

Press Release

Brussels, Thursday 15 December 2022

Agroecology on the rise in Switzerland and the European Union

Agroecology was celebrated this Autumn both in Switzerland with the [“Days of Agroecology”](#) and the European Union with the [“Month of Agroecology”](#).

From the 1st to the 31st of October, Switzerland celebrated the second edition of the [“Days of Agroecology”](#). Over 100 organizations held on-site and online events around the topic of agroecology throughout Switzerland - from discussions on hot topics, to farm visits and exchanges on the latest research findings. The petition [“every farm counts”](#) of the Small Farmers Association of Switzerland that was promoted through the Days of Agroecology got over 13 '000 signatures and was handed over to the federal council in mid-November.

[Agroecologyworks!](#), the network responsible for the event series, is pleased to note that there is a great deal of interest in agroecology. There were over 3000 participants active this month, an impressive show of interest in the concept of agroecology. This potential is also recognized by [Agroecology Europe](#), the European association for agroecology.

Agroecology Europe (AEEU) intends to place agroecology high on the European agenda of sustainable development of farming and food systems by fostering interactions between actors in science, practice, and social movements, as well as by facilitating knowledge sharing and action. During the successful [second edition of the Month of Agroecology](#), AEEU organized two [webinars](#), published [articles](#), and [factsheets](#), and conducted interviews with policy-makers and farmers to better understand how agroecology offers a framework for action to transform our food systems, from our fields to our plates.

The work of AEEU with civil society actors and policy makers showcases every day that public awareness and societal expectations are growing to move towards farming and food systems that respect human health and ecosystems. Several important EU policy files related to agriculture and food are currently under discussion, such as the Regulation on the Sustainable use of Plant Protection Products (SUR), the upcoming Integrated

Nutrient Management Plan, Legislative proposal on carbon removal certification, and the revision of the legislation for plants produced by certain new genomic techniques. It is therefore essential to show that agroecology offers key guiding principles to build a viable, fair, and sustainable future.

Both Agroecologyworks! and Agroecology Europe aim to transform the global food systems in an environmentally sustainable and socially just manner to be able to address the crisis we are facing.

As United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Gutierrez emphasized in his remarks to the High-Level opening of COP27: "Humanity has a choice: cooperate or perish". Agroecology offers all the tools to opt for the first option.

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