

NEW IPES-FOOD REPORT

BREAKING AWAY FROM INDUSTRIAL FOOD AND FARMING SYSTEMS: SEVEN CASE STUDIES OF AGROECOLOGICAL TRANSITION

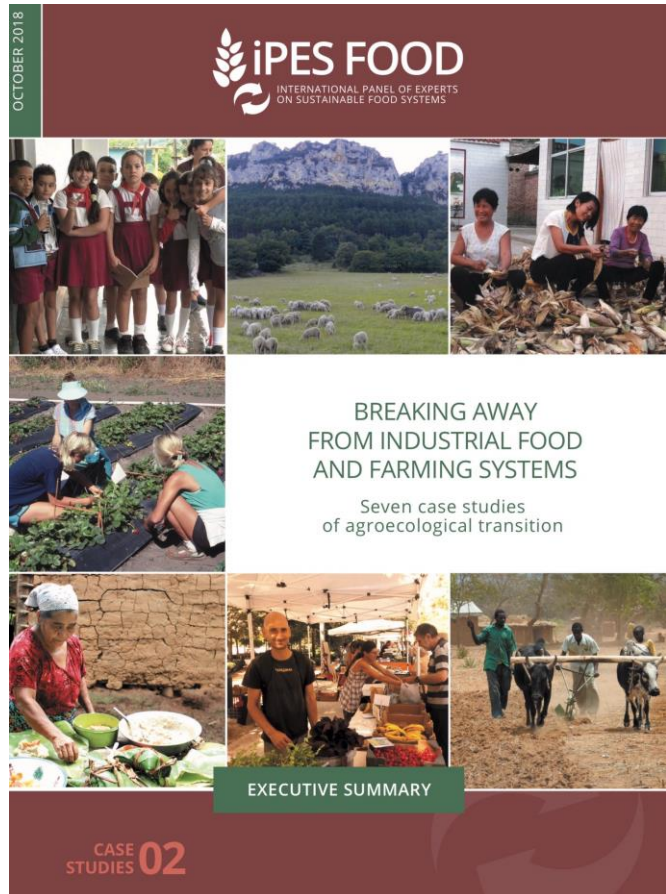
In October 2018, iPES-FOOD - International Panel of Experts on Sustainable Food Systems - published the [New Report](#) *Breaking away from industrial food and farming systems: Seven case studies of agro-ecological transition*.

The case studies follow on from iPES-FOOD's 2016 report, [From Uniformity to Diversity](#), which identified the vicious cycles locking industrial food and farming systems in place, despite their severe impacts on human health, economic and social well-being, biodiversity, and climate change.

[The case studies profiled in the new Report provide concrete examples](#) of how, in spite of these barriers to change, people around the world have been able to fundamentally rethink and redesign food systems around agro-ecological principles.

The case studies demonstrate that change is taking place across the world:

- Santa Cruz, California, USA: Turning strawberry monocultures into sustainable food and farming systems through a 30-year farmer-researcher partnership;
- San Ramón, Nicaragua, and Veracruz, Mexico: Breaking away from industrial commodity production in Central American coffee-growing communities;
- Chololo, Tanzania: Rethinking food, farming, forestry and resource management to build an Ecovillage;
- Puhan Rural Community, Shanxi, China: Rebuilding community ties as a pathway to cooperative-led food systems;
- Drôme Valley, France: Making the radical mainstream and the mainstream radical to build Europe's first organic region;
- Vega, Andalusia, Spain: Sustaining transition through changing political winds;
- Cuba: Turning economic isolation into an opportunity for agroecological transition.



"Change was unlocked by creating improbable alliances that brought together farmers, consumers, and environmental groups, and brought institutional actors into contact with more radical actors."

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"The cases show that politicized farmer/peasant organizations and cooperatives can be highly influential, particularly if they combine cooperative marketing functions, farmer-to-farmer knowledge sharing, community-building activities, and political advocacy."

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The following leverage points proved to be particularly important for shifting power relations and driving agro-ecological transition across the cases: Building new community-led governance structures and economic systems; Developing hybrid roles for key actors; Forging new alliances across disconnected domains; Anchoring transitions in counter-narratives and theories of change; Relocalizing food and farming systems; Promoting farmer-to-farmer knowledge sharing and Empowering women and young people to drive transition.

Since 2015, the [International Panel of Experts on Sustainable Food Systems iPES-FOOD](#) brings together expert voices from different disciplines and different types of knowledge to inform the policy debate on how to reform food systems across the world. The Panel looks at issues such as health and nutrition, rural livelihood insecurity, and environmental degradation through an integrated food systems lens, bringing to light the interconnections, power imbalances, political lock-ins and potential levers for change at the systems level. To do so, iPES-FOOD engages systematically with actors and ideas from outside the traditional bounds of the scientific community.

To know more

[Full Report](#)

[Executive Summary](#)

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[From Uniformity to Diversity iPES-FOOD Report](#)

