Moving towards Agroecology

CSO Consultation
FAO Regional Conference for Europe
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UPDATES

• Food Emergency “No More Failures as Usual” CSO Sign-On Statement > 1000 signatures
  www.nyeleni.eu/foodemergency

• Pesticides on a Plate – PAN UK leaflet
  31,000 tonnes of pesticides spread on UK crops in 2005
  www.pan-uk.org
Moving towards Agroecology
Outcomes of Diverse Agroecology

Develop culturally appropriate technology
Improve gender equity
Strengthen institutional capacity
Conserve and regenerate natural resources

Diversify production systems

Improve food security and food sovereignty
Improve livelihood security and local markets
Sustain Agroecosystem Functions and Agricultural Biodiversity

SOCIAL
ECONOMIC
ENVIRONMENTAL
International Assessment of Agricultural Knowledge, Science and Technology for Development

Summaries available at:

www.agassessment.org

www.agassessment-watch.org
What is it?

Assessment of the impacts of AKST on the following development goals: past, present and future

- Reducing Hunger and Poverty
- Improving Rural Livelihoods
- Improving Nutrition and Human Health
- Facilitating Environmentally, Socially, Equitable and Economically Sustainable Development
IAASTD

- Co-Sponsors: FAO, GEF, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, World Bank and WHO
- 60 member regionally representative Bureau
  - 30 governments
  - 24 others + 6 NGOs (incl. Practical Action)
  - Rules of procedure - dispute mechanism
- 400 scientists
  - social and economic
  - biological and anthropological
  - ecological and biotech
- Multi-temporal (historical to 2050) and multi-thematic
- Approved by 58 governments (Aus, Can, US reserved)
Outputs

• Government Negotiated text:
  – Global summary for Decisions Makers
  – Executive summary of Synthesis Report
  – Sub-global summaries

• Sub-global reports

• Synthesis report – 8 themes
  – Bioenergy
  – Biotechnology
  – Climate change
  – Human health
  – Natural resource management
  – Trade and markets
  – Traditional and local knowledge and community-based innovation
  – Women in agriculture
6. Agriculture operates within complex systems and is multifunctional in its nature. A multifunctional approach to implementing AKST will enhance its impact on hunger and poverty, improving human nutrition and livelihoods in an equitable, environmentally, socially and economically sustainable manner.

7. An increase and strengthening of AKST towards agroecological sciences will contribute to addressing environmental issues while maintaining and increasing productivity. Formal, traditional and community-based AKST need to respond to increasing pressures on natural resources, such as reduced availability and worsening quality of water, degraded soils and landscapes, loss of biodiversity and agroecosystem function, degradation and loss of forest cover and degraded marine and inshore fisheries. Agricultural strategies will also need to include limiting emission of greenhouse gases and adapting to human-induced climate change and increased variability.
THE INESCAPABLE INTERCONNECTEDNESS OF AGRICULTURE’S DIFFERENT ROLES AND FUNCTIONS
8. Strengthening and redirecting the generation and delivery of AKST will contribute to addressing a range of persistent socioeconomic inequities.

9. Greater and more effective involvement of women and use of their knowledge, skills and experience will advance progress towards sustainability and development goals and a strengthening and redirection of AKST to address gender issues will help achieve this.

10. Many of the challenges facing agriculture currently and in the future will require more innovative and integrated applications of existing knowledge, science and technology (formal, traditional and community-based), as well as new approaches for agricultural and natural resource management.

18. Intensive export oriented agriculture has increased under open market operations but has been accompanied by both benefits and adverse consequences depending on circumstances such as exportation of soil nutrients and water, unsustainable soil or water management, or exploitative labor conditions [in some cases].
17. Opening national agricultural markets to international competition can offer economic benefits, but can lead to long term negative effects on poverty alleviation, food security and the environment without basic national institutions and infrastructure being in place.
Medium/Long Term Suggestions for decision-makers

- Improve public-private-CSO involvement in AKST with accountability for social and environmental outcomes

- Develop macro-level policy changes to enable AKST linkages with development goals

- Shift focus from production technologies to understanding and enhancing the production and adapting to environmental climate change impacts

- Build and reform AKST skill base (basic sciences, social, political and legal knowledge) and innovation capacities of rural communities and consumers
“The IAASTD provides the evidence to show that locally-controlled, biologically-based intensification of farming is the only way forward. In short, it supports food sovereignty.”

Patrick Mulvany, UK, Practical Action