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VORTRAG

The agroecological revolution in Latin America: rescuing nature, ensuring food sovereignty and empowering peasants

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This lecture provides an overview of the 'agroecological revolution' in Latin America as a response to the expansion of agroexports and biofuels of agro-industrial expansion. The concepts of food sovereignty and agroecology-based agricultural production gain increasing attention. New approaches and technologies involving the application of blended agroecological science and indigenous knowledge systems are being spearheaded by a significant number of peasants, NGOs and some government and academic institutions. Besides proving to enhance food security while conserving natural resources, they contribute to empowering local, regional and national peasant organizations and movements. The trajectory of the agroecological movements in Brazil, the Andean region, Mexico, Central America and Cuba and their potential to promote broad-based and sustainable agrarian and social change is briefly presented and examined. An emerging epistemological, technical and social 'agroecological revolution' is creating new and unexpected changes directed at restoring local self-reliance, conserving and regenerating natural resource agrobiodiversity, producing healthy foods with low inputs, and empowering peasant organizations. These changes directly challenge neoliberal modernization policies based on agribusiness and agroexports while opening new political roads for Latin American agrarian societies.

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