

"From conventional agriculture to agroecological practices" HOW TO ORGANISE IT?

PARADIGM SHIFT

- Cooperating with nature instead of fighting it
- Back to the roots of agronomy: living soil and the rhizosphere
- Role of the farmer: not only producing, but also food processing and selling, providing ecosystem services and common goods (carbon sequestration in soils, biodiversity and landscape restoration, clean water production)



11 STEPS TO SUCCESSFUL CHANGE

- Choosing a transition path and determining a speed of change
- Developing the ecological network in and around the farm, doubling existing biodiversity within five years
- Designing diversified crop rotations, perennial cropping, and grassland management
- Restoring soil structure, soil fertility and soil life
- Rethinking nutrient cycles
- Integrating crop, livestock and tree
- Planning for substantial reduction of commercial chemical and energy inputs, and farm waste
- Reducing production costs by all possible and realistic means
- Product processing
- Marketing of products through high added value, short, local and mid-scale supply chains
- Development of a network of advisors and other agroecological farmers for knowledge exchange



ECOLOGICAL STRATEGY FOR AGROECOLOGY

- Replacing fossil-fuel based inputs by ecological processes and ecosystem services
- Investing in biodiversity at all levels
- Building on local resources
 - = endogenous soil fertility
 - ≠ massive use of commercial inputs
- Observation, reflection, and acquisition and exchange of knowledge



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6 OBJECTIVES AND PRACTICES FOR BETTER FARM MANAGEMENT

- Restoring soil fertility (species mixtures, permanent cover, legume-based temporary grassland, farmyard manure, composts,...) and structure (no ploughing, cover crops and mulches,...)
- Controlling diseases by restoring living soil (stop killing soil life and feed it)
- Controlling pests through the design and development of an ecological network that increases populations of natural enemies of crop pests
- Weed control through crop rotation (legume-based temporary grasslands), competitive crops, smothering cover crops and mulches,...
- Reintegrating crop and livestock farming at farm and/or region levels
- Increasing the diversity of crops in time and space including climate resilient crops



FUTURE OF YOUR AGROECOLOGICAL FARM

- Creating jobs on the farm, enabling succession by young generations
- Establishing contact with customers/eaters and nearby agroecological farmers
- Restoring meaning to agricultural work: feeding people with healthy and tasty food
- Fitting your farm into food belts around cities
- Developing networks of producers, processors, distributors
- Contributing to rural development and landscape conservation through a sustainable agriculture
- Engaging in the promotion of farmers' role in safeguarding the quality of the agricultural production and some vital common goods including biodiversity, soil, air and water



For any further information on our work, activities and webinars,
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