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Food Security and Rural Development through Agro-ecological Farming

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Abstract

About half billion hectares of the Earth's surface are dedicated to Agriculture. That is one point two billion acres, about half the size of Europe a billion people still suffer from hunger while over a third of all the food produced for human consumption is wasted in different forms.

This paradox is not the only consequence of the current production system which destroys biodiversity and accelerates the concentration of land, seeds and food in the hands of a few multi nations. The current system also creates massive inequalities between the global north and south. which widens the gap by rendering the poor countries unable to feed in the proper way since they earn less.

Is it still possible to change direction with a different and improved production systems?

Agro ecological farming which is associated with substantially lower Environmental impacts is a smart alternative for modern farming. A holistic system based on various ecological processes and ecosystem services such as nutrient cycling, biological nitrogen fixation, natural regulation of pests, soil and water conservation, biodiversity conservation and carbon concentration.

The goal is improving the sustainability of ecosystems and bringing economic and Environmental benefits to farmers and communities.

It combines local and scientific knowledge and applies ecological and social approaches to agricultural systems while meeting the growing demand for food, contributing to landscape quality and biodiversity and enhancing several species. There is need to improve farmers motivations to adoptable ecological practices. This can be influenced by improving information sharing about the many benefits of agro ecological farming there are four conditions that must be met.

There should be a specified demand for farmers to adopt such practices. Third, farmers should be able to or enabled to implement agro ecological farming practices. They should have the resources and required skills.

agro ecological farming should be legitimized and not limited or restricted by governmental regulations or social norms.

In conclusion, transition to agro ecological farming will have a significant benefit in improving eco system sustainability, bringing economic and Environmental benefits to farmers and communities and improving the massive inequalities that exist currently this will save money for the less privileged countries thereby having enough food.

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