Agroecology and Policy in Lebanon

By Dr. Salem Darwich

A Comprehensive Overview

Importance of Agroecology in Lebanon

1. Enhances biodiversity and soil health.

2. Supports smallholder farmers and traditional practices.

3. Addresses climate resilience and food security challenges.

4. Promotes sustainable land and water management.

Current Agroecological Practices

1. Organic farming and permaculture initiatives.

2. Use of crop rotation and intercropping techniques.

3. Community-supported agriculture projects.

4. Integration of traditional knowledge with modern techniques.

Challenges to Agroecology in Lebanon

1. Lack of supportive policy frameworks.

2. Limited access to funding and resources.

3. Weak infrastructure for market access.

4. Effects of political instability and economic crises.

Policy Framework and Agroecology

1. National policies on sustainable agriculture and food security.

2. Role of the Ministry of Agriculture and environmental agencies.

3. Lack of specific policies supporting agroecological practices.

4. Need for integration of agroecology in national strategies.

Opportunities for Policy Development

1. Aligning agroecology with Lebanon's international commitments (e.g., SDGs).

2. Developing incentives for farmers to adopt agroecological practices.

3. Enhancing education and training on sustainable agriculture.

4. Strengthening research and innovation in agroecology.

Recommendations

1. Establish clear policies supporting agroecology.

2. Provide financial incentives and subsidies for sustainable practices.

3. Develop infrastructure for agroecological product markets.

4. Foster collaboration among stakeholders, including NGOs and farmers.

Conclusion

Agroecology offers a sustainable pathway for Lebanon to address food security and environmental challenges. Collaborative efforts and supportive policies are essential for its successful implementation.