Agroecology for Food Security and Nutrition

1 June 2016
Side Event - 154th Session FAO Council
Background

• Growing need to shift towards more sustainable food systems, producing with more social and economic benefits and less environmental costs.

• In line with such a trend, agroecological practices, supported by research and policies can contribute to enhance sustainability of food and agriculture.
Recognizing the role that Agroecology can play in food security and nutrition, FAO organized the International Symposium in Rome - September 2014

- Multi-stakeholder participation: 400 scientists, food producers, policy makers, farmers’ organizations, private sector and NGO representatives

- Stock taken for evidence base on agroecology: great number of best practices, scientific knowledge and policies
Main Outcomes: International Symposium - 2014

Better understanding of agroecology’s role in:

- the transition towards more sustainable, inclusive and productive food systems (conserving and enhancing biodiversity and ecosystem services)
- ensuring food security and nutrition on the ground (nutrition, diversification of diets and right to healthy food)
- facilitating adaptation to climate change (building more resilient livelihoods)
- combining farmer’s knowledge with science to promote local innovation (context-specific solutions)
Main Outcomes: International Symposium - 2014

Effective work on agroecology needs to address **regional, national and local contexts**

**Regional multi-stakeholders Meetings on Agroecology for FSN**

- Latin America (July 2015 - Brazil)
- Sub-Saharan Africa (November 2015 - Senegal)
- Asia and the Pacific (November 2015 - Thailand)
- Europe *(November 2016)*
Common recommendations: Intl. and Regional Symposia

1. Create enabling environment for agroecology *(public policies, legal frameworks, and regulations)*

2. Promote social innovation with participatory approach for agroecology in agricultural research, development and extension services *(regional and national inter-sectoral and multi-disciplinary innovation platforms)*

3. Increase public investment in agroecology
   - applied agroecological research, data collection and statistics
   - agricultural programs enabling transition to agroecology
   - targeting agroecological producers, food systems and markets

4. Recognize and promote the role of family farmers - in particular rural women and youth’s rights and equity- in sustainable development through agroecology *(guardians and managers of biodiversity, genetic and natural resources)*
Main Outcomes Regional Symposia - 2015

Common recommendations across regions

1. Ensure family farmers’ access to natural resources through agroecology (including land, water, genetic resources, oceans, forests, commons, biodiversity and territories).

2. Ensure family farmers’ access to markets and link production to consumption
   - create and strengthen local social markets and cooperatives
   - advocate on nutritional value of agroecological products
   - public procurement policies oriented to agroecological local products
   - empower women and youth through increased employment and income

3. Recognize the potential of agroecology to ensure adaptation/resilience to climate change
   - agroecology integrated into climate change responses
   - increase applied research and data on agroecology’s role in resilience
   - ensure selection of crop varieties and species, animal breeds and trees is done at local level

4. Promote inter-sectoral partnerships and South-South Cooperation on agroecology
   - participatory exchange of experiences and knowledge across territories, countries and regions
   - engage academia and researchers, governments and CSOs
Global level

- Agroecology is based on 3 pillars of sustainable development, within FAO’s strategic framework and new SDGs

- Within SP2, contributing to:
  - Ecosystem Services and Biodiversity
  - Efficient Resource Use
  - Sustainable Food and Agriculture (SP3, SP4, SP5)

Regional level

- Outcomes of Regional Symposia included in FAO Regional Conferences (Info Notes)

- Agroecology included in regional priorities for next biennium (Asia and RLC)
Agroecology in FAO 2016 – Institutional Framework

Upcoming meetings

- Following request of interested countries and regions, FAO continues to facilitate multi-stakeholder Seminars and Symposia on Agroecology for FSN and sustainable agriculture. Focus is given to national and regional policies, frameworks and regulations.

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<th>Upcoming Meetings</th>
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<td>International Symposium on Agroecology for Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems - China (28 -31 August 2016)</td>
<td>FAO Regional Seminar on Agroecology for FSN Hungary (November 2016)</td>
<td><strong>CELAC</strong> with support of FAO will convene the “II Regional Meeting on Agroecology” to follow up on recommendations, in the framework of sustainable agriculture (TBC)</td>
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**CELAC**
Agroecology in FAO 2016 – Technical activities

- **Agroecology Knowledge Platform**
  - Collection and dissemination of evidence base *(practices and scientific knowledge)*
  - Collection and dissemination of agroecology-related policies in FAOLEX
  - Strengthening collaborations with different stakeholders

- **Agroecology approaches incorporated into Farmer Field School projects in selected countries** *(Angola, Burkina Faso, Mali, Mozambique)*

- **Capacity building activities at national levels** *(Burkina Faso, Mozambique)*
FAO stands ready to work with governments and all stakeholders at all levels in facilitating inter-disciplinary agroecological transitions towards a sustainable agriculture in the framework of its Strategic Framework and the SDGs.
THANK YOU!

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