have appeared in *O: The Oprah Magazine*, *Harper’s*, *The New York Times*, the *Los Angeles Times*, *The Nation*, *People*, and more. She has most recently been featured in *The Boston Globe*, *AARP: The Magazine*, *Sojourners*, *The Progressive*, and on WSJ.com, The Huffington Post, The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation’s *The National*, NPR, and the BBC.

Together, Lappé and her daughter Anna Lappé lead the Cambridge-based Small Planet Institute, a collaborative network for research and popular education to bring democracy to life. With her daughter, she is also co-founder of the [Small Planet Fund](#), channeling resources to democratic social movements worldwide.

In 2006 she was chosen as a founding councilor of the Hamburg-based [World Future Council](#). She is also a member of the International Commission on the Future of Food and Agriculture and the National Advisory Council of the [Union of Concerned Scientists](#). She serves as an advisor to the Calgary Centre for Global Community and on the board of David Korten’s [People-Centered Development Forum](#). Lappé is a contributing editor to Yes! Magazine.



Historian Howard Zinn writes: "A small number of people in every generation are forerunners, in thought, action, spirit, who swerve past the barriers of green and power to hold a torch high for the rest of us. Lappé is one of those." The Washington Post says: "Some

of the twentieth century's most vibrant activist thinkers have been American women – Margaret Mead, Jeanette Rankin, Barbara Ward, Dorothy Day – who took it upon themselves to pump life into basic truths. Frances Moore Lappé is among them."

#### ADVISORY POSTS AND BOARDS:

- Frances is a founding councilor of the World Future Council, headquartered in Hamburg, Germany, and London
- Frances serves on the advisory boards for the Union of Concerned Scientists, Simple Living, the Chez Panisse Foundation, Earth Corps, and the People-Centered Development Foundation

#### TEACHING AND SCHOLARLY POSITIONS

- From 2000-2001 Frances was a visiting scholar at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Massachusetts.
- In 2003, Frances taught with Dr. Vandana Shiva in Dehra Dun, India, about the roots of world hunger, sponsored by the Navdanya researching and agricultural demonstration center.
- In 2004, Frances taught a course on Living Democracy at Schumacher College in England.
- In 2006 and 2008, Frances was a visiting professor at Suffolk University, Boston.

#### ADDITIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

- Frances served as spokesperson for international World Food Day 2005.
- She is a contributing editor of *Yes!* Magazine, which carries our website feature, "Stories from the Edge."