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# Response to the Danish Presidency recognizing Agroecology in EU agricultural policies

Agroecology Europe's contribution to the informal meeting among agri-ministers in Copenhagen  
9 September 2025

**To:** The Danish EU Presidency and Honorable Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries

**Subject:** Supporting Agroecology | Danish Presidency Recognition & Recommendations

**Dear Minister Jakob Jensen,**

The Agroecology Europe association ([AEEU](#)) **welcomes that the background paper** of the upcoming [Informal Meetings of Agriculture Ministers](#) in Copenhagen, 7-9 September 2025 where ministers will be discussing “ways to improve the competitiveness and accelerate the green transition of the EU agri-food sector” **recognizes and supports agroecology.**

We are encouraged to see that the Council recognition and support for agroecology have been steadily consolidating even after the [Council Conclusions of the Hungarian Presidency in December 2024](#). This meeting under your Presidency represents a pivotal opportunity for agroecology to make a substantive policy and scientific contributions to EU objectives and sustainability challenges.

EU’s agricultural policies need to advance in many areas – farm viability, organic farming, generational renewal, GHG emissions, water pollution, nitrate pollution, biodiversity loss – as starkly illustrated in an alarming scientific JRC report<sup>i</sup> from 2025, revealing poor progress on these fronts.

Agroecology is well suited and ready<sup>ii</sup> to respond to these interconnected challenges. As defined by the FAO and the High Level Panel of Experts (HLPE) of the UN Committee on World Food Security, Agroecology stands out for its holistic approach from farm-to-fork. Rather than just a set of practices, **Agroecology is a science and a social movement aiming to transform food systems** to be more resilient, rural-proofed, equitable, and ecologically responsible. [Agroecological initiatives](#) across the EU build on socio-ecological principles to the design and management of sustainable agri-food systems.

In your [discussion note](#), ministers have been asked to reply to two questions as preparation for the the next informal meeting. To illustrate ways to support agroecology, our association seek to provide timely contributions to the following two questions.

We are confident that, as representative of the Danish Presidency in agriculture, you will succeed in **securing Denmark’s and other Member States’ commitment to advancing agroecology**, as explicitly called in [Council conclusions on a farmer-focused post 2027 Common Agricultural Policy](#), in a way that do not only ensure better uptake of agroecology practices but also ensure a transition of the food system as highlighted by 29 organisations in the [Strategic Dialogue on the Future of EU agriculture](#).

To further this exchange, we would be honoured to meet with you and the Danish Permanent Representation in Brussels for a strategic policy discussion on how to align EU agricultural policies with agroecology.

Respectfully,



**Dr. Alexander Wezel**

President of Agroecology Europe

Bruxelles, 05 September 2025

## 1. How can the EU encourage innovation and investments to ensure access to affordable, safe, and nutritious food while meeting sustainability demands?

When negotiating the upcoming Multi-Financial Framework, Agroecology Europe emphasizes the need to **increase investments in public digital, social, and physical infrastructures** as foundations for responsible innovations that do not exacerbate existing inequalities or ecosystem stresses. Special attention should be given to innovations in the broader sense – not only technical innovations – that **empower farmers to reduce dependency on financial debts, external chemical inputs, pesticide and antibiotics**, and alleviate pressures on water, soil, fossil fuels, and biodiversity.

We encourage the **adoption of holistic sustainability frameworks** with overarching socio-ecological targets **to steer EU innovation and investments** towards **Farm-to-Fork transformations**, such as reducing the use of hazardous pesticides or nitrate groundwater pollution from intensive livestock farming, just to mention a few examples.

**Rather than pursuing short-sighted technological fixes such as deregulating genetically modified organisms**, a move that could compromise Europe's food security and consumer protection, we urge agriculture ministers to support science-based agroecological farming models that simultaneously address climate change, biodiversity loss, stable productivity, and farm viability. These **models promote greater farm autonomy and reduce reliance on centralized supply systems and external input providers**, particularly in times of geopolitical turmoil and rural inequalities. Examples of such resilience-building approaches include biodiversity-friendly seed conservation and exchange, participatory breeding, farm diversification, long-term crop rotation, permanent grasslands, mixed farming, extensive livestock systems, organic fertilization, biocontrol substances, and other key stepping stones in the transition to agroecology.

Agricultural oligopolies are expanding their control over land ownership, seeds, machinery, and other essential assets, thereby **stripping agricultural and rural workers of access to the means of production** and jeopardizing European food security and competitiveness. Public resources shall be targeted more specifically towards the unique conditions of **agri-food actors “who needs the most” while delivering high-value produce and public goods**, such as agroecological farmers in areas with natural constraints – but also those operating in intensive farming areas – as well as mixed livestock-crop farmers, new entrants<sup>iii</sup>, young farmers, and agricultural workers. Despite their vital contribution to the provision of multiple public policy goals, **these actors still remain largely underserved by policy, innovation and investments efforts<sup>iv</sup>**.

**Landscape-level or aggregated-form of support to encourage diversification shall be prioritised** to scale-up the agroecological transitions of single farmers with increased focus on cooperations between local actions including biodistricts, consumers-producers groups, or small-medium cooperatives sharing labour, seeds, and other assets.

By **mainstreaming agroecology principles in all European, national and regional Agroecological Knowledge and Innovation Systems (AKIS)**, the EU agriculture can rely on a wider spectrum of tools and capabilities to become viable and future-proofed.

## 2. What changes are needed in the EU legal framework to give farmers better access to the necessary tools for the green transition?

We support widespread societal demands calling for **prioritizing EU spending on the green transition in food, farming and rural development**. Within the current market and trade structures, small-medium and agroecological farmers need increased public financial and technical support to meet established and new regulations in the field of animal welfare and environmental policies, while also encouraged and rewarded to innovate and experiment in advancing the green transition.

Rather than pursuing blind deregulations, such as in the ongoing CAP simplification and upcoming Omnibus Package, we encourage agri-ministers to **strengthen the legal alignment and enforcement between the CAP and other EU environmental regulations**, particularly with the Nature Restoration Regulation. This shall also be reflected with the restoration of enhanced conditionalities in CAP direct payments. Such a synergic direction shall also be beneficial for the CAP budget negotiations in the Multifinancial Framework post-2027.

Finally, we welcome **accelerated EU and national initiatives to enforce the EU Unfair Trade Practices Directive** as well as initiatives stemming from the **Rural Pact and Long-Term Vision for the EU's Rural Areas**. Small-medium farmers and other ally agri-food actors need to be sufficiently equipped if they want to stay competitive within the current neoliberal market structure. For instance, the CAP legal framework should be adapted to **reduce the high traded volume thresholds set up by the Member States as eligibility in sectoral CAP interventions**, thereby unlocking vital support also for thousands of small-medium cooperatives or producer groups currently excluded from such interventions.

Thank you for your kind consideration of this letter. We look forward to meeting with you and remain at your disposal to provide further insights that can mutually contribute to shaping the future of European agri-food systems and rural areas.

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<sup>i</sup> Marelli, L., Trane, M., Barbero Vignola, G., Gastaldi, C., Guerreiro, M. M. et al., Delivering the EU Green Deal – Progress towards targets, Publications Office of the European Union, 2025, <https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2760/3105205>

<sup>ii</sup> Blaix, C., Dumont, B., Bloor, J. M. G., Zagaria, C., Fleurance, G., Joly, F., & Huguenin-Elie, O. (2026). *Agroecological interventions increase biodiversity and the potential for climate change mitigation in Europe*. *Agriculture, Ecosystems and Environment*, 395, Article 109938. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.agee.2025.109938>

<sup>iii</sup> Feil, J.-H., & Stork, S. (2025). *Towards better tailored new entrant support in European agriculture: Do successor family members and newcomers require distinct schemes?* *Journal of Rural Studies*, 119, Article 103787. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jrurstud.2025.103787>

<sup>iv</sup> Milone, P. & Ventura, F. (2019). *New generation farmers: Rediscovering the peasantry*. *Journal of Rural Studies*, 68, 1–11. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jrurstud.2018.12.009>