



AGROECOLOGY COALITION'S GUIDE TO COP 16

Mission, events, delegation, resources

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WHO WE ARE



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Created in 2021, the Agroecology Coalition accelerates the **transformation of food systems** through agroecology by facilitating collective action and empowering members with capacities needed to drive positive change at all levels. Our work is guided by the Principles and Elements of Agroecology.

As of October 2024, Coalition members comprise around 50 governments, 3 regional commissions, a few sub-national administrations and around 250 organisations, including: farmers' associations, research institutions, Indigenous peoples' organisations, UN and other international organizations, philanthropic foundations, civil society/non-governmental, organisations, small and medium enterprises.



In June 2024 we launched our 2024- 2030 strategy. Check it out: it is available in English, French and Spanish.



Join us!

Are you a government or an organization interested in supporting the transformation of food systems through agroecology?
Take a look here to find out how to join the Agroecology Coalition!

WHAT IS AGROECOLOGY

- Agroecology is an **environmentally and socially sustainable** approach to food and farming that prioritizes diversity and working with nature, not against it.
- Agroecology benefits **nature**, animals, water systems and trees, as well as people.
- Agroecology is the cornerstone of a new food economy that is productive, **resilient** and sustainable. There is plenty of scientific evidence showing the benefits of Agroecology in terms of yields and on food security.
- Agroecology applies the science of ecology to sustainable food systems; it draws on diverse knowledge generated by farmers and scientists; and serves social justice. In other words, agroecology is a **science, a practice, and a social movement**.

The principles and practices of agroecology are backed by scientists, consumer associations, social movements, farmers, governments and international institutions to sustainably feed a growing population while conserving nature and strengthening communities.



Check out the [infographic on Principles and Elements of Agroecology](#).



SOME KEY AGROECOLOGY REPORTS

- IPES-Food, [From uniformity to diversity](#), 2016
- IPBES, [Assessment Report on Land Degradation and Restoration](#), 2018
- TEEB for Agriculture and Food, [Scientific and Economic Foundations](#), 2018
- IPBES, [Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services](#), 2019
- HLPE, [Agroecological and other innovative approaches](#), 2019
- IDDRI, [An agroecological Europe in 2050: multifunctional agriculture for healthy eating](#), 2018
- IPCC, [Climate Change and Land Report](#), 2019
- United Nations, [Global Sustainable Development Report](#), 2019
- Global Commission on Adaptation, [Adapt Now: A Global Call for Leadership on Climate Resilience](#), 2019
- UNEP, [Global Biodiversity Outlook 5](#), 2020
- HLPE, [Food Security and Nutrition: Building a Global Narrative towards 2030](#), 2020
- IPCC, [Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability](#), 2022
- CBD, [Target 10 on Enhance Biodiversity and Sustainability in Agriculture, Aquaculture, Fisheries, and Forestry](#), 2022

OUR MISSION AT COP 16

We will be taking part in COP 16, Cali (Colombia) with a delegation from the Secretariat, member organizations and countries. Through our side events and interventions, we will be advocating the transformation of food systems through agroecology in relation to biodiversity.

Why is it important to focus on food systems at COP 16?

- **Food systems** are closely connected to **biodiversity**: currently, global agricultural systems are a threat to 86% of the 28,000 endangered wildlife species worldwide, and crop's and animal's genetic diversity is at a low point (only 12 plants and 5 animals make up 75% of the world's consumption).
- **Industrial agriculture** is a major driver of biodiversity loss through land conversion and harmful intensification processes (e.g., heavy reliance on synthetic inputs, monocropping, excessive tillage, etc.), but also indirectly through increased **climate vulnerability** and **land degradation**). Hence, food system transformation is necessary to realize many of the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) targets.
- When designed well, food systems can simultaneously contribute to halting and reversing biodiversity loss. In this regard, agroecology, which is **working with nature** rather than against it, can play a central role in the fight against the biodiversity crisis by supporting the shift to food systems that work for biodiversity instead of destroying it.

What's the connection between agroecology and biodiversity?

- Agroecology applies **ecological and social concepts** and principles to the design and management of food and agricultural systems.
- Biodiversity is one of the **13 principles** at the basis of agroecology. While conventional farming invests in monocultures, agroecology contributes to maintaining and enhancing diversity of species in time and space (at field, farm and landscape scale).
- Half of the planet's habitable land is occupied by agriculture, which means that food systems are key for land **freshwater** and **marine ecosystems**. Consequently, food is an important lever for positive change and agroecological principles provide great potential to reform our agri-food systems.
- Agroecology conserves, uses, improves and sustains biodiversity, by **fostering interactions** between plants, animals, humans and the environment at all levels. Agroecological approaches enhance biodiversity and increase resilience through practices such as polycultures, agroforestry systems, mixed crop-livestock systems, co-creation of knowledge for locally contextualized solutions, and the strengthening of local food systems and short supply chains, among many others..
- Agroecology promotes the role of small **biodiverse family farms** that produce most of the world's food, holding sophisticated and ancestral knowledge on agricultural biodiversity, and together with indigenous communities are important custodians of global biodiversity.
- Agroecological **traditional practices** and **technical innovations** in food and farming demonstrate that this shift from maximizing production at the expense of nature to farming with biodiversity is possible (WWF 2021).

Agroecology and the Convention for Biological Diversity

- Agroecology, with its emphasis on ecological and social design and management of food systems, plays a vital role in supporting the three core objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity: conservation, sustainable use, and equity. It is also essential for fulfilling national climate commitments (NDCs, NAPs), achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and ensuring food security (Food Systems Pathways).
- Lack of recognition of agroecology: In a policy report released in June 2024 by CARI, Humundi and Iles de Paix, the organizations highlighted that: “having examined the Conventions over the past 30 years, it is clear that, although recognition of agroecology is gradually gaining ground in terms of positions taken, it is still not widely recognised. Agroecological practices are one of the solutions identified (among others), however its systemic approach, comprising political, social and cultural dimensions, is not promoted as a model for transforming society in order to meet, or help meet, the objectives set by the Conventions.”

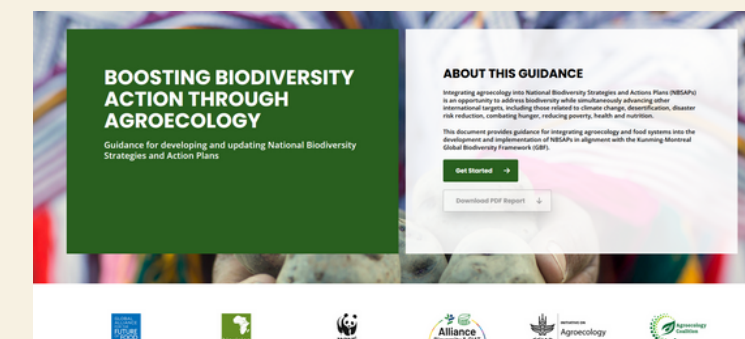
An opportunity to integrate agroecology: this year it is particularly important for food systems, and specifically agroecology, to be integrated into revised National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs)) which countries are due to submit this year in line with the 23 Targets of the Global Biodiversity Framework .

Specifically, there are 3 critical opportunities for policymakers developing NBSAPs:

1. The full benefits of agroecology can only materialize if countries mainstream it as a food system approach throughout the formulation of their NBSAPs.
2. To address all three GBF target clusters, countries should include agroecological interventions, from production to consumption, including supply chains, processing, and market incentives.
3. To unleash the full potential of agroecological interventions in NPSAPs, strong policies, financing mechanisms, monitoring schemes, governance rules, and institutional capacity are needed.

Find out more on how to integrate agroecology into NBSAPs in the Guidance Tool “Boosting biodiversity action through agroecology: Guidance for developing and updating National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans” co-produced by the Agroecology Coalition and partners.

Visit: nbsap.futureoffood.org (available as of 22.10.2024)



EVENTS ON AGROECOLOGY IN CALI



By Agroecology Coalition and members



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23 October (16:30)



Cocuy - Marie Khan Women's
Caucus meeting room, Plaza One
(Blue Zone)

**Youth leadership and agroecology
catalyzing biodiversity conservation in
agri-food systems.**
by GYBN, WFF, IAAS, IFSA, NGIN, Biovision
Foundation.



23 October (10:30)



Nature Positive Pavillon, Big Room
(Blue Zone)

**Ecological and cultural relationship and
community led agroecology through local
rice genetic resources.**
by Global Alliance for the Future of Food



24 October (16:30 - 17:45)



Dutch Pavillion (Blue Zone)

**The Agroecology Opportunity: an
investment in biodiversity, water, climate,
soil, and community security and
resilience.**
by PAN UK, Agroecology Coalition, Biovision
Foundation



25 October (14:00- 15:30)



CGIAR Pavillion (Blue Zone)

**Harnessing agroecology, agrobiodiversity
and family farming to transform food
systems and halt biodiversity loss.**
by Agroecology Coalition, Agricord, FFF,
IUCN, World Rural Forum, IIED, and Alliance
Bioversity-CIAT



26 October (11:00 - 12.15)



ONLINE- [Registere here](#)

**Advancing Biodiversity Law and Fair
Governance through Agroecology**
by Agroecology Coalition and IPES- Food



26 October (11:30 - 13:00)



CGIAR Pavillion (Blue Zone)

**Harvesting Solutions: Aligning NBSAPs
and NDCs for Climate and Biodiversity
Benefits**
by UN Foundation, CIAT/Bioversity, Climate
Focus, OPN SFS, Biovision, GA, UNEP



27 October (15:30- 16:30)



Nature Positive Pavillon, Small Room
(Blue Zone)

**Boosting NBSAPs through agroecology –
launch of a new Guidance Tool**
by WWF, Biovision Foundation, Global
Alliance for the Future of Food, Alliance CIAT-
Bioversity, Agroecology Coalition



28 October (14:15- 15:45)



IUCN Pavilion (Blue Zone)

**Harnessing agroecology, agrobiodiversity
and family farming to transform food
systems and halt biodiversity loss.**
by Agroecology Coalition, Agricord, FFF,
IUCN, World Rural Forum, IIED, and Alliance
Bioversity-CIAT



30 October (10:00)



Cocora Subnational and Local
Authorities meeting room, Plaza One
(Blue Zone)

**Biodiversity 2.0: Strengthening Indigenous
and Local Community Partnerships to Halt
Biodiversity Loss.**

by AFSA, CIDSE, Maryknoll Global Concerns,
Pastoral Womens Council of Tanzania,
PINGOS Forum, Biovision



30 October (13:00- 14:00)



Colombia Pavilion (Blue Zone)

**Agroecology Policies for the
Transformation of Food Systems and the
Advancement of NBSAPs.**

by Government of Colombia, Biovision,
Agroecology Coalition, Agrosavia, WWF, and
Alliance Bioversity-CIAT



30 October (16:00 - 17:30)



CGIAR Pavillion (Blue Zone)

**Biodiversity for Nutrition and Health
through Agroecology.**
by Agroecology Coalition, IPES-Food,
SWISSAID Colombia and Alliance Bioversity-
CIAT



30 October (16:00- 16:30)



Media Center (Blue Zone)

**Press conference on “Boosting NBSAPs
through agroecology – launch of a new
Guidance Tool.**

by WWF, Biovision Foundation, Global
Alliance for the Future of Food, Alliance CIAT-
Bioversity, Agroecology Coalition



Visit the [events](#) page on our website for more information
(including speakers and streaming links)

RESOURCES ON AGROECOLOGY AND BIODIVERSITY

By Agroecology Coalition and members



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BRIEF (2024) Considering agroecology in the Rio Conventions: potential for scaling up - By CARI, Humundi, Iles de Paix

PAPER (2024) Leveraging NBSAPS beyond the CBD: how action on agroecology and pesticides delivers across multiple UN policy frameworks - By Pesticide Action Network UK (PAN UK)

EXPLAINER (2024) The Convention on Biological Diversity, COP16 and a plan for the climate crisis - By WWF

INTERVIEW (2024) Protecting Biodiversity with Agroecology - By Biovision, featuring John Garcia Uloa

CONFERENCE REPORT (2024) International conference on Agrobiodiversity - By Forest and Farm Facility (FFF)

VIDEO CLIP (2024) Agroecology: joining the dots between climate change, land degradation and biodiversity loss - by Agroecology Coalition

FACTSHEET (2024) Preserving and protecting agrobiodiversity through agroecology - by IPES Food

KNOWLEDGE BRIEF (2023) Addressing biodiversity loss and agrobiodiversity - by DeSIRA-LIFT

INTERVIEW (2023): A conversation about agroecology and biodiversity (2023) - by Agroecology Coalition, featuring Martin Oulu, coordinator of ISFAA (Kenya), _

BRIEF (2022) Agroecology: A transformative opportunity for Biodiversity and the Rio Conventions - by Biovision Foundation, Global Alliance for the Future of Food, Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy



OUR DELEGATION AT COP 16



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The Agroecology Coalition will be represented in Cali by a diverse delegation! We will be happy to meet you to discuss our mission at COP. Feel free to get in touch with secretariat@agroecology-coalition.org to set up an appointment.



Monicah Yator

Agroecology Coalition co-chair
Indigenous Women and girls
Initiative

Languages spoken: Swahili, English

Monicah Yator (Kenya) is an Indigenous Woman from Baringo (Kenya), Tugen Pastoralist Community. She is a human rights defender and an activist as well as the founder of the [Indigenous Women and Girls Initiative](#) (IWGI), a community-based organization which advocates for fundamental rights and freedom of indigenous women and girls in Baringo and beyond. Through IWGI Yator has empowered women on land rights issues and trained them on agroecological practices.

Attending COP: 20 October - 2 November



Oliver Oliveros

Agroecology Coalition
Coordinator

Languages spoken: English, French,
Italian, Filipino

Oliver has taken on the role of Coordinator of the Agroecology Coalition since February 2023. He was the interim Executive Director of the Global Alliance for the Future of Food and was Deputy Director at Agropolis Fondation. Before coming to Europe in 1999, Oliver served at the Ministry of Socio-economic Planning in the Philippines where he was extensively involved in project evaluation and investment programming in the agriculture, rural development, and natural resources sector as well as in the formulation of the country's Agenda 21 and Medium-Term Development Plan. He has more than 20 years of professional experience in the areas of food systems, agroecology, sustainable development, science-policy interface, rural development and multi-stakeholder engagement.

Attending COP: 23 - 30 October



Estrella (Esther) Penunia

Member of the Agroecology
Coalition Steering Committee
(representing farmers'
organizations)
Asian Farmers Associaton

Languages spoken: English, Filipino

Estrella “Esther” Penunia is secretary general of the Asian Farmers’ Association for Sustainable Rural Development (AFA). AFA is a regional alliance of national farmers organizations with 22 national farmers organizations in 16 countries, representing around 13 million small-scale family farmers, engaged in crops, livestock, fisheries, forestry, herding, and pastoralism. AFA promotes sustainable, climate-resilient, and agroecological approaches in farms, fisheries and forests. It aims to strengthen farmer cooperatives and their enterprises, empower women, and attract youth to agriculture.

Attending COP: 20 October- 2 November



Martina Fleckestein

Co-facilitator of Policies Working Group
of the Agroecology Coalition
WWF International

Languages spoken: German, English

Martina focuses on conservation, agriculture and sustainable production at national and international level. She previously worked for more than two decades with WWF-Germany as Director, Agriculture & Land Use Change. Among other issues, she worked on sustainability standards, transparency in supply chains, international commodity markets, and sustainable consumption for a range of projects in Southeast Asia, Africa and Latin America.

Attending COP: 21 October - 1 November



John Garcia Ulloa

Co-facilitator of Policies Working Group of the
Agroecology Coalition
Biovision

Languages spoken: English, Spanish

Dr John Garcia Ulloah has been a member of Biovision's policy and advocacy team since 2020. He is an environmental scientist from Colombia and holds more than ten years of experience in managing and implementing research and development projects on food systems across Latina America, Africa and Asia. His work focuses on understanding and influencing the drivers and policies that shape our food systems, as well as the impacts, benefits and interactions of food system transformation processes.

Attending COP: 25 - 30 October



Vincent Peyraud

Member of the Agroecology
Coalition
Swiss Government

Languages spoken: French, English,
Spanish

Vincent is a young Swiss student who joined the Swiss Federal Office for Agriculture as an academic trainee in March 2023. He works on international issues related to sustainable development of agriculture and food systems, including the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and genetic resources. As part of his Master's degree in Political Science and Globalisation at the University of Lausanne (Switzerland), he also studied Development and International Cooperation at the University of Chile, where he took the opportunity to work for several months at the Chilean Institute of Agricultural Research (INIA) in the field of international scientific cooperation.

Attending COP: 20 October- 2 November



Genna Tesdall

Member of the Agroecology Coalition
YPARD

Languages spoken: English, Spanish,
German

Genna Tesdall is an agriculture systems thinker taking on projects to sustain the environment and people, now as the director of YPARD. She strives to be a servant-leader in order to foster equality between generations (and all delimiters of privilege). She hails from the agricultural state of Iowa in the United States, where she gained an interest in agriculture and agroecology from experiences spending summers on her grandparents' 80 acre Iowa farm, foraging for mushrooming with her parents, and later studying biology and global resource systems at Iowa State University. Before joining YPARD, she was the federal agricultural policy officer at the German Rural Youth Association (Bund der Deutschen Landjugend) (2020). As a Fulbright Researcher at the Humboldt University of Berlin (2018-19), she focused on youth involvement in agricultural policy, and was the former president (2013-14) of the International Association of Agriculture and Related Sciences Students (IAAS)

Attending COP: 21 October - 1 November



Matheus Alves Zanella

Member of the Agroecology
Coalition
Global Alliance for the Future
of Food

Languages spoken: Portuguese,
English, Spanish, French and
German

Matheus leads the Global Alliance's strategy in global fora, supporting members and partners in bringing a unified food system narrative and coordinated actions at international conventions, the United Nations' relevant committees and processes, and multi-stakeholder initiatives promoting sustainable food system transformations. With 12+ years of experience in global food policies and a successful parallel career as a chef serving sustainable food, Matheus has co-led action-research projects with partners around the globe, supported government and farmers' organizations in topics related to food security and sustainable management of natural resources, and founded gastronomic projects offering local and organic ingredients representing the socio-biodiversity of his home country, Brazil.

Attending COP: 21 October - 1 November



Fabricio Muriana

Member of the Agroecology
Coalition
Instituto Regenera, Brazil

Languages spoken: Spanish,
English, Portuguese, French

Fabricio Muriana holds degrees in communication and philosophy, along with a Master's degree in social change and political participation. Since 2017, he has been actively involved in agroecological food systems as a co-founder of Instituto Feira Livre. In 2020, he became one of the key leaders at Instituto Regenera, where he focuses on promoting agroecological approaches to food systems in two major regions in Brazil. He participates in global fora, such as the climate and biodiversity COPs, to advocate for agroecological approaches to food systems transformation, and linking the global to the local.

Attending COP: 20 October- 1 November

Keep in touch!

For live updates from the Agroecology Coalition at COP 16 , follow our social media:



Register to our newsletter:



<https://www.agroecology-coalition.org>

secretariat@agroecology-coalition.org