

AGROECOLOGY & FOOD SECURITY

Context

With nearly 8 billion people on earth, and an unprecedented acceleration of natural resource degradation, particularly lands, world agriculture faces a huge challenge: to provide enough food for all human beings, regardless of their economic situation and location. Today, nearly 10% of the world's population suffers from hunger and most of these people are those who produce food. They are part of the 3 billion poor people in the world, often living in rural areas and in regions that are inappropriate for agriculture, including the drylands of developing countries. Maintaining and improving their productive capacities is no longer an option, but a necessity.

Drivers of food insecurity:

Global food systems, based on the industrialization of agriculture and animal husbandry, as well as on the circulation of foodstuffs according to the laws of free trade, have shown their inability to sustainably meet hunger challenges. Several factors are presented here:

- The degradation of natural resources, including soil and water, due to harmful agricultural practices and the effects of climate change;
- The production of a poorly diversified diet with little nutritional content;
- The health threats associated with the use of chemical pesticides, leaving residues in food products;
- The important waste linked to the storage and transport of food products in poor conditions.

Arguments from the field

Agroecology allows abundant and diversified harvests

- The combination of water efficiency and organic fertilization practices results in a sustainable improvement in yields at low cost;
- Agroforestry systems, such as home coffee gardens or oases, produce a variety of food crops (fruits, vegetables, grains, etc.).

Agroecology provides healthy food

- The introduction of vegetables, such as cowpeas or groundnuts in crop rotations, allows to produce food with high nutritional value;
- The use of biopesticides made from plants such as neem, chili, and garlic, avoids the presence of chemical residues in foodstuffs.

Agroecology promotes local food

- The production of rice and onions in village irrigated areas allows families to become self-sufficient and to get out of the dependence on imports;
- The collective organization between the different actors of the agricultural and food systems, to improve the storage, the transformation of the products and the marketing in short circuit, reinforces the local food sovereignty.

Agroecology contributes to ensuring quality food and to revaluing the place of farmers in society. It is the basis of sustainable and autonomous food systems, as shown by the lessons learned from initiatives and field experiences.

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

- Place agroecology at the heart of initiatives to transform agricultural and food systems to guarantee their sustainability;
- Recognize and promote access to land as a fundamental right of small family farmers and pastoralists.

Governments

- Support access to organic production inputs (fertilizers, biopesticides), as well as to quality equipment;
- Support access to agricultural land for women and youth, particularly in urban and peri-urban areas, to help meet the food needs of urban populations;
- Deploy transport and communication infrastructures linking agricultural production areas to market areas.

Research and education

- Continue research on agroecological practices in partnership with civil society and producer organizations, to learn from local knowledge;
- Integrate agroecology into the training curricula of agricultural technicians and engineers. ”

**AGROECOLOGY
RIGHT
NOW!**

We target Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2 and 3 (zero hunger and good health and well-being), while contributing to knowledge and development practices aimed at achieving SDGs 1, 5, 6, 10, 12, 13 and 15.

