

Agroecology

Agroecological principles provide a framework for designing and managing sustainable agricultural systems that work in harmony with nature. Grounded in both ecological science and traditional knowledge, agroecology promotes diversity, resilience, and the responsible use of local resources.

Agroecology is aligned with **food sovereignty**, ensuring equity, community empowerment, and local control over food systems. These principles shape a commitment to building sustainable and just food futures.

Farming the Future focuses its work on **transformational** levels of change in the UK (Principles 7–13).

TRANSFORMATIONAL

INCREMENTAL

FOOD SYSTEM LEVELS

LEVEL 5

Rebuild the global food system so that it is sustainable and equitable for all

LEVEL 4

Re-establish connections between growers and eaters, develop alternative food networks

AGROECOSYSTEM LEVELS

LEVEL 3

Redesign the whole agroecosystem based on ecological processes

LEVEL 2

Substitute alternative practices and inputs

LEVEL 1

Increase efficiency of industrial inputs

Thirteen Agroecology Principles

- 13 **FAIRNESS**
- 12 **PARTICIPATION**
- 11 **LAND & RESOURCE GOVERNANCE**
- 10 **SOCIAL VALUES & DIETS**
- 09 **CO-CREATION OF KNOWLEDGE**
- 08 **CONNECTIVITY**
- 07 **ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION**
- 06 **SYNERGIES**
- 05 **RECYCLING**
- 04 **BIODIVERSITY**
- 03 **INPUT REDUCTION**
- 02 **ANIMAL HEALTH**
- 01 **SOIL HEALTH**

SOURCE: GIESSMAN (2007) AND HIPE (2019)



Fairness

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Support dignified and resilient livelihoods for all actors in food systems, especially smaller-scale producers and landworkers, through fair prices, fair employment, and respect for their knowledge. Promote equitable access to agroecology training and solidarity spaces for diverse growers.

Economic diversification

07

Improve the diversity of farm incomes, empowering smaller-scale farmers with financial independence and value-adding opportunities that both meet community demands, reduce waste and advance viable, regenerative alternatives to the extractive agroindustrial model.



On Farm Practices

1–6

Promote diverse, low input, efficient farming eco-systems that recycle resources, enhance resilience, nurture soils and support adaptation and mitigation to climate change. Support skill sharing on nature-friendly farming practices that foster greater biodiversity, environmental and human health, and provide a more productive and sustainable, long-term alternative to extractive and exploitative practices and policies.



Participation

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Encourage social organization and inclusive participation in decision-making by food producers and eaters—expanding opportunities to connect with our food and the land it grows on. Support decentralized governance and local adaptive management of agricultural and food systems to build community food resilience, agency and democratic voice.

Land & Resource Governance

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Develop equitable access to land and responsible collective stewardship of resources, including supporting seed and grain sovereignty and genetic diversity of animals and plants. Advance just opportunities for food growing, and strengthen local control of assets to boost economic resilience within agricultural and food systems.



Co-creation of knowledge

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Foster peer connection and producer-to-trader knowledge sharing in the community. Enhance institutional and scientific innovation through participatory processes and opportunities for co-creating based on local expertise and needs. Create viable pathways for diverse new entrants, inclusive skill sharing in sustainable practices, and fair access to direct markets.



Connectivity

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Build proximity and trust between producers and consumers by promoting fair and short distribution networks that connect people and producers more directly. Shorten long and extractive just-in-time supply chains, and strengthen local economies through public food procurement and community eating.



Social Values and Diets

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Build food systems rooted in the culture, identity, tradition, and social and gender equity of local communities. Uphold the right to good, nutritious food through affordable access and culturally appropriate, sustainable and healthy diets.