

Tuesday 13 October 2020

Partner Event 3

4:30 - 6:00PM

MINUTES AND OUTCOMES

# CONNECTING AGROECOLOGICAL AND INTEGRATED POLICIES IN TIME OF CRISIS

*Minutes and outcomes*

Number of registered participants: 641

Number of online participants: 297

## Concept of the session

In the face of the current global challenges the planet is experiencing, more and more governments are exploring approaches that can substantially contribute to the transformations of our food systems and societies in general. This transformation is urgently needed, made even more pressing by the current health and economic crisis caused by the COVID pandemic. Currently, there are good but rather scattered examples of governments that have been developing conducive and innovative policy instruments aimed at introducing and implementing agroecological and resilience principles.

The main purpose of this partner event is to showcase such good policy practices, illustrating the key role of policymakers as agents of change when it comes to the long-term and resilient transformation of food and agricultural systems. Our goal is to connect these efforts through the [Food Policy Forum for Change](#) in order to increase learning between policymakers, as well as enriching the discussion on the role and instruments for country-level action to deliver food security and nutrition.

Our speakers and panellists will explore the key entry points and drivers of transformational policies including the multifaceted crisis, climate change, health, and environmental pressures.

## Objectives of the session

- A deeper understanding of existing approaches and instruments to operationalise agroecological elements at the policy level,
- Exchanging on practical knowledge on agroecological policies (e.g. identification of barriers and success factors),
- Connecting existing frameworks available for supporting the policy for agroecological and food systems transformation,
- Increasing the awareness of the need for redesigning our current food and socioeconomic systems to include resilience on a long term by applying agroecological principles in policymaking.

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## Key messages

- Policy instruments are crucial to transform food systems in line with the SDGs. They create a space for actors to scale up agroecological systems and/or to integrate agroecological elements in mainstream systems for continuous improvements.
- **Agroecological policy instruments include:**
  - Legal instruments: to foster farmer networks and collective action, for instance with a collective label for economic and environmental interest groups
  - Direct financial support measures: support for research through public calls for projects that focus on agroecology, or co-finance of institutions involved in agricultural advisory to accompany farmers in the agroecological transition
  - Support for capacity building: through programmes for vocational training, financial support to build capacities of communities and local institutions to facilitate change on the ground in a bottom up manner
  - Mixed financial instruments: between government, philanthropies and development banks to scale up approaches
- **Bottom up and participatory processes** remain key for the development of integrated policies: it is mainly about getting all actors on board and creating a common vision across sectors and departments
- **Powerful entry points to initiate a policy dialogue** on agroecology are: 1) Strong evidence base processes, 2) Having a visible proof of concept of successful approach with a critical mass, 3) Fostering exchanges between experiences that have some common ground, and 4) Embedding agroecological approaches on the ground with traditional and cultural elements to get a strong support from local actors
- Integrating agroecological elements to existing policy instruments, rather than creating new ones, is one of the key factors of success and necessary to get major and decisive actors on board.
- Factors to bring an approach to scale include relying on existing collective institutions at the local level

## Introduction

*By Frank Eychorn, CEO, Biovision Foundation, moderator*

Welcoming words: Frank Eychorn welcomed participants and introduced the speakers.

Setting the stage: He recalled that food systems need urgently to change to meet the SDGs by 2030. **Crisis have the potential to accelerate change.** Agroecology is increasingly recognized as a unifying concept that can support this change.

Objectives of the event: The objective of the event is to focus on **policy instruments that are scaling up agroecological systems or integrating agroecological elements in**

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**mainstream systems for continuous improvements.** The event highlights the experience from 2 countries, Senegal and India, focussing on their successes and the challenges they had to overcome.

## Welcome speech

*By Dr. Maria Tekülve, Deputy Head of Division Rural Development, BMZ*

Welcoming words: Maria Tekülve welcomed participants and remarked that few panels are focussing on agroecology. Still, it is encouraging to see the growing interest for the topic.

A growing consensus: She noted that a consensus has grown on what is needed to achieve sustainable agro- and food systems, accelerated by the pandemic situation and by climate change. Agroecology and other innovative approaches can achieve this goal. **Changes at policy level is fundamental for food system transformation to happen** and it is important to highlight successful and good examples, not just crisis.

Situation in Germany: Maria Tekülve pointed that the debate in the EU and in Germany over the past years has become lively at the parliament and in the development committee. This led to a Bundestag-Resolution from June 2019 supporting agroecological approaches and the FAO principles. The German Federal Chancellery in charge of the German Federal Sustainability Strategy supporting the 2030 Agenda is in the process of developing an updated version of this strategy.

Coordination between actors: Maria Tekülve highlighted the importance of a dialogue on a global and a national level, across departments and ministries, such as finance, economics, environment, and agriculture to increase coherence and define a common language. Civil Society Organisations are another important actor active worldwide to promote agroecology, as well as in Germany where consumers are increasingly pushing for fair, healthy and sustainable food.

Progresses in international cooperation: BMZ is committed to support agroecology and other innovative approaches according to FAO and CFS recommendations and policies. Furthermore, through GIZ and KfW, BMZ supports multiple projects in partner countries, including in Africa and India, for instance five knowledge centres for organic agriculture, soil protection, and rehabilitation in Africa. Maria Tekülve announced that BMZ plans to expand their cooperation in India.

Concluding words: Maria Tekülve concluded that international policies and movements seem to go in the right direction. Still, we are only at the beginning of a “green recovery”. **Many roadblocks need to be addressed** to end hunger while preserving resources. She ended with a message about applying further the CFS recommendations on removing the most relevant hurdles, including i) demonstrating that agroecological approaches work economically for all stakeholders, ii) convince the most powerful agents of change (e.g. large entrepreneurs and

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consumer groups), iii) invest in regional infrastructure, and iv) scaling up implementation according to the knowledge we have already.

## Keynotes: 2 policy examples

### Senegal

*By Dr. Papa Abdoulaye Seck, Permanent Representative of Senegal to the RBAs*

Senegalese approach: Papa Abdoulaye Seck introduced the vision of Senegal to support agroecological approaches. The agroecological transition in Senegal should be co-created and co-evaluated by all actors involved in food systems and should be based on scientific evidence. Key principles of the agroecology approach for the Senegalese government is food sovereignty and sustainability. In this view, Senegal established a participatory platform named DyTAES (Dynamics for Agroecological Transition in Senegal) on transformational agroecology.

A participatory process: Papa Abdoulaye Seck detailed a few key aspects of the platform:

- **Bottom up and concerted approach:** Involvement of multiple actors : rural, city, public actors
- **Long term process:** Series of workshops on good agroecological practices and on formulating for the whole value chains (upstream-downstream)
- **Towards an integrated agroecology policy:** the consultation led to a report presented to the president of Senegal Macky Sall to feed the national green strategic plan: le Plan Senegal Emergent vert (Vert)

Role of crisis: The Covid-related crisis showed that communities engaged in agroecology displayed greater resilience. Those experience are gathered in a new [book](#).

International frameworks and actions: Papa Abdoulaye Seck applauded the initiative Scaling up Agroecology led by FAO and called actors to endorse and apply the CFS recommendations on agroecology and other innovative approaches and the CFS Voluntary Guidelines for Food Systems and Nutrition. He also plead for incorporating agroecological systems within the upcoming UN Food System Summit and the CFS. Finally, he called other countries and their permanent representatives to RBA to join the group of Friends of Agroecology for a stronger support to agroecology.

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*“There is a lot of biases against agroecology, we need to bring concrete elements for the sceptics. This is about nourishing the world without destroying it”*

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## Andhra Pradesh, India

*By Dr. Vijay Kumar, Head of Department of Natural Farming, Andhra Pradesh, India*

Vision of Andhra Pradesh Community Managed Natural farming (APCNF): Vijay Kuma presented the vision for the state of Andhra Pradesh in India to transforming agriculture in harmony with nature by reaching 6million farmers by 2027 across 8million ha. The key pillars of the approach are farmer’s livelihood, food nutrition and security, youth welfare and decent jobs, environment, enhance soil health. The principles of natural farming are based on use of cow dung and bio-inoculant (mix of traditional system and innovation)

Scaling up process: the program started in 2016 with 40’000 farmers and last year it reached 700’000 farmers. In 4 years it was scaled up 17 times.

A mixed funding scheme: the funding for the programme are coming from governmental scheme, philanthropies and development banks (KfW bank).

### Key elements to enrol farmers and factors of success:

- The promoted agroecological practices and systems are rooted in farmer’s tradition and culture (cow-based system...)
- Mix partnership between the government, civil society organisations and grassroots organisations
- Extension through champion farmers (incubation of champions and use of ICT and other media to spread the programme)
- Mid/long-term investment: 4-5 years to enrol farmers. The benefits of the programme are visible after few years, it is a long journey for the farmers that require a long term support as well.
- Resilience to crisis: the kitchen garden contributed during the COVID crisis to household nutrition
- Building scientific evidence (with the Support of international institutions: FAO, UNEP and national institutes)

Scaling up at another level: Vijay Kumar concluded that exchanges with other states and with other countries (Mexico, Kenya, Rwanda) are underway to disseminate the lessons



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learnt through this approach. He emphasized that **exchanges between policy makers are critical for scaling up even if conditions are different.**

## FAO Scaling Up Agroecology Initiative

*By Emma Siliprandi, FAO Scaling Up Agroecology Initiative Team Leader*

Agroecology and SDGs: Emma Siliprandi introduced the importance of agroecology to achieve the SDGs and to respond to different challenges such as hunger, health and climate change in a holistic manner. She presented the Scaling up Agroecology Initiative of the FAO, which aims at both mainstreaming agroecological solutions at the international level (e.g. through different UN fora), facilitating implementation of agroecological policies at country level and building connections across initiatives and scales.

Macro-level actions: Emma Siliprandi presented a number of international guidelines and frameworks on food systems that provide recommendations for policy makers and where agroecology can be mainstreamed (Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, World Food Security Committee, Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture). Emma Siliprandi portrayed FAO's "Ten Elements of Agroecology" which is a simple and holistic analytical framework for agroecology, approved by the FAO member states in 2019.

Evidence for policy: Emma Siliprandi pointed that an increasing body of evidence can help to build conducive policy environments for agroecology. For instance a recent meta-study by FAO & Biovision Foundation on the potential of agroecological systems for mitigation and adaption to climate change potential shows a number of recommendation to incorporate agroecological principles in Nationally Determined Contributions and in countries' climate strategy. FAO is currently engaged in supporting agroecological territorial approaches with this focus in India and Argentina.

Creating evidence for agroecology is at the core of policy debate. FAO therefore developed the TAPE tool for agroecological performance evaluation. This tool should contribute to a global data base on the performance of agroecological systems which will support policy makers in making evidence based decisions in the future. Currently, online trainings are provided to use this tool and tests will be done across different regions. This tool should also facilitate exchange between usually isolated sectors (e.g. governmental, agricultural, environmental, socio-economic sectors).

Policy support: FAO is also engaged in supporting policy processes in various regions at the regional, national and subnational around the world, including regional policy framework for Parliamentary Front in Latin America or a 10-year investment program for 10 countries in West Africa. More information about ongoing activities and upcoming events can be found

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on the website <http://www.fao.org/agroecology/home/en/>. There, one can also find the **AgroecologyLex Database which includes 167 legal frameworks, policies and programmes.**

Different stakeholders and actors have already used the various tools mentioned to inform policymaking. In this regard, FAO and the Scaling Up Agroecology initiative also acknowledge the important contribution of the Food Policy Forum for Change as an excellent space to learn from other actors. Emma Siliprandi concluded that she is glad to see how agroecological approaches are integrated into innovative strategies to build sustainable food systems and to reconcile food, planet and people. FAO and the Scaling Up Agroecology initiative stand ready to support these efforts.

Frank Eyhorn thanked for Emma Siliprandi for her impressive presentation and questioned if all these promising activities might be a sign of a real paradigm shift. He also refers to the new IAASTD+10 book which demonstrates how long such a shift is already in the making.

## Panel discussion

*Moderated by Frank Eyhorn*

Panellists: *Previous speakers + Pio Wennubst, Perm. Rep. of Switzerland to the RBAs and Aline Boy, French Ministry of agriculture and food.*

### 1) *To Aline Boy: How did France support the transformation of agriculture and food systems?*

The French Agroecology Project: Aline Boy presented the French Agroecology Project, led by the previous government. It is an integrated action plan, co-designed with different partners (actors from research, environment, agriculture sector). It is now integrated in the 2014 law on agriculture, food and forest called “Loi d’avenir”.

Core to the plan is the mobilisation of mainstream policy instruments already in place through:

- Support for research with calls for proposal focussed on agroecology
- Co-financing of institutions involved in agricultural advisory to accompany farmers in the agroecological transition
- Vocational training and teaching: creation of new multidisciplinary programs and diploma
- Linkages with the policy tools of the EU common agricultural Policy
- **Additional new innovative legal instrument to foster farmer networks and collective action:** the GIEE (for economic and environmental interest groups) are groups of farmers who define a project to switch to more sustainable farming

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practices. Those groups foster exchanges among peers at the local level and benefits from stronger support for funding from different sources.

Coherent objectives across public policies: The 2014 law states that all public policies should support and sustain the agroecological transition with a triple production, environmental and social objective. The agroecological approach allows to link environmental, food and production policies and actors.

Process of 'co-creating': Similarly to the participatory process in Senegal, she emphasises the importance of defining of a common objective and vision through a bottom up approach even though it is a time consuming process.

2) *To Aline Boy: Why did you focus on adjusting existing policy instruments rather than creating new ones?*

Getting everyone on board: Aline Boy answered that the reasoning behind the French Agroecology Project was that all public actors and departments (e.g. agricultural sector, international department, supply chain department, etc.) needed to be involved and connected rather than creating a new agroecology department. The first step was then to train all agents of the ministries and other actors on a common agroecology vision. **Using existing policy instrument is one of the key factors of success and necessary to get major and decisive actors on board.**

3) *To Pio Wennubst: Swiss Development Cooperation promotes agroecological policies at local, regional, national and global level – how?*

Starting with the national experience: Pio Wennubst presented the evolution of the Swiss support for agroecology. In 1991, he was representing farmer's union at the Swiss chamber of agriculture and proposed to shift the national production to organic production. The proposal was dismissed arguing a lack of evidence regarding the performance of agroecological systems. In Switzerland, there was no legal basis to incentivize to shift from one system to another and to reduce some of the damages created by industrial agricultural model. He pointed that 30 years ago, there was no sense of crisis.

Drivers of change: Many actors got progressively involved in agroecology including research institute on organic agriculture. Science-based instrument were developed to compare the performance of different systems. **This evidence base helped to build a policy dialogue. Another important factor to bring a topic into the policy arena is to foster exchanges between different experiences.** Pio Wennubst highlighted that **systemic changes happen with crisis**. In Switzerland, for instance, the agroecological transition was aided by the increasing pressures from water pollution, climate change and urbanization. **Finally, the agroecological transition hinge on linking several key elements related to Swiss rural**



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**culture** (such as sustainable water management, biodiversity, multi-functionality of the farming systems) in line for sustainable agricultural approaches.

From the national to the international level: Switzerland support for agroecology at the international level and in its development cooperation policy are closely related to what was happening at the national level. The policy dialogues initiated at the national level is echoed in the Swiss Development Cooperation's (SDC) support for AE policy process in partner countries and also within international policy arena. SDC, with the Global Program on Food Security, is shifting from 20% to 50% of its support to projects and programs in line with agroecology principles. Pio Wennubst concluded that this is a step by step approach but once a direction is taken there is no come back.

4) *To Papa Abdoulaye Seck: How did it work in Senegal to integrate agroecological principles in policies at local and regional level? What role for cities?*

Bottom-up approach: Papa Abdoulaye Seck replied that the government is an actor like any other actor. Agroecology is not just a matter for the government, it concerns all of society. For him, a bottom-up approach is the only way to succeed and to mobilize actors, including urban actors. **Another key factors is to understand farmers, their tradition and culture.**

5) *To Vijay Kumar: What were the main challenges in developing ownership for CMNF at government level? What were key success factors in bringing it to scale?*

Seeing is believing: Vijay Kumar replied that the Indian agricultural department is working on changing the paradigm that agriculture cannot be done without chemicals. The changes started with a strong movement and support from the civil society organisations and also by working at multiple levels. **He pointed that the APCNF programme was able to convince public agents as they started with a proof of concept from a few farmers groups within the first few years. This created a sense of confidence.** The approach very quickly managed to be brought to scale by relying on existing woman self-help groups and farmer trainers up to a tipping point that allow convince many (state) actors.

### Questions from the audience

6) *To Emma Siliprandi: Agroecology is a highly political issue. How agroecology can play a prominent role at the UNFSSS. Why leader of the UNFSS neglect agroecology? What can be done?*

Using different entry points: Emma Siliprandi noted that many actors support that agroecology should be integrated in a higher political level and in normative commitments. However, in the political space, there are a lot of pressure whether economic or political that pushed in different directions. The idea of a parallel forum was developed by different

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CSO actors. **Different parallel entry points still exists: linking agroecology to climate change or biodiversity discussions and commitments.**

7) *To Vijay Kumar: What is the role of policies to support NGOs and farmer organisations on the ground?*

Building community and local capacities: Vijay Kumar stated that there is an important role of CSOs and government to work together to bring change. The transition from industrial agriculture to natural farming depends on good facilitation on the ground. CSOs, but also farmer's organisations and women organisation are extremely important a facilitators and need to be empowered. **The bulk of the investment from the program is going to build capacities of community institutions to facilitate change on the ground in a bottom up manner.**

8) *To Papa Abdoulaye Seck: On concrete policy measures, how does it work in Senegal?*

Policies from the ground: Papa Abdoulaye Seck reiterated that the state is an actor among many others, even though it has a fundamental role. A better angle to the question on how policies can support agroecology is rather which elements from the ground can be supported by the policies and by the state. The state is in charge of conception and regulation after consultation from multiple actors.

9) *To Pio Wennubst: We are focussing a lot on the production side, but the pull side (consumers) is also important. What kind of policy measures or initiatives exist in this regard?*

Unifying actors: Pio Wennubst presented an example from Italy of the city Milano that focusses on the role of cities to push food system transformation. The policy is linking several cities around the world, and is promoting **to connect different elements of food system from consumers to peri-urban agriculture, and new environmental standards.** Such approaches are developing more and more. Another important messages is to avoid a divide between actors involved in food systems.

10) *To Maria Tekülve: The EU commission (DG-agri) is pushing for a "Living Labs in Agroecology". Is BMZ supporting the same approach?*

Common German-EU position: Maria Tekülve replied that the German government and the EU, as a common position, support the recommendations on the agroecological approach currently under negotiation.

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### 11) To Aline Boy: Why agroecology and not organic agriculture in France?

Going beyond organic agriculture: Aline Boy clarified that in the 2014 law states that organic agriculture is entirely part of agroecological systems. The French agroecology project supports organic agriculture, but also goes beyond. **All farmers do not have to switch to organic-certified agriculture, which is more constraining but agroecological principles should be followed by all producers as guiding principles. Organic agriculture is part of agroecology.**

## Concluding remarks

*By Louise Luttkholt, Executive Director, IFOAM – Organics International*

Policy focus: Policies are creating a framework, a space for agroecology to happen. Agroecology is a bottom up approach: farmers, consumers are involved and policies contribute to create a space for those actors. Louise Luttkholt noted that the event focussed on policy instruments that incentivize agroecology, that create a space for agriculture in sync with nature and the SDGs. But we should also not forget to focus on abandoning policies that contradict agroecology and the associated hurdles.

Science and policy: We heard today that we need evidence for policy as discussed by panellists. Still policy can also support the creation of evidence. An interesting question would be how much money is supporting research for agroecology. Importance to have a broad approach as presented by the panellists from France.

The Food Policy Forum for Change: Louise Luttkholt presented a new initiative the Food Policy Forum for change, led by the Biovision Foundation, IFOAM – Organics International and the Millennium Institute, with support from FAO. The initiative is financed by the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) through Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ), and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). The initiative is a **policy forum where policy makers can have a peer-to-peer exchange, meetings and webinars through a community of practice on how they handle in their localities policies for agroecology and how to get rid of policies contradicting policies.** The policy forum will provide access to coaching by policy peers, regional and international champions, experts, case studies, tools and evidence. **Louise Luttkholt concluded by an invitation for policy makers to join the forum and share and learn experience on agroecological policies.**

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## Links and material:

- Video of the event: (Password: CFSPE2020+):  
<https://fao.zoom.us/rec/play/Rx4VJcZcPm8FIONKqp9FpRBUhqbOgboxef9FcYPPHieo3h5EC1-L9gKWFY2-dXzNUR85k3Ra4FGzl8jm.Y3Eu7YWfCpJbpNwh>
- More information about the Food Policy Forum for Change can be found here:  
<https://www.agroecology-pool.org/policy-forum/>
  - Join an interactive network of policy makers interested in making our food systems sustainable in the face of current global challenges. Register here:  
<https://agroecology-pool.us12.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=218c5f4f5206da5ed904a5a14&id=3d8966882c>
  - Rejoignez un réseau mondial interactif de décideurs politiques intéressés à rendre nos systèmes alimentaires durables face aux défis mondiaux actuels. Inscrivez-vous ici: <https://agroecology-pool.us12.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=218c5f4f5206da5ed904a5a14&id=3d8966882c>
  - Únase a una red global de responsables de la formulación de políticas interesados en hacer que nuestros sistemas alimentarios sean sostenibles frente a los actuales desafíos mundiales. Inscribábase aquí. <https://agroecology-pool.us12.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=218c5f4f5206da5ed904a5a14&id=3d8966882c>
- For more information about the Tool for Agroecology Performance Evaluation (TAPE) visit <http://www.fao.org/agroecology/tools-tape/en/>
- For an overall assessment on what has been achieved in the past 10 years in the global food system, please check the new book "Transformation of our food systems – the making of a paradigm shift", by Hans R. Herren (former co-president of the IAASTD), Benny Haerlin (food and farming activist and NGO-representative in the IAASTD bureau), together with 40 renowned authors. You can access as a free PDF here:  
<https://www.globalagriculture.org/transformation/book.html>

If you have any further comments or want to communicate with the organizers, please email us at [food.policy.forum@biovision.ch](mailto:food.policy.forum@biovision.ch)

## Other material shared by the audience:

- To know more about Natural Framing in the State of Himachal Pradesh, India please visit: <https://spnfhp.nic.in/en-IN/index.html>
- "Living Labs in agroecology" in Europe in Detail at [https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation/research-area/agriculture-forestry-and-rural-areas/partnership-agroecology-webinars\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation/research-area/agriculture-forestry-and-rural-areas/partnership-agroecology-webinars_en)
- Recent article on Africa's failing green revolution and the alternatives being supported by governments such as Senegal's: <https://www.iatp.org/blog/202009/africa-crossroads-time-abandon-failing-green-revolution>
- Newly published Policy brief at Ethos Public Policy Lab "Scaling sustainable agricultural practices", available at: [https://t20saudi-arabia.org.sa/en/briefs/Pages/Policy-Brief.aspx?pb=TF10\\_PB5](https://t20saudi-arabia.org.sa/en/briefs/Pages/Policy-Brief.aspx?pb=TF10_PB5)

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- Please visit the rich database of Agroecology Knowledge Hub:  
<http://www.fao.org/agroecology/home/en/>
- New book from Professor Raymond Auerbach - "Organic Food Systems: Meeting the Needs of Southern Africa" can be found at <http://www.cabi.org/bookshop/book/9781786399601>
- Publication on policy innovation driving organic market development:  
<https://paulholmbeck.com/political-solutions-that-drive-organic-market-development/>
- Here is a recent publication about financing Agroecology:  
<https://www.cidse.org/2020/09/30/finance-for-agroecology-more-just-than-a-dream/>
- COVID-19 et agriculture - Une opportunité pour la transition agricole et alimentaire ?  
<https://www.academie-agriculture.fr/actualites/academie/covid-19-et-agriculture-une-opportunit-e-pour-la-transition-agricole-et>
- A report by TNI and FOEI might be useful to better see what's happening with different definitions of agroecology: [https://www.tni.org/files/publication-downloads/38\\_foei\\_junk\\_agroecol](https://www.tni.org/files/publication-downloads/38_foei_junk_agroecol)
- Pathways report: [https://www.sfldialogue.net/pathways\\_report.html](https://www.sfldialogue.net/pathways_report.html)
- Examples of Resilience in Himalayas from the words of a farmer practicing Natural Farming:  
<https://youtu.be/sr3oadSSxzU>
- On the debate regarding organic agriculture:  
<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/blogs/the-interviews-blog/organic-farming-is-worse-than-atom-bomb-does-not-suit-indian-conditions-only-adds-to-greenhouse-emissions/>
- To know more about the work happening in Natural Farming in Andhra Pradesh:  
<https://twitter.com/APZBNF>
- HLPE report on agroecological and other innovative approaches:  
<http://www.fao.org/3/ca5602en/ca5602en.pdf>
- 50+ training videos in Hindi that can help with scaling AE in Himachal Pradesh:  
<https://www.accessagriculture.org/hi/search/all/hi>
- Enabling Sustainable Food Systems - Innovators Guidebook. Recently released by FAO-INRA  
<http://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/ca9917en/>



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## 1. Annexes: short bio of the panellists

### Dr. Maria Tekülve

Dr. Maria Tekülve is from the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). Dr. Tekülve has more than 30 years of experience in development cooperation. Her work and interests focus on shaping and implementing strategies for sustainable, harmonized and effective approaches with the aim to fight poverty and to improve the living conditions in rural areas.

### Dr. Papa Abdoulaye Seck

Dr. Papa Abdoulaye Seck is the Ambassador of the Republic of Senegal to Italy and the RBAs. Ambassador Seck is a specialist in agricultural policy analysis and strategy and a permanent member of the Senegal Academy of Sciences. He has been the Director General of Africa Rice Center (AfricaRice) and the Director General of the Senegal Agricultural Research Institute (ISRA), among other roles. In 2013, he was awarded the insignia of the Chevalier of Légion d'honneur by the government of France.

### Dr. Vijay Kumar

Dr. Vijay Kumar is considered the prime mover of the Community Managed Natural Farming (CMNF) in India. He worked for 28 years on the Tribal, Rural and Agriculture Development Departments. After retiring, he became joined Rythu Sadhikara Samstha, a not-for-profit company set up by the government to usher in natural farming. He was recently appointed Head of Department in Andhra Pradesh with the mandate to bring CMNF to a success.

### Dr. Emma Siliprandi

Dr. Emma Siliprandi is the Lead Focal Point for the Scaling up Agroecology Initiative by FAO. Emma is an Agronomist and Sociologist, with a PhD on Sustainable Development. She has coordinated FAO regional projects on food security policies in Latin America and Caribbean for the last 10 years. Her academic achievements include research and publications in the fields of agroecology, food sovereignty and gender studies.

### Aline Boy

Ms. Aline Boy is the deputy head of the agroecology project at the French Ministry of Agriculture and Food. Her work includes the design of an action plan for agroecology and its implementation with various partners (including training of agroecology referents) in the regions. She has experience as the head of agricultural economics service in the Central Region of France, and as supervisor of the agricultural component of the European Union's trade negotiations.

### Pio Wennubst

Ambassador Pio Wennubst is the permanent Representative of Switzerland to the RBAs. Mr. Wennubst is an agro-economist by training, specialized in systemic approaches. He has a long experience in development diplomacy in areas such as rural development, microfinance and public health. He currently manages the Global Cooperation Department as assistant director general of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation.