

Scaling-out agroecology in sub-Saharan Africa: repertoires of contention and politization strategies of advocacy coalitions in Senegal

Agroecology has become an ideological basis to defend social and environmental justice in sub-Saharan Africa. In Senegal, Agroecological Advocacy Coalitions (AAC), composed by farmer organisations, NGOs and IOs, are using agroecology as an umbrella concept to propose policy transformations. The research is based on a set of interviews at national level and observations in the largest horticultural area near Dakar in 2019. We describe the history, the “repertoire of contention” (or modes of action) as well as the strength and weakness of the movement from social movement perspective. Seven modes of action of AAC (e.g. knowledge co-production, alternative food networks, revivification of the commons, etc..) are first presented and evaluated in their main objectives. A first analysis of the historical patterns of AAC in Senegal shows that the opposition between governmental strategic political and financial interests and the one from farmers’ organisations remains the main challenge to solve. We argue that although AAC has proved an extraordinary dynamism since tree decades, it has remained too much focused on technical demonstrations, leading to a lack of political and financial autonomy of grass roots farmer organisations. A recent focus on territorial approaches, the development of municipal networks and of national governance platforms is offering new perspectives of societal transformations.

[References]

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Main organizers



Co-organizers



Sponsors

