"SCHOOLS WITHOUT WALLS": TRUST, FEELING, TERRITORY, AND THE EDUCATION OF ECO-POLITICAL CONCERN

AGROECOLOGY SCHOOLS

ORGANISED BY:

AGONISED BY:

WORKSHOP 13

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“Something that’s really crucial to stimulate the process is to convince people what they know is relevant and that they hold the knowledge themselves. Such confidence and capacity building can create a catalytic effect, where more learners become teachers and the process takes on a self-perpetuating momentum.

- Colin Anderson 2019
BACKGROUND

BILIM - COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE OF AGROECOLOGY IN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA: www.bilim.network

- network of grassroots organizations and social movements in agroecology,
- supports coordinated advocacy work for agroecology and small-scale producers’ rights, implementation of UNDROP and the pursuit of food sovereignty in the region.
- built on 11 Pillars of the Nyéléni Declaration for scaling up and scaling out of agroecology in the region and facilitates emergence of Agroecology Schools.
Agroecology schools are the place where knowledge is shared within communities led by grassroots organizations on a diversity of topics determined by the local context. It can be either in the formal or informal educational system, in a solid structure or without walls. They tend to have the following elements:

- **For society transformation**
- **Based on local needs and realities**
- **Based on local knowledge**
- **Popular education**
- **Based on horizontal learning processes.**
- **Dialogue of different kinds of knowledge:** (food producers, academia, activist, ...)
- **Participatory Action Research**
WHY KNOWLEDGE?

- In an agroecological approach food producers are at the centre
  - It is essential to recover, preserve and develop the knowledge in order to secure the future of food producers and their autonomy.
  - This is crucial for new farmers and young people
  - Knowledge transfer in a horizontal way. Learning in communities, where people teach each other and contribute to change development paradigms and food system transformations.
WHAT IS INNOVATION FOR US?

Innovation inspired by agroecology and food sovereignty is aimed at the collective common good, and can be strengthened with the help of digitalisation.

Innovation can't mean fewer farmers and less work in rural areas. Farmers provide the means for achieving a basic human right: the right to adequate food.

Agroecology is the innovation based on peasant knowledge, which strengthens farmers’ knowledge and farmers’ autonomy.
AGROECOLOGY SCHOOLS #1 STARTING UP

GET INSPIRED - LOOK IN, LOOK OUT

There are various agroecology trainings already run by various grassroots organisations: farmers’ associations, self-organised consumer initiatives.

FORM A PEDAGOGICAL COMMITTEE

made up of leading organisation members, allied pedagogues or experts who share basic principles of Agroecology.

DEVELOP VISION AND GOALS

Agroecology Schools are a tool for strengthening grassroot organisations and movements.

SET OBJECTIVES FOR YOUR SCHOOLS
AGROECOLOGY SCHOOLS #2 TRAININGS

**TYPES OF TRAININGS**

- Farm work and farm visits
- Capacity building trainings;
- Workshops, trainings and group consultations
- Community action research and other forms of structured enquiry, (TAPE);
- Games, fairs and exhibitions to motivate for innovation;

**METHODS AND TOOLS**

- Learning an active peer process.
- Learners are encouraged to take action and to articulate their perspective.
- Value all contributions equally.
- Co-creation the context of learning
#3 SCALING OUT

**ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY**
Look for opportunities to increase financial sustainability of your School.

**DEVELOP & CIRCULATE STRATEGIES**
Agroecology School is a space to develop organisation’s strategies & action plans, inform your networks and members.

**RESOURCE LIBRARY**
Create and share widely a library of resources.
THANK YOU!