



## What is agroecology? The AEEU understanding:

As a **SCIENCE**, it gives priority to action research, holistic and participatory approaches, and transdisciplinarity that is inclusive of different knowledge systems.

As a <u>practice</u>, it is based on sustainable use of local renewable resources, local farmers' knowledge and priorities, wise use of biodiversity to provide ecosystem services and resilience, and solutions that provide multiple benefits (environmental, economic, social) from local to global.

As a <u>MOVEMENt</u>, it defends smallholders and family farming, farmers and rural communities, food sovereignty, local and short food supply chains, diversity of indigenous seeds and breeds, healthy and quality food.

...encompassing the whole food system.

## Principles instead of rules

### **PARTICIPATION**

Encourage social organization and greater participation in decision-making by food producers and consumers to support decentralized governance and local adaptive management of agricultural and food systems.

LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCE GOVERNANCE

Recognize and support the needs and interests of family farmers, smallholders and peasant food producers as sustainable managers and guardians of natural and genetic resources.

SOCIAL VALUES AND DIETS

Build food systems based on the culture, identity, tradition, social and gender equity of local communities that provide healt diversified, seasonally and culturally appropriate diets.

**ECONOMIC** DIVERSIFICATION

from consumers.

Diversify on-farm incomes by

ensuring small-scale farmers have

greater financial independence and

value addition opportunities while enabling them to respond to demand



**CO-CREATION OF** KNOWLEDGE

especially through former



CONNECTIVITY

Ensure proximity and confidence between producers and consumers through promotion of fair and short distribution networks and by re-embedding food systems into local economies



SYNERGY



RECYCLING

and biomass.

Preferentially use local renewable resources and close as far as possible resource cycles of nutrients

INPUT REDUCTION

Reduce or eliminate dependency on purchased



**FAIRNESS** 

Support dignified and robust

livelihoods for all actors engaged in

food systems, especially small-scale

food producers, based on fair trade,

fair employment and fair treatment of intellectual property rights.

Maintain and enhance diversity of species, functional diversity and genetic resources and maintain biodiversity in the agroecosystem over time and space at field, farm and landscape scales.





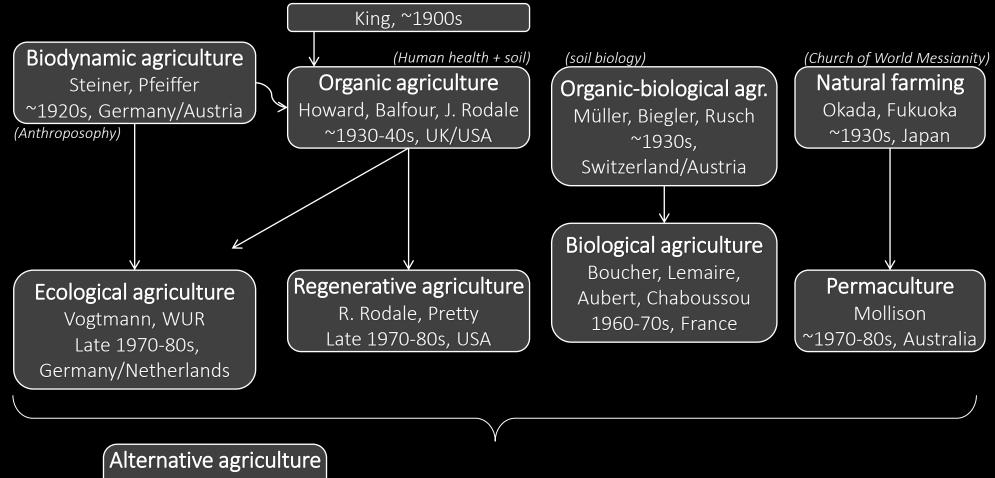
SOIL HEALTH

Secure and enhance soil health and functioning for improved plant growth, particularly by managing organic matter and by enhancing soil biological activity.



ANIMAL HEALTH Ensure animal health and welfare.

## The different "schools of agriculture"



Alternative agriculture 1970-80s, Vandermeer, others

Agroecology

Altieri, Gliessman, Francis 1980s, USA/Latin America Sustainable agriculture
Late 1980-90s

# Organic and agroecology – the impact of the organic sector on agroecology, synergies and drivers

- It is proved by farmers on millions of hectares;
- There is an increasing amount of traditional and new knowledge, for different systems (small to large);
- It allows (paves the way to) the transition from existing farming/cropping systems to more sustainable models;
- There is a strong societal demand for more sustainable systems from economic, environmental and social aspects.





## How can organic agriculture support the transition?



Food System



**AE** Levels of **Conversion (Gliessman** 2015)

Build a New Global Food System

(Re-)Establish Connection Between **Growers and Consumers**  **SI Transition Stages** (Pretty 2018)

13 Principles of AE (Wezel et al. 2020)

- **Participation**
- Input reduction Economic
  - diversification
- knowledge
- Social values

and diets

- **Fairness** Land and natural
- Co-creation of

resource governance

Farm -Landscape



Redesign the Agroecosystem

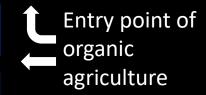
**Substitute Practices** 

Increase Efficiency of **Practices** 

Redesign of Agroecosystems

Substitution of Technologies and Practices

Increase Efficiency within **Existing Farm Configurations** 



- Connectivity
- Input reduction
- Recycling
- **Biodiversity**
- Animal health Synergy

Soil health

# Organic x Agroecological?

- Such dichotomy does not exist;
- Both work in synergy;
- Both share more similarities than differences;





 Agroecology is a powerful contribution to address the climate, biodiversity, environmental, economic and social challenges the world is facing (European Commission - Partnership on agroecology), and organic agriculture is a crucial step in the conversion and transition of existing systems!

### For more information:

agroecology-europe.org/







### A EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION FOR AGROECOLOGY

### AGROECOLOGY EUROPE

## A EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION FOR AGROECOLOGY







### OUR UNDERSTANDING OF **AGROECOLOGY**

### VISION OF OUR **ORGANIZATION**

### **OUR GOALS**



### LATEST NEWS...



### FIRST AGROECOLOGY EUROPE YOUTH FORUM -**REGISTRATIONS ARE NOW OPEN!**

Agroecology Europe Youth Forum 2022 9th of September (13:00 CET) - 11th of September 2022 (15:00 CET) A three-day-in-person event and joyful get-together. of (young) agroecologists from all over Europe

Read more



### SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEM LAW: HAVE YOUR SAY ON THE EU PUBLIC CONSULTATION UNTIL THE 21ST OF JULY

The European Commission has opened a Public consultation asking people to provide their views on what Europe's food system of the future should look like. The deadline to respond to