



The Agroecology TPP DIALOGUES

FORESIGHT FOR THE TRANSFORMATION OF AGRIFOOD SYSTEMS THROUGH AGROECOLOGY

Key insights from a global stocktaking
and 2 participatory foresight exercises in India and Senegal

July 11, 2024

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Background



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



Can policy makers make real
transformative decisions if
they are presented the usual
options?



Foresight to anticipate and invent one or several futures :

- Interdisciplinarity
- Collaborative and participatory
- Problem-solving orientation :
- Innovation
- Impact and application



Two components

Output 1. A global review on the use of foresight tools to support policies for food systems transformation through agroecology.

Output 2.

Andhra Pradesh: Foresight with AgroEco2050 → translating results into policy recommendations.

Senegal: Foresight of AgroEco2050 + other participatory tools.

OBJECTIVE

Strengthen the role of foresight to support transitions to sustainable agrifood systems through agroecology



Agroecology TPP

Agroecology Transformative Partnership Platform

How science was done differently in the project? THE PROCESS

Interdisciplinarity, collaboration, attention to expectations and commitments of all project partners, innovation, impact

For the global guidance process

- Corpus of 16 foresight exercises. Thorough interdisciplinary and rigorous analysis (March – Sept 2022).
- Intense and participatory debates of results and report in workshops (2023-2024)
- Bringing together the agroecology and foresight communities.

In Anda Pradesh and Senegal

- **Models shifted from “truth machines” to “learning machines” :**
 1. Scenarios built by multi-stakeholder group with debates on values and political choices;
 2. Modelling dedicated to the analysis of plausibility and consistency of the desired (and undesired) futures.
- **Stakeholders intellectually and emotionally involved**, in order to crystallize into **effective action**.



How science was done differently in the project? THE CONTENT

All 5 levels of AE should be included

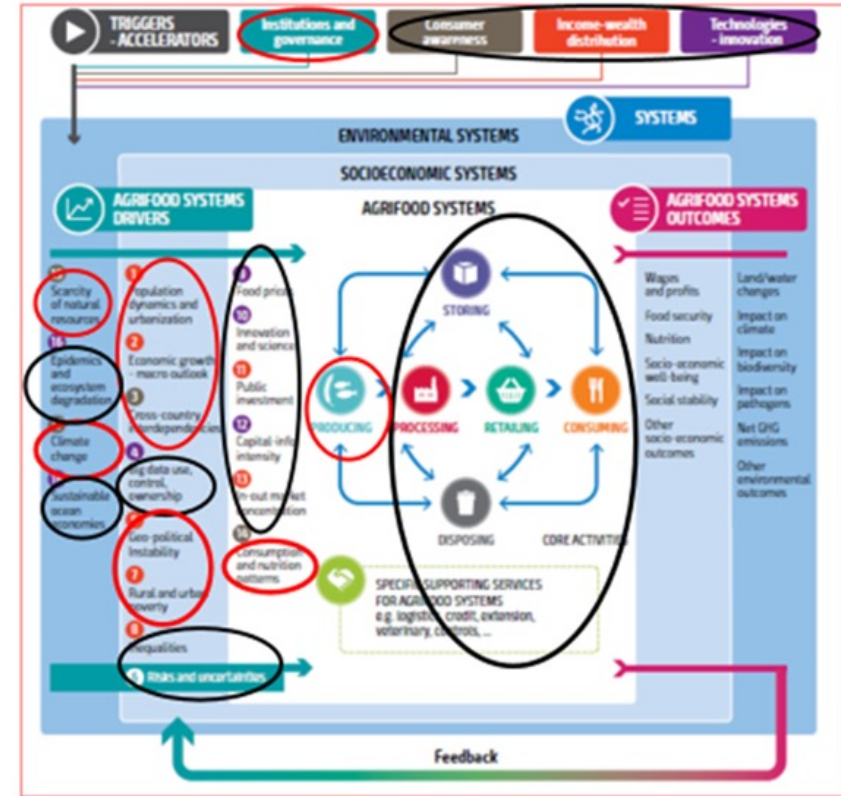
Several scenarios with AE and powerful and imaginative representations of the future

Key stocktaking learnings

- Insufficient information by commissioners and funders about foresight and AE.
- Mainly from the Global North.
- Too much attention to availability
- Not enough attention to whole agrifood system as well as employment, stability, food prices, GHG emissions, pathogens, water use, territorial balance equity.
- Not enough attention to scales' interactions
- Rapidity but also inertia
- Need more articulation of qualitative and quantitative methods

Drivers often
considered

Drivers
rarely
considered



The Agroecology TPP
DIALOGUES

How science was done differently in the project? THE CONTENT

New metrics, more and better quality data, and lens are needed for agroecology!
Also ethics of participation and deliberation.

	Agroindustrial lens → BaU models	Agroecology lens → Agribiom model
Economic	Enlarging farm size drives profit in industrial agriculture <i>Substitution of labour by machineries, economies of scale through specialisation</i>	Enlarging farm size cannot be a driver in most developing countries <i>Population growth, land constraints, lower opportunity to emigrate, "jobless growth"...</i>
Social	Towards a world without agriculture/farmers <i>In the long run, people do not work but are fed and entertained by robots/AI</i>	Towards a world with many but wealthy small farmers. <i>Cultivating and harvesting nature with many environmental & health services</i>
Technology	Uniform systems <i>Maximizing yields of few monocultures with industrial inputs (irrigation, seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, AI...)</i>	Highly-diversified systems <i>Maximizing overall productivity with dense poly-cropping and local technologies/inputs/brains</i>



Integration of Transdisciplinary Framework

Characteristics	Results in projects
Integration of disciplines	High level in 2 components of project as well as in foresight processes studied. Foresight is interdisciplinary by nature
Collaboration	High level in project : interactions with foresight projects managers, workshops, webinars Varied in foresight projects but high level in some projects : with farmers and policy makers
Problem solving orientation	High in project → preparation of guidance document, new scenario and model Varied in foresight projects but high in some (e.g. AgroEco2050 India, Afterres, Agrimonde-Terra Tunisia, TYFA, Fatick, Niayes)
Innovation	Good in project : corpus, comparison, interactions, Agribiom Growing interactions between qualitative and quantitative methods → foresight as a learning machine
Impact and application	Future with “conventional” / “input-intensive” / “industrial” food systems is not desirable. Future with AE is desirable but not without tensions.





Thank you



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