

AGROECOLOGY IN FAO





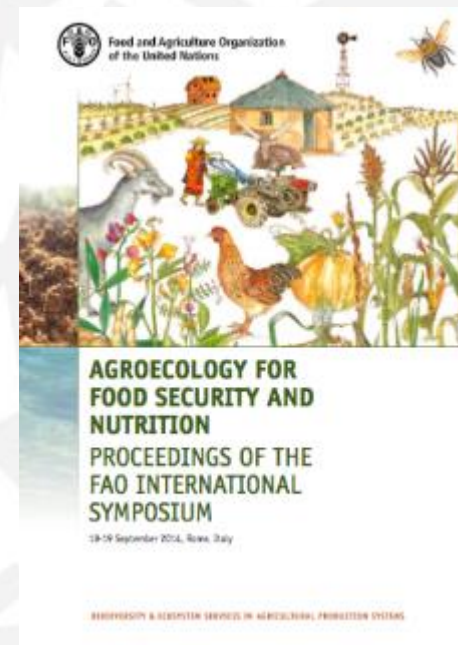
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FAO's MANDATE

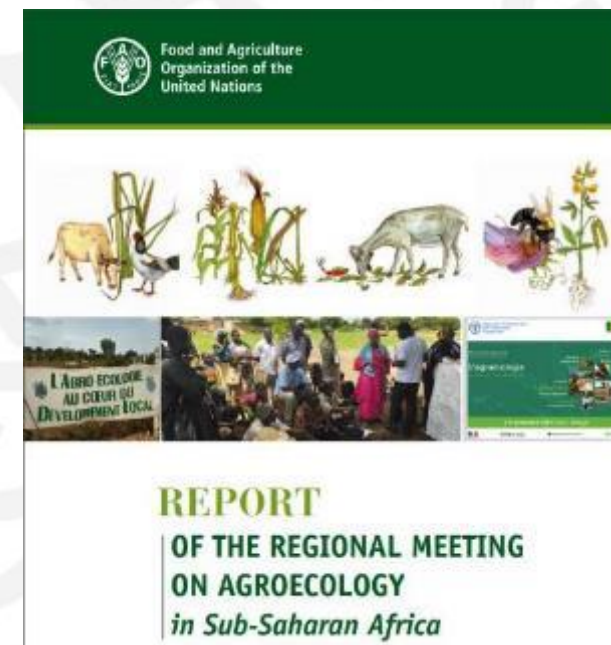
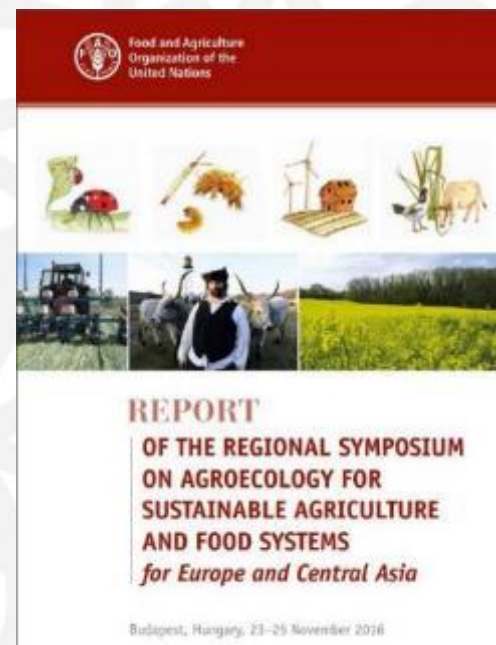
Achieving food security for all and making sure people have regular access to enough, high-quality food to lead active, healthy lives

A rather new area of work within FAO...

- Agroecology is not new but it has been included in FAO work stream only recently
- **18 - 19 September 2014:** 1st International Symposium on Agroecology for Food Security and Nutrition in FAO HQ, Rome, Italy
 - First time FAO ever officially and directly addressed the topic of **Agroecology**
 - **50 experts**, including academic professors, researchers, private sector, government officials and leaders of civil-society organizations,
 - Attended by more than **400 people**



- **2014-2017:** A four-year process of political dialogue about the benefits of AE covering all regions of the world
- FAO played a leading role in facilitating global and regional dialogue on AE through **9 regional and international** multi-stakeholder meetings, bringing together more than **2,100 participants** from **170 countries**. These meetings helped identify needs and priorities to scale up AE as a strategic approach to achieve **Zero Hunger** and the **SDGs**.



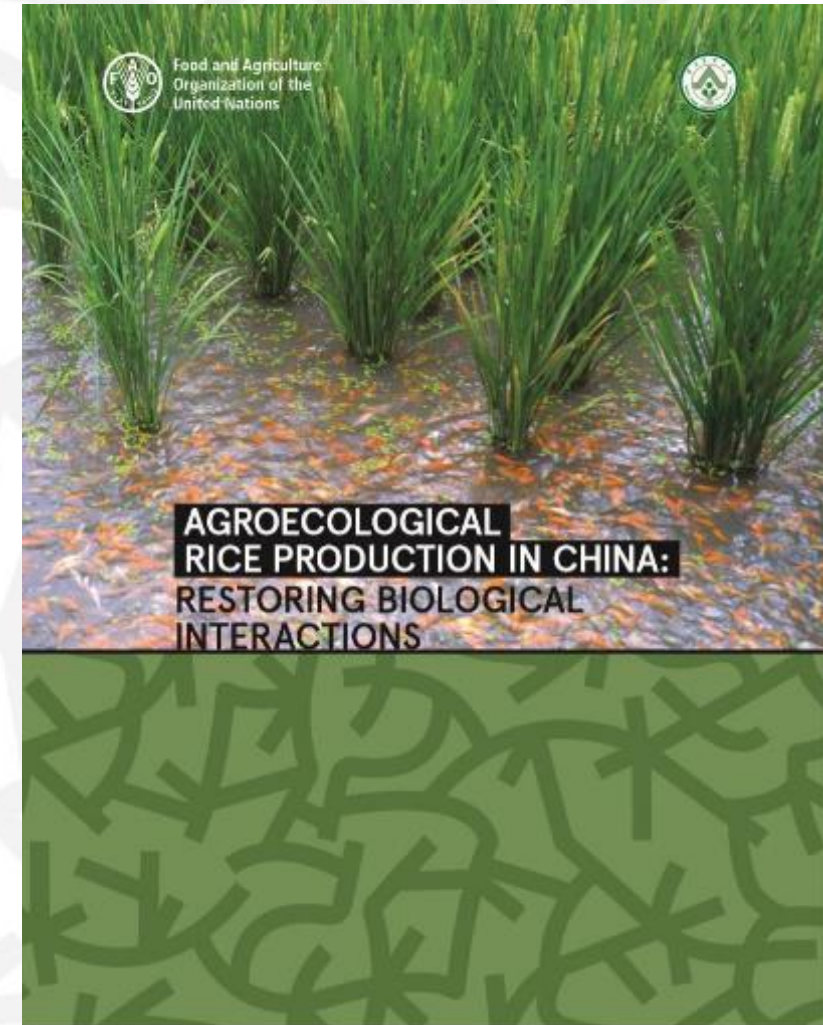


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- Two regional symposia were held in **Asia** in November 2015 (**Bangkok, Thailand**) and in August 2016 (**Kunming, China**)

*“Prioritize the **monitoring of the impacts of existing public policies for Agroecology** in various countries towards sustainable agriculture and food systems. Experiences on the **impact of policies on Agroecology** should be shared among countries. **FAO should collect information on existing policies on Agroecology in Asia**, to be included in the **FAO Agroecology Knowledge Hub**”*

Recommendation from symposium in China





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> 700 participants, 72 governments, 350 non-state actors, 6 UN organizations



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SCALING UP AGROECOLOGY INITIATIVE

TRANSFORMING FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL SYSTEMS IN SUPPORT OF THE SDGs

A PROPOSAL PREPARED FOR THE INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON AGROECOLOGY 3-5 APRIL 2018

MISSION OF THE INITIATIVE

In the transformative spirit of the 2030 Agenda, we will work with food producers, governments and other stakeholders to strengthen agroecology – as a promising approach –, harnessing a range of sustainable practices and policies, knowledge and alliances to achieve equitable and sustainable food systems in support of the SDGs.

This document presents the *Scaling up Agroecology Initiative*, a vision to bring agroecology* to scale and transform food and agricultural systems to achieve the SDGs. The document responds to four key questions: “What is the **potential of agroecology** to contribute to the 2030 Agenda?” (Section 1); “What are the **key challenges and opportunities** to scale-up agroecology?” (Section 2); “Which **core areas of work** should the *Scaling up Agroecology Initiative* focus on?” (Section 3); and “What is the **way forward** for the *Scaling up Agroecology Initiative*?” (Section 4).

FAO, as the lead agency, will be inviting UN agencies and other partner organizations to discuss and join the Initiative. It is intended to be presented and launched at the “2nd International Symposium on Agroecology: Scaling up Agroecology to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals” in April 2018 in Rome.

SECTION 1

AGROECOLOGY AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The 2030 *Agenda for Sustainable Development* calls for a transformation in food and agricultural systems. The Agenda is a framework for achieving integrated sustainable development in its three dimensions – environmental, social and economic. It calls for all people to be critical agents of change in the process.

Agroecology is key to transforming food and agricultural systems. Growing scientific evidence and local experiences demonstrate how agroecology facilitates and contributes to transition to food and agricultural systems that are environmentally sustainable, economically fair, viable and socially equitable.

Agroecology embraces the spirit of the 2030 Agenda:

- **Agroecology helps to achieve multiple objectives through integrated practices, supported by coherent cross-sectoral policies.** Agroecology addresses the environmental, economic and social dimensions of agri-food systems. It seeks innovative and holistic solutions to the complex and interrelated challenges of poverty, hunger and malnutrition, rural abandonment, environmental degradation and climate change.
- **Agroecology places people at the centre.** Agroecology empowers people to be critical agents of change in the transformation of their food systems. It recognizes and brings together knowledge and experiences of diverse actors – including, women, youth, food producers, traders, consumers, policymakers, scientists and citizens.
- **Agroecology contributes directly to multiple SDGs.** The eradication of poverty (1) and hunger (2), ensuring quality education (4), achieving gender equality (5), increasing water-use efficiency (6), promoting decent jobs (8), ensuring sustainable consumption and production (12), building climate resilience (13), securing sustainable use of marine resources (14) and halting the loss of biodiversity (15) (see Annex 1).

* To better understand the term “Agroecology” a short description is given in Annex 2.



A **polysemic concept** with over **30 definitions** adopted by government, Academia and CSOs (FAO website, AgroecologyLex)

Applies **ecological concepts & principles** to optimize **interactions** between plants, animals, humans and the environment while taking into consideration **social aspects** needed for a **sustainable and fair food system**

Based on **bottom-up** and **territorial** processes, helping to deliver **contextualized solutions** to local problems.



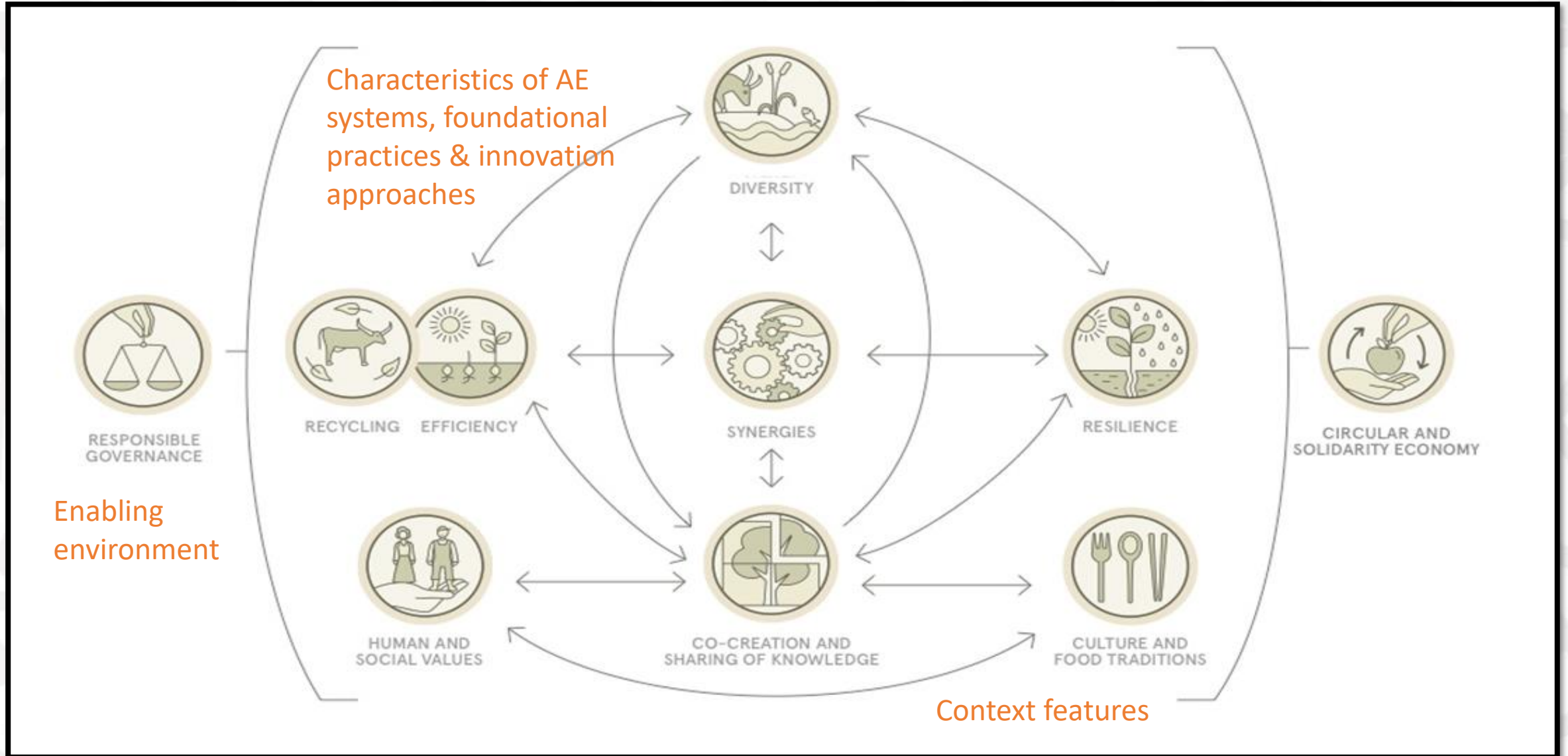


- AE innovations are based on the **co-creation of knowledge**, combining science with the traditional, practical and local knowledge of producers
- By enhancing their autonomy and adaptive capacity, AE empowers **producers and communities** as key agents of change
- Emphasizes **social equity** (job creation & gender aspects)
- Promotes **local markets** and **direct consumer-producer exchanges** (value addition & diverse diets)





10 ELEMENTS OF AGROECOLOGY





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- A strategic approach to bring Agroecology to scale and **transform food and agricultural systems to achieve the SDGs**
- Aims to accompany and support national **Agroecology transition** processes through **policy and technical capacity building** that creates **synergies** between countries
- Explicit focus on **building alliances** among different stakeholders, **strengthening networks**, fostering the **co-creation and sharing of knowledge** within a territorial approach that is tailored to particular contexts
- Developed in alignment with other initiatives such as the **2030 Agenda**, the UN **Decade of Family Farming**, the UN **Decade of Action on Nutrition**, and the **Global Initiative on Decent Jobs for Youth...**





3 Areas of Work and 5 Key Actions to harness opportunities and overcome challenges to Scale up Agroecology

Areas of work

I. KNOWLEDGE AND
INNOVATION

II. POLICY
PROCESSES

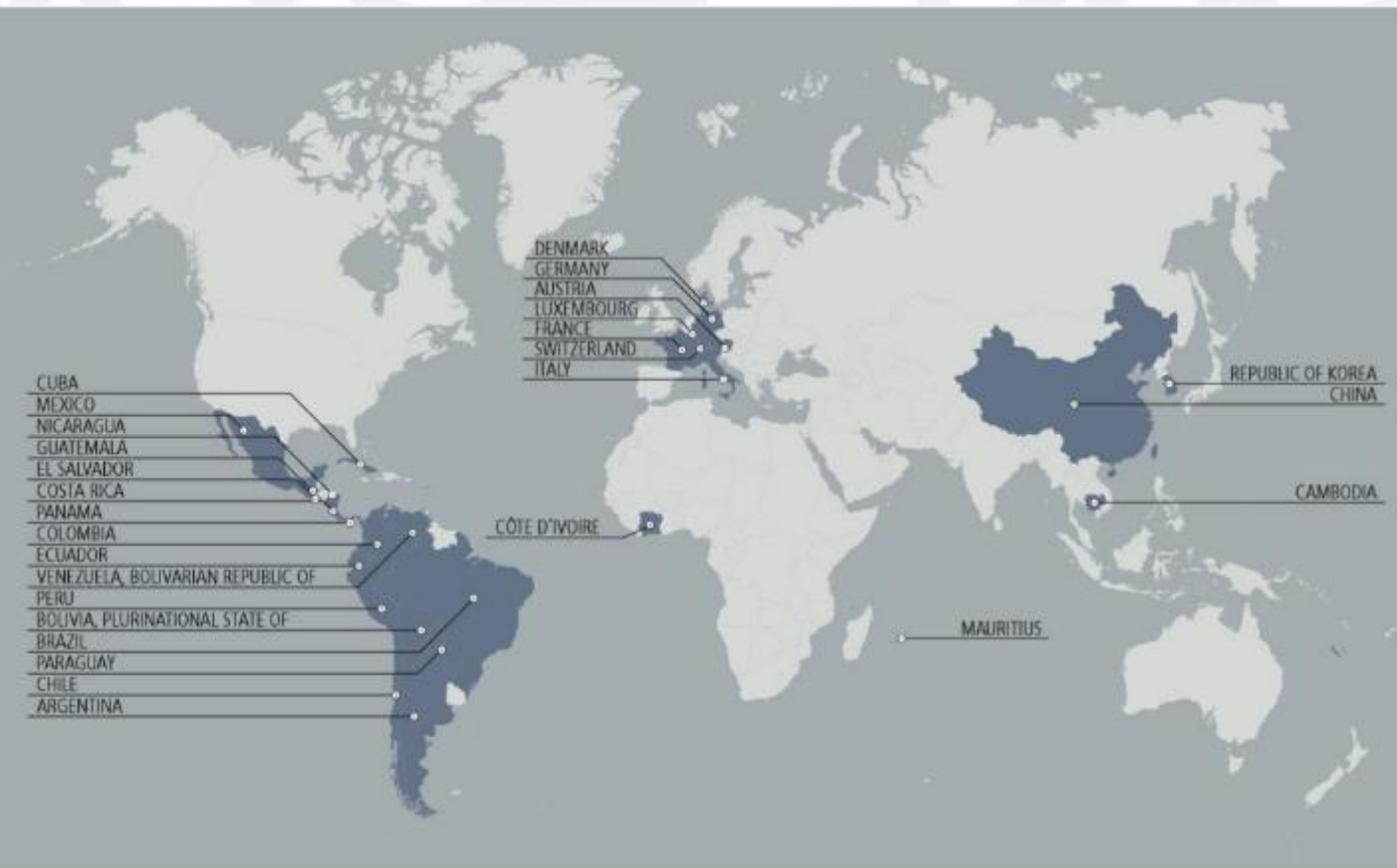
III BUILDING
CONNECTIONS

Key actions to scale up Agroecology

1. Strengthen the central role of family farmers and their organizations in safeguarding, utilizing and accessing natural resources
2. Foster experience and knowledge sharing, collaborative research and innovations
3. Promote markets for agroecological based products for health, nutrition and sustainability
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



FAOLex & AgroecologyLex



- First phase of the mapping carried out in May 2018
- Based on **FAOLex database** & focusing on policies / legislation with clear AE approach
- FAOLex, one of the world's largest electronic collection of national laws, regulations & policies on food, agriculture and natural resource management
- By 2019, **118 legal documents** (including policies, laws, regulations and programmes) from **30 countries** were tagged as Agroecology

Latin American Region has the highest number of legal & political frameworks to support AE, with **18 countries** identified by 2019



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Multi-functionality of Legal Frameworks supporting Agroecology

Unlike mono-functional agricultural laws, these are not limited to the production of food or other material goods, for consumption and private use or market exchanges.

“Agroecosystems must be considered in their entirety and complexity as socio-ecological, self-sustainable and self-organized systems: as such, they cannot be observed from a single angle”

M. Monteduro - From Agroecology and Law to Agroecological Law



Multi-functionality includes fundamental ecosystem and socio-economic services at the collective level

Biodiversity conservation	Soil conservation
Water Resources Management	Natural nutrient recycling
Mitigation and adaptation to climate change	Ensure the safety, health and nutritional quality of food
Reduction and elimination of the use of external inputs	Recognition and appreciation of the work of women and youth
Prioritize the human work of family farmers with respect to agro-industrial capital	Education and protection of the cultural identity of the territory
Landscape designs, favors the development of agro-tourism	Access to short circuit markets and revaluation of sustainable production



Towards agroecological laws

AGRICULTURAL LAWS

They mainly regulate the production obtained through the production of plants and animals and the sale of the results of these activities “

Agricultural law focuses on the regulation of agro-biological production activities, food legislation being one of its derivations

ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS

They cover many of the ecological aspects linked to agricultural activities: biodiversity in agriculture, protection of animal and plant species, agricultural wastes, recovery of contaminated land, agricultural use of water, relations between agricultural and livestock activities and climate change, organic farming, energy production by agriculture; biomass as renewable resources, agroforestry

→ Despite the numerous interferences between the two disciplinary fields, legal doctrine has preferred to keep agricultural and environmental laws separate



AGROECOLOGICAL LAWS

The current divisive approach used by legal doctrine is not unavoidable and for the future, the gradual construction of a new agroecological law is not a utopia.

On the contrary, there is a concrete possibility

- to legally challenge and renew theoretical models
- to promote legislation and jurisprudence capable of putting into dialogue, on the one hand, areas of law that until now have been separated and on the other hand, law and Agroecology

HOW PUBLIC POLICIES CAN FACILITATE AGROECOLOGY TRANSITION?





Governance

- Holistic Approach
- Fostering linkages between agriculture and other sectors (environment, food, health, education and social rights)
- Promoting social dialogue & participation from all actors → foster enabling environment for AE and sustainable food systems, shaping and formulating policies in a democratic and inclusive way
- Strengthening institutional support for social movements, academia and civil society, proposing AE as the critical solution
- Promoting a right based approach and guaranteeing access to land, water and seed (UNDROP)
- Encouraging participatory planning and local food councils



Investment and Markets

- Investing in public services, rural infrastructures and education
- Removing subsidies for polluting industrial agriculture
- Promoting territorial and local markets (including short supply chains, CSA, fair trade...)
- Encouraging public procurement from smallholders and peasant communities
- Recognizing that knowledge, culture, access to productive resources and an equal access to markets becomes determining factors for AE to grow
- Recognizing the transformative potential of family farmers and other smallholders producers, to adopt AE, taking into consideration its socio political dimension



Research and Outreach

- Capacity building about the environment, agrobiodiversity and Agroecology
- Take into account transition to AE at different scales (farm, territory, local, national and international levels)
- Dedicate budget to research, innovation and communication in Agroecology
- Considering the AE transition as a pathway to implement the Paris Agreement and an effective contribution to fight the climate change crisis



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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH KOREA



Act on the Promotion of Environment-Friendly Agriculture and Fisheries and the Management of and Support for Organic Foods, etc.

Consolidated Act No. 11459 of 1 June 2012, as amended last by Act No. 14305 of 2 December 2016

Act to pursue **sustainable environment-friendly Agriculture and Fisheries (A&F)** by increasing the environmental conservation role of A&F, reducing environmental pollution caused by A&F, and fostering farmers and fishermen who engage in environment-friendly practices as well as to manage environment-friendly A&F products and organic food products.

“Environment-friendly A&F” means the **industry producing safe agricultural, fishery, livestock, and forestry products** by strictly **limiting or minimizing the use of chemical substances**, such as synthetic pesticides, chemical fertilizers, antibiotics, and antimicrobials, and **maintaining and preserving the ecosystems and the environment** by reusing or recycling of the by-products of agricultural, fishery, livestock, and forestry industries.

The **State and local governments** to **formulate plans and policies** on environment-friendly agriculture and fisheries and organic food, etc. and to **facilitate voluntary participation** by local governments, farmers, fishermen, etc.



URUGUAY



National plan for the promotion of agroecological production

Law No. 19.717

Approved in 2019, it declares of general interest the **promotion of agroecological production, distribution and consumption systems.**

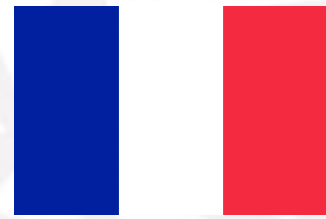
Creates the Honorary Commission responsible for preparing, coordinating and monitoring the implementation and execution of the national plan, with the participation of Ministries, Universities and CSOs.

Among its objectives are:

- Encourage and facilitate the **agroecological transition** and the incorporation of agroecological practices in **agricultural systems**
- Access to **local markets**, favoring the interaction between producers and consumers;
- Promote **training and research** in Agroecology



FRANCE



Law for the future of Agriculture, Food and Forestry

Law N. 2014-1170 of October 13, 2014

Introduction of important changes within the French rural code, so that **Agroecology** is integrated into **legal frameworks and public policies**.

Offers the possibility to create **Group of Economic and Environmental Interest** which is a collective of farmers wishing to engage in Agroecology. They will benefit from a priority or an increase in public support to make a transition to innovative and more competitive production systems.

Other aspects include **support to young farmers**, with credit facilities and access to land for **sustainable food production** with an agroecological approach



Society, food producers, young people, science and sustainable private sector initiatives are already changing and transitioning towards sustainable food systems.

- Are policies leading and responding to these needs?
- Are policies truly addressing the different dimensions of sustainability: economic, environmental and social?
- Are they responding to SDG in an integrated manner?
- Are they focusing on a stronger cross-sectorial work, objectives and interests of all stakeholders?
- Are they promoting participation, co-creation of our future?



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Legal frameworks and policies for Agroecology are not based solely on **food production & consumption**.

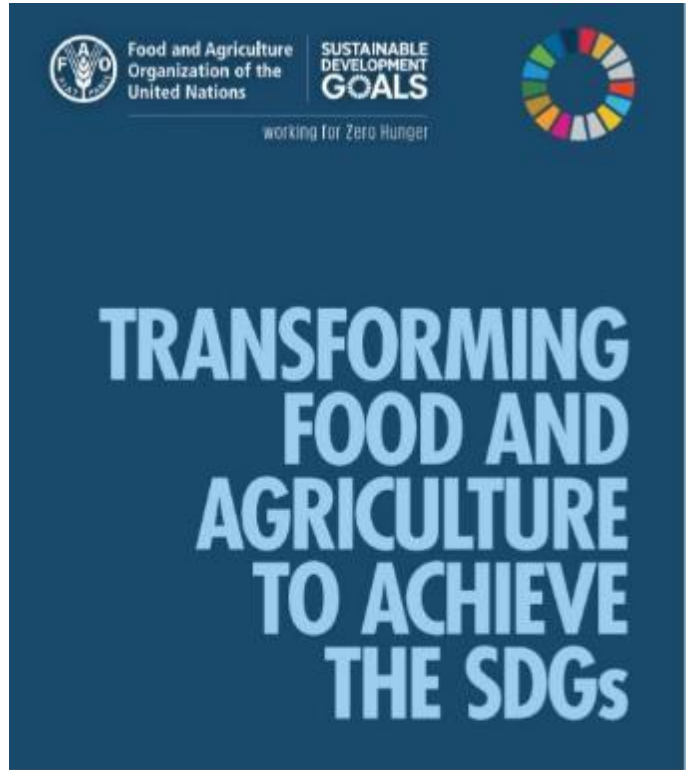
Socio-economic & environmental aspects to be taken into account to improve not only the quality of life of rural communities but of the entire population.

Understanding these differences and synergies can help the **Scaling Up Agroecology Initiative** to develop new legal frameworks and policies that are more aligned with the principles of **Agroecology**.

Second phase of FAO mapping of policies & legal frameworks will include legal documents promoting **transition to sustainable food & agricultural systems** and **sharing vision/concept** with Agroecology.



<http://www.fao.org/agroecology>




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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

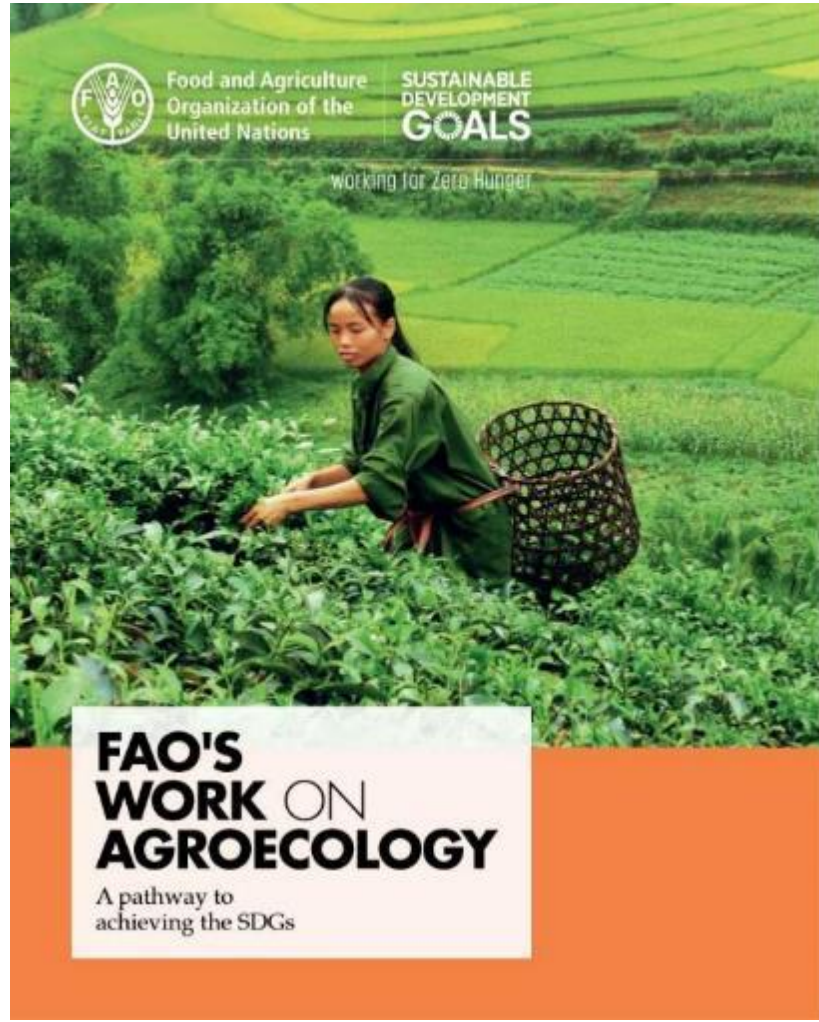
working for Zero Hunger

TRANSFORMING FOOD AND AGRICULTURE TO ACHIEVE THE SDGs



TECHNICAL REFERENCE DOCUMENT

20 interconnected actions to guide decision-makers



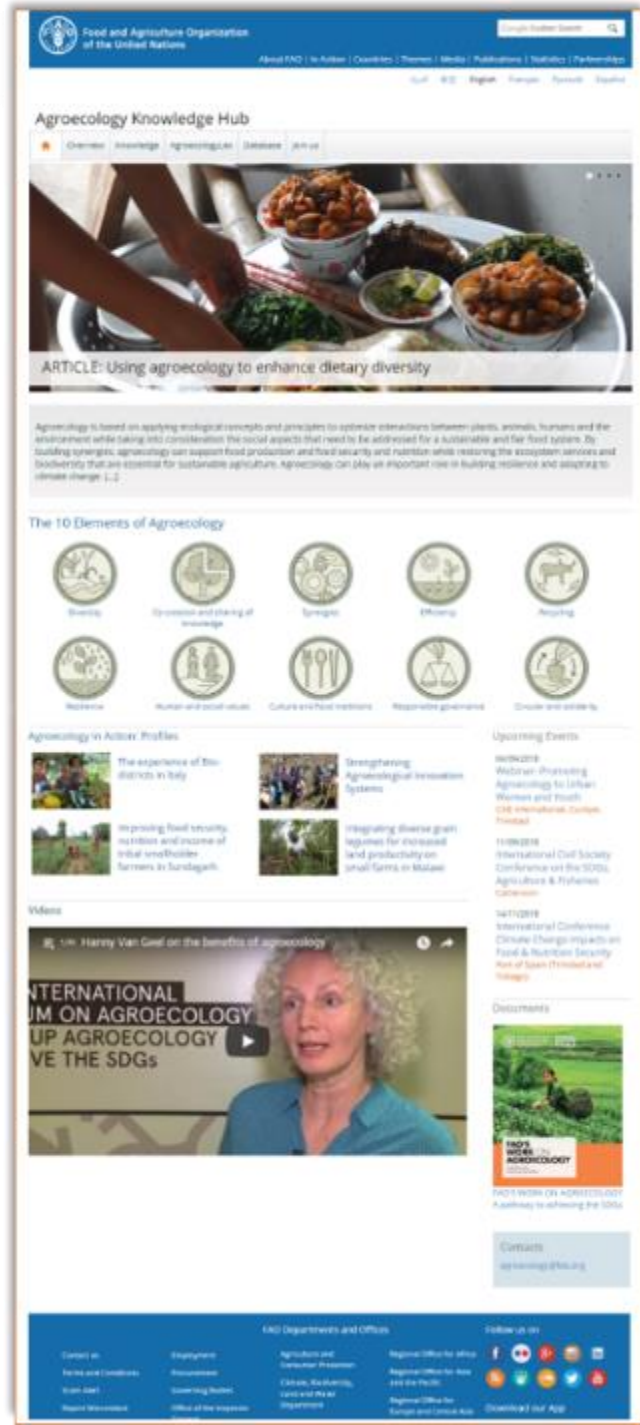
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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

working for Zero Hunger

FAO'S WORK ON AGROECOLOGY

A pathway to achieving the SDGs



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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

- Biodiversity
- Knowledge and sharing of knowledge
- Synergies
- Efficiency
- Resilience
- Human and social values
- Culture and food systems
- Responsible governance
- Climate and environment

Agroecology in Action Profiles

- The experience of Bio-districts in Italy
- Strengthening Agroecological Innovation Systems
- Improving food security, nutrition and income of rural smallholder farmers in Bangladesh
- Integrating diverse grain systems for increased land productivity on small farms in Malawi

Upcoming Events

- 2019/2020 Webinar: Promoting Agroecology to Urban Women and Youth
- 11/2019 International Civil Society Conference on the SDGs, Agriculture & Fisheries
- 2019/2020 International Conference Climate Change Impacts on Food & Nutrition Security

Documents

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

FAO Departments and Offices

Contact us: Agriculture and Fisheries Department, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia, Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, Regional Office for the Eastern and Southern Africa