

Democratizing Knowledge for Agroecology and Food Sovereignty

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Agroecological research and innovation

- Agroecological solutions are not delivered top down. They are developed through respectful intercultural dialogue between scientists and farmers/citizens, - building on peoples' local priorities, knowledge and capacity to innovate
- Shift from a transfer of technology model of R&D to a decentralised, bottom up, and **participatory process of knowledge creation tailored to unique local contexts** in rural and urban areas
- **Knowledge intensive, transdisciplinary** and based on principles of **cognitive justice**

Democratising knowledge depends on two complementary approaches:

- **democratizing science and technology research**, with increased funding for public research and transdisciplinary approaches that include peoples' knowledge
- **de-institutionalizing research for autonomous learning and action**, with an emphasis on strengthening horizontal networks of grassroots research and innovation as well as citizen oversight over the production of knowledge.

Local organisations facilitate grassroots self-managed research & innovation

- *Campesino a Campesino* in Central America
- Indigenous groups in Peruvian Andes
- Dalit women farmer collectives in India
- Nomadic pastoralists in Iran
- L' Atelier Paysan (France) and Farm Hack (USA and UK)

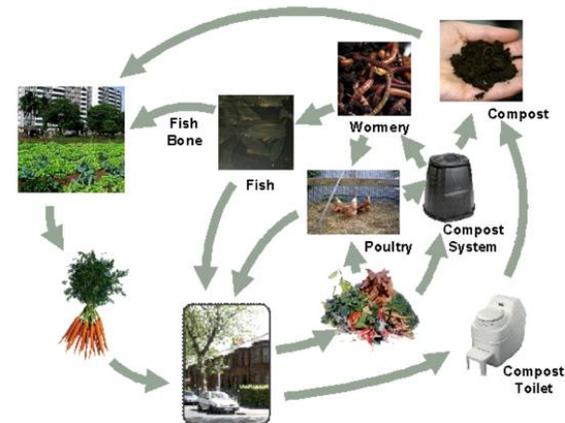


A case study from Europe



Democratising Public Research and Transforming Knowledge

- Agro-ecology, eco-literacy, eco-design and circular economy models
- Science of dynamic complexity and resilience
- Rethinking economics



Four key stages at which direct citizen participation can occur in research and development (R&D):

- the framing of national policies for science and development
- the choice of upstream strategic priorities for R&D, including decisions on budget allocations by funding bodies
- during scientific and technological research – the production and validation of knowledge in the natural and social sciences, as well as the arts and humanities
- in evaluating research results and impacts, including risk and sustainability assessments.
- **A case study from West Africa**

An agenda for co-inquiry with local organisations and federations

- Strengthening local organisation networks
- Empowering citizens in decision making
- Social inclusion and human right to food
- Agrarian reform and gender equitable property rights
- Agro-ecology, eco-literacy and resilience
- Re-governing trade and rethinking economics

