The Agroecology Europe Barcelona Letter

A CALL FOR ACTION

www.agroecology-europe.org

Citizens, grassroots organisations, scientists, farmers, and policy makers from all over Europe organised the Third Agroecology Europe Forum in Barcelona, World Sustainable Food Capital 2021, and asked for a strong and immediate transformation of the way we eat, the way we work, and the way we live. They showed that a transformation is possible and is already taking place in many European territories and communities that have embraced an agroecological approach.

An agroecological approach to regenerate our food system is needed to halt the negative impact of climate change, biodiversity loss, or pandemics. With Covid-19 we witness what happens to humanity when our lack of respect for nature crosses the line. And this is why the link between healthy people, healthy societies and a healthy planet puts sustainable systems at the heart of the Farm to Fork strategy. This is a practical plan on how to make our food systems resilient with eleven actions:

1. Invest public money in public goods (i.e., carbon sequestration in soils, biodiversity restoration), and ecosystem services (e.g. pollination) by reorienting the main part of Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) subsidies.

2. End CAP support per hectare and adopt support to people for halting the extinction of farmers’ populations. Develop a CAP approach oriented to generate more employment in the agricultural sector, while reducing its dependence on fossil fuels. Subsidies should be paid for additional efforts, and not for mandatory measures already covered by conditionality and greening in CAP Pillar I.

3. The transition to healthy systems must be done by giving a voice to the ones that are never heard. Bottom-up governance mechanisms for the European food systems including farmers, food workers, citizens and social movements as fundamental agents are needed. Transitioning means moving from food production to food security and sovereignty, through participatory governance.

4. Decrease support to reductionist agricultural research, and increase investments in public research on agroecology and organic farming, creating Agroecological Living Labs. Transitioning to agroecological systems needs a life-long learning, transdisciplinary and multistakeholder approach, in formal and non-formal education and research. Agricultural sciences curricula should be transformed into agroecological curricula.

5. Rethink the relation between urban and rural societies and territories, as cities and rural life and ecosystem are interdependent. We need to create an alliance based on short supply chains with surrounding territories, as indicated by the "Milan Urban Food Policy Pact" (signed by 199 cities).
Consistent participatory planning and additional public funding should be directed to develop governance arrangements that promote healthy and sustainable diets for all, in urban and rural areas. The plan should reinforce the link between food and care policies by having community infrastructures and increasing the support of the scholar community. Public funding should also be dedicated to eco territories, including biodistricts and agricultural parks.

Digital technologies can play a complementary role in the agroecological transition only if end-user involvement, open technology and peer-to-peer process of sharing innovation are adopted to ensure technology sovereignty.

Prices don’t lie but hide the real cost. The price of food should also reflect the real social and human capital cost (true-cost accounting). Active defence and promotion of the rights and fair payments to workers and the mechanisms of collective representation are needed. It is essential to generate inclusive and participatory multi-stakeholders mechanisms so that agroecological foods and the associated ecosystem services become accessible to all without being part of a cultural or economic privilege, nor derived from stigmatized forms of public or private aid.

Assigning public funding to participatory breeding programmes aimed at developing resilient cultivars and breeds by exploiting diversity and genotype through environment interactions. This would allow to fully exploit the potential of low-input systems and marginal agricultural areas.

These actions should not be restricted to the EU, but also consider the openness, solidarity, cooperation with other areas on the planet. To phase out the existing fossil-fuel-based agriculture, to transform our food, transport and energy systems, and to protect all life on the planet, citizens, farmers, scientists and young people are calling for their right to a decent future.

We urge policy makers to implement the agroecological transformation, and even go beyond the European Green Deal, the Farm to Fork and Biodiversity 2030 strategies with courage and transparency starting from these eleven actions.
We want to thank all 41 organisations and the 169 individuals that have signed the Agroecology Europe Barcelona Letter!

*Note: See full list of signatories below*
We want to thank all 41 organisations and the 169 individuals that have signed the Agroecology Europe Barcelona Letter!

**Signatories**

**Organisations**

ACU (Associazione Consumatori Utenti)  
AGROECOLOGY GREECE  
Agropolis Fondation  
ARC2020  
Asociación Intermunicipal Red Terrae  
Asociación Los Pies en la Tierra  
Asociación Vida Sana  
Associação Natureza Portugal | WWF  
Associação Terra Sintrópica  
Associació de la Producció Agrària Ecològica de Mallorca (APAEMA)  
Associazione Italiana di Agroecologia AIDA  
Associazione per i Vival ProNatura  
bioRe Association  
Carbone Fertile - Centre national d'agroécologie  
Centre for Agroecology, Water and Resilience at Coventry University (UK)  
Crete's Culinary Sanctuaries Educational Network  
Druživa, o.z.  
Farmap asbl  
Finca El Cabillón  
GAIA - Environmental Action and Intervention Group  
GRAND FARM  
Magyarországi Agroökológia Hálózat  
IFOAM Organics Europe  
International Panel of Experts on Sustainable Food Systems (IPES-Food)  
Irish Seed Savers  
L'Etnogràfica. Antropologia per a la transformació social  
Lípu-BirdLife Italia  
Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Chania  
Menjador ca la Rosa Sccl  
Mensa Cívica  
Meta Meta  
Miljömatematik Malmö AB  
MUNDUBAT  
Municipality of Mértola, Portugal  
Perma-Projects  
Plukgeluk vzw  
SOLAGRO  
Terre & Humanisme  
Terres Vivantes  
Ver de Terre Production  
WWF Italia
We want to thank all 41 organisations and the 169 individuals that have signed the Agroecology Europe Barcelona Letter!

Signatories

Individuals
Adela M. Sánchez Moreiras
Ahmad Mahdavi
Alain Peeters
Alba Tous Fandos
Alejandro Daniel Rodríguez Álvarez
Alessio Corti
Alexander Wezel
Alfred Grand
Alina F. Noe Bregains
aLP Pir
Anders Højlund Andersen
Andrea Pölz
Angelica Marchetti
Anna Brumer
Anna-Camilla Moonen
Bhupendra Singh Sisodia
Blenda Agell
Camila Arza Garcia
Camilla LP
Caterina Batello
Cavinato Gianni
Cécile Gil
Cecília Varga
Chavée Simon
Chiara Flora Bassignana
Cristina Laurenti
Daniel Meier
Daniel Nemeth
Daniele Antichi
Dr Edward Nderitu Karanja
Dr Les Levidow
Dr. Immo Norman Fiebrig
Edwin Nderitu Mwangi
Eeva-Liisa Korpela
Elaine Bradley
Elena Ambühl
Elisa Lorenzetti
Emanuela Cattaneo
Emile Frison
Enric Tello
Ethel Custers
Eugene Ralston Griffith
Eyal Ben-Simchon
We want to thank all 41 organisations and the 169 individuals that have signed the Agroecology Europe Barcelona Letter!

**Signatories**

**Individuals**

Fatima Lambarraa-Lehnhardt
Federica Luoni
Federico Bigaran
Federico Cattaneo
Federico Leoni
Federico Provenzani
Felix Bianchi
Ferroni Franco
Flavio Alexandre Verdier da Fonseca
Florine Degrune
Francesco Cattaneo
Francesco Sottile
Franco Rainini
Friedrich Leitgeb
Gaio Cesare Pacini
Georg Friedrich Horn
Georgios Veikontis
Gianfranco Laccone
Giorgia Giorgi Milne
Giulia Gouet
Giuseppe De Santis
Gusten Brodin
Hellmut von Koerber
Ishwar Patidar
Jean-Philippe Deguine
Jessica Donham
Jessica Johansson
Johanna Herrigel
Johanna Jacobi
Jolene Mestmacher
Jose Luis Vicente Vicente
Juan Pablo Sciurano
Julian Farges
Karim Riman
Karin Pirhofer Walzl
Karla Škorjanc
Karsten Krüger
Kira Miskulnig
Kuat Abeshev
Lander Thyssen
Lanka Horstink
We want to thank all 41 organisations and the 169 individuals that have signed the Agroecology Europe Barcelona Letter!

Signatories

Individuals

Laura Giappichelli
Letty Fajardo Vera
Lili Balogh
Linda Groot Nibbelink
Lisa Sorensen
Lucas Sebastián Worsdell
Lucy Zwigard
Ludwig Stephan
Maddalena Cirani
Manuel González de Molina
Marcello Maggioli
Marco Pierini
Marcos Lana
Maria Braun
María Celis García
Marieta Okenkova
Marilena Reinhard-Kolempas
Marina García Llorente
Marta Cortegano Valente
Marzia Ranaldo
Matteo Metta
Matteo Petitti
Meheretu Yonas
Michael Löbmann
Michael Schulz
Michel Quicheron
Michelle Bonatti
Mieke van Hemert
Miguel Francisco Silva Encarnação
Nadia El Hage Scialabba
Nathan Einbinder
Nefeli Kalkana
Nicolas Lindemann
Niels De Ceulaer
Nikolaus Hruschka
Nives Zindel
Nora Vogel
Ole Ostermann
Olivier Godinot
Olivier Lefebvre
Omotunde Kasali
Palavalli Sai Chaitanya Reddy
Paola Migliorini
We want to thank all 41 organisations and the 169 individuals that have signed the Agroecology Europe Barcelona Letter!

**Signatories**

**Individuals**

Paolo Barberi  
Paolo Guarnaccia  
Philippe Paelinck  
Phillipe POINTEREAU  
Phoebe Parros  
Pietro De Marinis  
Rachel Kent  
Rainer Weisshaidinger  
Riccardo Pavesi  
Rita Queiroga Bento  
Rosa Batalla i Canut  
Ruben Savels  
Rudolf Tille  
Safya Menasseri  
Samanta Rosi Belliere  
Samantha de Lucena Cadlato  
Samira Amos  
Sara Burbi  
Sara Molins Cabani  
Sarah Sakineh Zarin  
Sarka Hajtmarova  
Sergio Segura Calero  
Silvia Schmidt  
Simone Marini  
Srdjan Šeremešić  
Stefano Carlesi  
Stefano De Leo  
Stefano Maria Bocchi  
Stella Beghini  
Stephen Gliessman  
Steven Jones  
Svetlana Acs  
Theresa Landwehr  
Tim Vandewalle  
Timothée Collin  
Tommaso Gaifami  
Vaihav Balasaheb Shelar  
Vincent Lavavasseur  
Vincent Melis  
Vlassis Bogris  
Wolle Hailie Shiferaw  
Zoltán Kálmán