

Comity: Comity of environment  
Subject: Eco-Farming revolution  
Country: Australia

Dear delegates, and Chairs,

We are here today, as the delegation of Australia to discuss about the environment. Today, our planet is facing many environmental issues. Our carefree attitude towards these issues has negative consequences on our globe and on its inhabitants. Such as global warming, destruction of natural resources, extinction of species, and the list goes on.

Although monocultural production is cheaper than growing a variety of crops together, it provides the perfect environment for a pest or disease that can spread easily and destroy all the produce. Therefore, toxic chemical pesticides are used. However, these pesticides cause some damage to human health and also kill off microbes, earthworms, insects and animals which can actually aid food production. Moreover, pests develop resistance to pesticides with time.

Moreover, monoculture plantations are high consumers of water, they increase acidification and sustain a low diversity of wildlife.

We have observed in our country, that industrial agriculture has a really big negative impact on our environment.

The monocultural production makes considerable use of artificial fertilizers such as superphosphates which destroy microorganisms that normally create soil fertility. They also acidify soils. Thus, the agricultural productivity decreases. Some experts say that up to 60 million hectares of Australian agricultural land will become too acidic for plant growth in the next ten years. Soluble fertilizer is also washed into waterways and causes a problem of nutrient overload. The fertilizer in the water provides nutrient on which algae can grow. The algae use up oxygen and water weeds, fishes and insects die.

In Australia, the use of pesticides also pollute the drinking water. It is needless to say that this problem has a very negative impact on the health of the Australian population.

We've used industrial agriculture and monoculture for a very long time. But before long, we realised that even though the productivity increases, it remains unsustainable.

Indeed because of industrial agriculture, the soil loses its quality and productivity. Industrial agriculture also diminishes biodiversity, and the use of chemical substances lowers the quality of the products.

Now, we are trying to fix our past mistakes. We are trying to find a new way of agriculture, considering biodiversity and the ecosystem, so that we can save our environment, and reach a sustainable and healthy production.

In our country, we've already been trying to manage our land and solve this problem:

- Since 2003, Australia's largest environmental organization, Greening Australia has run a national vegetation knowledge service – in partnership with government agencies across rural services, land and water, and agriculture.

- Farmers have implemented holistic systems such as integrated pest management and rotational grazing.

- We have done research on case study farms throughout Central and Northern Victoria as part of the Green Graze Project. This research has shown that grazing properties can be managed for better biodiversity as well as being profitable.
- We can also mention Landcare, a community-based approach that has played a major role in raising awareness, influencing farming and land management practices. Many Australian farmers are involved in Landcare and many more of them practice Landcare farming. Landcare farmers make significant contributions to combating soil salinity and erosion through sound land management practices and sustainable productivity.

In order to reach a sustainable and healthy production, we have to;

- Support Government and Local Government initiatives for the fostering and enhancement of biodiversity on properties.
- Encourage, as a matter of urgency, State, and Federal Governments to develop and refine markets for ecosystem services, both public and private, to economically recognize the value of ecosystem services. These markets could include carbon sequestration, soil protection, biodiversity protection, salinity amelioration, water quality and air quality improvement.
- Encourage State and Federal Governments to develop regional policies and support statutory planning that encourages biodiversity outcomes.
- Recognize the vital roles that regulation, education and research play in delivering biodiversity outcomes.
- Promote climate change actions which protect and increase biodiversity.
- Avoid monoculture farming by using mixed farming approaches.
- Manage land in logical units by fencing on land class boundaries. (to better manage hills, slopes, wetlands, saline areas, and soil types)
- Minimize our use of herbicides and pesticides.

It is obvious that we can't find a solution to hunger and stop climate change with industrial farming on large plantations. On the contrary, the solution lies in supporting small-scale farmers' knowledge and experimentation, and in raising incomes of smallholders so as to contribute to rural development.

Governments have the responsibility to prepare the transition to agroecology and enable access for poor farmers.

We need to act now if we want to avoid repeated food and climate disasters in the future.

As the delegation of the environment of Australia, our advice to all world countries is to stop using industrial agriculture and to find new farming ways. Such as; permaculture, agroecology, etc.

As world countries, we must act now to provide a sustainable future and production.

Thank you for your attention.