Is it true that agroecology is THE solution to the challenges that agriculture faces today—feeding a growing population while conserving natural resources in a world where uncertainties about climate change, biodiversity, energy etc. keep intensifying?

Is agroecology a mere fad, or a significant scientific, technical and political revolution?

This course aims at helping you discover what agroecology is, through the complexity of the various approaches that have emerged over the years and in various regions of the world, and through the ways they can be implemented in the fields, and studied, as agricultural practices.

The syllabus has been designed at the interface of agronomy, ecology and social sciences. The course’s dynamic is one of participative learning, and heavily relies on the social and geographic diversity of the participants.

Programme

Week 1 : Setting up the context—the emergence of agroecology
Week 2 : Narrowing down a definition—the various approaches to agroecology
Weeks 3 and 4 : A view from the trenches—agroecology as a set of agricultural practices
Week 5 : How does agroecology show up in your neck of the woods—focus on students’ mini-reports
Week 6 : What’s next—the transition to agroecology

Compétences visées

- Grasp the various approaches to agroecology at the interface of agronomy, ecology and human sciences. Students will understand how implementing agroecological principles transforms agro-ecosystems.
- Position the emergence of agroecology in its various dimensions (science, practice, social movements) in a historical and geographic context.
- Describe and analyze situations where agroecological practices are implemented.
- Identify agroecological practices in their own surroundings and analyze the way they’re implemented, identifying levers for action as well as obstacles along the agroecological transition.