Agroecology Coalition Press Kit

What is agroecology?

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.**

Agroecology prioritizes diversity and **works with nature, not against it**. It is people and nature-friendly, it benefits nature, animals, water systems and trees, as well as people. Producing food through agroecology means promoting diversity, fostering resilience, and practicing low resource use.

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.
Agroecology can be defined through the **13 principles** elaborated in 2019 by the High-Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE-FSN) of the Committee on World Food Security and Nutrition (CFS). These 13 principles are aligned with the **10 Elements** of Agroecology approved by the FAO's Council in 2019.

For further information:
- Interactive infographic on the 13 principles and 10 elements available in English, French and Spanish.

Who we are?

As of February 2025, the Agroecology Coalition brings together **more than 350 members, including 52 governments, 3 regional entities and around 300 organizations.**

For further information:
- Introductory animated video, available in English, French and Spanish.
- List of members available here.
- Composition of the Steering Committee available here.
- Information about the Permanent Secretariat available here.
- Information on our donor partners here.

What are the goals of the Agroecology Coalition?

In June 2024, the Agroecology Coalition launched its strategy.

Among the goals launched:

- The Coalition is **facilitating co-creation and exchange of knowledge on agroecology**, putting members initiatives upfront and serving as a platform to collect and share evidence on the benefits of agroecology.
- The Coalition is **committing to foster increased investments for agroecology**, motivating international agencies, governments, philanthropy, public and private funders and investors to step up, in quantity and quality, investments in agroecology. Today, overall agroecology funding is on the rise and has reached US$44 billion a year. It is estimated however that a tenfold increase in the current investment (i.e. US$400 billion) will be required to create the conditions for agroecology to affect transformation in food systems required to address prevailing global challenges.
- The Coalition is **advocating for and is amplifying supportive policies**, seizing opportunities for collective efforts with its members in global and regional, and national fora and processes, such as the three Rio Conventions, the UN Food Systems Stock-take Moment, and Committee on World Food Security (CFS).
- Fair and equitable access to markets for agroecological farmers and food provisioners remains a challenge and requires mainstreaming, while consumer awareness of agroecology and its multiple benefits is also limited. For agroecology to take hold in food systems, producers and consumers should be better connected. For this the Coalition will s**upport efforts towards developing dynamic local, territorial, national and regional markets and inclusive business models improving the livelihoods and influence of agroecological farmers and food system actors.**

For further information:

- Our Strategy document is available in English, French and Spanish.

How do we work?

Today, the Coalition has established itself as an i**mportant voice for agroecology in different spaces, including in high-level policy dialogues.** Only in 2024, the Agroecology Coalition was an active participant in several international venues as the Conferences of the Parties (COP) of the three Rio Conventions: the COP UNCBD 16 in Cali (Colombia), the COP UNCCC 29 in Baku (Azerbaijan) and the COP UNCCD in Riyadh (Saudi Arabia). The Coalition was active in advocating for agroecology in these processes in collaboration with our members. We were also active during the World Food Forum that took place in October 2024 at the FAO HQ in Rome, spotlighting the voice of youth organizations working on agroecology.

The logic of the Coalition is to **spotlight all the different kinds of members**, from front-line actors such as CSOs, farmers organizations and NGOs to representatives of governments, countries and regions that already started the agroecological transition towards more sustainable food systems.

- Series of video interviews realized during the three COPs: Voices from COP 16 on Biodiversity, Voices from COP 29 on Climate Change, Voices from COP 16 on Desertification.
- Article on the link between Agroecology and the three Rio Conventions, by Oliver Oliveros (Coordinator of the Agroecology Coalition)
- Animated video available in English, French and Spanish on the link between Agroecology and the three Rio Conventions.
- Guides to the 3 COPs: events and spokesperson (Guide to COP16 on Biodiversity, Guide to COP 29 on Climate Change, Guide to COP16 on Desertification)
- Policy tool launched at COP16 to integrate agroecology in the national NBSAPs here
- Policy paper on the links between biodiversity, climate change and food systems and the policy synergies here

The Agroecology Coalition is also active in **promoting funding opportunities and in trying to reallocate already existing money to agroecological initiatives.** In this regard, we organized on 20-21 October 2023 in Rome a meeting between more than 70 donors and investors to discuss how to boost food system transformation through investing in agroecology (more information available in this article).

Moreover, in June 2024, the Agroecology Coalition organized the *Cultivating Change Convening* in Arusha, Tanzania. It was a landmark event to accelerate agroecology planning and implementation while backing it up with finance. About 120 agroecology actors among which governments, NGOs, CSOs, and donors of various stripes came together to explore how to advance an agroecological transformation.

Why is agroecology so important?

Agroecology has been **more and more recognized by the scientific community as an efficient and sustainable approach to change our current food systems** which are not fit-for-purpose, given its ability to tackle climate, biodiversity and hunger crises together.

You can find a repository of scientific articles, reports, and videos providing clear evidence here. **Hereafter you will find a snapshot of how agroecology is connected to today's challenges:**

Agroecology and Climate

The connection between food systems and the climate crisis is multifaceted. Intensive industrial agriculture contributes significantly to greenhouse gas emissions, through activities like industrial livestock farming and the use of synthetic fertilizers. In promoting farm diversification and the use of seeds adapted to local context, **agroecology has positive impacts on climate adaptation.** It is more resilient to face extreme climatic conditions (drought, high temperatures, flooding), as some crops continue to thrive even if others fail due to climate disruptions. Therefore, agroecology builds climate-resilient communities. It also improves ecosystem services, including pollination, pest control, nutrient cycling, water regulation and soil fertility.

For further information:

- Infographic on Agroecology and Climate
- Article on our participation at COP 29 UNCCC in Baku, Azerbaijan (November 2024)
- Series of interviews: Voices from COP 29 on Climate Change

Agroecology and Biodiversity

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. **Agroecology conserves, uses, improves and sustains biodiversity, by fostering interactions between plants, animals, humans and the environment at all levels.** It also promotes the role of Indigenous peoples who are holding sophisticated and ancestral knowledge on agricultural biodiversity and smallholder, biodiverse family farms who are producing a third of the world's food (FAO,2021).

For further information:

- Infographic on Agroecology and Biodiversity
- Article on our participation at COP16 UNCBD (Cali, Colombia, October 2024)
- Article "A conversation about agroecology and biodiversity", interview to Martin Oulu, coordinator of ISFAA (Kenya)
- Series of interviews: Voices from COP 16 on Biodiversity

Agroecology and Youth

About **16% of the global population consists of young people, with over 80% residing in developing nations** (UNFPA, 2014). **Around 80% of rural youth are engaged in food production, either formally or informally** (UNCCD, 2021). Agroecology recognizes **the key role of young farmers in building food systems based on equity and fairness**. Young people bring added value in farmer-to-farmer exchange, thanks to their knowledge of both traditional and innovative methods, contributing therefore to co-creation of knowledge.

For further information:

- Infographic on Agroecology and Youth
- Article on Agroecology and Youth
- Side-event "The role of Youth in the Agroecological Transformation: insights from Youth Networks" organized at the World Food Forum (October 2024, FAO HQ, Rome), recording available here.

Agroecology and Desertification

Degraded or dry land loses its capacity to sustain plant and animal life (including crops and livestock) and fulfill its ecosystem functions. **Desertification, the most extreme form of land degradation in drylands, affects every continent.** With 44% of the world's cultivated systems in drylands, desertification is a severe threat to global food security and livelihoods. **Human activities such as deforestation, mining, fossil fuel extraction, unsustainable natural resource management, and intensive agricultural practices** (e.g., overgrazing, over-cultivation, excessive tilling, and mono-cropping) **are responsible for desertification and land degradation.**

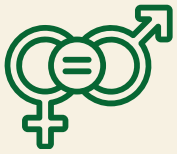
Agroecology, including agroforestry, is a sustainable solution to protect our land and ensure soil health. Based on locally adapted knowledge and on field-level innovations, agroecology addresses both land degradation and its impacts on agricultural productivity. It promotes soil regeneration, diversified crops and livestock production, and reduced dependency on external (synthetic) inputs, supporting both the land and the local communities.

For further information:

- Infographic on Agroecology and Desertification
- Article on our participation at COP 16 UNCCD in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia (December 2024)
- Series of interviews: Voices from COP 16 on Desertification

Agroecology and Gender

Women play an essential role in the food system; however, despite their crucial contribution, they are not yet sufficiently empowered to thrive in it. Agroecology has the potential to address some of these inequalities by empowering women: this can take various forms, such as their **improved health, land ownership, financial gains, and participation in decision-making.**



For further information:

- Infographic on Agroecology and Gender
- Article on Agroecology and Gender with recording of the webinar (March 2024) available here

Why should you talk about agroecology in 2025?

10 years after the FAO Symposium

Ten years after the first FAO International Agroecology Symposium, **agroecology is gaining more and more space in the international debate.** This is a growing momentum for the agroecological movement which is attracting the attention not only of civil societies but also of policy makers.

As a **holistic approach** towards food systems transformation, agroecology addresses environmental, social, economic and political challenges at the same time. It is an inclusive approach that gives voice to different stakeholders, particularly the youth, indigenous communities, women, smallholder farmers and other vulnerable groups.

COP 30 on Climate Brazil

Agriculture and food systems provide several opportunities for holistic action to address both biodiversity loss and climate change. Therefore, **integrating agroecological practices in National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) can deliver multiple climate and biodiversity benefits while improving food security and societal wellbeing.**

This year, COP 30 on Climate will take place in Belem (Brazil) in November 2025. Countries must revise and update their NDCs ahead of COP30. This provides an opportunity for them to identify biodiversity targets and plans under NBSAPs and align them to climate measures in agriculture under NDCs, creating a set of 'NDCs 3.0' into which a growing number of actors support the embedding of agroecological principles. Take a look at this paper that explores the synergies across policy processes to address both climate change and biodiversity loss here.

UNFSS +4 Ethiopia

The Coalition was set up in 2021, during the United Nations Food Systems Summit (UNFSS) to provide a mechanism for countries and organizations to collaborate on food systems transformation through agroecology while addressing multiple crises simultaneously.

The United Nations Food Systems Summit Stocktaking Moment (UNFSS+4) will take place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 28-30 July 2025. With just five years remaining until the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the UNFSS+4 will provide an opportunity to document progress, strengthen accountability, and unlock investments to transform our current food systems.

This global event will be an important opportunity to raise awareness about agroecology and advocate for its wider adoption, in order to accelerate the food system transformation.

2024 was the hottest on record

Earth's average surface temperature in 2024 was the warmest on record, according to an analysis led by NASA scientists. Global temperatures in 2024 were **1.28 degrees Celsius above** the agency's 20th-century baseline (1951-1980), which tops the record set in 2023. The new record comes after 15 consecutive months (June 2023 through August 2024) of monthly temperature records, an unprecedented heat streak. Scientists have concluded the warming trend of recent decades is driven by heat-trapping carbon dioxide, methane, and other greenhouse gases. (Source: NASA)

International traction (Agroecology Strategies)

Several countries and regions are adopting national agroecology policies in all the continents, among which:

- **Countries in Africa**: Burkina Faso, Tanzania, Kenya, Muranga County (subnational level, Kenya), Uganda (upcoming), Zambia (upcoming), Zimbabwe (upcoming).
- **Countries in Asia:** Vietnam
- **Countries in Latin America:** Brazil (National Agroecology Strategy (PLANAPO), Colombia, Uruguay, Chile
- **Countries in Europe:** France (2014), European Union (European Union Policies on Agroecology), at subnational level Catalunya (Spain) and Sicily (Italy). You can find an article on subnational initiatives here.

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