



The Agroecology TPP DIALOGUES

Holistic Performance Measurement for Food Systems Transformation

Lessons learned from a scoping study in Burkina Faso, Ghana, and Tunisia

17th December 2024

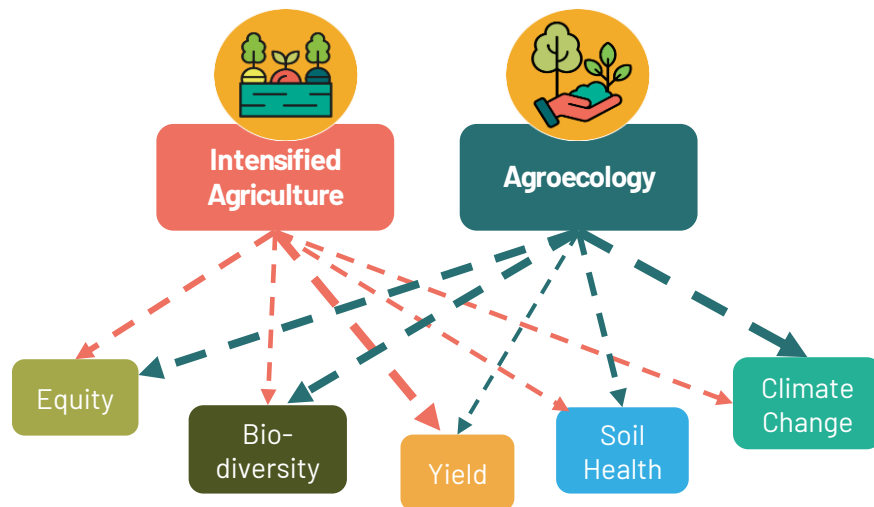


Levelling the playing field

A key challenge to up-scaling agroecology is providing policymakers, donors, development actors and farmers with ways of measuring performance that **allow fair comparison** with alternatives.

Agri-food systems are complex, measuring them isn't easy.

Dominant practice has been to **measure a narrow set of metrics** focusing on economic performance and productivity.



But agroecological systems provide environmental and social benefits, not only economic ones!



The Scoping Study

Aimed to identify barriers and opportunities for assessing agroecological performance and explore how investing in the development of more holistic assessment can support transitions.

- Identify **key actors supporting agroecological transformation** and potential partnerships for advancing the field of agroecology.
- Evaluate their **experiences, interests, and needs** regarding holistic assessments, and identify common **barriers and opportunities**.
- **Review existing metrics**, tools and assessment approaches and identify priority areas for **future research and development**.

Ghana – Burkina Faso – Tunisia

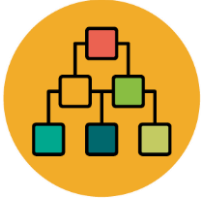
Desk review
& stakeholder
mapping

In-depth
interviews

Engagement
Workshops



What we found



Important to have a clear vision and understanding of agroecology. Yet there is **multiplicity of concepts, definitions and overlap**, which can bring confusion - a challenge for developing globally applicable standardised set of metrics and for communicating agroecology in simple terms and in local languages.



A coordinated approach is needed to **harmonise metrics while allowing for context-specific adaptations**. Donor requirements often dictate which metrics are used, leading to inconsistencies across projects.



A lack of capacity & expertise to collect data. Strong demand for training and **development of practical guidance** on holistic assessment and best practice.



What we found



Need for diverse, cross-sectoral collaboration and a food systems approach that **go beyond production and consumption** to include processing and distribution, which currently receive less attention.



Actors (especially researchers) are collecting data and have relevant methods & tools, but communication and dissemination is lacking. **Need platforms for sharing knowledge** and leveraging each other's experiences (e.g. with different tools, such as TAPE & HOLPA).



Challenges in measuring key agroecological principles. The least measured principles were equity, social values & diets, connectivity, recycling and synergies due to **lack of appropriate metrics, tools and knowledge** on how to measure such aspects.



Key takeaways

- Embrace a **plurality of definitions** and frameworks
- Harmonise metrics while allowing for **context-specific adaptations**
- Strengthen capacity and **develop guidance** for holistic assessment
- Build **platforms and communities** for sharing knowledge
- Develop easy to use metrics and **tools for the 'hard to measure'**





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