



Agro-ecologically conducive policies



Ernest Aube
Head of Agriculture Division
ECOWAS Commission

Need for Agro-ecological policies

- About 90 per cent of the world's 1.5 billion hectares under agriculture is dominated by industrial monocultures that are highly dependent on external inputs and energy
- There are externalities associated with conventional agriculture
- Industrial agriculture focusing on monoculture, with attendant challenges.
- Mechanization and degradation of the fragile tropical soil
- Heavy reliance of agro-chemicals, compromising food quality and environmental pollution.
- Erosion of biodiversity due to industrial agriculture focusing on monoculture.
- Changing food values leading to loss of indigenous crops that are adapted to specific agroecologies.
- Invading pest and diseases accompanying exotic seeds and breeds
- Climate change limiting crops and animals that can be produced.
- Farmers-cattle herders' clash; battle for suitable lands in the absence of policy on sustainable land use .

Agroecological policies

- Agricultural policies and programmes in Africa have undergone a lot of changes especially in the millennial era
- These changes have been a mere reflection of changes in government or administration
- These policies and programmes vary only in nomenclature and organizational network
- And emphasize almost same objectives

Agroecological policies contd.

Agroecologically conducive policies are those that promote agro-ecological practices and systems:

- Promotes food security
- Involves all stakeholders across the value chain in planning and execution
- Are open, transparent and
- Must be framed within a context that are based on a consensus broad enough
- to guarantee continuity and freedom of expression of stakeholders' opinions on decisions

Concerns of Note toward Sustainable food production

- Increasing yields, profitability and environmental sustainability simultaneously
- Developing varieties and breeds needed for sustainable food systems
- Decreasing food loss and waste through more efficient distribution systems
- Creating and share resources that serve all populations
- Ensuring inclusive and equitable food systems
- Addressing the dual burdens of under-nutrition and obesity to ensure full human potential
- Ensuring a safe and secure food supply that protects and improves public health