

# **Agroecology: an opportunity for resilient agriculture and food systems**

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22nd November, 2021

## **Concept note**

*An integrated approach rather than a box-like set of rules, agroecology embodies simultaneously ecological and social concepts and by seeking to optimize the interactions between plants, animals, humans and the environment leads to the development of fair and sustainable food systems. Agroecology allows producers to work efficiently with the agroecosystem; it brings tasty, diversified, and nutrient rich food which benefits both the producer and consumer. It promotes circular and solidary economy based on social values and sensible use of natural resources, and more importantly helps to develop a new mindset allowing society to live in a more sustainable way.*

*Agroecology provides opportunities for multiple sources of income, through processing, marketing and agro-tourism. It revives soils, replenishes underground water sources, creates jobs and beautiful landscapes. It also unifies society through the culture, constant exchange of knowledge and shared responsibility. Agroecology, promotes closer links between producers and consumers, more inclusive governance improving farmers' participation in decision-making and holds the potential to rebalance power relations in food systems, strengthening family farming and ensuring a better quality of life in rural areas.*

*That being so, the purpose of the present conference is to discuss the ten elements of agroecology as defined by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in the context of sustainable food systems. As the transition to agroecology entails transformation in all food system sectors, the event envisions to engage all relevant sectors and different stakeholders, including consumers, small-scale food producers, and policy makers to raise awareness and to create a supportive policy environment for sustainable food systems transformation.*

*The event is organized in the company of FAO traditional partners represented by central public authorities and donors as well as participants from civil society organizations and the private sector. The 4betters of the FAO new strategic framework will be considered with a particular emphasis on better production and nutrition in conjunction with agroecology practices and tools.*

### **CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES:**

- *Raising awareness of agroecology among policymakers and civil society*
- *Developing multi-stakeholder dialogue on agroecology*

### **Expected outputs:**

- *Knowledge of the ten elements of agroecology as defined by FAO*
- *Strengthening multi-stakeholder dialogue for concerted action*

**TARGET GROUP***Policy and other decision-makers, donors**Civil society and in particular NGOs**Small-scale food producers and respective organizations***Agenda****Part 1 –Understanding the concept**

9h00-9h30	Registration	
9h30-9h45	Food and Agriculture Organization, FAO Minister, MAIA	Welcome remarks
9h45-9h55	Carolina Starr, Food and Agriculture Organization, FAO, REU	The 10 elements of Agroecology in the Context of Sustainable Food Systems
9h55-10h05	Dr. Boris Boincean, Director & Senior academic researcher at Field Crops Research Institute 'Selectia' in Balti, Moldova	Agronomy perspective: benefits of agroecology for soil health & long-term productivity
10h05-10h15	Aida Jamangulova, Agency for Development Initiatives, Kyrgyzstan	Agroecology as an economic opportunity for small-scale farmers
10h15-10h30	Moderated by Anatolii Albin, Lawyer, Consultant, Activist and former Public Officer	Q&A to first three speakers
10h30-10h40	Dr Olga Burduniuc, Head of the Microbiological Laboratory at the National Agency for Public Health (ANSP)	Preventing Antimicrobial Resistance in the Context of 'One Health' approach within Food Systems
10h40-10h50	Mariana Seremet, agroecology producer	Producer's perspective: agrobiodiversity for better production and better environment

10h50-11h00	<i>Ramona Dominicioiu, EcoRuralis, Romania</i>	<i>Declaration on Peasants Rights (UNDROP): social dimension of agroecology &amp; food sovereignty</i>
11h00-11h40	<i>Moderated by Anatolii Albin, Lawyer, Consultant, Activist and former Public Officer</i>	<i>Q&amp;A &amp; Wrap-up</i>
11h40	<b>End of Part 1</b>	
	<b>Coffee break</b>	

### *Part 2 – Agroecology Workshop in groups*

12h00	<i>Introduction</i>	<i>goals &amp; procedure; breaking in groups</i>
12h10	<i>Organization &amp; work in groups</i>	
	<p><i>1 – Mariana Seremet: Tool for Agroecology Performance Evaluation (TAPE) – a practical tool for food producers and policy-makers</i></p> <p><i>2 – Boris Boincean: expert’s perspective for small and family farms &amp; production involving livestock</i></p> <p><i>3 – Ramona Dominicioiu: UNDROP and other policy for agroecology</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Online:</i></p> <p><i>4 – Carolina Starr: the 10 elements of Agroecology in the Context of Sustainable Food Systems (EN)</i></p> <p><i>5 – Aida Jamagulova: school farms and school gardens for healthier nutrition (RU)</i></p> <p><i>6 – Bogdan Suliman: agroecology from producer’s perspective on ecosystem services (RO)</i></p>	
12h40	<i>Conclusions from the six working groups</i>	
13h05	<i>Moderator: reactions &amp; questions</i>	
13h25	<i>Closing note from the moderator</i>	
13h30	<b>The end</b>	