Towards healthy and sustainable food systems:

Agroecology, soils and healthy diets

Monday 24 July 2023, 13:30 - 14:25 (CET) – Ethiopia Room

Background

Food systems are responsible for 30% of greenhouse gas emissions, 80% of deforestation, 70% of freshwater use, and the single greatest cause of terrestrial biodiversity loss and land degradation. Despite having sufficient food to feed 10 billion people with over 13% of food lost and 17% wasted each year, many cannot afford healthy diets. Additionally, only 30 crops provide 95% of human food energy needs.

With over one-third of the Earth’s surface being degraded, the ecosystems’ ability to produce healthy and nutritious food is limited. A powerful lever, agroecology provides sustainable solutions to issues of soil degradation, climate, biodiversity, food security and nutrition, including precarious livelihoods and social inequalities, faced by farmers and food system workers.

Understanding linkages across health, nutrition and environmental sustainability highlights opportunities for collaboration and generating knowledge to call for action to invest in agroecology, soil, nature and people in transforming food systems.

Objectives

● To better understand linkages between healthy soil and healthy food and the role of agroecological approaches and bio-circular economy in producing food that is healthy for both the people and the planet.

● To inspire actors to take aligned actions, strategies and policies that embrace integrated approaches and leverage synergies.

Expected outcomes

The session will feature experiences, best practices and country approaches aiming at protecting nature, preserving the richness of biodiversity and restoring degraded land and ecosystems, while producing diversified, nutritious and culturally appropriate foods towards healthy diets. Ensuing discussion will focus on ways of implementing and amplifying such approaches at scale.

Recommendations coming out of this session will be documented and studied by the coalitions involved, as a take-off point for future collaboration. The session will call for a holistic systems approach for transformation from farm to fork.

Interpretation available: EN/ FR / ES


Moderators

Oliver Oliveros,
Agroecology Coalition

Nancy Aburto,
Deputy Director
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Panellists

Phrang Roy
Coordinator
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Patrizia Fracassi
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Leigh Ann Winowiecki
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Food is Never Waste Coalition
Member of the Managing Board Rabobank Group

Fernanda Machiaveli
Min. of Agrarian Development and Family Agriculture (Brazil)

Ms. Irish Baguilat
Coordinator for UN Decade of Family Farming and Women Farmers’ Agenda at the Asian Farmers’ Association

Amadou Oury Diallo
Technical Advisor at the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation (Senegal)

Madeleine Kaufmann
Senior Policy Advisor at the Swiss Federal Office for Agriculture (Switzerland)

Cem Özdemir
Federal Minister for food and Agriculture (Germany)

Mariam Bint Mohammed Saeed Hareb Almheiri
Minister of Climate Change and Environment, (United Arab Emirates)

Programme

13:30 Introduction and setting the scene: Agroecology as a lever to address food system transformation.

13:40 Presentation Biodiversity-climate nutrition nexus, followed by reactions.

13:55 Country-level experiences (Brazil, Norway, Senegal, Switzerland, Turkiye) followed by reactions and reflections.

14:10 Quick reactions from the audience

14:20 Reflections

14:25 Looking towards COP28