

# SCALING UP AGROECOLOGY TO ACHIEVE THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

## 2<sup>ND</sup> FAO INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON AGROECOLOGY

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From 3 to 5 April 2018 FAO has hosted the [2nd International Symposium on Agroecology: Scaling-up Agroecology to achieve the \(SDGs\)](#).

Building on the first Symposium and the subsequent regional workshops, the Symposium on Agroecology focused the transition of Agroecology from dialogue to action, by sharing ideas and experiences, while discussing policies and actions that can support agroecology in achieving the SDGs and accompany the decade of Family Farming (2019-2028) and the Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016-2025).

About 400 participants were attended, from policy-makers and governments, agroecology practitioners and civil society representatives, to members from academia and research, the private sector and representatives from the regional meetings. Even with it almost 700 were the effective participants and plenary rooms have been changed at the last minute to make space to all participants.

Key elements and actions to support scaling up agroecology have been intensively discussed as the multiple benefits of agroecology are an important path for meeting the [2030 Agenda objectives](#) and addressing the interlinked challenges.

The [key facts](#) underpinning the big advantages of agroecology are summarized in the FAO website:

- Agroecology relies on ecosystem services to improve productivity.
- The knowledge and practices of farmers and food producers from all over the world are at the core of agroecology.
- Agroecology can address the root causes of hunger, poverty and inequality.
- Agroecology combines farmers' knowledge with modern science in innovative ways.
- Agroecology provides local solutions for global challenges.
- Agroecology relies on the interactions between



plants, animals, humans and the environment, to build sustainable and fair food systems.

- Agroecological approaches are vital for the challenges we face today and tomorrow.
- Agroecology uses fewer external resources, reducing costs and negative environmental impacts.
- Sharing and creating knowledge among food producers is at the heart of agroecology.

In a public side event donors and strategic funders have explored opportunities to coordinate efforts and collaborate in accelerating transition to agroecological food systems. A High Level Panel on the Future of Agroecology has also been held at the presence of the Ministries of Environment of Angola and Burkina Faso, of Agriculture of France, Hungary and with the Ambassadors and Permanent Representative of China, Iran, and the Archbishop of Holy See.

An exhibition of knowledge sharing and innovations in agro-ecology from around the world was displayed at the Symposium showing the multiple local possibilities useful to drive the change towards agro-ecology. Main features of the innovations displayed were promoting not only technologies but also practices that facilitate innovative territorial processes for a sustainable agriculture, those which combine farmers' knowledge with modern science in innovative ways.

At the end of the event the Symposium has launched the [Scaling-Up Initiative](#) of agro-ecology which aims to encourage more inclusive and holistic agro-ecology transition processes through tools, knowledge and policy processes for transformation of food and agricultural systems.

At the symposium it has also been highlighted the importance of the territorial dimension, presenting the [Territorial Bio-districts](#) as an example of agroecological practice for inclusive territorial development. During 2017 Bio-districts have been recognized by FAO as a good practice implementing a functional agro bio-diversity of the territories by building on the consumer-producer mutual confidence, able to protect and enhance agrobiodiversity together with its ecosystem services. In these territories, integrated practices, co-sharing of knowledge and research and technological development, supported by coherent cross-sectoral policies are proposed among all actors and jointly put in place.

## To know more

[2nd International Symposium on Agroecology](#)

[Introduction by the FAO General Director](#)



[News in FAO website](#)

[Scaling-up Agroecology Initiative](#)

[The agroecology knowledge hub](#)

[Outcomes of the FAO Regional seminars on Agroecology](#)

[FAO works on agroecology publication](#)

[Bio-districts in FAO website](#)

