"From conventional agriculture to agroecological practices"

**HOW TO ORGANISE IT?**

**PARADIGM SHIFT**
- Cooperating with nature instead of fighting it
- Back to the roots of agronomy: living soil and the rhizosphere
- Role of the farmer: not only producing, but also food processing and selling, providing ecosystem services and common goods (carbon sequestration in soils, biodiversity and landscape restoration, clean water production)

**11 STEPS TO SUCCESSFUL CHANGE**
- Choosing a transition path and determining a speed of change
- Developing the ecological network in and around the farm, doubling existing biodiversity within five years
- Designing diversified crop rotations, perennial cropping, and grassland management
- Restoring soil structure, soil fertility and soil life
- Rethinking nutrient cycles
- Integrating crop, livestock and tree
- Planning for substantial reduction of commercial chemical and energy inputs, and farm waste
- Reducing production costs by all possible and realistic means
- Product processing
- Marketing of products through high added value, short, local and mid-scale supply chains
- Development of a network of advisors and other agroecological farmers for knowledge exchange

**ECOLOGICAL STRATEGY FOR AGROECOLOGY**
- Replacing fossil-fuel based inputs by ecological processes and ecosystem services
- Investing in biodiversity at all levels
- Building on local resources
  - = endogenous soil fertility
  - ≠ massive use of commercial inputs
- Observation, reflection, and acquisition and exchange of knowledge

**Cooperating with nature instead of fighting it**

**Back to the roots of agronomy: living soil and the rhizosphere**

**Role of the farmer: not only producing, but also food processing and selling, providing ecosystem services and common goods (carbon sequestration in soils, biodiversity and landscape restoration, clean water production)**
Creating jobs on the farm, enabling succession by young generations
Establishing contact with customers/eaters and nearby agroecological farmers
Restoring meaning to agricultural work: feeding people with healthy and tasty food
Fitting your farm into food belts around cities
Developing networks of producers, processors, distributors
Contributing to rural development and landscape conservation through a sustainable agriculture
Engaging in the promotion of farmers’ role in safeguarding the quality of the agricultural production and some vital common goods including biodiversity, soil, air and water

6 OBJECTIVES AND PRACTICES FOR BETTER FARM MANAGEMENT
- Restoring soil fertility (species mixtures, permanent cover, legume-based temporary grassland, farmyard manure, composts,...) and structure (no ploughing, cover crops and mulches,...)
- Controlling diseases by restoring living soil (stop killing soil life and feed it)
- Controlling pests through the design and development of an ecological network that increases populations of natural enemies of crop pests
- Weed control through crop rotation (legume-based temporary grasslands), competitive crops, smothering cover crops and mulches,...
- Reintegrating crop and livestock farming at farm and/or region levels
- Increasing the diversity of crops in time and space including climate resilient crops

FUTURE OF YOUR AGROECOLOGICAL FARM
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For any further information on our work, activities and webinars, please visit: www.agroecology-europe.org

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