

Learning in agroecology: the experience of ISSAE



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Rationale, achievements and perspectives of the International Summer School of Agroecology (ISSAE)

1/ Main objectives (of the ISSAE)

To share with participants our vision of agroecology:
connecting practices, sciences and public policies.

The triangle of agroecology:

(Bell & Bellon, 2013; adapted from Wezel et al., 2009)



To stimulate scientific debates on agroecological research and action agendas.

To promote an international learning network.

2/ Target groups

Students MSc & PhD levels, interested in transdisciplinary approaches in agroecology.

Professionals involved in the development of agroecology or sustainable agriculture
(< 25% of the 30 attendees/year).

3/ Focus

Alternatives to the dominant models of agriculture, innovation and food systems.
Systemic thinking and practice. Problem Based Learning (PBL).

The PBL loop:



4/ Organisation

One-week session in English, mid-July, Toulouse (Fr)

Combination of : field visits, conferences, & case studies



*A farmer explains his
cheese making process*



*Visit on an agroforestry
and organic farm*



*Conference on organics &
agroecology (O. Schmid, FIBI)*



*A group of attendees
present their case study*

Practical case studies (3 to 4) are the cornerstone of the learning process, based on
problem finding and collaborative work among participants.

5/ Achievements

An educational method that favours learning of complex issues, places learners at the
centre of the stage and considers their needs and objectives

Immersion into transdisciplinary approaches.

Case studies open to various farming situations and ways of envisioning transitions to
agroecology

Attendees become part of a network of academics, researchers, and practitioners. This
is an opportunity to develop their professional projects

So far, 150 participants from 10 countries attended 5 editions of ISSAE

Connections with other masters from Europe and Americas



ISSAE 2010 (Louvain la Neuve)

Conservation agriculture: practice and theory



ISSAE 2014 (Toulouse)

"Embedded objects"



*Contribution to a workshop on b
PhD in agroecology (Malmö, 2013)*

6/ Perspectives

Extending the network of participant countries and institutions, with a library of case
studies.

Creating a community of professional agroecologists, with specific degree and
organisation.

Enabling ISSAE pluri-annual funding through a project supported by agencies.

Website <http://issae.enfa.fr/>