Dear members of CSOs accredited to the UNCCD,

It is a pleasure to share with you this Eco-newsletter that provides daily news of the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP15) of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) taking place in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire.

At COP15, we urge you all to seize the opportunity to contribute to the framing process and deliberations of the conference in order to strengthen the political impact of civil society. Our ambition is to help CSOs, indigenous peoples and local communities make their voices heard on all land issues, so continue to share your experiences and call for action from the front lines of the desertification crisis.

Follow the actions of civil society at COP15 on the website of the CSO panel (www.csopanel.org), and please don’t forget to use the following hashtags for social media postings: #UNCCDCSO / #UNCCDCOP15
Instagram: @UNCCD_CSO / Twitter: @UNCCDcso

COP15 – DAY 7 (May 16)

Yamoussoukro capital of agroecology

The first edition of the Youth Forum on Peasant Agroecology was held at the diocesan center of Yamoussoukro from 13 to 15 May 2022.

There were a hundred young people to meet in the Ivorian capital on the sidelines of the COP 15, which is currently held at Sofitel Hotel Ivoire in Abidjan. These young people from all across Côte d'Ivoire, exchanged with the leaders of African organizations on the issue of Agroecology as a vector of sovereignty and protection against desertification, JVE Côte d'Ivoire, JVE Cameroon, JVE Senegal, Enda Energie, Urgences Ecologique, Enda Prônât du Sénégal, JVE Togo, JVE Mali are some organizations that have shared their experiences with young people on the benefits of Agroecology.

Sena Alouka, who opened the inaugural conference urged young people to fight the ABCDEE crises (Food, Biodiversity, Climate Change, Desertification and Water and Energy). “We face the phenomenon of ABCDEE crises, which we must fight otherwise we will all perish together,” said the director of JVE Togo, who is also director of JVE International. During the second day, Blondel Silenou spoke on climate finance and the approaches to be implemented to mobilize green climate funds to further stimulate youth engagement. The session also saw interventions by Emmanuel Seck and Coné Gaoussou.

It should be noted that group work sanctioned this first youth forum on Agroecology will form the framework of the yamoussoukro declaration.
Youth Statement on Peasant Agroecology

-Focus on training and raising awareness of the local community through youth involvement;
-Set up on monitoring farmers in the Agro ecological transition;
- Agroecology contributes to sustainable development with a healthy, sustainable diet, healthy products hence the food self-sufficiency;
- Agroecology contributes to the preservation of natural resources (water, air, land) and fights against degradation;
- Involvement of governments through texts and laws promote agroecology;
- Raise awareness and train our farmers in rural areas;
- Harmonize the understanding of agroecology among all;
- Apply Agro ecological techniques for land restoration;
- Produce and process organic products on production premises;
- Opt for the community for a large amount of production;
- Help people who are already motivated or committed to organic production;
- Consume local products.

AGENDA

At the initiative of Ends and Drynet, a side event on Financing agroecology as a way to achieve neutrality in terms of land degradation will be held on May 16 from 13:00 to 15:00 Abidjan time at MET-13.
- How donors can best support local communities' agro-ecological initiatives in drylands.
The event is broadcast online via Zoom Dialogue on how to put in place more adequate financial mechanisms to support agroecological initiatives of local communities living in drylands.

WOMEN SAY YES TO PEASANT AGROECOLOGY

Participants from several regions of Ivory Coast to take part in the Youth Forum on Peasant Agroecology. Between plenaries, workshops and practical work, women shared their experience on peasant agroecology.
Local and community knowledge should be taken into account in the context of the negotiations currently underway in Abidjan, at least that is what the thirty or so women who came to take part in this meeting suggest.
On the occasion, they appeal to leaders against the proliferation of pesticides and propose an approach based on androgenic and traditional knowledge.
It calls for agroforestry practices to be further popularized, capacity-building initiatives and exchanges between communities and civil society communities to be supported.

AGENDA

SIDE-EVENT - Monday 16 May / from 6 pm to 8 pm / Room MET-15
"Agro-ecology and territorial approaches: beyond words, methods and tools to act!"
With the participation of the Minister Governor of the Autonomous District of Abidjan, Mr. Robert Beugré Mambé.

Agroecology plays a decisive role in the fight against desertification. Tools and methods, having proven themselves in the field, will be presented by different experts and actors of the agro-ecological transition. This transition is part of a structured territorial approach that takes into account the geographical, economic, social and institutional specificities of the territories and mobilizes a set of actors, from civil society to political leaders.

THEMES & SPEAKERS at the side-event: "The approaches of territorial projects in dry zones including the sustainable management of land and agroecosystems"

Manon Albagnac — CARI, France "The relevance of the territorial approach to succeed in agro-ecological transitions: example of the Interdepartmental Agreement of the regions of Diourbel and Fatick, Senegal"
Djidiack Faye — ARD of Fatick, Senegal "The territorial approach to design and implement territorial projects for sustainable agriculture"
Simon Baliteau – Agrisud International, France "Responding to the challenges of preserving Abidjan’s peri-urban agricultural areas through a territorial approach"
Robert Beugré Mambé – Minister Governor of the Autonomous District of Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire

OPEN DISCUSSION MET-1 YOUTH CAUCUS

Hello Youth Friends!
The UNCCD Youth Caucus is hosting a town hall discussion and brainstorming session for all young people. So if you are young or leader of youth organization take a visit to MET-1 from 16:15 to 17:15.
Come and share an intellectual cocktail. Your thoughts, ideas and expectations are welcome. See you there!