

49th Session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS 49)

11-14 October 2021
(Full CFS programme [here](#))



Side Event

Bridging Agroecology and Biodiversity Action: Coalitions, Evidence, Policy Frameworks

Wednesday 13 October 2021
12:45 - 14:15 CET

Summary of Outcomes

This side event at the 49th Session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) aimed at building bridges between agroecology and biodiversity through common strategies, synergies and collaborative action, evidence mobilization, enabling policies and increased resources for food systems transformation. 2020 is a landmark year with negotiations of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity, growing commitments to address land degradation, and the CFS' Policy Recommendations on Agroecological and other Innovative Approaches. Participants discussed agroecology as a lever for policy coherence to achieve synergies through more nutritional, sustainable and rights-based food systems grounded in the protection of agricultural and other biodiversity.

Panel Interventions

Panelists agreed that the connections between biodiversity and agroecology can contribute to transformation towards healthier, human-centred sustainable and more productive and nutritious food systems. There was consensus that agroecology and indigenous peoples' food systems centred on human rights offer realistic, proven, systemic opportunities to *reverse the negative impacts of*

current food systems as they mitigate and adapt to climate change, increase food and nutrition security, improve biodiversity and soil fertility, and provide decent livelihoods.

Roy used France and EU examples of work towards coherent, inter-sectoral cooperation to achieve the multiple societal and ecological benefits from agroecology, that simultaneously addresses the challenges of climate, food security, biodiversity, soil fertility and farmers' decent living wages. As Garcia-Winder explained, governments have a responsibility to provide public goods centered on the dignity of the person and the well-being of our planet. International cooperation can provide the synergies needed for policy coherence between biodiversity, desertification and climate agendas. Ackermann reminded us that civil society and indigenous people see food producers and consumers at the center of agroecology and, through their role and agency, are at the heart of the transformation of food systems so urgently needed to respect, protect and safeguard our common home. This implies a power shift to small-scale and indigenous farmers who produce our food and are the knowledge-holders embedded in ensuring and protecting human rights.

Sinclair emphasized the opportunity to move from business-as-usual agriculture through inclusive, coherent partnerships based on the thirteen HLPE principles of agroecology including biodiversity, economic diversification and responsible governance of natural resources. This involves transformation of food systems so that all people have sufficient agency to express their preferences for ethically and sustainably produced food. Sinclair outlined the four dimensions of the Agroecology Coalition that has emerged from the Food System Summit: implement CFS recommendations; co-create knowledge with local stakeholders; integrate agroecology-enabling policies across sectors and scales; and, support responsible private sector engagement. Mendel explained that land degradation neutrality goals support agrobiodiversity as a strategy to achieve multiple SDGs simultaneously.

Summary comments

Kaufmann emphasized collaborative action is now needed so agroecology can support sustainable production, healthy consumption and sustainable use and restoration of biodiversity to strengthen links between the Rio conventions. Richardson emphasized agroecology as a systemic, transformative solution going beyond the status quo but requiring adequate financing through responsible investment, enabling policies, collaborative cross-cutting networks, evidence to fill knowledge gaps that is co-created and empowering for agroecological approaches, participatory rights-based governance, and principles around public goods and human rights.

Words: 521

Panelists:

Anne-Laure Roy, Ministry of Agriculture and Food, France

Miguel Jorge Garcia-Winder, Permanent Representative of Mexico to UN Agencies in Rome

Magdalena Ackermann, Society for International Development & Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples' Mechanism

Fergus Sinclair, Center for International Forest Research – World Agroforestry and the Transformative Partnership Platform on Agroecology

Miriam Medel, UN Convention to Combat Desertification

Madeleine Kaufmann, Federal Office for Agriculture, Switzerland

Ruth Richardson, Global Alliance for the Future of Food

Recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tdzeoCSxLk0>