

Agroecology schools

What do we talk about?

Agroecology schools are the place where knowledge is shared within communities led by grassroots organizations on a diversity of topics determined by the local context. It can be either in the formal or informal educational system, in a solid structure or without walls. They tend to have the following features:

- Based on local needs and realities
 - Agroecology schools are facilitating the exchanges to solve local problems faced in specific context and reality.
- Based on local knowledge
 - The main source of knowledge is held in the farming community, enriched by other sources.
- Based on horizontal learning processes
 - Agroecology schools are facilitating the exchange of knowledge, free of hierarchy. Learners and teachers are exchanging role in a continuous dialogue. Experts are complementing the existing knowledge provided by all participants.
- Dialogue of different kind of knowledge (food producers, academia, activist, ...).
 - Allied by a common vision (food sovereignty) in a space of trust, a diversity of knowledge, wisdom, ideas, feelings awareness is enriching participants. Food producers and communities, in relation with academia, experts, and activists can build promising dialogue in agroecology schools.
- Participatory Action Research
 - Research dimension in agroecology schools is always focused on people's needs and will be based on people agency in research processes (will not take food producers and their communities as object of academic research).
- Popular education
 - Agroecology schools are using popular education methods, where participants are the main agent / knowledge holder.
- For society transformation
 - Agroecology schools facilitate knowledge sharing for a change toward a fairer society.

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¹ Op.cit.