

# AGROECOLOGY EUROPE



Spring Newsletter 2021



## News from Brussels & Member States

On January 14, 2021, the European Commission published a list of agricultural practices that could be supported through the Eco-schemes.

These are a new instrument of the post-2020 CAP designed to reward farmers who adopt more sustainable and climate-friendly production practices. This [list](#) aims to fuel the debate on the CAP reform and its role in achieving the objectives of the Green Deal and also aims to support Member States in establishing their Strategic Plans and integrate this new instrument in the most relevant way for farmers and the environment.

While some practices such as precision farming are controversial in their ability to bring about real change in European farming and food systems, the mention of truly regenerative practices such as organic farming, agroforestry, carbon farming, high nature value farming and agroecology brings hope. During this year 2021, Agroecology Europe encourages Member States to integrate these practices in a coherent and ambitious way in their Strategic Plans.

### • NEWS FROM BRUSSELS & MEMBER STATES

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- 3RD AGROECOLOGY EUROPE FORUM





## The European Committee of the Regions has released its opinion putting forward a comprehensive set of measures to foster agroecology in the EU.

For the first time in the European agricultural policy building process, agroecology is mentioned by several institutional actors and presented as one of the solutions for the future of the sector. On February 4, 2021, the [Committee of the Regions \(CoR\)](#) presented a comprehensive set of measures to encourage agroecology in the EU. Today, it is the Commission that invites the Member States to support agroecological practices in their territories.

[Guillaume Cros](#) (FR/Greens), Vice-President of the Regional Council of the Occitanie-Pyrenees-Mediterranean region and rapporteur of the CoR [opinion on agroecology](#), said: *"The present pandemic has exposed the weaknesses of our globalised agriculture and food system. European agriculture needs an agronomic, social and territorial transition that brings along greater sustainability and resilience. Agroecology is the answer to the multiple challenges we face: the need to decarbonise our agriculture, reconquer biodiversity, restore soil fertility and enhance the economic and social resilience of our farms to ensure healthy, local and affordable food for everyone. Based on a network of small and middle-size farms, agroecology can also be instrumental in revitalising rural areas across the EU."*

In its statement the Committee of the Regions welcomes the European Commission's memo to the European Council in October 2020, identifying 4 possible types of eco-schemes, including agroforestry and agroecology.

The statement further takes note that agroecology does not just take account of food production, but covers the entire food system, including fair working conditions. The CoR further believes that agroecology will strengthen the cohesion between rural, peri-urban and urban areas and revitalize regions, through promoting small and medium-sized farms and short supply chains. Local small and medium-sized agricultural enterprises will be essential to strengthen the position of farmers in the food value chain.

The document includes policy recommendations for the CAP reform, including that the future CAP should further promote agro-ecological practices.

In Agroecology Europe, we are doing our best to support European and national decision-makers in elaborating effective, ambitious and clear measures to foster the agroecological transition in our territories and on our plates.



# The new Brussels Team

We are happy to introduce you to our new Team Members in the Brussels office:



Elena Ambühl joins our team as EU Affairs Manager. She holds a MSc. in Public Policies & Management of Agricultural Development. She worked with several NGOs on agroecology related topics. She firmly believes that Agroecology Europe can pave the way among other - to food democracy and social and climate justice



Jessica Donham joins our Team as researcher working within the AGROMIX and AE4EU Horizon projects primarily on policy. She holds an M.A. in International Relations with an emphasis on Food Systems. She worked in various levels of governments and NGOs such as Slow Food and Food Sovereignty Alliance Australia. She is also the Editor-in-Chief of a magazine on environment and agriculture.



Kira Miskulnig joins our Team as Project Assistant and supports the three projects AE4EU, AGROMIX and AEEU LIFE. She is responsible for communication activities and events. She holds an MSc. in Environmental Sciences. She has worked with the LIFE Programme as Project Officer, where she was responsible for projects in the field of soil and forests as well as governance and information.



## OPEN-LETTER 'EUROPE NEEDS MORE FARMERS' FOR THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEASANT STRUGGLES

April 17th is the International Day of Peasant Struggles. A day where we want to remind Europe about the importance of peasant agriculture. Without numerous farmers in the countryside and small and medium scale farms, the agroecological transition will not be possible. This is why we united our voice with more than 60 other organisations in this open letter launched by the European Coordination Via Campesina to call on our decision-makers to put in place urgent and ambitious measures to honor the profession of those who feed us. The letter calls for actions, among others, to rebuild resilience and move towards food sovereignty, tackling climate change through supporting peasant agroecological farming and having more farmers on the land. Here you find the [open letter](#).



## Open letter for greener CAP

On the 25th March 2021 Agroecology Europe among 41 civil society organisations signed an open letter to the European Commission, the Presidency of the Council of the European Union, and the European Parliament's rapporteurs on the CAP regulations calling for ambition in trilogues for a green and fair reform of the Common Agricultural Policy.

The European Green Deal makes a clear commitment to “a fair, healthy and environmentally friendly food system” as part of the just transition to a climate-neutral, biodiversity-rich Europe. This cannot happen in the agricultural sector without a much greener, healthier and fairer CAP that provides a clear pathway for change and supports farmers in the transition. The letter urged the negotiators to:

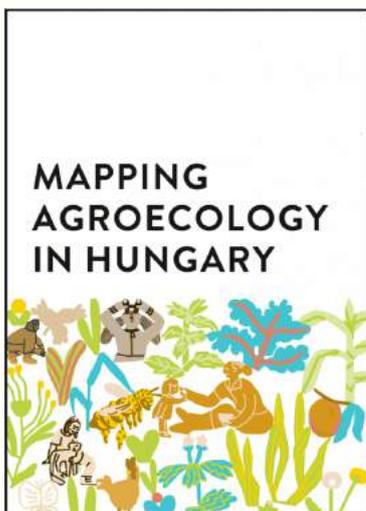
- incorporate the principles, objectives and targets of the European Green Deal into the CAP
- implement fully the 'do not harm' principle into the CAP
- empower farmers and rural actors to adapt climate-, nature-, people-, and animal-friendly farming practices and models through fair and effective CAP support
- adopt adequate instruments to manage and regulate agricultural markets to limit overproduction and increase fairness and transparency of supply chains
- ensure good governance in the new CAP through strong rules on transparency, accountability of Member States for EU budget spending, civil society participation, and performance monitoring and reporting against robust indicators

Here you find the [open letter](#).

## Agroecology in Hungary

The report “Mapping Agroecology in Hungary” is the result of a 10-month-long mapping project in 2019-2020, commissioned by Agroecology Europe, carried out by Védegylet Egyesület with the help of the Environmental Social Science Research Group (ESSRG), Hungary. The goal of the research was to gain a general overview of the present state of agroecology in Hungary.

The report was presented during the 1st Hungarian Agroecology Conference in 2019 where the Hungarian Agroecology Network was created. By now the network already grew to more than 60 active members and three working groups to topics of Education and Knowledge sharing, Landscape and natural resource management and Farmer involvement.



The aim of this multistakeholder, transdisciplinary and intergenerational network is to connect and strengthen those working with agroecology and provide a meeting point, a knowledge-producing and -sharing community, and an advocacy organization. The long-term goal is to promote a national and international agroecological transformation of practices and policies and the implementation of food sovereignty through joint work and movement building, and to work together to create a socially, economically and naturally sustainable agricultural production, processing and distribution system in Hungary – and beyond.

Read more in the Article in [ARC2020](#) by our Board Member **Lili Balogh**.  
Download report [here](#).





## Agroecology for Europe

The Horizon 2020 funded project AE4EU coordinated by ISARA (Agro School for Life) aims at enabling and accelerating a successful transition to sustainable agriculture and food systems and building a European network on agroecology and contribute to agroecological research and innovation development.

The project started in January 2021 and started working on its activities on mapping local, regional and national initiatives in different European countries based on a methodology already developed by Agroecology Europe. Agroecology Europe will be actively involved in the analysis of private and public funding schemes and resources on a regional, national and EU level. Additionally will AEEU contribute to the development of policies fostering agroecology in Europe and providing policy recommendations as well as the creation of a framework for a European network of agroecological living labs and research infrastructure.

Agroecology Europe is looking forward to the project website being published soon and sharing this exciting milestone with you.



## AGROMIX

The Horizon 2020 funded project AGROMIX is coordinated by Coventry University and has the goal to bring together researchers, farmers and policymakers to explore the transition towards resilient farming, efficient land use and sustainable agricultural value chains in Europe. The project contributes to mixed farming and agroforestry by increasing knowledge, creating new business models, empowering farmers and integrating agroecology in the policy.

Agroecology Europe will contribute primary the policy co-development to overcome trade-offs and conflicts in national and EU policies, addressing challenges and identifying obstacles, such as the lack of supporting policy framework. During the course of the project new policies will be proposed at regional, national and EU level for farmers, advisers, processors, and other stakeholders.

Since the project was launched in November, the partners have been working with the first six mixed farming and agroforestry pilot sites in France, Germany, Switzerland, Netherlands, Belgium and Italy and started to explore the use of games as an innovative way for farmers to redesign their land-use models.

If this made you curious have a look at the newly launched website: <https://agromixproject.eu> and sign up for the first newsletter.



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# Stories from the field

## Documentary - Heritage Protectors

Crete, Greece, January 3, 2021: Crete's Culinary Sanctuaries documentary in production, **Heritage Protectors**, covers history, agroecology, biodiversity, music, toxicology, young organic farmers, resilience and hope - local stories about global issues.

Crete's Culinary Sanctuaries Educational Network, "School without Walls," was formed in 1997 by Nikki Rose, a Greek-American journalist, seminar director, and pro chef, to help support residents working hard to protect and share their heritage. CCS teachers include archaeologists, ecologists, agroecologists, organic farmers, heirloom seed savers, vintners, chefs, beekeepers, ecolodge owners, mountaineers, musicians, and many others.

Over 3,000 university students, teachers, doctors, and journalists have attended CCS accredited educational programs. CCS is an award-winning program for Best Practices in Sustainable Tourism, and featured in National Geographic, New York Times, IFOAM-Organics, Agroecology Europe/Greece, Archaeology Magazine, Routledge Handbooks, UNEP, UNCBD, Food Tank, ECOCLUB, and many other publications.

"Crete is blessed with fascinating history, amazing natural beauty, and cuisine. There is much to discover. There is also much to protect. Our programs were created to be mutually beneficial to visiting students and the many CCS teachers making time to share their important knowledge and bring the magic of Cretan culture to life," said Nikki Rose.

**Heritage Protectors**, is a continuation of CCS work to share crucial information with the global audience. Over 20 people share their knowledge, initiatives and dreams for a more resilient society. Several people are globally renowned for their work, while others should be. CCS will also create an online platform sharing stories from heritage protectors around the world.

More info and documentary trailers: <https://www.cookingincrete.com>

Heritage Protectors Documentary in Crete, Greece

Press Release

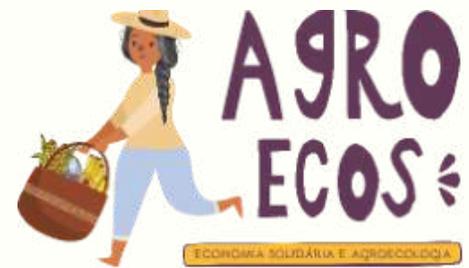
Contact: Nikki Rose

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# Agroecology-Based Solidarity Economy: bringing producers closer to consumers



**Les Levidow, Open University**

Agroecological producers seek to retain more of the value that they add, thus gaining better livelihoods. These depend on solidaristic relationships among producers and with consumers. 'Agroecology has embraced social and solidarity economy approach in agriculture but it is still in its infancy and will need political vision and consumers' engagement', according to a study by Agroecology Europe (AAEU, 2020a). This vision seeks 'a whole basic transformation of the agricultural and food system, in which agroecology plays a key role'. An agroecology-based solidarity economy builds short food-supply chains with consumers, alongside knowledge exchange and seeds exchange among producers (AAEU, 2020b).

Over the past decade there has been a strategic convergence between social movements for solidarity economy (economía solidaria) and agroecological production, especially in Latin America. This EcoSol-agroecology movement builds short food-supply chains, called circuitos cortos (similar to the French term). Based in Brazil and Bolivia, our research project has been investigating two main questions:

- How do EcoSol-agroecology networks develop collective capacities for circuitos cortos?
- How can action-research help to identify and strengthen those capacities?

To explore those questions, the project planned workshops with culturally-based methods. But our plan was pre-empted by the Covid-19 pandemic, so we had to maximise online research methods (Sansolo, 2021).

Agroecological producers have faced extra burdens of hygiene measures and other disruptions. They have innovated means for closer relationships with consumers. To deal with the pandemic, agroecological producers now depend on new solidaristic actors for food sales and deliveries (AgroEcos, 2020). EcoSol networks have distinguished such 'intermediaries' from profit-seeking 'middlemen'. Appropriate intermediaries can be integrated as a long-term strategy for circuitos cortos.

To strategise those new relationships, one community partner has elaborated the concept 'proximities'. These have multiple overlapping forms: geographical, organizational, institutional, cultural, social, etc. alongside proximate aims among participants. Building such proximities depends on diverse collective capacities (Silvia et al., 2020). We continue to investigate such linkages for empowerment strategies.

Project: 'Research Partnership for an Agroecology-Based Solidarity Economy in Bolivia and Brazil' is funded by the UK's Arts & Humanities Research Council (AHRC), Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF), project no. AH/T004274/1, <https://projetoagroecos.wixsite.com/meusite>

Articles (see hyperlinks)

AAEU. 2020a. Agroecology Initiatives in European Countries: Key Findings & Recommendations, Corbais, Belgium: Agroecology Europe.

AAEU. 2020b Agroecology Initiatives in Europe. Corbais, Belgium: Agroecology Europe.  
AgroEcos. 2020. Boletim no.1

Levidow, L. 2020, 'Return to normal' from the COVID-19 crisis?', May 2020.

Levidow, L., Sansolo, D.G., Schiavinatto, M. 2021. Agroecological innovation constructing sacionatural order: Two case studies in Brazil Tapuya: Latin American Science, Technology and Society 4(1): 1-29,

Sansolo, D. et al. 2021, Participatory Action Research during the Covid-19 pandemic: methodological aspec

Silva, NRJ et al. 2020. Ativar proximidades para construir a economia solidária, Folha Santista, 29 de julh



# Education

## **New directions at the world's best agricultural universities - the prominent role of agroecology in research and education.**

International online conference organised by Védegylet and Greenpeace Hungary, 25th March 2021

As we know, agriculture is not a mere technical issue but one of the most pressing causes of climate change. Massive loss in biodiversity, disruptive change in land-use and progressive depopulation of the countryside all have common roots in the current way in which food is grown. At **Védegylet** and **Greenpeace Hungary** we believe that agriculture should work in harmony with nature, meanwhile giving back to local communities and farmers. Most importantly, such an outlook should be integrated into higher agrarian education as well. A massive reorganisation of the educational system is currently happening in Hungary, where all agrarian faculties are being merged into one big university called MATE. We don't want agroecological and organic teachings to be left behind, as they should actually be at the forefront of future education. Hence, on March 25th, we invited speakers from the top 3 agrarian universities of the world, as well as from two other highly interesting initiatives which incorporate a very innovative approach both to research and education, to share their successful experiences of agroecological teaching and researching to inspire future decisions to be made when shaping agrarian university programmes.

**Paola Migliorini**, guided us to the discovery of the **University of Gastronomic Sciences (IT)**, founded by Slow Food, whose approach strives to combine plural views and methodologies to embrace all disciplines which relate to food production and consumption. Migliorini also coordinates the innovative Master in Agroecology and Food Sovereignty, whose didactic is deeply infused by the action learning approach. "When we expose ourselves and students to a farm visit, we expose ourselves to the complexity of reality, knowledge is then built from that", Migliorini said. It couldn't be done otherwise, as "food and farming are transdisciplinary per se".

**Blair van Pelt and Heitor Mancini Teixeira**, from the **Wageningen University (NL)**, conducted us in a passionate conversation which linked the social responsibilities of researchers to those of teachers. As highlighted by van Pelt, lecturer and coordinator at the Organic Agriculture Master program, when working with both students and farmers one needs "to tap into not only their passions but what the world and their communities need of them right now". Mancini Teixeira strove to do the same during his research project in Brazil within the framework of the FOREFRONT program, focusing on agro-forest frontier areas. His project adopted a reflective approach to engage local stakeholders in project-design and monitoring, eventually creating co-ownership over results and sustainability of implemented actions.

**Marcos Lana** outlined the academic offer and goals of the **Swedish University of Life Sciences**. The university also offers a distinct course on Agroecology, but, as he pointed out, the topic is actually distributed along all of their Masters. "Agroecology isn't about recipes" and shouldn't be circumscribed to a specific discipline, as it encompasses much more than that. He went on suggesting that "the students of today are the new agriculturalists. They want to go beyond simple food production: they want to produce within a certain context and have a good impact on the local environment and the local community".





**Helen Aldis** presented the pioneer network of **Innovative Farmers (UK)**, which translates farmers' ideas into on-farm experimentations by pairing them with fundings and researchers' expertise. The project emerged in response to the lack of public money going into organic and agroecological research. "We felt that if research was happening", Aldis said, "it wasn't happening at the practical level as much as the farmers and growers were really calling for. So we wanted to put farmers essentially in the driving seat of research".

Together with the involvement of participants, we agreed on the direction towards which agrarian research and education systems should head: a holistic approach, where both methodologies and objectives need to be reassessed by taking into account a longer timeframe and broader impacts and aiming for environmental, social and economic sustainability. Action learning is an effective tool to engage both students and stakeholders, focusing on practical issues and local needs and directly engaging with beneficiaries. As innovation comes from practice and knowledge exchange, the creation of inclusive networks which link academia to farmers and their communities should be strongly encouraged, especially the ones which are farmer-led. Moreover, as much as we strive for all universities to offer agroecological teachings, ecological aspects should be integrated into all agrarian curricula, because a paradigm shift will only happen by engaging all actors in the discussion.

If you want to watch the video recording of the conference, you can find it here: [greenpeace.hu/konferencia-en](https://greenpeace.hu/konferencia-en)

## **UNISG MASTER IN AGROECOLOGY AND FOOD SOVEREIGNTY – POLLENZO (ITALY)**

### **A FOOD STUDIES PROGRAM FOR THE NEXT GENERATION OF FOOD ACTIVISTS**

Get to know the different dimensions of agricultural and food systems to enable their transition into sustainability.

A new education program based on the Nextfood approach has started In September 2020.

This master programme educates the next generation of agroecologists with knowledge and skills, to become active facilitators of change in agrifood systems and food sovereignty.

With a case-based, action learning and research approach and classes with a systemic approach that integrates natural and social sciences, the students develop:

- an understanding of the ecological, technical, social, economic, cultural and policy dimensions of agricultural and food systems;
- a trans-disciplinary profile and competence based on holistic knowledge and necessary skills for facilitating actions for increased sustainability in food systems.



The programme is based on an experiential learning approach and supervised action-research in communities (Slow Food, agroecological, organic producers), combined with farm/garden activities, lectures and seminars on campus.

This programme links theory with action and focuses on the self-development of students' competence. As part of the learning experience, students explore and contribute to the development of a community where they spend three months, connecting theoretical knowledge with the practical world of society and different stakeholders.

As a result, our students will become professionals able to engage with the following elements of a food system: environment, smallholder and family farming, farmers and rural communities, food sovereignty, local and short food supply chains, cultural diversity and associated agrobiodiversity and healthy and high-quality food.

**The full 1-year master programme is divided into four phases.**

### **Phase 1: Getting started**

Activities: building a common theoretical background, setting up peer learning groups (student-student and student-mentor), getting familiar with the action learning approach.

### **Phase 2: Preparation for an action learning and action research in the Slow Food Communities**

Activities: going deeper into detailed action learning and research at agricultural and food system level, designing research and learning plans (learning cycle), preparing the project proposal.

### **Phase 3: Research project in the Slow Food communities**

Activities: students work on their action learning and action research project within the communities, supervised by professors, mentors and P2P learning groups.

### **Phase 4: Finalising research, thesis and graduation**

Activities: finalising the individual master thesis based on a action learning and research project, publishing a booklet (collection of the students' experiences in the communities), discussion and graduation.

The Master programme includes one-week study trip and several day trips to nearby farms and food producers alongside appropriate introduction and reflection seminars. These study trips, in combination with weekly activities at the university garden, prepare the students for the 3rd phase, the action learning and action research project within the communities.

Due to the numerous activities (plenary discussions, online and role games, group work, group presentations, etc.), students develop core competence that will help them to understand and to handle complex topics and fields. The core competence development focuses on dialogue, observation, participation, reflection and visioning.



# Publications



## Agroecology - Can we change our food system?

The current issue of *Landbauforschung – Journal of Sustainable and Organic Agricultural Systems* is a special issue on agroecology and gathers strategies and success stories on the integration of agroecology to foster sustainability in agriculture. It presents position papers on the future role of agroecology, reports on local successes, research designs, and results and effects of the integration of modern techniques as well as traditional farm and food system management. We hope you have a look at the special issues and enjoy the articles representing different experiences with agroecology and its possibilities.

<https://www.landbauforschung.net/issues/vol-70-2-2020/>

## Position Paper - Policies for agroecology in Europe, building on experiences in France, Germany and the United Kingdom

**Nicolas Lampkin, Gerald Schwarz, and Stéphane Bellon**

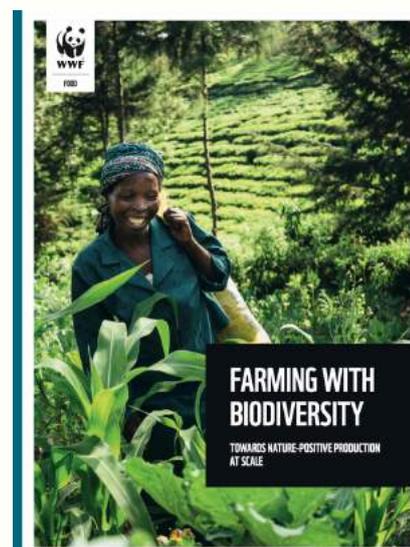
A lack of clarity and consistency in the definition of agroecology and its relationship with other alternative agricultural approaches creates tension in debates but makes agroecology also attractive to policy makers and scientists that we are less comfortable with more rigidly defined approaches. The position paper explores the underlying issues and tensions and explores if it is possible to reach a common conceptualisation. Find the full Paper [here](#).

## Farming with Biodiversity. Towards nature-positive production at scale. WWF International, 2021.

We are pleased to share with you the paper “Farming with Biodiversity. Towards nature-positive production at scale” published by Greenpeace International recognising the importance of moving from the Green Revolution to Agroecology.

“WWF firmly believes that agroecological approaches are key to achieving nature-positive production at scale and tackling some of the most pressing issues of the 21st century. They provide a critical pathway to truly integrating nature and agriculture in a functional and mutually beneficial way, and to designing more resilient food systems in the face of current and future crises.”

The paper aims at outlining changes needed to create food systems that support rather than exploit nature, with a focus on agricultural production systems. Outlining our current food production systems, agroecological approaches and a way forward to accelerate the transition we can only encourage you to have a look at it. [Enjoy the read.](#)



# Publications

## Can agroecology improve food security and nutrition? A review

Rachel Bezner, Kerra Sidney, Madsena Moritz, Stüberb Jeffrey, Liebertc Stephanie, Enloea Noélie, Borghinob Phoebe, Parrosb Daniel, Munyao Mutyambaic Marie Prudhonb, AlexanderWezel

The review paper examines recent evidence (1998–2019) for whether agroecological practices can improve human food security and nutrition. A total of 11,771 articles were screened by abstract and title, 275 articles included for full review, with 56 articles (55 cases) selected. A majority of studies (78%) found evidence of positive outcomes in the use of agroecological practices on food security and nutrition of households in low and middle-income countries. Here the link to the [article](#).

## Agroecological principles and elements and their implications for transitioning to sustainable food systems. A review.

Wezel, A., Gemmill Herren, B., Bezner Kerr, R., Barrios, E., Gonçalves, A.L.R, Sinclair, F.

The article presents and extensive literature review of concepts, definitions and principles of agroecology, and their historical evolution. The three manifestations of agroecology as a science, a set of practices and a social movement are related to the recent dialogue and the set of ten iconic elements of agroecology developed by FAO. Based on this, a consolidated list of principles is developed and discussed in the context of presenting transition pathways to more sustainable food systems.

Here the link to the [open access article](#).

## Oranges Tell a Bittersweet Story about Cooperative Farming in Europe

Nicolas LOODTS

On the basis of Bitter Oranges, Nicolas is telling us a story about the fieldwork with alternative producers in Europe. In the article he writes about small-scale organic fruit and vegetable farmers facing micro-crises, such as pests and diseases, but also macro-crises, such as a pandemic and competition from the industrial food system.

Read the article here: <https://edgeeffects.net/bitter-oranges/>



## Farmers of the Future

A study by the JRC explored who will be the farmers in the medium- and long-term future describing the 2040 landscape of farmers and possible policy implications. The report expects an increasingly difficult environment to farm and agroecological practices (i.e. the application of ecological principles to agricultural production systems) are expected to become mainstream by 2040. Find the full report [here](#).

## Soil, carbon sequestration and water protection

In March the Carbon Action Science webinar on 'Soil, carbon sequestration and water protection' took place. The Finish Minister of the Environment and Climate Change Krista Mikkonen opened the webinar highlighting that the actions to safeguard the growing conditions in fields and those that safeguard the status of water should not be separated. In case you missed it, find more information [here](#) and the recorded [webinar](#) on Youtube and a [summary document](#) online.



# Publications

## Videos on Agroecological approaches – Sant'Anna School, Pisa

We are pleased to share with you short videos on agroecological approaches and an article produced by young researchers of the Sant'Anna School based on their research activities:

- Intra-specific biodiversity: [Video 1](#) and [Video 2](#)  
Article on [Italian local varieties of lentils and trials of varietal mixtures to establish lentil populations](#) [in Italian]
- Intercropping of durum wheat and legumes: [Video 1](#) and [Video 2](#)
- [Biostimulants effects and below-ground activities](#)

The videos are in Italian with English subtitles.

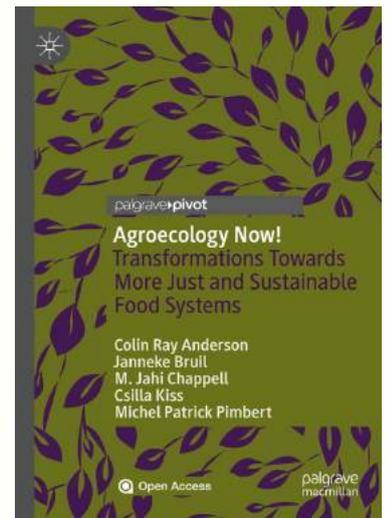
## Agroecology Now! Transformations Towards More Just and Sustainable Food Systems

**By: Colin R. Anderson, Janneke Bruil, Michael Jahi Chappell, Csilla Kiss and Michel Pimbert**

We are happy to share with you this new open access book. The book develops a framework for advancing agroecology transformations focusing on power, politics and governance. It explores the potential of agroecology as a sustainable and socially just alternative to today's dominant food regime.

The '[backgrounder](#)' is based on the book and provides a concise illustration of the overall framework in one part of the book, explaining the notion of Domains of Agroecology Transformation.

Sounds interesting - find the book available [here](#).



## A unifying framework for food systems transformation: a call for governments, private companies and civil society to adopt 13 key principles

In view of the upcoming UN Food System Summit and other major international meetings in which the future of food systems will also be discussed, a broad range of organizations and movements have come together to call for an urgent food system transformation to meet the Sustainable Development Goals, the targets of the Paris Climate Agreement and the Convention on Biological Diversity, and to uphold the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas.

The Call agrees that the set of 13 Principles for food systems transformation described in the 2019 report of the High-Level Panel on Food Security and Nutrition must serve as a basis for the transformation we urgently need. It stresses that the full set of 13 principles must be respected and cautions against co-optation and green-washing by organizations that use terms such as agroecology or regenerative agriculture, but do not intend to implement all 13 principles.

We invite as many organizations, countries, movements and individuals as possible to join us in signing this Call by 31 May 2021, and welcome its use as part of any advocacy efforts to bring about food systems transformation.

Please find attached the Call in three languages ([EN](#), [FR](#), [ES](#)).

To join a growing number of signatories, you can sign the Call today:

- As an [individual](#), OR;
- As an [organization/ social movement / country](#).



# Future Events

## Conference on the Future of Europe - it's in your hands!

Through a multilingual digital platform, decentralised events, European Citizen Panels and Conference Plenaries you can debate on Europe's challenges and priorities. You can choose from a comprehensive range of topics and share your opinion. Ideas will be collected, analysed, monitored and published on the platform and feed into the discussions taking place in the European citizens' Panels and Plenaries.

Have a look at the [Conference](#) and the list of [events](#) happening all over Europe.



## Weekly Seeds

We are happy to share with you the initiative by **Federico Andreotti** and **Amalia Sacchi** - a live talk show and podcast with weekly episodes over the next 8 weeks.

Each episode will feature a guest who will talk about their own sustainability project related to agriculture or food. We will interview young people with their hands in innovative projects to change the way we live our relationship with agriculture and food.

Each episode of Weekly Seeds will be part of a series of independent dialogues in preparation for the "Food Systems Summit" called by FAO and that will take place in Rome and online from 19 to 21 July 2021. We look forward to seeing you every Monday from the 10th of May to 28 June at 9pm on the Weekly Seeds Twitch channel. You will also find us on YouTube and Spotify @WeeklySeeds.

Heads up, the 3rd Episode will be on Agroecology (24 May 2021, 21:00 with Karla Škorjanc & Tommaso Gaifami).

## Webinar 'Transition towards sustainable agriculture in Europe : the agroecology'

Wednesday 19 May from 10 to 12h30

Listen to European key specialists on:

- Where we are now in Agroecology & agroforestry - The French case - **Vincent Levavasseur**, National Council Agroecology; contributes to farmer based movements like Maraichage Sol Vivant, La Vache heureuse, Pour une agriculture du vivant
- How to assess agroecology: some methods - **Alain Peeters**, Secretary General of Agroecology Europe.
- How to measure agroecology: plant stress - **Olivier Husson**, CIRAD, in the AIDA Research Unit (Agroecology and Sustainable Intensification of Annual crops).
- Digitalisation for agroecology - **Franck Le Gall**, CEO at Easy Global Market (EGM) , an innovative SME focused on integration and validation of emerging technologies.
- How to move from conventional to agroecology - **Grzegorz Siebielec**, Head of Soil Science Erosion and Land Protection Dept in Poland.
- Agroecology in Mediterranean context - **Vasileios Gkissakis**, Agroecologiki and Board member of Agroecology Europe.
- Agroecology in European northern context - **Marcos Lana**, SLU Sweden and Board member of Agroecology Europe.
- Q&A - Moderator: **Philippe Cousin**, EGM and Senseen, production of low cost scanners for a broad use range.

Registration: <https://www.verdeterreprod.fr/webinar-agroecology/>



# Agroecology Europe 3rd Forum

Barcelona 18 - 20 November 2021

Every two years, Agroecology Europe organises Forums in order to promote the sharing of knowledge and practices around agroecology and to structure a network between stakeholders from different backgrounds at the European level. Following the two first successful editions of the Forum in 2017 in Lyon (France) and in 2019 in Heraklion (Greece), the association will organize the third edition in Barcelona (Spain) which will take place from 18-20 November 2021. Together with local farmers, researchers, civic society and non-governmental organisations we will discuss how agroecology can regenerate our food systems and communities.

While the forum had to take place initially in June 2021, due to the Covid-19 crisis, the organising Committee has decided to postpone in to November 2021, and build a hybrid event on line/on site with the following theme: "Agroecology for regeneration of our food systems and communities".

The Agroecology Europe Forum intends to be largely based on a participatory build-up of the programme. **Therefore, we launch a call for your ideas and contributions for sessions and workshops.** Your contribution may address a diversity of activities and topics related to the general principles of Agroecology, covering environmental, social & cultural, economic and political dimensions. Please find more information and the form to fill here:

[ENGLISH](#)

[SPANISH](#)

[CATALAN](#)

More information are available on Agroecology Europe website:

[www.agroecology-europe.org](http://www.agroecology-europe.org)

Save the date & stay tuned for further information coming soon!



**NEW DATE!**

**3rd AGROECOLOGY EUROPE FORUM**

"Agroecology for regeneration of our food systems and communities"

**18-20 November 2021 in Barcelona, Spain**  
(with online events/workshops/sessions)

[www.agroecology-europe.org](http://www.agroecology-europe.org)



AGROECOLOGY  
EUROPE



# RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

## & Tell your Friends about us

### Why becoming a Member?

Agroecology Europe promotes agroecology practices and systems with EU decision-makers. The goals and objectives of the association are broken down into activities, where each member can participate and become active. Becoming a member includes to get access to the intranet with resources such as list of members, minutes and reports of meetings and working groups, conference proceedings, published papers. Our members can vote and can get elected in the General Assembly, initiate, and participate in working groups, participate at reduced fees for Agroecology Europe conferences or workshops.

We are also happy to share our members stories from the field, articles, workshops and other content through our network and on our website, social media and newsletter.



Share your ideas and suggestions with us!  
[secretariat@agroecology-europe.org](mailto:secretariat@agroecology-europe.org)

### How to become a Member?

The Association is open to all individuals, groups and institutions interested in promoting agroecology, and aims to define its agenda through their participatory engagement. Membership is automatic after payment of an annual subscription (civil year).

### The membership of the Association consists of six categories:

- Ordinary Members: 80 Euro
- Supported Members: 30 Euro
- NGO members: 100 Euro
- Private companies: 160 Euro
- Sustaining Members: minimum 160 Euro
- Honorary Members: free



**Ordinary Members:** Any individual in Europe or elsewhere interested in the objectives of the Association. Ordinary members include for instance professionals and seniors.

**Supported Members:** Students (including PhD students), low-income and unemployed people.

**Honorary Members:** Distinguished persons proposed by the Board. Honorary Members are persons who have made an outstanding contribution to the Association.

**Sustaining Members:** Organizations or individuals willing to provide financial support for the Association.

Please pay the membership fee to the following bank account and inform the Secretariat ([info@agroecology-europe.org](mailto:info@agroecology-europe.org)) and Treasurer ([alain.peeterse@agroecology-europe.org](mailto:alain.peeterse@agroecology-europe.org)) about your payment.

We will then acknowledge your membership once the payment received.

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IBAN: BE90 3631 6614 0832

BIC : BBRUBEBB

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