Agroecology for food democracy:

through farmers' practices





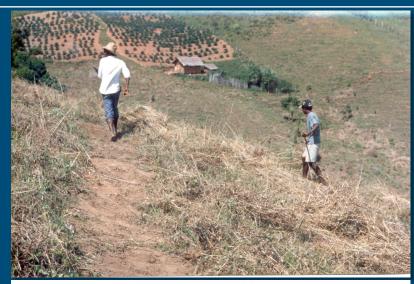
<u>Agroecology</u>

Definition: use of local resources, place based ecological and social relations to strenthen the farm.

It is about:

- Connecting agriculture to nature and society
- Knowledge, values and aspirations of farmers

Agroecological farmers are farmers that seek growth herein.





Family farmers in Araponga

- Family farmers
- Green revolution promoted from the 1960s onwards.
- Monocropping of coffee, use of chemical fertilisers, specialisation in coffee (no food), sale to global markets.
- CTA, Arapongan farmers' union, farmers develop their own agroecology





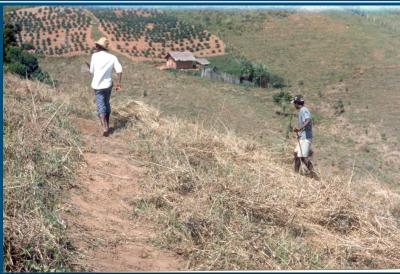
From degradation to resilience

Problems

- Soil erosion and exhaustion.
- Yields declining, not all crops could be grown, prospects grim.

Regeneration through nature

- Selective weeding, green manuring, trees, etc.
- Covers the soil surface
- Increases organic material





From dependency to autonomy

Problem: increasing price of fertilisers and increasing price of food.

Autonomy by circumventing global markets and standards by producing their own:

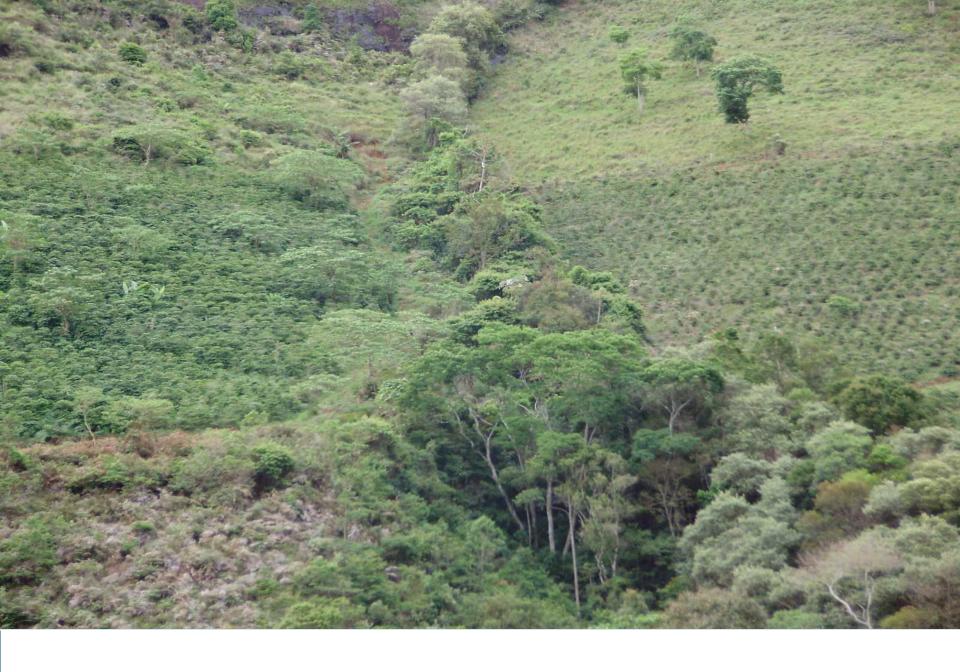
nutrients: trees, cattle

food and processing: planting a larger variety of fruit trees and

crops

own market





A Dutch intermezzo



Ground production in nature

- to maintain resources and for resilience
- to circumvent global markets and standards



A Dutch intermezzo





Markets shaped by the interaction between consumers and producers e.g. price, standards and sustainability.

Food democracy

Food and agriculture reconnected to nature and society and shaped by the knowledge, values and aspirations of farmers and consumers. Three levels of democracy found in these practices:

- Autonomy and resilience: grounding ecology and own markets
- Agency: new opportunities relations of trust relations of ecology
- Process: Being able to shape what was out of reach e.g. markets, research but also on-farm innovation processes.

Thank you!



