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TALKSHOW: PATHWAYS TOWARDS AGROECOLOGICAL POLICIES

Talkshow: 'Pathways towards agroecological policies'

There is an ongoing debate about how agroecological policies can (or can't) support local communities and what processes can best bring about these policies. Many international organisations, including the FAO, IAASTD and IPES-Food, national governments, universities and other institutions agree that agroecology can significantly contribute to achieving many of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). One way to amplify agroecology and contribute to the SDGs, is through policies that foster agroecology.

In Brazil various agroecology policies have been successfully implemented in the past decade. These policies support agroecology by creating local markets, enhancing learning and innovation between farmers and with other actors and increase access to land. The joint effort of local, regional and national organisations and social movements has been crucial in pushing for these policies, shaping them and ensuring that they are properly implemented.

Agroecology policies have also been implemented in some European countries. In France the Agriculture, Agrifood and Forest law (LAAF, 2014) states that public policies have to promote agroecological production systems. The impact of this law however remains unclear as is the involvement of farmer and civil society organisations. Other policies in Europe, including some that fall under Europe's Common Agricultural Policy have been argued to hamper the development and spread of agroecology.

During this talkshow we discuss how policies can best foster agroecology and achieving the SDGs. We focus not only on the content of these policies but also on the actors and processes that give shape to these policies and their implementation. We exchange views and experiences between the audience and with selection of people working on agroecology in the domains of science, social movement and/or practice.

Hanny van Geel is a farmer and board member of the Dutch farmers' association Toekomstboeren. She is also in the coordination committee of the European Coordination of La Via Campesina and from the Dutch food sovereignty platform VoedselAnders. **Jan Douwe van der Ploeg** is emeritus professor of rural sociology at the Wageningen University and board member of the European Agroecology Association. He has led various research projects on the peasantry and agrarian transformation in countries that include the Netherlands, Peru, Italy and China. **Diana Quiroz** holds a PhD in ethnobotany and is active for Cultivate!, an NGO promoting agroecology. She is currently working in a project that is mapping agroecology policies worldwide. **Ana Carolina Rodrigues** is conducting PhD research on peasant cooperatives in Brazil and Spain. Prior to her PhD she worked with the peasant movements in Brazil including the Brazilian Landless Workers Movement (MST).