



Food Sovereignty and Agroecology

Guiding Principles for the international Agricultural System

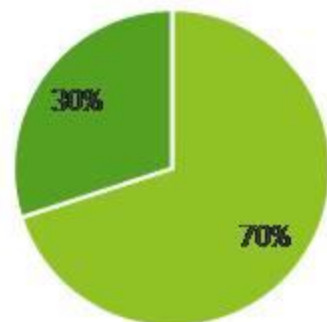
Maria Heubuch
Member of the European Parliament



Worldwide situation

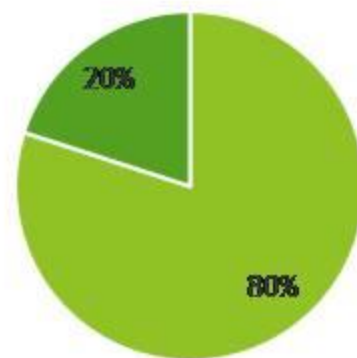
- ▶ 2.5 billion people working in agriculture worldwide
- ▶ Number of chronically undernourished people rose from 777 million in 2015 to 815 million in 2016
- ▶ 98% of starving people live in developing countries
- ▶ 75% of starving people live in rural areas
- ▶ 80% of all food in developing countries is produced in small-scale farms

Part of small-scale farms in developing countries



■ Farms up to 2ha ■ Farms over 2ha

Part of undernourished population



■ Rural population ■ Urban population

Challenges for Rural Areas

- ▶ **Hunger and malnutrition**
- ▶ **Environment**
- ▶ **Climate change**
- ▶ **Access to markets**
- ▶ **Jobs**
- ▶ **Overageing of population and depopulation**
- ▶ **Infrastructure**
- ▶ **Negative Impacts of industrial agriculture**

Characteristics of industrial agricultural production



**High degree of
specialisation and
monocultures**



**High level of technical
input and input of
chemical-synthetic
resources**



High level of capital input



**Factory Farming and Mass
production**

Characteristics of agroecology



**High biodiversity -
Mixed cultivation**



**Natural Plant
protection**



**Rooted in
traditional and
local knowledge**

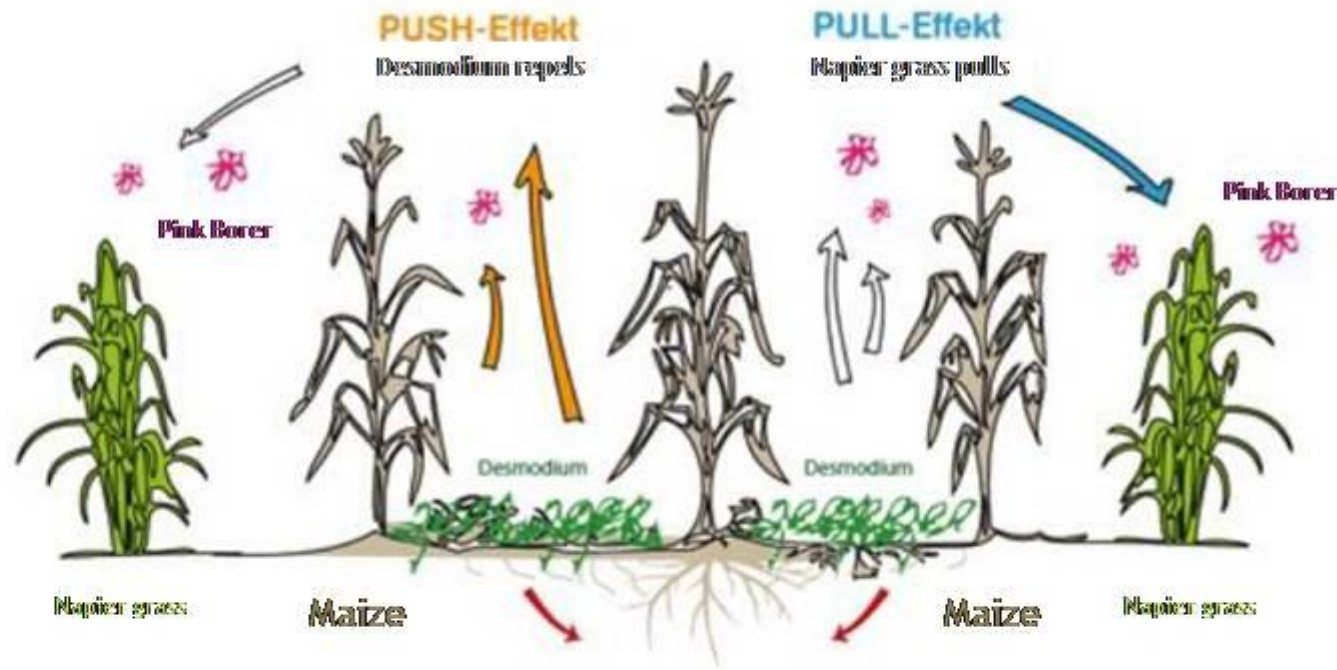


**Preservation of the
ecosystem Soil**



Food Sovereignty

Agroecological methods of biological pest control: *Push and Pull*

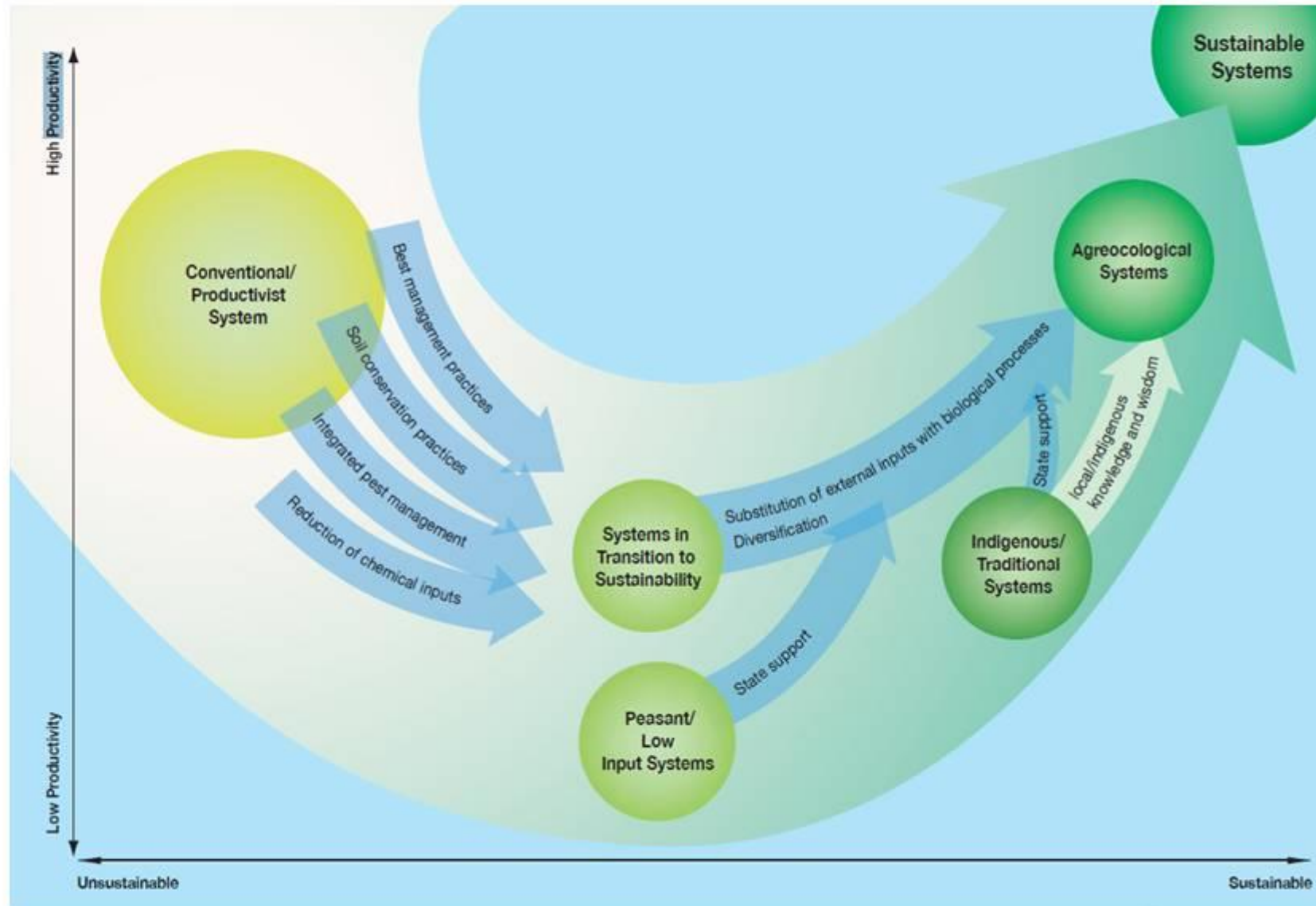


What is Agroecology?

- ▶ **Agroecology is the „...holistic research on the ecology of the entire food system, including its ecological, economic and social dimensions“ (Dalgaard et al (2003))**

Agroecology as research	Agroecology as movement	Agroecology as practice
Explores interactions between the components of the agricultural system	Strengthening of food sovereignty	Resources and energy are being used in a circular system per farm
Holistic research on the factors involved in the process of food producing	Maintaining cultural identities	Renunciation to synthetic means and utilisation of adopted techniques
	Empowerment of farmers	Maintaining biodiversity

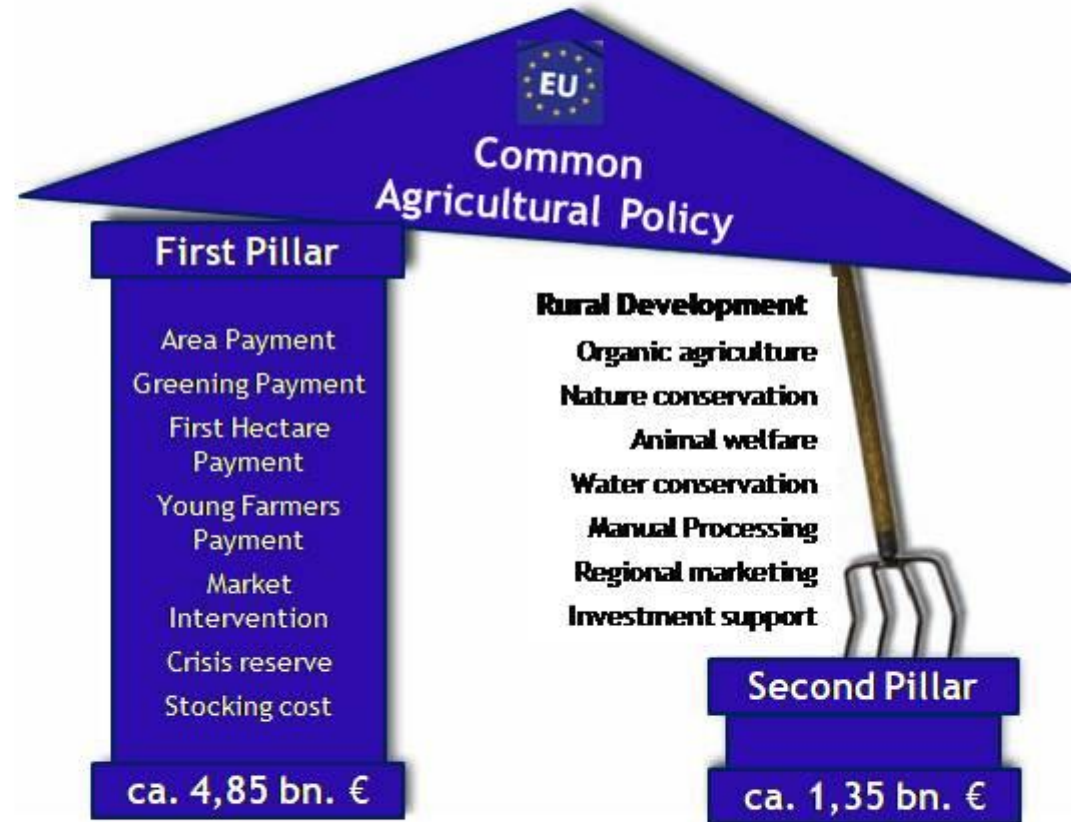
Paths to sustainability



Source: IAASTD Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) Summary for Decision Makers

Political Demands - Transformation of the CAP

► Spending on CAP in Germany 2014 - 2020



Political Demands - General

- ▶ **Align all funding programs on agroecology**
- ▶ **Funding for agroecological, participatory research**
- ▶ **Creating a common agroecological knowledge base through participatory cooperation with local peasants**
- ▶ **Local and cultural experiences need to be integrated into the agroecological process**
- ▶ **Sensitisation of the population for agroecological products**
- ▶ **Creating reliable markets for agroecological products**
- ▶ **Policy coherence**

Thank you for your attention!

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