

# 13 PRINCIPLES OF AGROECOLOGY



Agroecology TPP

ANNUAL MEMBERS FORUM MEETING 2025  
31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH  
4<sup>TH</sup> APRIL  
HA NOI  
VIET NAM

In 2019, the High-Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE) – the independent body of the United Nations Committee on World Food Security (CFS) – defined 13 principles of agroecology in the report titled “Agroecological and other innovative approaches for sustainable agriculture and food systems that enhance food security and nutrition,”

as a framework for sustainable agriculture and transformation of food systems.

Since their introduction, the HLPE 13 principles of agroecology have gained recognition and have been widely referenced in discussions and initiatives related to sustainable agriculture, food security, and environmental sustainability. They provide a holistic framework for promoting agroecological approaches to agriculture and food production that improve sustainability/efficiency, resilience and social equity.

The definitions utilised in this pamphlet are taken directly from:

**HLPE. 2019.** *Agroecological and other innovative approaches for sustainable agriculture and food systems that enhance food security and nutrition.* A report by the High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition of the Committee on World Food Security, Rome.

## 1 RECYCLING



Preferentially use local renewable resources and close as far as possible resource cycles of nutrients and biomass. **[Improve resource efficiency]**  
**Scale application:** Field, Farm

## 3 SOIL HEALTH



Secure and enhance soil health and functioning for improved plant growth, particularly by managing organic matter and enhancing soil biological activity. **[Strengthen resilience]**  
**Scale application:** Field

## 5 BIODIVERSITY



Maintain and enhance diversity of species, functional diversity and genetic resources and thereby maintain overall agroecosystem biodiversity in time and space at field, farm and landscape scales. **[Strengthen resilience]**  
**Scale application:** Field, Farm

## 2 INPUT REDUCTION



Reduce or eliminate dependency on purchased inputs and increase self-sufficiency. **[Improve resource efficiency]**  
**Scale application:** Farm, Food system

## 4 ANIMAL HEALTH



Ensure animal health and welfare. **[Strengthen resilience]**  
**Scale application:** Field, Farm

## 6 SYNERGY



Enhance positive ecological interaction, synergy, integration and complementarity among the elements of agroecosystems (animals, crops, trees, soil and water). **[Strengthen resilience]**  
**Scale application:** Field, Farm

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### ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION



Diversify on-farm incomes by ensuring that small-scale farmers have greater financial independence and value addition opportunities while enabling them to respond to demand from consumers. **[Strengthen resilience]**  
**Scale application:** Field, Food system

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### SOCIAL VALUES & DIETS



Build food systems based on the culture, identity, tradition, social and gender equity of local communities that provide healthy, diversified, seasonally and culturally appropriate diets. **[Secure social equity/responsibility]**  
**Scale application:** Field, Food system

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### CONNECTIVITY



Ensure proximity and confidence between producer and consumers through promotion of fair and short distribution networks and by re-embedding food systems into local economies. **[Secure social equity/responsibility]**  
**Scale application:** Farm

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### PARTICIPATION



Encourage social organization and greater participation in decision-making by food producers and consumers to support decentralized governance and local adaptive management of agricultural and food systems **[Secure social equity/responsibility]**  
**Scale application:** Food system

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### CO-CREATION OF KNOWLEDGE



Enhance co-creation and horizontal sharing of knowledge including local and scientific innovation, especially through farmer-to-farmer exchange. **[Secure social equity/responsibility]**  
**Scale application:** Farm, Food system

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### FAIRNESS



Support dignified and robust livelihoods for all actors engaged in food systems, especially small-scale food producers, based on fair trade, fair employment and fair treatment of intellectual property rights. **[Secure social equity/responsibility]**  
**Scale application:** Farm, Food system

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### LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCE GOVERNANCE



Strengthen institutional arrangements to improve, including the recognition and support of family farmers, smallholders and peasant food producers as sustainable managers of natural and genetic resources. **[Secure social equity/responsibility]**  
**Scale application:** Farm, Food system

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