

# AGROECOLOGY & ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION

## Context

Today, terrestrial ecosystems are strongly weakened by the expansion of human activities (agriculture, extractive activities, soil artificialization, etc.), and their degradation feeds social, health and security crises. The United Nations Decade of Ecosystem Restoration is a call to all countries of the world to unite to protect and restore ecosystems for the benefit of nature and people. It aims to halt the degradation of ecosystems and to restore them to achieve the global sustainable development goals. According to the UNCCD, land restoration is a multi-benefit strategy that creates jobs, generates prosperity, and helps build the resilience of communities and ecosystems to climate change, drought, floods, fires and other natural disasters. It allows to sequester carbon in soils, improves water quantity and quality, and expands habitats for wildlife. Agroecology, with its multiple social, economic, and environmental benefits, is one of the most interesting ways to promote a good link between the development of agricultural activities in the world and the preservation and restoration of ecosystems.

### Intensifying factors of ecosystem loss

Ecosystem degradation is the result of anthropogenic pressures, exacerbated by the manifestations of climate change. Among these factors, we can mention:

- Overexploitation of land and grazing areas;
- Abusive cutting of trees for firewood and fodder;
- Clearing and progressive loss of the vegetation cover;
- Excessive consumption of water resources;
- Floods, droughts, and extreme weather events;
- The use of toxic products leading to species loss.

## Arguments from the field

### Agroecology allows a harmonious transformation of landscapes

- Agroecology provides a systemic understanding of the fundamental processes that regulate capital and factor flows, allowing the development of predictive models of the effects of management techniques on the productive and regenerative capacity of the landscape matrix in the short and long term;
- The diversification promotes biological interactions and beneficial synergies between the different components of the ecosystems, to facilitate the regeneration of soil health and the maintenance of the productivity and regeneration capacity of the vegetation.

### Agroecology adapts to territorial development

- The integration of agroecological principles when supporting local authorities in the elaboration of their development plan promotes the sustainable development of the territories;
- The collective organization and participatory management of the resources contribute to ensuring a good cohabitation of farmers, breeders, foresters, and other users.

### Agroecology helps preserve the resources

- The valorization of agrobiodiversity, agroforestry, water management and local knowledge improves the sustainability and adaptability of the production systems;
- The deployment of agroecological practices of sustainable land management (crop association, crop succession, cover crops, etc.) and anti-erosion measures (CES/DRS), preserves the quality of the land.

To promote ecosystem restoration, agroecology shows major assets, some of which have been identified from field initiatives and experiences and are shared here.



# Messages from civil society



To facilitate the deployment of agroecology, all stakeholders must become aware of their capacities to bring change.

## Donors and international organizations

- Strengthen financing systems for agroecology projects by including long-term financing options that enhance qualitative results in terms of ecosystem restoration;
- Call upon the Rio Conventions on the environment (UNCCD, UNFCCC and UNCBD) and other international and regional organizations to endorse agroecology initiatives as an approach to ecosystem restoration;
- Within the framework of the decade on ecosystem restoration, highlight the assets of agroecosystems such as oases, olive groves or agropastoral areas.

## Governments

- Secure access to land (private and/or collective) for vulnerable populations to facilitate medium and long-term investments that promote agroecology and ecosystem restoration;
- Establish mechanisms to support the agroecological transition (initial investments, risk management);
- Ensure policy consistency by removing incentives and subsidies for unsustainable agricultural practices.

## Research and education

- Provide scientific data on the benefits of agroecological production systems on natural resources, considering the specificities of ecosystems;
- Integrate agroecology into the curricula of professional agricultural training centers and universities;
- Develop national and international platforms for scientific knowledge sharing on agroecology. ”

**AGROECOLOGY  
RIGHT  
NOW!**

We target Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 15 (Life on Land), while contributing to knowledge and development practices aimed at achieving SDGs 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 10, 12 and 13.

