

Agroecology Knowledge Hub Digest

July 2025



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

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In Focus

Mediterranean Agroecology

What is transformative in participatory approaches to territorial agroecological transitions? A systematization of five case studies in Spain

Across Spain, farmers and communities are teaming up to rethink agriculture—proving that local collaboration and agroecology can reshape entire regions.

Agroecological strategies for innovation and sustainability of agriculture production in the climate change context: a comparative analysis between California and Italy

This mini-review explores climate change impacts on agriculture through an innovative approach that seeks to compare possible response strategies in two distant regions, California and Italy.

1st Mediterranean Agroecology Congress (AEMED 2025)

The 1st Mediterranean Agroecology Congress, 2025 united voices from 23 Mediterranean countries in Sicily & offered a unique opportunity among researchers, farmers, associations, and technical experts to dialogue on agroecological and agroforestry practices, as well as technical-political roundtables

The II Italian Agroforestry Forum at AEMED 2025 in Sicily

At AEMED 2025 in Sicily, over 400 experts from 28 countries converged to spotlight agroforestry as a key to a resilient Mediterranean future.

Andrea Abad Bartolome: Terra Viva Ibiza

For Andrea Abad Bartolome, understanding that everything is connected is one of the biggest mindset shifts for healing the land & reconnecting farming with nature's web.

Agroecology for Europe Hub: facilitating exchanges in Agroecology sciences, movements and practices

This growing network aims to connect researchers, farmers, and policymakers to facilitate exchanges in the Europe-wide network of agroecology organizations through science, practice, and shared learning.



In Focus

Mediterranean Agroecology

Recognizing diversity to enable an agroecological transition: understanding the potential of family farmers in Portugal

The findings in this study highlight the need for targeted policy frameworks that recognize farm diversity and promote multiple pathways toward agroecology.

North African Transition to Agroecology (NATAE) project

Across North Africa, living labs are emerging as powerful tools to unlock locally rooted agroecological solutions—bridging tradition, science, and community for climate-resilient food futures.

Characterizing Agroecology in North Africa, a Review of 88 Sustainable Agriculture Projects

An analysis of 88 projects reveals how agroecology in North Africa is taking shape—blending shared practices with regional diversity, and gradually scaling from individual farms to entire territories.

From the Mediterranean to Europe: Centering Justice and Decolonization in Agroecology

The piece calls for centering justice and decolonization in agroecology—elevating indigenous voices, reshaping power dynamics in knowledge systems, and building more equitable food futures across Europe and the Mediterranean.

Flowering areas enhance insect pollinators and biological control agents in wheat intensive agro-ecosystems

By clustering 40 Portuguese family farms into 'conventional,' 'proto-agroecological,' and 'agroecological' types, this study shows how recognizing farm diversity is vital to designing context-sensitive policies that drive agroecological transition.

Germinate!

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



"AEMED 2025: Agrigento hosts the Mediterranean agroecology community"

AEMED 2025 marked a turning point, charting a course for the future of agri-food policies and sustainable development in the Mediterranean. While it is true that the Mediterranean is a hotspot of climate, political and social vulnerability, it is equally true that, as emerged from the congress, it can become a laboratory for innovation and cooperation.

As was emphasised during the closing of AEMED, "agroecology is not a single recipe or an immediate solution, but a collective process of transformation that combines science, practices, movements and visions of the future. A process that needs alliances, dialogue and political courage".

The Agrigento congress sent a clear message: the agroecological transition is already underway and the Mediterranean can play a leading role, if investment is made in building communities of practice, training new generations and public policies that value the role of farmers as custodians of the land and agents of change.

Read the full article [here](#) in Italian & English.



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Germinate!

Voice from the ground



Resources on health and agroecology

Find here a selection of recent reports, toolkits, manifestos, methodological frameworks, websites, films and webinars focused on policy for agroecology from partners around the world.

Grassroots evidence for Agroecology

This report demonstrates how community-driven, participatory evidence-gathering empowers grassroots agroecology groups to shape their own impact stories—and redefines what counts as valid agroecology evidence.

Foster Farm Rosières, an Ethical and Sustainable Ecosystem in Wallonia: Meet the First Slow Food Farm in Belgium

In the hills of Wallonia, Foster Farm Rosières is growing more than food—it's cultivating a thriving, ethical ecosystem rooted in agroecology, craft, and community.

Resurrecting dead soils: “BOOST”-ing production in Kenya by digging into the causes of farming problems

In Kenya, the 'BOOST' initiative is reviving 'dying' soils with agroecological training and organic practices—transforming barren gardens into thriving farms and empowering farmers to heal their land.

Malawi Growth Poles Project

This project blends agroecology principles with permaculture and resilient design to improves relations with the environment and explores agroecology as a powerful path to both mitigating and adapting to climate change.

Partner Impact: Sahel Eco Empowering Farmers and Driving Agroecology in Mali

Working closely with local communities, they supported efforts to restore degraded land, strengthen food sovereignty, create spaces for women to lead powerful initiatives, and offer young people tangible, hopeful alternatives for a more secure future in Mali.



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In the News



Catch up on impactful stories from the 2nd Eastern Africa Agroecology Conference, women's and youth side events

First quarter newsletter, from PELUM, spotlights powerful updates from the 2nd Eastern Africa Agroecology Conference—featuring women and youth leadership initiatives, cross-country learning, and actionable momentum for smallholder resilience.

Celebrating Agroecological Achievements: Dei Meas rewarded agroecological farmers

The Dei Meas initiative exemplifies the potential of conservation agriculture to enhance soil health, sequester carbon, and promote biodiversity while empowering farmers, in Cambodia

The first edition of Terra Madre Europe concludes with a powerful call to action for European Institutions

The inaugural edition of Terra Madre Europe has come to a close, issuing a strong and clear message to European institutions currently shaping the next seven-year budget: the agroecological transition must be a top priority.

Raising the bar on Vietnam's agriculture, 1975-2025 and beyond

Vietnam's Government decision to put agriculture on a 'greener' growth trajectory can ensure that intensification does not come at the expense of people, climate, or the planet.

From fertiliser-centric to holistic soil health investment – Africa's policy shift and pathways to agroecological transformation

This article gives account on how food and nutrition security in Africa is undergoing a fundamental policy shift away from input subsidies and towards soil health and socio-ecological resilience

Reclaiming Energy and Food Sovereignty Through Agroecology

The article argues that true food sovereignty in Africa depends on energy sovereignty—calling for community-led, regenerative energy alongside agroecology so farmers can power their lives with dignity, not dependency.



In the News



Agroecological Farming Boosts Soil and Biodiversity – But Economic Barriers Remain

Study of 17 English farms finds nature-friendly practices can support yields, but only modest schemes are financially viable without subsidies.

It's time to get territorial – for food security, jobs, and the environment

To transform the food production chain, strengthening more territorialised food systems is one proposed solution.

Stop the Poison, Support the Seed: Faith Leaders, Civil Society Organisations and Farmers Call for Justice in Africa-Europe

Agricultural Relations

As the AU and EU deliberate behind closed doors, farmers, faith leaders, and civil society are making one thing clear: Africa deserves food systems rooted in dignity – not dependency and toxicity.

Joining forces for agrifood systems transformation: highlights of the 5th Global Conference of the One Planet Network Sustainable Food Systems Programme

Discussions during this conference emphasized the importance of democratizing food systems decision-making by ensuring diverse voices are included throughout the entire process – from identifying needs and conducting consultations to policy design, implementation, and monitoring, evaluation and learning.

Multifunctional Landscapes that reconcile food production, with ecosystem restoration and biodiversity conservation

Across several countries in Africa and Asia, the CGIAR Multifunctional Landscapes Science program is helping farming communities conserve and use local crop and tree diversity to improve diets, incomes, and climate resilience.

True Cost Accounting Comes of Age in Rome

This article details the groundbreaking Summit that united global leaders to identify priority actions for scaling True Cost Accounting and transforming food systems by 2030.

Enhancing Policy Coherence Towards Delivering Healthy Diets Through Agroecological Practices: A Global Call for Integrated Action

At Nutrition Week in Rome, leaders from around the world made a clear call: it's time to align food, climate, and health policies by putting agroecology at the center.



From the Research World

How sustainability certification works for smallholder farmers across different crops

Using data from 357 households in Ghana, this study examined smallholders' experiences with Fairtrade certification across four different crops: cocoa, pineapples, oranges, and cashews

Key narratives around agroecological transitions. A systematic literature review of the current debate

This review paper shows that mobilizing the debate to enable agroecological transitions requires an integrative approach underscored by knowledge co-creation and collective learning.

Certification in local food value chains: panel data evidence from the vegetable sector in Vietnam

This study investigates the inclusiveness and effects of two local certification schemes for vegetable farmers supplying to Hanoi in Vietnam: VietGAP, a simplified version of GlobalGAP certified by a private third-party body, and a participatory guarantee system (PGS).

Philanthropic Funding for Agroecology in Europe – Opening the (black) box of sustainable food system actors

This study is the first to aim to understand the landscape of foundations supporting an agroecological transition in Europe and opening the "black box" through desk research, an online questionnaire and semi-structured interviews.

Business Ideology: A Key Driver for Scaling Up Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems in Africa

This paper explores how business ideology can be used to scale up agroecology and sustainable food systems through mindset change on the African continent.

Policy Brief & Report

Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Nexus Assessment: Summary for Policymakers

This report addresses the complex and interconnected character of the crises and challenges of biodiversity loss, water availability and quality, food insecurity, health risks and climate change by providing a critical evaluation of evidence on interlinkages among these five “nexus elements”

MetKasekor case study 2024

This report documents the impact evaluation of the Innovation for Sustainable Agriculture project, highlighting the transformative benefits of Conservation Agriculture practices for smallholder farmers in Cambodia.

Unlocking Climate Resilience: Are agroecological, animal-friendly systems the key?

Transformative action is needed to address the systemic drivers of all livestock-related emissions. Efforts to reduce methane emissions must be situated within a comprehensive, holistic approach to the broader complexity of greenhouse gas emissions arising from the livestock sector.

Policy brief, Agroecology and Livestock: About Feeds, Breeds, and Land

This policy brief shows the diversity of agroecological solutions VSF-Suisse applies to address common challenges in livestock farming.

Outcome document of the 5th Global Conference of One Planet Network's sustainable food systems programme

Overcoming the barriers to food systems transformation requires coherent policies and equity-sensitive solutions to simultaneously fight hunger and malnutrition, biodiversity loss and the climate crisis.

Multimedia & Learning



YouTube Video | How can we change our food systems? Moving from low cost to true cost

How much do we really pay for what we eat? While cheap and abundant food might be the norm, a low price tag actually comes with very heavy costs.

Knowledge Product | Agroecology in action: solution from Indonesian peasants to food and climate crises (SPI, Indonesia)

Indonesian peasant farmers in this video demonstrate how grassroots agroecology—rooted in local knowledge and community solidarity—can power resilient food systems from the ground up.

Webinar recording| “Agroecology Finance Assessment and Tracking Tool”

This webinar presents an upgraded Finance Assessment & Tracking Tool—featuring dashboards and portfolio-level insights—to help institutions transparently assess agroecology investments aligned with all 13 principles.

Audio | Can we feed everyone?

This recording explores questions from listeners in Kenya and around the world on the possibility of restoring natural habitats whilst promoting food security and touches on why human waste isn't used more commonly as a fertiliser, and what impact empowering women in agriculture will have on the ability to feed the world.

Learning Opportunity: Agroecology and Organic Agriculture Leadership Course - Kenya

This nine-month hybrid leadership course aims to empower current and future change-makers with practical agroecological knowledge, facilitation skills, and strategic leadership tools to drive inclusive, resilient food-system transitions.

Youtube Video | Roots of Resilience: How Agroecology boosts Biodiversity

Meet some of the farmers and researchers across Europe who are changing the way they farm to better support biodiversity, mitigate against climate change and provide a food and farming system that supports people and the planet.



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Explore agroecology in other languages

Intégration de l'agroécologie dans les contributions déterminées au niveau national (CDN) et les plans nationaux d'adaptation (PAN) en Afrique

L'urgence de la crise climatique exige que nous agissions maintenant pour faire de l'agroécologie la voie vers un avenir durable et résilient au climat pour l'Afrique.

Guide de capitalisation des bonnes pratiques agroécologiques

Ce document recueille les bonnes pratiques agroécologiques, d'ordre technique, organisationnel ou financier, issues de projets de terrain mis en œuvre dans les 15 États membres de la CEDEAO, et met en avant les enseignements transversaux qui peuvent inspirer de nouvelles initiatives.

Policy Brief| Rapport sur la prospective «AgroEco2050-Sénégal» Analyse prospective de l'agriculture sénégalaise en 2050: agro-industrie versus agroécologie?

Le rapport vise à alimenter la réflexion stratégique sur les futurs possibles de l'agriculture sénégalaise, en apportant des éléments concrets pour orienter les politiques publiques et les choix collectifs.

Audio| Remettre les plantes méconnues au centre des systèmes alimentaires au Sahel

SOS Sahel remet à l'honneur des plantes oubliées comme le fonio, le sorgho ou le mil – des cultures résilientes et nutritives au cœur d'une relance durable des systèmes alimentaires au Sahel.

Video| ¿Jóvenes que aplican la agroecología en Cuba?

Este video comparte la experiencia de jóvenes agroecólogos en Cuba que están impulsando el cambio para hacer más viable el camino para las generaciones futuras ante las crisis medioambientales.

In the News | El Congreso de Salud Socioambiental y Rosario como capital de la ciencia digna

El VIII Congreso de Salud Socioambiental ratificó la vigencia de un espacio de referencia latinoamericano para la ciencia crítica, donde confluyen investigadores, organizaciones sociales y asambleas ambientales.



Behind the Scenes

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