

**Highlighting Outstanding Practices in Agroecology 2018**

**Call for Nominations**

**Highlighting Outstanding Practices in Agroecology**

In 2018, the World Future Council is working in partnership with the grow platform GmbH to recognize “Outstanding Practices in Agroecology 2018”. Such practices contribute to the protection of the life and livelihoods of smallholders and empower small-scale food producers, nurture sustainable food production systems, promote resilient agricultural practices that help maintain ecosystems, strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change and progressively improve land and soil quality. Those nominated practices that perform well, will be recognized as "Outstanding Practice in Agroecology 2018" and up to three of those recognized will be invited to an up-scaling workshop with international experts.

# WHY?

Today, even though the world produces enough food to nourish every man, woman and child, 815 million people – one in every nine – still go to bed on an empty stomach each night. In fact, nearly one-third of all food produced each year is squandered or spoiled before it can be consumed. Despite producing most of the world’s food, smallholders - small-scale farmers, pastoralists, forest keepers and fishers who manage areas varying from less than one hectare to 10 hectares - tend to be particularly prone to food insecure themselves. Globally, they form the majority of people living in poverty. Seventy-five per cent of the 1.4 billion people still living in extreme poverty live in rural areas of developing countries, especially sub-Saharan Africa and southern Asia; a situation that threatens to get worse in the future. Already farmers are suffering more and more from the loss of arable land due to soil degradation and from increasingly unpredictable weather extremes due to climate change. The world is in need of more sustainable food systems – systems that produce the nourishment we need but with more socio-economic benefits, especially for smallholders, and with less environmental damage. There is increasing recognition that a regenerative, productive farming sector can provide environmental benefits while sustaining livelihoods. Agroecology, which applies ecological principles and takes into account vital social aspects, can play a key role. It is recognized for improving the resilience of poor smallholders and family farmers, contributing to the production and consumption of healthy and nutritious food, boosting local economy and markets, safeguarding natural resources and biodiversity, and promoting adaptation to and mitigation of climate change.[[1]](#footnote-1)

# WHAT ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

We are looking for exemplary agro-ecological approaches, projects and start-ups that empower small-scale food producers, contribute to transform our current food systems and make them sustainable. In many cases these practices could be applied to other cities, regions or countries to empower many more smallholders, but often they lack publicity and support. This is something we want to change. If performing well, being effective and delivering impact, nominated practices will be recognized as "Outstanding Practice in Agroecology 2018” and gain publicity among experts from international organizations, science, farmers, business, civil society and media. The three top performing practices will be invited to an up-scaling workshop.

**Practices to Change the World**

The practices we are looking for:

* can operate in **many different fields**, for example, supporting and informing smallholder farmers and their networks, increasing their status or income, promoting integrated soil fertility practices and seed diversity, addressing the market-related and logistical constraints they face e.g. by providing accurate data on weather, yield or market prices, reducing food waste and land pollution, improving food distribution, processing and marketing, reinforcing gender equity, addressing nutrition deficits, increasing adaptation and mitigation to climate change and/or market fluctuations, connecting producers with markets, purchasers and consumers e.g. by building markets or producer-consumer alliances, increasing investment, access to credit, increasing composting and recycling, etc.;
* can be **local, national or regional** in nature; and
* can originate **from the whole agricultural and food value chain or any part of it**: the seeding, growing, fertilizing, irrigating, harvesting, processing, transforming, marketing, storing, or selling of produce as well as the consuming and disposing of food or food waste.

In order to be recognized, the practice must:

* **perform well** against a set of criteria based on the [**World Future Council’s** **7 Future Justice Principles**](https://www.worldfuturecouncil.org/seven-principles/)[[2]](#footnote-2) and **the** [**10 Elements of Agroecology**](http://www.fao.org/agroecology/knowledge/10-elements/en/) **by the FAO**[[3]](#footnote-3);
* be **in existence for** **long enough** to prove its effective implementation and impact;
* deliver **identifiable improvements**;and
* be **scalable or transferable**.

# WHAT IS THE PROCESS?

**Step 1. Nomination**

To facilitate the nomination process, we have developed a template that you will find in the Annex. We kindly ask you to send your nomination(s) to Ms. Ingrid Heindorf: goodpractice@worldfuturecouncil.org.

**Step 2. Screening, Research & Evaluation**

The research team at the World Future Council will screen all nominated practices and conduct further research on their effectiveness and impact and how well they perform against the set of criteria. All nominated practices will receive feedback.

**Step 3. Selection and Recognition**

A jury of experts will select those practices that perform well and that demonstrate effectiveness and impact. The selected ones will:

* be recognized as "Outstanding Practice in Agroecology 2018";
* be promoted in websites, in brochures and at public events by the World Future Council;
* gain exposure among key experts from international organizations, the media, academia, business, and farmers and civil society organisations.

**Step 4. Up-Scaling**

Out of all recognized practices, representatives of three practices that show the highest potential for up-scaling, will be invited to an up-scaling workshop organized by the grow platform GmbH, together with international experts. The goal of the workshop will be a joint effort to scale up these practices in order to multiply their impact locally and possibly contribute to their transfer to other regions or countries.

# WHO ARE THE PARTNERS?

**The World Future Council**

The World Future Council (WFC) works to pass on a healthy planet and fair societies to our children and grandchildren. To achieve this, we focus on identifying and spreading effective, future-just solutions and promote their implementation worldwide. The Council consists of 50 eminent global change-makers from governments, parliaments, civil societies, academia, the arts and the business world. Jakob von Uexkull, the Founder of the Alternative Nobel Prize, launched the World Future Council in 2007. We are an independent, non-profit organisation under German law and finance our activities from donations.

**grow platform GmbH**

The grow platform GmbH is a subsidiary of the Robert Bosch GmbH, a globally active technology company not only well-known as a supplier in the automotive sector, but also as a producer for industrial machinery, sensors and hand tools. In 2017, a new initiative “Technology for Agroecology in the global South” (TAgS) started. TAgS aims at using the company’s technological strength to contribute to major global challenges. The focus of TAgS is on the empowerment of smallholder farmers. Currently, TAgS is trying to better understand the problems smallholders are facing and to explore practices that are already in place that have proven to improve smallholders’ livelihoods. The goal of TAgS is to find a way in which the Bosch Group expertise in technology and/or large-scale production can help to scale those practices in order to empower as many farmers as possible.

**For further information, please visit:** <https://www.worldfuturecouncil.org/food-security/>

# YOU KNOW OF AN OUTSTANDING PRACTICE? NOMINATE!

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| Nomination Form - Outstanding Practices in Agroecology |
| **Your name**:  | **Your email:**  |
| **Your position**:  | **Your phone / Skype:**  |
| **Organization:** | **Address:**  |
| **Your relationship with the nomination:**  |
| *Please complete this form in English, Spanish or French.***Official title of the nominated practice:** *(You may nominate up to three practices – projects, products, services, social enterprises or business strategies by private and non-profit entities. Nominated practices should have been in existence long enough to prove their effective implementation and, most importantly, to deliver identifiable improvements. You are allowed to nominate your own practice.)*  |
| **City / region / country where it is implemented:** | **Year implementation started:** |
| **Organization that implements it:** | **Type of organization** *(University, Nongovernmental organization, Foundation, Company, etc.)*: |
| **Contact person**Name:Position:Email:Phone: |
| **What problem(s) does the practice address?**  |
| **Please provide a summary of the practice:** *(Please let us know more about the process of the development of the practice, the main stakeholders and whether smallholder farmers have been consulted or involved. Please share information about the main goal and objectives of the practice, its beneficiaries, its key features and who are the main stakeholders implementing the practice.)*Development of the practice:Main goal and objectives:Beneficiaries:Key features:Implemented by: |
| **Exemplarity: Please explain the reasons why this practice should be seen as a ‘good practice’.** *(What makes it unique? What are its innovative features? Does it have to overcome challenges such as poor infrastructure, governance or security, how? Max. 150 words.)* |
| **Agroecology: Which of the FAO’s ten principles of agroecology**[[4]](#footnote-4) **does the practice perform particularly well on?** *(Indicate the three most relevant: 1. Efficiency; 2. Balance; 3. Diversity; 4. Co-creation of knowledge; 5. Recycling; 6. Synergies; 7. Human and social values; 8. Circular economy; 9. Culture and food traditions; 10. Land and natural resource governance.)***:** |
| **Results: Indicate three measurable outputs** *(For example, number of smallholders trained, of trainings organized, of services provided, of toolkits produced, etc.?)***:**1.2.3. |
| **Impact: What impact has the nominated practice so far achieved?** *(This question aims to understand how the outputs of the practice have transformed the reality. For example, the practice led to an increase of the percentage of food security in a certain region, etc. How does the practice impact the lives of smallholders and the environment?)***:**  |
| **Scalability: Has this practice grown the last three years? And what are its prospects for the next few years?** *(For example, it could be that the practice now reaches a higher number of smallholders than three years ago. What are the plans to expand the practice’s operations in the next years?)***:** |
| **Transferability: Do you know if this practice is being replicated in other cities, regions or countries? If so, where?** *(For example, it could be that its methodology is now also used by other stakeholders, in other regions of the country or even abroad. To what extent it the practice transferable and applicable to other cities, regions or countries?)*: |
| **Costs of implementation: What are the costs of implementation and how is this practice financed?** *(Please also provide details about notable in-kind support. Is it more cost-effective than other models?)***:** |
| **Upscaling: What type of support / input is needed to scale up this practice?** *(Please indicate three major issues. These could regard the area of human or financial resources, capacity-building and knowledge, technology, infrastructure, governance, etc.)* |
| **Upscaling: To what extent could technology be useful to scale up your practice?** *(Please let us know what type of technology and why this would be useful.):* |
| **Experts: If possible, please provide the names and contact details of experts we can contact for further information regarding the practice**: |
| **Further information: Sources of information on this practice, preferably available online** (*Feel free to add relevant further material about the practice to your email, such as evaluation reports, videos, photos, media stories, awards and other recognition.):* |

***Thank you for taking the time to submit this nomination.***

Please send your nomination(s) to Ms Ingrid Heindorf at goodpractice@worldfuturecouncil.org The deadline for nominations is 20th of July 2018, but we will still take late submissions into consideration.

1. <http://www.fao.org/director-general/my-statements/detail/en/c/887668/> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. You can find more information about the 7 Principles that have been adopted by the WFC: <https://www.worldfuturecouncil.org/seven-principles/> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. FAO Agroecology Knowledge Hub: <http://www.fao.org/agroecology/knowledge/10-elements/en/> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. <http://www.fao.org/agroecology/knowledge/10-elements/en/> [↑](#footnote-ref-4)