

The Transformative Partnership Platform on agroecological approaches to building resilience of livelihoods and landscapes (Agroecology TPP)



About the Agroecology TPP

In 2020, a range of institutions came together within a holistic Transformative Partnership Platform to **accelerate and co-ordinate their work on agroecology** across international, national, and local scales, in order to foster transitions to more sustainable agricultural and food systems. Partners of this joint initiative collaborate to **address critical knowledge and implementation gaps** to provide evidence to underpin advocacy and inform policy makers and donors about the potential of agroecological approaches to foster innovation that can sustainably improve livelihood and landscape resilience.

The platform develops new, innovative initiatives and projects, and strives to add value, link with, and contribute to existing agroecological initiatives rather than duplicate efforts. An active science-policy interface and knowledge sharing facility ensure inclusiveness fostering stakeholder engagement, communication, capacity development and advocacy both globally and locally.

Objectives and Key Achievements

In the face of multiple interrelated food system challenges, the ultimate goal of the Agroecology TPP (**AE-TPP**) is to **transform food systems through local application of the 13 principles of agroecology** defined by the CFS HLPE (aligned with the ten elements of agroecology developed by FAO).

Key to achieving this goal is the collaborative development and implementation of **transdisciplinary projects and initiatives** that address at least one critical knowledge and implementation gap for accelerating agroecological transitions. Just three years after its inception, the Agroecology TPP's project portfolio **now includes twenty major projects with a budget of over \$130 million**. And its knowledge products and evidence on agroecology includes, among others, a novel context-specific tool for assessing the performance of agroecology – produced by the CGIAR Initiative on Agroecology – as well as a meta-framework for holistic performance assessments of agri-food systems, which is one of the outputs of the Metrics for Agroecological TRANSITIONS project.

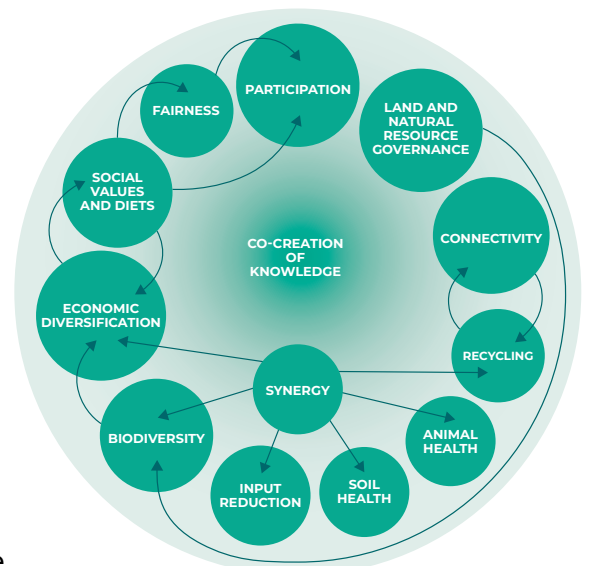


Figure 1. Principles of agroecology (HLPE, 2019)

A key role of the AE-TPP is to act as a **science-policy interface** – the multi-dimensional evidence it presented at many high-level events has had a significant policy impact. Particularly noteworthy was the well-coordinated presence of the Agroecology TPP members at the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit, which resulted in the establishment of the 'Coalition for the Transformation of Food Systems through Agroecology'. In addition, our presence at a side event on Harnessing the Potential of Agroecology in Southeast Asia to transform Food Systems to become Sustainable at the Fourth Global Conference of the One Planet Network's Sustainable Food Systems Programme in Hanoi, was instrumental in ensuring the explicit integration of agroecology in Viet Nam's National Action Plan on Food System Transformation. The AE-TPP also co-organized an Agroecology Theme Day on the sidelines of the 78th UN General Assembly in New York as well as a side-event at the Sri Lanka Pavillon during COP28 UN Climate Change Conference in Dubai.

Governance, Membership and Modalities of Work

The Agroecology TPP works in a demand-driven modality, with a wide range of representatives steering its direction and identifying priority issues. Its bodies are:

- **The Steering Committee** – composed of three representatives each from civil society, research, and donor organizations, it provides oversight and is responsible for the Agroecology TPP’s strategic evolution, partnerships, science domains, and project portfolio, and is ultimately the decision body of the TPP.
- **The Advisory Group** – advises on strategic aspects of the Agroecology TPP’s work and helps to ensure that the work conducted by the AE-TPP advances agroecological transitions.
- **The Co-conveners** – ex-officio members of the Steering Committee and Advisory Group who facilitate the day-to-day work of the platform and lead the Secretariat, currently hosted by CIFOR-ICRAF.
- **The Secretariat** – supports all Agroecology TPP bodies, the development and implementation of integrated projects, as well as communication and synthesis across domains. It deals with daily operations, including funding and budget, project follow-up, science-policy interfacing, and communication and advocacy.

A **Members’ Forum** meets annually to review the overall progress of the Agroecology TPP, discusses research findings and knowledge and implementation needs, and sets priorities for the future.

There are two principle means of attaining institutional membership:

1. All partners that formally engage with the AE-TPP through a joint research project or programme, or as part of the governance system, automatically qualify for membership.
2. By manifesting mutual value added and interest in joint implementation of agroecology, organizations can apply for membership (subject to Steering Committee approval).

Additionally, individuals can join the Agroecology TPP’s digital **Community of Practice** (CoP) on GLFx to co-create knowledge together with scientists and other CoP members, via a number of innovative and interactive features.

An integral part of the Agroecology TPP’s structure are eight inter-connected ‘domains’, each comprised of a set of projects which, through research, address knowledge or implementation gaps.

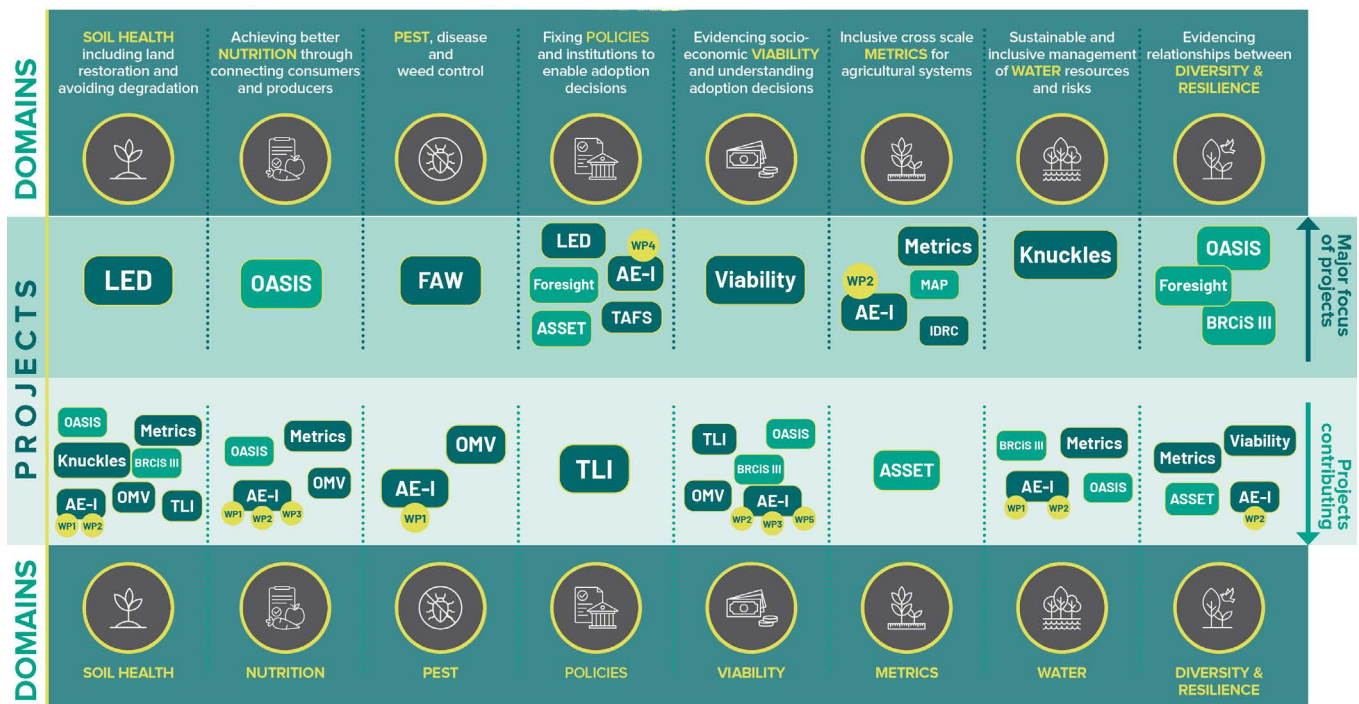


Figure 2. Project and Domains of the Agroecology TPP. Abbreviations: AE-I – Agroecology Initiative; ASSET – Agroecology and Safe Food System Transitions in South East Asia; BRCIS III – Building Resilient Communities in Somalia III; FAW – Fall Army Worm Project; IDRC – International Development Research Centre of Canada; LED – Liechtenstein Development Service; MAP – Measuring Agroecology and its Performance; OASIS – Operationalising Agro-Sustainability in Somalia; OMV – One Million Voices; TAFS – Transitions to Agroecological Food Systems; TLI – Transformative Land Investment.

The AE-TPP works under the **principle of subsidiarity**. Each project is managed and governed under its own modalities that are in line with agroecological principles. **Integrated** projects operate across a series of ‘engagement landscapes’ – where co-creation of knowledge is pursued with local people and National Agricultural Research and Extension Systems (NARES) – exemplars are established, global public goods generated, and lessons learnt that foster transformation across geographies. **Aligned** projects are originally conceived and managed from outside of the AE-TPP but, nonetheless, are partially aligned with its objectives and modalities, bringing added value both for the project and the AE-TPP.