

Take Another Look at Your Food: Reimagining Global Food Systems

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Feeding the World

The 'Green Revolution' significantly increased food supply and availability to the world's increasing population, but at considerable biological and socio-economic cost. The need for food security is still acute and growing, and the extension of conventional agriculture into additional suitable agricultural land, where available, will merely aggravate the problem.

An ecologically based development of sustainable agricultural systems ('agro-ecology', 'regenerative agriculture') has been underway for several decades, and is promoted by international organisations such as the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and practised by increasing numbers of individual farmers. Nevertheless, despite the value of the agri-ecological approach, its adoption by farmers globally has been slow.

For this way of thinking and acting to have the widest possible impact, and to be seen as a viable alternative to conventional extractive and synthetics-based agriculture, it therefore needs to be defined and presented in a way that combines scientific insight with an

awareness of the highly varied local conditions in which implementation is likely to take place.

In this **paper**, the authors propose an interactive web-based pathway in the form of a **spiral**, that maximises outcomes on the farm as well as at the research and policy level. The starting point of the spiral is a foundational investigation of the concept of biodiversity, moving then through a series of eleven steps in which different concepts (for example, 'Ecosystem Functions', 'Ecosystem Service Providers') are highlighted, illustrated and explained in a connected sequence, as a pathway to the development of real agro-ecological outcomes.

Through understanding the interactions, connectedness and feedback loops between the steps presented in the spiral pathway, a paradigm shift from the current conventional agriculture approach can be created, to one that not only improves yields but also appreciates social and economic outcomes and improves the wellbeing of all people involved in agriculture and food systems.

Articles That Caught Our Attention: Summaries

Green and blue infrastructure planning and unintended consequences (academic paper)

Urban green and blue space interventions may bring about unintended consequences, involving a variety of trade-offs between the different land uses and between the needs of different urban inhabitants, land users, and owners. The authors analyse investment and planning initiatives in six case-study cities related to green and blue infrastructure (GBI) through the lens of a predefined set of questions.

Colonising public spaces: forms of exclusion in anxious times (ESI member publication)

Climate change and global warming, combined with consumer capitalism, have given renewed force to the enclosure and 'quarantining' of previously open spaces as 'safe' and 'healthy' climate-apartheid eco-enclaves.

The Domain Names System (DNS) and cybercrime (World Politics Review)

DNS data, the personal registration data relating to owners of domain names or websites, is watched over by a publicly available service called WHOIS. There is increasing tension, however, between the desire for privacy and the needs of crime prevention and law enforcement.

Financial regulation and the economic risks of climate change (The Conversation)

More on the potential role that central ('public') banks may play in addressing large-scale economic risks related to climate change.

Headlines That Caught Our Attention

A **wildfire** is pushing California toward the brink of blackouts

Hungry wild pigs are worsening climate change

Scientists discover more than **30 viruses** frozen in ice, most never seen before

Report of the Independent Panel for Pandemic Preparedness and Response: making COVID-19 the last pandemic

Book(s) of note

The Precipice by Tony Ord, reviewed in the **Science Magazine**

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