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Some thoughts on the relation between Organic Agriculture and Agroecology

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Workshop on “Organics and Agroecology: Boundaries and Synergies between Sustainable Systems and Approaches”

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- certified/codified
- well-defined
- transparent
- petrified / backward-looking



- undefined
- innovative
- inspiring
- lack of concreteness

Some challenges for organic agriculture where agroecology may give some input

- “Market context”
 - yield stability, crop rotations – diversity
 - yields and other efficiency measures (GHG footprints) as one key performance indicator
- “Agronomic”
 - N supply
 - yield gaps – in particular roots and tubers
- Others
 - social aspects
 - heterogeneity in production / locally adapted production
→ corresponding heterogeneity in processing

Way forward

Put as one core statement:

- learning from agroecology may help to avoid relying on performance indicators from industrial agriculture in organic agriculture;

or:

- as long as organic agriculture tries to live up to performance ideals from industrial agriculture, it cannot play out its strengths.

Contact

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