



Sharing best practices for collaboration on sustainable, deforestation-free agricultural commodity production and consumption

UNEA 5 Flagship event, 1 March 2022

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Fighting deforestation in major commodity chains is an important step forward, but it is insufficient to resolve the multiple crises we face. A deep transformation of our food and agricultural systems is needed in order to comprehensively tackle deforestation and a range of interrelated challenges. This transformation must be based on the 13 principles of agroecology, allowing us to reach the Sustainable Development Goals in a holistic manner and address economic, environmental, climate, nutrition and social objectives at the same time.

There is growing global recognition of the potential of agroecology to address current challenges. The newly created “Coalition for food system transformation through agroecology” offers a vehicle to join forces to bring about the paradigm shift we need and mainstream agroecology.”

By February 2022, 28 countries and 47 Organizations including farmers' organizations; Research organizations; indigenous peoples' organizations; United Nations organizations (among which UNEP); Philanthropic organizations and Civil society organizations have joined the coalition.

It is important to address some myths about agroecology. Agroecology is not looking at the past, but is looking at a better future. It is not just about implementing some agricultural practices, but about redesigning the food systems, from production to consumption.

Agroecology is about co-innovation and transdisciplinary research involving farmers and researchers working together to implement the 13 principles of agroecology, adapting solutions to the local circumstances and conditions.

The potential of agroecology to tackle the multiple challenges has been demonstrated on all continents:

- In the Indian State of Andhra Pradesh, almost 1 million farmers practice “natural farming”, the local name of agroecology, with increased productivity and an average 50% increase in income compared to farmers practicing chemical input-based agriculture, with a positive impact on wild biodiversity in the landscapes.
- In Mexico, the Ministry of Agriculture has embraced agroecology as the way forward for sustainable agriculture.
- In West Africa, ECOWAS has developed a major agroecology programme and FAO is developing an ambitious 10-year programme for mainstreaming agroecology in West Africa.



The urgency to address the challenges of biodiversity loss, climate change as well as food and nutrition security and social equity call for fundamental transformational change. This is what agroecology can bring.

I invite countries to join the agroecology Coalition and to join forces to address today's challenges in a holistic manner.

You can find information about the coalition at: <https://agroecology-coalition.org/>