



Agroecology Europe Winter Newsletter

Dear Agroecology Europe members,

We are pleased to share with you in this last newsletter of the year 2021 some news about our association.

On the agenda: we invite you to give a warm welcome to the new Board members, look back at the highlights of the last three months - the 3rd Agroecology Europe Forum and the Month of Agroecology - and discover key publications that Agroecology Europe and other key partner organisations published.

Enjoy the read!



Welcome to the new Board members of Agroecology Europe

As you may recall, the General Assembly was held on the 17th of November and was the occasion to elect the 15 members of the new Board of Directors for the period from 2022 to 2026 and to review the past and future activities of our association.

First of all, we would like to thank you all for attending numerously

this important moment for the association!

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the former Board for their commitment over the last years and for having contributed to the development of Agroecology Europe.

We are pleased to warmly welcome and congratulate all 15 elected members for their great commitment! The new Board will meet in February 2022 in Brussels to elect the new Executive Committee (President, Vice-Presidents and Secretary General) and to set the first milestones for the activities in 2022. We will keep you informed of the outcome of these working days!

[Get to know the Board members](#)

The 3rd Agroecology Europe Forum : it's a wrap!



Picture Credit: [Revolve Media](#)

From 17-19 November 2021, the 3rd Agroecology Europe Forum: “Agroecology to Regenerate our Food Systems and Communities and Enhance Biodiversity” was held to bring together experts and practitioners across the world to share experiences, knowledge and ideas through panel discussions, workshops, and field visits.

For the first time, the event took place in a hybrid format. The first day being fully online, day two taking place in the cultural centre of Nau Bostik in Barcelona (Spain), and the last day in a hybrid format combining field trips to discover agroecological initiatives around Barcelona and on-site and online workshops as well as the closing ceremony.

More than 600 people registered for the free online day, that opened the event and started with an introductory session and roundtable discussion with speakers from the European Commission, FAO, Agroecology Europe, Red de Ciudades por la Agroecología, Barcelona City Council, Via Campesina, The EU Food Policy Coalition, SOLAGRO and IPES-Food. Followed by 4 online sessions with experts discussing agroecology for climate action; Shaping the CAP strategic plans focussing on agroecology; how to transition to healthy food systems

All sessions were recorded and are accessible on our [YouTube channel](#).

Day two was held in the cultural centre of Nau Bostik in Barcelona and gathered around 180 participants and speakers and workshop leaders from a variety of backgrounds, including university research groups, NGOs, online farmers' forums, and activism groups. In a mix of presentations and interactive discussions, participants had the space to exchange about local policy to promote healthy diets, linking producers with consumers, increasing social justice through the upscaling of agroecology, agroecology as a way to ensure gender equality in land management, and the role of science in sustainable agriculture.

We are preparing summary documents for all sessions and will upload them in the next weeks here: <https://www.agroecology-europe.org/forum-library/>

Day three began with field trips to local projects around Barcelona, such as Baix Llobregat an agricultural park; Collserola National Park; an alternative food bank; Community Kitchen, Fundació Espigoladors a non-profit organisation fighting against food waste and losses, and a Biomarket. After an afternoon of smaller workshop sessions and meetings, the closing session was held online to share the outcomes of the 3-day event.

We would like to warmly thank all the members of the local organising committee for the organisation and coordination, as well as all the supporters and funders who have made this great event possible.

The Agroecology Europe Barcelona Letter



Those three days of intense and productive discussions, we could gather, with the help of sessions moderators and participants, elements that we believe reflect well some of the common recommendations to transform our food systems and promote agroecology.

Following a participatory process open to Forum participants and Agroecology Europe members, the letter has been revised and finalized and was open for signature by individuals and organisations.

Within a few last days we already collected 134 signatures. Agroecology Europe decided to **prolong the call for signatures until 15th of January.**

Read, sign and share the letter now!



Picture Credits: [REVOLVE Media](#)

The Month of Agroecology: spotlight on the protection and maintenance of biodiversity for this successful first edition



In October 2021 Agroecology Europe launched the first edition of the "Month of Agroecology". During this one-month event, Agroecology Europe provided content such as webinars, interviews, factsheets and videos to dive into the 13 principles of agroecology developed by the HLPE (UN High Level Panel for Food Security).

All content here!

Watch the video on Agroecology and Biodiversity



[English version](#)

[French version](#)

[Italian version](#)

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Agroecology must be at the heart of the global strategy for the protection and maintenance of biodiversity

In the ongoing negotiations on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, which offer a global framework for action to reverse the worrying trend in the evolution of biodiversity at the global level, we, civil society organizations, scientists and citizens, urge governments to implement coherent and ambitious policies in fostering the agroecological transition.

The industrialization of food systems – through the logic of simplification and standardization of agricultural production practices – has led to massive biodiversity loss. In thirty years, the population of flying insects has decreased by about 80% in Europe (Hallman, 2017), along with the decline of 40% of European bird species (EEA, 2021).

Agriculture is one of the main factors responsible for this decline, although we paradoxically depend on biodiversity to feed ourselves. Soil regeneration, the regulation of local hydrological processes, the recycling of nutrients, pollination and pest control (Allien 1998) are essential ecosystem services for global food production that depend on rich and abundant biodiversity.

It is urgent to reverse this trend of industrialisation and ensure healthy diversified, sufficient and quality food production for the world's population while maintaining and restoring biodiversity in our fields, our territories and our plates. This double challenge can be accomplished by putting agroecology back at the heart of food production.

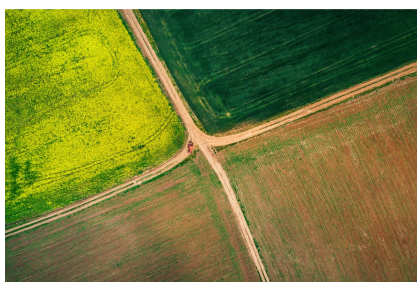
Agroecological practices make it possible to regenerate soil life, increase its fertility, and considerably reduce the use of synthetic inputs such as fertilizers and pesticides, whose effects on biodiversity have been devastating (Giegli et al. 2010; Woodcock et al. 2017; Beketov et al. 2013; Pelosi et al. 2013). By diversifying habitats, cultivated species, farming and food systems, and by restoring regional agroecological networks, agroecology gives a large number of species the opportunity to re-flourish and develop.

In the face of the global challenge to respond adequately to growing food demand, let's not give in to the sirens of productivism and the solutions of the past century that have led us to a dead end. Oversimplifying agro-ecosystems, uniformization and standardization of food

Open Letter Agroecology must be at the heart of the global strategy for the protection and maintenance of biodiversity

On the 27th of October, during the ongoing negotiations on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, Agroecology Europe together with several international NGO published an open-letter to highlight the importance of agroecology for the protection and maintenance of biodiversity at the global level.

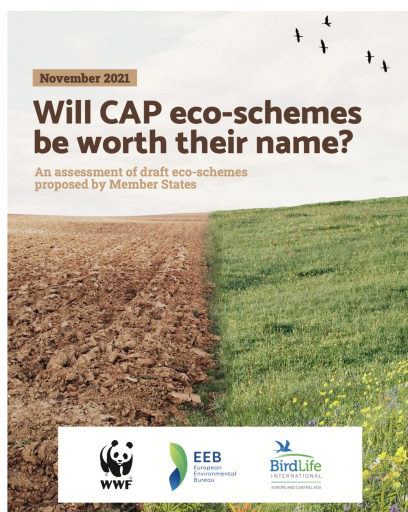
News from Europe



The European Parliament gives its green light to the next CAP reform: Now, what is next?

On the 23rd of November 2021, the European Parliament gathered in a plenary in Strasbourg and voted by a majority to adopt the reform of the EU's Common Agricultural Policy, which has been under discussion for more than three years. The end of

this long phase of discussion is a perfect opportunity for Agroecology Europe to take a brief look at the state of play and consider the trajectories and opportunities for policy change for the coming years.



Will CAP eco-schemes be worth their name? A report to look at CAP strategic plans across 21 EU Members States

On the 29th of November 2021, three major European associations: BirdLife Europe, the European Environmental Bureau (EEB), and WWF European Policy Office, have published a report to look at CAP Strategic Plans (CSPs) across 21 EU Members States.

This report aims to assess if the new form of direct payments for environmentally friendly farming / eco-schemes, are likely to deliver for environment and climate and align with the objectives of the EU Green Deal.



EU Soil Strategy for 2030

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Reaping the benefits of healthy soils for people, food, nature and climate

On the 17th of November, the European Commission adopted three new initiatives that are necessary for making the European Green Deal a reality.

The European Commission proposed new rules to curb EU-driven deforestation, as well as new rules to facilitate intra-EU waste shipments to promote circular economy and tackle the export of illegal waste and waste challenges to third countries, as well as a new Soil strategy to have all European soils restored, resilient, and adequately protected by 2050.

Open-Letter: Ending blind spots on agro-chemicals -

28 NGO'S CALLING EU TO END BLIND SPOTS ON AGRO-CHEMICALS – IT IS HIGH TIME FOR DATA COLLECTION AND PUBLICATION FIT TO MONITOR PROGRESS TOWARDS THE FARM TO FORK TARGETS



it is high time for data collection and publication fit to monitor progress towards the Farm to Fork targets!

On the 8th of November, 28 NGO's among which Agroecology Europe - released an open-letter calling EU Decision-Makers to set a data collection system to monitor progress towards the Farm to Fork targets. This fall within the scope of the ongoing EU reform of agriculture statistics. This legislative reform is of a high importance as it will define what data will be available to monitor progress towards the sustainable use and reduction of pesticides.

Recent publications



The Politics of Knowledge: Understanding the Evidence for Agroecology, Regenerative Approaches, and Indigenous Foodways'

On Wednesday 6 December The Global Alliance for the Future of Food released 'The Politics of Knowledge: Understanding the Evidence for Agroecology, Regenerative Approaches, and Indigenous Foodways'.

In this new compendium, Agroecology Europe joins a diverse group of 17 accomplished contributing teams to shed light on the robust and diverse body of evidence that speaks to the ability of agroecology, regenerative approaches and indigenous foodways to transform food systems towards greater sustainability, security, and

equity.



New FAO Report: "The State of the World's Land and Water Resources for Food and Agriculture: Systems at breaking point"

On the 9 December 2021, the FAO published the SOLAW 2021 report informing on the status of land and water resources, highlighting the risks, and informing on related opportunities and challenges, also underlining the essential contribution of appropriate policies, institutions and investments.

SOLAW 2021 highlights the major risks and trends related to land and water and presents means of resolving competition among users and generating multiple benefits for people and the environment.



New book in open access "Agroecological transitions, between determinist and open-ended visions"

by Claire Lamine (Volume editor) Danièle Magda (Volume editor) Marta Rivera-Ferre (Volume editor) Terry Marsden (Volume editor).

In this book many diverse cases of agroecological transitions are discussed, in order to highlight the fact that these perspectives are not always exclusive in transition process but that they can be articulated successively or combined complementarily, in different ways – thus reinforcing the potential diversity of transition pathways.

European Commission proposal to remove,



recycle and sustainably store carbon

On the 15th of December the European Commission adopted a Communication on Sustainable Carbon Cycles, setting out how to increase removals of carbon from the atmosphere.

Read the communication on sustainable carbon cycles [here](#)

Renew your membership with us for 2022

We want to thank you for your support and trust in Agroecology Europe.

With the year 2021 ending, we want to kindly remind you to renew your membership with us for the new year. We are looking forward to the next year together with you and your active engagement.

Ordinary Members: 80 Euros

Supported Members: 30 Euros

NGO members: 100 Euros

Private companies: 160 Euros

Sustaining Members: minimum 200 Euros

Honorary Members: free

Please pay the membership fee to the following bank account and inform the secretariat (secretariat@agroecology-europe.org) and treasurer (alain.peeters@agroecology-europe.org) about your payment.

Account holder: Agroecology Europe AISBL

Purpose of use: Membership Agroecology Europe 2022 - [NAME]

IBAN: BE90 3631 6614 0832

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**Agroecology Europe wishes
you happy holidays!**



We hope all our members enjoy the last days of the year 2021 and have a wonderful and healthy holiday season!

We are looking forward to the new year and working together with you towards the transition to agroecological farming and food systems across Europe!



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Agroecology Europe

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