Agroecology works!
Towards resilient food & farming systems

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What is agroecology?

“The study, design, co-creation & management of sustainable farming systems”

Integrates ecological sciences and principles ...

with local and Indigenous knowledge and practice.

A social movement to transform power structures.
Productive, Profitable & Resilient,

*Biodiverse agroecological farm, Mexico*

- local seeds
- crop rotation
- polyculture
- mulch for weed control
- organic compost
- agroforestry
- contour cropping
- pollinator habitat
- watershed protection

*Social/economic context:*
- sustainable livelihoods
- year-round employment
- nutritious food

Source: Ivette Perfecto
Capturing carbon

Toensmeier, 2016; Lal, 2014; IPCC 2014

Excess CO2 in atmosphere
200

Potential CO2 drawdown by carbon farming
367

CO2 (b metric tons)
Agroecology: social & economic equity
Agroecology in the U.S.
Agroecology delivers

“To feed 9 billion people in 2050, we urgently need to adopt the most efficient farming techniques available... Agroecology, done right, can produce just as much food, while conserving natural resources and improving ecological resilience.”

– Olivier de Schutter, UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, 2011
Agroecology delivers

- IPES-FS, From Uniformity to Diversity: a paradigm shift (2016)
- UNCTAD, Wake up Before It’s Too Late: make agriculture truly sustainable now for food security in a changing climate (2013)
- UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, Agroecology & the Right to Food (2011)
- UNEP, Towards a Green Economy (2011)
So why isn’t agroecology everywhere?
Industrial Ag Lock-ins

Intl Panel of Experts on Sustainable Food Systems (IPES), 2016
What you are seeing is not just a consolidation of seed companies, it’s really a consolidation of the entire food chain.” Robert Fraley, co-president of Monsanto’s agricultural sector.

Corporate consolidation (seeds)
Market power = political power

Suppressing Science For Monsanto? Groups Demand Investigation of USDA
Scientific integrity undermined

**UNDER THE INFLUENCE:**
THE NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL AND GMOS

The National Research Council (NRC) — the research arm of the National Academy of Sciences — enjoys a reputation as one of the elite scientific bodies in the United States, an independent institution that Congress calls on for impartial scientific advice about topics like genetically engineered crops (commonly called GMOs). However, the NRC’s far-reaching ties to biotechnology companies and other agricultural corporations have created conflicts of interests at every level of the organization, which greatly diminish the independence and integrity of the NRC’s scientific work.

The USDA gives less than 15% of research and education grants to agroecology.

The future of our food system is at stake.
Democracy Matters

Farmworker Association of Florida
La Asociación Campesina de Florida
Asosiyasyon Travayè Latè nan Florid

Women Food & Ag Network
coalición RURAL coalition
Advocating for more just and equitable food and farm policy

National Family Farm Coalition

Oakland Food Policy Council
promoting an equitable & sustainable food system
Agroecology: path to equitable, productive & resilient farming

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Online Resources

❖ Learn more: www.panna.org

❖ Analysis: GroundTruth Blog www.panna.org/blog

❖ Pesticide information (toxicity): www.pesticideinfo.org

❖ Agroecology: http://www.panna.org/key-issues/agroecology-farming-solutions

❖ Democratizing food: http://www.panna.org/key-issues/food-democracy