



FROM CONVENTIONAL  
PRACTICES

TO



AGROECOLOGICAL  
AGRICULTURE

## PARADIGM SHIFT

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- ♥ Cooperating with nature instead of fighting it
- ♥ 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)
- ♥ Back to the roots of agronomy: living soil and the rhizosphere

# HOW TO ORGANIZE IT ?

## 11 STEPS TO SUCCESSFUL CHANGE

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- ♥ 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 midscale supply chains
- ♥ Development of a network of advisors and other agroecological farmers for knowledge exchange



## ECOLOGICAL STRATEGY FOR AGROECOLOGY

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- ♥ 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



# HOW TO ORGANIZE IT ?

## 6 OBJECTIVES AND PRACTICES FOR BETTER FARM MANAGEMENT

- 🍷 Restoring soil fertility (species mixtures, permanent cover, legumebased 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

For any further information on our work, activities and webinars, please visit:  
[www.agroecology-europe.org](http://www.agroecology-europe.org)



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## FUTURE OF YOUR AGROECOLOGICAL FARM

- 🍷 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