



Youth for Agroecology

8 Principles for a Sustainable CAP



“Agroecology is approached as an innovation pathway in agricultural systems aimed at maximising the use of ecological processes in the functioning of agro-ecosystems, with a view to achieving sustainable food.” - TYFA Report, IDDRI

In the EU in 2030, “the uptake of agro-ecological practices is significantly increased” - Biodiversity Strategy, European Commission

It's time to align the CAP with such objectives!

Considering a shift towards Agroecology allows for a holistic approach:

- 1. Biodiversity & Climate Change** to Reduce our Ecological Footprint, Reduce GHG Emissions and Regain Biodiversity.
- 2. Health & Food Sovereignty** to Ensure our Food System is Resilient and Safe.
- 3. Socio-Economic Considerations.** Provide Support to our Farmers and Guarantee Inclusivity.



Bring Back Natural Habitats: Hedges, Shrubs and Trees Should be the New EU Agricultural Landscape



Tackle Health Issues by Supporting the Shift to a **Plant-Based Diet**



Promote Small-Scale Farming to Halt the Decrease of Farm Numbers, Support Local Communities and Increase Resilience.



Promote Mixed-Farming and Diversity in Crops and Varieties



Ensure EU Agriculture's Sovereignty by Addressing the **Gender and Age Gaps**



Support Local Systems and Territory-Based Food Chains to Reduce External Dependencies



Promote Food Autonomy and Security in European Territories



Guarantee Strong Conditionality of Funds and Reduce Direct Payments



Listen to the European Population's Demand for More Quality Food and Animal Welfare.

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Detailed



Tackle Health Issues by Supporting the Shift to a Plant-Based Diet

Weight problems and obesity are increasing at a rapid rate in the EU with estimates of 51.6 % of the EU's population overweight in 2014. Obesity increases the risk of chronic diseases and has substantial direct and indirect costs that put a considerable strain on healthcare and social resources (Eurostat).

Bring Back Natural Habitats: Hedges, Shrubs & Trees Should be the New EU Agricultural Landscape

CAP should contribute to the decade on Ecosystem Restoration through the creation of permanent grasslands and high-diversity landscape features, in line with the Biodiversity Strategy.

Promote Small-Scale Farming to Halt the Decrease of Farm Numbers, Support Local Communities and Increase Resilience.

Small farms (less than 5 hectares) play an important role in reducing the risk of rural poverty, providing additional income, food and local resilience. However, 68.2 % of the EU's utilised agricultural area (UAA) is worked by 6,9% of the farms (Eurostat).

Promote Mixed-Farming and Diversity in Crops and Varieties

Diversification is proved to have a positive impact on resilience, soils and adaptation to climate change, while 77,5% of EU farms are crops or livestock specialists (Eurostat).

Ensure EU Agriculture's Sovereignty by Addressing the Gender and Age Gaps

How will the EU ensure its food sovereignty without farmers? 32% of farm managers in the EU are 65 years of age or more while only 11% of farm managers in the EU were young farmers under the age of 40 years. They also are predominantly male, with only 29% of managers being women (Eurostat).

Support Local Systems and Territory-Based Food Chains to Reduce External Dependencies

Oil (excluding biofuels) contributed to 53 % of total energy consumption by agriculture in 2017. Used to power tractors, it diminishes our sovereignty while participating to GHG emissions (Eurostat). Agroecology privileges tools powered by human or animal energy.

Promote Food Autonomy and Security in European Territories

CAP Promotion Policy budget (200M€/year) should be used to raise awareness on sustainable diets, farming practises and train the next generation of farmers. Part of the CAP budget could be used to support suburban and urban agriculture.

Guarantee Strong Conditionality of Funds and Reduce Direct Paiements (DP)

DP are proven to influence production decisions and reduce farm efficiency (report). They should provide a higher level of support for small to medium sized farms by reducing the share of DP received above €60,000 per farm and to limit payments at €100,000 per farm. Other criteria should include mandatory crop rotation, maximum in livestock density, energy consumption/hectare.

Listen to the European Population's Demand for More Quality Food and Animal Welfare

Ensure coherence with the F2F and Biodiversity Strategies by significantly reducing chemicals (antibiotics, pesticides, fertilizers) use and achieving the objective of at least 25% of agricultural land under organic farming management by 2030.

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