

Symposium: Agroecological transitions of farming systems: Strategies and their implications for sustainability and governance in different European contexts

Background and objectives of the symposium

Agroecological approaches are increasingly discussed as an alternative to farming based on chemical inputs to increase the sustainability of farming systems. It is acknowledged that farming systems implementing such agroecological approaches generally require more knowledge and labour per hectare in comparison to conventional farming. However, there is a need for a better understanding of the socio-economic and policy factors that hinder or enhance transitions towards agroecological farming. The session will address the challenges and discuss key elements of strategies for agroecological transitions in 15 European countries, their economic, social and environmental impacts at farm and territorial levels, and recommendations for the governance and policy support of farming systems in Europe. Discussants will consider the findings in the context of the From Farm to Fork Strategy and the new CAP Strategic Plans in the EU, and the new framework for agricultural policies in the UK. The symposium will present results of the H2020 UNISECO project (<https://uniseco-project.eu/>).

Contributors: Presenters and discussants

- Gerald Schwarz, Thünen Institute of Farm Economics
- Jan Landert, Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL)
- Francesco Vanni, Research Centre for Agricultural Policies and Bioeconomy (CREA)
- Adrian Müller, Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL)
- Elin Röö, Swedish University of Agricultural Science
- David Miller, James Hutton Institute
- Mihaela Fratila, WWF Romania

Organisers of the symposium: Gerald Schwarz, Thünen Institute of Farm Economics, Katalin Balazs, Geonardo, and Jaroslav Prazan, Institute of Agricultural Economics and Information

Format

The symposium will run for 75 minutes. Three presentations will have 15 minutes each to make their points followed by two discussants; after which the session organisers will facilitate audience contributions and panel responses.

Acknowledgements

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