

Agroecology in the Asia Pacific region

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APIRAS Regional Learning Workshop: Strengthening Rural Advisory Services in the Asia Pacific
24-26 January 2023, Bangkok, Thailand

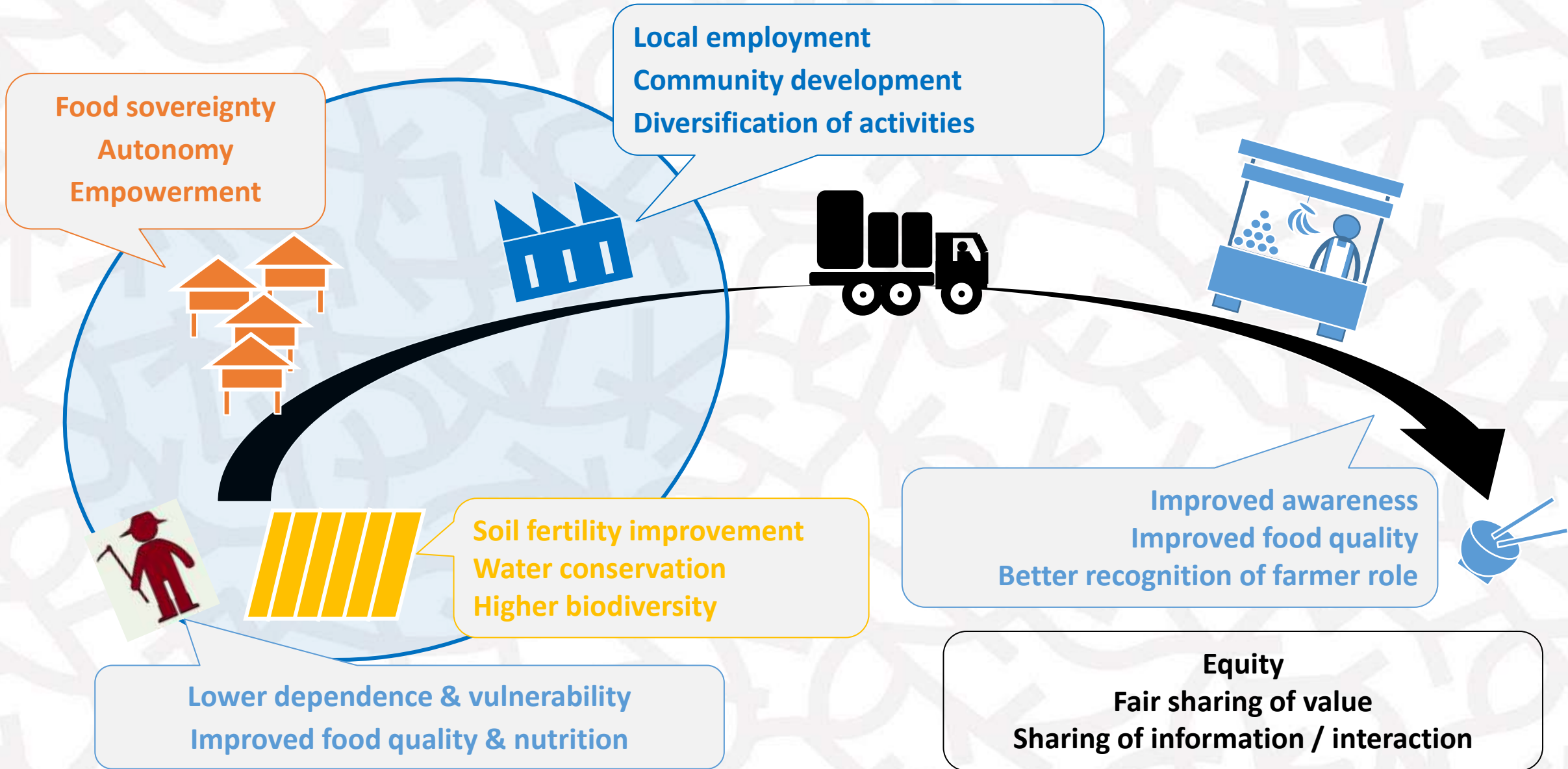


What is Agroecology for FAO?

- An **integrated approach** that applies **ecological concepts & principles** to optimize **interactions** between plants, animals, humans & the environment while taking into consideration **social aspects** needed for a **sustainable & fair food system**.
- Based on **bottom-up & territorial processes**, helping to deliver **contextualized solutions** to local problems.
- AE innovations are based on the **co-creation of knowledge**, combining science with the traditional, practical & local knowledge of producers.
- By enhancing their autonomy & adaptive capacity, AE empowers **producers & communities** as key **agents of change**.
- Emphasizes **social equity** (job creation & gender aspects)
- Promotes **local markets** & direct consumer-producer exchanges (value addition & diverse diets)



Agroecology in a Food System Approach

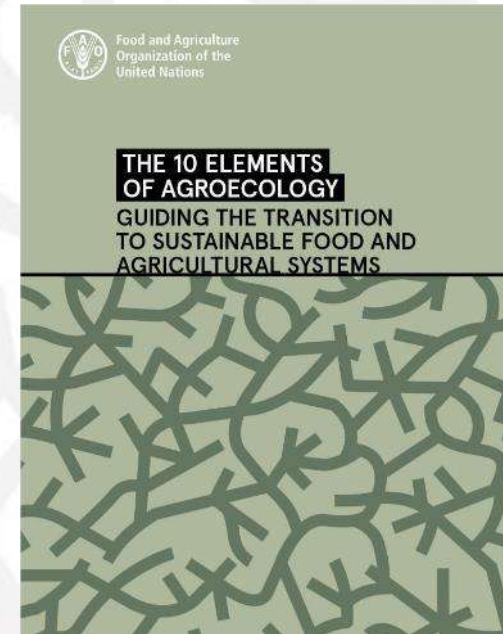


Overall strategy & actions in Asia and the Pacific

Transforming food system through Agroecology mainstreaming & Innovations:

- **Raising awareness** internally and externally
- Generating **evidences** & Strengthening **credibility** (Scaling Up AE initiative and TAPE)
- **Mainstreaming** across current and future projects & Building **alliances**

Raising awareness



REPORT ON THE MULTI-STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION ON AGROECOLOGY in Asia and the Pacific

FAO, Bangkok, 24-25 November 2015



A rising global interest in Agroecology

[HLPE \(2019\) agroecology report](#)
adopted at CFS46 start of policy
convergence process.

[Transformative partnership platform](#)
(TPP) on agroecology formed

[Paper on HLPE principles
and FAO elements](#)
published

[Critique of HLPE report](#)
consultation process
published

UNEA5 [build back better and greener
with agroecology](#) event, [TPP GLFx
web platform](#) goes live

CFS48 adopt [policy recommendations](#),
[TPP launched with presidential
announcement](#) of Sri Lankan national
agroecological transition.

IFAD highlight [HLPE
agroecology report as
key reference to achieve
SDGs](#) (33.48-33.26)

OneCGIAR select [agroecology
initiative](#) for proposal
development

Wind of change ...

[Call for UNFSS to
adopt HLPE
principles](#) signed by
[>800 organisations
and individuals](#)

[Agroecology-conducive policies](#)
event engages policy makers,
position paper put out for open
consultation

[EU-INTPA webinars](#) on
metrics and agroecological
transitions

Pressure from member states
yields UNFSS presummit [plenary
session](#) on agroecology, [paralle
session](#) highly acclaimed

TPP event on
[Agroecological control
of fall army worm](#)

[Million voices](#) citizen
science initiative
launched at UNFSS

[Coalition to transform food
systems through agroecology](#)
strongest outcome from UNFSS
(>25 countries, >30 organisations)

(Fergus
Sinclair, 2021)

Some recent events & workshops held across the region

- 2nd Agrifood System International Conference: Research Advancement and Innovations in Agroecology and Smart Agrifood System (**09/11/22**, Faculty of agriculture, Universitas Andalas, **Indonesia**)
- Agroecology & Sustainable Agriculture International Conference, Ulaan Bataar, **Mongolia (08/11/22**, School of Agroecology, Mongolia University of Life Sciences, FAO)
- [Side event on Coalition for agrifood system transformation through agroecology](#) during the Asia Pacific Symposium on Agrifood System transformation in **Bangkok (5 October 2022)**
- [Regional virtual dialogue on Agroecology](#), **12 May 2022**, (Global Alliance for the Future of Food, AFA, APCNF, FAO)
- Regional virtual consultation on Promoting Healthy, Sustainable and Inclusive Food Systems in Response to Covid-19 in South Asia, **29-30 March 2022**, (FAO, SAARC agriculture Center, AFA)
- Regional consultation on [Engaging with Academia and Research Institutions \(ARIs\) to support Family Farmers and Food System Transformation during and post COVID-19 Pandemic in Asia](#), **8-9 December 2021**, (SEARCA, AFA, FAO)
- Virtual regional conference on [Agroecological and safe food transitions for green, resilient and inclusive recovery in the ASEAN region](#), **8-9 Nov 2021** (ESCAP, FAO, CIRAD, and ASSET partners)
- Virtual regional experience sharing workshop about the use of the Tool for Agroecology Performance Evaluation (TAPE) across the different pilots in the region (Cambodia, China, Laos and Vietnam), **30 September 2021**, (FAO, DTEAP, VAAS, CSA China)



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Generating evidences & Strengthening credibility





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The Scaling Up Agroecology Initiative (SAI)

- A strategic approach to bring Agroecology to scale and **transform food and agricultural systems to achieve the SDGs**
- Aims to accompany and support **national Agroecology transition processes** through policy and technical capacity building that creates synergies between countries
- Explicit focus on **building alliances** among different stakeholders, **strengthening networks**, fostering the **co-creation and sharing of knowledge** within a territorial approach that is tailored to particular contexts



The Scaling Up Agroecology Initiative

Three
areas of
work

1

KNOWLEDGE AND INNOVATION FOR SUSTAINABLE FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL SYSTEMS

Mainstream agroecology in projects and knowledge platforms through i) technical capacity building, ii) field projects, iii) knowledge tools, iv) linking researchers and farmers

2

POLICY PROCESSES FOR TRANSFORMATION OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL SYSTEMS

Technical support for policy instruments & regulatory frameworks through i) tools to design, implement & monitor, ii) linking CC, biodiversity, FSN, Family Farming, iii) implementation of global instruments

3

BUILDING CONNECTIONS FOR TRANSFORMATIVE CHANGE

Build synergies and cooperation through i) catalyzing funding and investments, ii) outreach and advocacy, iii) synergies between UN decade and initiatives

→ First phase focused on few countries (Mexico, Senegal and India) but new (broader) phase is currently under preparation for 2023-2028

Tool for Agroecology Performance Evaluation (TAPE)



Yield/ha? \$/farm? Kcal/person?
Nitrogen leaching/ha? Number of healthy people?



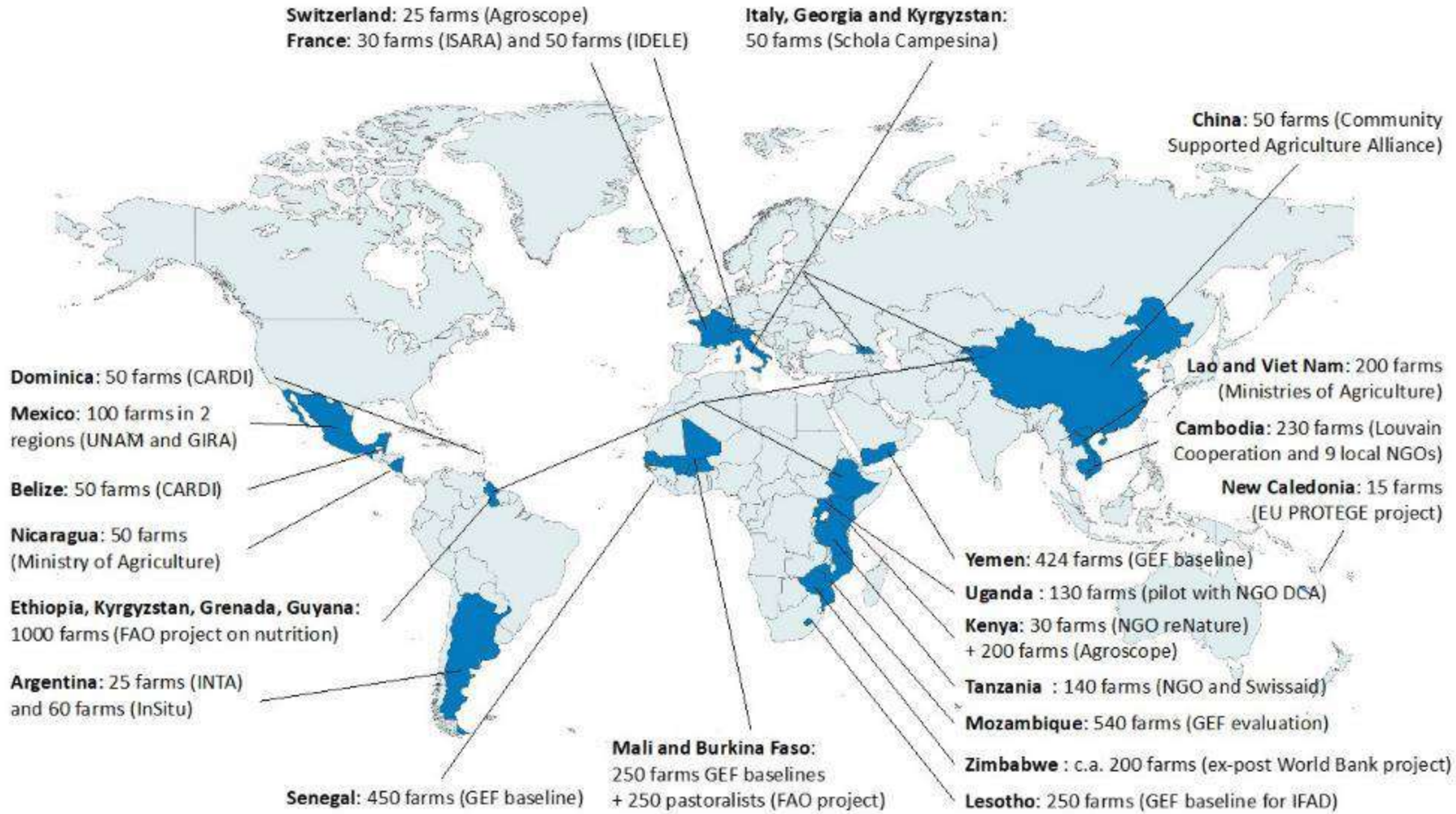


Objectives of TAPE

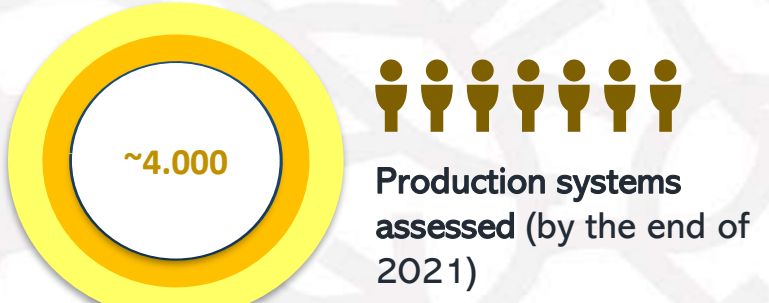
- **To produce global and harmonized evidence** (information and data) on the multi-dimensional performance of agroecological systems in order to inform policy-making and to support the process of transition to Agroecology

The tool can be used by governments, farmers, scientists and extension workers

- **Build knowledge and empower producers** through the collective process of producing data and evidence on their own practices;
- **Support agroecological transitions** at different scales and in different locations by proposing a diagnostic of performances over time and by identifying areas of strengths/weaknesses and enabling/disabling environment;
- **Inform policy makers and development institutions** by creating references on the multi-dimensional performance of Agroecology and its potential to contribute to the SDGs



On going / upcoming pilots in Mongolia, Indonesia, Nepal, Bhutan, Pacific Islands





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Mainstreaming across current and future projects & Building alliances

- ✓ *Sharing Success and learning experiences* of ASEAN countries on policies and institutional mechanisms that efficiently support agroecological transition.
- ✓ Facilitating an inter-countries analysis of these experiences, through partnerships with ASEAN SWGs
- ✓ Facilitating the design of ASEAN guidelines for *policies supporting agroecological transition*

➤ Supported by the Agroecology and Safe Food System Transition (ASSET) Project focusing on the Mekong Region, funded by AFD and the EU, and implemented through a consortium of 27 partners, including FAO (co-facilitating the Advocacy and Policy Dialogue component)



<https://agroecology-coalition.org/>

- “Coalition of the willing” launched during the UN Food System Summit in New York (Sept 2021)
- Aim at accelerating the transformation of food systems through agroecology, guided by the 13 principles of agroecology defined by the High Level Panel of Experts (HLPE) of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) that are aligned with the 10 Elements of Agroecology adopted by FAO Members
- The Coalition will support the implementation of country pathways for food system transformation through agroecology in three areas:
 - Co-creation and exchange of knowledge
 - Seeking increased investments in agroecology
 - Seeking political engagement and increased commitment to the agroecological transformation
- As of July 2022, coalition members include 40 countries (including Cambodia, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam in Asia Pacific) and 80+ organizations, including farmers' organizations; Research organizations; indigenous peoples' organizations; United Nations organizations; Philanthropic organizations; Civil society organizations



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Role of Extension & Advisory Services in promoting Agroecology





Agroecology provides a crucial pathway towards **transition** to agrifood systems that ensure **food and nutrition security, social and economic equity, and sustain the ecosystem** on which all these elements depend.

It relies on a **comprehensive** system centered on **smallholder and family farmers**, building on their collective **knowledge** to identify problems, innovate for specific **ecological and cultural contexts** and develop **long-term solutions** for transformational change.

→ Extension and Advisory Services (EAS) are instrumental in supporting such agroecological transition, but there is a need for **paradigm change**, and to move away from the narrow narrative of increasing food production and commercialization.



To promote agroecology, EAS providers should:

- Adopt a **territorial approach**,
- Provide **wide-ranging advice** on agroecological practices,
- Bridge **modern** science & practice with **traditional** and **local** knowledge,
- Promote horizontal exchanges that **empower producers** to co-create knowledge and identify locally derived and appropriate solutions.

This leads to **integrative farmer-led** and **community-led extension** support programs.

Some areas of cooperation includes:

- Support dissemination & adoption of the **Ten Elements of Agroecology**
- Facilitate **partnering with a broad range of stakeholders** → Agroecology requires diverse expertise & the involvement of diverse ministries & organizations (e.g. environment, social affairs, markets, civil society & grassroots organizations, associations of women, indigenous peoples, etc.)
- Help promoting & using the **Tool for Agroecology Performance Evaluation (TAPE)** to gather field level information (in particular producers' needs & challenges) and to present evidence & entry points for AE's contribution to achieving the SDGs
- Act to move agroecology up the **research agenda** and promote it in **agricultural education curricula**.
- Facilitate **networks & exchanges** among **producers**. Support existing & nascent producer organizations. Develop collaboration in the framework of the **UNDF**



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To go further...

FAO's Agroecology Knowledge Hub

- Constantly updated with FAO and external content
- Publication of resources, experiences and events on agroecology
- Agroecology monthly newsletter
- Databases on agroecology:
 - **AgroecologyLex** - Selection from FAOLEX Database on country legislation, agreements and policies on agroecology
 - **Agroecology Knowledge Hub database** - Repository of publications, articles, courses and multimedia resources on Agroecology

<http://www.fao.org/agroecology>



Community of Practices on Family Farming & Agroecology



- Platform for farmers' organizations, cooperatives, civil society organizations, research centres, NGOs, policymakers, decision-makers and the private sector working in family farming & agroecology
- Common goal of identifying opportunities and gaps to promote a shift towards sustainable food systems
- Exchanges information and ideas on family farming and agroecology best practices, projects, lessons learned, initiatives, programmes, public policies, etc.



The screenshot shows the website for the Community of Practices on Family Farming & Agroecology. The URL in the browser is dgroups.org/fao/familyfarming. The page title is "Family Farming & Agroecology" and the navigation menu includes "Home", "Discussions", "Library", and "Calendar". A central image shows a brown donkey with a white saddlebag standing in a green field. Below the image, the text reads: "Welcome to the Family Farming & Agroecology Community of Practice (CoP)". The main content area contains a welcome message and a list of the community's goals and activities.

Welcome to the Family Farming & Agroecology Community of Practice (CoP)

The Family Farming & Agroecology Community of Practice (CoP) provides a platform for farmers' organizations, cooperatives, civil society organizations, research centres, NGOs, policymakers, decision-makers and the private sector working in family farming and agroecology with the common goal of identifying opportunities and gaps to promote a shift towards sustainable food systems.

This community exchanges information and ideas on family farming & agroecology best practices, projects, lessons learned, initiatives, programmes, public policies, etc. It is an open platform with moderated management.

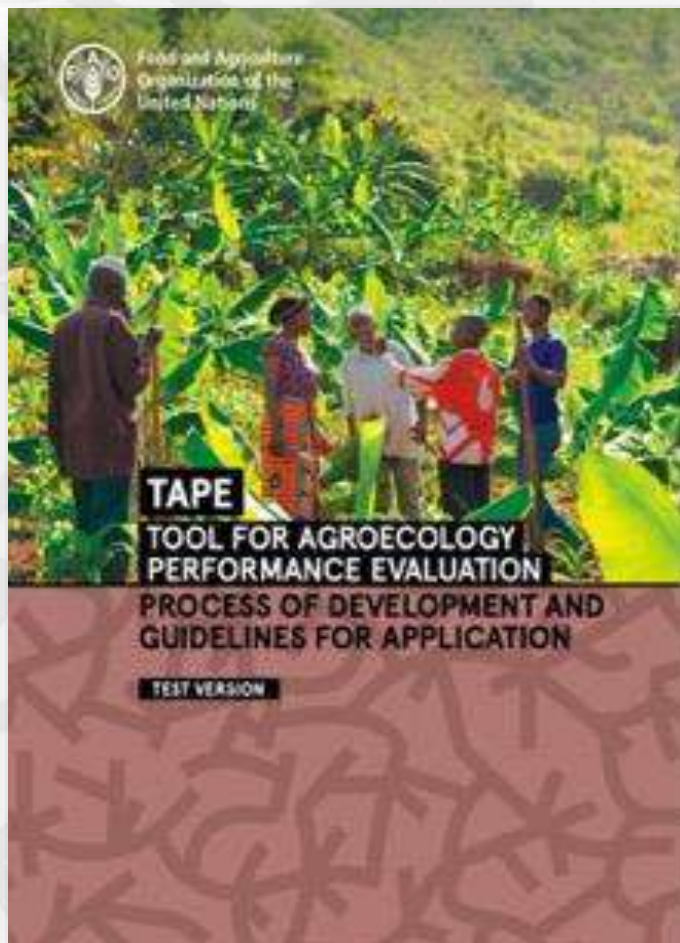
The community serves to:

- Share and co-create knowledge among stakeholders, with a particular focus on successful agricultural technologies and innovations, best practices and case studies on family farming and agroecology (in areas such as crop production, livestock production, fisheries and aquaculture, forestry, post-harvest and marketing, natural resource management, nutrition and food security, capacity development, climate change and disaster risk reduction);
- Systematize practices and technologies to make them available to a wider audience through the Family Farming Knowledge Platform (FFKP) and the Agroecology Knowledge Hub (AKH);
- Foster knowledge and information dissemination for concrete actions and policy-making in support of family farming and agroecology;
- Encourage sharing and collaboration between practitioners;
- Disseminate information on events and other opportunities related to family farming and agroecology;
- Provide support to deal with shared challenges in family farming and agroecology-related issues;
- Support collective efforts to influence relevant policy areas; and
- Promote family farming and agroecology.

<https://dgroups.org/fao/familyfarming>



TAPE



- How it works
- Partners

Tool for Agroecology Performance Evaluation (TAPE)

There is an increasing amount of evidence showing the positive impacts of agroecology on the environment, on biodiversity, on farmers' incomes, on resilience, and on adaptation and mitigation to climate change. However, these results often remain fragmented in case studies, isolated experiences or field observations, usually based on heterogeneous methods and data as well as differing scales and timeframes.

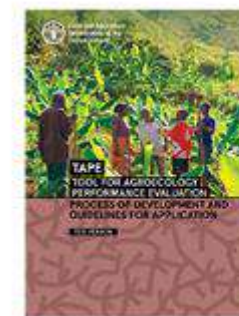
The need for harmonized evidence on agroecology was a systematic recommendation from the various global and regional consultations on agroecology organized by FAO between 2014 and 2018, and specifically requested by FAO governing bodies in 2018. To respond to these mandates, FAO and a large number of partners have developed the **Tool for Agroecology Performance Evaluation (TAPE)**.

Based on various existing assessment frameworks, TAPE is a comprehensive tool that aims to measure the multi-dimensional performance of agroecological systems across the different dimensions of sustainability. It applies a stepwise approach at the household/farm level but it also collects information and provides results at a community and territorial scale. The tool was designed to remain simple and to

WOULD YOU LIKE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT TAPE?

Click here to send a request and you will be contacted by our team.

Publications



TAPE – Process of development and guidelines for application





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Thank you for your attention!

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