

**EVENT REPORT  
PARTICIPATORY  
WORKSHOP**



## **FOR AN AGROECOLOGICAL MOVEMENT IN THE MEDITERRANEAN ROOTED IN SOLIDARITY**

**DATE: 9-10 JUNE 2025**

**LOCATION: 1st International Congress Of Mediterranean Agroecology in  
Agrigento (Sicily), Italy.**



*Agroecology is the answer to how to transform and repair our material reality in a food system and rural world that has been devastated by industrial food production and its so-called Green and Blue Revolutions. We see agroecology as a key form of resistance to an economic system that puts profit before life.” - Nyéléni Declaration, 2015*

## Introduction

The Mediterranean is a region marked by stark contradictions: it is the frontline of ecological collapse, militarized migration policies, and extractive development models - **while also being a place of resistance**, renewal, and rooted agroecological practices. It is where borders are enforced not only by walls, but by sea, law, and silence.

Those who cross the sea fleeing war, poverty, and climate disaster often do not survive. Their deaths are not accidents, but the product of political choices. In southern Italy, those who arrive face exploitation in agriculture under brutal conditions, while in the Balkans (particularly Serbia and Bosnia) communities are displaced for lithium and cobalt mining in the name of a green transition that replicates colonial logics.

These realities make it undeniable: **a Mediterranean agroecology movement cannot be serious if it does not center justice, decolonization, and political responsibility.**

But more than that, agroecology in Europe must reckon with the continent's ongoing role in global systems of domination. As Europeans—many of us working in institutions, research, and policy - we must confront how colonial histories continue to shape who controls land, seeds, water, and knowledge. **The wealth that sustains European food systems has long been built on extraction, dispossession, and externalization of harm.** Decolonialism is not only a solidarity gesture - it is an internal imperative. It means questioning power relations within agroecology itself: who speaks, who is funded, whose practices are validated, and whose are made invisible.

An agroecology that does not interrogate its own complicity risks reproducing the very systems it seeks to dismantle.

As Agroecology Europe Youth Network, we hold a representative role at the European level—participating in high-level spaces such as the CAP Network, dialogues with DG AGRI, and meetings with Commissioner Christophe Hansen and his team. From this position, we felt it essential to use our visibility not to perform consensus, but to open space for critical reflection. Our activities at AEMED 2025 were born from this commitment.

The first International Congress of Mediterranean Agroecology (AEMED) was held in Agrigento, Sicily, from 9 to 12 June 2025. It was promoted by the Agroecology Sicily Coordination, in collaboration with AIDA (Italian Association of Agroecology) and AIAF (Italian Association of Agroforestry), and supported by Agroecology Europe to build dialogue with the upcoming European Forum in Malmö.

Given that AEMED explicitly aimed to create a Mediterranean agroecology network, we believed it was our moral and political duty to ensure that themes of decolonization, social justice, and political responsibility were not marginal—but central.

## Two Assemblies and a Democratic Process: Reclaiming Agroecology as a Political Space



In the months leading up to the AEMED 2025 conference, the Agroecology Europe Youth Network worked collectively to co-create spaces for dialogue, reflection, and political engagement. This preparatory work included the development of [visual materials](#) as well as a shared digital library titled [Knowledge for Liberation: An Agroecological Toolkit for the Mediterranean](#). These efforts laid the groundwork for meaningful encounters during the conference and helped shape a common political horizon.

On June 9, together with sicilian activists and practitioners, we convened a political assembly titled *“For an Agroecological Movement in the Mediterranean Rooted in Solidarity.”* This was not a panel, nor a lecture—it was a horizontal, participatory space to reflect together on the role of the conference, and of agroecology more broadly, in confronting the political and humanitarian catastrophe unfolding in Gaza and the broader colonial landscape of the Mediterranean.

The assembly was widely attended. Participants listened to powerful testimonies from a Palestinian delegation, who spoke of the meaning of doing agroecology under occupation: how access to land, water, and seeds are systematically denied, and how growing food becomes an act of survival and resistance.

In this space, we did not ask whether agroecology should be political—we asked what kind of politics it must carry. This framing shaped the tone and depth of the conversation.

Due to the strength and urgency of this first session, a second assembly was organized the following day. Moderated again by the Youth Network, this session focused on co-writing a collective political statement to be proposed to the conference plenary. It was a moment of remarkable democratic participation, with farmers, organizers, youth, members of the AEMED organizing committee and the Agroecology Europe board all sitting in a shared circle. Each voice contributed to the drafting of the statement.

The result was brought to the final plenary on June 12, where **it was approved by consensus and adopted as an official declaration of the AEMED 2025 conference.**

## **READ THE STATEMENT**

### **From Statement to Strategy: Next Steps for the Youth Network and Agroecology Europe**

The final statement reaffirms the political vision of the Nyéléni Declaration, affirming that a food system rooted in sovereignty and justice cannot coexist with occupation, apartheid, or systemic destruction of land and life. It draws from international legal instruments such as the UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants (UNDROP) and the UN Resolution on the Right to Food—both of which are being systematically violated in Palestine.

Importantly, the term **ecocide** was essential to include in the statement. As an agroecological movement, we must also confront the long-term devastation inflicted by genocide—the destruction of ecosystems, fields, water sources, and resources that, even before, were often denied to communities, and are now being erased by bombs. Agroecology cannot remain silent in the face of such annihilation.

*“Agroecology is not only a method of farming—it is a cosmivision. A path of resistance, repair, and return. For Palestine, and for all peoples struggling for freedom, it must remain a tool of collective liberation.”*



This experience demonstrated that decolonial agroecology is not a side issue, nor an abstract concern—it is central to the Mediterranean context and to the credibility of the agroecology movement in Europe. **It also revealed that it is possible to build a cohesive and political agroecological movement in Europe, one that does not shy away from naming injustice.**

But youth cannot do this alone. They need backing from the broader movement - material, institutional, and intergenerational. This solidarity was clearly demonstrated during the General Assembly of Agroecology Europe held on the 23rd of June, where the contributions and engagement of board members in Agrigento were formally acknowledged. **The assembly agreed to the development of a Position Paper on Decolonial Agroecology and committed to organizing a dedicated space at the upcoming Malmö Forum** to co-create a long-term strategy for Agroecology Europe. This strategy will ensure that decolonial values are embedded in all our actions moving forward.

## **Policy Recommendations: Embedding Decolonial Agroecology into EU and Mediterranean Frameworks**

To move from declarations to transformation, we urge Agroecology Europe, its institutional partners, and allied movements to advance **concrete policy recommendations** aligned with the spirit of the AEMED 2025 Declaration and the principles of decolonial agroecology:

- **Adopt a binding decolonial framework** within EU-funded agroecological programmes, ensuring that all projects explicitly address power asymmetries, historical injustices, and political exclusion - particularly of peasants, Indigenous peoples, and migrants.
- **Redirect agricultural and research funding** toward communities practicing agroecology under occupation, apartheid, or post-colonial marginalization—starting with urgent support for peasant movements in Palestine and migrant farmworkers across Europe.
- **Integrate UNDROP and the Right to Food** into CAP conditionality and national rural development plans, ensuring legal accountability for violations—including land grabbing, seed monopolies, and corporate water control.
- **Ban EU investment and public procurement** in agri-food companies complicit in settler colonialism, environmental racism, or military occupation - including those profiting from food system destruction in Gaza.
- **Support youth-led and migrant-led agroecology initiatives** with direct access to land, funding, and decision-making spaces. This includes

simplifying access to CAP schemes, LEADER funds, and agroecological transition programmes.

*Ceasefire now. End the genocide. Food sovereignty for Palestine. And for all the people.*

## 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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