

Agroecology advocates urge global shift away from 'unsustainable industrial agriculture'

Input-intensive crop monocultures and industrial-scale feedlots must be consigned to the past in order to put global food systems onto sustainable footing, according to the world's foremost experts on food security, agro-ecosystems and nutrition.

The solution is to diversify agriculture and reorient it around ecological practices, whether the starting point is highly-industrialized agriculture or subsistence farming in the world's poorest countries, the experts argued.

The International Panel of Experts on Sustainable Food Systems (IPES-Food), led by Olivier De Schutter, former UN Special Rapporteur on the right to food, released its findings [June 2nd] in a report entitled 'From Uniformity to Diversity: A paradigm shift from industrial agriculture to diversified agroecological systems'.

De Schutter said: "Many of the problems in food systems are linked specifically to the uniformity at the heart of industrial agriculture, and its reliance on chemical fertilizers and pesticides. Simply tweaking industrial agriculture will not provide long-term solutions to the multiple problems it generates."

He added: "It is not a lack of evidence holding back the agroecological alternative. It is the mismatch between its huge potential to improve outcomes across food systems, and its much smaller potential to generate profits for agribusiness firms."

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[Emile Frison, former Director General of Bioversity International] explained that some of the key obstacles to change are about who has the power to set the agenda. "The way we define food security and the way we measure success in food systems tend to reflect what industrial agriculture is designed to deliver – not what really matters in terms of building sustainable food systems," Frison stated.

Read full, original article: [How to Leave Industrial Agriculture Behind: Food Systems Experts Urge Global Shift Towards Agroecology](#)