



## The Metrics Project



*Working together to measure what matters effectively, efficiently and holistically*

### 1 Levelling the playing field

The Metrics project aims to support agroecological transitions through the development and adoption of holistic metrics and assessments for food and agricultural systems performance. A key challenge to up-scaling agroecology is providing policymakers, donors, development actors and farmers with ways of measuring performance that allow for fair comparison with alternatives. Current metrics of agri-food system performance often fail to capture environmental, social, and livelihood impacts. To address this gap, the Metrics project has four main activities: 1) a systematic review; 2) a meta-framework, 3) a metrics database, and 4) engaging metrics users to co-develop and road-test project outputs.

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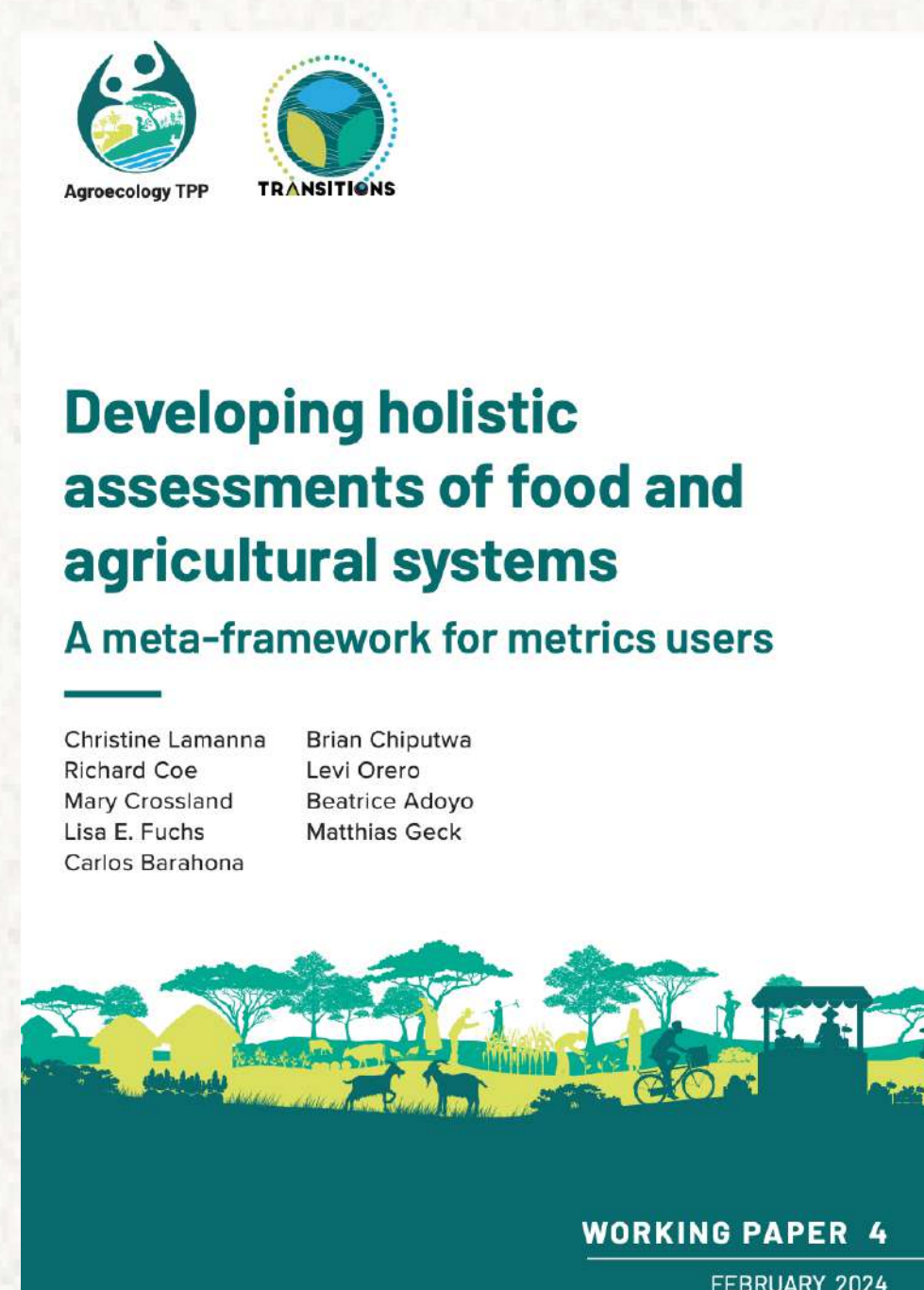
### Meta-framework for developing holistic assessments

*How can we navigate the jungle of existing frameworks and metrics?*

Given the number of existing frameworks and assessment tools, do we need yet another? Under the Metrics project, we are taking a different approach and have developed a 'meta-framework'. This framework presents design principles and step-wise guidance on how to develop your own holistic assessment based on your specific objectives, needs and resources.

You can find the working paper on our meta-framework at:

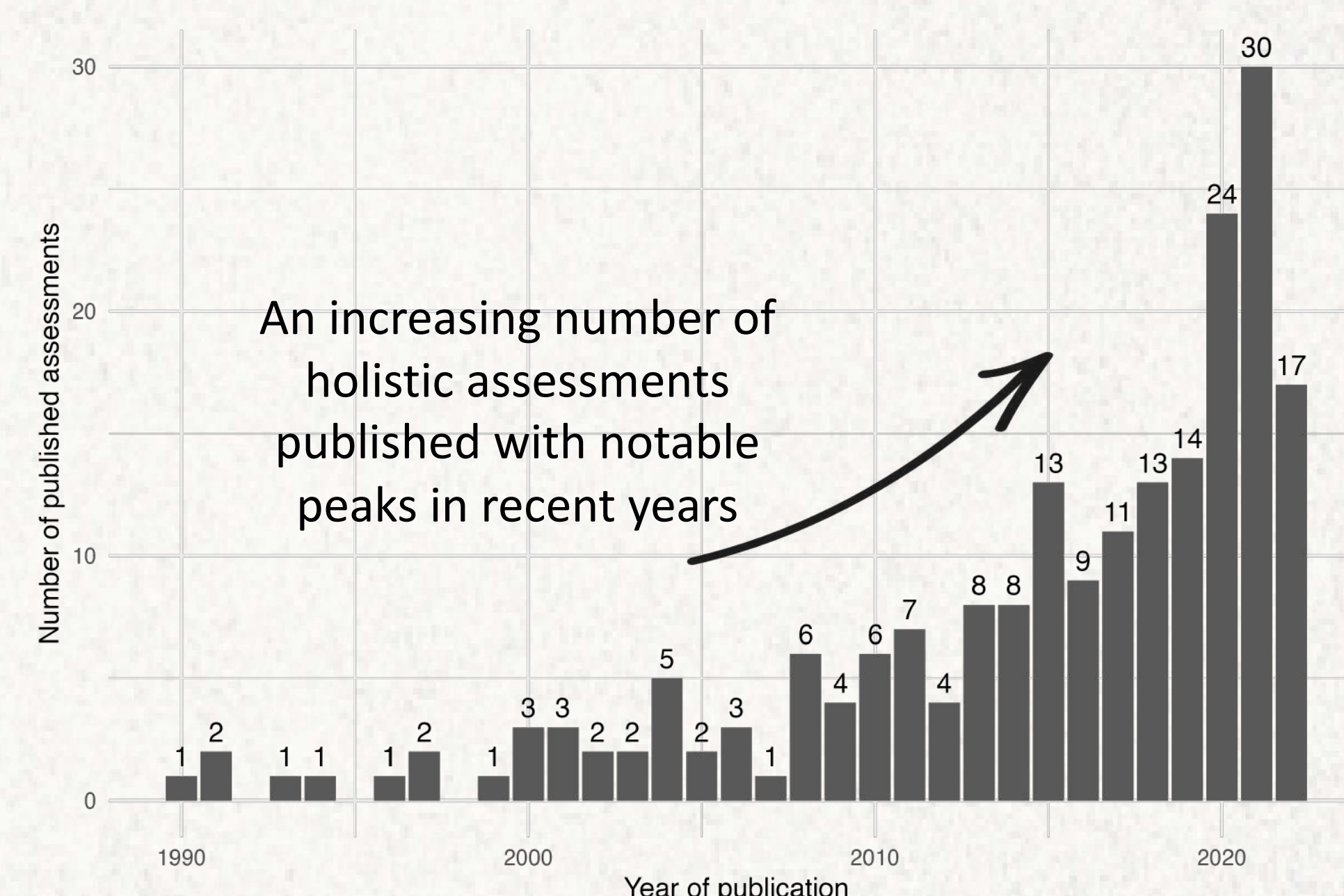
<http://doi.org/10.17528/cifor-icraf/009081>



### Review of holistic systems assessments and metrics

*To what extent do current assessments and metrics capture the holistic performance of agri-food systems?*

We have reviewed over 200 existing holistic assessments. We see huge diversity in the dimensions, themes and metrics used. Most focus on the farm scale; few look at the food system scale. Many emphasise the importance of interactions between metrics yet rely on composite indices and radar diagrams, hiding this complexity. Most are one-off snapshots; few look at system changes over time or emergent system properties.

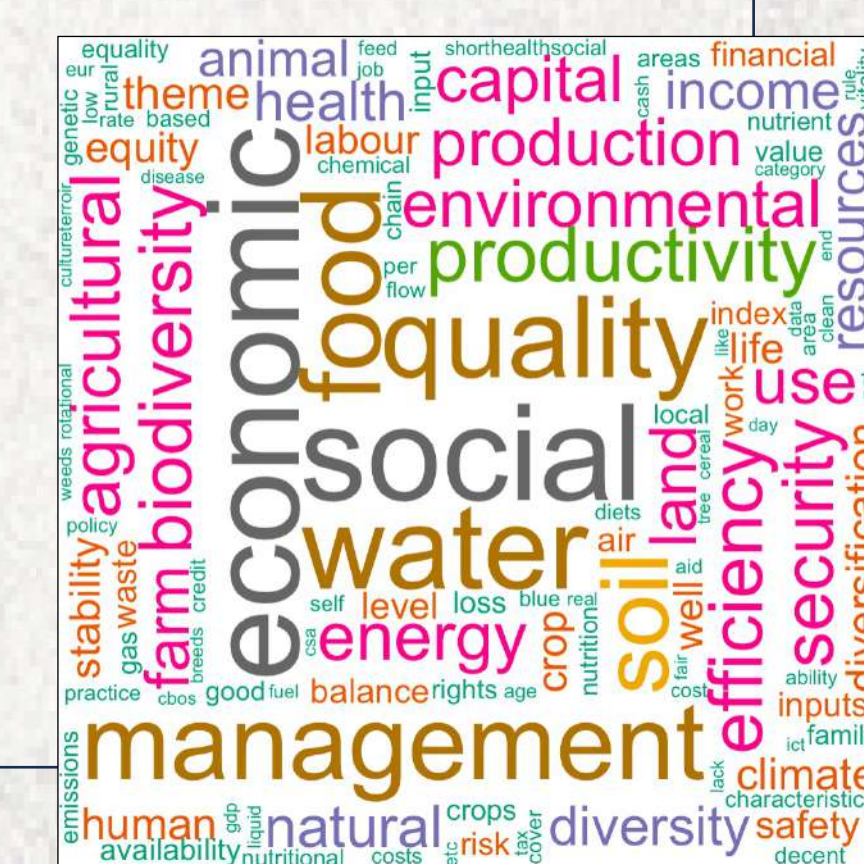


### Metrics library

To help support people in selecting metrics, we are working with Stats4SD to develop an online database of metrics. The aim is a one-stop-shop for people looking for metrics to be able to view, explore and select the right metrics for their needs based on their goals, constraints, and context. Users will be able to navigate the library by reflecting on aspects such as:

What do you want to **understand**?  
What are your **practical constraints**?  
What is your **scale of focus**?  
What is your **context**?

**Stats4SD**



All co-developed and road-tested with metrics users across eight countries

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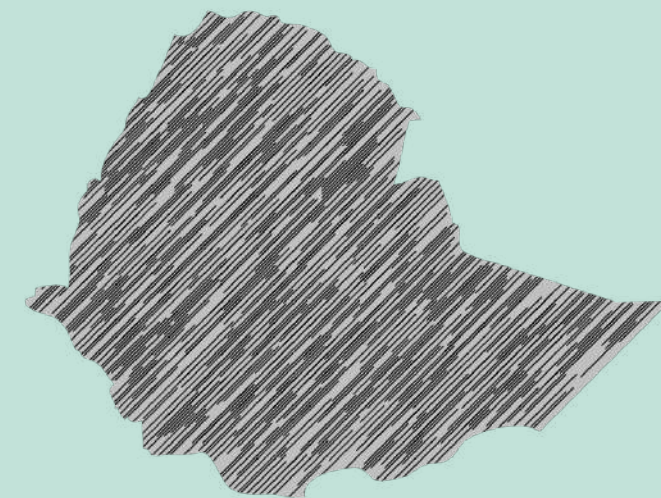
Kenya



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Investing in rural people



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