

## Local and short food circuits

Agroecology Europe sustains all networks of farmers, advisors/technicians and other actors who wish to reconnect consumers and producers as well as city and countryside, revitalise rural territories and spread knowledge on how to reach sustainability of agricultural and food systems through agroecology.

Agroecology Europe claims that local and territorialised food systems have huge potential to meet these goals, hence contribute to build up a wealthier, healthier and more just society, and - as such - they should be prioritised through targeted regulations.

Agroecology Europe considers that food system should not just focus on local and short food chains. Food circuits should embed diversity at all levels, from seed to food processing and retail.

At the same time, Agroecology Europe thinks that engaging food and retail companies into transformative agroecology is needed through regulatory processes, as they still represent the most important access point to food for Europeans. This goal can only be attained if food companies genuinely embrace alternative business models supporting local and territorialised food systems, lowering the importance of intermediates, strengthening the connections among producers and co-producers (consumers who actively play a role in food choice), promoting food quality, fair food prices, eliminating junk food and food wastage, (re)educating consumers towards ecological food, farming and lifestyle, and increasing farmers contractual power. They could also play a role in maintenance of local soil fertility through local re-use and recycling of food and crop waste, including use as livestock feed, e.g. to monogastric animals.

Agroecology Europe recognises that hybrid food networks that link conventional and alternative marketing channels, can promote processes of social growth and ecological sustainability. These networks can deliver benefits that can be enhanced through various support measures for short food-supply chains. These include peri-urban storage hubs, accessibility of urban and peri-urban land for agroecological farming (especially to young farmers), promotional campaigns and regional development plans for quality food.