

# Ecological approach to organic farming in the Tropics



This approach aims to sustain the health of ecosystems and people. The use of synthetic agrochemicals is prohibited. An active, system-oriented ecological approach on organic farms is required for success – this is knowledge-intensive and should focus on practices that use local resources. It combines tradition, innovation and science to benefit the environment and promote fair relationships and a good quality of life for farmers and their communities.



What does an ecological approach to farming look like?

Livestock integrated into the system

Adapted to the local conditions, culture and scale

Efficient and sustainable use of local materials, e.g. compost

Integrated pest and disease management

High diversity of crops varieties, agro-forestry, intercropping and crop rotations

Healthy environment and community, e.g. clean water and crops

Fair prices and value chains

Farmers, advisors and consumer exchange ideas and knowledge

Healthy soil feeding healthy plants

## Benefits of ecological organic farming



### Improved human and environmental health

- Reduced harmful chemicals in soils, crops and water.
- Improved soil health and fertility and increased biodiversity.
- Increase in social capital: skills, education, better collective management of natural resources.

### Reduced risks, more adaptable

- Lower risk of health problems for farmers and community.
- Better adapted to withstand weather extremes, less susceptible to pest and disease outbreaks.

### Less capital intensive and higher income

- Increased autonomy and better prices for organic products – higher income possible.
- Less need to buy expensive external inputs, use and recycle local resources.

### New opportunities and support

- Access to new markets and innovations, growing organic market.
- Improvement of farm infrastructure.
- Farmer to farmer exchange and support from advisors and trainers.

Knowledge product funders



Projects involved



Project funders



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