

Zakaria KADIRI
zakariaa.kadiri@gmail.com

Post

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**Title : Agroecology, a production method on the fringes of public policy
in Morocco**

Summary:

The current state of public policy in several southern countries is resolutely liberal, and the general thrust of agricultural strategies is not always in harmony with these avant-garde initiatives, if we exclude the place reserved for organic farming. Instead, agricultural strategies are geared towards the development of intensive agriculture, described as high-performance and high value-added, involving substantial investment. This is the case in Morocco with the Plan Maroc Vert (2018-2020) and Génération Green (2020-2030), recent strategies that structure the agricultural sector.

This paper examines the role of public policies in promoting, or not, agro-ecology in Morocco. It is based on an analysis of agricultural support and subsidy schemes and around twenty interviews with farmers and Ministry of Agriculture officials.

Our results show that the discourse on agro-ecology emerges in a context of climate change and severe drought, in particular by senior ministry officials, highlighting the will or public projects on climate-resilient crops or resilience to water scarcity. This discourse is also used when programmes are co-initiated with international organisations (donors, Green Climate Fund, universities and research centres, etc.). The term agroecology is also used to characterise a territorial differentiation (agroecological zones): zones that are more or less homogenous in terms of climate, geography and agricultural potential.

We will show how the State has put in place a programme-contract linking it to the inter-profession around organic production. This contract provides for a support system and specific subsidies, as well as an "organic" certification process. Agro-ecology, on the other hand, is based on individual initiatives and the mobilisation of producers' associations, and responds to consumer demand for "clean eating".

Finally, we will show how agroecology is caught between the 'inaction' of the State and a model supported by neo-ruralists who are heavily involved in associations. However, agroecological practices exist outside these two models. They are supported by a model of family farming, often associated with traditional agriculture. These practices include crop diversification and rotation, and the use of manure juice.