

The Loss of an Ancestral Practice:

The current situation of agroecology in Honduras



Milpa: A multi-crop growing technique used by the Mayan and other Mesoamerican peoples.

1. Corn



2. Bean



3. Squash



Today **milpa** = a plot of land used to grow only corn.



Milpa System



Corn

Current Situation (Government):

1. **NO** state regulatory framework for sustainable agriculture
2. **NO** local policies and norms at municipal governments
3. Some laws do legislate some sustainable agriculture techniques

- Reuse treated wastewater for irrigation

4. Some governmental programs promote the use of sustainable agriculture technique.

- Produce and apply compost

Agroecology is found as disjointed efforts within some State policies.

Current Situation (Nongovernmental):

1. NGOs and private sector are main drivers
2. Network of NGOs with foreign funding
3. Private sector employs agricultural research centers
4. Mostly centered in coffee and cacao sector
5. Limited scope; no critical mass to achieve transformation

Agriculture in Honduras:

1. Small-scale farming
2. 39% of the population works in agriculture, aprox. 4 million
3. High profitable crops (coffee and cacao) centered in few owners
4. Lowland = industrial agriculture; sugarcane & African oil palm
5. 70% of rural families practice subsistence farming

Main challenges and opportunity for a complete Sustainable Agriculture Transformation

Challenges:

1. No domestic market for agricultural products
2. “Established” farmers resilient towards change and loss of profit

Opportunity:

1. Transform subsistence farming to sustainable agriculture
2. Major impact on SDGs 1, 2, and 15

Thanks!