

Roadmap – agroforestry in the context of agroecology

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The Committee on World Food Security (CFS), High Level Panel of Experts (HLPE) commissioned a report on 'Agroecological and other innovation approaches for sustainable agriculture and food systems that enhance food security and nutrition' that will be launched on 3rd July, 2019 at the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations in Rome. The report starts from the premise that a major transformation of food systems is required to achieve food and nutrition security and that agroecology embraces science, practice and a social movement. Transitions towards more sustainable food systems can be made through application of agroecological principles that manifest differently according to where and by whom they are applied. Agroforestry is important because adding trees to fields and farming landscapes increases functional diversity and the scope for managing synergy amongst components, recycling and economic diversification impacting soil and animal health and input reduction. Key actions required to foster agroecological transitions are to: take into account and value the diversity of food systems and their contexts across scales when developing transition pathways; broaden performance metrics for food systems; recognize improvement of ecological footprint as an operational principle for transitioning to more sustainable food systems; encourage integration of transdisciplinary science and indigenous knowledge to support local innovation; and, consider the emerging importance of 'agency' as a possible fifth pillar of food security and nutrition.