



# The Scaling up Agroecology Initiative - an integrated approach to achieve the SDGs

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# Agroecology - General Definitions

- “The application of ecological science to the study, design and management of sustainable agriculture” (Altieri 1995)
- “The ecology of the food system” (Francis et al., 2003)
- “A science, a social movement and a practice” (Wezel et al., 2009)
- FAO website: more than 30 definitions of agroecology adopted by Governments, academia, and organizations



# Common Points

- **The diversification** of production systems and products in space and time.
- **Contextualization of approaches** valuing local ecosystems and **food heritage** and **culture**
- **Co-innovation between farmers and researchers**
- **The importance of knowledge sharing, creating opportunities for women and youth**
- **A territorial and decentralized approach**



# The 10 elements of Agroecology



**RESPONSIBLE  
GOVERNANCE**



**DIVERSITY**



**SYNERGIES**



**EFFICIENCY**



**CIRCULAR AND  
SOLIDARITY ECONOMY**



**HUMAN AND  
SOCIAL VALUES**



**CO-CREATION AND  
SHARING OF KNOWLEDGE**



**RESILIENCE**



**RECYCLING**



**CULTURE AND  
FOOD TRADITIONS**

**Agroecology contributes to leaving no one behind by addressing the agricultural sustainability challenge in an integrated, holistic way.**

# International and Regional Multistakeholder Seminars

- 2014 : International Seminar « *Agroecology for food security and nutrition* » – Rome
- 2015-2017 : A series of 7 regional seminars
- 2018: 2<sup>nd</sup> International Seminar « *Scaling up agroecology to achieve the SDGs* » - Rome

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN	SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA	ASIA AND THE PACIFIC	EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA	NEAR EAST AND NORTH AFRICA
Brasilia Brazil June 2015	Dakar Senegal October 2015	Bangkok Thailand November 2015	Budapest Hungary November 2016	Tunis Tunisia November 2017
La Paz Bolivia (Plurinational State of) September 2016		Kunming China August 2016		





# Some conclusions

- **Agroecology goes beyond technical solutions** based on **incremental changes** and can drive **genuine transformative change** in food and agricultural systems by moving towards socio-ecological systems that place **people (farmers and consumers) at the center**
- Agroecology takes a **systems approach to tackle of root causes of poverty, food insecurity and unsustainable practices**
- Agroecology must be seen as **an opportunity to rethink our system** and guide a transition to sustainable food and agricultural systems

# FAO's Global Platform on Agroecology

## FAO Agroecology Knowledge Hub

- Updated with FAO and external contents
- Publication of resources, experiences and events on agroecology
- Agroecology monthly newsletter
- Extensive databases on agroecology:
  - **AgroecologyLex** - Selection from FAOLEX Database on country legislation, agreements and policies on agroecology
  - **Agroecology Knowledge Hub database** - Repository of publications, articles, courses and multimedia resources on Agroecology

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Agroecology Knowledge Hub

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ARTICLE: Using agroecology to enhance dietary diversity

Agroecology is based on applying ecological concepts and principles to optimize interactions between plants, animals, humans and the environment while taking into consideration the social aspects that need to be addressed for a sustainable and fair food system. By building synergies, agroecology can support food production and food security and nutrition while restoring the ecosystem services and biodiversity that are essential for sustainable agriculture. Agroecology can play an important role in building resilience and adapting to climate change. [...]

The 10 Elements of Agroecology

Diversity Co-creation and sharing of knowledge Synergies Efficiency Recycling Resilience Human and social values Culture and food traditions Responsible governance Circular and solidarity

Agroecology in Action: Profiles

The experience of Bio-districts in Italy Strengthening Agroecological Innovation Systems

Improving food security, nutrition and income of tribal smallholder farmers in Sundargarh Integrating diverse grain legumes for increased land productivity on small farms in Malawi

Videos

Hanny Van Geel on the benefits of agroecology

INTERNATIONAL SUMMIT ON AGROECOLOGY TO UPGRADE THE SDGs

Upcoming Events

04/09/2018 Webinar: Promoting Agroecology to Urban Women and Youth

11/09/2018 International Civil Society Conference on the SDGs, Agriculture & Fisheries

14/11/2018 International Conference Climate Change Impacts on Food & Nutrition Security

Documents

FAO'S AGROECOLOGICAL AGENDA

FAO'S WORK ON AGROECOLOGY A pathway to achieving the SDGs

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# The FAO Global Knowledge Product on Agroecology



**To produce global and harmonized evidence** (information and data) on the multi-dimensional performance of agroecological systems in order to inform policy-making and to support the process of transition to agroecology.

## **STEP 0**

### **CONTEXT DESCRIPTION**

- Production systems, type of household
- Agroecological zone
- Existing policies (incl. climate change)
- Enabling environment



## **STEP 1**

### **CHARACTERIZATION OF AGROECOLOGICAL TRANSITION (CAET)**

- Describe current system status in terms of transition
- Based on 10 elements of agroecology
- Survey with descriptive scales
- Self assessment by farmer or with extension services/scientists



## **STEP 2**

### **CRITERIA OF PERFORMANCE**

- Measure progress and quantify impact, across systems and regions
- Addressing 5 dimensions for policy makers (linked with SDGs)
- Time/cost constraints: keep it simple!
- Essentially based on a survey with farmers

**DATABASE AND  
CONSOLIDATED  
ANALYSIS**



# The Scaling up Agroecology Initiative



- aims to accompany and **support national agroecology transition processes** through policy and technical capacity that builds synergies between countries
- will provide a **framework for concerted action** with other UN Agencies and partners
- will build **alliances among different stakeholders** and networks
- will work on **target countries** for implementation

**Scaling up Initiative:** FAO and UN-Partners (IFAD, WFP, CBD, UNDP, UN-Environment, WHO)  
with governments (all levels) - research institutions - civil society - producers -financial institutions

## Areas of work

## Key actions to scale up agroecology

### I. KNOWLEDGE AND INNOVATION

1. Strengthen the central role of family farmers and their organizations in safeguarding, utilizing and accessing natural resources

### II. POLICY PROCESSES

2. Foster experience and knowledge sharing, collaborative research and innovations

3. Promote markets for agroecological based products for health, nutrition and sustainability

### III. BUILDING CONNECTIONS

4. Review institutional policy, legal and financial frameworks to promote agroecology transitions for sustainable food systems

5. Take agroecology to scale through integrated and participatory territorial processes





# NATIONAL LEVEL ACTIVITIES

## 3 priority countries

### MEXICO

- **FAO is supporting the development of a National Plan of Agroecology (upon request).**
- **Key issues: Sustainable production, transformation, commercialization, and nutrition**
- **Two Ministries deeply involved (Self-sufficiency and Environment).**

### INDIA

- **Based on the Zero Budget Natural Farming programme**
- **From Andhra Pradesh to other states**
- **Policy support and Farmer Field Schools**

### SENEGAL

- **FAO is developing a 10 year program Senegal and 4 Sahel countries**
- **Senegal as a pilot country to launch the Agroecological Transition Support Programme (ECOWAS)**
- **Good existing capacities in CSO, and academic organizations.**

# Thanks!

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