

A coalition for food systems' transformation through agroecology

Declaration of commitment: from speech to action

Current agricultural and food systems face major environmental, climate and health challenges, while responding to the challenges of food security and nutrition. Food systems are increasingly impacted by climate change. At the same time, they contribute a third of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and certain agricultural practices contribute to the erosion of biodiversity, environmental pollution, land degradation and the scarcity of water resources. More than 800 million people still suffer from hunger, two billion have micronutrient deficiencies and two billion are overweight or obese, while a third of the food produced is lost or wasted globally. The precarious livelihoods and social inequalities, faced by many farmers and food system workers, exacerbate the difficulties in ensuring adequate nutrition for all.

Agroecology, including regenerative agriculture that respects the 13 principles of agroecology defined by the High Level Panel of Experts (HLPE), can be a powerful lever for solving these major challenges and providing sustainable solutions to the issues of food security and nutrition, the fight against poverty and social inequalities, the adaptation to climate change, the preservation of biodiversity and natural resources, and the fight against zoonotic diseases; this by working for a transformation of agricultural and food systems compatible with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Paris Climate Agreement, the post-2020 objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and those of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). The agroecology principles apply to all forms of sustainable agriculture and food production, including crop, livestock and pastoral systems, agroforestry, fisheries, aquaculture etc ... The application of these principles also contributes to improving gender equality, making agriculture more attractive for youth, creating dignified income and living conditions and contributing to healthy diets through sustainable food systems.

Various on-going initiatives and policies attest to the potential of agroecological approaches to respond to the multiple challenges facing food systems. This is the case, for example, of the global initiatives "Scaling-up agroecology", or "4 per Thousand", or of the "Accelerator of the Great Green Wall" in the Sahel, the "Alliance for agroecology in West Africa" supported by ECOWAS, the "Transformative Partnership Platform for Agroecological Transition" (TPP), "Community-managed Natural farming" in Andhra Pradesh, and many programs implemented by governments, producer and civil society organizations, or research institutions on all continents.

To strengthen this dynamic, we intend to form an ambitious coalition for the transformation of food systems through agroecology, in connection with the Committee for World Food Security (CSA), its High Level Panel of Experts (HLPE) and relevant UN agencies and stakeholders, and call in particular for :

1. Implementing the policy recommendations of the Committee on World Food Security on agroecological and other innovative approaches, guided by the ten elements of agroecology endorsed by FAO and its Member Nations and the thirteen principles of agroecology set out by the High Level Panel of Experts;
2. Strengthening research and development programs to support the agroecological transformation, in particular by promoting local innovation, through a transdisciplinary and participatory approach between scientists, farmers, indigenous peoples and other stakeholders of the food systems;
3. Strengthening the consistency of the various sectoral policies aiming at the agroecological transformation of food systems, including agricultural, forestry, fisheries, environmental, water, energy, health and trade policies;
4. Ensuring that public and private investments promote the adoption and large-scale implementation of agroecological practices.

We are convinced that agroecology is an essential solution for the transformation of food systems towards healthy, resilient, equitable and sustainable systems.

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