



**somexpro,ac**

**CONCEPT NOTE**

**International Conference  
On Food Self-Sufficiency and Agroecology in a Multipolar World**

Oaxaca, Mexico, 28 November to December 2, 2023.

**I. General objective**

Learn about and exchange experiences on public policies, regulatory frameworks and strategic actions from governments, parliaments and social movements,, as well as rural and urban practices that seek to transform food systems to make them fair, sustainable, healthy and competitive, through the agroecological transition and other related approaches.

**II. Background**

The production model called "Green Revolution", worldwide, has led us to a land-change whose main consequences have been the loss of biodiversity and biocultural diversity throughout the world. This caused a strong environmental impact, decreasing the quality of the soil, contamination of water bodies with agrochemicals, as well as salinization and the destruction or degradation of the soil. Meanwhile, climatic phenomena increasingly threaten every food production and especially the populations most vulnerable, such as small-scale producers, consumers, and rural, indigenous, and Afro-descendant populations.

In many parts of the world, abandoning the countryside meant beginning to suffer from food dependency, devaluation of peasant agriculture, inequality, poverty, social exclusion, migration, environmental degradation, human health problems, and the dispossession of violent resources. Thus, the imposition of the food model based on ultra-processed foods and beverages; "profitability" was made at the cost of the super-exploitation of wage labor, natural resources, public health, and the environment.

In recent decades, there has been worldwide attention to the way in which we produce and distribute the food we consume, due to its impact on the environment, health, and the economy and community cultures. In this sense various authors over the years have argued that Agroecology is the science that promotes producing, circulating, transforming, exchanging and consumption of food respecting the complexity of nature and human health. At the same time a series of social and



**somexpro,ac**

technical sustainable practices have been and continue developed, as an example of resistance.

It is precisely the social movements, which include the work of many organizations that have supported this way of producing from the territories to strengthen food and nutritional sovereignty, and the good living of the peoples, which guides the realization of the “International Conference on Food Self-Sufficiency and Agroecology in a Multipolar World”.

At present, Agroecology constitutes a systemic and interdisciplinary process that integrates all dimensions of the food systems, from production to consumption. Agroecology has three fundamental pillars: it integrates peasant knowledge and practices complemented by the science adopted by the social movements that help to create a critical mass; pillars that work interrelated among themselves, permanently and in solidarity to promote and/or strengthen a sustainable production model. (SIPA, 2021; FAO, 2018).

In this sense, the approach of agroecology has been dynamic, conforming to peasant practices, added to various social and political movements. It has been taken as a flag towards towns sustainable development. Several countries are having extraordinary results in the impulse to a new model of producing in a friendly way with the environment and applying the principles of agroecology.

In Mexico, for example, there are two very important programs that have as axes the agroecological transition, “*Sowing life*” and “*Production for the Well-being*”. Both have a component of Technician Accompaniment Strategy where the strengthening of productive capacities is promoted and organized with small and medium producers. Both programs recognize the small and medium producer as a subject and promoter of the agroecological transition, capable of generating a political agenda territory that promotes autonomous and self-managed processes with food healthy and nutritious since they are the ones that generate 54% of the food from the country.<sup>1</sup>

Those programs in the social field promote associativity, the constitution of peasants as autonomous collective subjects with rights, as well as favoring the co-creation of peasant+scientific knowledge. To improve the economy, the associativity of

<sup>1</sup> There are efforts by state governments and government institutions, such as the agriculture program of the government of Veracruz, Michoacán, and recently joined by Oaxaca, and by state institutions promoted by CONACYT, the Agroecological Lighthouses Program. In the Production for Well-being Program, in the last year 218,442 men and women have participated in training on agroecological and organizational practices as part of the Technical Support Strategy (EAT).



## somexpro,ac

agricultural activity and the development of short chains of use and exchange value are favored, for the benefit of peasant families, their communities, territories and their culture.

These actions from the governmental sphere favor that small and medium producers, indigenous people, Afro-descendants, peasants, appropriate the integral agroecological transition from their production units and communities.

This added to a movement of producers in agroecological transition in the world, for example, the state of Andhra Pradesh in India has 6 million producers (86% small-scale) owning 8 million hectares of crops, and 62% of its population is dedicated to agricultural activities (Goula, 2020). As well as in the case of the Landless Movement in Brazil, 350,000 families are involved (MST, 2020), for example, in the state of Rio Grande do Sul, a harvest projection of more than 16,000 tons of organic rice, production that takes place in 22 localities of 11 municipalities of Río Grande and involves 352 families and nine cooperatives (Telesur, 2023); or in Cuba are involved in this process 457,481 small farmers, in the 2021-2022 cold campaign 406,435 hectares (ha), 19,189 more than the 387,231 planned for the stage, which represented 9.5% more than the average of the last eight seasons, indicated sources from the Ministry of Agriculture (MINAG) (ANAP, 2022).

To the aforementioned, a movement of producers in agroecological transition in Mexico and in the world join the search for the transformation of food systems. For example, the state of Andhra Pradesh in India has 6 million producers (86% small-scale) who own 8 million hectares of crops, and 62% of its population is engaged in agricultural activities (Goula, 2020). Also the case of the Landless Workers' Movement (MST) in Brazil, 350,000 families are involved (MST, 2020), for example, in the state of Rio Grande do Sul there is a projected harvest of more than 16,000 tons of organic rice, a production that it is carried out in 22 localities of 11 municipalities and nine cooperatives (Telesur, 2023). In Cuba, 457,481 small farmers are involved in this process. In the 2021-2022 cold season, 406,435 hectares (ha) were cultivated, 19,189 more than the 387,231 planned for the stage, which represented 9.5% more than the average of the last eight seasons, reported by sources from the Ministry of Agriculture (MINAG) (ANAP, 2022).

These initiatives, like many others worldwide, recognize the producer's knowledge in the social and productive sphere which are complemented by technical-scientific-social knowledge.

For this reason, in the search to rescue some significant experiences worldwide, it has been proposed to hold the "International Conference on Food Self-Sufficiency and



## somexpro,ac

Agroecology in a Multipolar World” in which representatives of progressive governments participate, parliaments, as well as small and medium-scale farmers, organizations, representatives of consumer networks and relevant social movements linked to the objective, and also scientific, academic institutions; foundations and multilateral organizations.

As well as all the movements that wish to do so, with related approaches respecting diversity and the confluence of an agriculture for the producers with social justice, agriculture for health, for the environment, for the climate. Agriculture for a dignified life and for peace.

Due to the aforementioned, we seek to generate a common roadmap, which allows articulation between countries and progressive movements that are going in the same direction, the construction of strategic alliances that allow scaling the actions that are carried out in each of them towards the international level.

We will promote a dialogue and meeting space to share experiences implemented in different countries of the world, as well as actions implemented from the institutions, small and medium farmers scale, as well as social organizations that promote agroecological practices or other related approaches and reflect the different traditional, ancestral and the bioculturality of rural, peasants, Afro-descendant communities and indigenous peoples in the world, and the results achieved so far, in countries seeking a path towards sustainable agriculture.

We seek to generate bonds of solidarity with all participating countries' representatives to open the way for the transformation alternatives of ongoing agroecological practices. We want to strengthen the global framework for world food security based on human rights, peasant agriculture, agroecology and other similar approaches, healthy eating, the sovereignty of the peoples and international cooperation for the development of the universal brotherhood.

### III. Participants:

Representatives of national or local governments, parliaments, movements social and community, academia and people interested in general from different countries, between others:

- America: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, United States of America, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Dominican Republic, Uruguay and Venezuela;



**somexpro,ac**

- Europe: Spain, France, Switzerland, Denmark;
- Africa: Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania, Algeria and the Democratic Republic of the Congo;
- Saharan;
- Eurasia: Russia and Türkiye;
- Asia: India, China, Vietnam and Philippines.

#### IV. Thematic axes of the International Conference on Agroecology and Food self-sufficiency in a multipolar world:

1. Agroecological transition and other related approaches to the transformation of food systems to make them fair, sustainable, healthy and competitive, and achieve food self-sufficiency. Successful national public policies;
2. Experiences and alliances to dispense with glyphosate and transgenic seeds: advances in humanities, sciences and technologies, public policies, actions of organizations and social movements.
3. Experiences for the substitution of glyphosate and transgenic seeds. Advances in public policies, actions of organizations, movements and alliances;
4. Relevant experiences of agroecological transition and other related approaches from organizations, movements and alliances.
5. Transforming the framework of global food systems to ensure the agroecological transition and other related approaches, achieve food self-sufficiency with respect to the
6. national sovereignties in a framework of cooperation for the development in a multipolar world;
7. Popular, rural and indigenous education and communication and others pedagogies: learning community and agroecologies territorial;
8. The agroecological transition and its relationship with other challenges of the field: women's participation, generational change, justice agriculture and food, water availability, climate change, aflatoxins, health, etc.

#### V. Activities



**somexpro,ac**

- a) Conferences;
- b) Workshops;
- c) Field visits to learn about agroecological transition experiences and others related approaches: Field Schools, Communities of peasant apprenticeships, among others;
- d) Visits to markets;
- e) Community dialogue tables to reach agreements to implement joint actions;
- f) Dialogue tables for the implementation of public policies in different parts of the world to establish lines of joint actions;
- g) Expo sale of products derived from agroecological production and related approaches.

## VI. Expected results

1. Bring together international, national and local actors: governments, parliamentarians, civil society, academics, research institutions, peasants, producers, indigenous peoples, cooperation agencies, international and decision makers for:

- a) Exchange knowledge, experiences about production with agroecological approach and other related approaches;
- b) Know which are the alternatives that are being used. What benefits have they had since producing in this way?
- c) Present how public policies on agroecology and other related approaches are implemented;
- d) Learn from each case, which are the challenges for its implementation?

2. Promote synergies/links, networks and alliances with organizations, public and private institutions and initiatives related worldwide and region;

3. Know the mechanisms that favor the transformation of food systems to make them healthier, fairer, more accessible, and competitive, including the protection and strengthening of the agroecology and other related approaches, as well as strategies traditional ways of life and their associated knowledge systems;

4. Conference Statement. Agreements are expected to be reached among the participating countries, which allows the strengthening of the actions to transform food systems in each country and region, but at the same time to exercise joint actions in the international framework.

VII. Map of international actors and experiences with focus agroecology and other related approaches identified to invite  
(Although they are not all and it is expected to identify who else would be guests).



## somespro,ac

- Agroecological Movement of Latin America and the Caribbean (MAELA)
- Peasant to Peasant Movement (CaC)
- Movement of Landless Rural Workers of Brazil (MST);
- National Association of Small Farmers (ANAP);
- La Via Campesina;
- Alternative Food Webs: The Associations for the Maintenance of Peasant Agriculture (AMAP), Teikei in Japan, Community Support of Agriculture in the United States of America
- The Indian state of Andhra Pradesh.
- Zero Budget Natural Agriculture (ANPC);
- IFOAM-LATIN AMERICA
- Related approaches
  - Regenerative Agriculture;
  - Natural Agriculture;
  - Biointensive Agriculture;
  - Permaculture
  - Organized agriculture and others

## Bibliography

- National Association of Small Farmers (ANAP), 2022. Contribution of the National Association of Small Farmers (ANAP) on the occasion of the consideration of the II National Report presented by the Republic of Cuba before the Universal Periodic Review Mechanism of the Human Rights Council, April-May 2022.
- GOULA. 2020. This is how they transform food production with practices agroecological. <https://goula.lat/enterate/asi-transforman-produccion-of-food-with-agroecological-practices/> on November 2, 2020.
- Gomez Giraldo L. 2013. The green revolution in the context of the crisis environmental. Volume 4, No. 1
- SIPA, 2021. Integrated System of Agroecological Productions: contributions for transition management in extensive agro-ecosystems / compiled by Griselda Ma. del Carmen Muñoz; Sergio Montico; edited by Juan Manuel Vázquez; Illustrated by Juan Manuel Vázquez. - 1st ed. - Zavalla: Agrarian Sciences Foundation, 2021. Digital book, PDF  
file:///C:/Users/Usuario/Downloads/AGROECOLOGICA%20SISTEMAS%20EXTENSIVAS%20UNR%20MU%C3%91OZ%20MONTIVO%202021%20BOOK.pdf
- Telesur. 2023. MST realizes the largest harvest of organic rice in Brazil. <https://www.telesurtv.net/news/brasil-trabajadores-realizan-harvest-organic-rice-20230317-0019.html> March 23, 2023.
- Altieri Miguel, Peter Roset. Agroecology: science and politics. Icaria. 2020
- González de Molina, Manuel. Introduction to political agroecology. Latin American Council of Social Sciences (CLACSO).2021