



# FEEDING JUSTICE, NOT EMPIRES: TOWARDS A JOINT POSITION ON DECOLONIAL AGROECOLOGY

DATE: October 4th

LOCATION: AGROECOLOGY EUROPE FORUM 2025 – MALMÖ,  
SWEDEN



# Introduction

Agroecology Europe aimed to organize a participatory workshop to develop a joint position on decolonial agroecology. This workstream emerges at a critical historical moment in which Europe is, once again, deeply involved in - and, in many cases, largely responsible for or complicit with - white colonialism and imperialism.

In the European agri-food and rural development political agenda, this is evident to many through policy initiatives such as the establishment of international nature or carbon credits and market standards, the 'uberisation' of food systems, or through neoliberal discourses like "*Europe must produce more to feed the world*," despite the well-documented flaws of the EU food production system (e.g. dependency on energy and feed imports, increasing food poverty, and escalating environmental degradation).

At a broader geopolitical level, the genocide in Palestine - as well as other war crimes in Africa (e.g. Congo, Rwanda, Sudan, Western Sahara) and Eurasia (e.g. Ukraine, Pakistan, India) - are deeply connected to the future of European agriculture and food systems. Consider, for instance, the energy and minerals required by the European digital agriculture industry, or the continued maintenance of trade agreements with countries perpetrating genocide and the deliberate starvation of civilian populations, and the migrant workers whose exploitation and precarious working conditions the agricultural sector in Europe depends on to produce food for their own citizens.

At the root of these conflicts lie multiple, interlinked, and self-reinforcing causes: corporate land and resource grabbing, nationalism and fascism, and, more broadly, systemic oppression and capitalism in all its forms - military, agricultural, digital, educational, and beyond.

Agroecology, and Agroecology Europe, stands firmly for its internationally recognized principles and for its key allies in the peasant and just transition movements—movements that challenge inequality in agri-food and rural systems, including colonialism and imperialism within and across borders. Now more than ever, it is essential that agroecology sets a clear direction for the future of European agri-food and rural policies.

Therefore, the **Youth Network of Agroecology Europe** sought to gather insights on how to define decolonial agroecology - and, more importantly, how to operationalize this definition in the daily work of agroecological actors across science, policy, practice, and movements.

## Key Phases of the Workshops

### Phase 1: Open Call for Contributions

*Location:* Online

*Date:* August-September 2025

The process began with an open call for feedback and contributions. A google form was created in three languages (English, Spanish, and French) and this form was shared through



### Phase 3: Malmö

Location: Agroecology Europe Forum

Date: 4<sup>th</sup> October 2025

Finally in Malmö, the workshop explored more personal reflections on the colonial elements of the food system and what it takes to organise and imagine potential futures where the food system is decolonial. Some key takeaways from the workshop were as follows:

- The concepts of (neo)colonialism, decolonialism, and how agroecology responds to them could be clarified.
- Many participants exposed research as an area where forms of colonialism remain, and where changes could/should occur.
- There is no clarification on the way forward.
- Transdisciplinarity and convergence of struggles are important. How do we integrate agroecology?
- Agroecology Europe's support for this process is being questioned.
- Within the EU, there are still colonialist practices/approaches.
- European agroecology is mainly about science and practices. It lacks the social and political elements of agroecology.



# Outcome

A major determining factor for success is respecting the process... taking the time to allow people the space and time to reflect and gather themselves. To not be too driven by the final output has meant that the process becomes more meaningful and less output driven.

We will look to reconnect with participants, those who responded to our open call and/or attending our webinar and workshop to clarify the next steps: Publication of a vision? One shot or a process (then what's next)?

We also need to ensure that these discussions stay tied to the principles that inform agroecology, principally the Nyéléni declaration and the HLPE report of Agroecology. Once the position paper is written, we shall then see how it can begin to inform and support other elements of Agroecology Europe's work as an organisation and when collaborating with partners. (e.g. land grabbing and land access, migrant workers and labour conditions, water grabbing and water access, globalised food system vs. territorial food systems, UNDROP, ...)

- The EU needs to do more to analyze the impacts of its food systems and policies. The exploitation of migrant workers occurring in southern Europe is hidden. The Global food industry is destroying smallholder production at the expense of peasant farmers and global south countries' local food systems.
- The EU needs to begin to approach food justice with genuine resolve to confront our past, and make sacrifices to build a better future and stand for decolonizing our food systems, challenging entrenched power dynamics, and empowering smallholder farmers and local food systems.

## About Agroecology Europe

Agroecology Europe, is a non-profit European association intending to place agroecology high on the European agenda of sustainable development of farming and food systems. The association fosters interactions between actors in sciences, practices and social movements, by facilitating knowledge sharing action. It aims at the creation of an inclusive European community of professionals, practitioners, and more generally societal stakeholders in agroecology.



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