

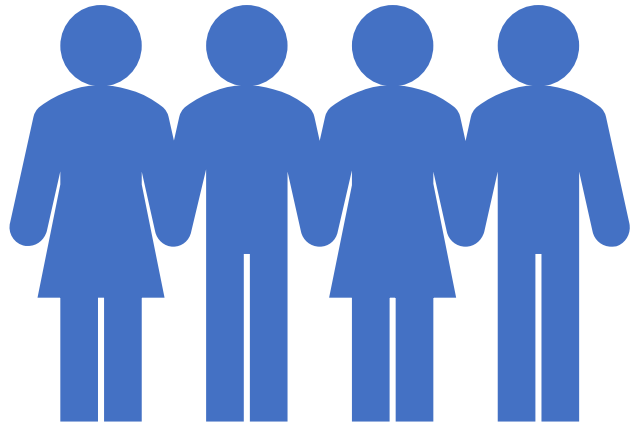


**Advocating for Agroecology
as a viable solution to
global ecological inequality**

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Vienna Development Conference

Simon Bukenya – Alliance for Food Sovereignty
in Africa (AFSA)



Understanding Ecological Inequality

- disparities in access to natural resources, exposure to environmental hazards, and climate change impacts.
- Vulnerable communities often lack access to fertile land, clean water, and safe agricultural practices.
- These communities are more exposed to environmental degradation, loss of biodiversity, and extreme weather events.

Challenges facing global ecosystems currently

- Population explosion
- Land and forest degradation
- Decrease in biodiversity
- Cultural erosion
- Unplanned urbanisation
- Climate crisis
- Global Political interventions





Agroecology

Action and change that brings sustainability and resistance to all parts of the food system: ecological, economic and social.

- 1. Agroecology as science**
- 2. Agroecology as practice**
- 3. Agroecology as a social justice movement**

It has to be all three or it is not Agroecology!

What is Agroecology?

Agroecology is the application of the science of ecology (the science of how nature works)

- to the study, design, and management of **sustainable food systems**,
- the integration of the **diverse knowledge systems** generated by food system practitioners,
- and the involvement of the **social movements** that are promoting the transition to fair, just, and sovereign food systems.

Agroecology is understood as a **science, practice, and as a social movement.**



What is agroecology



Diversified agroecological systems, encompass wide-ranging approaches **with a clear direction** of travel:

- **diversifying** farms and farming landscapes;
- **replacing** chemical inputs with ecologically-based materials, practices, and processes;
- optimizing biodiversity;
- and stimulating **interactions** between different species as part of holistic strategies to build **long-term fertility, healthy agroecosystems, and just livelihoods.**

The 13 Principles of Agroecology



1. Diversity



2. Synergy



3. Efficiency



4. Resilience



5. Recycling



6. Human and Social Values



7. Culture and Food Traditions

The 13 Principles of Agroecology



8. Responsible
Governance



9. Circular Economy



10. Co-Creation and
Sharing of
Knowledge



11. Food
Sovereignty



12. Fairness



13. Animal Health
and Welfare

Benefits of Agroecology in Addressing Inequality

Agroecology offers multiple benefits that directly address ecological and economic inequality

- Food sovereignty for local communities.

- Climate resilience through diversified, sustainable farming systems.

- Empowerment of marginalized groups, including small-scale farmers, women, and youth.

Challenges

- Limited government support and recognition in agricultural policy.
- Inadequate access to capital for small-scale farmers.
- Limited access to markets for agroecological produce.



What should be done?



To support agroecology and reduce ecological inequality, stakeholders must advocate for policies that;



- Provide subsidies and incentives for sustainable practices.



- Integrate agroecology into national climate and agricultural policies.



- Enhance market access for agroecological products.

A close-up photograph of a person's hands holding a large, round, woven basket. The basket is intricately decorated with horizontal bands of colorful beads in shades of blue, orange, yellow, red, and green. The person holding the basket is wearing a vibrant, patterned garment with a geometric design in yellow, red, green, and black. The background is a soft-focus green, suggesting an outdoor setting. The text "What is the experience in Africa" is overlaid in white, sans-serif font across the center of the image.

What is the experience in Africa

What is wrong with the current food production system in times of climate change and pandemic?

Triple burden of malnutrition

- Hunger, micronutrient deficiencies, obesity & NCDs (cardiovascular, respiratory, cancer and diabetes)

Environmentally unsustainable

- Biodiversity losses, water pollution, soil degradation, GHG emissions, unsustainable use of natural resources, low resilience ...

Social inequities

- Poverty, disempowerment ...

Neglect of cultural values

Political economic
analysis of Africa's food
related problems.

Does Agroecology work in Africa?

To make an **evidence-based and coherent** case for agroecology as the sustainable long-term solution for farming in Africa



www.afsafrica.org/case-studies/

CASE STUDIES



Case Studies



<https://afsafrica.org/case-studies-agroecology/>



BEEES BRING A NEW BUZZ TO FARMING IN ZIMBABWE

AGROECOLOGY



TACKLING BANANA WILT DISEASE IN THE DRC

AGROECOLOGY



AGRICULTURAL TREE PRODUCTS IN CAMEROON

AGROECOLOGY



ORANGE SWEET POTATO FOR HEALTH IN GHANA

AGROECOLOGY



ORGANIC PRACTICES BRING FOOD SECURITY TO KENYA

AGROECOLOGY



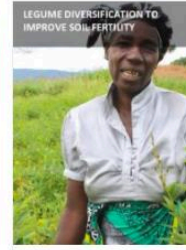
STRENGTHENING POTENTIAL OF FARMERS IN NIGER

AGROECOLOGY



THE MACHOBANE FARMING SYSTEM IN LESOTHO

AGROECOLOGY



LEGUME DIVERSIFICATION TO IMPROVE SOIL FERTILITY

AGROECOLOGY



RURAL WOMEN'S ASSOCIATIONS IN CASAMANCE

AGROECOLOGY



AGRO-ECOLOGY AND WATER HARVESTING IN ZIMBABWE

AGROECOLOGY, LAND



STRENGTHENING ADVOCACY CAPACITY IN TANZANIA

LAND, PASTORALISM



RESTORING LAND TO PASTORALIST CONTROL IN KENYA

LAND, PASTORALISM



SHASHE AGROECOLOGY SCHOOL ZIMBABWE

AGROECOLOGY



AFRICAN LEAFY VEGETABLES BOOST INCOMES IN KENYA

AGROECOLOGY



COMMUNITY-LED LIVELIHOODS IN ETHIOPIA

AGROECOLOGY



IMPROVING SOIL FERTILITY IN TOGO

AGROECOLOGY



ORGANIC COCOA IN SIERRA LEONE

AGROECOLOGY



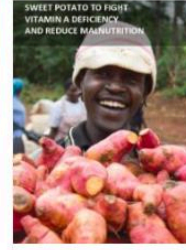
ZIMBABWE INNOVATORS DEFINE FOOD SOVEREIGNTY

AGROECOLOGY



USING PLANTS FOR PEST MANAGEMENT IN AFRICA

AGROECOLOGY



SWEET POTATO FIGHTS VITAMIN A DEFICIENCY IN AFRICA

AGROECOLOGY



SUSTAINABLE PRESERVATION OF CROPS IN GUINEA

AGROECOLOGY



SYSTEM OF RICE INTENSIFICATION (SRI) IN MALI

AGROECOLOGY



RESTORING ECOLOGICAL BALANCE IN NIGER

LAND



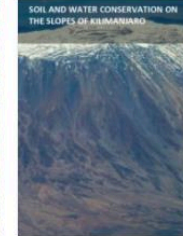
REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE IN SENEGAL

AGROECOLOGY, LAND



SYSTEM OF CROP INTENSIFICATION (SCI) IN ETHIOPIA

AGROECOLOGY



SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION ON KILIMANJARO

AGROECOLOGY, LAND



SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION IN BURKINA FASO

AGROECOLOGY, LAND



SAVING THE BAMBARA NUT IN MUTOKO, ZIMBABWE

AGROECOLOGY



REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE IN SENEGAL

AGROECOLOGY, LAND



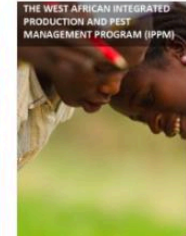
NEVER ENDING FOOD WITH PERMACULTURE IN MALAWI

AGROECOLOGY



VELVETBEAN MUCUNA COVER CROPPING IN BENIN

AGROECOLOGY



INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT IN WEST AFRICA

AGROECOLOGY



SECURING FARMER LIVELIHOODS IN ETHIOPIA

AGROECOLOGY, LAND



SAND DAMS BRING WATER AND FOOD TO KENYA

AGROECOLOGY, LAND



STRENGTHENING ADVOCACY CAPACITY IN TANZANIA

LAND, PASTORALISM



DROUGHT TOLERANT SILVOPASTURES IN ETHIOPIA

PASTORALISM



BIOLOGICAL PEST CONTROL: PUSH-PULL IN EAST AFRICA

AGROECOLOGY



PROMOTING INDIGENOUS MAIZE IN UGANDA

AGROECOLOGY



OVERCOMING THE CONSTRAINTS OF AGRICULTURE

AGROECOLOGY



GROWING ORGANIC PINEAPPLES IN TANZANIA

AGROECOLOGY



ORGANIC COTTON PRODUCTION IN WEST AFRICA

AGROECOLOGY



AGROECOLOGY FOR HOME AND MARKET IN ZIMBABWE

AGROECOLOGY



ADAPTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE IN DRYLAND TANZANIA

AGROECOLOGY



CONSERVATION FARMING IN ZIMBABWE

AGROECOLOGY



AGROFORESTRY FOR FOOD SECURITY IN MALAWI

AGROECOLOGY



FINDING A WAY OUT OF THE MAIZE IN UGANDA

AGROECOLOGY



LIVESTOCK AND AGROFORESTRY IN RWANDA

PASTORALISM



REVIVING THE ANKOLE LONGHORNS OF UGANDA

PASTORALISM



Agroecology is becoming the norm

Entering into the higher education system

More and more governments are endorsing it

Scientific institutions increasingly engaged with it.

Donor community is increasingly engaged

Philanthropy is increasingly supporting it

UN bodies, FAO, IFAD and WFP, Support support it

Current pandemic and conflict is supporting it

Health crisis is driving consumers to agroecology

Social movements are mobilizing for it

Appearing in international conventions

Thanks

