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Foresight agroecology in India by 2050

he AgroEco2050 study (2019-2021) aims to explore the implications of contrasted scenarios—conventional industrial agriculture vs agroecology-for the future of agriculture, food and welfare in Andhra Pradesh, a southern Indian state. The study also aims to contribute to national and international debates and research on agroecology and future of food and agriculture. Since 2016, the Government of Andhra Pradesh (GoAP) has been committed to scaling up climate-resilient and communitymanaged 'natural farming'-an approach based on regenerative agriculture principles. Natural farming, which emphasizes healthy soils and landscape regeneration, highly diversified and synergistic crop/livestock production, no pesticide or synthetic fertilizer usage, involvement of self-help groups and farmer-centered learning, is seen as part of the science, movement and practice of agroecology. As of April 2020, natural

farming was already being practiced by around 700,000 farmers in Andhra Pradesh, with the hope that this would increase to 6 million farmers and 8 Mha by 2027. It attracted the attention of a few other states in India, the central government, national and international institutions⁽¹⁾. In this context, it is important to explore the implications of such an option based on rigorous evidence and a multi-stakeholder process.

The AgroEco2050 foresight study intends to explore what impacts on farmers' livelihood, land use, productivity, nutrition, public finance and other aspects could be expected by 2050 if Andhra Pradesh were to move to a 'natural farming at scale' scenario, compared to the impacts of a 'deepening conventional agriculture' scenario. The methodology is based on the CIRAD-INRAE 'Agrimonde: 'Scenario and

Challenges for Feeding the World in 2050' global foresight initiative (2006-2010). It will be carried out using collective expertise and the quantitative 'Agribiom' tool/model⁽²⁾. Substantial timeconsuming data collection and modelling since the 1970s are currently being carried out by the research team on many parameters (human and animal populations, GDP, land use, land and labor productivity, diets, etc.). An interactive interface is being built to screen and discuss past developments and future scenarios with an expert group of stakeholders (policymakers, scientists, civil society, farmers) at workshops throughout 2020 and 2021. The study -co-constructed with policymakers of Andhra Pradesh-will support evidencebased policy decisions in the State. The findings will also be of prime interest for other Indian states and worldwide.



Contact

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For further information

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