FOOD SOVEREIGNTY = livelihood + self-determination

The ability of community members to control food access (both affluent and influx) independent of outside food sources (such as supermarkets). Its community elders grow traditional fruits and vegetables and fisherfolk go shrimping, fishing, and crabbing to sell at local stores, the local saturday farmers market, and most importantly, to feed their families and community members.

This farm is surrounded by houses (we are right in the middle of a suburban housing tract in East New Orleans).

Xuyen Pham stands amidst taro plants in her home garden. The plant stems are a base ingredient in traditional soups and congees found on most Vietnamese dinner tables.

By growing taro and other vegetables she keeps Vietnamese traditions alive in her community.

Xuyen Pham's Garden  
East New Orleans, LA  
24 June 2011