

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**.

Moderators

Oliver Oliveros,

Agroecology Coalition

Nancy Aburto,

Deputy Director

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Panellists

Phrang Roy

Coordinator

Indigenous Partnership for Agrobiodiversity and Food Sovereignty

Patrizia Fracassi

Senior Nutrition and Food Systems Officer

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Leigh Ann Winowiecki

Soil and Land Health Research Lead at

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Coalition of Action 4 Soil Health, CA4SH

Berry Marttin

Food is Never Waste Coalition

Member of the Managing Board Rabobank

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Fernanda Machiaveli

Min. of Agrarian Development and Family Agriculture (Brazil)

Ms. Irish Baguilat

Coordinator for UN Decade of Family Farming

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Amadou Oury Diallo

Technical Advisor at the Ministry of Higher

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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**