18th Conversation on Agroecology

Land and natural resource governance for sustainable territorial futures – March 25th, 2026

Throughout 2026, each Conversation explores one of the thirteen principles of agroecology. The eighteenth Conversation on Agroecology, held in March 2026, focused on the principle “Land and natural resource governance”, with a particular emphasis on community power, women’s rights, and inclusive governance pathways for agroecological transitions.

The first presentation was delivered by Eva Maria Anyango Okoth from the International Land Coalition (ILC), a global alliance working to advance people-centered land governance as a foundation for sustainable food systems. Eva Maria highlighted how climate change, land degradation, and inequality place growing pressure on food systems, while insecure land tenure continues to constrain the capacity of smallholder farmers to invest in long-term agroecological practices. Drawing on experiences from ILC members and national multi-stakeholder platforms in Africa, the presentation showed how land rights are being positioned within food systems transformation through ecosystem restoration, food sovereignty, policy reform, and social justice. Case studies illustrated farmer-managed natural regeneration as a low-cost, knowledge-based restoration approach that has restored large areas of degraded land, strengthened local governance, improved food security, and enhanced climate resilience, while deliberately promoting women’s participation. A second example from Burkina Faso focused on advancing women’s land rights through policy reforms and land certification, enabling greater engagement in sustainable land management and integrating land tenure considerations into national climate policies. The presentation concluded with a call to better integrate land tenure into agroecology policies, recognize diverse tenure systems, prevent land grabbing linked to green investments, and increase support for grassroots land governance initiatives.

The second presentation by Emma Siliprandi from the International University of Andalusia addressed rural women as political subjects in Latin America from a feminist agroecology perspective. Rooted in eco-feminist, Indigenous, and decolonial traditions, feminist agroecology was presented as both a practical and political approach that recognizes women's central roles in food production, care work, and territorial defense. Drawing on numerous grassroots examples, the presentation highlighted women-led agroecological initiatives that combine traditional knowledge, solidarity-based economies, seed conservation, and collective forms of work and care. These practices were described as essential yet largely invisible within dominant economic frameworks, despite their importance for food security, autonomy, and protection against violence. The presentation also highlighted women's political organizing within major agrarian and social movements across Latin America and at the global level, which challenge extractivism, land grabbing, monocultures, and agrochemical dependence, while defending food sovereignty, land redistribution, and social and gender justice.

The discussion reflected on fair farmer incomes, pastoral land restoration, recognition of women's unpaid labor, and the role of men in advancing inclusive agroecological transitions. Speakers emphasized that economic incentives alone are insufficient without structural changes in land governance, gender relations, and power dynamics, and that feminist approaches aim at inclusion and equity rather than exclusion. The session concluded with an invitation to continue exchanges within the newly launched Community of Practice and a preview of the next Conversation on Agroecology, which will focus on the principle of biodiversity.

Networking requests and information shared by the community through the chat:

- Angel Rubio López: One of the challenges that women face is that, in many cases, women are busy with activities that are essential but have no market value. It is important to start measuring what has no price to make it visible. See our approach to this challenge: https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/how-do-we-measure-what-has-price-regenerate-as-a-project-iznwe
- Ralph Roothaert: If anyone wants recommendations and strategies for pastoral land management, please contact me: ralph.roothaert@mukinduri.com
- Emma Siliprandi: https://repositorio.iica.int/items/e4675bd2-48b9-4696-a51f-35ca3a68b708
- Eva Maria Anyango Okoth: Let me share my email evamaria@landcoalition.info
- Luigi Caffa: luigi.caffa@nextforenergy.eu, https://www.linkedin.com/in/luigi-caffa-0999b0229/