



FORUM ORIGIN, DIVERSITY AND TERRITORIES

Agroecology: Multiple transitions the territories

Lausanne, December 4th-6st 2019

Workshop 2. Agroecology, biological and cultural diversity in agricultural and food systems

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Context

In this workshop, we will report on recent developments in practices and representations related to agroecology, agricultural biodiversity and food and will explore their possible effects on the ecological transition of agriculture.

The agricultural productivist model developed during the twentieth century has often led to the loss of the specificity of terroirs, local farming and food practices, and associated knowledge and know-how, without taking real account of local preferences and customs. Such a model does not allow to consider the agricultural and food systems as a whole. Essential dimensions and elements of these systems have thus been rendered invisible:

- Varietal diversity of cultivated plants and plants not directly perceived as useful
- Productive off-field areas such as field margins, agroforests, picking areas, gardens
- Food considered secondary and therefore marginalized
- Gestures and practices, local knowledge and know-how whose functions were not directly perceptible
- The interactions within agricultural systems and especially their interactions with the outside world - ecosystems and social systems

As a result of the interest in biological diversity since the early 1990s, agroecology, agrobiodiversity and associated cultural diversity have become themes of interest. More and more, all these hidden aspects are being reintegrated into the reflection on the necessary ecological transition of agriculture. There has been a major movement to requalify and enhance local and regional products, old varieties and cultural practices that place great importance on biodiversity.

Objectives of the workshop and themes treated

We propose to focus on this change in the status of plants, territories, people and products, and the potential it represents in terms of ecological transition, and to which we would like to receive contributions (case studies, monographs, project presentations, etc.) along the following lines:

- Agronomic and genetic issues and the impact on agricultural research of the change in plant status (old varieties, weeds, forest plants, field edges or harvesting plants grown in fields...)



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- Tensions between valuing diversity (biological and cultural) and normalization, standardization and homogenization (of cultures, food)
- The evolution of diets, the rediscovery and revaluation of traditional local products, projects to decolonize local plants and food
- Synergies between traditional knowledge and practices and (modern) research, such as participatory research, on agrobiodiversity issues and the resilience of producers