



Agroecology Leadership Academy

Cultivating Transformation

Background

Nearly 12 million hectares of fertile soil are lost globally every year. That's roughly one-third of the size of Germany – and the figure is rising. This has serious consequences for the world's food supply and climate. The arid regions of Africa, Asia and Latin America are the most severely impacted. In these areas, people who live off the land suffer the most because they rely on it to produce the food they need to survive. Fertile soil is also a major carbon store – second only to the world's oceans – and it plays a vital role in the fight against climate change.

The Agroecology Leadership Academy is working with leaders from seven countries to promote agroecological approaches that conserve fertile soil and rehabilitate infertile soil in climate-smart, environmentally friendly ways.

Project	The Agroecology Leadership Academy is conducted with financial support from the European Union (EU) as part of the EU co-funded programme "ProSilience: Enhancing soils and agroecology for resilient agri-food systems in Sub-Saharan Africa". ProSilience is integrated into the global programme "Soil Protection and Rehabilitation for Food Security" (ProSoil), commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH.
Partner Countries	Benin, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, India, Kenya, Madagascar, Tunisia
Duration	January 2024 to November 2024

The Agroecology Leadership Academy

Over the course of one year, the Academy is empowering 38 leaders from Benin, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, India, Kenya, Madagascar and Tunisia to lead socio-ecological transformation, navigate complexity and remove barriers to change. The aim is to advance agroecological transition both nationally and globally.

As a learning and networking initiative, the Academy strengthens individuals, organisations and networks. The participants enhance their leadership skills and build technical knowledge in agroecology. They work in country teams, while also learning from the experiences of other countries and pioneers in agroecology. International experts provide input on agroecological transition, highlighting the pathways, obstacles and opportunities for transformation.

Participants work on projects to advance agroecology in their countries – they test and refine approaches, create alliances, and shape transformation processes and narratives for change. At the end of the programme, the participants are able to facilitate and lead agroecological innovation and transformation in their countries.

The structure of the Academy



The Agroecology Leadership Academy runs from January to November 2024. At an initial international learning event, participants will take a deep-dive into agroecology, leadership and transformation – sowing the seeds that will grow over the year.



During the Academy, participants meet and work intensively in their respective country team. According to their needs and contexts of their countries, they apply what they learn in international online workshops to their own agroecology projects. They learn to use tools for leading transformation, advancing agroecology, dealing with obstacles and impacting political narratives. In the international online sessions, participants reunite with peers from the other member countries and learn from one another's experiences.



At the end of the year, participants from all the countries meet again at a second international learning event, where they reflect on and share learnings with the other country teams and international experts – they harvest what has been sown. While exploring leadership in transformation, participants also have the chance to plan their onward journeys as change makers in agroecological transformation.



After the programme, participants use their knowledge and experiences for future transformation processes.

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