Agroecology & food security

Désertif’Actions
An international civil society dynamic
Food insecurity

• Almost two billion people suffer from micronutrient deficiencies

• 159 million children under the age of five are chronically malnourished

• 50 million in acute malnutrition

Chronic malnutrition has been declining since the 2000s, unevenly across the world, but climate change could reverse the trend and push more than 25 million additional children into undernourishment by 2050.
Observations in Burkina Faso

- In Burkina Faso each year 470,000 hectares of degraded land lose nutrients and are subject to erosion
- 16.4% of the Burkinabe population was undernourished in 2019
- Population growth is increasing the need for food in areas already affected by declining yields, degradation of natural resources and significant damage from pesticides
- The misuse of chemicals has led to food poisoning and pollution of water sources
- The emergence of new economic needs (processing, industries, animal feed, etc.) is putting pressure on foodstuffs and causing competition with human food
Observations in Mali

• Food and nutritional insecurity has been exacerbated by a combination of biophysical and agro-climatic shocks affecting crops and livestock (successive droughts, floods, locust invasions, epizootics, etc.).

• Economic shocks as well, such as rising prices on national and regional markets affecting many households, significantly increasing their level of vulnerability to food and nutrition insecurity while greatly reducing their resilience

• As the pressure for food production increases, the size of landholdings shrinks

• The use of mineral fertilisers leads to significant soil degradation and biodiversity erosion. Traditional organic methods are not encouraged by the authorities, which leads to agricultural yields that are far below the world average
Faced with these facts

• According to IPES Food, the industrialised food system promotes the availability of cheap, energy-rich but nutritionally poor processed foods and tends to maintain malnutrition.

• According to Action Against Hunger, the most comprehensive and integrated approach to ensuring adequate micronutrient intake is to diversify food production and consumption.

• Agro-ecological intensification for sub-Saharan Africa can address employment and food security challenges, says IPCC.
Agroecology as a response

• With its positive impacts on income, employment, food production, the value and processing chain, consumption and diversification, agroecology meets the requirements of nutrition-sensitive agriculture.

• By improving the diversity of production and the nutritional content of food, agroecology increases the availability of nutritious food at the household and market level, thereby enhancing food and nutritional security.

• Agro-ecological and regenerative methods are particularly well suited to small-scale food producers, who rely on low-tech, labour-intensive practices.

• La réduction de la dépendance à l'égard des intrants externes permet d'économiser de l'argent et de réduire les effets néfastes sur l'environnement, tels que la pollution des eaux souterraines, le compactage des sols, ou l'érosion.
The case for agroecology to address food insecurity
Short circuits & self-sufficiency

• It follows a participatory process that involves rigorous control of production, guaranteeing the sanitary quality of the products and thus safeguarding the health of consumers

• Agroecology facilitates the connection between producers and consumers and thus contributes to respecting the right to food

• The setting up of agricultural land reserves in urban areas allows the creation of short supply circuits which have an impact on the price of products

• Agroecology helps to ensure farmers' independence in terms of seeds;
Quality, nutrition, health

• Agroecological techniques allow for a longer shelf life of products compared to conventional products and provide a better nutritional quality contributing to the fight against malnutrition

• Crop association improves the dietary diversity of communities

• The cultivation of legumes (soya, beans, moringa, pigeon peas, etc.) with a high nutritional value helps to reduce malnutrition, particularly among children
Continuous production

- The planting of autochthonous fruit tree species with different phenologies makes it possible to ensure a supply even in the low season
Conservation of resources

• Natural soil fertilisation (use of legumes in association or rotation, application of organic manure and compost, etc.) contributes to increased agricultural productivity;

• It helps to reduce land conflicts;

• It facilitates better management of water resources.
Arguments to be developed

https://postit.colibris-outilslibres.org/ae_securitealimentaire