



**UPSCALING AGROECOLOGY - GFAR Statement for the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Symposium on Agroecology  
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**1. IN WHAT WAY IS YOUR ORGANIZATION ENGAGED IN SCALING UP AGROECOLOGY?**

Because of its very nature - that of being a multi-stakeholder platform and network that includes diverse perspectives on social, economic and technological aspects, GFAR does not consider agroecology as a radical alternative to green revolution, nor as a parallel pathway that can coexist with agribusiness and industrial agriculture. Rather GFAR contributes and will continue to reframe the debate around these positions, on the potential, challenges and opportunities within agroecology by transforming the processes through which consensus is reached and collective actions implemented. To this effect, GFAR helps by setting up the enabling environment that allow its members (who range from farmers organizations to upstream and international research organizations, rural advisory services, private sector companies, higher education institutions, donors, youth and women organizations, consumer and civil society entities) to determine among themselves the character, the value and applicability of agroecology views and actions that can be agreed upon and implemented for placing small holder farmers in the driving seat of innovation dynamics. In this way GFAR facilitates that fair, balanced and transparent dialogue is placed in the hands of the very same holders of knowledge that generate agroecological practices, with the other actors and decision-makers of the system to direct the transformation of the research and innovation governance that is needed to scale up agroecology.

**2. WHAT DO YOU SEE AS THE PRIORITY ACTIONS TO SCALE UP AGROECOLOGY?**

The emphasis should be on continues open and inclusive dialogue that can contribute to collective foresight exercises to open new scenarios and alternative options for the future of agriculture and the role of innovation and provide lessons learnt and operational evaluation criteria to assess the quality of research partnerships conducive to pro-poor innovation.

**3. HOW CAN YOUR ORGANIZATION COLLABORATE TO SUPPORT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SCALING UP AGROECOLOGY INITIATIVE?**

GFAR is engaged in supporting the two aforementioned activities that are strategic for agroecology scaling up as well as (i) valuing and recognizing on the ground farmer-led experimentation and research dynamics in several domains, giving full dignity to smallholders as producers also of knowledge - including pre-existing agroecological solutions - with specific reference to forgotten crops and farmers' seeds; (ii) transformation of universities and curricula to favour the emergence of new professional profiles endowed with those soft/life skills needed to engage in the co-production of knowledge with farmers; (iii) developing new metrics to introduce alternative criteria, indicators and incentives to appreciate the performance of agroecological production systems beyond yields, bringing together different organizations involved in metrics definition; (iv) empowering smallholder farmers in markets and small/medium enterprise development. For the Decade of Family Farming we are launching with the World Rural Forum and their partners an initiative aimed at unleashing the potential of farmer-led participatory research for family farms, while we look forward to developing new initiatives addressing the growing consumer demands for healthy diets.