

Scaling Agroecology Up And Out

LESSONS FROM THE
AGROECOLOGY LEARNING EXCHANGE
INDIA - FEBRUARY, 2020



AGROECOLOGY
FUND

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Any errors and omissions are ours.

Daniel Moss. Angela Cordeiro. Ashlesha Khadse. Amrita Gupta and Catherine Dodaro



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Executive Summary

The Agroecology Fund's second global Agroecology Learning Exchange, held in February 2020 in Karnataka, India, was an extraordinary gathering of more than 70 farmers and agroecology advocates from frontline organizations, researchers, allies, and donors. The Agroecology Fund's mission, at its core, is to support a growing global agroecology movement to move climate- and human rights-friendly food systems into the mainstream where they belong. Spaces for learning, knowledge exchange and relationship-building – whether physical or virtual – offer fertile ground to scale agroecology up and out.

What makes the agroecology movement so unique is its emphasis on local diversity – both cultural and biological – and continuous farmer-led innovation, as the cornerstone of fair and resilient food systems. This multiplicity of approaches makes agroecology an intensely knowledge-intensive field.

At the Agroecology Fund's Agroecology Learning Exchange, farmers, consumers, activists, donors and scientists spent eight days together in a dynamic combination of field visits and group discussions to share insights on two key questions:

1. What can we learn from the rich Indian experience?
2. What impacts and lessons about scaling up agroecology can we share from our efforts in our home territories?

Setting the Stage

A year before the gathering took place in India, a representative planning group of grantees, donors and advisors prepared the methodology and agenda with a joint Kenyan-Indian facilitation team and worked closely with an on-the-ground logistics team in Karnataka led by the Amrita Bhoomi Agroecology School and La Via Campesina South Asia. We were fortunate indeed to hold

our gathering in the weeks just prior to the COVID-19 outbreak forcing border closures, with only a small number of cancellations due to the yet-to-be-declared pandemic. Some of us traveled for two days to arrive at the meeting site.

The Agroecology Fund is committed to bringing together all of its key stakeholders at such convenings every three years. In addition to the learning, receiving feedback is essential for the Agroecology Fund to ensure that its strategic directions emerge directly from the aspirations of our partners. The Agroecology Fund's [first global Agroecology Learning Exchange](#) took place in Masaka, Uganda, in May, 2016.

A key objective of that first global Agroecology Learning Exchange – and this one in 2020 – was to fortify ever more powerful and intelligent collaborations towards agroecologically-based food systems. The timing was opportune; never before has there been such an openness to agroecology – in communities and markets, within governments and multilateral bodies. That openness is the fruit of years of work in practice, research and movement building that have demonstrated just how agroecology works. The Agroecology Learning Exchange was intended to accelerate this growing momentum towards a badly needed overhaul of food systems. The public health crisis that

was to follow soon after, and its devastating impact on global hunger, only highlighted the vulnerabilities of the existing industrialized model, and underscored how urgently we need food systems transformation.

A Movement Grows When We Learn from Each Other's Work

The exchange was held at the Fireflies Cultural Center, a secular ashram space on the outskirts of Bangalore, in south India. Every morning, sessions commenced with a "mística" led by grantees from different regions: a celebration of song and culture, seed and food to remind us of our shared values and roots.

The collaboratives supported by the Agroecology Fund – alliances of cooperating partners – are as diverse in their approaches as they are in their reach. Some coalitions work very locally, such as in Ecuador, where the Agroecology Collective connects agroecological producers to consumers in Quito and Riobamba through a national network of farmers markets and CSAs. Other collaboratives, such as La Via Campesina and the International Indian Treaty Council, work internationally to pressure the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to adopt agroecology as a pillar of global agricultural development and



indigenous rights. The Instituto Agroecológico Latinoamericano (IALA) network of Latin American agroecology schools focus on agroecology training while their African colleagues promote school gardens. Kyrgyz pastoralists work with scientists to preserve their indigenous livestock breeds while Filipino farmers campaign for land rights and agrarian reform. The Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA) advocates with governments to put agroecological approaches squarely into their climate action plans.

To share the breadth and depth of this work – these are just some of dozens of examples – the Agroecology Learning Exchange program began with a gallery walk. Each collaborative presented a poster introducing their work, sharing an achievement they are proud of and a challenge they are facing that may be relevant to the wider group. The exchange was designed so that participants could share their rich and varied knowledge with each other, so that strategies and solutions which work – as well as cautionary tales – could strengthen the movement.

A Growing Movement Needs Inspiration: Learning from the field

Through field visits to two nearby farms on the outskirts of Bangalore, all Agroecology

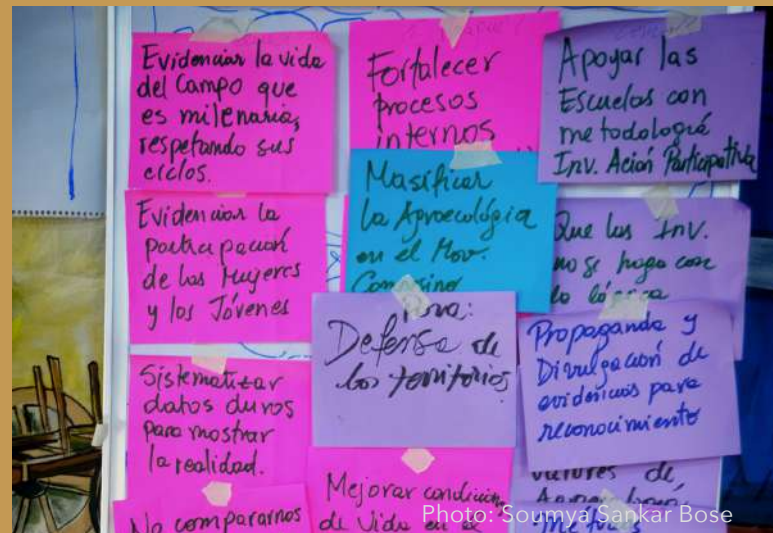


Photo: Soumya Sankar Bose

Learning Exchange participants gained a first-hand view of the Community-managed Natural Farming (CNF) program, formerly Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF), well established in Andhra Pradesh and gaining traction in Karnataka. A panel discussion among policymakers and advocates helped familiarize participants with the Indian context, and current challenges and opportunities for natural farming.

Some Agroecology Learning Exchange participants had arrived in India earlier, to spend two days at the host's agroecology school, Amrita Bhoomi. Four hours away from the city of Bangalore, Amrita Bhoomi, part of La Via Campesina's South Asia chapter, has encouraged more than 100,000 farmers to move away from chemical farming and adopt agroecological practices. It seeks to influence state policymakers to adopt an agroecology program in Karnataka. Participants had the opportunity to tour the farm and learn from local farmers and movement leaders about the principles of CNF. They practiced hands-on farm activities such as mulching, sowing seeds and harvesting, as well as participated in a harvest festival, for which farmers and the Soliga tribe from the nearby BR Hills came together for an evening of song, dance, and traditional thanksgiving.

After the exchange at Fireflies Cultural Center, dozens of participants stayed on to



Photo: Soumya Sankar Bose



Photo: Soumya Sankar Bose

travel to Anantapur, a dryland district in the neighboring state of Andhra Pradesh. Andhra Pradesh has initiated a large-scale public policy underpinned by an innovative farmer-to-farmer extension system to convert the entire state's agriculture to agroecological practices by the end of the decade. There were visits to various farms in the district and conversations with government officials working to scale up agroecology.

A Growing Field Needs Money: Financing the amplification of agroecology

At the Agroecology Learning Exchange, participants discussed strategies to deepen support for agroecology. Multiple studies reveal that national funds and international development aid to amplify agroecological solutions have been extremely limited. A change is, however, emerging as policymakers recognize how agroecology helps accomplish many of the Sustainable Development Goals and mitigates climate change. The community of interested funders and networks across the globe is diverse and growing, as financiers increasingly seek holistic methods like agroecology to support climate action, food security, biodiversity protection, gender equity, indigenous rights, nutrition and more. Many bilateral and

multilateral agencies now have programs on agroecology and the Andhra Pradesh example serves as proof of concept that agroecology is not just sustainable, but also scalable, cost-effective and more equitable for small farmers.

Private financiers are recognizing the potential of agroecology as well. We listened to a presentation about how private philanthropists are beginning to use their endowments to support emerging agroecological enterprises. Great care must be used with investors, however. Agroecology Learning Exchange participants noted the importance of adhering to principles and guarding against co-optation of terms and "green-washing" that diminish the transformative power of agroecology.

In subsequent small group discussions, participants underscored that financing for agroecology should be non-extractive, should invigorate circular/local economies, and be farmer-centric. Forms of financing that are best suited to grassroots needs include patient capital with low interest rates, integrated capital and blended finance. Critically, unfair subsidization of chemical agriculture must be reversed to create a level playing field for small-scale agroecological enterprises to be able to thrive.



Photo: Soumya Sankar Bose



Photo: Rucha Chitnis

A Movement Needs Great Influence: Gathering grassroots evidence to influence donors and policymakers

What evidence is needed to encourage farmers to transition away from chemical farming and push policymakers to embrace agroecology? The Agroecology Learning Exchange included lively debates on the importance of high-quality scientific evidence to demonstrate the impacts and outcomes of agroecology. Participants agreed that this evidence base should not just be within the purview of trained academics and scientists but rather should be co-created with farmer-scientists engaged in constant, real-time experimentation to increase yields, conserve resources, and improve soil health. Evidence should not be constrained by productivist paradigms measuring only productivity without acknowledging the social and cultural benefits of agroecology, and the negative impacts of conventional agriculture. Many participants felt that while the proof of agroecology is evident in farmers' fields and consumers' plates, rigorous evidence would go a long way towards convincing development banks and multilateral agencies to support agroecology. The grassroots organizations present have benefitted from partnerships with research institutions that use participatory and decentralized approaches to generate evidence and empower communities in the process.

Funds at Service to a Movement: How can the Agroecology Fund better support agroecology movements around the world?

Agroecology Fund partners expressed appreciation for the opportunity to deploy Agroecology Fund resources to further their timely work. They expressed hope that the Fund will continue to grow to include many more collegial collaboratives around the globe.

Grantee partners made several recommendations, encouraging the Agroecology Fund to, for example:

1. Assist collaboratives to co-create evidence and disseminate impacts of their work to target audiences;
2. Create accessible, decentralized funds, e.g., revolving loan funds, rapid response funds for emergent advocacy opportunities, and regionally focused funds for deeper territorial work;
3. Make funding available to informal organizations and cooperatives;
4. Expand support for indigenous food systems and the sharing of local knowledge;
5. Incorporate alternative application mechanisms to accommodate organizations who don't have the capacity to write proposals;
6. Support learning and networking at the regional and sub-regional levels.

In an evaluation feedback session, participants expressed that they enjoyed the Agroecology Learning Exchange's spirit of diversity, solidarity, and participation and appreciated the opportunity to work in small groups for deeper engagement. However, for future learning exchanges, they suggested that interpretation could be further streamlined (there was simultaneous interpretation in four languages), the agenda could be co-created in a more participatory way, multiple discussions could run in parallel, and collaboratives could have more time to share stories about their work (rather than the quick-format gallery walk-through of poster presentations).

Upon completion of the Agroecology Learning Exchange, participants committed to share the knowledge, insights and experiences gained during their time in India with their organizations and networks back home, and to maintain and strengthen the connections they fostered during the exchange.

Moving forward after India

Ultimately, the resounding message from this meeting echoes the primary mission of the Agroecology Fund: let's continue to strengthen the agroecology movement around the world.

Daniel Moss, Executive Director of the Agroecology Fund asked, "Did you build relationships? Did you gain knowledge and ideas? Do you have a better vision of where

we need to go together as a movement and individually within your organizations and collaboratives?" Judging by the nodding heads and chorus of resounding affirmatives "yes!, si, oui, da!" the learning exchange achieved its most essential objective.

Until the opportunity to convene again arises, the hope is that participants continue to reflect upon and share with their networks the insights they gleaned from their time in India, and collaborate with their colleagues from different regions to achieve their shared goal of building food systems rooted in agroecology. The insights we gained during our short time together may prove more relevant than ever in facing the multiple crises and challenges we face now, in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Across five continents, our partners find themselves on the frontlines of relief efforts, mobilizing their networks to ensure the most vulnerable have enough to eat. In Black, Indigenous and communities of color around the world, they are finding creative solutions to connect farmers to consumers and revitalize local economies. It is sadly likely that we will face similar economic, environmental, and public health shocks in the coming decades. It is the great hope of the Agroecology Fund that the 2020 Agroecology Learning Exchange contributed to our collective creativity and resolve to face these challenges and seize these opportunities for change together.





Photo: Soumya Sankar Bose

Foreword

In February 2020, just before COVID-19 made large gatherings impossible, we were fortunate that Agroecology Fund grantee partners, advisors and donors were able to gather together in southern India for a global Agroecology Learning Exchange. Every three years, the Agroecology Fund brings together its key stakeholders to share strategies for how to amplify agroecology around the globe.

We chose southern India for this gathering due to the myriad grassroots efforts to transform the subcontinent's food system. We sought to learn and consider lessons for scaling agroecology up and out globally. Prominent among the Indian experiences is an effort with significant state backing in Andhra

Pradesh – CNF – that has been built on decades of grassroots organizing by women's self-help groups. We were generously hosted by our partner, Amrita Bhoomi Agroecology School and La Via Campesina South Asia.

Here we share with you the proceedings of the Agroecology Learning Exchange. The report includes brief summaries of all sessions as well as descriptions of immersive moments in the field before, during and after the Agroecology Learning Exchange. Needless to say, it was an editorial challenge to capture so many rich conversations and debates within a report that is manageable for readers.

Daniel Moss

Angela Cordeiro

Ashlesha Khadse

Amrita Gupta



Photo: Rucha Chitnis

Introduction

Objectives

The purpose and desired outcomes of this Global Agroecology Learning Exchange were:

- To share knowledge and experience across geographies and cultures about how to amplify agroecology.
- To strengthen relationships and collaborative opportunities among people and organizations affiliated with the Agroecology Fund.
- To study the CNF process and other agroecology amplification strategies to gain insights into policy and practice change processes for agroecology.
- To gather insights that will inform the next Agroecology Fund strategic plan.
- To co-create and collect ideas that will contribute to report(s) on effective grassroots strategies to amplify agroecology.

Participants, Hosts and Preparation

Over the past seven years, the Agroecology Fund has made 49 grants to 35 collaboratives on five continents. Representatives of 30 of those collaboratives joined us in India. Among those collaboratives is the Amrita Bhoomi Agroecology School, which together with their ally, La Via Campesina South Asia, made our gathering possible, including resolving immense logistical challenges such as air travel from all corners of the globe and simultaneous translation in five languages: English, Spanish, French, Portuguese and Russian. We are deeply grateful to them.

In addition to the collaboratives, we were joined by several Agroecology Fund advisors and donors. Amrita Bhoomi and La Via Campesina South Asia also brought many of their local and regional colleagues into our conversations.

Each collaboration was asked to bring to the Agroecology Learning Exchange a poster telling a brief story of the impacts of their work. Many collaborations also brought



videos. These communications products proved critical in deepening the conversation among colleagues eager to understand the successes and challenges of each other’s work.

In the months before we met in Karnataka, grantees participated in in-depth surveys to share their own learning and teaching priorities. The facilitators sought to design conversations with these multiple areas of interest in mind. Edward Rege and Tina Rai were the facilitators of the four-day event. In advance of the gathering, they worked closely with a representative planning group of grantees, donors and advisors to prepare the agenda, refine objectives and outcomes and coordinate with an on-the-ground team.

AGENDA

The Agroecology Learning Exchange was composed of three “chapters”. The first was a two-day visit to the Amrita Bhoomi Agroecology School, about four hours west of Bangalore. The second was a five-day interactive learning exchange at the Fireflies Cultural Center, just outside of Bangalore.

The third was a two-day field visit north, to the state of Andhra Pradesh to see firsthand the work of the CNF Program. The proceedings of the Agroecology Learning Exchange make up the bulk of this report, although descriptions of the field visits are included as well.

i. Visit to Amrita Bhoomi:

Visitors arrived between the 29th and 31st of January and stayed for two days. The program included practical activities in the field, visiting famers in the neighboring villages and exchanges with the Amrita Bhoomi team.

ii. Learning Exchange at the Fireflies Cultural Center:

The exchange featured interactive methodologies such as celebratory and reflective cultural rituals (“místicas”), panel discussions, buzz groups, poster presentations and field visits. Each day ended with exercises for self-introspection and feedback.

Networking: Within the busy agenda, the facilitators also sought to maintain enough flexibility to accommodate emerging

Day 1 - Feb 4, 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning from the collaboratives
Day 2 - Feb 5, 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning from the Indian experience: Up-close view of natural farming and other agroecology strategies
Day 3 - Feb 6, 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing financial resources for agroecology: trends, challenges and opportunities • Generating and disseminating evidence to influence debates about, and funding allocations for agroecology
Day 4 - Feb 7, 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partner feedback on the Agroecology Fund Strategic Plan to Amplify Agroecology • Next steps, evaluation and closing

demands. New topics emerged from formal and informal networking sessions. Participants self-organized to discuss the following topics:

- (i) Strategies for Scaling Out Agroecology;
- (ii) How to Support Agroecological Enterprises for Agroecology;
- (iii) Economy and Finance or Non-extractive Finance;
- (iv) The role of Local and Indigenous Knowledge;
- (v) Defining Agroecology.

iii. Visit to Andhra Pradesh:

The morning after the Agroecology Learning Exchange in Karnataka formally closed, nearly 50 participants boarded buses to Andhra Pradesh to get a first-hand view of CNF. This experience involved visits to farms in a dryland district and interactions with government officials working to scale up agroecology.

Amrita Bhoomi Agroecology School (1-3 Feb): Our local host, Amrita Bhoomi hosted participants for a two-day long hands-on immersive experience at the agroecology training school.

Amrita Bhoomi, which means “Eternal Earth”, was conceived by Indian farmers in 2013. Amrita Bhoomi was envisioned as a space for Indian farmers to build their own models of resilience and autonomy for their food and farming future. Part of La Via Campesina – a global network of 200 million farmers – the agroecology school in South Asia, Amrita Bhoomi, promotes farmer-to-farmer training in CNF. The agroecological practice is fast gaining ground in India as a way to boost farmer health, incomes, and sovereignty, while nourishing the land. (The term ‘Zero Budget’ in CNF’s former designation of Zero-Budget Natural Farming - ZBNF referred to the net cost of production, as the inputs used to nourish seeds and soil are freely available in the form of cow manure and cow urine.)

The movement is growing quickly, with the neighboring state government of Andhra Pradesh reaching over half a million farmers,

and committing to reach 6 million more. In Karnataka too, there is promising public investment in CNF. So far, Amrita Bhoomi has encouraged more than 100,000 farmers to move away from chemical farming and adopt agroecological practices. It seeks to influence state policymakers to adopt the program in Karnataka.

The Agroecology Fund supports the school’s short-term farmer training camps and its year-long program, which focus primarily on women and youth. Amrita Bhoomi works to revive interest in indigenous livestock; they have developed seed banks, as well as several model farms, which are managed by peasant youth interns under the guidance of expert farmers. In this way, the center is a hub for the next generation of farmers to learn modern day practical skills – such as how to market their produce to consumers – as well as age-old traditional knowledge.



Visit to Amrita Bhoomi

Amrita Bhoomi's goal is to reach ever more farmers across South Asia, and to demonstrate that a prosperous, equitable and environmentally sustainable future is within reach. The collaboration has successfully collaborated with partners in Sri Lanka and Nepal to replicate these agroecology practices.

Participants who visited Amrita Bhoomi as part of the global Agroecology Learning Exchange had the opportunity to tour the farm and learn about the principles of CNF. Participants met with local farmers, members of the

natural farming movement, farmer movement leaders, and other activists and trainers. This field visit was designed to give participants a sense of the history, growth, and current challenges of a self-organized agroecology social movement in India. They practiced farm activities such as mulching, sowing seeds and harvesting, and also participated in a harvest festival, in which farmers and the Soliga tribe from the nearby Biligirirangana Hills, a protected reserve, came together for an evening of song, dance, ritual, and traditional thanksgiving.

Photo: Amrita Gupta



Visit to Amrita Bhoomi



Photo: Soumya Sankar Bose



Photo: Rucha Chitnis



Photo: Amrita Gupta



Photo: Soumya Sankar Bose



Testimonial



I am Chukki Nanjundaswamy working with Karnataka Rajya Raita Sangha (KRRS), the farmers movement of Karnataka. I am also coordinating the agroecology school of Via Campesina South Asia, Amrita Bhoomi.

I was born inside the farmers movement [KR Nanjundaswamy, Chukki's father, was the founder of KRRS]. The influence of what was happening at home definitely had a direct impact on me. When I completed my graduation I was sure this is the path I wanted to take. The farmers' movement in Karnataka started in 1980 when there was police firing in the north of Karnataka; three farmers were killed. So that was when the farmers started to get organized at the local level. Initially it was a difficult struggle to protect the dignity of farmers. It was totally an unorganized sector – the banks used to harass them just because they couldn't pay back the loans on time. And the revenue officers used to go to the villages anytime and enter the families' homes and take away all sorts of belongings including the saris, the vessels in the kitchen, whatever was there for their basic livelihoods. They took everything to recover their loans.

In the early '90s the focus shifted to globalization; neoliberal policies were in the early stages. So as part of the anti-globalization movement the farmers took direct actions against Cargill seed company, Monsanto, Kentucky Fried Chicken... It was a way of giving them a warning that we don't welcome them in India. Because we want to build India on our own terms. We want to be self-reliant in terms of food and agriculture. We want to be self-reliant on the whole issue of food sovereignty. The farmers do not like the monopoly over seeds by corporations.

From the late '90s onwards, especially after India entered WTO and the free market, we have been hearing about the rise of farmer suicides. We started seeing market instability and saw that farmers had no access to fair prices. And overall the agricultural input costs went up. Agriculture became very expensive. The government of India says in the last 15 years, 300,000 farmers have committed suicided, but according to us it is 2-3 times more than what they are saying.

There was a consciousness among KRRS farmers that we need a space to save our native varieties of seeds and transmit the



Photo: Rucha Chitnis

Testimonial

traditional knowledge of farming which does not harm nature or the farmer. And that's how Amrita Bhoomi was born. Amrita Bhoomi was born out of the womb of the farmers' movement of Karnataka, together with farmers' organizations of many states in India.

Now we call it agroecology, but for farmers who are still relying on their own food on their own land or on their own knowledge or seeds, for them it is their life, it is not a new thing at all. We see land as Mother Earth. She's feeding you. She's taking care of you, she is nurturing you. But with the Green Revolution we just saw her as one of the tools of production, we poured all sorts of chemicals, we destroyed her fertility. We lost a spiritual connection with Mother Earth, with our seeds, with our knowledge and with the tools and our cattle.

We have been seeing that small-scale agroecological producers are sustaining not just their own families, but also the local population. We see the food security of the families is protected because of intercropping. Through intercropping the farmers get the cereals they require, the oil seeds that they require, the vegetables for their own consumption. Their food security is taken care of. And the other thing we see that is they are very happy. They are very content. The farmers themselves say, "we are stress-free now." And their income has gone up.

When farmers start converting to natural farming, you can see their soil starts getting better, the porosity of the soil gets better and the underground water table starts going up. We have seen in many cases, when they dug the borewell in the beginning they did not find the water, or they found water at 800 feet or 1,000 feet underground but after practicing natural farming for some years, they found water at 100 feet or 150 feet.

It's high time to intensify our work on agroecology, to intensify our work on rebuilding our culture of keeping the seeds at home and for the next season, to keep the diversity, to transfer the knowledge to the next generation because we have seen the young people now in rural areas, they don't know now how to identify the seasons, how to do seasonal cropping, how to do symbiotic cropping. This is the knowledge that has to be transferred to the younger generation, so they can continue to do farming in the right way. This is not the time to sit and debate whether organic farming is good or permaculture is good or ZBNF is good, whatever is not harming nature, whatever makes farmers self-reliant and self-sustainable and rebuilds the Earth is the way forward. And that is agroecology.



Photo: Soumya Sankar Bose



Photo: Rucha Chitnis

SESSION 1

Opening, Introduction, and Check-In

Facilitators Ed Rege and Tina Rai began the session by acknowledging the diversity and inclusiveness of all the participants in terms of their nationalities, languages, regions, cultural

differences and as well as the gender balance. Ed led a short exercise to gauge what the attendees desired to take back from the four-day event.



Photo: Soumya Sankar Bose

Expectations of participants

<i>What participants expected to be a part of</i>	<i>What participants did not want</i>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Relationship-building, leading to a more effective support system. 2. Fun-filled, participatory exchange of knowledge/experiences. 3. To leave the Agroecology Learning Exchange inspired and positively charged. 4. Follow up action. 5. Open-minded and receptive audiences. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Criticizing alternative forms of agroecology or being disconnected from the heart of its work. 2. For presentations to be abstract or too theoretical; to be bogged down by excessive details. 3. A close-minded and egoistic audience that withholds sharing. 4. A shy crowd that fails to discuss beyond their own regions/network/areas of work. 5. The dominance of a certain group of individuals, groups or a single language. 6. Mundane presentations that leave the audience disinterested.

Participants engaged in free conversations outside of session hours throughout the four day event. Their discussions revolved primarily around brainstorming for opportunities on collaborations and suggestions to improve the various aspects of the agroecology movement. Key takeaways are summarized below.

Defining Agroecology: What, Why, for Whom, Where and How

Agroecology is for the people and by the people. In this regard, it is important to ensure that the agroecological revolution does not repeat the flaws of the Green Revolution.

We need agroecology:

- to make farming about farmers
- for food sovereignty
- to cool the planet
- to defend our territories
- to strengthen collective social systems for peace
- to care and preserve all of our knowledge
- to bring balance back to the ecosystem
- to empower farmers

Agroecology is for rural communities, indigenous villages, Mother Earth (Pachamama – the Andean Goddess of Earth),

women, youth, children, local economies and for all those who need to be fed.

Agroecology does not stand for war, greed, agribusinesses, capitalism, profits or extractive practices.

Some of the ways by which it can be achieved are by improving technical knowledge through schools for farmers, reinstating communities' practices/principles of solidarity, sharing of seeds and increasing the participation of youth.

To counter the current system we must:

- Guarantee the rights of rural workers
- Guarantee universal access to food, land, soil and water
- Ensure fair access to capacity building and training.





Photo: Rucha Chitnis

SESSION 2

Learning from the Collaboratives

Each grantee collaborative was asked to come to the Agroecology Learning Exchange prepared with a poster highlighting:

1. What their work is about
2. What they have done so far
3. A learning or an achievement they are really proud of
4. A challenge they are facing that may be relevant to the group

Organizations used pictures, infographics and other materials to supplement their posters, which were displayed around the meeting hall for viewing. Collaboratives were then divided into clusters and given three minutes each to introduce their work in a rapid gallery walk format.

Collaboratives in Clusters I & II:

1. Alliance For Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA)
2. Asociación Nacional de Empresas Comercializadoras de Productores del Campo (ANEC)
3. International Network of Mountain Indigenous Peoples (INMIP)
4. Amrita Bhoomi/La Via Campesina South Asia
5. African Center for Biodiversity (ACB)
6. Oakland Institute
7. International Indian Treaty Council (IITC)
8. Centro de Desenvolvimento Agroecológico do Cerrado (CEDAC)
9. Colectivo Agroecológico
10. PELUM Zimbabwe/Zimbabwe Seed Sovereignty Programme (ZSSP)
11. Desarrollo Económico y Social de los Mexicanos Indígenas (DESMI)
12. Centre for Agroecology, Water and Resilience (CAWR) and Landworkers Alliance (LWA)
13. Slow Food East Africa

Collaboratives in Clusters III & IV:

14. African Biodiversity Network (ABN)
15. Groundswell International
16. Asociación de Trabajadores del Campo (ATC) and Instituto Agroecológico Latinoamericano Ixim Ulew (IALA)
17. Federación Nacional Sindical Unitaria Agropecuaria (FENSUAGRO) and Instituto Agroecológico Latinoamericano Maria Cano (IALA)
18. European Coordination Via Campesina (ECVC)
19. Peace Building Center (PBC) and Federation of Organic Movements (Bio-KG)
20. La Via Campesina (LVC), ETC Group and GRAIN
21. Cooperativa Agroecologica Nacional Terra e Vida (Coonaterra)/Bionatur Seed Network
22. FAHAMU/Nous Sommes La Solution
23. North East Slow Food & Agrobiodiversity Society (NESFAS)
24. Schools and Colleges of Permaculture Program (ReSCOPE)
25. Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP) and Sibol Ng Agham At Teknolohiya (SIBAT)
26. Southeastern African American Farmers' Organic Network (SAAFON)
27. Grupo Autónomo para la Investigación Ambiental (GAIA) and Centro de Desarrollo Integral Campesino de la Mixteca (CEDICAM)





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Photo: Amrita Gupta



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Photo: Amrita Gupta



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Photo: Amrita Gupta



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Photo: Amrita Gupta



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Photo: Amrita Gupta



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Photo: Amrita Gupta





Photo: Amrita Gupta



Photo: Amrita Gupta

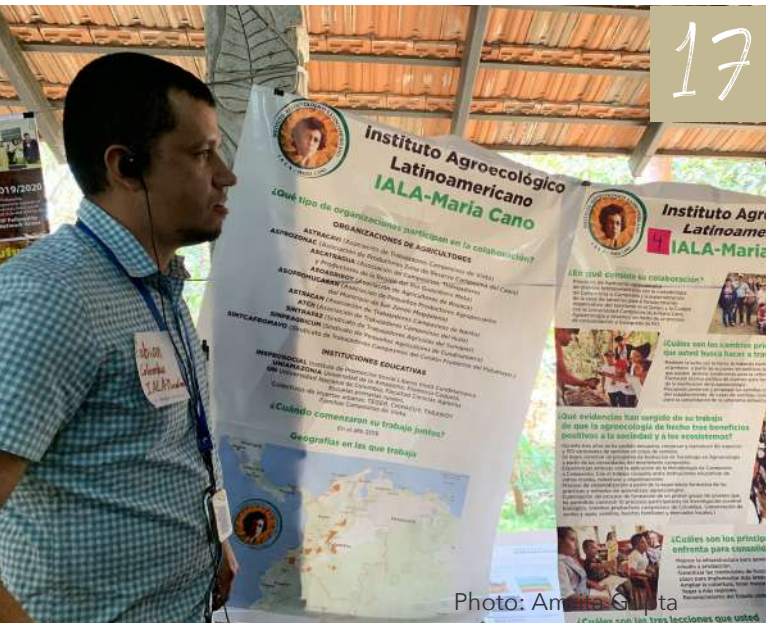


Photo: Amrita Gupta



Photo: Amrita Gupta



Photo: Rucha Chitnis



Photo: Amrita Gupta



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Photo: Amrita Gupta



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Photo: Amrita Gupta



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Photo: Amrita Gupta

Group discussions:

After being introduced to each other's work during the gallery walk, participants assembled in small groups for deeper engagement on a variety of predetermined topics.

Group 1

Policy and policy change processes

<i>Questions</i>	<i>Responses</i>
What are you doing within your collaboratives to advance policy change?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Promoting policy change that is evidence-based and centered on the experience of local communities.
What have been your most effective advocacy and communications strategies?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• One-on-one discussions with key decision makers.• Launching of campaigns at the grassroots level.
How have you overcome challenges/threats in policy implementation?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Development of new indicators and processes to facilitate the incorporation of value systems into the decision-making process.



Suggestions and Recommendations on Scaling Out Agroecology

I. Role of farmer organizations/CSOs in scaling out agroecology:

1. Organizing:
 - Food/seed fairs at national and local levels
 - Study tours/exchange programs between countries
 - Marketing networks at local level
 - Visits of consumers and chefs to the field.
2. Use the Nyeleni model to build larger food sovereignty movements.
3. Use community priorities such as WASH as entry points to introduce agroecology.
4. Systematize technical support and train more technicians to assist farmers on ground.

5. Utilize peer-to-peer interactions to learn about the different models of agroecology practiced globally.
6. Build mechanisms to strengthen territories:
 - Build alliances between different stakeholders (health practitioners/ educationalists/farmers).
 - Mobilize farmers to lobby for themselves.
 - Introduce community parliaments.
 - Study the relevant policies in our respective areas of work.

II. Ways to link farmer organizations with policymakers:

1. Identify people within government who are interested in agroecology, share



information and reports on its potential with clear recommendations and requests.

2. Invite them to seed festivals/food fairs, conferences, etc.
3. Engage with politicians in political processes and influence policy changes.
4. Organize round table discussions with legislators to present farmers' agenda.
5. Educate voters and be political actors while ensuring autonomy.
6. Organize/harmonize farmer organizations to speak as one voice.
7. Support farmers to be policymakers so they can raise the agenda at the policy level.

III. Changes required at the political level to scale out agroecology:

1. Introduce agroecology in the FAO's Decade of Family Farming.
2. Advocate prioritizing quality of food over quantity.
3. Ensure policies are in support of farmer-managed seed systems.

4. Introduce agroecology in and seek implementation of Rights of peasants, Rights of Indigenous people and Farmers' rights (Article 9 of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture).
5. Ensure women and youth are provided priority access to land and resources.
6. Develop a research agenda on agroecology based on participatory research and farmer innovation.
7. Shift subsidies from conventional agriculture to small scale agroecology.
8. Advocate for transparency in policymaking.

IV. Tools and innovations for scaling out agroecology:

1. Agroecology schools as platforms to train future politicians.
2. Networks of farmer organizations/civil society organizations working on agroecology at regional level.
3. Engage with organized groups of consumers to, for example, provide school meals.



Networking

4. Use social media and radio to increase awareness among consumers and to attract the press on pertinent issues.
5. Prepare educational material on agroecological concepts for introduction into the school curriculum.
6. Encourage kitchen gardens.
7. Innovations in marketing:
 - i. Develop links with 'unusual partners' from the environment, health and food sectors.
 - ii. Partner with artists to produce quality communications materials and translate them into local languages.
 - iii. Use community theatre with children and perform in public spaces.
 - iv. Use regional FAO conferences and pre-conference consultation processes with CSOs, and other UN Processes.
- v. Develop an agroecology action plan for the country as was done in Senegal (DyTAES) or Argentina (Foro agrario) to hand over to the government.
- vi. Include consumer organizations in agroecology networks.
- vii. Identify champions to be ambassadors of agroecology.
- viii. Seek marketing arrangements with local supermarkets.
- ix. Use music or other festivals to highlight agroecological products.
- x. Advocate for public procurement of agroecological food.
- xi. Engage with or start food policy councils at the city level or engage with city authorities.



Group 2

Participatory training & research and extension

<i>Questions</i>	<i>Responses</i>
<p>What have been the most effective methods to shift farmer and consumer practice?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstration to show how a model works. • Farmer-to-farmer/peasant-to-peasant learning. • Using the methodology of “Dialogue of Knowledges/dialogo de saberes” and diversification of peasant-led learning spaces. • Raising consciousness and facilitating mobilization through agroecology schools. • Farmer-consumer direct relationship models.
<p>What changes have you helped move forward?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of compelling alternative food products with a comparative advantage.
<p>What have been the most effective methods to share and exchange knowledge—within organizations and in alliances with others?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social organizations/movements and agroecology schools as platforms of knowledge exchange. • Rural-urban exchange programs. • Tapping of indigenous knowledge of rural migrants in cities.
<p>How have you been able to overcome major threats and challenges?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rectifying misinformation from powerful oppositions through training, social media, etc. • Organic certification, ecological certification and other marketing and consumer awareness strategies. • Unity among organizations, rural agroecology schools as training centres to fight struggles.

Group 3

Conservation and use of agrobiodiversity

<i>Questions</i>	<i>Responses</i>
<p>What have been the most effective methods to shift farmer and consumer practice?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documenting and mapping seeds/ breeds (and associated traditional knowledge). • Talking to elders and connecting with youth for knowledge exchange. • Use of social media to generate interest among youth. • Comparative analysis of production benefits for education and awareness creation.
<p>What have been the most effective methods to share and exchange knowledge—within organizations and in alliances with others?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Popular education methods.
<p>How have you been able to overcome major threats and challenges?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Movement building. • Creation of food sovereignty zones or territories of life. • Launching campaigns. • Participation in policy dialogues.



Photo: Soumya Sankar Bose

Group 4

Conservation of soil, water and forests for climate resilience

<i>Questions</i>	<i>Responses</i>
What have been the most effective methods to shift farmer and consumer practice?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Education through workshops, farmer-to-farmer training, exchange visits, field schools and demo plots.• Recognizing the rights of indigenous communities and promoting the use of traditional practices.• Reclaiming title for land through legal action.
What have been the most effective methods to share and exchange knowledge—within organizations and in alliances with others?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Use of social media and digital media platforms.
How have you been able to overcome major threats and challenges?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Comparative studies of organic vs chemical production of food.• Community dialogues and discussions.• Engagement of youth.



Group 5

Healthy and nutritional food systems, and alliances with consumers

<i>Questions</i>	<i>Responses</i>
<p>What have been the most effective methods to shift farmer and consumer practice?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Research on a global level to understand obstacles to agroecological transitions.• Conducting fairs and events consistently to show pride in local food systems.• Leveraging the gastronomy sector to call for a moratorium on GMOs and campaigns for better human health.• Alliances with politicians to put agroecology into the agenda.• See to believe: Field visits to successful models of community farming through agroecology.• Providing comparative evidence on local species vs industrial agricultural products.• Influencing school curriculums and involving youth.• An application mapped with products from across the globe.
<p>What have been the most effective methods to share and exchange knowledge—within organizations and in alliances with others?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Working to provide alternative choices for consumers and adequate income for farmers.• Boycotting industrial food products.• Increasing the involvement of youth.• Sharing stories of the producer on the packaging 'Know your farmer/food community'.

How have you been able to overcome major threats and challenges?

- Including government officials/ common officers in dialogues.
- Building alliances between health practitioners, consumers and farmers.
- Advocating for policy changes e.g. a ban on some imported foods.
- Learning from centers that have replicated best practices.
- Use of social media.
- Leveraging the power of consumers right to health.



Photo: Rucha Chitnis

Group 6

New economy for agroecology – credit and market access, building enterprises

<i>Questions</i>	<i>Responses</i>
<p>What have been the most effective methods to shift farmer and consumer practice?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long-term farmer-to-farmer exchanges. • Awareness creation through consumer-farmer fairs, earth markets, free food tastings alongside restaurants, food festivals and competitions. e.g. local fruit biodiversity fair. • Use of participatory certification to guarantee healthiness of food and engage producers and consumers. • Organizing communities around solidarity and cooperation to strengthen the market for farmers. • Youth academy: Creation of practitioners and activists. • Redefining community gardens for nutrition. • Selling of excess produce. • Building solidarity economies outside of the region.
<p>What have been the most effective methods to share and exchange knowledge—within organizations and in alliances with others?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stories to define agroecology. • Social media as an amplifier. • Case studies. • Commissioning and making available policy studies. • Use of community radio.
<p>How have you been able to overcome major threats and challenges?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farmer gatherings. • Teamwork. • Engaging in exporter partnerships. • Changing the definition of risks for investors. • Collective processing of farm products. • Consumer education on agroecology/ organic trademark.

How to Support Agroecological Enterprises for Agroecology

Observations:

- Change in government regimes can deeply affect agroecological enterprises thus diversity of markets is critical.
- Explore how technology can help farmers access information better and secure better prices for their product, for example, apps for pastoralists selling animals to find better markets.
- There is a need to support both individual farmers as entrepreneurs and associations of farmers, depending on the local context.
- Some banks are allergic to the term "cooperative" because they think it is not profitable and this has to be addressed in their local context.

- There is an urgent need to shift the mindset of making money off money as it does not lead to positive impacts in the context of agroecology.

What do we need to do to support agroecological enterprises?

- We need to reimagine conventional growth metrics, i.e. replace the concept of growth of money with growth of sustainability, or level enhancement of communities.
- Provision of operating/working capital by cooperatives to pay farmers, for packaging, transportation, etc.
- Loan guarantees as farmers lack collateral, and are often unable to reinvest to scale up and meet growing demand for their produce.



Networking

- Need for fair interest rates as commercial loans from banks are expensive.
- We need opportunities for farmers to form groups or cooperatives to collectively gather collateral.
- Provide credit for youth coming out of agroecology schools.
- Support women's savings and loan funds with training in entrepreneurship and other areas to help them take businesses forward.
- Tax relief for investing in activities with a social outcome.
- Engage urban customers or foundations/organizations to buy a share of the cooperative (without voting power or interest) for a return in seeds or produce.
- Support the development and creation of markets for agroecological produce.

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"Reclaiming Seeds
Reclaiming Food Systems,
Reclaiming Knowledge"

YOUTH for AGROECOLOGY
@ Amritabhoomi

Key Learnings

Participants reconvened to discuss their learnings from Day 1, which featured the poster sessions with collaboratives. They divided themselves into three small groups and brainstormed on learnings, opportunities/priorities, and challenges that stood out for them from presentations and discussions of Day 1.

Learnings:

- Women play a central role in agroecology and they must be made the focal point of the movement—not just as participants but as leaders.
- Youth have to be reached out to early on, and taught about the benefits of nutrition, biodiversity and agroecology.
- The transition phase of a farmer from chemical to organic farming is crucial and requires extensive support.
- There is a dire need to get more access to subsidies and to strengthen the movement's lobbying efforts.
- Elders are repositories of ancient wisdom and farmers across the world should take their advice on ways to accelerate the movement.

- The focus of agroecology should move beyond individual experiences to collective experiences.

Opportunities:

- Broaden the experience of agroecology to make it a cultural, economic and social experience.
- Focus on food hygiene beyond the production stage.
- Build and leverage institutional relationships to amplify the agroecology movement.
- Amplify the real stories of people working on the ground to create awareness and intensify the movement.

Challenges:

- Loss of community landscape connections due to the increase in individualistic efforts of farmers.
- Lack of access to markets for women and youth farmers and a lack of evidence to show that agroecology can bring in money.





SESSION 3

Learning from Indian Farmers

Field Visits: Up-close view of CNF and other agroecology strategies

On the second day of the Agroecology Learning Exchange, participants visited two farms on the outskirts of Bangalore to see natural farming principles in practice. These visits helped agroecology practitioners from other regions understand the specifics of CNF as a successful strategy towards the amplification of agroecology in India.

Farm Visit 1

Jagdish Mallaiya and his wife Sujatha own a four-acre farm. They practiced conventional agriculture for six to eight years, but as they began to recognize the environmental and health hazards, they started to experiment with natural farming. Jagdish admitted that the transition was difficult, demanding of him both patience and perseverance. He stated that the key challenge was to unlearn all that they had known about agriculture before they could learn to farm sustainably.

Now Jagdish and Sujatha have over 200 varieties of plants growing on their farm, including bananas, coconuts, guavas, jamuns, sweet potatoes, lemons, sapota, a variety of pulses like toor dal, red gram, green gram and vegetables. They are planted in the multilayer model of CNF, where the taller trees like silver oak, drumstick and neem act as a natural fence. Like in a forest, the trees shed leaves which add to the layer of mulch, eventually breaking down into nutrient rich humus in the soil.

They have native breeds of sheep, goats, cows and chickens. A separate portion of the land is allocated for growing animal fodder where a few varieties are intercropped. Pests are kept under control using natural methods of pest control which includes spraying Agniasthra, a mixture made of green chili, tobacco leaves and garlic, boiled with cow urine before being diluted with water.

The farmer couple have availed of several subsidies from the state government for bio-digester tanks, an earthworm unit and a drip irrigation system. They have also received government assistance to buy a chop cutter for the animal fodder and to participate in farmer training workshops.

Jagdish has the support of his wife and two children in managing the farm. The family supplements their income in various ways—initially Jagdish used to sell eggs. Sujatha prepares and sells Ragi malt (a millet drink mix) which she sells over Whatsapp, and she recently won the best woman farmer award at the district level.

Jagdish told participants that agroecological farming teaches one the principles of basic living and spirituality. He said he hasn't been sick in the past decade and credits his health to his own farm produce. Other farmers in the area, however, are still resistant to change.

Before leaving the farm, Chukki Nanjundaswamy, Coordinator of KRRS, presented the couple with a green scarf, and invited both of them to be a part of the movement.



Farm Visit 1



Photo: Rucha Chitnis



Photo: Rucha Chitnis



Photo: Amrita Gupta



Photo: Soumya Sankar Bose



Photo: Rucha Chitnis

Farm Visit 2

The next farm, an 11-acre plot of land, was owned by a woman farmer, Prathibha Nagvar. Prathibha worked in the US as a software engineer for 11 years before she decided to return to India to work with tribal communities. Inspired by Masanobu Fukuoka's book, *The One-Straw Revolution*, she decided to practice the CNF model promoted by Subhash Palekar. She is an active coordinator and trainer of natural farming in Karnataka.

When Prathibha started farming on her land, it was water-logged, had poor soil quality and the groundwater was at 450 feet. She estimates that the natural farming initiative's drought model helped her farm use 80% less water than conventional farming. Now she has a borewell to supplement the crops with irrigation at vulnerable stages. Natural farming has restored groundwater levels in her farm to 150 feet. She told participants that her mixed crop farm produces some fruits, vegetables, or grain all year round, so she no longer has to depend on the market for food.

Prathibha explained the four principles of natural farming to the participants: Bijamrita for seeds, Jiwamrita (a microbial culture), mulching (straw or live mulch in the form of cover crops) and Waaphasa which refers to the right balance of air and water in the soil. This can be tested by squeezing the soil in one's hand. If the soil crumbles it is too aerated and if it forms lumps it has too much water.

She spoke about improving soil conditions and

the role of microorganisms and soil fungi in natural farming. She stressed the importance of causing minimal disturbance to the soil to let nature do its work. When we visited, it was post-harvest and her farm plots were full of crop residue – an attempt to mimic the natural forest environment where dry leaves lay undisturbed at the roots of the soil, helping retain soil moisture and reduce the soil temperature so that micro-organisms thrive. The residue will eventually decay and add to the soil's nutrients.

She then showed participants around her

fruit forest, where pomegranates, custard apples, and sapota trees grew, a reliable source of regular income for farmers. The trees

slowed down strong winds and helped create a microclimate that supports better fruiting. They also work as trellises for vines and creepers. Prathibha told us she also practices value addition to her produce, producing coconut oil, and drying fruits. Her aim is to sell locally.

With the many farming models that exist, she said it is only natural for small farmers to get confused and stick to what they know. Her aim is to show marginal and small farmers that natural farming is a low cost, viable and sustainable alternative to conventional farming.

"To become a natural farmer, plough less."

Prathibha Nagvar



Photo: Soumya Sankar Bose

Farm Visit 2



Photo: Soumya Sankar Bose



Photo: Soumya Sankar Bose



Photo: Soumya Sankar Bose



Photo: Amrita Gupta



Photo: Soumya Sankar Bose



Photo: Rucha Chitnis

Panel Discussion – Amplifying or Scaling Up Agroecology: Reflections from the India experience

Panelists:

- Kavita Kuruganti, Alliance for Sustainable & Holistic Agriculture (ASHA)
- Dr. Ramanjaneyulu, Centre for Sustainable Agriculture
- Chukki Nandjundaswamy, KRRS/LVC
- Muralidharan, Government of Andhra Pradesh
- Brijesh Kumar Dixit, Agriculture Commissioner of Karnataka

The panel discussion on the Indian strategies to amplify agroecology, moderated by Afsar Jafri from GRAIN, focused on key debates, opportunities and challenges in scaling agroecology up and out in the Indian context, with special attention to the aspect of policy making.

Participants learned that CNF is but one of the many alternative agriculture models in India, including organic farming, permaculture, dryland and biodynamic farming, etc.

Much of the current debate revolves around whether natural farming can feed the country.

Dr. Ramanjaneyulu (Ramoo) from the Centre for Sustainable Agriculture pointed out that opposing arguments fail to account for: a) the economics of farmers, b) the sustainability of natural resources, c) the focus on environment and d) the issue of food safety. The key, according to him, lies in promoting dialogues to find common ground between positive solutions.

In India, public research institutions have failed to evolve alongside the agroecological movement, neglecting to spearhead scientific analysis and validate practices. Multiple agroecology proponents have also added a contentious religious angle to these practices.

In Dr. Ramoo's view, the country's scientific institutions should offer rational analyses of agroecological impacts.

Overall, the panelists were quite positive

"A country such as India where a farmer kills himself every hour requires as many [alternative agriculture] models as possible."

Afsar Jafri

about the future prospects of scaling agroecology up and out. Past opposition to CNF as "not being possible" have evolved into questions about "ways to make it possible". There are now significant public investments and enabling policies to support CNF. Nevertheless, the need to organize and be inclusive of farmers at the grassroots level is paramount. To succeed, the CNF movement

"Government policies are built off social processes – it was the success of the Self-Help movement that pushed the government to support women groups."

Muralidharan

a few universities and public institutions conducted studies demonstrating the outcomes.

These models have now been proven to be successful. Social movements defend the practices of CNF and some researchers have come on board as well. More research is still necessary, although farmers continue to demonstrate the validity of agroecology in their fields. However, corporations generally oppose CNF as, unlike the industrial model of agriculture that is reliant on chemical inputs, they do not stand to gain by supporting natural farming practices.

Andhra Pradesh is the first Indian state to have committed to natural farming for all its 6 million farmers by 2024. Andhra Pradesh government official, **Muralidharan**, stated that so far, 10% of the state's farmers are engaging with the natural farming model at different intensities throughout the year. He

acknowledged that the strong grassroots networks of social movements across the state helped convince the government of CNF's success.

Most panelists agreed that the government accepts change only when civil society advocates and demonstrates proof of concept. He added that the Centre for Economic and Social Studies has documented the [benefits of this transition](#), noting some yield improvements and a significant reduction in input costs (resulting from the reduced use of chemical inputs). Higher income levels and increased water efficiency were achieved. With 75% of landholdings in India being under 2 hectares and with 70% of farmlands being rainfed, natural farming must show its value in increased farmer incomes.

With the initial success and continued support of the new government, Muralidharan expects rapid scaling. In his opinion, the entry of new farmers into the movement will be greatly influenced by the government's endorsement of the CNF model coupled with the rate of adoption of CNF practices by existing farmers.

Brijesh Kumar Dixit, Agriculture

Commissioner of the neighboring state of Karnataka, explained that governments have much to consider before offering policy support to practices such as CNF. For instance:

- There is political pressure to favor policies that are contradictory and inconsistent e.g. promotion of chemical inputs in the past vs pressure to end subsidies for chemical inputs.
- Farmers' inability to procure price premiums for organic produce makes it difficult to retain them within the natural farming model.

Chukki Nanjundaswamy, Coordinator of Amrita Bhoomi, an active member of KRRS and a member of La Via Campesina South Asia, explained how agroecology has been an inseparable part of KRRS' agenda since its inception in 1985. For decades, KRRS has advocated for natural farming to be



Photo: Rucha Chitambar

supported by state policy.

Still, farmers are more likely to adopt natural farming as an alternative model when they see positive results on their fields rather than through any propaganda and awareness sessions led by the government, she said.

Some key takeaways from questions to the panelists:

How can CNF produce be marketed favorably?

- There is a need for substantial investment in marketing and creation of new supply chains that benefit farmers.
- Marketing approaches should be diversified, eg: such as promoting rural-to-rural marketing through women's collectives.
- Direct marketing and shorter supply chains without intermediaries is important.
- Promoting consumption of locally produced foods to combat the complications of long-distance sales is key. Marketing should emphasize the safety and nutrition of foods for local markets.
- Agroecologically grown produce should be marketed to all sections of society – not just to the elite with premium pricing.

- Value addition should be encouraged among natural farmers, to secure better prices and integrate farmers, families and rural workers.
- Certification of organic produce is more favorable than certifying land in the Indian context.
- Gaps between the food department and the agriculture department of government should be addressed.

Is it advisable to accept support from large funders who support climate mitigation?

- Accepting international financial support with several strings attached may be problematic.
- CNF should avoid getting involved in carbon markets for finances.
- International movements and funding agencies should amplify the benefits of the natural farming model – carbon sequestration, efficiency in water use and so on, to help obtain the support it deserves.
- Support is best directed towards learning rather than particular products.



Photo: Soumya Sankar Bose

What are the sources of funding for agroecology and the roles played by the central/ state governments and EU banks in this regard?

There have been many conspiracy theories around funding creating an air of fear about the agroecology program of Andhra Pradesh.

Government funding is generally apportioned as 60% central and 40% state.

15 million dollars has been granted to the program for technical support from universities.

At the local level, farmers self-finance their needs or resort to borrowing through self-help groups, federation of women groups, etc. No case of additional debts for the sake of CNF has been recorded. Public funding means that farmers are protected from private lenders.

Funding requires a three-level effort: (1) funds from within the government, (2) soft loans without conditions, (3) funders without terms and conditions, to serve the end goal.

Still, investment in agroecology is minuscule. The Indian government gives 75,000 crore rupees annually as subsidies for chemical fertilizers while the budgetary allocation for organic farming this fiscal year was only 350 crore rupees.

India's agriculture budget has increased by 30% in the current budget, and many states including Karnataka are looking at a substantial increase for organic farming in its budget in the upcoming year.

The Prime Minister has recently discussed reducing subsidies on chemical fertilizers.

How does the movement recognize women and ensure they have access to knowledge sharing, marketing, etc?

Women farmers are the community-based promoters of agroecology (and in certain cases, as community trainers, are paid for being so). Women are central to revitalizing food systems and lead local efforts around agrobiodiversity, seeds, and agroecology.

Participants split into smaller groups based on their regions (Africa, Americas, and Asia; attendees from Europe joined the other groups) and discussed the key learnings from India's natural farming programme, and reflected on how this could be applied in their respective regions.

Features of natural farming relevant to other locations and contexts

<i>Asia</i>	<i>Africa</i>	<i>Americas</i>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Women-led and farmer centric. 2. Focus on data and documentation of diversity of agroecological practices. 3. Combining traditional and scientific knowledge to focus on practical needs. 4. Lobbying with the government to get political will for public finance. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The reliance on networks (regional, national) to enable change. 2. Multi-level organizing and bottom-up coordination. 3. Implementation of practices like drip irrigation. 4. Supporting farmers through the transition phase and creation of access to better markets. 5. Creation of evidence to convince decision makers. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Efficiency and effectiveness of agroecological practices. 2. Strengthening of the social movement through women-led initiatives. 3. Ability to create global impact in policymaking—inspiring to see public sector representatives and social movements discussing together. 4. Demonstration that agroecology is a real pathway to a dignified life.



Photo: Rucha Chitnis



Photo: Rucha Chitnis

SESSION 4

Financing Agroecology: Trends, Challenges and Opportunities

Moderator: Daniel Moss, Executive Director, Agroecology Fund

Panelists:

- Michel Pimbert, Centre for Agroecology, Water and Resilience (CAWR), UK
- Emile Frison, IPES-Food, Italy
- Jen Astone, Integrated Capital Investing, USA
- Tasqeen Macchiwalla, Azim Premji Philanthropic Initiatives, India
- Katy Scholfield, Synchronicity Earth, UK
- Maribel Lopez, CEDICAM, Mexico
- Million Belay, AFSA, Ethiopia

Key points:

- Overview of financing agroecology: needs, sources, techniques to increase fund mobilization
- Influencing bilateral and multilateral institutions
- The Agroecology Fund grant pool
- Enterprise development finance
- Influencing national government budgets

Michel Pimbert from the CAWR presented a global overview of money flows to amplify agroecology.

- Current funding deeply undermines the prospects for agroecological

EARN INDIA



Photo: Soumya Sanjay Bose

innovations for sustainability in Africa, Asia, Europe, and the Americas.

- Over 96% of national funding and overseas aid for agriculture research and development (R&D) supports a model of agricultural development that is dependent on purchased external inputs (e.g. hybrid seeds, chemical fertilizers, pesticides, etc.) and the linking of farmers to long value chains and global markets for the sale of farm produce.
- The funds contributed towards agroecology by major governments and large foundations are a tiny fraction of their total budget (less than 5% of agricultural aid; less than 0.5% of total UK aid budget since 2010).

For agroecology to be successfully scaled, there has to be a radical re-prioritization of national funding and overseas aid in favor of R&D for agroecology. We need:

- Institutional and methodological innovations to increase peoples' control over R&D funding for food and agriculture, from deciding national research priorities to knowledge co-creation.
- To democratize and de-institutionalize science and technology research, with

increased funding for public research and transdisciplinary approaches.

- Development of agroecological solutions through respectful intercultural dialogue between scientists, farmers and citizens, building on peoples' local priorities, knowledge and capacity to innovate.
- A shift from a transfer of technology model of R&D to a decentralized, bottom-up, participatory process of knowledge creation tailored to unique local contexts in rural and urban areas.

Maribel Lopez from CEDICAM, Mexico, stated that small farmers in her constituency cultivate primarily for personal consumption and self-finance their agroecological practices. They present results of ground-level, community-led studies to government officials, giving the state an opportunity to directly invest in community efforts such as the promotion of kitchen gardens, soil and water conservation, etc. Investments are made primarily in the form of subsidies.

Tasqeen Macchiwalla from Azim Premji Philanthropic Initiatives (APPI), elucidated the key features of their support to the CNF program:

- It is an agreement between the government, farmer cooperatives, civil



Photo: Rucha Chitnis

society, and APPI.

- There is a strong focus on farmer-to-farmer learning and community-level farmer institutions, prioritizing funding components that government programs do not cover.
- There is a strong focus on learning and innovation e.g., a three-year Natural Farming Fellowship (NFF) for young graduates and postgraduates in agriculture and related fields who are required to stay in a village and practice natural farming. After completing a six-month induction, NFFs are allotted a cluster, wherein they lease their own land and practice natural farming (with other farmers). So far, 230 NFFs have been recruited and are being trained.
- APPI supports digital extension in remote locations and encourages the involvement of international agencies to manage big data, scientific research and evaluation studies, e.g. University of Reading, UK.

Million Belay from AFSA spoke about the potential of rechanneling funds towards agroecology that are being distributed for programs like FISP (Farm Input Subsidies Program) in Africa, which serve

only to increase farmer dependency on chemical inputs, and increase the perils of unsustainable farming practices.

Emile Frison from IPES-Food shared his experiences of engaging with bilateral and multilateral agencies to channel more resources towards the amplification of agroecology. While past engagements with bilateral and multilateral donors to increase investments have met with limited success, there are signs of an encouraging paradigm shift:

- The German Parliament has instructed their Ministry of Foreign Affairs to invest in and advocate for agroecology.
- Having had agroecology on their agenda for quite some time, France has invested in promoting agroecological practices within their country and in West Africa.
- Recently, the European Green Deal has been prioritized as an important agenda item by the new EU Commissioner in Europe.
- Attempts have also been taken to engage with the World Bank in this regard.

Jen Astone from Integrated Capital Investing spoke about how funding for agroecology is approached in the USA.

- Currently, only 5% of private philanthropic endowment funds are being spent on charitable grants. The remaining 95% are invested in private equities at large corporate institutions, for example.
- Foundations have tended to be only interested in increasing farmer incomes and production/exports of agricultural produce, contradictory to

“Agroecology’s success for a farmer is not about yield, it is about net economics.”

Jen Astone

the fundamentals of agroecology.

- Efforts to increase resources for agroecology in the area of private financing are ongoing.
- Foundations are now discussing moving endowment funds into this space and are looking at indicators to measure the impacts of agroecology.

Jen also outlined the kind of financial conditions that would be best suited for funding agroecology initiatives.

- Patient capital for 5-10 years as opposed to 2-3 years.
- Investment at lower interest rates of 1-3% as opposed to 9-10%.
- Need for blended finance or integrated capital (grants and loans), along the lines of what has been established for renewable energy.
- Democratized finance.

Jen summarized interviews with Agroecology Fund partners, donors and advisors, and shared experiences in blended finance for agroecology.

Key findings from interviews:

- A growing number of Agroecology Fund partners and donors desire to

connect to market opportunities on their own terms, to complement work to strengthen local economies through economic solidarity programs.

- Current Agroecology Fund partners are engaged in developing new products, creating infrastructure and cooperatives and marketing these products. Others are training communities in credit and savings programs for economic self-sufficiency and community building. Agroecology Fund grants support both kinds of activities.
- Donors and advisors are also interested in how this supports amplification of agroecology. Notably, most of them do not have experience with investment mechanisms and primarily use philanthropic tools to advance their programs.
- A specific language and principles around agroecology finance is emerging.

Circular, local economies, non-extractive finance, farmer-centric investments, principles based on and mirroring agroecology. Partners are interested in developing these aspects of their work. Practical experience and knowledge



Photo: Soumya Sankar Bose

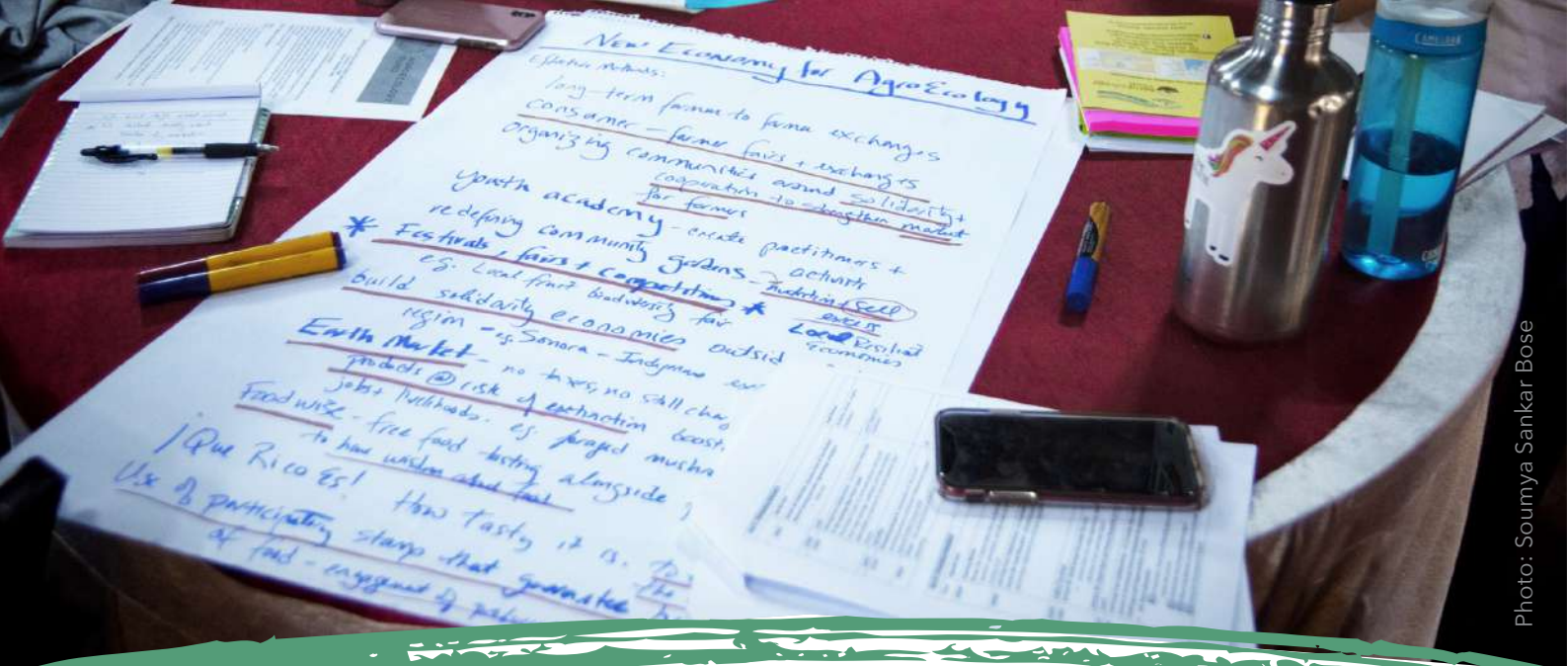


Photo: Soumya Sankar Bose

of how to do it is varied –from beginning to expert. Thus, developing a shared language is critical. A diversity of models and approaches exist and include solidarity economy, self-finance, intermediaries, direct investments, etc. Some examples of approaches that Agroecology Fund partners, donors and allies are engaged with:

- Self-help rotating credit funds: CEDICAM, Groundswell
- Self-financed product development: We Are the Solution, AFSA network
- Solidarity economy blended finance: Buen Vivir
- Cooperatives with blended finance: CEDAC, Bionatur
- Creative finance loans supplemented with technical assistance: Root, MCE Social Capital, Global Partnerships
- Incubators with creative finance: Fledge

Katy Scholfield from Synchronicity Earth highlighted the growing number of donor networks globally, noting a significant increase in the diversity of funders e.g. funders working on climate change, food systems, Indigenous rights and biodiversity, that converge with a shared interest in agroecology.

Some key takeaways from small group reflections:

1. What is the process of creating a system of autonomous financing at the community level?

Instilling the importance of self-sufficiency while educating farmers about the responsibility of the government towards providing for its citizens helps create well-informed communities and a healthy process of autonomous financing at the community level.

2. When money comes through governments how can we make sure it ends up in agroecology and not somewhere else?

A system of direct agreements between the government and communities, with a third party in place to conduct regular checks and follow-ups helps ensure that overseas aid received by national governments for the purpose of agroecology ends up in the right hands.

Concluding takeaways and strategies:

- Small producers and subsistence farmers generally self-finance their agroecological practices.
- Though the allocation of government funds and overseas aid for the amplification of agroecological



Photo: Shumya Sankar Bose

- It is important to influence research institutions to shift their research agenda towards agroecology.
- Self-finance occurs through multiple ways: farmer to farmer, rotating funds and membership fees within organizations.
- It is important to cultivate individual donors, churches, corporate foundations with corporate social responsibility mandates to invest in agroecology.
- Participating in global deliberations on climate and biodiversity is necessary to identify funds that can be channelled into agroecology.

practices has been minuscule so far, the trends are promising.

- Recently, there has been a significant increase in the diversity of funders and informal funding networks across the globe, with organizations and funders looking for indicators to measure agroecological efficiency.
- There is great potential in rechanneling funds currently allocated to unsustainable farming models.
- Decentralized agroecology funds would be useful at the national and regional levels.
- When financing agroecological enterprises that are aligned with grassroots needs, it is essential to have patient capital with lower interest rates, integrated capital and blended finance.
- The changes required to achieve the goals of a more sustainable global food system include a radical rethinking of technology transfer to a more decentralized, bottom-up participatory approach.
- It is important to obtain resources from bilateral and multilateral agencies as well as to influence their agricultural development approach.

“A breed of scholars who use participatory research with communities should be cultivated.”

Michel Pimbert

Economy and Finance or Non-extractive Finance

Agroecology must harness the market to scale up. Public and private money has to support this approach. Non-extractive finance should be consistent with the principles of agroecology. Just like agroecology, finance must never deplete the community or the ecosystem involved. i.e. leave the community worse off than if they didn't have access to the capital. It must be non-punitive and regenerative. It has to be centered on people and relationships rather than being capital-centered. To be successful, diversity must be accounted for. It cannot have a 'one size fits all' approach.

Key features of non-extractive finance as an agroecological financial model:

- The goal is not to maximize individual profits or financial returns but to facilitate community benefits, empowerment at the grassroots levels, self-autonomy of communities, etc.
- Intellectual property is protected over financial return.
- No collateral (other than what is purchased with the loan amount in the event of defaults).
- Pay back is based on surplus sharing and only when successful.
- No credit exclusion.
- Success of loan funds dependent on the success of each investment i.e. the technical support provided.





Photo: Soumya Sankar Bose

SESSION 5

Generating and Disseminating Evidence to Influence Debates about, and Funding Allocations for Agroecology

This session focused on the significance of generating and disseminating evidence as a means of amplifying the agroecology movement. **Angela Cordeiro**, the Agroecology Fund's Program Director, initiated the discussion with the question 'How can we demonstrate that agroecology is feasible from an economic, ecological, social and cultural perspective?'

Participants discussed the need to change the definition of 'legitimate evidence' to account for farmer/indigenous knowledge and to document farmer experiences and not just formal scientific processes. It was suggested to use the UN Declaration of Peasant Rights as a guide.

Agroecology Fund advisor **John Wilson** shared his insights. In his view, "evidence"

is currently being used as an obstacle to amplification, by those invested in industrial agriculture.

- Evidence certainly helps in gaining a better understanding of processes however the legitimacy of these processes is not affected by its absence. Farmers are not waiting for scientists to approve practices: "We knew well how to eat even before science came along."
- Cultural and social evidence play as important a role as their scientific counterparts in proving the validity of claims.
- Isn't a walk in a lush green forest or healthy grassland sufficient to prove its sustainability? Why not the same for an agroecological farm?

John also suggested that the collection of evidence has to be done as creatively as possible. It should be principles-based rather than objective-based or target-based. It is important to avoid narrow approaches focused only on measuring narrow quantitative targets (such as productivity, yield etc). Donors and researchers should rather consider qualitative changes

“We must change what is considered legitimate evidence to uplift farmer knowledge, traditional knowledge.”

John Wilson

achieved through a flexible, trust-based relationship with grantees in order for work to move forward effectively.

“Let us be conscientious of the way in which the demand for “evidence” and the “evidence narrative” delegitimizes farmer knowledge,” said John.

Agroecology Fund advisor **Patricia Flores Escudero** shared details about the International Federation of Organic Movements (IFOAM) project that addresses the serious nutritional crisis of vulnerable populations from five major mountainous regions, the Himalayas in Nepal, Tien Shan

in Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan, Hindu Kush in Pakistan, the Ethiopian Highlands in Ethiopia, and the Andes in Peru. The project promotes nutrition-sensitive agriculture, production and marketing and works at local, national and international levels to empower rural women, farmers, rural service providers and community leaders to become agents of change. Local community members are trained to collect the necessary data using tools that have been developed for this purpose. This data is then passed on to nutritionists at research universities, who demonstrate the health benefits of agroecologically-produced diverse foods using special indicators to measure the impact of the project. This kind of evidence generation has benefited the organisation in the following ways:

- To improve the efficiency of the project.
- To scale up the project.
- Aids in advocating for more financial resources from the government.
- To generate interest in organizations such as the FAO for further studies.

Groundswell International’s **Steve Brescia** and **Tsuamba Bourgou** presented an example. In 1998, a hurricane devastated some regions in Central America, destroying



Photo: Sourmya Sankar Bose

vast expanses of farmlands. Later, it was found that the farms that had been practicing agroecology showed better

resilience to withstand the natural disaster. However, when farmers approached policymakers with this information, their claims were simply dismissed. Steve reiterated that mere practice is insufficient to scale agroecology up and out; clearly, documented facts backed by scientific evidence are necessary.

In their system of monitoring and evaluation, Groundswell International has farmer trainers

“It is really important to document farmer experience, not just the science, work, data, but the stories and cosmovisions, to change what is considered legitimate data.”

Michel Pimbert

measuring various parameters: Crop yield, increase in household income due to agroecology, rate of innovation adoption, behavioral change at the household level,

total farmers and acreage under the model, the natural resource base i.e. soil health. Researchers support in designing scientific methodologies.

The panelists agreed that the purpose of generating evidence is not only to convince the scientific community, but also to strengthen agroecological organizations and the wider movement as a whole.

Insights from small groups:

- Creating a new narrative of what constitutes evidence is important.
- There is a need to produce strong evidence on the economic impact, health impact and failure of industrial agriculture.
- Evidence is not just for farmers, civil societies and movements but for policymakers as well.
- The process must be participatory and creative, rather than force-fit into conventional parameters.



The Role of Indigenous and Local Knowledge (ILK) in Amplifying Agroecology:

- Indigenous and local knowledge (ILK) represents wisdom that has evolved over generations, and has helped us comprehend nature and the environment. Its documentation is critical to ensure the intergenerational transfer of knowledge to future generations.
- Both agroecology and ILK operate within the context of biodiversity and natural balance. Most rural communities depend on indigenous knowledge to solve farming-related issues and to heal and regenerate the landscape.
- Documentation of knowledge has to be carried out in ways that are ethical and do not undermine the wishes of indigenous and local communities.
- It is important that the universal principle of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) is applied in all cases for its protection.
- Documentation in the local language is recommended as the meaning of indigenous concepts are lost through translation to other languages.
- Indigenous knowledge is always open to learning and synthesize from different knowledge systems; recognizing the importance of them all and supremacy of none.
- There is an urgent need to adopt various international agreements that lift up indigenous knowledge such as the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of the Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), Peasants Rights, Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and other regional legal instruments such as the Resolution 137 of the African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights (ACHPR).





Photo: Soumya Sankar Bose

SESSION 6

Partner Feedback on the Agroecology Fund's Strategic Plan to Amplify Agroecology

The Agroecology Fund's Strategic Plan to Amplify Agroecology

The purpose of the session was for participants to learn more about the Agroecology Fund's governance framework and grantmaking process, and to gather suggestions on how the Fund can fine-tune its strategic goals to better support the agroecology movement globally.

Speakers:

1. Kyra Busch, Christensen Fund, USA
2. Edward Mukiibi, Slow Food Uganda and Agroecology Fund advisor
3. Angela Cordeiro, Agroecology Fund Program Director
4. Amrita Gupta, Agroecology Fund Communications Lead

Kyra Busch from the Christensen Fund, a founding donor to the Agroecology Fund, described the evolution of the fund since 2012. The Agroecology Fund started out as the International Fund for Amplifying Agroecological Solutions. Four donors came together aspiring to create a global fund that focused on the amplification of agroecological solutions. They aimed to create a network of philanthropists who wished to challenge themselves to think more holistically about a sustainable global food system. Today, 10 advisors, embedded in the agroecology movement around the world,

guide the Fund, which consists of more than two dozen foundations. The Agroecology Fund has granted more than \$6.8 million to amplify agroecological practices and policies.

Edward Mukiibi, the Vice President of Slow Food International, Coordinator of Slow Food Uganda, and advisor to the Agroecology Fund, explained how the Fund operates. The Agroecology Fund is an alliance of donors, grantees (long-term partners and grantees who receive short- or mid-term grants) and the advisory board. A governance framework guides their collaboration. They are supported by a small staff of three. The Executive Committee comprises donors, advisors, and long-term partners with diverse backgrounds and experiences. Advisors recommend the grant portfolio during each grantmaking round, and assist in the strategic planning process. They provide direction on the key issues and areas where funds should be allocated to achieve the strategic objectives of the fund.

Program Director **Angela Cordeiro** directed a short interactive skit to explain the workings of the Fund, and the monitoring and evaluation framework that the Agroecology Fund is implementing. She explained the significance of generating evidence:

1. To provide accountability internally;
2. To influence global conversation about agroecology;
3. To attract new donors and public support for agroecology.

Finally, Agroecology Fund Communications Lead **Amrita Gupta** spoke about the importance of communications as a method of influencing the narrative about agroecology by disseminating the work of partner organizations to a wider (primarily donor) audience. She restated the significance and the power of evidence in shifting resources and paradigms and said that the Fund is currently in dialogue with its various partners to create impactful material in the form of newsletters, short stories and video stories, to be shared through the Fund's website and with mainstream media platforms.

"We may never have more money than the agribusinesses or the governments, but we can work together to unify and share our experiences."

Kyra Busch



Photo: Tim Crosby

Agroecology Fund Strategic Directions

- Shift and Leverage Financial Resources towards Agroecology
- Strengthen Political and Economic Systems to Enable Agroecology to thrive
- Influence the Global Conversation about Solutions to Global Hunger By Amplifying Agroecological Solutions
- Co-create and Share Agroecology Knowledge and Practice

Faces of the Agroecology Fund: A panel with donors and advisors

The purpose of this panel discussion was to offer grantees the opportunity to meet and dialogue with Agroecology Fund donors and advisors.

Moderator: Angela Cordeiro

Panelists:

1. Tabara Ndiaye, Senegal, Advisor
2. Patricia Flores Escudero, Peru, Advisor
3. Anna Lappé, Panta Rhea Foundation, USA, Donor
4. Maggie Nyce, 11th Hour Project, USA, Donor

Maggie Nyce from the 11th Hour Project, stated that she works with the human rights

program of her organization. She explained that while official development funds are channeled to Africa as 'nation-building', they often deplete communities and resources. Her foundation sees agroecology as key to achieve principles of human rights. She stated that the 11th Hour Project is impressed by The Agroecology Fund's unique structure, and through their collaboration, learns from the rich and diverse global community of grantees, advisors, and other donors. Her vision for the Agroecology Fund is to continue to strengthen and push agroecology into the mainstream by supporting many more organisations around the globe.

Tabara Ndiaye recently joined the advisory board of the Agroecology Fund, and said she sees the duty as both a professional and personal commitment. Tabara explained that

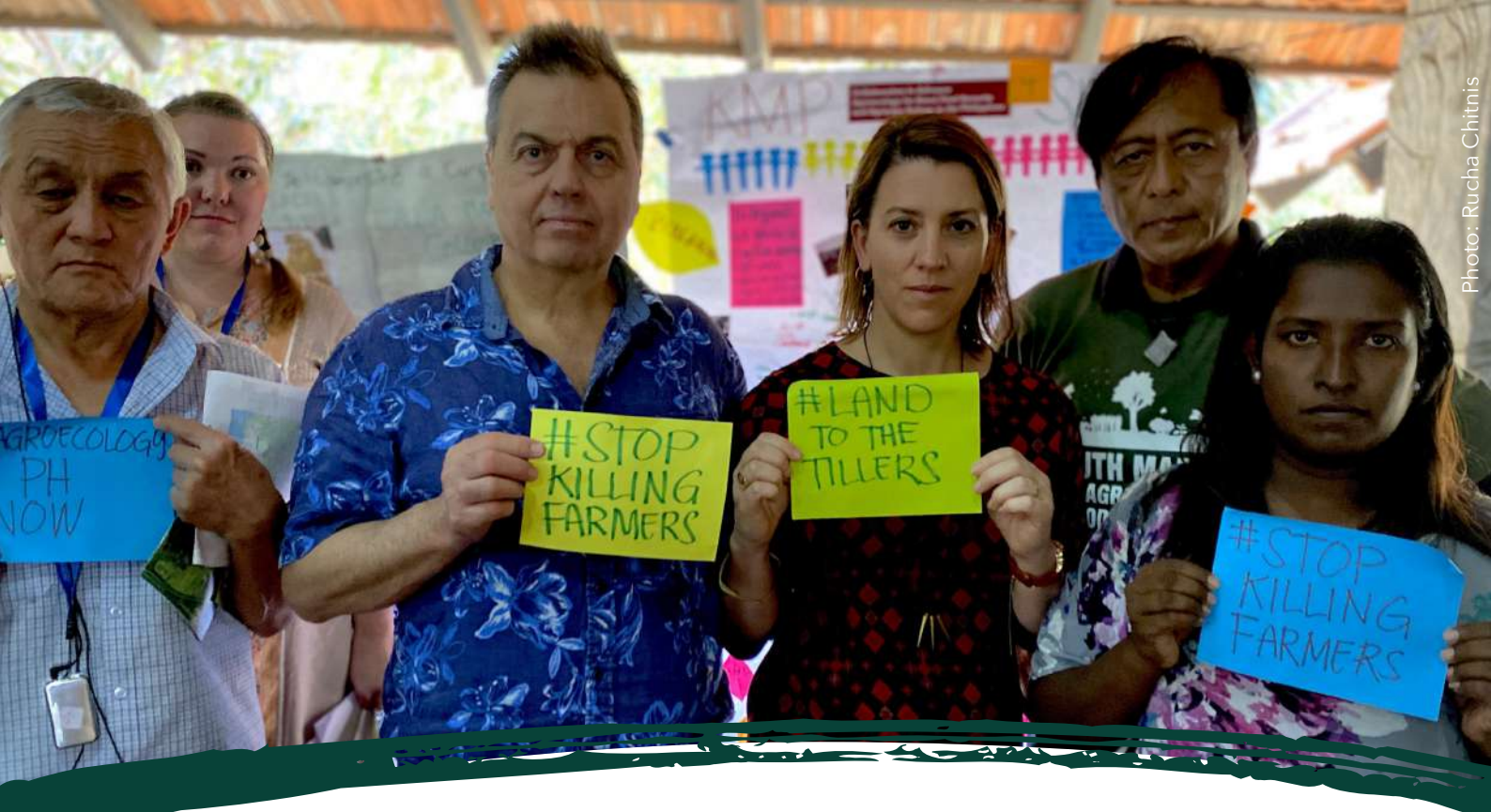


Photo: Rucha Chitnis

she was previously engaged in community grantmaking for women’s initiatives working on sustainable agriculture food systems in rural Africa. Through her collaboration with the Agroecology Fund, she wishes to support the achievement of gender equity through agroecology.

Anna Lappé started out as an advisor to the Agroecology Fund and is now a donor. She has been working for the last 20 years to transform food systems globally. As the world faces a wide range of interlocking issues from the climate crisis to the insect collapse to a global public health crisis, agroecology has never been more important, she said. In her view, the structure of the Fund facilitates collectivization of the power of the movement to fight industrial agriculture.

Patricia Flores Escudero works with IFOAM in the naturally protected areas of the Andean region, protecting both the natural resources and people inhabiting the region. She explained that agroecological solutions are key for indigenous people who are pushed to migrate out of these regions in search of livelihoods.

Participants had questions regarding the process by which collaboratives are invited

to submit proposals to the Agroecology Fund and the criteria on which they are evaluated. **Daniel Moss** stated that although the Agroecology Fund seeks to extend support across multiple sectors, and for varied approaches to practice, science and movement building, advisors and donors face a huge challenge in balancing a docket among myriad excellent proposals each cycle. The proposed budget requirements, recommendations from within the Agroecology Fund network, the geographical distribution of the project, and how well the proposal aligns with the Agroecology Fund’s strategic directions are some of the factors that influence the decision-making process. The ambition is to grow the fund and influence other funders to support an increasing volume of important work.

How can the Agroecology Fund best support agroecology movements around the world?

Participants offered suggestions on how the Agroecology Fund could better support the global agroecology movement, summarized here:

Grantmaking

- Create a rapid response fund that is easily accessible for emergent advocacy opportunities.
- Increase the reach of the Fund to informal organizations and cooperatives.
- Offer more clarity on the criteria employed for grantee selection.
- Develop a coherent strategy among funder members to become funder organizers and in turn influence other funder spaces – not just to grow the Fund, but to organize philanthropy more broadly.
- Support multi-year initiative pilot projects.
- Support decentralized, local, regional and national agroecology funds.
- Create a separate fund to advocate against emerging issues such as GMOs and gene drives.
- Incorporate Zoom calls as an alternative application process for grants to accommodate the good work of organizations who don't have the capacity to write proposals.
- Create a revolving loan fund for people to access credit.
- Bring the fund's values and principles into more synchronicity with indigenous vision, values and principles.
- Create a fund for experiments and tools for agroecology – such as multi-stakeholder platforms to bring relevant stakeholders into the conversation.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning

- Extend support to gather evidence to facilitate comparisons on the economic performance of agroecology.
- Show the positive impact created on agroecology, by monitoring at the regional level the tangible and intangible outcomes of grantee projects.

- Facilitate more networking sessions at the global, regional and sub-regional level.
- Provide space for bringing together global views on indigenous knowledge, science and agroecology.
- Organize thematic conversations on topics such as economics and landscapes.
- Influence other donors to ensure that their monitoring and evaluation measures are flexible and aligned with the movement.
- Open space for speed networking during the Agroecology Learning Exchange so that participants are introduced to each other.

Communications

- Work with grantee partners to create and place powerful articles, short films, and more, on the key themes of the agroecology movement in all important strategic media outlets.
- Continue to be clear on what agroecology means to the fund: a meaning deeply rooted in social movements.
- Bring visibility to other good initiatives outside the grantee network.
- Support collaboratives to capture and tell their stories.
- Translate important books/articles on agroecology into major local languages.



Photo: Soumya Aankar Bose

SESSION 7

Next Steps, Evaluation and Closing

Immediate next steps that the Agroecology Learning Exchange participants could take to deepen learnings from the week-long exchange:

- Share the knowledge, insights and experiences gained during the learning exchange with respective organizations and networks back home.
- Maintain and strengthen the connections made during the Agroecology Learning Exchange.
- Use a common framework for storytelling to be followed by everyone while sharing stories (with the Agroecology Fund's support)
- Communicate regularly between networks (with the Agroecology Fund's support).
- Contribute to a shared vision and database on agroecology-based evidence (with the Agroecology Fund's support).
- Work to increase financing of capacity building and training.
- Make known to policymakers the positive outcomes of agroecology and the success of agroecology enterprises.
- Produce an economic comparison between chemical farming and agroecological farming.
- Document and create successful links between farmers practicing agroecology.
- Create a document on the significance and urgency of agroecology to present in donor meetings.
- Insert arguments about health and climate when advocating for agroecology.
- Systematize experiences and share information on all long-term agroecology projects.
- Advocate for improved global governance of food with FAO and Climate Conference Of Parties.

At the final session, facilitators asked participants to share observations about the Agroecology Learning Exchange content and methodology. Their observations are shared here.

Highlights

- Venue of the meeting, food, volunteers and logistics team.
- Diversity, solidarity and the level of trust and participation of the group.
- Field visits and the panel discussion on the Indian context.
- Working in smaller groups for deeper engagement.
- Mística (cultural ritual) every morning at the start of the day, and the cultural night.
- Posters, presentations and videos shared by collaboratives.



Suggestions for improvement

1. Interpretation:

- More interpreters for each language.
- More languages.
- A briefing to attendees on interpretation.
- Better preparation of interpreters on contents of the meeting.
- Better equipment.
- Better coordination among interpretation teams.

2. Hold the next Agroecology Learning Exchange in a different part of the world.

3. Decentralization of facilitation and a more streamlined agenda:

- More scope for self-organizing the agenda.
- A less congested and structured agenda.
- Avoid carrying topics across to the next day.
- Fewer discussion topics and more time for in-depth analysis.
- Allocate more time for each session.
- Allocate more time for relationship building/informal interactions.
- Reschedule the Agroecology Fund panel discussion to day 1, to include more details on the donors: funds available, who they are, etc.
- Ensure complete access to contents of the agenda is provided to participants ahead of time.
- Find less time-consuming ways to capture ideas from smaller discussions.
- Create space for parallel groups of different interests.
- Focus on storytelling instead of posters.
- Include cultural performances from different regions as a part of the cultural night.

Note: All participants were also invited to evaluate the experience and share their feedback via a survey form (with the option of remaining anonymous). We received 20 responses in English, 8 in Spanish, 2 in Portuguese and 3 in French.

Visit to Andhra Pradesh

The morning after the Agroecology Learning Exchange in Karnataka formally closed, nearly 50 participants boarded buses to Andhra Pradesh to get a first-hand view of CNF. This experience involved visits to different farms in a drylands district and interactions with government officials working to scale up agroecology. CNF is a state government-led program in Andhra Pradesh, India that currently engages more than half a million small-scale farmers in the transition to agroecology.

Natural farming principles encourage a diversity of multi-layer crops, grown without any chemical fertilizers, pesticides, or excessive irrigation. The only inputs used are locally available cow manure and urine to enhance microbial activity, water retention, and carbon sequestration in the soil. The results have been remarkable: Biodiversity flourishes on agroecologically-farmed plots, and soils are fertile even in drought-prone regions. Smallholder farmers in Andhra Pradesh find they are no longer dependent on expensive chemical pesticides and fertilizers or caught in a cycle of debt. Suicides are no longer rampant among farmers, and many rural families are choosing to remain on their land instead of abandoning agriculture and migrating to cities in search of livelihoods. Independent scientific research is

underway; so far the program's own findings indicate increased yields (sometimes, by 200%!), improved farmers' incomes and climate resilience.

Farmer-to-farmer peer learning and community mobilization is fundamental to the program's success. In Andhra Pradesh, women's self-help groups have been instrumental in spreading the principles of agroecological farming from village to village. With the help of this grassroots farmers' movement, the target is to reach 6 million farmers by the end of the decade. Vijay Kumar, the advisor to the state government who is in charge of implementing the program stated: "Women are our biggest strength. Without women, there would be no natural farming."

The program is proof that agroecology can be scaled up and out with the help of supportive policies and investment. The APCNF program has garnered significant local and international attention; now, the Indian states of Karnataka, Himachal Pradesh, and Kerala are also in the process of adopting agroecological practices, moving toward a more sustainable—and equitable—food system of the future.



Visit to Andhra Pradesh



Photo: Soumya Sankar Bose



Photo: Amrita Gupta



Photo: Amrita Gupta



Photo: Amrita Gupta



Testimonial



Andhra Pradesh is a state in South India with a population of 50 million. 62% of the population of Andhra Pradesh is dependent on agriculture. We have a vision that by 2027, we should enroll all 6 million farmers in our state in natural farming.

There is a livelihoods crisis among small farmers, which is caused by high costs of cultivation, costly seeds, costly synthetic fertilizers, pesticides, etc. There is an uncertainty in the weather. We have a demographic problem because young people are migrating to the cities. There's also market uncertainty. World hunger is actually increasing and at the same time, the presence of chemical residues in our food is increasing, and the food we're cultivating today has much fewer nutrients than the food our grandparents ate.

And we are losing soil at a very fast pace; lands are becoming desertified. It is estimated that every year around 10 million hectares of land becomes degraded. We have a very peculiar situation in that climate change is affecting farming and farming is causing climate change. These multiple crises are all interrelated.

Therefore in Andhra Pradesh, we have decided that in order to tackle all these problems simultaneously, we must first transform the way we are managing our lands, the way we are cultivating our lands. We believe that natural farming, farming in harmony with nature, or farming in a way which mimics nature, can solve all these problems.

We started this program in 2016 in 700 villages of the state and around 40,000 farmers were enrolled in that first year. And last year, 2019, the number of farmers went up some 17 times. I would like to highlight here that the strength of our program is the way in which we have been able to scale it up. If you want to change one farmer, you must change the entire village. If we adopt a village, we stay in that village for five to seven years, until all farmers transform.

We believe that it is very, very critical to handhold a farmer in her transition, and this handholding should be done by trustworthy people, credible people. The role of women self-help groups and champion farmers has been critical in this transition process in Andhra Pradesh. Ours is not a top-down extension



Photo: Soumya Sankar Bose

Testimonial

system. Today we have close to 6,000 champion farmers, one for every hundred farmers. Their knowledge has a lot of credibility and it leads to adoption. We are trying a number of models to engage youth to become role models (high-return five-layer farming, value addition, small enterprises) so that other young people can come back to the villages. I can assure you, it's only through agroecology that we can get youth back into villages.

The general apprehension is that if you move into organic farming, or if you do non-chemical agriculture, the yields are going to fall very dramatically, and so farmers will not stick to the program. I have some happy news on that count. We have done independent assessments for three seasons now. We see the cost reduction is very significant between natural farming and chemical agriculture. There is no statistically significant yield difference in many crops, actually in some cases natural farming crops are doing better. And therefore, there is a significant increase in net income for the farmers who are practicing

natural farming. So farmers are not dropping out. Otherwise I would not have seen farmer numbers increase from 40,000 to 700,000.

In the qualitative impact assessment, farmers have reported better soil health, resilience, crop health, dignity of labor, etc. Importantly, almost all the women farmers tell me that they feel they are healthier now, once they have transitioned to natural farming. Farmers have reported greater resilience to cyclones, where neighboring fields were damaged and natural farming fields remained intact. We see a tremendous increase in biodiversity. We've done a systematic count of earthworms. We've done a count of birds in these fields versus chemical fields.

Initially there were a lot of people who were saying, well, you're going back to traditional agriculture, where is the science in this? We have collaborations with scientific experts from across the world. And that has helped us in getting continued government support and also the support of many other organizations and global collaborations. We have engaged with the World Agroforestry Center, FAO, UN Environment Programme, the French agriculture research center CIRAD and multiple other institutions. We are interested in working out the science behind natural farming, and we want the best scientists in the world to work with us.

Either you are part of the problem or you can be an important part of the solution. That is something which governments have to decide and the youth have to decide and every farmer has to decide. And that's why I say every farmer holds the future of the planet in her hands. Governments can't do it. Universities can't do it. It is the farmer. And of course, all of us who are supporting the farmers. So it's by farming in the right way that we can find a solution.



Excerpts from Vijay Kumar's presentation on Community Managed Natural Farming. You can watch the full recording [here](#).



Photo: Soumya Sankar Bose

Meeting Facilitators: Ed Rege & Mrinalini (Tina) Rai

Day 0: Monday, February 3, 2020

All day: Arrivals and registration

1800h: Welcome Dinner

Day 1: Tuesday, February 4

Time	Agenda Item	Lead Person
0830h	<p>Session 1: Opening, introductions and check-in</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome and Opening (15 mins) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opening ritual by Indian hosts to situate the meeting in place Brief welcome and opening remarks Intro to the Fireflies Cultural Center venue Comments by the Comms Team Introductions, expectations and process (45 mins) 	<p>Organizers & Facilitators</p> <p>Organizers</p> <p>Facilitators</p>
0930h	<p>Session 2: Sharing & learning from our own work</p> <p>2A. Gallery Walk 1 (Collaboratives in Clusters 1 & 2)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grantee Presentations in Thematic Clusters (1 & 2) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each collaborative team presents 3 mins introduction (45 mins) Rapid Gallery Walk to view Clusters 1 & 2 Collaboratives' wares (posters, videos, other displays) (30 mins) 	Facilitators
1045h	<i>Coffee/Tea Break (continue gallery chat as needed with coffee/tea)</i>	Local Organizers
1115h	<p>Session 2: cont'd 2B. Small Group Discussions at tables and Plenary Report Back</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Having learned about work by others in gallery walk, participants work in small table groups for deeper engagement (45 mins) Report back and plenary discussions (60 mins) 	Facilitators
1300h	<i>Lunch</i>	Local Organizers
1400h	<p>Learnings from Collaboratives - 3 minute video clip</p> <p>Session 2: Cont'd</p> <p>2C. Gallery Walk 2 (Collaboratives in Clusters 3 & 4)</p> <p>Grantee Presentations in Thematic Clusters (3 & 4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each collaborative team presents 3 mins introduction to their work (45 mins) Rapid Gallery Walk to view Clusters 3 & 4 Collaboratives' wares (posters, videos, other displays) (30 mins) 	Facilitators

1515h	Session 2: Cont'd 2D. Small Group Discussions at tables and Plenary Report Back <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Having learned about work by others in gallery walk, participants work in small table groups for deeper engagement (45 mins) 	Facilitators
1600h	Coffee/Tea Break	Local Organizers
1630h	Session 2: Cont'd 2D. Small Group Discussions at tables and Plenary Report Back <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report back and plenary discussions (60 mins) Learnings from field visit to Amrita Bhoomi: 5 minute video/slide show	Facilitators
1745h	Prep for Wednesday Field Trip: a briefing (trip content & logistics)	Organizers
1800h	Close	
1900h	Networking Reception	

Day 2: Wednesday, February 5

Time	Agenda Item	Lead Person
0830h	Session 3A: Field Visits: Up-close view of Community-managed Natural Farming and other Agroecology strategies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Field visits 	Ashlesha, Daniel, Angela, Facilitators
1330h	Lunch	Local Organizers
1530h	Learnings from Collaboratives - 2 x 3 minute video clips 2E. Key Learnings (Big Picture Level) Buzz Groups (in pairs) (5 mins) and plenary sharing (45 mins): major learnings, challenges, and new emerging opportunities or priorities for our work based on day 1 sessions	Facilitators
1645h	Coffee/Tea Break	Local Organizers
1715h	Networking Round A: Introduction to 'structured' networking sessions and Round A Networking Session; Optional Fireflies Cultural Center Campus Walk	All
1900h	Dinner: Free-seating format to facilitate continued informal networking	Local Organizers/ Facilitators

Day 3: Thursday, February 6

Time	Agenda Item	Lead Person
0830h	Opening Mística Recap: Day 2 (observations from the field trip by 'reporters' and others), and reflections on the meeting so far	Local Organizers/ Facilitators
0900h	Learnings from Collaboratives - 2 x 3 minute video clips Session 3B: Panel Discussion - [Amplifying or Scaling up agroecology: reflections from the India experience]	Facilitators
1030h	Coffee/Tea Break	Local Organizers
1100h	Session 3C: Small Groups Discussion (30 mins) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lessons (from the Indian experience): What is the relevance to our work back home? Session 3D: Report Back and Plenary Discussion (60 mins)	Facilitators
1230h	Lunch	Local Organizers
1400h	Learnings from Collaboratives - 2 x 3 minute video clips Session 4: Increasing Financial Resources for Agroecology: Trends, Challenges and Opportunities (70 mins) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4A: Panel discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction: Overview of financing agroecology needs and sources Influencing national government budgets Influencing bilateral and multilateral institutions Enterprise development finance Farmer self-financing Agroecology Fund grant pool and other philanthropic support Plenary Q & A 4B. Small group discussions and Report back: Funding opportunities and strategies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Small Group discussion (20 mins) 	Facilitators
1530h	Coffee/Tea Break	Local Organizers
1600h	4B. Cont'd <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report back and plenary discussion (45 mins) Learnings from Collaboratives - 2 x 3 minute video clips	Facilitators

1700h	Networking Round B: Participants seek each other out to discuss shared goals and collaboration opportunities (networking sessions can continue informally for rest of evening as desired)	
1900h	Party	Local Organizers

Day 4: Friday, February 7

Time	Agenda Item	Lead Person
0830h	Opening Mística Recap of Day 3	Local Organizers/ Facilitators
0900h	Session 5: Generating and disseminating evidences to influence debates about, and funding allocations for, agroecology 5A. Panel (30 minutes) 5B. Small group discussions (60 mins) 5C. Report Back in Plenary (30 mins)	Organizers/ Facilitators
1030h	<i>Coffee/Tea Break</i>	Local Organizers
1100h	Session 5: Cont'd 5B. Cont'd	Facilitators
1130h	Session 6: Partner feedback on the Agroecology Fund Strategic Plan to Amplify Agroecology 6A: Agroecology Fund and elements described (45 mins) Short history Strategic Directions Governance Grants and Learning Communications Q & A - from the floor	Facilitators
1215h	Session 6: Cont'd 6B. Faces of Agroecology Fund: A panel with donors and advisors (60 mins) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Panel Discussion • Q & A in Plenary (after the panel) 	Facilitators / Angela
1315h	<i>Lunch</i>	Local Organizers

1415h	Session 6 cont'd 6C. Buzz group discussion (30 mins) How can Agroecology Fund best support agroecology movements around the world?	<i>Facilitators</i>
1445h	6C. Cont'd - Plenary Report Back & Discussion (45 mins)	<i>Facilitators</i>
1530h	Session 7: Synthesis Table Buzz groups on key takeaways from the week ("Capture and Post" - on sticky notes) (30 mins) Summary of key takeaways from Buzz groups (15 mins)	<i>Facilitators</i>
1615h	<i>Coffee/Tea Break</i>	<i>Local Organizers</i>
1645h	Session 8: Next steps, evaluation and closing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next Steps - Action points from the week • Meeting Evaluation • Closing Remarks 	<i>Facilitators</i>
1730h	Close	
1900h	Closing Reception	<i>Local Organizers</i>

COLLABORATIVES

Region of Implementation: Africa

#	Name	Country	Organization	Collaborative
1	Elfrieda Pschorn	South Africa	African Biodiversity Network (ABN)	Connecting Seeds, Culture and Nature, to Strengthen Agroecological Practices and Food Sovereignty in Africa (ABN)
2	Simon Mitambo	Kenya		
3	Rutendo Zendah Chirape	Zimbabwe	African Centre for Biodiversity	Save Our Seeds (SOS)- Legal Challenges to Seed Intellectual Property Rights and Seed Patent Regimes
4	Michael Farrelly	Senegal	Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA)	Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa
5	Million Belay	Ethiopia		
6	Mamadou Danfakha	Senegal	Fahamu	Valorization of traditional rice varieties to improve women's access to markets in West Africa
7	Mariama Sonko	Senegal		

8	Steven Brescia	USA	Groundswell International	Amplifying Agroecology in the West African Sahel: Strengthening Farmer-to-Farmer spread, Women's Empowerment, Nutrition and Advocacy
9	Tsuamba Bourgou	Burkina Faso		
10	Gertrude Fadziso Pswarayi Jabson	Zimbabwe	Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM)	Capacity Building for the Zimbabwe Seed Sovereignty Programme
11	Cristina Agrillo	Italy	Slow Food Italy	Building Local Economies in East Africa through Agroecology
12	John Kariuki Mwangi	Kenya	Slow Food Kenya	
13	Annie Chikanji	Zambia	The Rescope Programme	Youth and smallholder farmers championing farmer seed systems and agroecology to enhance food sovereignty and nutrition in ten communities in East and Southern Africa
14	Walter Mugove Nyika	Zimbabwe		

Region of Implementation: Americas

#	Name	Country	Organization	Collaborative
15	Joel Orozco	Nicaragua	Asociación de Trabajadores de Campo (ATC)	Facilitation of Territorial Processes in Agroecology with the Latin American Institute of Agroecology
16	Marlen Sanchez			

17	Maribel Lopez	Mexico	Centro de Desarrollo Integral Campesino de la Mixteca (CEDICAM)	Developing the capacity for sustainable management of soils
18	Rosalinda Heredia Hernandez		Cooperativa Tosepan Titataniske	
19	Diana Lucia C. Calderon	Ecuador	Colectivo Agroecologico del Ecuador	Agroecological Families: A Democratic Inspiration for Forging Food Sovereignty
20	Luis Alberto Paredes Toala			
21	Alessandra Karla da Silva	Brazil	Centro de Desenvolvimento Ecológico do Cerrado (CEDAC)	Co-creation of Agroecology in the Brazilian Savannah: the Agroecological Community Living Centers Network
22	Marcelo Jacinto do Egito		Emporio do Cerrado	
23	Aline Ferreira Santos	Brazil	Cooperativa Agroecologica Nacional Terra e Vida (Coonaterra)	Bionatur Seed Network
24	Lidiane Gregorio			
25	Faustino Guzman Cruz	Mexico	Desarrollo Socio Economico para los Mexicanos Indigenas (DESMI))	Strengthening and Expanding Agroecological Systems for Food Sovereignty & Local Leadership, Chiapas

26	Livia Aide Ramírez Rivero	Mexico	La Asociación Nacional de Empresas Comercializadoras de Productores del Campo (ANEC)	Expansión del modelo de agroecología campesina de conocimientos integrados y construcción del Movimiento Agroecológico Mexicano
27	Enrique PérezSuárez		Movimiento Agroecológico (MAM)	
28	Luis Fabian Pachon Camelo	Colombia	Instituto Latinoamericano de Agroecología María Cano	Latin America Agroecology Institute "María Cano"
29	Yexibeth Virginia Cadenas Cadenas			
30	Justin Duncan	USA	Southeastern African American Farmers' Organic Network (SAAFON)	Down-South AfroEcology Training School (DATS)

Region of Implementation: Asia

#	Name	Country	Organization	Collaborative
31	Anuka Vimukthi Thirimadura	Sri Lanka	La Via Campesina South Asia (LVC)	Scaling Up Agroecology Through Public Policy, Youth, and Farmers Movements
32	Chukki Nandjundaswamy	India	Amrita Bhoomi/ KRRS/LVC	
33	Rajegowda KM		KRRS/LVC	
34	Neha Raj Singh	India	Navdanya	Women's Networks for Biodiversity and Agroecology

35	Pius Ranee	India	North East Slow Food and Agrobiodiversity Society (NESFAS)	Building Societies of Peace-Looking to Matriarchal Societies for Lessons on Agroecology and Nutrition
36	Kathryn Manga	Philippines	Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas	Collaboration to Advance Agroecology for Rural Food Security and Agrarian Reform in the Philippines
37	Sansen Ramos Maglinte		Sibol Ng Agham At Teknolohiya	
38	Indira Raimberdieva	Kyrgyzstan	Peace Building Center (PBC)	Enhancing genetic diversity of livestock and promotion of agro-ecological solutions through revival and re-introduction of aboriginal breeds of livestock to native landscapes
39	Sultan Sarygulov		Federation of Organic Development Bio-KG	

Region of Implementation: Oceania

#	Name	Country	Organization	Collaborative
40	Bao Waiko	Papua New Guinea	Save PNG Inc	Food is Life Melanesia Project -Sharing agroecology strategies through media education amongst Pacific Islanders
41	Jennifer Baing Waiko			

Region of Implementation: Europe

#	Name	Country	Organization	Collaborative
42	Michel Pimbert	UK	Centre for Agroecology, Water and Resilience (CAWR)	Agroecology for Sustainable Food Systems in Europe
43	Rupert Dunn		Torth y Tir	

Region of Implementation: Global or Interregional

#	Name	Country	Organization	Collaborative
44	Bige Olcay Bingöl	Belgium	European Coordination Via Campesina	Mapping and Exchanges on Agroecology and agro-biodiversity between Central Asia and Eastern Europe
45	Odinaev Mahmudbek	Tajikistan	Zan va Zamin	
46	Gopal Dayaneni	USA	ETC Group	A locally rooted and globally active collaborative to defend and amplify peasant-led agroecology
47	Juan Reardon	Argentina	La Via Campesina	
48	Afsar Jafri	India	Genetic Resources Action International (GRAIN)	

49	Christopher Honahnie	USA	International Indian Treaty Council (IITC)	Indigenous Peoples Alliance for Traditional Knowledge, Food Sovereignty and Climate Change
50	Nicole Yanes			
51	Mariano Sutta Apocusi	Perú	International Network of Mountain Indigenous People (INMIP)	International Network of Mountain Indigenous Peoples (INMIP) Vavilov centers and biocultural heritage/food neighborhood work
52	Ricardo Pacco Chipa			
53	Thomas Andrew Currier	USA	Oakland Institute	Our Land Our Business

DONORS

#	Name	Organization	Country
1	Anna Lappé	Panta Rhea Foundation	USA
2	Holly Roberson	Panta Rhea Foundation	USA
3	Elton Mudyazvivi	Ikea Foundation	Netherlands
4	John Wilson	Tudor Trust	Zimbabwe
5	Katy Scholfield	Synchronicity Earth	UK

6	Kyra Busch	Christensen Fund	USA
7	Zhyldyz Doolbekova	Christensen Fund	Kyrgyzstan
8	Maggie Nyce	11th Hour Project	USA
9	Megan Powers	McKnight Foundation	USA
10	Rajiv Khanna	Thousand Currents	USA
11	Samuel Nnah Ndobe	Full Circle	Cameroon
12	Tim Crosby	Thread Fund	USA
13	Zulfiquar Haider	Azim Premji Philanthropic Initiatives	India
14	Tasqeen Macchiwalla	Azim Premji Philanthropic Initiatives	India

AGROECOLOGY FUND ADVISORS

#	Name	Organization	Country
1	Edward Mukiibi	Slow Food	Uganda
2	Zhyldyz Doolbekova	Christensen Fund	Kyrgyzstan

3	Jyoti Fernandes	Landworkers Alliance	UK
4	M Jahi Chappell	Food First	USA
5	Maria Patricia Flores Escudero	IFOAM	Peru
6	Rajasvini Bhansali	Solidaire Network	USA
7	Solome Lemma	Thousand Currents	USA
8	Tabara Ndiaye	Independent	Senegal

RESOURCE PEOPLE

#	Name	Organization	Country
1	David Ojuu	CCRP/ McKnight Foundation	Uganda
2	Emile Frison	IPES-Food	Italy
3	Jennifer Astone	Integrated Capital Investing	USA
4	Kavitha Kuruganti	Alliance for Sustainable and Holistic Agriculture (ASHA)	India

5	Vijay Kumar	CNF - Andhra Pradesh	India
6	Marah Moore	i2i Institute	USA
7	John Edward Otieno Rege	Facilitator	Kenya
8	Tina Rai	Facilitator	India
9	Rucha Chitnis	Independent filmmaker	India
10	Soumya Sankar Bose	Photographer, Magnum Foundation	India

ORGANIZERS

#	Name	Organization	Country
1	Amrita Gupta	Agroecology Fund	USA
2	Angela Cordeiro	Agroecology Fund	Brazil
3	Daniel Moss	Agroecology Fund	USA
3	Ashlesha Khadse	Amrita Bhoomi/La Via Campesina South Asia	India