

REFRAMING THE DEBATE  
INSPIRING ACTION

# THE OAKLAND INSTITUTE

“The Institute’s well-documented studies have been the subject of several stories on the Inter Press Service global newswire, including ‘Land Grabs for Food Production,’ which was picked as one of the top 25 news stories of 2009 by the California-based Project Censored.”

—Thalif Deen

*UN Bureau Chief and IPS Regional Director, North America*



View our reports online at [oaklandinsitute.org](http://oaklandinsitute.org)

The Oakland Institute, P.O. Box 18978, Oakland, CA 94619 [www.oaklandinstitute.org](http://www.oaklandinstitute.org)

Contact us at [info@oaklandinstitute.org](mailto:info@oaklandinstitute.org)

JOIN US ON FACEBOOK  [facebook.com/oak.institute](https://facebook.com/oak.institute)





## CHANGE BEGINS WITH INFORMED AND ACTIVE CITIZENS

As a leading policy think tank, the Oakland Institute is bringing fresh ideas and bold action to the most pressing social, economic, and environmental issues of our time. Our international network of fellows and researchers allows us to respond quickly to issues as they arise and bring local expertise to popular understanding. Backed by in-depth research and analysis, we're reframing the debate, shifting public opinion, and inspiring action. We're taking critical global and local issues from the ivory tower to the kitchen table — empowering everyday citizens to influence policy trends.

The proof is in the policy changes. Our research on the “land grabs” that threaten self-sufficiency and food security in poor countries has forced leaders to take a new look at these deadly foreign investment activities. We've played a leading role in convincing the public that emergency food aid should be provided locally or regionally. On more and more issues, policymakers, pundits, and media are turning to us for opinions and analysis.

Just as importantly, we're partnering with organizations in affected communities to amplify their message and put real solutions on the ground. It's simply a smarter way to create a better world.

## CHOOSING OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHANGE

The Oakland Institute has brought attention to issues ranging from biofuels and the global food crisis to poverty among seniors in America. We look for investigative and organizing opportunities that meet the following five criteria:

- PROMOTE SOCIAL ECONOMIC JUSTICE
- STRENGTHEN COLLABORATION AND ALLIANCES TO ADVOCATE FOR PROGRESSIVE CHANGE
- SUPPORT NEW VOICES IN POLICY DEBATE
- DEVELOP LOCAL-GLOBAL LINKAGES
- UPHOLD INTERNATIONAL LAW AND TREATIES

## OUR FELLOWS PROGRAM — A NEW BREED OF EXPERTS

The Institute's Fellows Program is essential to our success. This diverse group of innovative thinkers is bringing alternative narratives to the mainstream. They're giving critical visibility to the issues that affect them and the communities they work with. Some are well-known activists and journalists, while others are emerging voices on important issues. This intergenerational group of leaders is bridging the gap between social movements and policy changes. (For more information about our fellows, please visit [oaklandinstitute.org/fellows](http://oaklandinstitute.org/fellows))

## THE GO-TO SOURCE FOR RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS

Since our inception, the Institute has had a reputation for meticulous research and analysis — all packaged in easily accessible formats for policymakers, academia, media and more. Our reports have been used by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) as well as the Intergovernmental Group of Twenty-Four, the only formal developing country grouping within the IMF and the World Bank. According to *The Nation*, the Institute's leadership has “defined what an enlightened American discourse about this country's place in the world should sound like.”

## A COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY FOR AN INFORMED CITIZENRY

In a culture where sensationalism and sound bites dominate the news, the Institute is successfully bringing alternative narratives into the nightly news and beyond. Our bold perspectives have been viewed on the BBC, published in the *International Herald Tribune* and heard on NPR as well as other media outlets. This proven strategy is stimulating public discussion and debate while creating an informed citizenry that can craft a new vision of action for the future.

In 2008, *The Nation* named the Institute's Executive Director Anuradha Mittal, “The most valuable progressive thinker.”