

# PRINCIPLES of AGROECOLOGY



**Minimises waste and optimises energy use**  
Agroecology optimises system efficiency by enhancing biological processes and the recycling of biomass, nutrients, water and energy.

**Promotes complexity over simplicity**  
Agroecology embraces the complexity of different sources of knowledge, system processes and flows, and ecological as well as social relationships.

**Integrates science with knowledge and practice**  
Agroecology integrates sciences and ecological principles with local and indigenous knowledge and practice.

**Promotes soil health, biodiversity and natural ecosystem function**  
By returning organic matter to the soil, agroecology promotes biological activity, improves its structure, increases fertility and minimises nutrient losses.

**Puts farmers first**  
Farmers' knowledge of their landscape and their skills in adapting to local conditions have been honed over many generations.

Agroecology is based on these five guiding principles:  
Agroecology provides an established framework for sustainable farming, with a set of guiding principles and a diversity of practices and approaches, supported by scientific research and empirical evidence, that continue to evolve through experimentation and adaptation to new and changing conditions.

## AGROECOLOGY in ACTION

A long history exists behind the concept of agroecology, which is rooted in traditional, indigenous peoples, peasant, pastoralist and forest-dwelling communities' sophisticated approaches to land use, frequently based on an understanding of our reciprocal relationship with the earth. Academic contributions emerged in the 1940s led by Mexican scholars, and were subsequently developed by Latin American, European and North American ecological scientists, often benefiting from ongoing collaboration with farmer-scientists. As social movements emerged to challenge the devastating health and environmental harms of industrial agriculture, these movements embraced agroecology as the path towards food sovereignty and the right of peoples to healthy and culturally appropriate food. Agroecology today thus reflects the results of ongoing dynamic dialogue between farmers, scientists and social movements.

Agroecology In Action is PAN Asia Pacific's campaign to advance agroecology in the region and across the globe through movement-building, capacity-building, youth involvement and policy advocacy.

AGROECOLOGY IN ACTION are comprised of three different platforms:

The International People's Agroecology Multiversity or IPAM; the 16 Days of Global Action on Agroecology; and Youth in Agroecology Initiatives.



### CONTACT US

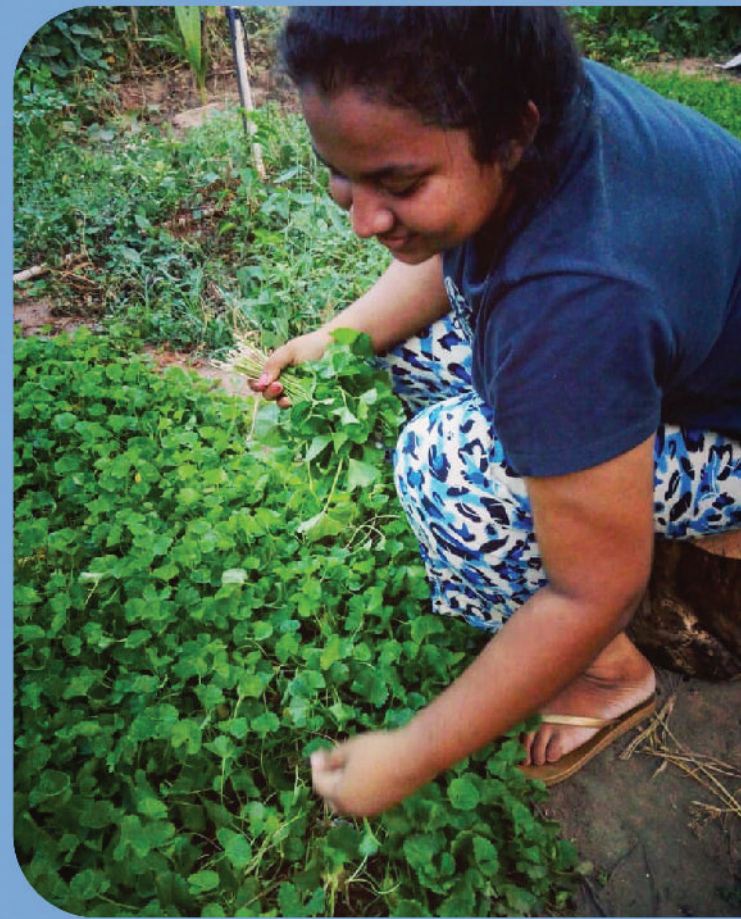
PAN Asia Pacific (PANAP)  
P.O. Box 1170, Penang, 10850 Malaysia  
Tel: +604-657 0271/665 0381 Fax: +604-658 3960  
Email: info@panap.net  
Website: www.panap.net & www.ipam-global.org  
Twitter: @PANAsiaPacific  
Instagram: @justpesticidefreeasia

# International People's Agroecology Multiversity (IPAM)

is a research-learning-action approach to agroecology that focuses on small-food producers and farming communities. IPAM promotes agroecology as a sustainable approach to agriculture and food production and development, in the framework of food sovereignty, ecological and social justice. It is an innovative approach developed by a network of farmers and women's organisations, NGOs, researchers and academic institutions.

It is a network of Field Learning Sites (FLS) situated in different communities across regions. The FLSs are training centres or campuses of farmers' fields, CSOs, institutions and universities that offers on-site learning on agroecological farming methods, innovations and techniques.

The FLSs offer structured sessions, study tours, visits, immersions and exchanges among farmers, students, CSOs and researchers. The FLS Managed by farmers, farmers' groups and collaborators such as universities, institutes and CSOs. IPAM links the various FLS and brings the knowledge and innovations from the ground-up through its website [www.ipam-global.org](http://www.ipam-global.org)



## 16 DAYS of Global Action on Agroecology

is an annual global campaign which is a series of collective action of youth, rural women, farmers groups, movements and advocacy groups from different countries from October 1 to 16. This annual campaign has reached out to hundreds of thousands across the globe with more than 200 partners and network groups in Asia, Pacific, Africa, Latin America and Europe. Since 2017, the 16 Days of Global Action has focused on the youth and its roles in advancing agroecology and food sovereignty. This platform carries the wide array of issues around agroecology and food sovereignty such as youth leadership, rural women, land and resources, corporate control on agriculture, genetic engineering, etc. However, at the centre of the campaign is the aim to highlight youth's participation and their significant role in advancing agroecology and food sovereignty advocacies.

**16 DAYS**  
of Global Action on  
Agroecology



## Youth in Agroecology Initiative

Anchored on the main goal to strengthen communities and contribute in ending poverty through food sovereignty and agroecology as alternative to corporate agriculture, the Youth in Agroecology Initiative is focused on strengthening the organisations of rural youth to enhance capacities including awareness-raising, policy advocacy at local and national levels, campaigning and learning exchanges to share agroecological practices and innovations.

The Youth in Agroecology Initiative aims contribute to movement-building and international youth solidarity for agroecology in the framework of food sovereignty. This can be achieved through: Consultation; Capacity-building; Policy-advocacy; Learning exchanges with farmers; involvement in the IPAM Field Learning Sites; and Linkages among youth groups through collaborations, alliance-building, etc.