



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

Regional Symposium on Agroecology for Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems in Europe and Central 23-25 November 2016





Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

Context: FAO process on Agroecology 2014 - 2016

A **multi-stakeholder** process gathering scientists, food producers, policy makers, CSOs, farmers' organizations, private sector and relevant partners, to collect evidence on **policies, practices and science**

**International Symposium on Agroecology
for Food Security and Nutrition (Sept. 2014)**

**I Regional Seminar
Europe and Central Asia (Nov 2016)**

**I & II Regional Seminar
Latin America & Cab (June 2015 & Sept 2016)**

**I & II Regional Seminar
Asia (Nov 2015 & Sept 2016)**

**I & II Regional Seminar
Sub-Saharan Africa (Nov. 2015 & Nov 2016)**

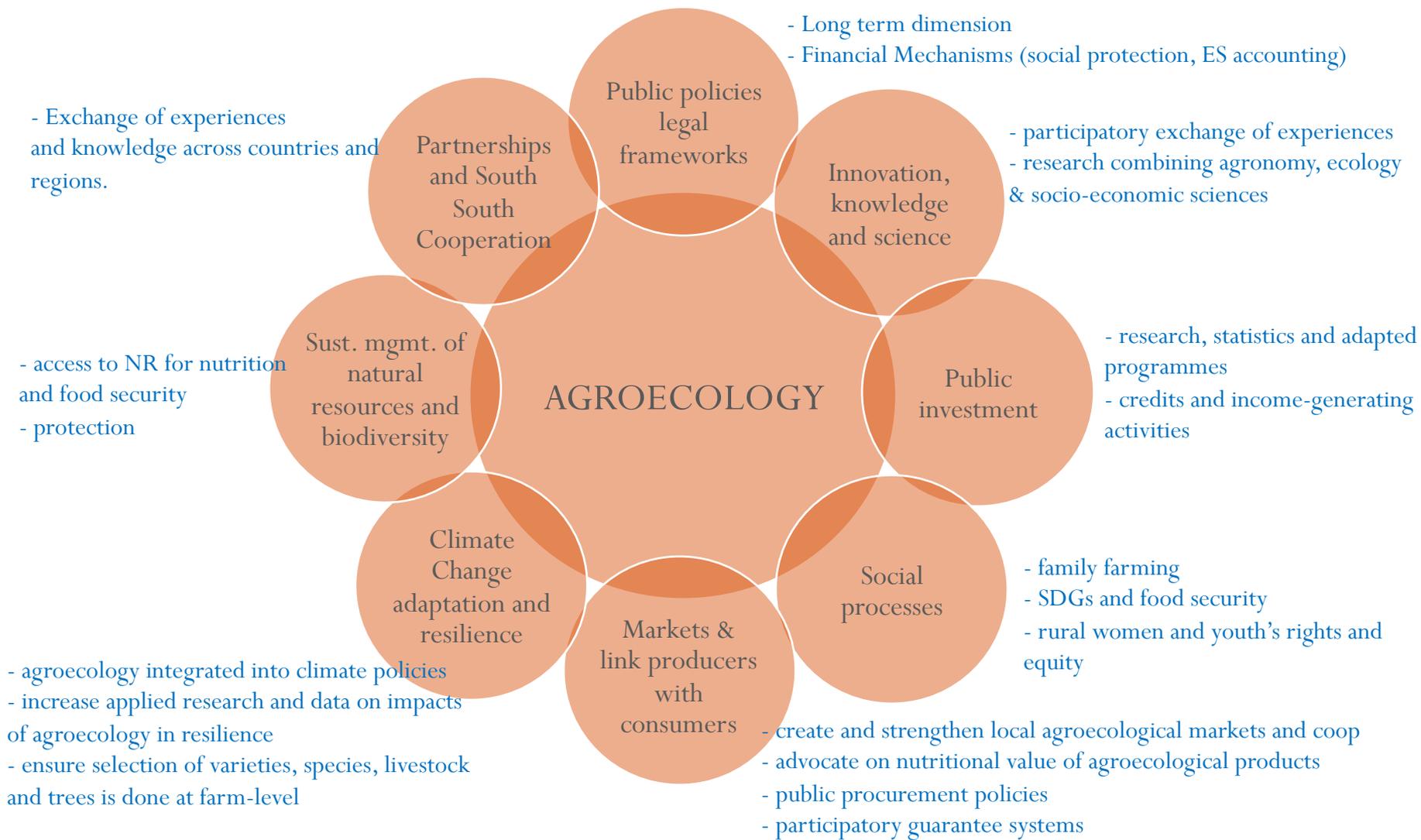




Main Outcomes

Regional Meetings - 2015 2016

Common recommendations across regions





Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

Regional Symposium on Agroecology in Europe and Central Asia

Context

- More than 180 participants from 41 countries representing governments, civil society, research and the private sector
- Jointly organized by the Government of Hungary and FAO, and sponsored by the Government of France
- 6 thematic areas:
 1. Concepts and challenges of agroecology
 2. Agroecological systems and practices
 3. Research, innovation and knowledge sharing for agroecological transitions
 4. Agroecology at the core of ecosystem services-ecological and social challenges
 5. Valuing agroecology and sustainable food systems
 6. Transformative policies and processes



Recommendations

- The 37 recommendations are organized into the following themes:
 - **Public policies** to develop agroecology and promote transition
 - Agroecology and **sustainable food systems**
 - Agroecology and **natural resources** in a changing climate: water, land, biodiversity and territories
 - **Research**, innovation, knowledge sharing and agroecological movements



Public policies to develop agroecology and promote transition

- Data on **jobs** in agroecology
- Develop policies to help farmers make the **transition** to agroecological farming systems in the Common Agricultural Policy (**CAP**)
- Establish **Food Policy Councils** at local, regional and national level
- FAO should work with ILO to ensure **decent rural employment** opportunities
- Support the process on the Declaration on the **Rights of Peasants** and other People Working in Rural Areas, currently negotiated in the United Nations Human Rights Council
- Improve knowledge on policies that **disincentivise** agroecology (e.g. True Costing)



Agroecology and sustainable food systems

- Facilitate a shift from linear food systems to **circular** ones (e.g. through sustainable water and waste management systems)
- Enhance **public procurement** based on short and local supply chain principles that provide fresh, nutritious, affordable food
- Improve **short supply chains** which favour small-scale producers, such as direct marketing and value adding, peasant markets, micro-dairy, Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) initiatives and Participatory Guarantee System (PGS), collective local food processing units
- Support **sanitary rules** for proximity markets which are adapted to the conditions of local markets



Agroecology and natural resources in a changing climate: water, land, biodiversity and territories

- Promote knowledge on potential of agroecology in adapting, mitigating and reversing **climate change**
- Promote **territorial approaches** to agroecology
- Study options for **better integration** of aquaculture, pastoralism, livestock and crop systems within territories in order to recycle resources
- Develop agroecological practices for **aquaculture** and fish pond systems
- Develop **national and regional plans** for agroecological pathways to sustainable food systems and natural resource management
- Uphold small-scale food producers' **rights** to land, water, seeds, inland and coastal waters, forests, commons, biodiversity and territory
- Participatory development of **criteria for assessing and valuing** agroecological systems and sustainable food systems



Research, innovation, knowledge sharing and agroecological movements

- Favour **interdisciplinary research** better connecting agricultural, ecological and social sciences
- Redesign educational programs to integrate agroecology in the **curriculum** of non-formal and formal education
- Support **knowledge exchange**, in particular between food producers
- Adapt advisory and **extension** services to agroecology
- Recognise, value, support and document **ancestral knowledge and modern innovations**, traditions, pastoralists and peasants' local wisdom
- Ensure that innovations and the products of research remain in the **public and collective domains**
- Document impacts of agroecology on **farm income, productivity and livelihoods** of farmers



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

Outcomes of the Regional Symposium on Agroecology in Europe and Central Asia

Research, innovation, knowledge sharing and agroecological movements

- Develop better data on the evidence base on externalities like **social and environmental costs and benefits** of agroecological systems
- Allocate more **funds for public research** in agroecology
- Facilitate changes in **research organisations** (incentives and rewards, ways of working and the training of scientists and professionals)
- Enable farmers and citizens' participation in research including in the **governance of research**: setting upstream research priorities, the allocation of funds, and participation in production of knowledge and in risk assessments
- **Strengthen farmers networks for research** and give farmers and citizens enough material security and paid time to engage in and participate in the whole research cycle, including in the evaluation of research programs and institutes
- Recognize and strengthen **farmer seed and livestock systems**
- Promote research on the **institutional processes and governance** of agroecology.



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

Outcomes of the Regional Symposium on Agroecology in Europe and Central Asia

Research, innovation, knowledge sharing and agroecological movements

- **Organic** agriculture is largely rooted in agroecological approaches, both in principles and actual practices
- Consider Agroecology and organic farming in their **synergies** and co-evolution



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

THANK YOU

www.fao.org/agroecology