

Solutions for Scaling up Agroecology

12th September 2019, 10:30 – 16:00h, Heliopolis University, Egypt

Transitioning to sustainable food and agriculture systems is critical to tackle malnutrition, social injustice, land degradation, water scarcity, climate change, loss of biodiversity, and agroecology plays a key role therein. In 2018, the World Future Council awarded, in partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and IFOAM – Organics International, exemplary policies that scale up agroecology, and recognized, in collaboration with the Startup Technology for Agroecology in the Global South (TAGS), effective practices that empower small-scale food producers. At this event we take a closer look at these World Champions that advance the much needed transformation of our food systems. Moreover we will discuss, together with renowned experts, especially solutions from Africa and the Global South that scale up agroecology.

Objectives

- Present and discuss exemplary policies and practices for land, soils and livelihoods
- Raise awareness on these outstanding solutions in Africa and the Arab world
- Create synergies between policymakers of international organisations (FAO, IFAD, etc.) and national stakeholders (Ministries, Member of Parliament, development actors, civil society, academia and media).

Background

In 2018, the World Future Council awarded with its Future Policy Award exemplary policies that scale up agroecology, in partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and IFOAM – Organics International, with the support of the Sekem Group (Egypt), DO-IT – Dutch Organic International Trade and Green Cross International. The “100% organic state” Sikkim, in India, won this year’s “Oscar for best policies”, beating 51 nominated policies from 25 countries. Policies from Brazil, Denmark and Quito (Ecuador) took home Silver Awards. Honourable Mentions were given to programmes from Los Angeles (USA), Ndiob (Senegal) and to Kauswagan (Philippines), whilst the Future Policy Vision Award went to the path-breaking TEEBAgriFood Initiative. Furthermore, in early January 2019, the World Future Council recognized Outstanding Practices in Agroecology 2019, in collaboration with the Startup TAGS. In total, fifteen effective practices were highlighted that empower small-scale food producers and nurture sustainable food production systems. Among the recognized best practices are the Sekem Initiative (Egypt), Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (developed in Niger) and many more. Moreover, the event gathers renowned experts on agroecology and includes further award-winning practitioners, among them SAPPROS from Nepal and Biovision from Switzerland. All these solutions demonstrate that with appropriate will and an adequate approach the transition towards sustainable agriculture and food systems can be achieved, a transition that ensures healthy food for all, that overcomes social and economic inequalities and that protects our environment, climate and biodiversity. It is now the time to make them worldwide known and to get inspired.

Agenda

I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

- 10:30 – 11:00 **Reception with drinks**
- 11:00 – 11:15 **Music offered by the Sekem Musicians &
Welcome Address, Helmy Abouleish**
Chair of the Board of Trustees, Heliopolis University
- 11:15 – 11:20 **Welcome Address, Prof. Dr. Franz–Theo Gottwald**
Chair of the Supervisory Board of the World Future Council and CEO,
Schweisfurth Foundation
- 11:20 – 11:25 **Welcome Address, Uwe Gehlen**
First Counsellor, Head of German Development Cooperation in Egypt
- 11:25 – 11:35 **Address, Prof. Dr. Mohamed Soliman**
Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Egypt
- 11:35 – 11:50 **Keynote Address, Dr. Jean–Marc Faurès**
Regional Programme Leader, FAO Regional Office for the Near East and
North Africa, Cairo, Egypt: *Transforming Food and Agricultural Systems
in Support of the SDGs: The Key Role of Agroecology*
- 11:50 – 12:00 **Open Discussions**

II. THE FUTURE POLICY AWARD 2018 CHAMPIONS

- 12:05 – 13:30** **Panel Discussion “World Champions Scaling up Agroecology”**
- Moderator: Helmy Abouleish**, CEO of Sekem Group; and Chair of the Board of Trustees, Heliopolis University, Egypt
- Alexandra Wandel**, Executive Director, World Future Council: *The Future Policy Award 2018: Scaling up Agroecology*
- Poppe Braam**, Founder, DO-IT Dutch Organic International Trade, the Netherlands: *Why scaling up agroecology is vital: DO-IT, its support for smallholder farmers and the Future Policy Award*
- Dr. Rama Mani**, Councillor, World Future Council; and Founder of Theatre of Transformation Academy: *The Future Policy Gold Award Winner 2018: The “100% organic state” Sikkim, India*
- Thais Corral**, Councillor, World Future Council; Co-founder, Women’s Environment and Development Organization; and Founder of Sinal do Vale: *Future Policy Silver Award Winner 2018: Ecuador–Quito’s Participatory Urban Agriculture Programme*
- Prof. Herbert Girardet**, Honorary Councillor, World Future Council; Consultant to UNEP and UN-Habitat; and Author: *Honourable Mention of the Future Policy Award 2018: Senegal–Ndiob’s Vision to Become a Green and Resilient Municipality and Agriculture Development Programme*
- Prof. Dr. Atef Abd El-Aziz Hassan Ragab**, Director of The Central Lab. of Organic Agriculture, Agricultural Research Center, Giza, Egypt: *Organic Agriculture in Egypt*
- Interactive Dialogue**
Concluding Remarks by the Moderator
- 13:30 – 13:40** **The Transformative Power of Earth: Celebrating Agroecology – A special performance honouring the Future Policy Award for Agroecology and Sekem, jointly offered by the Sekem Musicians and Dr. Rama Mani, Councillor, World Future Council.**
- 13:40 – 14:10** **Lunch Break: Drinks & finger food**

III. OUTSTANDING PRACTICES IN AGROECOLOGY 2019

14:10 – 15:40

Panel Discussion “The World’s Best Practices Scaling up Agroecology from Africa and beyond”

Moderator: Dr. Hans Rudolf Herren, Councillor, World Future Council; World Board Member, IFOAM – Organics International; President, Millennium Institute; and President and Founder, Biovision Foundation, Switzerland/US

Valerie von Koerber, Co-Founder, Technology for Agroecology in the Global South (TAGS) – a Bosch corporate start up, Germany: *The Outstanding Practices in Agroecology 2019*

Helmy Abouleish, CEO of Sekem Group; and Chair of the Board of Trustees, Heliopolis University, Egypt: *Sekem, Egypt – an Outstanding Practice in Agroecology 2019*

Tony Rinaudo, Natural Resources Advisor, World Vision Australia, Australia: *Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration, Niger/worldwide – an Outstanding Practice in Agroecology 2019*

Dr. Auma Obama, Councillor, World Future Council; and Director of the Sauti Kuu Foundation, Kenya: *Sauti Kuu Foundation: A Sustainable Agroeconomic Model in Practice*

Shrikrishna Upadhyay, Initiator, Support Activities for Poor Producers of Nepal (SAPPROS)

Prof. Dr. Hassan Abou Bakr, Professor of Biological Control, Faculty of Organic Agriculture at Heliopolis University: *100% Organic Agriculture in Egypt*

Interactive Dialogue

Concluding Remarks by the Moderator

15:40

Closing with drinks & dates