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The renewed FAO Agroecology Digest presents a round-up of news, research publications, stories from the field, multimedia materials (and much more) from around the world.

Browse the [database](#) for up-to-date resources and share additional resources and feedback by writing to agroecology@fao.org

InFocus: Farmers' Protest Around Europe

Analysis: How do the EU farmer protests relate to climate change?

This brief article analyses the key demands from farmer groups in 12 European countries to determine how they are related to greenhouse gas emissions, climate change, biodiversity or conservation.

Farmers and civil society mobilise again in Brussels after Von der Leyen and Clarinval fail to listen

The statement by Via Campesina Europe highlights that despite the large-scale mobilizations across Europe and clear political demands to protect farmers' incomes, European policymakers have failed to take appropriate action to address these concerns.

Echoes of Discontent: Understanding the European Farmers' Protests

This protest analysis traces the roots of the current wave of farmer protest, and outlines some opportunities for farming in an ecological transition.

Slow Food goes to Brussels: Farmers protests: What are they really about?

This podcast challenges the narrative of the protests as a fight between farmers and the environment, digging into root causes and offering solutions to find common ground.

Blame the System, Not the Farmers

This article frames the farmer protests as a systemic crisis of the dominant agricultural model that has failed farmers and the planet.

Farmer Protests: The Wrong U-Turn

This article analysis sees farmer protests as a global expression of disillusionment with a system that prioritises profit and global competition over people. It highlights important debates about regulation, fair prices, trade agreements, and the future of our food.

Agroecology is the only way forward

This article argues that the most viable way to move towards a food system transformation is based on sustainable agriculture that is rooted in agroecological principles.



GERMINATE!

an exclusive column featuring the perspective, insights & innovations of leading agroecology & food systems experts & practitioners

National Agroecology Strategies for Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation: Spotlight on Zambia

There is real momentum in Eastern and Southern Africa to develop National Agroecology Strategies (NAS) and policies to support agroecological transitions in these regions. This piece by PELUM Zambia and Biovision tells the story of Zambia, where the ongoing consequences of climate change have led to an alliance between agroecology advocates and the national climate movement. They have joined forces to steer government action against climate change and its consequences through the development of a NAS for Zambia.

© PELUM Zambia



How ducks aid sustainable rice cultivation

This blog post article examines and explains the agroecology method, the implementation, and how the success of Aigamo has influenced farmers worldwide.

LAOS: Taking the Homegrown Way to Self-Reliance in Food

This article depicts the stories of farmers in Laos with their homegrown initiatives which aim at a more balanced way of living— where people live with the natural world, instead of just taking from it, in ways that align with social and economic realities while generating income.

A New Way of Farming at Kasisi Agricultural Training Centre

This video depicts how the Kasisi community craves a unique path through agriculture methods that both respond to climate change and return a profit to small-scale farmers.

Example of an agroforestry farm in the Sahel

This video looks at agroforestry in the Sahel region and its benefits. It highlights several benefits of incorporating trees into crop fields, including increasing yields by 100-800% in arid regions like the Sahel. The video further focuses on a specific farm where various agroforestry practices are being implemented.



Sowing Change, Growing Together, Creating a Resilient Food Future- Synthesis report of the 2023 Agroecology Europe forum converging movements for resilient food systems

This report serves as the representative and meaningful portrayal of collective understanding and vision co-created by diverse participants of the 2023 Agroecology Forum.

Pre-Pesticides, Pro-Farmer: The Rise of Agroecology

This article recalls how a farmer-led network in collaboration with scientists and others called MASIPAG (Magsasaka at Siyentipiko para sa Pag-unlad ng Agrikultura) bred dozens of native rice plants, over several decades, to be more resistant to drought, saltwater, pests and diseases. MASIPAG then trained many of the 30,000 farmers in its network on how to grow these more resilient varieties using organic cultivation methods.

Advantages of agroforestry in the Sahel

This video highlights the benefits of agroforestry in the Sahel and explains how trees and shrubs can improve soil health and increase crop yields



Impact of participatory guarantee systems on sustainability outcomes: the case of vegetable farming in Vietnam

Building on the existing literature on the impact of sustainability standards, this study is the first to assess the effectiveness of participatory guarantee systems (PGS) for the certification of organic produce.

The socio-economic performance of agroecology. A review

This paper provides new insights by consolidating evidence on the varied socio-economic effects of agroecology across a large number of cases at a global level.

A Mixed Methods Exploration of the Role of Participation in a Nutrition-Sensitive Agroecology Intervention in Rural Tanzania

This journal article sought to describe participation intensity among smallholder farmers in a randomized nutrition-sensitive agroecology study in rural Tanzania.

Agroecological transitions in the mind

While recognizing the need for more comprehensive mindset principles for agroecology, this article proposes, based on the focus on achieving pro-environmental action, that a principle of deliberate building of ecological mindsets be added to the sets of agroecological principles.

Exploring Sustainability Implications of Transitions to Agroecology: a Transdisciplinary Perspective

Successful transitions to agroecology require a shared understanding of the sustainability implications of transitions for food systems. This journal article highlights key factors contributing to the sustainability of transitions to agroecology

Exploring the Impact of Alternate Wetting and Drying and the System of Rice Intensification on Greenhouse Gas Emissions: A Review of Rice Cultivation Practices

This article reviews field studies measuring Green House Gas emissions associated with adopting Alternative Wetland and Drying(AWD) and Systems of Rice Intensification(SRI). The review confirms that both AWD and SRI offer substantial reductions in methane emissions per hectare compared with CRC.



[FAO in the News- Tackling the gender gap is crucial to fight food insecurity and the climate crisis](#)

In this interview, Lauren Phillips, Deputy Director of the Rural Transformation and Gender Equality Division of the FAO, says this gender gap causes billions of dollars of losses among female-headed farming households and widens the income gap among the rural poor.

[Agroecology Leadership Academy – Cultivating Transformation](#)

The Agroecology Leadership Academy aims to bring together a diverse group of people from different backgrounds and skills, also representing gender and youth, with a high level of engagement and willingness to influence and advance agroecological transition processes.

[Webinar Recording: Women, Agroecology and Food System Transformation](#)

This video depicts the conversation with Agroecology Coalition Steering Committee co-chairs Monicah Yator and Madeleine Kaufmann in the run up to International Women's Day.

[How the UN is Holding Back the Sahara Desert](#)

This video pictures the innovative land recovery project in the Northern part of Senegal that is harvesting rainfall, improving food security, and rehabilitating the ecosystem.



Tanzania National Ecological Organic Agriculture Strategy (2023-2030)

The present strategy covers various aspects of ecological organic agriculture in Tanzania and the implementation modalities as well as the monitoring and evaluation .

Outcome Brief: National Agroecology Strategies in Eastern and Southern Africa - Lighthouses for food system transformation

The strategies outlined in this outcome brief have the potential to harness opportunities of a sustainable development of agri-food systems, by upscaling agroecological production practices, developing markets, value chains and consumer demand that can accelerate transition.

Developing holistic assessments of food and agricultural systems: A meta-framework for metrics users

This paper puts forward general steps for developing a holistic agrifood system assessment, as well as principles to guide decision-making at each step of the design process, intended to support metrics users in navigating the jungle of available approaches and selecting something that meets their needs.

Establishing an effective European networks of agroecology living labs: Entry points from a farmland biodiversity perspective

The decision support highlighted in this policy brief can help to fully achieve policy targets related to farmland biodiversity and an agroecological transformation of European farming.

Can agroecology break dependence on synthetic fertilizer?

When it comes to agroecological approaches, the key to productivity lies not in synthetic fertilizer, but in the soil health itself. This article expands on the Agroecology Europe Forum 2023, which brought together some 50 researchers, farmers, and others involved in the agroecology movement.

Transitioning to agroecological food systems: A review of incentives for adoption of agroecological practices and outcomes

Sustainable agricultural practices labeled as “agroecology” have been promoted as one of the possible solutions to current food systems challenges. This scoping review examines incentive mechanisms in agroecology practice adoption and outcomes using a general survey of the literature and a specific case study of incentives in wheat value chains in Ethiopia.



Agroecology in Canada: Cultivating a Sustainable Food Revolution

This article explores the fundamental principles of agroecology, its current state in Canada, and its important connection to sustainable food movements.

Dispelling the nitrogen myth: less nitrogen-based fertilizers for more food security

The dependency of our food system on fossil fuel-based fertilizers has led to a devastating impact on the environment, while 85 to 95 percent of nitrogen applied to the soil is lost. The report calls on industry and governments to develop sound plans for the near future with 50 percent less nitrogen use.

Building agroecological traction: Engaging discourse, the imaginary, and critical praxis for food system transformation

Shifting the current food system toward a more sustainable and equitable model requires an alternative imaginary. This study provides a methodological case study for how interested analysts may build agroecological traction through critical praxis.

The Unjust Climate: Measuring the impacts of climate change on the rural poor, women and youth

We cannot eliminate poverty and end hunger without addressing the impacts of climate change on the livelihoods of marginalized rural people and communities. This report provides, for the first time, concrete evidence from 24 countries on the magnitude of the challenge posed by the climate crisis for rural people in socially and economically vulnerable positions due to their wealth status, gender, and age

Gender and climate-resilient agriculture: A review of concepts and practical resources in support of gender-transformative change

This working paper reviews consolidates and assesses diverse, practical resources—including research tools, methods and broader guidance—that aim to address gender inequalities/inequities, climate and agriculture, albeit to varying degrees.

Advancing the Transformation of Agroecological Food Systems to Achieve Zero Hunger

This policy brief recommends that the G20 prioritizes agroecology as a key approach towards achieving SDG 2, while also promoting and advancing analytical frameworks that can identify synergies, gaps, and trade-offs, and enable convergence and multistakeholder action across the food system. y.



Upcoming Events

AGROMIX Summit: Agroforestry for the Future of European Agriculture April 17 2024, Brussels Belgium

The one-day event will provide a stage for an in-depth exchange between policymakers, farmers and researchers that seeks to explore agroecological solutions for more resilient land use in Europe as well as the development of tools to implement these practices.

Appel à communication – 4ème Conférence Intensification Durable (CID) - Avril 23-25 2024, Dakar Senegal

Lors de cette conférence, de nombreux chercheurs, enseignants-chercheurs, étudiants, experts et professionnels seront réunis pour présenter les derniers résultats scientifiques et échanger sur les défis et les opportunités d'une agriculture durable en Afrique sub-saharienne.

International Agroecology Conference & Exhibition on Community Seed Systems (AECOSS24), April 24-25, Selangor Malaysia

The Agroecology Conference & Exhibition on Community Seed Systems 2024 (AECOSS24) brings together communities, practitioners, farmers, gardeners, and champions of seed saving, sharing and exchanging, in safeguarding traditional knowledge and practices on ecological agrobiodiversity.

Hybrid Event "Agriculture, Biodiversity and Food Security: From Commitments to Actions" April 30-May 2 2024, Quebec City, Canada

This Symposium aims to highlight agriculture as a source of solutions to biodiversity-related challenges and will seek to promote and facilitate the collective commitment of all agricultural stakeholders to the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the transformation of agrifood systems.



Behind the scene

The Agroecology Knowledge Hub is supported and facilitated by a small team of agroecology enthusiasts:

Pierre Ferrand, Agriculture Officer (Agroecology and Ecosystem Services)

As an agronomist, specializing in tropical agronomy and rural development, Pierre has been working for over 18 years in implementing food security, agriculture, and rural development projects in several countries. After over 13 years working with a French NGO (GRET), during which he facilitated the emergence of the Agroecology Learning Alliance in South East Asia (ALiSEA, <https://ali-sea.org>), he joined FAO in December 2018. He spent over 4 years in the regional office for Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok, Thailand, as Agriculture Officer and Regional focal point for Agroecology and the UN Decade of Family Farming. In July 2023, he moved to FAO HQ in Rome, Italy, where he works on agroecology and ecosystem services within the team “Ecosystem Approach to Crop Production Intensification (NSPED)” under the Plant Production and Protection (NSP) Division. His role involves supporting the Agroecology Knowledge Hub, the Agroecology Coalition, the Global Action on Pollination Services for Sustainable Agriculture, and providing technical backstopping to a broad range of field projects.



Pierre



Mayokun

Mayokun Akeremale, Specialist on Agroecology

Mayokun has a background in Organic Agriculture and Food Systems as well as in Data Science, with experience in research, analytics, and information management. She joined the Ecosystems Approach to Sustainable Crop Production Intensification (NSPED) team, under the Plant Production and Protection Division, in 2020 where she supported the collection of data and statistics and/or related policy issues on pulses following World Pulses Day; and now she supports the curation and dissemination of agroecology information on the Agroecology Knowledge Hub within the same team. Before joining the FAO NSPED team in 2020, she had previous experience as a research assistant working on various short-term projects in Sustainable Agriculture and Food systems. She enjoys reading, traveling and surfing the internet.

Faris Ahmed, Agroecology Consultant

Faris has been working in policy, research, knowledge mobilization, and communications for sustainable food systems for over 20 years, mostly with civil society organizations and in support of food movements. He specializes in agroecology and biodiversity, with a strong human rights and governance focus. He has accompanied a dozen organizations (CSOs, foundations, research institutes, and governments) in shaping policy and research agendas, developing program scoping and transition strategies, and crafting compelling narratives. Faris is a member of Cultivate! Collective, a Research Associate at the Laurier Centre for Sustainable Food Systems (Waterloo, Canada), and an advisor to the UNESCO Chair on Biodiversity, Food and Sustainability Studies. Before becoming an independent consultant, Faris held senior positions at SeedChange, the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), and Oxfam (Canada).



Faris