



Event

18 March, Brussels

How can the nature-based solutions approach help build sustainable food systems?

Organised by





Network
Nature

Welcome and objectives

Evelyn Underwood, IEEP



Agenda



10:50-11:00	Introduction to IUCN global NbS standard – Tommaso Demozzi, IUCN
11:00-12:00	NbS and Sustainable Farming and Food Systems: how to measure and demonstrate public benefits
12:00-13:00	Breakout discussions featuring project results: Methods and tools to assess progress across nature, society and economy

Networking lunch

14:00-15:00	NbS and Sustainable Farming and Food Systems: how to achieve sustainability and public benefits for nature, society and economy Agricultural organisations, companies and NbS projects present approaches
15:00-16:00	Policy panel – What can policy do to strengthen the benefits from sustainable food systems?
16:00-16:30	Conclusions, messages from the breakout discussions, and closing



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Introduction to IUCN Global NbS Standard

**Tommaso Demozzi, Biodiversity
Policy officer, IUCN**





NbS and Sustainable farming and Food systems: how to measure and demonstrate public benefits?

Focus on a selection of tools and methods





Public Goods Tool

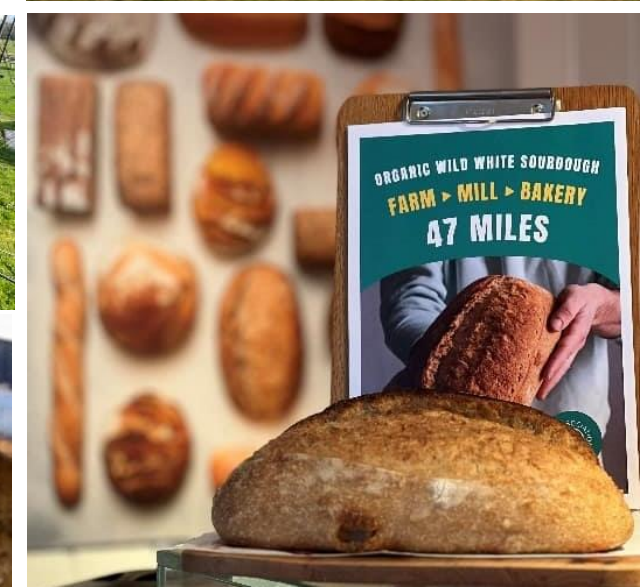
Christian Gossell, Organic
Research Centre





Public Goods Tool

Christian Gossel



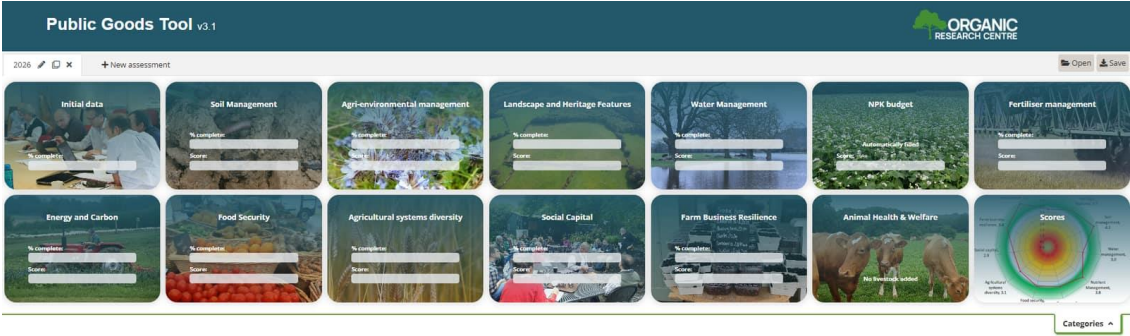
History



- Originally developed in 2011 by ORC for Natural England.
- Holistic farm sustainability assessments for quantifying the success of Organic Entry Level Stewardship (OELS) schemes.
- 12 areas of sustainability assessed through questions, filled out either by the farmer themselves or alongside a researcher.
- Various iterations since:
 - 388 farms across 13 countries
 - 11 EU projects, 7 UK projects, and 6 PhDs
- Open source and publicly available:

<https://www.organicresearchcentre.com/PG-Tool/>

Further development



Public Goods Tool v3.1

The PGTool offers a whole-farm sustainability assessment. Further details about the PG Tool can be found at the [Organic Research Centre website](#).
 A user guide for the PG Tool is available [here](#).
 Compulsory questions are marked with a *
 Answer fields that are greyed out are automatically filled in.
 Further information can be found by clicking on the ⓘ next to the questions.



Re-Livestock
 RESILIENT FARMING SYSTEMS



REFOREST





Ideal Framework for Food and Biodiversity

Annekathrin Vogel, Project
Manager, Bodensee Stiftung
(Lake Constance
Foundation)





Ideal Framework for Food and Biodiversity

An orientation for standards and companies to include very good biodiversity criteria into their checklists and sourcing rules

Annekathrin Vogel
Lake Constance Foundation

Brussels, 18.03.2026

@Circhive

circhive.eu

CircHive project

... is a Horizon Europe project **supporting businesses** and the public sector make more informed **decisions that protect ecosystems, enhance biodiversity and unlock new opportunities** for society and businesses.

... examines **biodiversity footprinting** and **natural capital accounting** with its data needs in a scientific and in a practical way!

Further
information:

<https://circhive.eu/>

Join the beehive!



@Circhive

circhive.eu

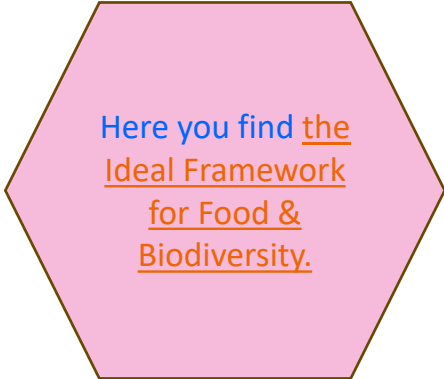


This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 101082081

What is the Ideal Framework?

The ideal framework for food & biodiversity

- ❖ is a **catalogue of criteria** for a very good **biodiversity management**
- ❖ **provides an orientation** on how an ideal certification system should look like to effectively contribute to the protection, management and enhancement of biodiversity
- ❖ **supports standards and companies** in developing or improving their own sound check lists of criteria for boosting biodiversity
- ❖ includes synergies and indicators

A pink hexagon with a thin brown border, containing text.

Here you find [the Ideal Framework for Food & Biodiversity.](#)

Elaboration of the Ideal Framework

Screening of 14 food & 6 textile standards:

- Screening of standard policy
- Screening of standard criteria
- Recommendations for improvements

Identification of ambitious policy elements and "good" criteria

Good = effective, transparent, verifiable =
Input into Ideal Framework

Elaboration of "ideal" criteria by the team

for aspects where no good criteria was found

Recommendations for food companies, retailers and importers

Feedback from standard organisations:

- Individual recommendations
- Draft Ideal Framework

4 workshops with standard organisations

to discuss the proposed criteria for the IF;
consideration of comments

Current Ideal Framework V.1

Living document
Revision planned by 2026/27



Structure of the Ideal Framework

Ideal Framework for the POLICY of a standard

- 1 Definition of terms
- 2 **Focus** biodiversity – addressing all main aspects of biodiversity
- 3 **No-net-loss approach**
- 4 **scope**
- 5 Influence regarding **legal regulations** and requirements relating to product quality
- 6 **Reduction of pesticides**
- 7 **Ban of GMOs**
- 8 Protection and promotion of **agro-biodiversity**
- 9 **Monitoring**
- 10 **Continuous improvement**
- 11 **Ensure quality** of biodiversity protection
- 12 **Training** in the field of biodiversity for certifiers, advisors and certified farms & companies
- 13 **Communication** and awareness raising

Where to find the Ideal Framework for food and biodiversity:

https://www.bodensee-stiftung.org/wp-content/uploads/CircHiveIdealFrameworkFoodSector_V1-1.xlsx

Structure of the Ideal Framework

Chapter 1 – Ecosystems

- Protected Areas / HCV-Areas
- No-Go areas
- Risk analysis including biodiversity and climate change
- Biodiversity Management
- Biodiversity Management Plan – including baseline assessment
- Monitoring of Biodiversity Management (Plan)
- Cut-off date for conversion of ecosystems
- Protection of terrestrial ecosystems
- Protection /Restoration of aquatic ecosystems
- Protection /restoration of ecosystems beyond the production area

Chapter 2 - Overexploitation of natural resources

- Pesticides Use / Pesticides Management / Negative List
- Integrated Pest Management
- Promotion of use of beneficial species and biological substances
- Preventing overexploitation of water sources
- Livestock and livestock density
- Fodder Autonomy and GMO

Structure of the Ideal Framework

Chapter 3 – Contamination

- Waste Management
- Waste Water Management
- Adaptation to climate change
- Avoidance/ Reduction of Plastic / Micro plastic
- Air pollution

Chapter 5 - Cross cutting

- Training for managers
- Training on agroecological practises
- Training for staff
- Support of local /regional conservation projects
- Assessment of negative impacts on affected local communities

Chapter 4 - Species protection

- Protected /endangered species
- Protection /Enhancement of not protected species
- Collection of wild species
- Avoidance /Control of invasive species
- Genetic Diversity
- Agro-Biodiversity (traditional varieties of crops and breeds)
- Support of conservation projects

Support to Nature-based Solutions

addressing Criterion 3 of the Global Standard of NbS:

- ❖ 3.1: state of ecosystems and drivers for losses are identified
 - ❖ 3.2: to enhance ecosystem integrity, including connectivity
 - ❖ 3.3: measurable biodiversity outcomes are identified
 - ❖ (3.4: assess and address unintended consequences)
-
- ❖ Relations mentioned to criterion 1 and 7.

Next steps:

- Inclusion of Biodiversity footprinting & Natural Capital Accounting criteria in certification schemes
- Publication on very good criteria for textile standards
- Mainstreaming the recommended criteria!!



Thank you
for your
attention!



Contact:

Annekathrin.Vogel@bodensee-Stiftung.org

[Link to the Ideal Framework Food & Biodiversity](#)

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circhive.eu



Reforest Financial Scheme for agroforestry

Christine de Visser, Reforest Horizon project





REFOREST



EMEA–Reforest Financing Scheme

Tiago Zibecchi, Researcher

Christine de Visser, Project Manager



Funded by the
European Union

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under grant agreement No. 101060635 (REFOREST). Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Research Executive Agency (REA). Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

Christine de Visser, Project Manager

Improves the bankability of Agroforestry Project

The Real Cost Benefit Analysis

HOW?

Enhance access to Finance

AF sector faces a structural financing gap

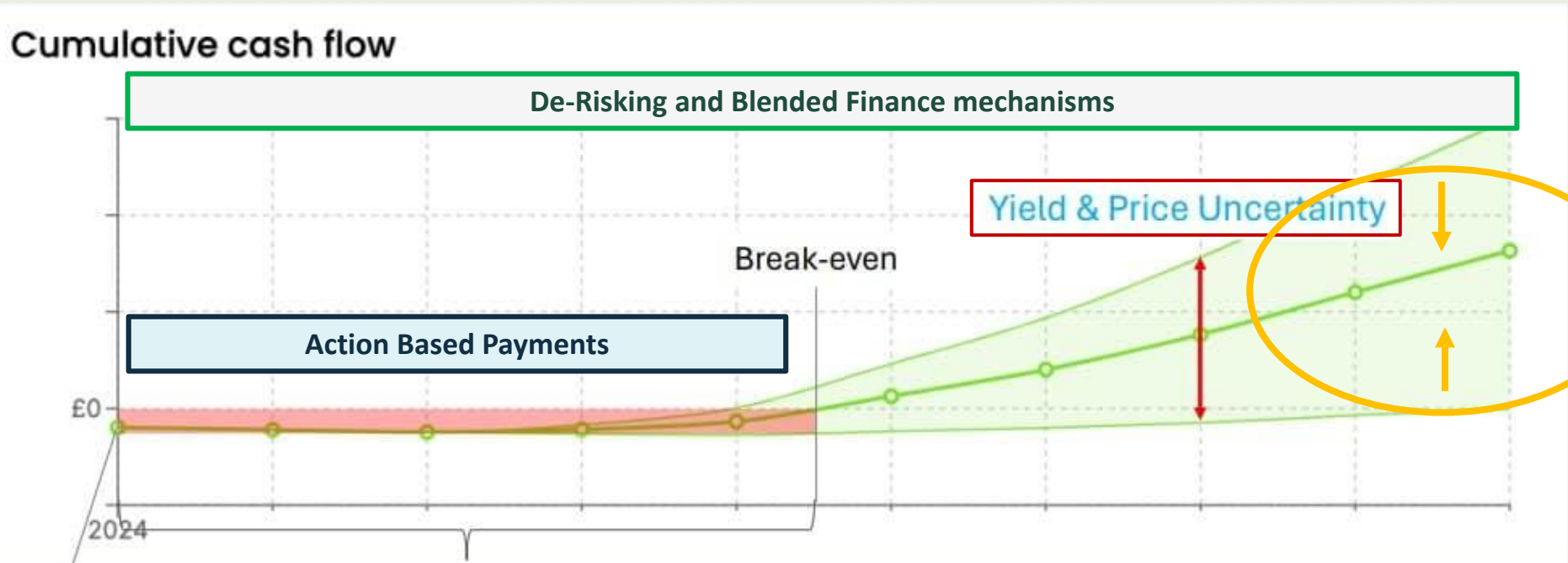
1

3

2

4

Profile of a typical agroforestry system



Ex-Ante Payment

5-20 years (no revenue & maintenance costs)

Initial investment
(trees, planting etc)

Hybrid - Results Based Payments

Advisory Service

Deep Roots

HOW?

WHO SHOULD PAY

REDUCE COSTS

- Integrates the financial impact of being insured
- Regenerative practices reduce costs and dependency of fertilisers, pesticides, etc
- Administrative costs (advisory support) / Efficiency from Digital Tools use
- Reduced costs of Finance (guarantee, blended Finance mechanisms)

INCREASE REVENUE

- Diversified income (tree products)
- Enhance yield due to better Soil => Regulating Ecosystem services taken into account in the model
- Public Ecosystem Services (Provisioning) / Carbon / Nature Credits
- Market integration (Premium Price, Labels,..) – demand side

INCREASED FARM VALUE

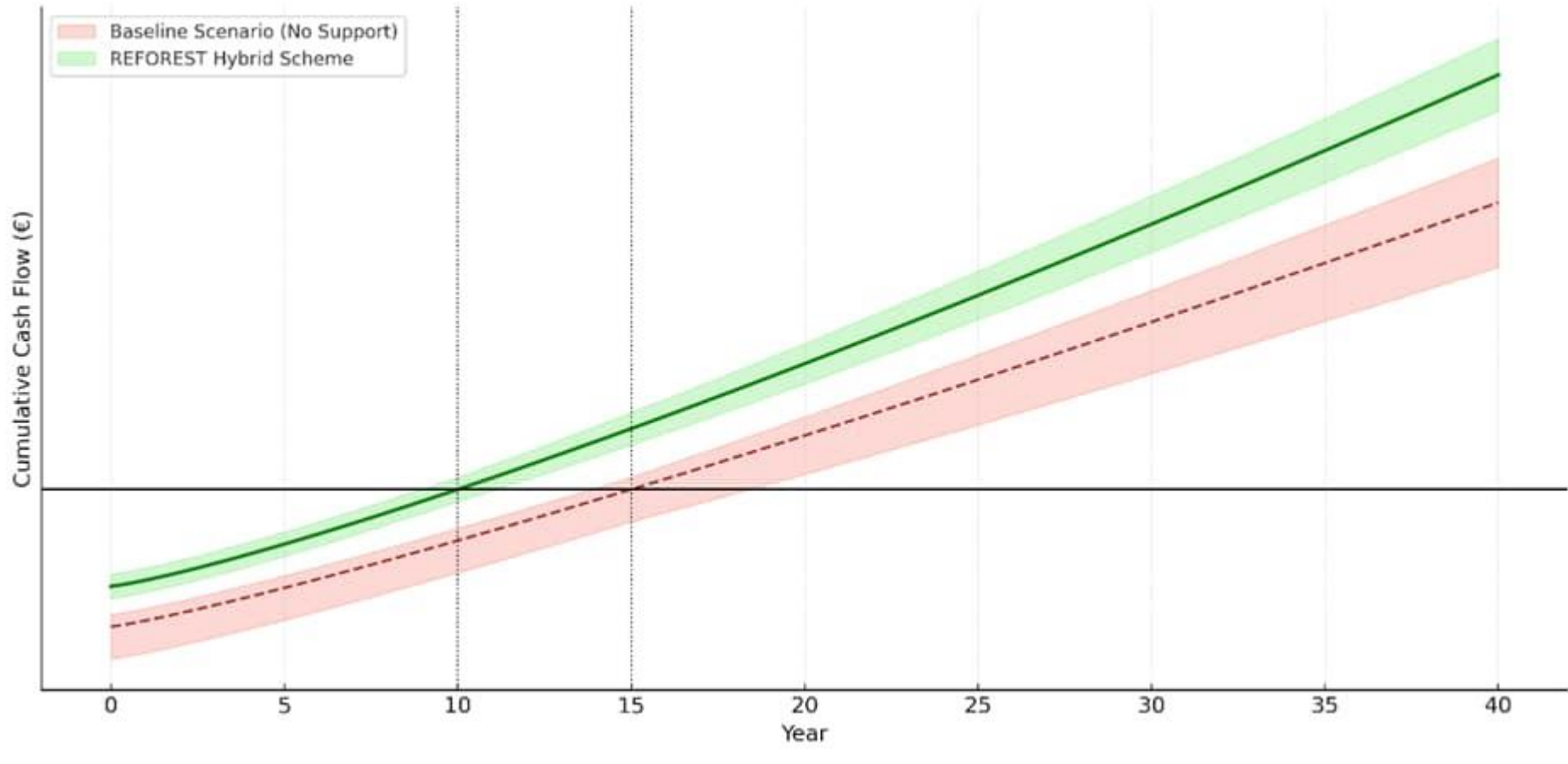
- The model quantifies the increased value of the farm due to Sustainable Land Management Practices => AGROFORESTRY

We are currently working with the University of Bonn to quantify the Scheme on their support management platform

COMMON GOOD –
Should be compensated by Public institutions OR Offset by private sectors in transparent framework

Enhance bankability

Cumulative Cash Flow Projection – Baseline vs. ReForest Scheme



Note: The FarmTree tool supports the design of agroforestry projects by modeling long-term costs, revenues, and ecosystem service benefits across various tree–crop–livestock combinations. It uses ReForest farm-level input data, such as tree species, crop rotation, planting density, yield forecasts, labor costs, and maintenance schedules, to simulate annual cash flows over a multi-decade horizon. The tool applies time-phased cost and revenue curves that reflect the biological growth cycles of perennial systems and integrates assumptions about market prices, discount rates, and subsidy schemes. Scenario analysis allows comparison between conventional systems and agroforestry alternatives, making it easier for users to assess investment feasibility, break-even points, and long-term profitability under varying policy and market conditions.

Thank you for your attention!



 **REFOREST** 

Upscaling Agroforestry in Europe – Policy Dialogues on **Regulation** and **Finance**

Organised by: the Euro-Mediterranean Economists Association

  **26 March 2026**  **Funded by the European Union**  **UK Research and Innovation** **Hosted by:** 



- Members Newsfeed
- Community
- Working Groups
- Knowledge Hub
- Data Visualisation
- Calendar of events



AN ENGAGEMENT PLATFORM FOR AGROFORESTRY ENTHUSIASTS TO COLLABORATE, CO-CREATE, AND SHARE KNOWLEDGE

The ReForest Engagement Platform is a virtual hub for agroforestry enthusiasts to collaborate, share solutions and needs, and drive the adoption of sustainable land management practices across the entire value chain.

Developed under the ReForest Horizon Europe project, the platform provides farmers, researchers, policymakers, and advisors with access to knowledge, decision-support tools, and opportunities to promote sustainable land management practices.



**+230
Members**

**Forum &
Networking**

**7 Working
Groups**

**Repository of
Knowledge on
Agroforestry**

Why join the ReForest Platform?



Members Newsfeed



Meet The Community



Knowledge

Hey! Is this useful?



A Roadmap towards a nature positive economy

Douwe De Vestele ,Voedsel
Anders – GoNaturePositive!
Horizon Project





A roadmap towards a nature positive economy

Voedsel Anders - 18/03/2025

www.gonaturepositive.eu
info@gonaturepositive.eu



Funded by
the European Union

Guiding Principles to Measure Progress Towards a Nature Positive Economy (NPE)

Outcomes of a NPE

Full recovery of nature



The integrity, connectivity and resilience of all ecosystems are maintained, enhanced, or restored, achieving a net-positive trend towards full recovery

Prosperity for all



Based on the principles of equity, justice, and leaving no one behind, prosperity for all increases as nature recovers

Procedural requirements

Accountability for all guiding principles

Every actor has a role to play

Progress must be measured at all scales

Drive systemic change in sectors most responsible for nature loss

Representation of diverse worldviews and ways of valuing nature

How we get to a NPE

Respecting ecological limits



Reduce pressures from production and consumption to respect planetary boundaries so that we live in harmony with nature

Economic and social transformation



Tackle the drivers and root causes of biodiversity loss, transforming views, structures and practices across political, economic and financial systems so they support nature restoration and social equity

Ensuring a social foundation



Ensure that no one is left falling short on life's essentials, respect international human rights obligations to secure the well-being of present and future generations

Co-creating a roadmap towards a nature positive food system



1. Visioning
1. Baselineing
1. Pathways

Vision: What is a nature positive food system?



GoNaturePositive! **VOEDSEL ANDERS**
GROEIENDE BEWEGING VOOR AGRO-ECOLOGIE

WORKSHOP 1 – Step One (Visioning)

A transformative vision of the future

Vision 2050:
Good food for all

By 2050, everyone has access to healthy, tasty, fair organic food and a healthy environment. These are basic human rights, accessible and affordable for everyone. Farmers are autonomous and independent from powerful actors. They receive a fair income and are supported by an active, conscious and engaged civil society. Nature is restored. Agriculture is circular and based on local food provisioning. We are no longer dependent on large external inputs (energy-wise and resource-wise), and we maintain fair, solidary relations with other countries in the world.

We all live on a shared earth. We realise that collaboration is stronger than competition. Therefore, we collectively bear the costs and responsibility of sustainable, fair food production. Care for good food, the farmer, nature and each other are part of our culture and our daily practices. We feel connected with each other, nature and food.

Farmers are as much producers of food, as caretakers of the landscape. They care for the soil, the water, the air, biodiversity and nature in general. Food waste is in the past. Chemical fertilizers, (organic) pesticides and other chemical inputs are obsolete. Circular agriculture adapts the livestock to the land's capacity. Agriculture is no longer the toy of a profit-driven economy, with unlimited speculation on land and food. We redistribute power, resources, land and profits from a healthy food system in a just way. We embrace different models of ownership. Through cocreative, practice-oriented and independent agricultural education, (future) farmers acquire the necessary knowledge and skills to farm in a nature positive way.

To achieve this vision, we all collaborate, from farmer, over industry, to citizen and policy, within a common framework. Food industry, processing and distribution have a serving role, and facilitate the logistics of the food system. Policy, research, technology and the financial system are also facilitating, not guiding the food system. This vision and the agricultural and food policy is inclusive, and fully respects and incorporates the rights and needs of peasants, explicitly female peasants, Indigenous Peoples, members of the LGBTIQ+ community, (labour)migrants, (climate)refugees, people with diverse skills and backgrounds and people in vulnerable contexts.

Next Steps:

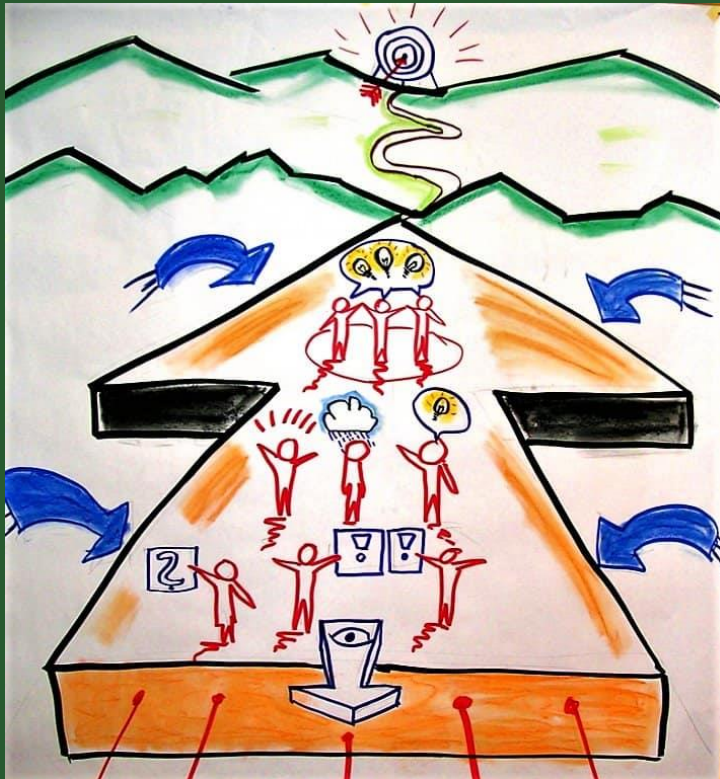
Everyone has a role to play. Our next steps will help each actor to determine what action you can take.

Thank you for your participation and insights!

We welcome any feedback, questions, or suggestions - please feel free to share them at: douwe.devestele@voedsel-anders.be

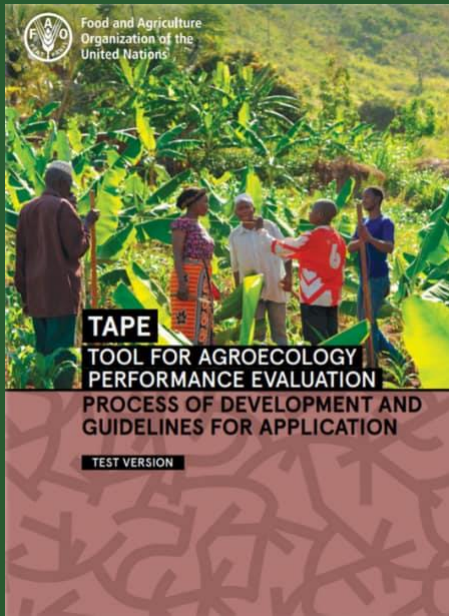
1. Good food and healthy living environment **for all**: accessibility & affordability of organic food and nature
1. **Autonomous farmers with a secured future, supported by active citizens, are stewards of landscapes and nature**
1. **Circular & local, not relying on external inputs**
1. **Redistribution of power, resources, land and profits**
1. **Away from a competitive profit-driven economy, towards solidarity and collaboration**
1. **Systemic approach: links with healthcare, education, housing, justice, international solidarity**

Pathways: priorities



1. Reshaping our food-related paradigms
=> A. Adoption of One Health and systemic thinking in education
1. Reshape our economic paradigms
=> B. Decommodify, true pricing, effective cost calculation
1. Logistical organisation and local connection
=> C. Regional food networks
1. Access to land
=> D. Commonise land, stop speculation

Measuring progress?



Beware:

Good agronomic practices are welcome and needed

BUT: NP food systems should be more than just practices

=> Which indicators?

- Do they make farmers more autonomous?
- Do they eliminate our reliance on inputs?
- Do they challenge power dynamics?
- Do they challenge paradigms?
- Do they challenge economic logic?
- Do they involve citizens?
- Don't they displace problems?
- Are they inclusive?
- Are they co-created?

...

Moeller et al: Measuring agroecology

Table 2. Red flags of the agroecology assessment framework

Red Flag	Definition and Justification
Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs)	Project introduces GMOs and associated genome-editing technologies GMOs are generally considered incompatible with the principles of agroecology from ecological and social perspectives (Altieri, 2005). One of the key concerns is that GMOs are leading to a reduction in biodiversity within production systems. Ad



Participate in the survey



Powered By QuestionPro

www.gonaturepositive.eu
info@gonaturepositive.eu



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Introduction to breakout discussions





Reporting from break out discussions





Networking Lunch

13:00 – 14:00





Network
Nature

NbS and Sustainable Farming and Food Systems: how to achieve sustainability and public benefits for nature, society and economy





Digital tools for assessing agroecology benefits

Stefan Pfeiffner, Senior
Expert Advisor, Austrian
Institute of Technology
GmbH (AIT)

Digital agroecology project
cluster



Science Policy Event
18.03.2026

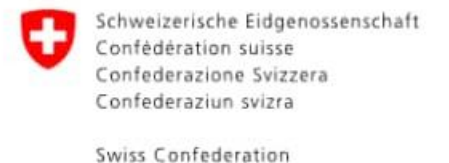


Barriers and Opportunities for digital tools for assessing agroecology benefits



Insights from the Digital Agroecology Cluster

Stefan Pfeiffer, AIT Austrian Institute of Technology, Senior Expert Advisor, PATH2DEA Coordinator





PAving THE way towards Digitalisation Enabling Agroecology

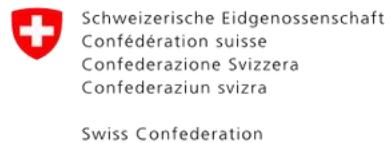
01/2023 – 12/2025



UNIVERSITY OF HOHENHEIM



VEGEPOLYS VALLEY
INTERNATIONAL PLANT CLUSTER



CENTER OF PLANT SCIENCES



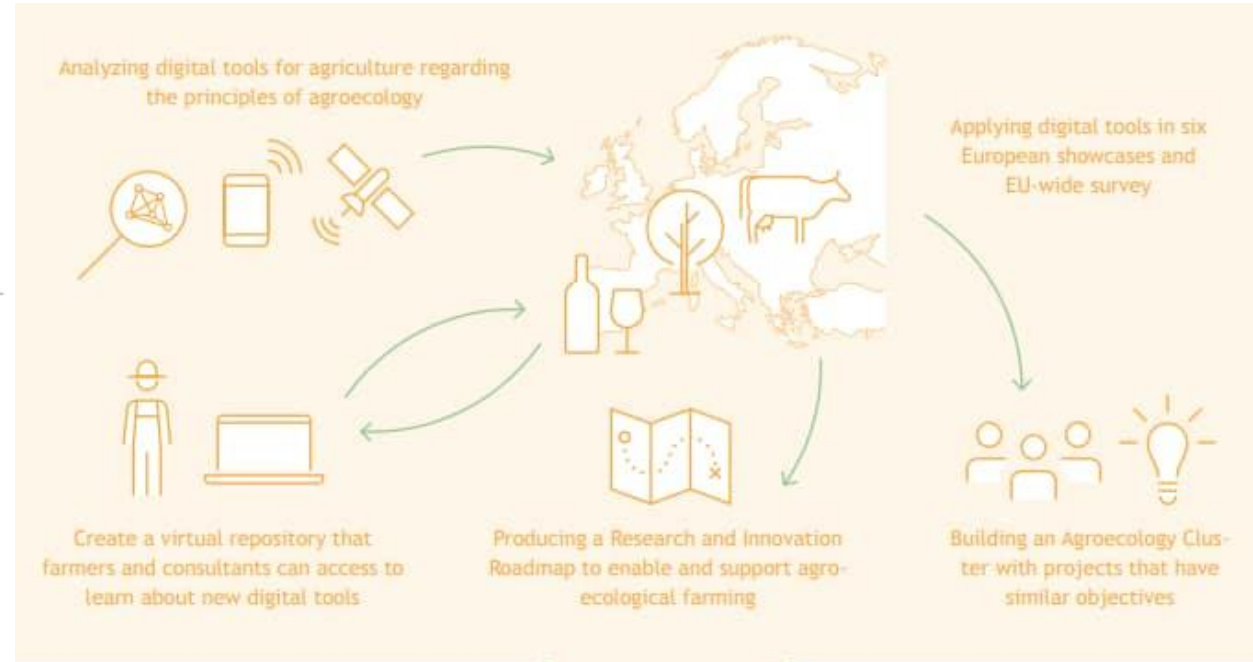
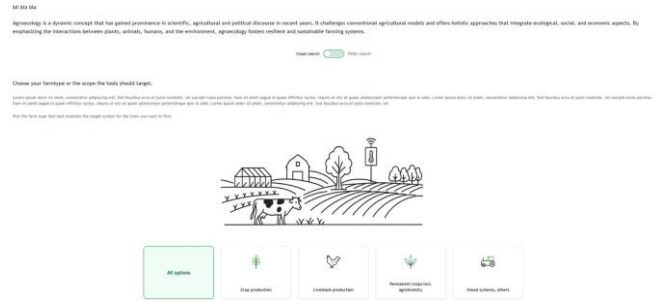
UNIVERSITY OF HOHENHEIM





OPEN REPOSITORY

Search for tools developed based on your individual needs



Results of the project feed into EU policy-making



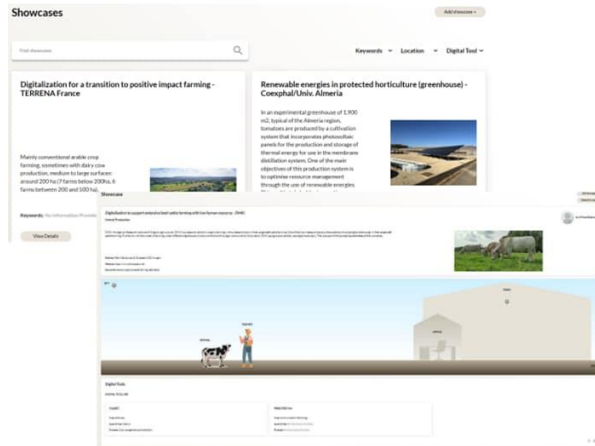
R&I ROADMAP



DIGITAL AGROECOLOGY CLUSTER

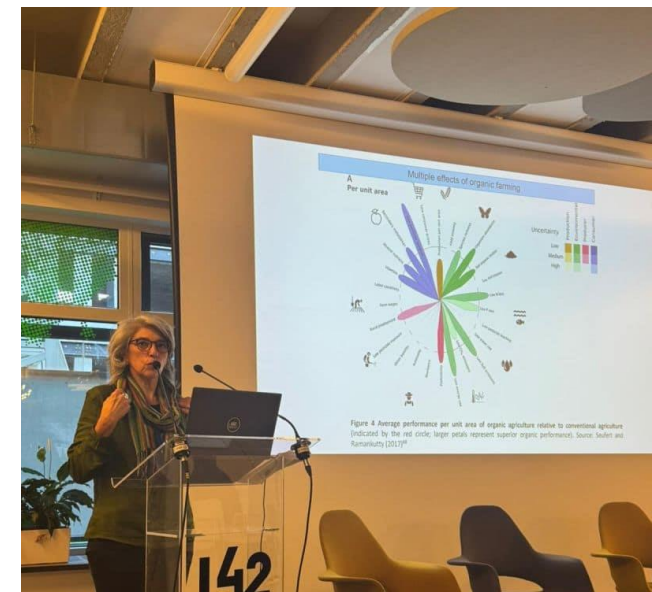


VIRTUAL RESEARCH ENVIRONMENT



PATH2DEA Digital Agroecology Cluster

- Regular meetings and collaboration with related EU projects
- Identification of synergies to promote joint dissemination and scientific exchange
- Cluster expanded to 9 projects including the Agroecology Partnership
- >20 cluster meetings organized
- 2 webinars streamed with 100 and 70 participants respectively
- final 2-days hybrid conference successfully organized, with 70 attendees on site, in Brussels and 153 following online



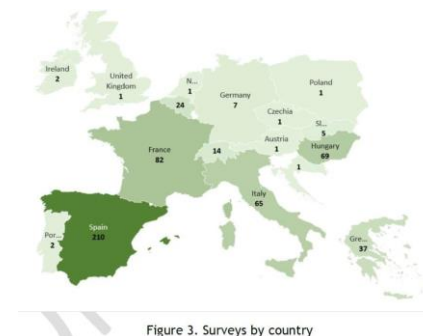


Barriers and Opportunities for Technology Uptake

Insights from the PATH2DEA project and D4AgEcol

SURVEY to FARMERS, FARM ADVISORS and PRODUCER ORGANIZATIONS

- **Goal:** Survey to identify barriers, drivers and risks of digitalisation in organic and agroecological farming
- 9 languages (English, Spanish, Catalan, French, German, Greek, Hungarian, Dutch, Italian)
- **533 surveys in 10 countries**
 - 308 Farmers
 - 170 Advisors
 - 55 Farmer Organizations

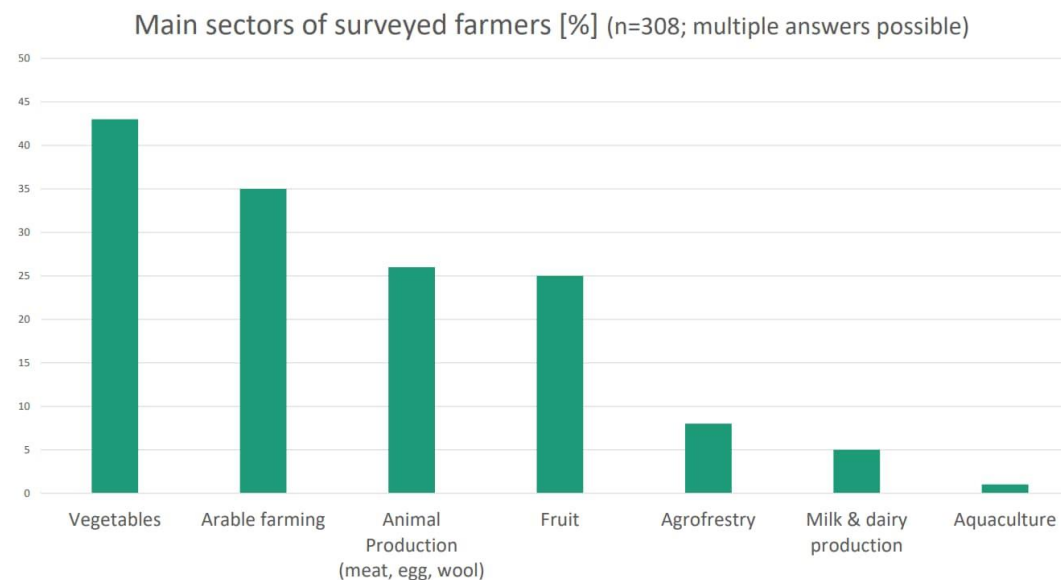


- Paper published in « **Technology in Society Journal** », [Technology in Society | Journal | ScienceDirect.com](https://www.elsevier.com/locate/techsoc) by Elsevier



A multi-stakeholder perspective on the use of digital technologies in European organic and agroecological farming systems

Cynthia Giagnocavo^{a,b,*}, Mónica Duque-Acevedo^b, Eduardo Terán-Yépez^{b,q}, Joelle Herforth-Rahmé^c, Emeline Defossez^d, Stefano Carlesi^e, Stephanie Delalieux^f, Vasileios Gkisakis^g, Aliz Márton^h, Diana Molina-Delgadoⁱ, José Carlos Moreno^j, Ana G. Ramirez-Santos^k, Evelyn Reinmuth^l, Gladys Sánchez^m, Iria Sotoⁿ, Tom Van Nieuwenhove^o, Iride Volpi^p



Benefits

Table 2

Number of responses by stakeholder according to level of agreement on the benefits of DTs in organic/agroecological systems, n = 533.

The use of digital technologies in organic agriculture and/or agroecology	Strongly disagree	Moderately disagree	Neutral	Moderately agree	Strongly agree
offers more opportunities to advance the transition to more sustainable production systems [BDT01].	22 3 1	35 18 3	79 43 12	99 57 19	73 49 20
improves and/or facilitates communication, interaction and exchange of knowledge/experiences between the actors involved in the production process [BDT02].	29 5 0	27 9 1	85 33 12	87 62 25	80 61 17
facilitates and/or enhances strategic farm design, operational management and decision support [BDT03].	18 2 2	39 12 1	83 42 16	92 64 21	76 50 15
contributes to the efficient management of resources and the reduction of polluting inputs and emissions [BDT04].	24 6 1	25 18 2	105 40 17	85 59 21	69 47 14
supports/facilitates the application of organic farming and/or agroecology practices/principles [BDT05].	18 5 2	31 27 3	111 54 15	94 54 26	54 30 9
increases income due to quality improvement or traceability and/or certification (which is based on digital technologies) [BDT06].	51 6 2	51 36 6	106 60 21	68 38 22	32 30 4
reduces costs due to optimisation of inputs and reduction of natural resources uses [BDT07].	40 7 1	46 30 8	93 54 21	84 48 20	45 31 5

■ Farmers
 ■ Advisors
 ■ POs/PAs/Coops
 ■



Drivers

Table 6

Number of responses by stakeholder according to the level of agreement on drivers of digitalisation, n = 533.

Digitalisation in organic and/or agroecological farming should be promoted through	Strongly disagree	Moderately disagree	Neutral	Moderately agree	Strongly agree
improved/increased government (financial) support for equipment acquisition, installation, operation and education/training in digitalisation processes [DRI01].	24 6 1	16 19 6	69 42 11	86 50 19	113 53 18
participatory design/co-design and implementation (between companies and farmers) of digital technologies adapted to farm needs and capacities, as well as to organic production and/or agroecology approaches [DRI02].	16 6 0	15 11 4	78 40 9	112 60 30	87 53 12
the development of policies (regulations, standards) that promote the automation of processes, traceability and in general the use and improved access to digital technologies [DRI03].	26 15 5	29 24 9	109 49 16	99 52 17	45 30 8
the development of policies regulating data access/use and interoperability to ensure secure/transparent and appropriate use of information [DRI04].	15 8 1	26 24 6	118 47 16	94 54 24	55 37 8
the creation of networks or collaborations between cooperatives, farming communities and advisors to share equipment, costs, facilitate relationships between stakeholders, exchange knowledge and improve training [DRI05].	20 5 0	11 9 1	74 43 15	107 56 22	96 57 17
cooperation between the public and private sector for the development of user-friendly, secure, open source technology alternatives and data sharing platforms [DRI06].	17 7 0	19 17 3	84 35 11	111 63 26	77 48 15
government interventions to ensure the necessary infrastructure for the operation of technologies (rural broadband connectivity) [DRI07].	17 7 0	33 9 0	88 41 16	76 32 23	94 61 16

■ Farmers
 ■ Advisors
 ■ POs/PAs/Coops
 ■

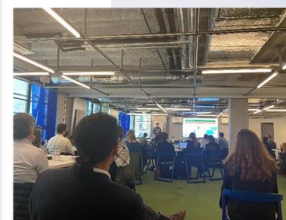
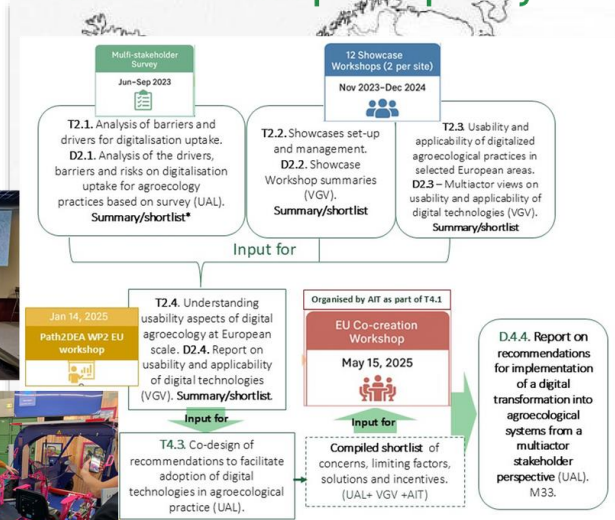
Source: Technology in Society 81 (2025) <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.techsoc.2024.102763>

The 6 Path2DEA Showcases ...



**Agroforestry in Flanders :
Belgium-Inagro**

Methodology: Consultative and participatory co-creation processes



**Wine in Hungary :
Ömki**



**Arable crops & Animal
breeding in France :
Vegepolys Valley & Terrena**



**Wine in Catalonia :
Spain-Covides**



**Vegetables in Almeria :
Spain-Coexphal &
University of Almeria**



**Olives in Italy :
AEDIT**

... mobilizing +100 farmers, advisors, tech providers and researchers



Which tools are commonly used? ...

A diversity of tools is already used in the showcases, covering most of the range of DTs



Communication
social networks,
farm notebooks



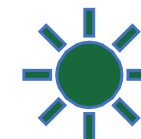
Farm management & planning
DSS, FMIs, online databases



Data acquisition & for herd & crop management
Sensors, weather stations,
operation registry



Production (to act & apply)
automation, on-field work/production



Renewable resources (energy production, water) management
solar panels management systems



+ Manufacturing
Rare: only when transformation activity performed directly in farms

... + 100 tools used in the 6 showcases

BARRIERS



Results from co-creation workshops with Path2Dea Showcases

Most of the barriers are shared between the different showcases



Background:

While drivers are very case-specific, barriers are more clear and seem to be more agreed on...

Status quo:

Most tools are not suitable and do not provide enough added value (**inaccuracy, complexity**) combined with a lack of infrastructure (**Internet access, compatibility and data security concerns**).

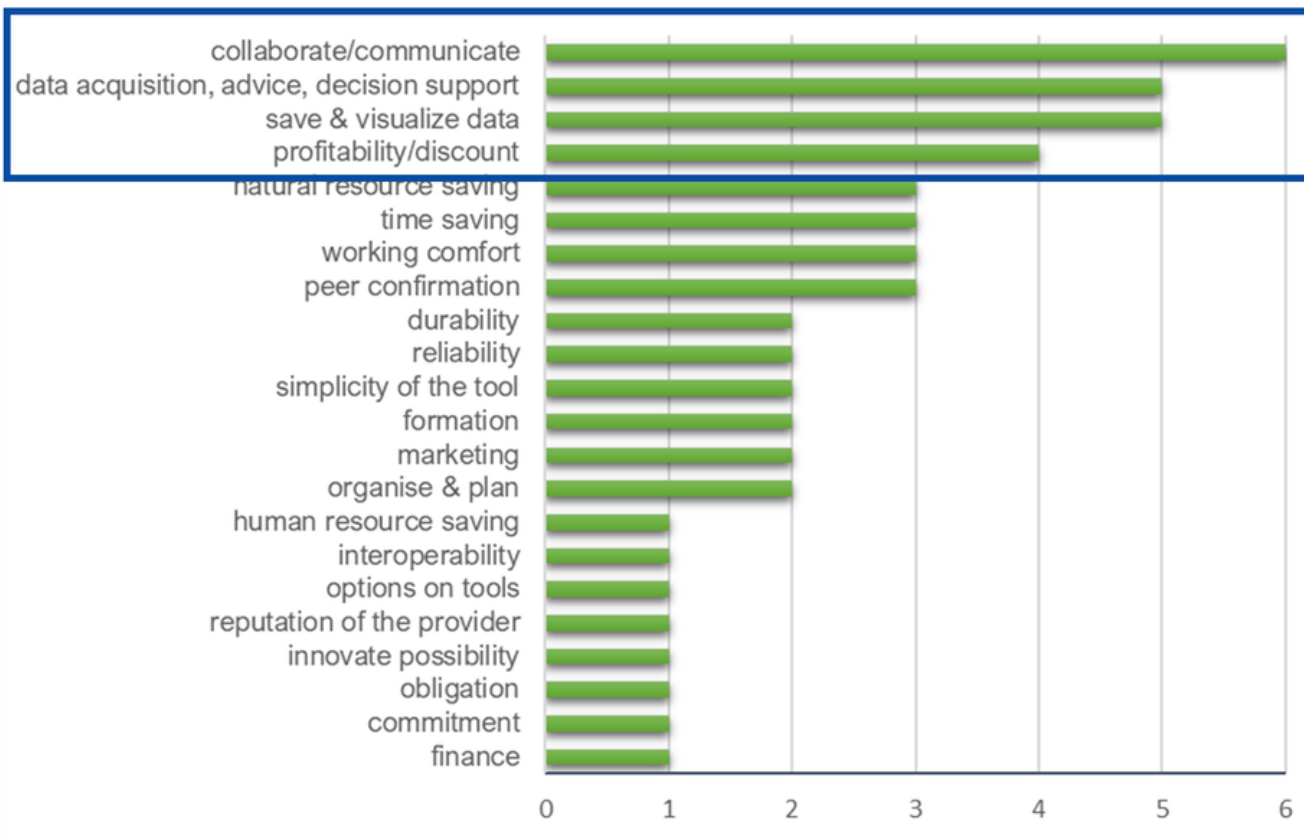
As a result, tools do not necessarily work together or are used based on their capabilities. Data is collected for individual farm solutions and manual analysis.

Source: Path2Dea project results - empirical results based on a multi-stakeholder approach

DRIVERS



Drivers or reasons for a good usability of DTs according to the type of tools used in the 6 Path2Dea showcases



P2,7,8

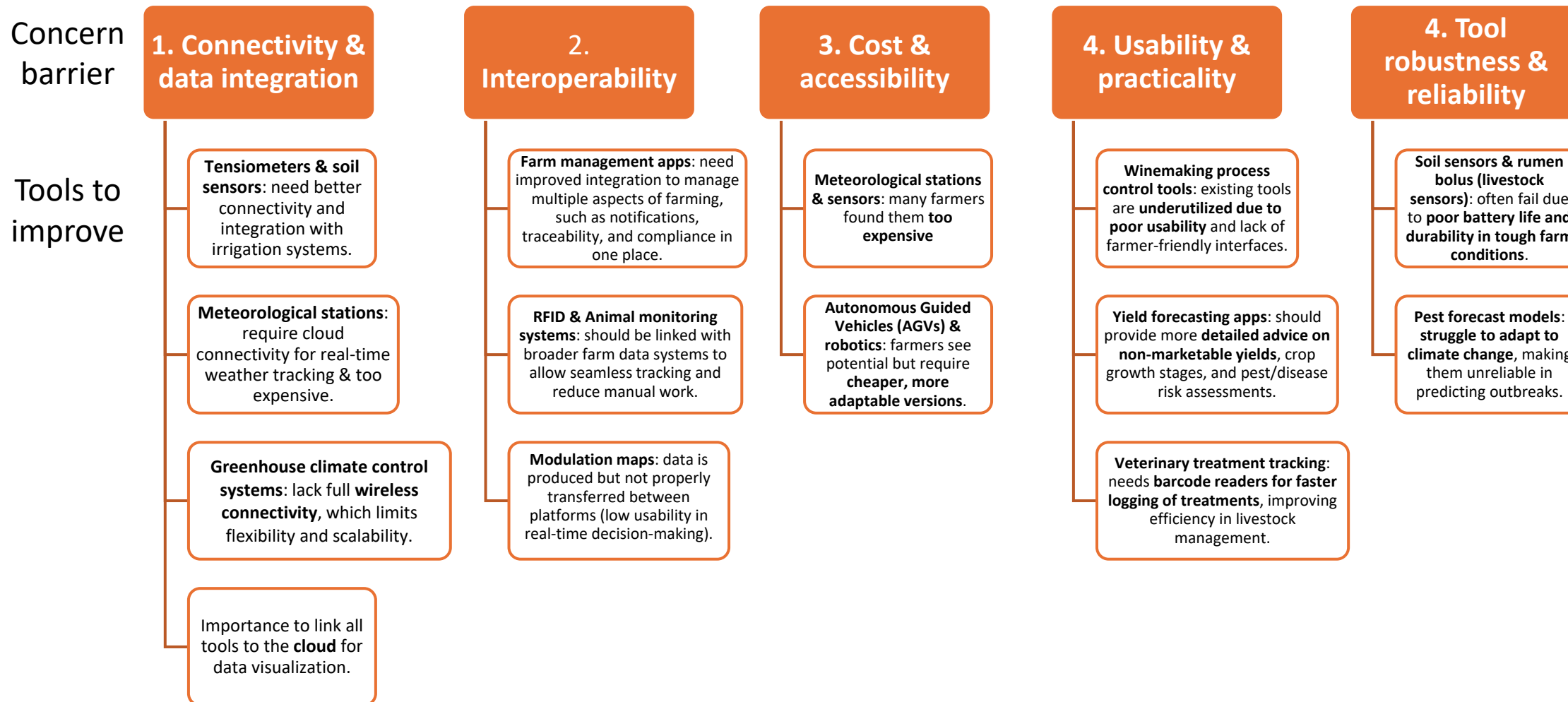
Decision support to increase profitability by means of technology
 → monitoring, visualizing data, exchange of knowledge amongst farmers + advisor support



Source: Path2Dea project results - empirical results based on a multi-stakeholder approach



Barriers: Digital tools that need the most improvement





Agroecology transition can be supported by digital tools, with improvement to consider local parameters and systemic approach

Current limitations of digital tools in agroecology

- Most tools focus on early levels of the agroecology transition (e.g., reducing inputs, substituting chemicals) rather than redesigning entire farming systems.
- Few tools address biodiversity, recycling, fairness, and land management.
- Many tools remain focused at the farm level (better decision making and traceability with DSS and FMIS thus reduced workload; optimized input thanks to sensors and meteorological stations; better coordination of work and information sharing with WhatsApp), with limited use at the value chain level (e.g., sales, distribution, and logistics).

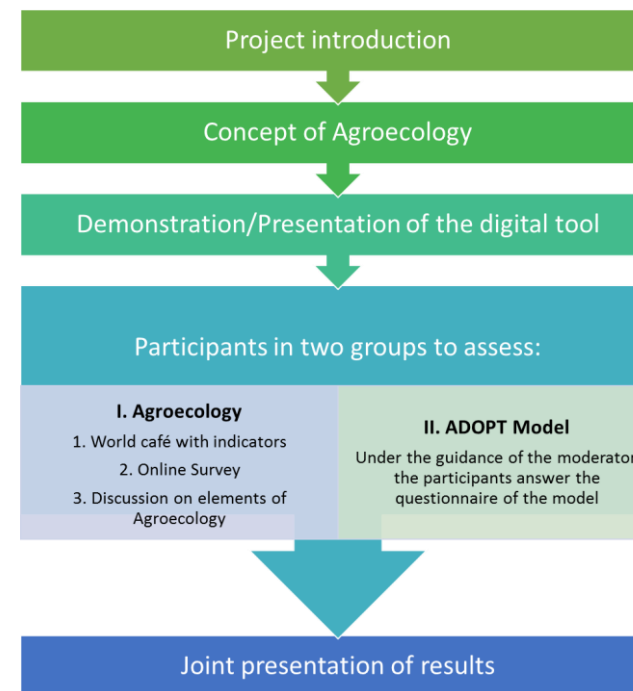
Examples of desired digital tools with low implementation yet

- Biodiversity monitoring systems - Tracking insect and bird populations.
- Agroecological decision-support systems - AI-based tools that predict the impact of farming decisions on ecosystems.
- AI-based pest & disease detection (AI-powered image recognition systems for detecting crop pathogens)
- Blockchain platform for traceability along the processing chain

D4AgEcol - Methodology



- Focus on Technologies
 - What is their potential contribution to Agroecology?
- 12 Digital tool scoping workshops
 - 30 Indicators based on the '10 Elements of Agroecology' FAO
- Adoption potentials
 - ADOPT Tool CSIRO
- Multi-objective LP analysis
 - Drivers and barriers for adoption
- 8 policy workshops
 - 1 European, 7 national levels



Time to peak adoption (speed of adoption)

Peak adoption level (maximum share of adopters)





D4AgEcol - Drivers and Barriers

DIGITALISATION ADOPTION TO ENABLE AGROECOLOGY

DRIVERS

1. Reduced labour input ●●
2. Overcoming labour shortages ●●
3. Variable and/or fixed costs savings ●
4. Lower environmental impact ●
5. Facilitation of ecological conservation ●
6. Lower human exposure to pesticides ●

BARRIERS

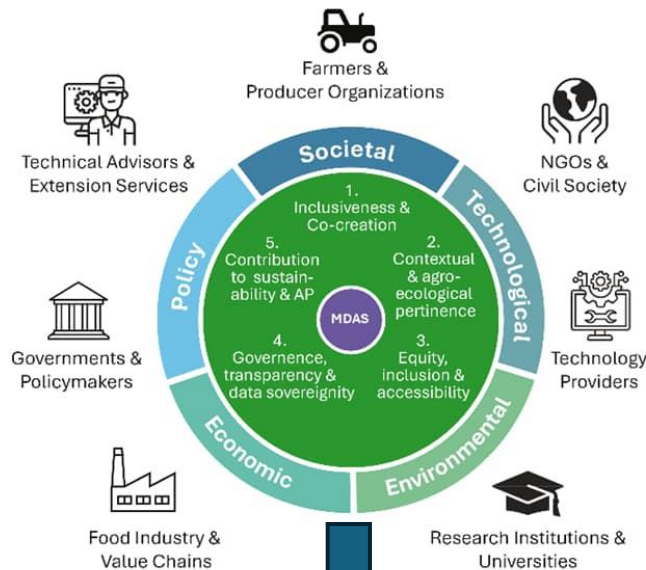
1. High technology costs ●
2. Low technology reliability ●●
3. Higher production costs ●
4. Higher labour input ●●
5. Innovation complexity & compatibility ●●
6. Regulatory challenges ●
7. Data usability challenges ●●●
8. Lack of success stories ●●●
9. Lack of relevant data and/or indicators ●●●

● Economic ● Environmental ● Social

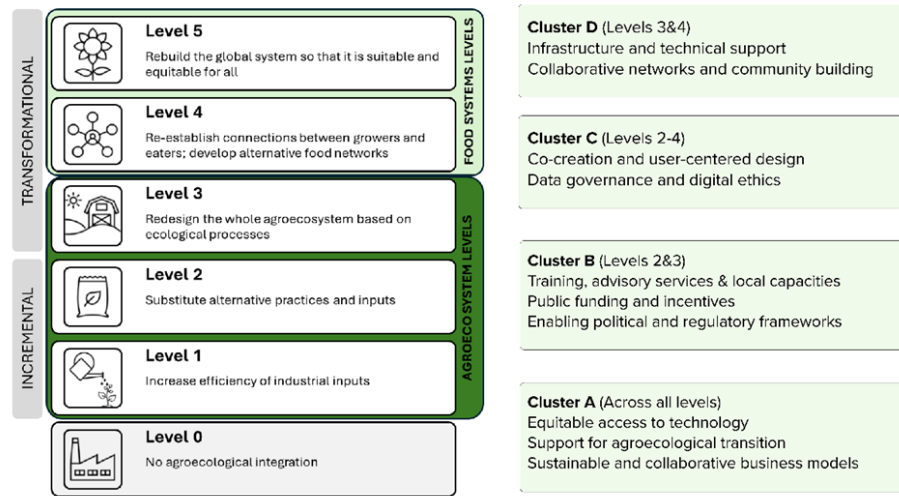
Digital tools to support agroecological transition?



<https://path2dea-repository.lifewatch.eu/>



<p>1. Support for agroecological transition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus solutions on biodiversity, soil health and ecosystem resilience Ensure digital tools are aligned with agroecological principles Develop solutions focused on agroecological scalability 	<p>2. Co-creation and user-centered design</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Co-develop solutions with farmers Validate tools through on-farm testing Ensure simple and contextualized design 	<p>3. Equitable access to technology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce economic barriers Promote shared use Offer accessible models 	<p>4. Data governance and digital ethics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote open access platforms Ensure farmer-controlled data management Establish clear regulatory frameworks and transparency 	<p>5. Infrastructure and technical support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve rural connectivity and offline access Provide continuous technical support Develop repairable and adaptable tools
<p>6. Collaborative networks and community building</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foster Peer to Peer (P2P) networks Build tool- and knowledge-sharing collectives Support demonstration farms and living labs 	<p>7. Training, advisory services & local capacities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish training programs Install independent advisors Ensure integration of traditional and local knowledge 	<p>8. Sustainable and collaborative business models</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enable cooperative models Ensure affordable subscriptions Create reinvestment mechanisms 	<p>9. Public funding and incentives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enable funding for advisory services Establish incentives for acquisition for digital tools Enable innovative business and investments models 	<p>10. Enabling political and regulatory frameworks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Embed agroecology in all policies Establish clear rules for data sovereignty, transparency, and farmers' rights Promote interoperability and open standards





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 www.path2dea.eu

 **PATH2DEA**

 **PATH2DEA**



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Swiss Confederation

PATH2DEA is co-funded by the European Union (Grant no. 101060789) and the Swiss State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI) (Grant no. 22.00535). Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union, European Research Executive Agency (REA) or Swiss State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI). Neither the European Union nor any other granting authority can be held responsible for them.

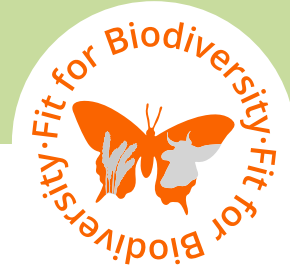


Basic Set of Biodiversity Criteria for the Food Sector

***Fit for Biodiversity Horizon
project***

*Annekathrin Vogel, Lake
Constance Foundation*





Basic set of Biodiversity criteria for the food sector

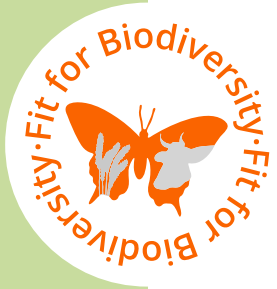
Annekathrin Vogel
Lake Constance Foundation
Brussels 18.03.2026

“How can the nature-based solutions approach help build sustainable food systems?”



„Fit for biodiversity“ project aims at

- ❖ **improving the management of biodiversity in the German food industry** > roll-out of the basic set of biodiversity criteria
- ❖ **reducing negative impacts** and making an important contribution to protecting biodiversity and restoring ecosystems
- ❖ contributing to international frameworks like the **Nature based solutions, CBD goals, GBF and SBTN**



What is the Basic Set Biodiversity Criteria?

Set of biodiversity criteria for agricultural production

Goal: Protecting biodiversity

Creation, protection, or enhancement of habitats
(e.g. creation of semi-natural habitats and biotope corridors)

BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT

Reduction of negative impacts on biodiversity and ecosystems (e.g. reduction of pesticides)

VERY GOOD AGRICULTURAL PRACTICE FOR MORE BIODIVERSITY

Indirect measures to support both areas of biodiversity protection
(e.g. staff **training**, storage of pesticides, environmental **management systems**, etc.)



Structure of the basic set

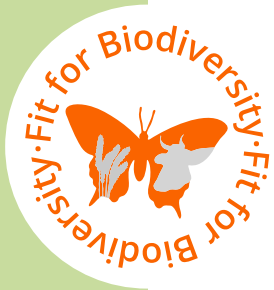


A. Biodiversity Action Plan for the Agricultural Farm

B. Measures to Enhance Biodiversity Potential

C. Measures for VERY Good Agricultural Practices for more Biodiversity

D. Further Training and Cooperation



Structure of the basic set

A. Biodiversity Action Plan for the Agricultural Farm

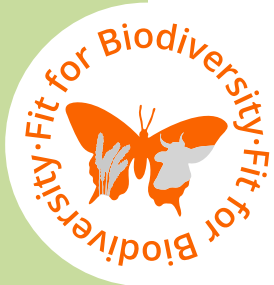
- ✓ Defining the Baseline
- ✓ Selection and Implementation of Measures
- ✓ Monitoring of Biodiversity

A. BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN FOR THE AGRICULTURAL FARM

A **Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)** comprises measures relating to the protection of *biodiversity* on a farm and its surroundings. It contains a description of the initial situation, an overview of the potential for improvement and, where possible, measurable targets to enable the implementation of the BAP to be monitored. For small farms that are part of a regional producer group or co-operative, it makes sense to choose a *landscape approach* and develop a BAP for the entire producer group/co-operative. Examples of collective approaches can be found in the glossary. Large and medium-sized farms are encouraged to integrate measures beyond the farm boundaries into their individual BAP, i.e. to support the protection of *biodiversity* in the landscape.

A 1. Biodiversity Action Plan

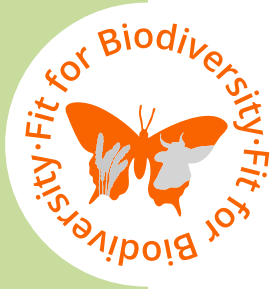
	Standard-setting organisation / company	
A.1.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ requires the implementation of a <i>Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)</i> by certified and supplying farms and supports the development and implementation of the BAP <p>The standard organisation provides quantitative, qualitative and operationalizable guidelines for the content of the BAP. Additionally, the standard organisations provide a guide with explanations and links to further information (e.g. descriptions of measures) as well as positive examples. Guidelines for the BAP can be found in the appendix. The company does not make its own specifications but refers to the standard and supports the agricultural sector operation in the implementation of the BAP.</p>	Medium term
A.1.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ supports farmers in the development and implementation of a BAP, for example with <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ advice, training, and guidelines; reference to existing biodiversity advisory services (public/private) ○ reference to existing funding programmes for <i>biodiversity</i> measures ○ free provision of expert knowledge on aspects of <i>biodiversity</i> ○ free provision of tools, such as the <i>Biodiversity Performance Tool Insects (BPTI)</i> ○ regular exchange of experiences on <i>biodiversity</i> measures ○ companies: financial support for the implementation of a BAP, compensation for loss of earnings and financing of measure costs 	Medium term



Structure of the basic set

B. Measures to Enhance Biodiversity Potential

- ✓ Creation and Maintenance of semi-natural Habitats
- ✓ Minimum Proportion and Connectivity of natural and semi-natural Habitats
- ✓ Protection of Primary (Natural) Ecosystems, semi-natural Habitats, and Protected Areas
- ✓ Conservation and Maintenance of Permanent Grassland

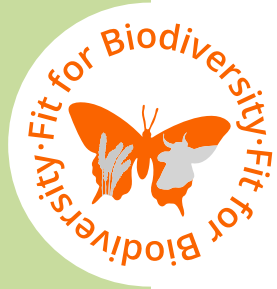


Structure of the basic set

C. Measures for VERY Good Agricultural Practices for more Biodiversity

C 1. Soil / Erosion

	Standard-setting organisation / company	
C.1.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> encourages the creation of grassed tramlines in permanent crops, agroforestry systems, and speciality crops wherever feasible Company: promote the use of grassed tramlines 	Short term
C.1.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> provides guidelines outlining key factors related to erosion, such as slope length, heavy rainfall events, wind, and mitigation measures like ground cover, shrub planting, and soil cultivation practices 	Short term
	Agricultural farm	
C.1.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> maintains soil cover for as long as possible, especially during periods when nutrient leaching may occur. Soil cover can be achieved in winter through methods such as catch crops, stubble fallow, or mulching. When using films for covering (e.g., in vegetable cultivation), nature-based solutions are preferred 	Medium term
C.1.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> implements measures to maintain and promote soil functions and soil biodiversity. Special protective actions are applied to areas at high risk of erosion, such as ploughing or cultivating across the slope, undersowing, minimum tillage (using mulch or direct sowing), and adapted crop management practices 	Medium term
C.1.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> carries out greening of the tramlines on permanent and special crop areas 	Medium term



Members of



Food for
Biodiversity

food-biodiversity.de



Project partners



With financial support from



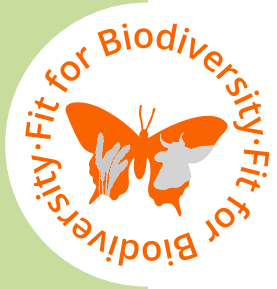
Premium partners



Who already implements the Basic Set for Biodiversity Criteria?

Standards covering currently more than 70 % of the Basic Set criteria:

Naturland, Demeter, Bioland, Ecoland, EcoWin,
 Global G.A.P. Biodiversity Add-On and Global G.A.P. IFA Version 6
 Rainforest Alliance, Fairtrade SPO
 Union for Ethical Biotrade (UEBT)
 4C Coffee Standard, Donau Soja /Europe Soy
 Biodiversity Grow, ISCC Standard



Contact

Annekathrin Vogel

Annekathrin.vogel@bodensee-stiftung.org



Link:
[Basic set of biodiversity criteria](https://www.bodensee-stiftung.org/)

For further information please visit our website or contact us.



<https://www.bodensee-stiftung.org/>

Project partners



With financial support from



Premium partners





PATHWAYS Holistic Policy & Innovation Evaluation Framework

Jorge Campos Gonzalez –
Researcher, University of
Reading, Pathways project



PATHWAYS Holistic Policy & Innovation Evaluation Framework

An application to EU “Farm-to-Fork” strategy

NetworkNature event: “How can the nature-based solutions approach help build sustainable food systems?”

Brussels • 18 March 2026 • Afternoon session

Dr Jorge Campos Gonzalez, University of Reading (UK)



This project has received funding from the European Union’s Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme under grant agreement No 101000395.



Why a holistic evaluation lens?

Livestock & food-system policy sits in a multi-objective, multi-actor, multi-scale transition space.

Core problem

- Single-metric evaluation misses trade-offs (e.g., emissions vs. animal welfare vs. livelihoods).
- Transition-oriented evaluation needs to surface “where to intervene” (leverage points), not only “what to measure”.

PATHWAYS response

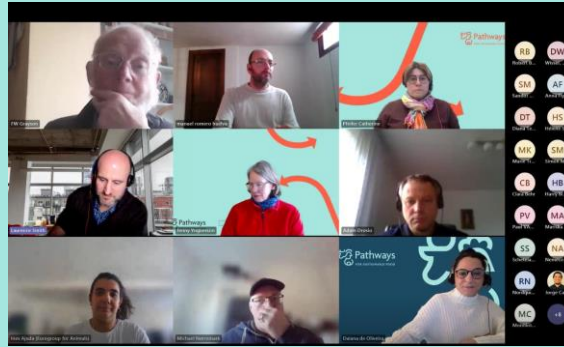
- A structured indicator set across four sustainability dimensions.
- Stakeholder-derived intervention ideas, classified by depth of system change.



Four dimensions
One coherent profile

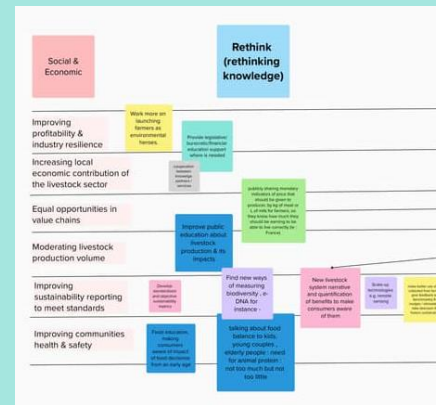


How the framework was built: From a broad indicator pool to a stakeholder-grounded, leverage-oriented structure.



Indicators

Compile candidate indicators
(initial pool: 84)
→ select “minimum metrics” (40).



70 practices
67 policies



Leverage realms: depth of system change

- Re-think**
Knowledge • norms • learning
- Re-connect**
Actor networks • nature linkages
- Re-structure**
Rules • institutions • markets



Framework at a glance

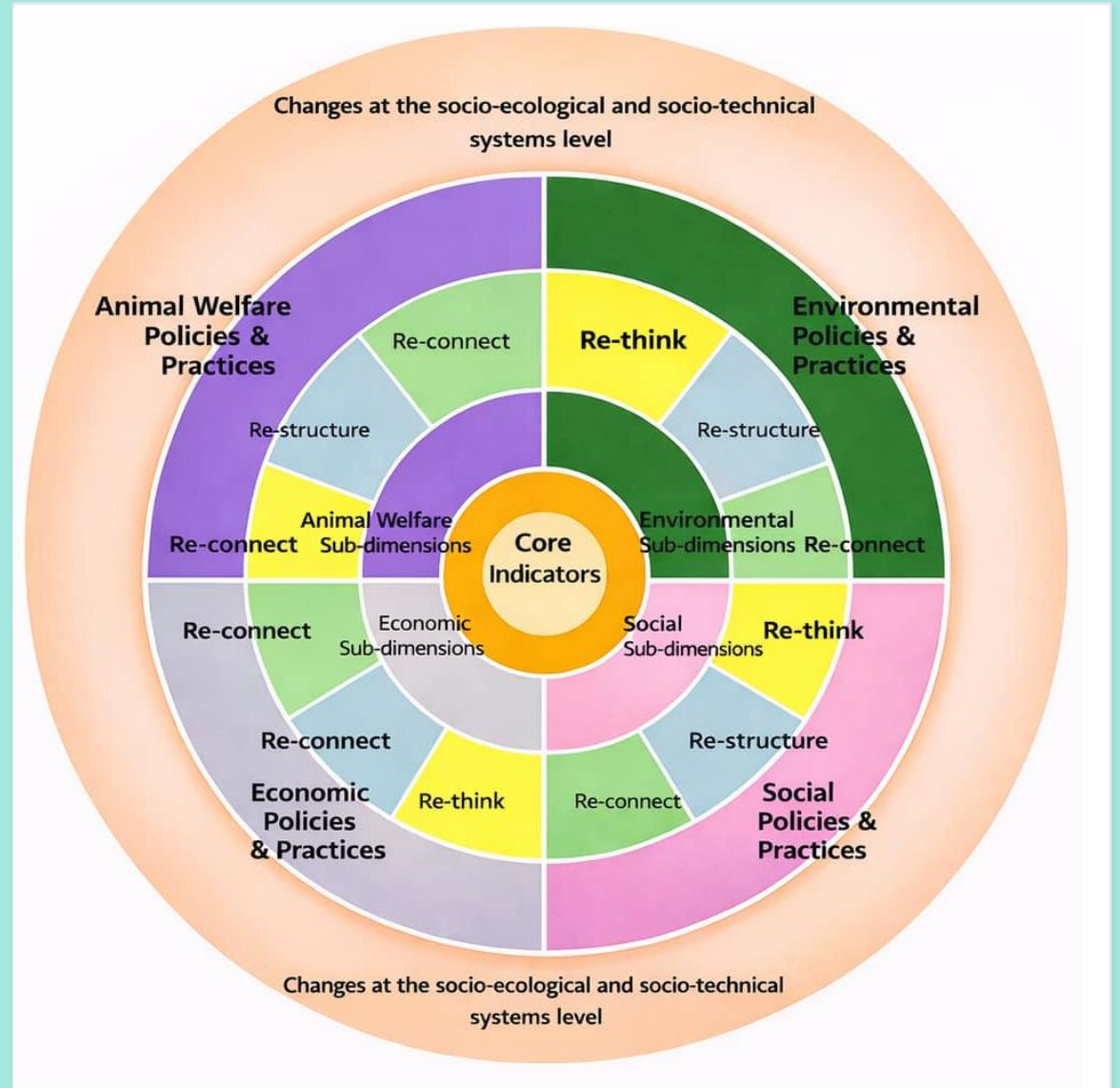
Indicators × leverage realms × interventions, linked across socio-technical and socio-ecological layers.

What the visual encodes

- Core indicators (“minimum metrics”) organised by sub-dimensions in each sustainability domain.
- Three systemic leverage realms: Re-think, Re-connect, Re-structure.
- Policy + practice interventions situated within each domain and realm.
- Designed to trace synergies and trade-offs.

Synergies occur when interventions affect multiple dimensions at once

Trade-offs occur between dimensions



Food system transformation is systemic, not sectoral.

From framework design to policy application: the Farm-to-Fork (F2F) as a case study



Step 1: Map policy objectives & actions to indicators

Step 2: Assign actions to leverage realms

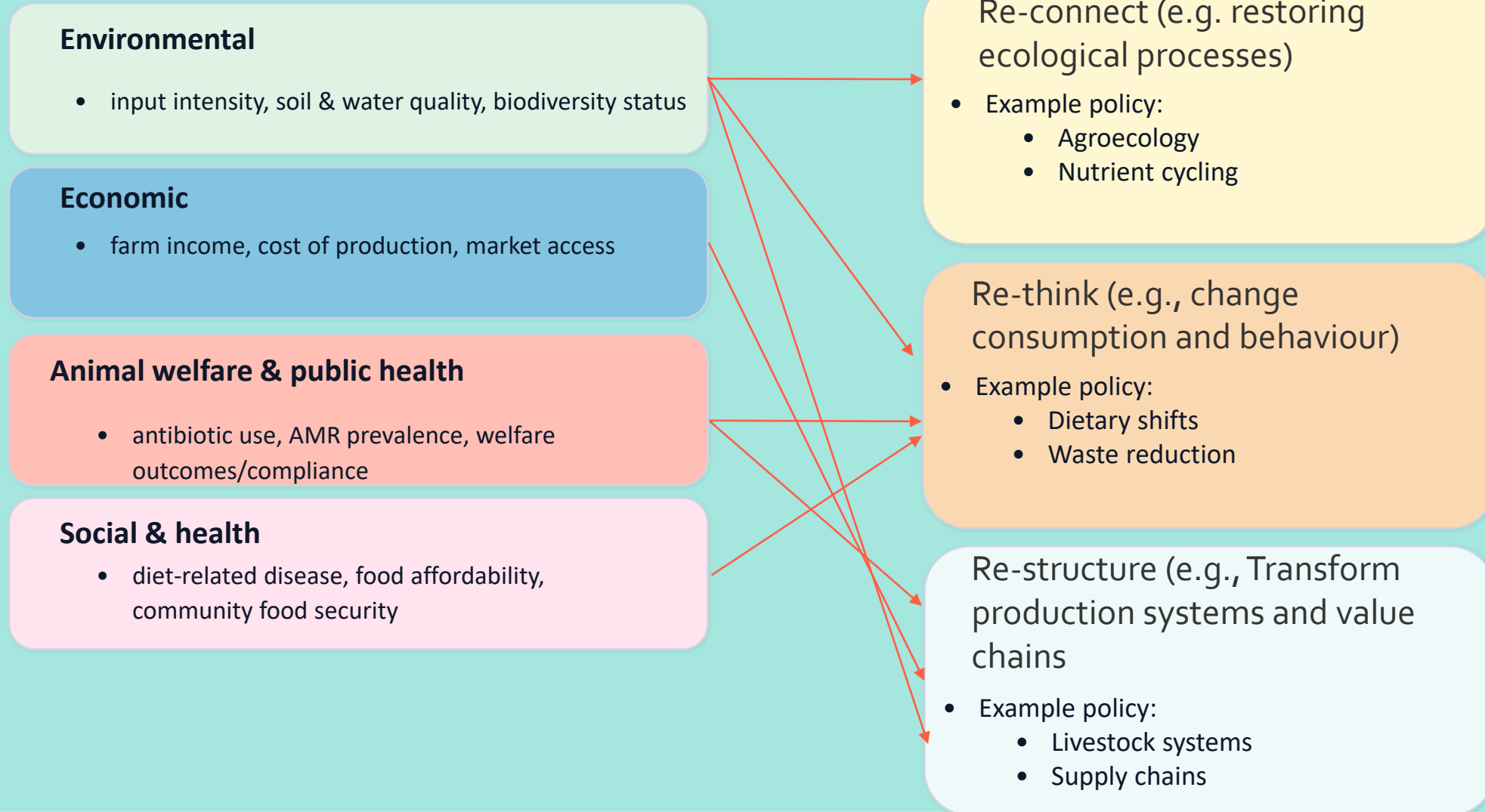
Step 3: Narrative/Analytical assessment of impacts



F2F: mapping actions to the four dimensions and leverage points to identify trade-offs

Potential trade-offs in F2F targets

Selected F2F actions/targets → indicator clusters → leverage points → suggesting synergies/trade-offs



Identifying synergies/trade-offs in F2F

Synergies and trade-offs revealed through integrated assessment

Possible trade-offs

F2F objective	trade-off
Reduced pesticide use ↓	Potential yield reductions and higher food prices ↓
Improved animal welfare ↑	Higher production costs and lower productivity ↑
Reduced fertilizer use ↓	Possible decline in crop yields ↓
Expansion of organic production ↑	Land-use pressure and higher consumer prices ↑
Reduced livestock emissions ↓	Impacts on rural employment and farm income ↓

Suggested synergies



- improves **animal welfare**
- reduces **antimicrobial resistance risks**
- improves **consumer health outcomes**



- increase **biodiversity**
- improve **soil health**
- enhance **long-term farm resilience**



- reduce **waste**
- improve **resource efficiency**
- generate **new farm income streams**

Framework role

- **identify** win-win strategies across environmental, social and economic objectives
- **highlight** policy trade-offs before implementation
- **improve** coherence between policy instruments



From assessment to action: how the framework can support stronger sustainable food system policies

What the framework adds for policy & why this matters for Farm-to-Fork

Integrated monitoring

- tracks progress across environmental, economic, social, and welfare indicators.

Policy coherence

- identifies interactions between Farm-to-Fork objectives.

Trade-off management

- helps policymakers design balanced policy portfolios.

Evidence-based transitions

- supports scenario modelling and impact assessment.

Questions for discussion

- Which trade-offs should policy accept and which should it mitigate?
- How can incentives strengthen synergies across environment, health, welfare and livelihoods?

Sustainable food system transitions require managing trade-offs while maximising synergies across multiple dimensions. Holistic frameworks can help move Farm-to-Fork from targets to integrated food system governance.






About PATHWAYS

With the aim of reducing environmental impacts while addressing societal demands for safe, nutritious and affordable meat and dairy products, [PATHWAYS](#) is about identifying and increasing sustainable practices along the supply and production chains of the European livestock sector. Coordinated by the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU) and comprising 28 partners from 12 countries, this 5-year (2021-2026) €9 million Horizon 2020 project contributes to the [EU Farm-to-Fork Strategy](#) which is at the heart of the [EU Green Deal](#).

Get in touch

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 [@pathways_europe](https://twitter.com/pathways_europe)

 [PATHWAYS](https://www.linkedin.com/company/pathways)





Network
Nature

Initiatives for sustainable food systems





BioAgora science policy service

Myriam Dumortier, Senior
Researcher, Flemish Institute
for Nature and Forest (INBO)





BioAgora will develop a **Science Service for Biodiversity (SSBD)** to support the ecological transition required by the European Green Deal and the EU's Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 – **linking science and policy.**



Increases the potential of bringing research and knowledge into EU policy-making



Minimizes duplication of work and employs resources wisely by improving synergies between actors, e.g. EU-funded projects



Answers the need of ensuring uptake of generated knowledge into EU policy

The Science Service will work through Knowledge Exchange Networks (KENs)



Funded by
the European Union



Join the Knowledge Exchange Network on Agroecosystems

- The KEN Agroecosystems will:
 - Link agro-ecosystem expertise to Science Service questions on biodiversity in agro-ecosystems.
 - Highlight what we don't know (and need to know) to shape EU research calls
 - Link researchers, policy and stakeholders to ensure that research is transformative in what we do and how we do it (together)
- Check <https://bioagora.eu/>
- Scan the QR to join our webpage!
- Scan the QR to join our LinkedIn page!



HORIZON calls: Proposals should foresee cooperation with the EC Knowledge Centre for Biodiversity and the Science Service for Biodiversity.



The AgroEcology Partnership

Marius Weisweiler,
Bioinformatician,
Forschungszentrum Jülich GmbH





AGROECOLOGY
PARTNERSHIP

AGROECOLOGY Partnership

Marius Weisweiler – 18/03/2026

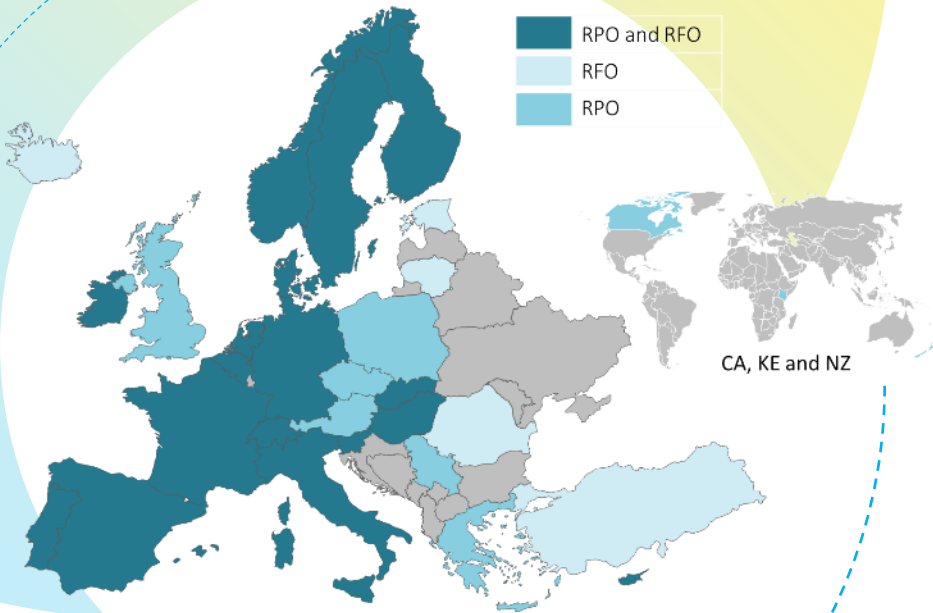


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Team-up and unlock the transition to agroecology so that farming systems are resilient, productive and prosperous, place-sensitive, as well as climate, environment, ecosystem, biodiversity and people-friendly by 2050



AGROECOLOGY in a nutshell



Jan 2024 to Dec 2033

Horizon Europe co-funded partnership in Cluster 6 TOP UP proposal was successfully evaluated



Pool resources of EU and states/regions

Mobilisation of 300 Mio € (50% co-funded)

In-kind: research and networking activities

In-cash: up to 7 transnational calls for proposals, 3 already implemented



111 partners from 31 states/regions

RFOs: National/Regional Authorities, ministries, Funding agencies

RPOs: Research performing organisations



Visit us: <https://www.agroecologypartnership.eu/>

Coordination: Project Management Juelich (DE)

ptj-agroecology-secretariat@ptj.de

Co-coordination: ANR (FR)



SRIA & Core Themes



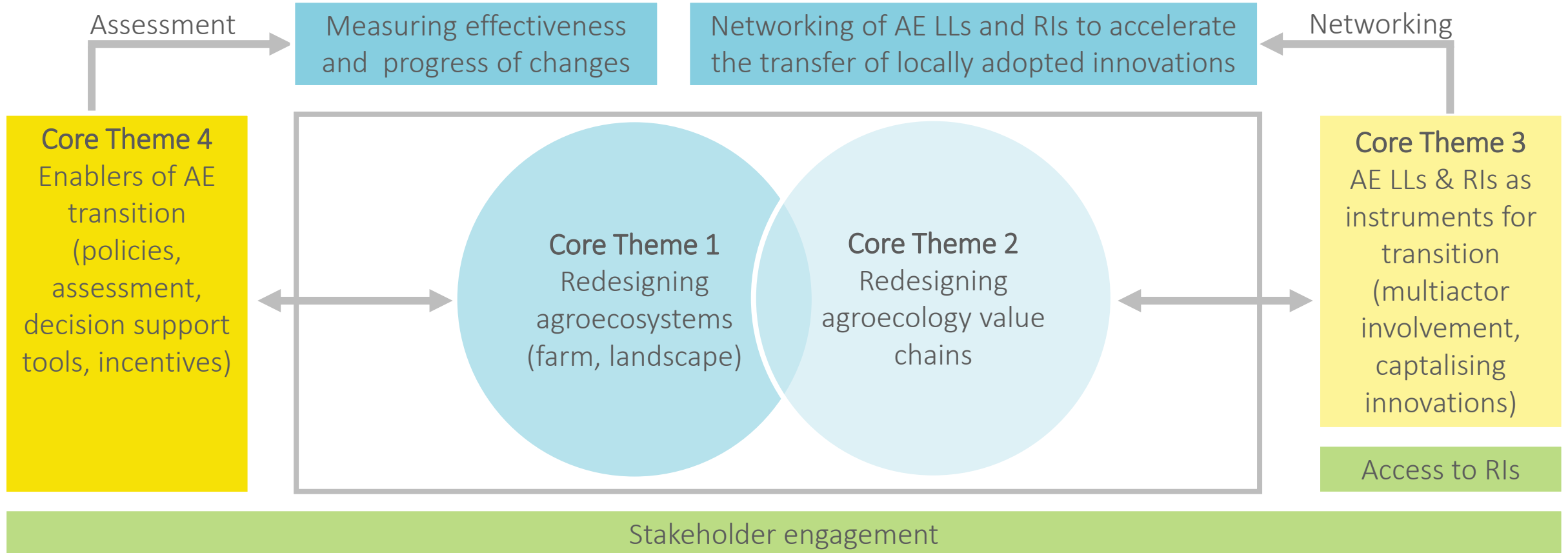
SRIA: Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda

Science-Policy-Society dialogue

International dimension

Communication & dissemination

Capacity building





Set up

Two-step procedure (Feb – Sep 2024)
35 Funding agencies from 22 countries and regions



Fostering agroecology at farm and landscape levels

Topic 1: Focus on the farm level and its immediate surroundings
Topic 2: Explore agroecology at the landscape or territorial level



89 pre proposals and 38 invited full proposals

Peer reviews at both stages by an International Expert Panel



19 projects selected (Kick-off May 2025 Brussels)

37 Mio € committed funding plus EU contribution
188 partners from 22 countries and regions
<https://www.agroecologypartnership.eu/en/projects>



Set up

Two-step procedure (Feb – Oct 2025)
29 Funding agencies from 20 countries and regions



Integrating environmental, economic and social perspectives in assessing the performance of agroecology. Value-chain and policy implications

Topic 1: Determine and assess benefits/impacts and trade-offs of agroecology, and identify best practices

Topic 2: Transform value chains, business models and policies to facilitate the transition to agroecology



87 pre proposals and 33 submitted full proposals

Peer reviews at both stages by an International Expert Panel



19 projects selected (Kick-off May 2026 Bordeaux)

26 Mio € committed funding plus EC contribution - 140 partners from 20 countries and regions

<https://www.agroecologypartnership.eu/en/projects>



Set up

Two-step procedure (Feb – End 2026)
27 Funding agencies from 19 countries and regions



Fostering plant and animal genetic diversity and empowering farmers to accelerate the agroecological transition

Topic 1: Enhancing the genetic diversity and variability of crops and livestock for the agroecological transition

Topic 2: Strengthening farmer's involvement and empowerment in the agroecology transition

Deadline pre proposals: 18 February 2026, 2PM CET

Deadline full proposals: 08 July 2026, 2PM CEST

<https://www.agroecologypartnership.eu/en/about-the-network>



Network of LLs and RIs

Jan 2024 to Dec 2033



Yearly call for applicants, currently 16 RIs and 39 LLs from 16 countries are Network members, CALL open, submission deadline 31 March: <https://www.agroecologypartnership.eu/en/about-the-network>



Purpose

Connect and empower place-based innovations of agroecology LL/RIs at various scales in each MS of the EU and AC

Improve the access to and the availability of agroecology LLs & RIs knowledge, data and experiences



Benefits

knowledge exchange, learning, information and data sharing; Extensive networking; ...



contact

info.agroecologynetwork@biokutatas.hu





Conversations on agroecology



Jan 2024 to Dec 2033

Monthly (except July & August) online Conversations on Agroecology, last Wednesday of the month (earlier in December), 1-2 PM CE(S)T



For whom?

People who share a passion about agroecology and who want to deepen their knowledge, understanding and expertise in this area. The format is an interactive one by interacting with each other in form of online Conversations.



Ambition

connecting LL and RI actors across & beyond Europe



Outputs

12 Conversations of agroecology conducted, between 50 and 90 participants



EPAT European Panel for Agroecology Transitions


- Yearly event on specific themes within the remit of agroecology transition
- Dec 2024 – Water and Landcare, Brussels
- Oct 2025 – Soil and Agroecology , Malmö
- Target group/participants: researchers, farmers and policy makers


Task Force Hermes

- Yearly online meetings of policy representatives, identified by the Partnership
- Identification of research and sectoral policies relevant for agroecology transition at regional, national and EU levels, basis and contribution for all work in the science to policy sector



<https://www.agroecologypartnership.eu/>

 <https://linkedin.com/company/agroecology-partnership>

 https://www.youtube.com/@AGROECOLOGY_PS

Outreach on various scales



Speak about AGROECOLOGY

- More than 8k followers on LinkedIn
- Newsletter recipients: 723
- Website visits (01/24 to 10/25): 107k

Seminars (free, online)

- <https://www.agroecologypartnership.eu/en/activities/conversations-on-agroecology>
- <https://www.agroecologypartnership.eu/en/activities/webinar-series>
 - You tube videos available, series on SOILS, CROPS and BIODIVERSITY

Young researchers

- <https://www.agroecologypartnership.eu/en/activities/summerschools>

Public

- Agroecology Bites - Podcasts, 4 in total planned for 2026 ""
- Feb "The First Bite: What is Agroecology?" 40 min

Co-funded projects

- 38 funded projects from call1 and call2 started/will start in 2025/2026
- <https://www.agroecologypartnership.eu/en/projects>





CORDIS pack on EU-funded projects

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Enabling nature-based solutions in sustainable agriculture

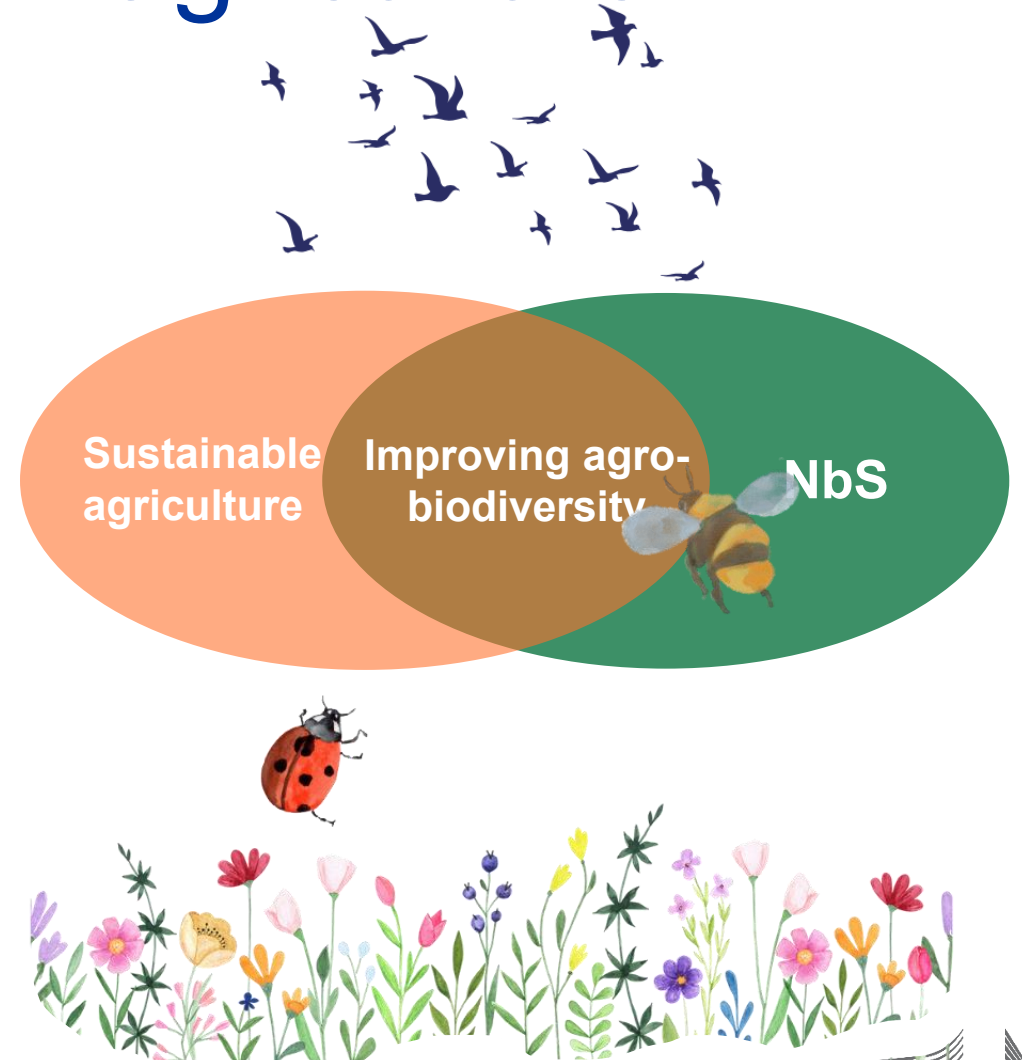


Susanna Gionfra – Biodiversity and Nature-based Solutions Policy Officer – RTD B3

Enhancing biodiversity in agriculture

Sustainable farming approaches incorporate **biodiversity considerations** to varying degrees, demonstrating tangible pathways for more resilient and sustainable agri-food systems.

NbS may include the abovementioned sustainable farming approaches, provided that they aim at **improving the state of agrobiodiversity**.



Results Pack on NbS in agriculture



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Research and
Innovation

CORDIS Results Pack on nature-based solutions in agriculture

Strengthening biodiversity benefits
in sustainable farming

A thematic collection of innovative EU-funded research results

January 2026



This CORDIS Results Pack highlights **key findings from 12 EU-funded Research & Innovation projects** that explore mechanisms, improve knowledge and develop tools directly **supporting NbS**, thereby further contributing to the transition to a sustainable agri-food system.

By presenting these insights, the Results Pack serves as a valuable resource for advancing NbS in sustainable farming, emphasising both the urgent need and promising potential to leverage the power of nature for food security.



12 EU funded projects supporting NbS

- Delivering digital tools to improve biodiversity and encourage agroecology
- Soil biodiversity, management practices and innovative business models improving soil health and its socio-economic value
- Boosting agrobiodiversity through identifying underutilised crops and highlighting ecological, economic and social benefits
- Development of mixed farming and agroforestry systems, aimed at enhancing ecosystem services and climate resilience.
- Agroforestry for resilient land and food systems

PATH2DEA, D4AgEcol

**SOILGUARD, SoildiverAgro,
NOVASOIL**



RADIANT, CROPDIVA, SHOWCASE

MIXED, FOREST4EU



REFOREST, DIGITAF



Thank you





Network
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What can policy do to strengthen the benefits from sustainable food systems?

Discussion with the projects and stakeholders





Discussion and Q&A





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Conclusions



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