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Latest News

REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE SHOULD BE PRIORITIZED

The European Scientific Advisory Council (EASAC) has brought together 25 researchers from 19 European National Academies of Science, who have carried out an in-depth study and produced a report 'Restorative Agriculture in Europe', which is important for agricultural sciences, farmers and society. This report provides strong evidence that the transition to regenerative agriculture is a promising factor in reducing climate risk, providing food for the world's growing population and increasing biodiversity. This report was reviewed in detail and evaluated by 12 researchers from 11 National Academies of Sciences.

'Today's large-scale conventional agriculture has huge negative impact on soil. Soil erosion, the loss of flora and fauna and thereby nutrients in soils, has become a major factor in Europe', explains Prof. Thomas Elmqvist, one of the lead authors of first-time scientific analysis of the potential of regenerative agriculture. The report shows that restoring biodiversity in soils, particularly in grasslands, can dramatically increase their capacity to capture and store carbon.

'There seems to be a belief that regenerative agriculture can only be applied at small scale, and that making any changes to current industrial farming practices will make it impossible to feed a growing world population', explains Prof. Thomas Elmqvist. *'But the opposite is true: we have maybe a decade for a massive transformation. We need to get industrial farmers on board and take a landscape perspective to reach the goals. Ultimately, we can only protect the scale of food production by moving away from only emphasizing quantity of agricultural production to more quality and nutritional value of agricultural products.'*

Regenerative agriculture can take large amounts of CO₂ out of the atmosphere and tie it back into the soil and healthy soil is the best bet for carbon storage. Such statements emerge from the content of the report.

EASAC and the authors of report recommend that regenerative agriculture should be prioritized by Member States when implementing the new Common Agricultural Policy. This includes more diversification within and among crops, introduction of permanent and perennial crops, expanded agroforestry and intercropping, keeping green plant cover on all farm fields during all seasons, and reduced tillage. The report welcomes the European Union's Biodiversity and Farm-to-Fork Strategies as steps in the right direction but underlines that governments have done little so far to implement them.

As the majority of the authors and reviewers of this report are agricultural professionals, they consider that the material, conclusions and suggestions gathered and summarized in the report may be of interest and could be presented and discussed in the National Academies of Science and Academies of Agriculture.

The full report is available: <https://easac.eu/publications/details/regenerative-agriculture-in-europe/>