PAN Africa and the 4th Edition of DyTAES:

On February 14 and 15, 2023, was held in Dakar at the Museum of Black Civilizations the fourth edition of the Dynamics for Agroecological Transition in Senegal (DyTAES) whose theme chosen this year is: "the territorialization of agroecology in Senegal".

The opening ceremony was chaired by the Minister of Agriculture, Equipment Rural and Food Sovereignty. Thus, the event recorded the participation civil society organizations such as NGOs, women's groups, youth associations, consumer organizations, farmer organizations (POs) such as the National Federation for Organic Agriculture (FENAB), the Framework for Reflection and Action on Land in Senegal (CFRAFS), research institutes such as the Center for International Cooperation in Agronomic Research for Development (CIRAD) and the Research Institute for Development (IRD), the Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Equipment and Food Sovereignty (MAERSA), Senegalese parliamentarians, sub-regional institutions such as the Community Economic States of West Africa (ECOWAS), and international such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to name a few that. Several countries or nationalities were also represented. Among others we can cite Togo, Benin, Mali, Ivory Coast, Cameroon, Europeans...

For having shared the efforts of the DyTAES, its activities and its vision on the territory national, PAN Africa very concerned about agroecology took part in this meeting, very fruitful exchange. Indeed, the relevance of the sub-themes developed, the choice experienced panelists, accompanied by an educational methodology providing information on the quality and high standard of the panels. Excellent speakers, through their contributions and suggestions raised the level of the already high panels.

In delivering the opening words of the ceremony, the Minister of Agriculture, the Rural Equipment and Food Sovereignty at the same time recalled to briefly the important place of Senegalese agriculture, an essential pillar in the Plan Emerging Senegal (PES). He also
mentioned the efforts made by the State in agroecology, particularly in the PSE-Vert with the strengthening of the subsidy allocated to organic fertilizer. Then, after welcoming the holding of the event, Mr. Minister magnified to its true value the efforts that DyTAES is carrying out on the entire national territory for an agriculture that is both self-sufficient and healthy. At Minister to discuss the decision of the State of Senegal to support the actions of DyTAES. It was with this statement that he declared the meeting open.

**What is DyTAES?**

The Dynamics for an Agroecological Transition in Senegal (DyTAES) is a network that brings together organizations of producers, consumers, NGOs, institutes of research and training, local elected officials and businesses. Its main objective is to promote agroecology, which is a response to the challenges current challenges facing the entire planet (pollution, climate change, extinction of biodiversity, etc.). DyTAES works for greater involvement of all the actors in order to establish a successful transition. Achieving healthy agricultural production and sufficient ready to feed humanity without the slightest negative consequence and rethink our agri-food systems, this is what underpins the vision of DyTAES.

**Why the choice of this year's theme?**

Faced with the harmful effects of conventional agriculture on the environment and on health human, agroecology remains the only bulwark, the only guarantee and the only alternative. Nevertheless, a successful agroecological transition requires the involvement of all grassroots actors. For this work, the DyTAES advocates a participatory and inclusive approach through advocacy, raising awareness, sharing experiences and supporting the territories. It is one of reasons that motivated the choice of this year's theme (the territorialization of Agroecology in Senegal). In other words, an appropriation of the concept first by women, young people but also local elected officials. This work done upstream by DyTAES began with the installation of DyTAELs at the local level, and this largely explains the presence mass of young people,
women and local elected officials during the days of agroecology in Senegal. In addition, initiatives are taken at the base with the aim of supporting and promoting agroecology. As favorable initiatives, we can mention the deliberations of land for one hundred percent agroecological activities carried out by mayors in their municipal territory to support the DyTAES. All this further justifies the choice of the theme. During the ceremony, different panels are organized, all around the central theme.

**What we can basically remember from the days of agroecology:**

The different panels of the two days dedicated to agroecology in Senegal constituted as a whole moments of exchange, consultation, dialogue and sharing between actors from different specialties, who contribute to the agroecological dynamics in the Senegal. NGOs, farmer organizations, research institutes, local elected officials were all present. The panels are moderated by eminent specialists with relevant interventions from the public who responded massively present. The consideration and the integration of the proposals and suggestions that emerged from the various panels at through the stakeholders can only be profitable for the future of DyTAES. During the panels, a certain number of questions emanating from the public attract attention. These are crucial questions for achieving the objectives of the transition. These fundamental elements are to be taken into consideration and integrated into the DyTAES to truly succeed in the agroecological transition in Senegal. The DyTAES team thinks ready to take into account all the remarks which will be studied beforehand. As subjects having been the most mentioned in the panels, we can retain:

- Training of farmers using languages as a means of communication national
- Integration of agroecological knowledge into the school curriculum, university and in the curriculum
- The land problem and access to land for farmers
- The availability of water resources
- The question of biosafety with especially the problem of GMOs and products hazardous chemicals
- The issue of seed selection
- The prioritization of organic fertilizers in favor of chemical fertilizers
- Confusion and sometimes inconsistency of laws and regulatory texts due to of their very numerous character
- The problem of the market, the label and the certification of agroecological products
- Involvement of all the Ministries concerned such as the Ministry of agriculture, livestock, environment, fishing…
- Strengthening of research oriented especially on agroecology
- Positively discriminate agroecological products through supply in school canteens, in barracks, in university restaurants...
- The question of whether truly agroecology can feed the world
- Agroecology vs agro-industry

**Commitments made:**

During the AE days in Senegal, representatives of state services and some sub-regional organizations have made commitments to support the DyTAES in its mission, a mission at the service of agriculture and stakeholders. As commitments we quote:

- The Minister of Agriculture has made strong commitments, particularly on the reinforcement of subsidies dedicated to organic fertilizer in order to propel AE.
- The training of 12,000 actors as torchbearers at the base by Community Economy of West African States (ECOWAS)
- The establishment of experimental centers in agroecology in the countries ECOWAS members
- Strengthening of resources by ECOWAS while encouraging States to do more effort
- The DyTAES is committed to working to strengthen consultation within the different ministries concerned but also between ministries and civil society.

- Mayors present at the ceremony made commitments to welcome the DyTAELs example the mayor of Mbadakhoune.