

Aide memoire

<i>Session</i>	Session 7 – <i>Interlinkages between biodiversity and agriculture – Part IV: Changing practices</i>
<i>Title of presentation</i>	Transforming food systems: towards diversified agroecological systems
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Abstract

The evidence for the need of a major transformation of our food systems is now overwhelming. From the degradation of ecosystems to the fragility of farmer livelihoods in many parts of the world; from the persistence of hunger and under-nutrition to the rampant growth of obesity and diet-related diseases. We explore the potential for a shift to occur from current farming systems to systems based around *diversified agroecological farming* and show how these systems can succeed where current systems are failing, namely in addressing simultaneously problems of food security, environmental protection, nutritional adequacy, social equity and locally-led development. We analyse why a transition is not happening faster and describe eight mutually reinforcing lock-ins that represent strong obstacles to change. We then present eight emerging opportunities whereby, the foundations of the desired transition are already being laid by farmers, consumers, civil society and present seven key recommendations for supporting the shift towards diversified agroecological systems.

Key considerations

1. There is now ample evidence that the currently dominant model of **industrial agriculture is failing** on almost all of these dimensions: socio-economic, environmental, nutrition and health:
2. Incremental improvements based on the current industrial agriculture model will not be sufficient: we **urgently need to transform our current model of industrial agriculture into diversified agroecological systems** that can address economic, environmental, social and nutrition/health objectives in a sustainable manner.
3. This paradigm change **requires to establish clear political priorities**

Key discussion points and conclusions

Seven recommendations to foster the needed transformation of agriculture and food systems are proposed;

1. Develop new indicators for sustainable food systems.
2. Shift public support towards diversified agroecological production systems.
3. Support short circuits & alternative retail infrastructures.
4. Use public procurement to support local agroecological produce.
5. Strengthen movements that unify diverse constituencies around agroecology.
6. Mainstream agroecology and holistic food systems approaches into education and research.
7. Develop food planning processes and ‘food policies’ at all levels.

These are feasible steps which, when taken together can foster the necessary transformation.

Key question/s that you would pose at the roundtable discussions

- What can be done to accelerate the necessary transformation of our food systems?
- How can the CBD contribute to foster the necessary transformation?
- What role can Norway and other progressive countries play?