AGROECOLOGY & THE GREAT GREEN WALL

Contexte

The Great Green Wall (GGW) initiative is a policy response to the interconnected issues of desertification, climate change and biodiversity erosion, which have proven consequences for the economy, food supply and stability of the Sahara and Sahel populations. The Great Green Wall is a multi-sectoral and holistic framework to address these challenges, transforming vast arid areas into rural hubs of production and development.

Agroecological approaches and technical solutions are a relevant way to achieve the GGW results, in terms of sustainable management of ecosystems and deployment of resilient and efficient agricultural and food production systems.

Challenges to successful GGW

The Great Green Wall, is an innovative pan-African initiative. It is attracting the attention of many public and private development stakeholders. Despite this enthusiasm, the Great Green Wall remains poorly implemented for several reasons:

- The poor legibility of expected results in the field and the absence of effective systems for monitoring and evaluating implementation progress;
- The lack of consistency between public policies around the development issues of the rural sector;
- The lack of the GGW inclusive and effective governance at the different territorial scales;
- Insufficient commitment from governments to fund the GGW;
- The lack of consideration of actions carried out by development actors, particularly civil society, which contribute to the GGW objectives.

Arguments from the field

To achieve the Great Green Wall, agroecology shows major assets, some of which have been identified from field initiatives and experiences and are shared here.

Agroecology is an integrated response to the challenges

- The preservation of soil fertility, through the use of organic fertilizers, the maintenance of soil cover or agroforestry, guarantees land productivity while preserving its healthy condition;
- The use of rainwater through anti-erosion measures and the proper management of irrigation water promote climate change resilient agriculture;
- The living hedges at the edge of the fields, and the dispersion of seeds by the transhumant herds, favor biodiversity.

Agroecology is an adapted and inclusive approach

- The valorization of local knowledge allows to make diversified interventions adapted to the contexts and facilitating the involvement of the communities;
- Taking into account the links between livestock and agriculture for fertility maintenance and the use of by-products in animal feed, contributes to unity between farmers and livestock breeders at the territorial level;
- The development of value chains for products derived from assisted natural regeneration, such as moringa leaves, provides additional income to farmers and allows the creation of businesses and jobs for processing and marketing.

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

- Converge the strategies and interventions planned in the Sahel to achieve the GGW objectives;
- Facilitate the financing of projects built in the GGW territories by local actors, and carried out by consortiums involving civil society and local authorities.

Governments

- Facilitate dynamic consultation frameworks between the ministries in charge of agriculture, environment, livestock, and also the economy; in order to make their policies in line with the GGW objectives;
- Invest in systems to monitor the GGW implementation, in order to highlight the initiatives led by civil society that facilitate the agro-ecological transition.

Civil society organizations and rural producers

- Build coalitions of agroecology practitioners, to improve inter-knowledge and sharing of practices to scale up the impacts of agroecological transitions;
- Evaluate and capitalize on agro-ecological transition interventions, to share results and good practices in GGW progress monitoring systems.

AGROECOLOGY RIGHT NOW!

We target all Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): 1,2,3,5,8,10,12,13,15,17.

1 NO POVERTY
2 ZERO HUNGER
3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING
5 GENDER EQUALITY
6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION
8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH
10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES
12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION
13 CLIMATE ACTION
15 LIFE ON LAND
17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS