Engaging with Academia and Research Institutions (ARIs) to support Family Farmers and Food System Transformation During and Post COVID-19 Pandemic in Asia

With technical assistance from the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
Participatory Action Research for Agroecology

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Challenges & Family Farmer Solutions

- Agency >>> Food Sovereignty in Constitution (Nepal)
- Control of value chains >>> Cooperatives (FARMCOOP, Philippines)
- Secure land tenure >>> Agrarian Reform (Indonesia)
The role of knowledge & innovation

The métis of innovation

The science of ‘innovation’
Agroecology transition – barriers

Weak farmer resources for adopting agroecological practices

Demoralized and eroding rural communities

Investment in export support instead of environmental support
Agroecology enabling dynamics

All are currently coalescing with a global pandemic, a strengthening and increasingly mobilized global food sovereignty movement, and the emergence of more agroecology schools following a pedagogy of horizontal knowledge exchanges.
Farmer to farmer knowledge exchange

- Mokatil
- Korean Women Peasants Association (KWPA)
- Serikat Petonesi Indonesia (SPI)
- Amrita Bhoomi Centre
The role of ARIs

• Creation and maintenance of public databases of research & researchers around agroecology

• Connect honours, postgraduate, and early career researchers to farmers to co-create research projects in both physical and social sciences

• Support for farmer-led Agroecology Schools (administrative & financial)
"Do not monopolise your knowledge nor impose arrogantly your technique, but respect and combine your skills with the knowledge of the researched or grassroots communities, taking them as full partners and co-researchers.

Do not depend solely on your culture to interpret facts, but recover local values, traits, beliefs, and arts for action by and with the research organisations.

Do not impose your own ponderous scientific style for communicating results, but diffuse and share what you have learned together with the people, in a manner that is wholly understandable and even literary and pleasant, for science should not be necessarily a mystery nor a monopoly of experts and intellectuals."

Orlando Fals Borda
Excellent research examples


• Iles, A. 2020. ‘Can Australia transition to an agroecological future?’ Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems.


