



BISSAU DECLARATION ON AGROECOLOGICAL TRANSITION





We, the 180 participants, from 19 countries in Africa, Europe and America, members of farmers' organizations, civil society, representatives of public services of ECOWAS Member States, technical and financial partners engaged in the agroecological transition, gathered in the framework of the regional forum on agroecology organized by the Alliance for Agroecology in West Africa (3AO) in Bissau from 10th to 13th December 2022 as part of the implementation of ECOWAS Agroecology Programme (EAP) declare:

Noting the complexity and scale of the various food, security, health, climate and environmental crises and the explosion in prices of synthetic agriculture inputs that are endangering millions of agro-sylvo pastoral and fisheries farms (ASPH);

Concerned about the uncertainties and constraints caused by the increasingly severe climate crises effects, in terms of massive degradation of natural resources, loss of soil fertility and erosion of biodiversity (cultivated, raised or wild), and their impacts on the food sovereignty of the region;

Concerned about the abusive use of chemical synthesis inputs and the persistence of policies promoting an agriculture dependent of these inputs;

Dismayed by the slow scale-up of proven agroecology solutions within development policies;

Convinced that agroecology, as a holistic approach to positive transformation of food systems, being a viable, urgent and

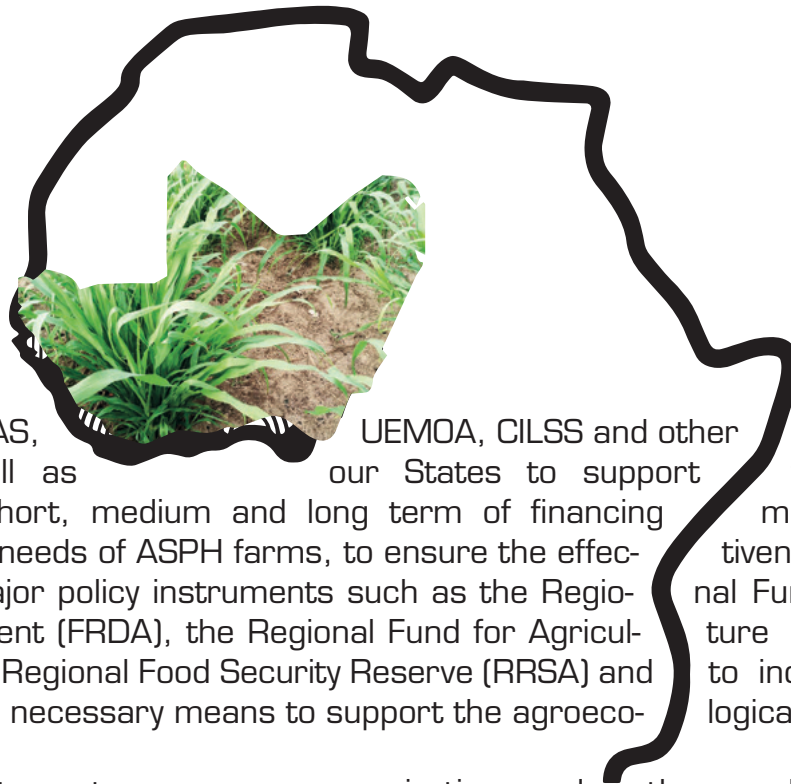
necessary response to address the challenges West Africa is facing, by promoting plant and animal diversity, stimulating synergies between different species and promoting social equity, has the capacity to optimize the resilience of territories, while ensuring decent income and preserving natural resources and mitigating the effects of climate change;

Recognizing the crucial role played by women and youth in the agroecological transition;

Recall the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas;

Call on our regional institutions and States to develop and support the implementation of agroecology scaling strategies to implement structural solutions for the resilience of our food systems and a genuine sustainable economic and social recovery of local communities and countries in the region;





Invite ECOWAS, UEMOA, CILSS and other regional institutions as well as our States to support the establishment in the short, medium and long term of financing mechanisms adapted to the needs of ASPH farms, to ensure the effectiveness and efficiency of major policy instruments such as the Regional Development (FRDA), the Regional Fund for Agriculture and Food (FRAA) and the Regional Food Security Reserve (RRSA) and to include in national budgets the necessary means to support the agroecological transition;

Invite the private sector, consumer organizations and the population to each play a full active role in supporting the agroecological transition in West Africa;

Ask the technical and financial partners (TFPs) to provide as soon as possible substantial, multifaceted, adapted and flexible support to the actors involved in the agroecological transition to ensure the training and supervision of a critical mass of young women and men, and participate in the co-creation of innovations in order to boost agroecological production systems and better market access conditions.

Call for transparent, more ambitious, more coherent, more inclusive, and more appropriate policies and strategies to support the agroecological transition dynamic.

We, the 180 participants of the Regional Forum on agroecology:

We are committed to the agroecological transition in all its economic, environmental and social dimensions. In particular, we commit to promote farmers' seed systems, raise consumer awareness, train young people and women who are the spearhead for the promotion of agroecology and participate in multi-stakeholder consultation frameworks for a better consideration of agroecology in development priorities at all levels;

We will work together to institutionalize the organization of a regional forum on agroecology in order to highlight the solutions generated by field actors to different crises and explore their scaling dynamics within the framework of national and regional ASPH sector development policies and to improve collaborations with national and regional institutions and development partners;

We will implement a campaign to raise awareness, monitor and engage policy makers at national and regional levels on the implementation of commitments made at national, regional and international levels and the recommendations of this forum to develop structural policy solutions to strengthen the resilience and sustainability of food systems.

Finally, we commit to develop, implement, monitor and evaluate an action plan for the operationalization of the conclusions and other products from this forum with the effective participation of all actors involved in the dynamics of agroecological transformation.

Done at Bissau, the 13th December 2022

