

# AGROECOLOGY IN ACTION

Newsletter | May-June 2024

**Agroecology in Action Newsletter** is a bi-monthly bulletin published by PAN Asia Pacific that highlights the grassroots work of International People's Agroecology Movements' (IPAM) field learning sites to promote agroecology as a sustainable approach to agriculture and food production and development, in the framework of food sovereignty, ecological and social justice.

## Another “-cide” to Pesticide



Adding to the already long list of casualties of pesticide use is *epistemicide*—the killing of knowledge systems.

It's no longer debatable how the widespread adoption of chemicals and corporate farming have led to the destruction of our topsoil, the contamination of air and water, the sickness and suicides rampant among stricken farmers, the extinction-level losses to our biodiversity and near-collapse of our climate system.

Less visible is the decline of the many alternative ways of knowing and understanding food and farming that are tied intimately to one's geography, culture, and community life because of industrial high-input monocultures. But epistemicide is real and its consequences on traditional farming systems are just as grievous.

In this feature we learn more about epistemicide and highlight a few of the many ways our field learning sites safeguard site-specific agricultural and associated knowledge and the communities of practice around rice farming to counter the threat of epistemicide through agroecology.

Read the full article [here](#).

### **The Philippines: MASIPAG**

Farmer empowerment is inextricable from their control of seeds, and MASIPAG's participatory rice breeding is designed to liberate farmers from the use of genetically modified organisms and high yield varieties that erode farmer knowledge. [Read more](#)



### **Bangladesh: BARCIK**

Farmer-led solutions are more accessible and therefore more likely to be readily adopted by their fellow farmers. BARCIK has an ongoing farmer-led agricultural research known as Participatory Rice Variety Selection trial, to identify and promote the cultivation of native rice landraces. [Read more](#)



### **India: Thanal AgroEcology Centre**

Managed by farmers and scientists, Thanal's community-based rice biodiversity block is a participatory way to characterize, document, and protect India's many unique crop varieties to be available at the local level. [Read more](#)



## Resources

Print, online, and video materials on agroecology and food sovereignty published and shared by IPAM field learning sites and other contributors

**Keeping the Balance! Alternative Pest Management Training Manual for Rice**



This training manual is a compilation of various methods that farmer innovators and extension workers use to address essential components of sustainable agriculture from the selection of seeds, soil conservation, fertility management as well as particular crop husbandry. [Read more](#)



### Making Biofertilizers

Daniel Aliddeki discusses the biofertilizer production undertaken at St. Jude Family Projects to provide balanced soil microorganisms, address the lack of microorganisms typical in some organic fertilizers, and through chelation make the soil nutrients more bioavailable to the plants. [Watch here](#)

## Announcements

### Growing an agroecology movement

IPAM's new website [www.ipam-global.org](http://www.ipam-global.org) is now called the International People's Agroecology Movements (formerly International People's Agroecology Multiversity), highlighting the Field Learning Sites as a network of movements advancing People-led Agroecology across the globe.



The new website also contains the section called “*narratives of agroecology*,” where stories of successes, struggles and continuing journeys of organisations, institutions, movements and individuals will be featured to inspire people to join the ever-growing people's agroecology movement all over the world. It will also continue its function as an open library for different agroecology literatures, be it research papers, analyses, newsletters, videos, etc.

[Read more](#)

### NEW RELEASE! Women in Agroecology: Towards Pesticide-Free Communities

Women lead the transition away from chemical-intensive, corporate agriculture towards agroecology. These stories provide evidence of the successes of agroecology in upholding the rights and welfare of rural women, as well as in contributing to community resilience.

[Read more](#)



PAN Asia Pacific (PANAP) is one of the five regional centres of Pesticide Action Network. PANAP works for the elimination of harm caused by pesticides to human health and the environment. PANAP promotes agroecology and helps strengthen movements to advance people's rights to land and resources and food sovereignty. PANAP's head office is in Penang, Malaysia.

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