

EU Green Recovery for Agriculture

Transitioning to a resilient farming system that is ecologically sound & works with nature

The COVID19 pandemic has profoundly destabilised societies across the world, and we stand in deep solidarity with those most affected by its impacts. The roots of the pandemic are intimately linked with those of the climate and biodiversity crises: our currently unsustainable exploitation of nature and the earth's resources.

The COVID19 is a wakeup call to the cost—especially to future generations and the most vulnerable in our societies—of our dysfunctional relationship with the very planet that we rely on for our existence. If we do not act now to address the root causes, these crises will only grow, and their impacts will be more devastating and costly. The young generation will already be paying for the COVID19 economic bailout measures; we cannot also ask them to shoulder the financial and human costs of failing to avert the ecological crisis when there was still time, and when they asked us to do so.

We must listen to the science and transition to resilient societies that operate for our ecosystem and within the planet's boundaries. Our reliance on healthy ecosystems applies to all sectors, but not least the agriculture sector.

The EU's scientists tell us that our current food systems are unsustainable. Both unsustainable production and consumption in Europe are undermining the very resources and ecosystems that we rely on to produce food. We need to help farmers transition towards nature-based, far more diverse, agriculture systems that are resilient to future shocks and ensure future farmers' ability to farm. We also need to ensure that consumption is coherent with, and contributes to making, these changes.

As such, we endorse the Farm to Fork Strategy and Biodiversity Strategy targets as putting Europe on a path towards the ecological transition of Europe's food systems. They can go further, and those responsible for implementing them and those impacted by them must be fully supported in this journey.

There is a need for future investment and policies, both public and private, to be geared towards prioritising "rebooting" nature and building this vision. Public spending, both on the Next Generation EU, but also the revamped long-term EU budget, must be pivoted on building the ecological resilience that we need to withstand future shocks and produce food in the long run.

In this light, the current reform of the EU's farming subsidies (the Common Agricultural Policy), and agricultural recovery spending, must be geared around implementing the Green Deal principles and their associated strategies, in order to help farmers' transition to a long-term sustainable model.

We are committed to join forces and work together to mainstream agro-ecological practices in Europe, and help farmers to transition, building a more resilient model that contributes to preventing—but can also better withstand—future ecological and other shocks.