

Topic: What is Agroecology and how is it relevant to your Extension program?

Organizers: Zack Brym, Agroecology State Specialist, TREC
Roy Beckford, CED & Ag/NR Agent, Lee County
Robert Kluson, Ag/NR Agent, Sarasota County
Lloyd Singleton, CED & Commercial Horticulture, Lake County

Objectives:

- Participants will understand the 3 goals (sustain production, conserve natural resources, maintain social responsibility) and 4 guiding principles (systems, production, biodiversity, resilience) of agroecology.
- Participants will understand key ecological concepts integrating agriculture, natural resource management, and community development including: agroecosystems, spatial/temporal scales, carrying capacity, complex interactions, and emergent properties.
- Participants will be able to describe the components of an agroecosystem and specifically identify an agroecosystem relevant to his/her work.
- Participants will be able to apply the agroecology framework for program development, specifically in relation to priority work group areas, impact reporting indicators, and logic models.

Format: The format for the IST is a 1.5-day workshop with integrated classroom activities and a tour of the MacArthur Agroecology Research Center. The IST will be hosted at the Archbold Biological Station. A suite of educational materials and related EDIS publications will be developed in coordination with the IST to be provided as a reference to participants and as an online resource. Specific modules of the IST may also be made available online for distance education and further reference by participants.

Agenda:	Period	Subtopic	Activities	
	Day 1	Travel and arrival		
	1:00p	Introduction	- Why Agroecology? Brief History	
		What is Agroecology?	- Agroecology Definition and Use	
	3:00p	Goals and Principles of Agroecology	- What is NOT Agroecology? - Agroecology v Sustainable Ag	
	Day 2	8:00a	The Agroecosystems Concept	- Know your Agroecosystem - Assessing 'Model' Agroecosystems
		10:00a	Agroecosystem Tour	- Agroecosystem Management
		1:00p	Agroecology in Your Program	- Priority Areas and Indicators - Agroecology in Extension: Farm Resilience Planning, Florida-Friendly Landscaping™
		4:00p	Recap and Departure	- Participant Survey and Program Assessment
		5:00p	Closing	
