

**Agroecology in extensive mixed farming systems:
similar productivity, lower costs and increased resilience
8 March 2019 (11.00 – 13.00 hrs) in the Austria Room (C-237), FAO HQ**

In implementing the “Scaling up Agroecology Initiative”, FAO facilitates the generation and co-creation of knowledge and the dissemination of specific evidence on agroecology’s contribution to sustainable food and agriculture and the SDGs, with the final goal of increasing technical capacities inside and outside the Organization. Furthermore, Member States have recently requested FAO to provide further evidence on the economic impact of agroecological systems, together with the well-recognized environmental and social dimensions.

In this context, the seminar is being organized to:

1. Provide field evidence on the economic, environmental and social benefits of agroecology applied in extensive mixed farming systems (including similar productivity levels, lower production costs and increased system resilience);
2. Discuss how such experiences serve as a basis to scale-up agroecological transitions and tackle rural-urban challenges in diverse communities and livelihoods;
3. Catalyze technical knowledge exchange and evidence-based dialogue among FAO staff on agroecological approaches and their contribution to sustainable food and agricultural systems and the SDGs; and,
4. Identify opportunities and synergies within FAO’s programme to support similar scaling-up experiences at decentralized levels.

The presentation will focus on the main economic impacts of agroecological approaches through case studies carried out on two Argentinian farms:

- a) La Aurora a 650 ha family farm with an extensive mixed production of cereals (wheat) and meat (beef), which has improved the productive and economic stability through the application of agroecological management practices. La Aurora is featured as one of the 52 profiles of Agroecology on the ground within the FAO Agroecology Knowledge Hub (<http://www.fao.org/agroecology/database/detail/en/c/443569/>) .
- b) La Primavera, a 5.297 ha agricultural enterprise which started an agroecological transition in 2015 and stopped the use of agrochemicals by 2018, with significant increases in the gross production margins.

The main speaker, Eduardo Cerdá, is an agronomist, advisor and coordinator of agroecological projects in Argentina and Uruguay. Eduardo is a researcher of La Plata National University (Argentina) and has been facilitating agroecological transitions among numerous farms and communities over the last 20 years.

AGENDA:

- 11.00 - 11.15 Introductory remarks (AGPME Team Leader, Ronnie Brathwaite)
- 11.15 - 11.45 Technical presentation by Eduardo Cerdá, agronomist, Universidad Nacional de La Plata (Argentina)
- 11.45 - 12.45 Open discussion with participants
- 12.45 - 13.00 Wrap up and closing remarks (AGPME Team Leader, Ronnie Brathwaite)

The Seminar will be conducted in English and Spanish.