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Agroecology for Food Security and Nutrition

1 June 2016

Side Event - 154th Session FAO Council



Background

- Growing need to shift towards more sustainable food systems, producing with more social and economic benefits and less environmental costs.
- In line with such a trend, agroecological practices, supported by research and policies can contribute to enhance sustainability of food and agriculture.



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FAO International Symposium on Agroecology for Food Security and Nutrition - 2014

Recognizing the role that Agroecology can play in food security and nutrition, FAO organized the International Symposium in **Rome - September 2014**

- Multi-stakeholder participation: 400 scientists, food producers, policy makers, farmers' organizations, private sector and NGO representatives
- Stock taken for evidence base on agroecology: great number of best practices, scientific knowledge and policies



Main Outcomes: International Symposium - 2014

Better understanding of agroecology's role in:

- the transition towards more sustainable, inclusive and productive food systems (**conserving and enhancing biodiversity and ecosystem services**)
- ensuring food security and nutrition on the ground (**nutrition, diversification of diets and right to healthy food**)
- facilitating adaptation to climate change (**building more resilient livelihoods**)
- combining farmer's knowledge with science to promote local innovation (**context-specific solutions**)



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Main Outcomes: International Symposium - 2014

Effective work on agroecology needs to address **regional, national and local contexts**

Regional multi-stakeholders Meetings on Agroecology for FSN

- Latin America (July 2015 - Brazil)
- Sub-Saharan Africa (November 2015 - Senegal)
- Asia and the Pacific (November 2015 - Thailand)
- Europe (*November 2016*)



Common recommendations: Intl. and Regional Symposia

1. Create enabling environment for agroecology (**public policies, legal frameworks, and regulations**)
2. Promote social innovation with participatory approach for agroecology in agricultural research, development and extension services (**regional and national inter-sectoral and multi-disciplinary innovation platforms**)
3. Increase public investment in agroecology
 - **applied agroecological research, data collection and statistics**
 - **agricultural programs enabling transition to agroecology**
 - **targeting agroecological producers, food systems and markets**
4. Recognize and promote the role of family farmers - in particular rural women and youth's rights and equity- in sustainable development through agroecology (**guardians and managers of biodiversity, genetic and natural resources**)



Main Outcomes Regional Symposia - 2015

Common recommendations across regions

1. Ensure family farmers' access to natural resources through agroecology **(including land, water, genetic resources, oceans, forests, commons, biodiversity and territories).**
2. Ensure family farmers' access to markets and link production to consumption
 - **create and strengthen local social markets and cooperatives**
 - **advocate on nutritional value of agroecological products**
 - **public procurement policies oriented to agroecological local products**
 - **empower women and youth through increased employment and income**
3. Recognize the potential of agroecology to ensure adaptation/resilience to climate change
 - **agroecology integrated into climate change responses**
 - **increase applied research and data on agroecology's role in resilience**
 - **ensure selection of crop varieties and species, animal breeds and trees is done at local level**
4. Promote inter-sectoral partnerships and South-South Cooperation on agroecology
 - **participatory exchange of experiences and knowledge across territories, countries and regions**
 - **engage academia and researchers, governments and CSOs**



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Agroecology in FAO 2016 – Institutional Framework

Global level

- Agroecology is based on 3 pillars of sustainable development, within FAO's strategic framework and new SDGs
- Within SP2, contributing to:
 - Ecosystem Services and Biodiversity
 - Efficient Resource Use
 - Sustainable Food and Agriculture (SP3, SP4, SP5)

Regional level

- Outcomes of Regional Symposia included in FAO Regional Conferences
(Info Notes)
- Agroecology included in regional priorities for next biennium
(Asia and RLC)



Agroecology in FAO 2016 – Institutional Framework

Upcoming meetings

- Following request of interested countries and regions, FAO continues to facilitate multi-stakeholder Seminars and Symposia on Agroecology for FSN and sustainable agriculture. Focus is given to national and regional policies, frameworks and regulations.

| | Asia | Europe | LAC |
|--------------------------|--|---|---|
| Upcoming Meetings | International Symposium on Agroecology for Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems - China (28 -31 August 2016) | FAO Regional Seminar on Agroecology for FSN Hungary (November 2016) | CELAC with support of FAO will convene the “ II Regional Meeting on Agroecology” to follow up on recommendations, in the framework of sustainable agriculture (TBC) |



Agroecology in FAO 2016 – Technical activities

- Agroecology Knowledge Platform
 - Collection and dissemination of evidence base (**practices and scientific knowledge**)
 - Collection and dissemination of agroecology-related policies in FAOLEX
 - Strengthening collaborations with different stakeholders
- Agroecology approaches incorporated into Farmer Field School projects in selected countries (**Angola, Burkina Faso, Mali, Mozambique**)
- Capacity building activities at national levels (**Burkina Faso, Mozambique**)



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FAO stands ready to work with governments
and all stakeholders at all levels
in facilitating inter-disciplinary agroecological transitions
towards a sustainable agriculture
in the framework of its Strategic Framework
and the SDGs.



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THANK YOU!

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