

## Agroecology for sustainable horticulture: It's time to address it

Thursday  
18th April 2024,  
Hours: 17:00 – 19:00  
*Central European Time (CET)*

Registration link:  
[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_7-DK\\_m3FT8avjE\\_atSZG7Q](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_7-DK_m3FT8avjE_atSZG7Q)

**Further information: [www.ishs.org/hortforum](http://www.ishs.org/hortforum)**

The International Society for Horticultural Science invites you to the fifth episode of Hort Forum:

**Agroecology for sustainable horticulture:  
It's time to address it**

**Speaker:** Georgina Catacora-Vargas

**Abstract**

As a concept, agroecology was proposed over a century ago as a framework for more sustainable farming systems. It is promoted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO, 2018) "Scaling up Agroecology to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals" (SDGs). Agroecology seeks to reduce our dependency on fossil fuel (petrol, gas), to reduce pollution of the environment and to mitigate the effects of climate change. It is based on principles that collectively aim to increase the autonomy and the resilience of the agroecosystem, among them, enhancing beneficial interactions and synergisms within agroecosystems, recycling biomass, enhancing soil biotic activity, minimizing nutrient losses, increasing energy efficiency, increasing species and within-species diversity. Beyond these aspects, agroecology also changes our disciplinary approaches of horticulture and promotes transdisciplinary relationships, combining academic and non-academic knowledge, to be able to face the challenge of improving well-being of growers and health of consumers under global change. Agroecology proposes a new model for agriculture and food production that leads to distributive justice, restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems, and food sovereignty. In this Hort Forum, we therefore seek to clarify the meaning of agroecology to be able to face the current and future challenges of horticulture. Among the standpoints that we want to address are innovations in the agroecology agrifood chains, perspectives in different world regions, future of research on agroecology, role of digitalization, as well as other aspects.





### Short Bio

Georgina Catacora-Vargas is Bolivian. She holds a PhD in Agroecology. Georgina is an academic (focused on participatory action research) and policy advisor on agroecology, biodiversity, biosafety of modern biotechnology and sustainability of food systems. Her work has a gender and human rights focus, with emphasis on women's and peasants' rights, respectively. She served for more than ten years as advisor to the National Environmental Competent Authority of Bolivia and as negotiator for her country in various multilateral environmental agreements. She is currently a professor of Agroecology at the Academic Peasant Unit "Tiahuanacu" of the Bolivian Catholic University, president of the Latin American Scientific Society of Agroecology (SOCLA), member of the advisory team of the Agroecology Fund and member of the International Panel of Experts on Sustainable Food Systems (IPES Food).



## Moderators



Maria Claudia Dussi,  
National University of  
Comahue, Rio Negro,  
Patagonia, Argentina



Dr. Pierre -Eric Lauri  
INRAE, Montpellier,  
France

## Organizers



Theodore DeJong,  
University of California,  
Davis, USA



George Manganaris, Cyprus  
University  
of Technology,  
Cyprus

## Panelists



Adolfo Rosati,  
Consiglio per la ricerca  
in agricoltura e l'analisi  
dell'economia Agraria  
(CREA), Italy



Tim Bowles  
University of  
California Berkeley,  
USA



Dr. Alexander Wezel  
Agroecology and  
Environment Group,  
ISARA, France



Dr. Paulo F. Petersen  
Brazilian NGO AS-PTA