AGROECOLOGY COALITION

Submission to UNFCCC on the way forward for the four-year Sharm el-Sheikh Joint Work on implementation of climate action on agriculture and food security

1) This submission is made by Biovision - Foundation for Ecological Development (BV) on behalf of the 43 member countries and 103 member organizations of the Coalition for Food Systems Transformation through Agroecology (Agroecology Coalition).

2) The FCCC/CP/2022/L.4 acknowledges the need to deal with food and climate issues in a holistic and inclusive manner, citing the importance of both scientific and technical knowledge while recognizing the “crucial role of farmers, youth, local communities and indigenous peoples including gender considerations, and of meeting the needs of farmers and food systems.” It recognises the links between “soil health and integrated water management, including the optimal use of nutrients, including organic fertilizer and enhanced manure management, as important elements of climate-resilient, sustainable food production systems that can contribute to global food security.” These, and other elements of the report, are in the core of agroecology and the 13 principles of agroecology defined by the High Level Panel of Experts (HLPE) of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) that are aligned with the 10 Elements of Agroecology¹ adopted by the 197 FAO Members in December 2019. The document, however, does not make any reference to this.

3) Agroecology is a powerful lever for solving major challenges that the current agricultural and food systems face such as erosion of biodiversity, land degradation, loss of soil-carbon, environmental pollution and water scarcity, among others. It provides sustainable solutions to the issues of food and nutrition security; the fight against poverty and social inequalities; climate adaptation and mitigation, including, but not limited to enhancing carbon sequestrations below and above soil and reviving biologically dead soil; the preservation of biodiversity and natural resources; and the fight against zoonotic diseases.

4) The transformation of food systems through agroecology is fully aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Paris Climate Agreement’s Long Term Goal, the post-2020 Targets of the Global Biodiversity Framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Land Degradation Neutrality objectives of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). The agroecology principles apply to all forms of sustainable agriculture and food production subsystems, including crops, livestock and pastoral systems, agroforestry, fisheries and aquaculture. It also applies to food processing at any scale that aims to, for instance, reduce exporting non-food carbon outside of the farm-gates. The application of these principles also contributes to improving gender equality, making agriculture more attractive for youth, creating dignified income and living conditions, and

contributing to healthy diets through sustainable food systems. Agroecological approaches promote resilience, economic viability, social acceptance, cultural diversity and efficiency while protecting the environment. Agroecology principles thus help to inform and guide decisions and ensure that siloed interventions, unintended consequences, and short-term solutions are avoided.

5) Various ongoing initiatives and policies, across all scales, attest to the potential of agroecological approaches to respond to the multiple challenges facing food systems, e.g., the “Scaling-up agroecology” initiative, the Agroecology Coalition, the international “4 per 1000” Initiative, the “Accelerator of the Great Green Wall” in the Sahel, the “Alliance for Agroecology in West Africa” supported by ECOWAS, the “Transformative Partnership Platform for Agroecological Transition” (TPP), “Community-managed Natural farming” in Andhra Pradesh, the Muranga County Agroecology Development Bill in Kenya, the winning policies of the Future Policy Award 2018, the “1000 Landscapes for 1 Billion People” initiative, the CGIAR “Agroecology Initiative” and many programs implemented by governments, producer and civil society organizations, or research institutions on all continents.

6) The IPCC Assessment 6 reports with high confidence that the “adoption of agroecology principles and practices will be highly beneficial to maintaining healthy, productive food systems under climate change.” Also, Target 10 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework recognizes agroecology as contributing to the resilience and long-term efficiency and productivity of production systems and to food security, conserving and restoring biodiversity and maintaining nature’s contributions to people, including ecosystem functions and services. These confirm the importance of recognizing and including agroecology in Sharm el-Sheikh Joint Work.

7) As such, the four-year Sharm el-Sheikh joint work on implementation of climate action on agriculture and food security is highly urged to reference agroecology and agroecology principles in framing its work, and to include agroecology as one of its high priority topics. Within this process, we ask for the organization of agroecology in-session workshops that will connect conversations, planning and implementation issues on climate, biodiversity, land and soil health, water and food systems at the global, regional and country levels. The explicit inclusion of agroecology in the Sharm el-Sheikh joint work on implementation of climate action on agriculture and food security can catalyze national policy processes, which can further boost the transformative power of agroecology by reducing costs of establishment, increase access to markets, improve communication and knowledge management, and increase capacity and training at all levels, from farmer-to-farmer to post-graduate degree levels.

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2 FAO-WFC-IFOAM, Future Policy Award 2018 - Scaling up Agroecology, more information about the winning policies can be found at: [https://www.worldfuturecouncil.org/p/agroecology/](https://www.worldfuturecouncil.org/p/agroecology/)