

Viewpoint: Public Affairs professor advocates for agroecology systems, claiming technology-centric agricultural programs promoted by Gates Foundation has failed in Africa

Agroecology applies [ecology and social science](#) to the creation and management of sustainable food systems and involves 10 or more interconnected principles, ranging from the maintenance of soil health and biodiversity to the increase of gender and intergenerational equity.

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Yet when policy makers attend a [United Nations Food Systems Summit](#) in the fall of 2021, the solutions on the table for world hunger [will exclude](#) agroecology. The summit's sponsors include the Gates Foundation, whose preferred solution is a set of technologies modeled on [the Green Revolution](#). Despite a great deal of evidence that the Gates' Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa has [failed](#), one of its leading acolytes from Rwanda will chair the U.N. Summit.

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Under chemical agriculture, farmers grow a single crop. They buy fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides and access to water, and if necessary, they rent pollinators to maximize the yield. They use the revenue from selling the harvest to pay their bills and debts.

In agroecology, farmers find ways not to exterminate pests but to reach an ecological equilibrium. They accept a little crop loss while providing habitats for predators and introducing other forms of biological control to obtain a much more robust and resilient ecosystem.

[**This is an excerpt. Read the original post here.**](#)