



Agroecology in IFAD Operations

Virtual webinar 8 September 2021



Stock-take framework and findings



Agroecology in practice in Brazil



From learning to way forward

What is Agroecology?



1920s

Scientists

Application of ecological principles to agriculture, in which diversity, recycling and efficient use of resources are central.



1980s

Broader set of actors

Integrated approach to sustainable food systems as a:

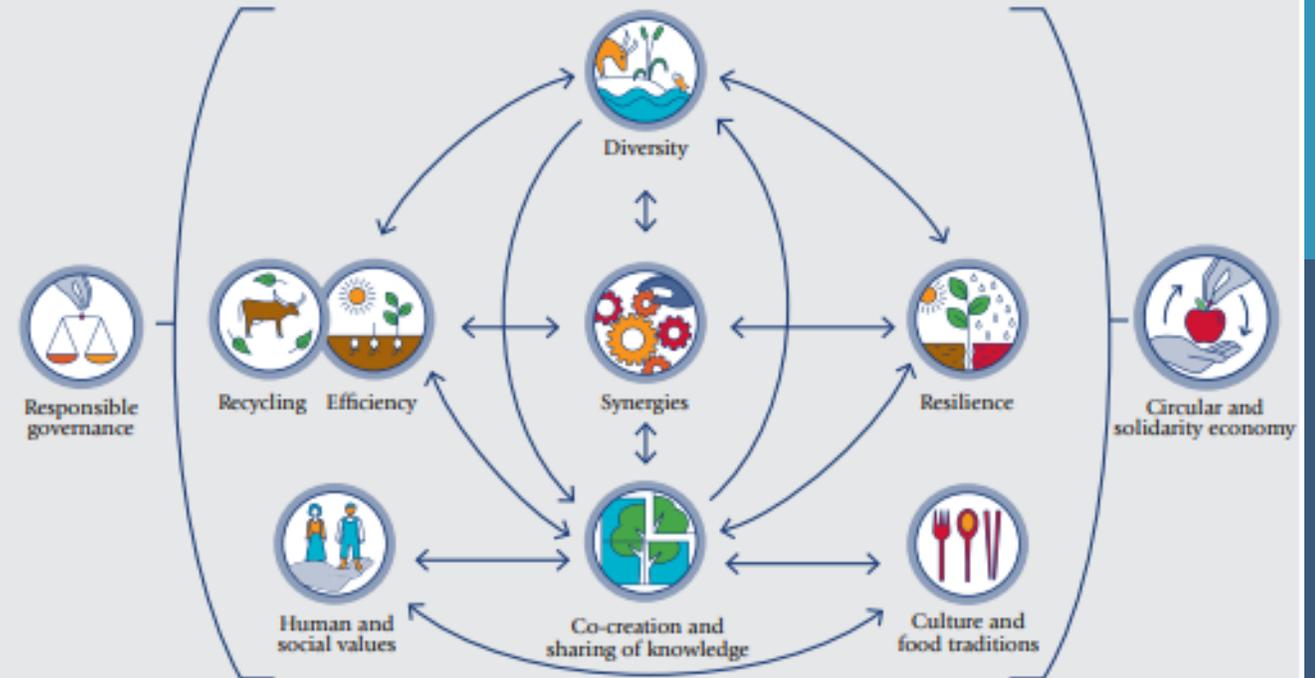
- science
- set of practices
- social movement

“the integration of ecology, economy and society within food systems” (Gliessman et al., 2003)



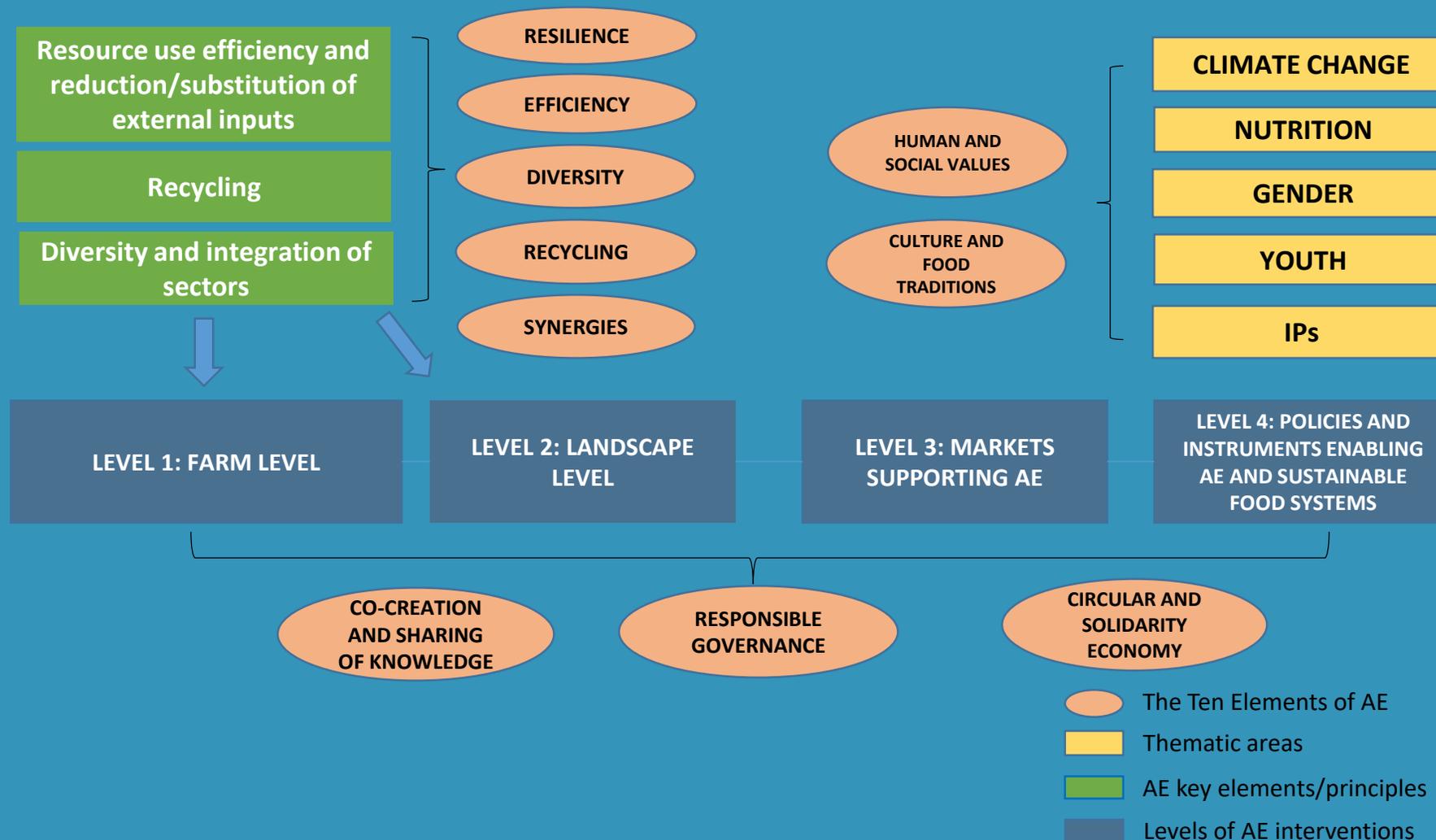
The 10 Elements adopted by the FAO Council in December 2019
CFS Policy recommendations endorsed in June 2021

The 10 elements of agroecology and their interaction (modified from FAO 2018)



(Source: FAO. 2018. The 10 Elements of Agroecology: guiding the transition to sustainable food and agricultural systems. Rome: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. <http://www.fao.org/3/i9037en/i9037en.pdf>)

The IFAD Agroecology Stocktake Framework



Classification

Resource use efficiency and reduction/ substitution of external inputs

Recycling

Diversity and integration of sectors

All three key elements → AE based

2/3 or 3/3 but not with all beneficiaries → Partially AE

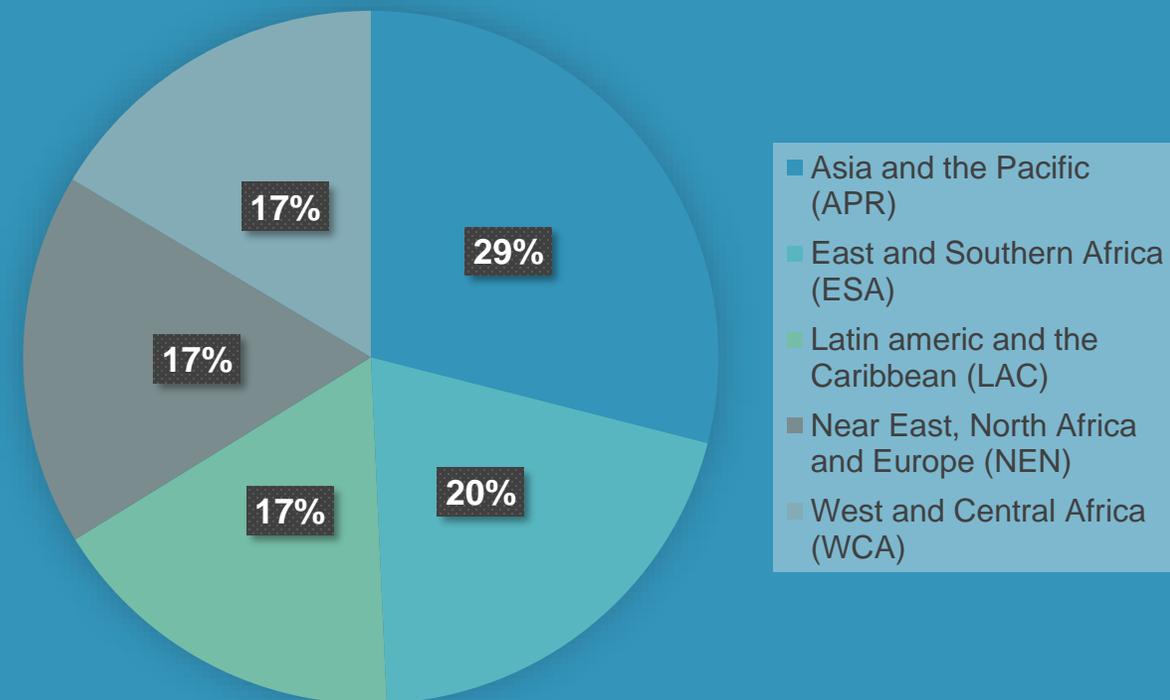
One or no key element → Non AE

Sample



All 207 IFAD projects completed or planned to be completed in the period 2018-2023

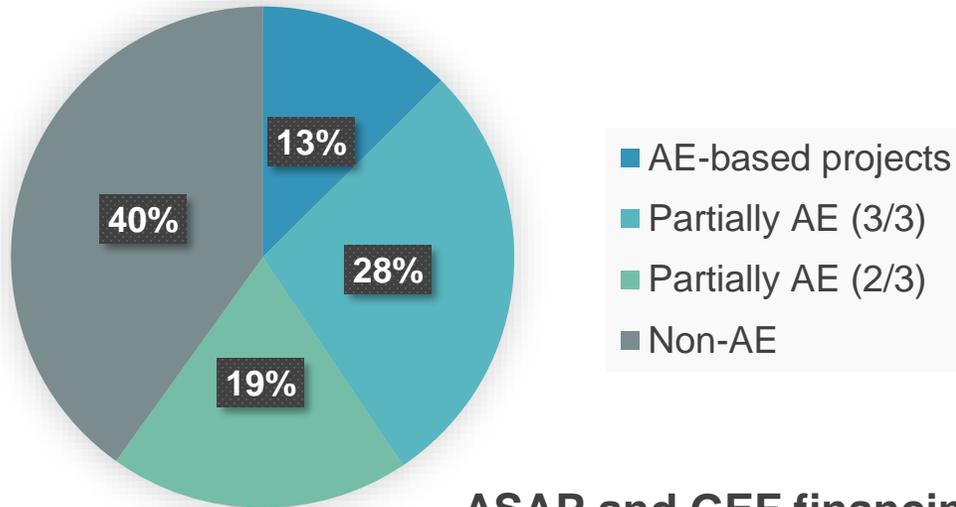
Total projects by Region



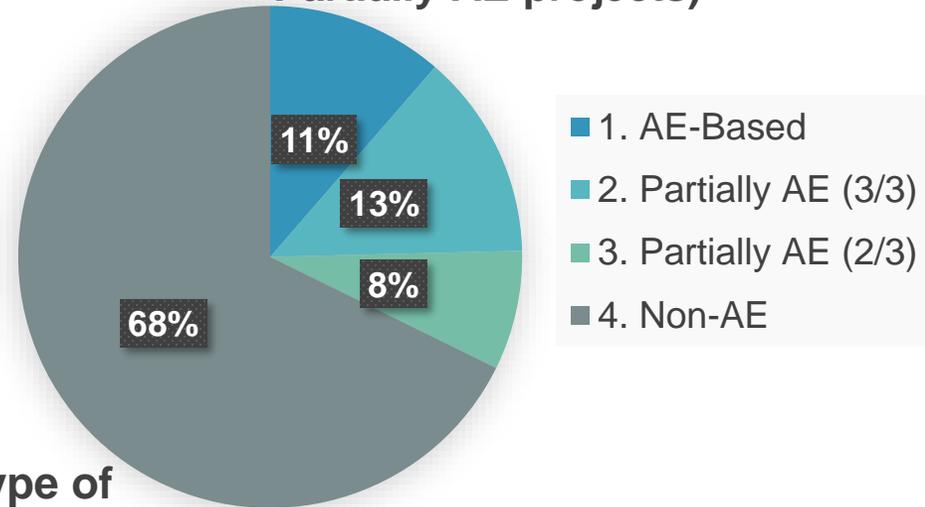
What is IFAD's support for agroecology?



Projects by Type

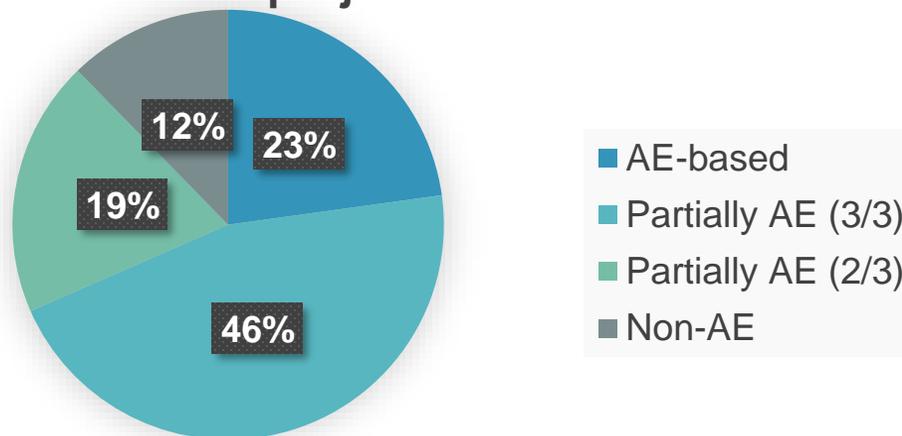


Financing by project type (considering 50% of amount for Partially-AE projects)



➔ More than 2/3 of the total financing (USD 15.5 bn) analysed goes to non AE projects

ASAP and GEF financing by type of project



➔ 60% of IFAD projects are supporting agroecology practices

➔ 87% of projects with ASAP financing and 90% of projects with GEF financing are promoting agroecology

IFAD's support for agroecology in the 4 levels

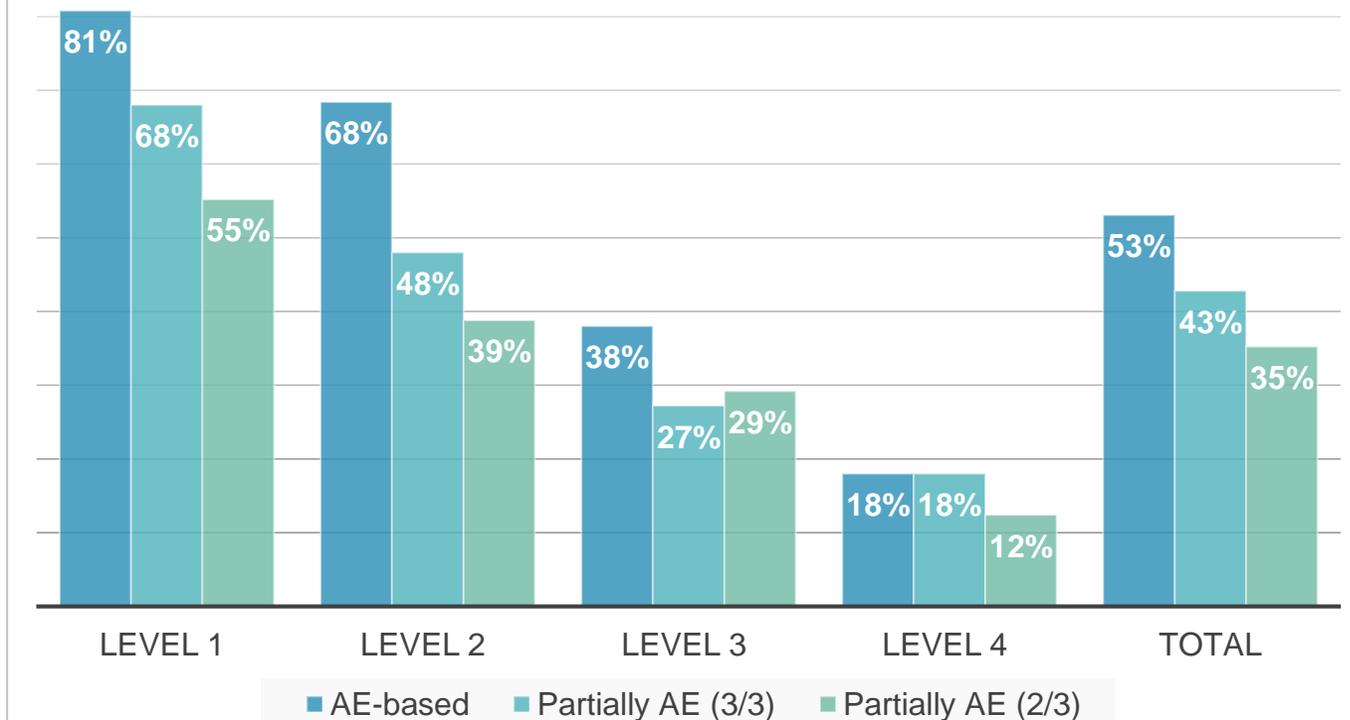


IFAD's proposition:

➔ Strong and broad coverage of agroecology activities at farm and landscape levels – longstanding support for community-based NRM and FFS.

➔ Comparative advantage in innovative approaches at market level and bringing small-scale producers into policy processes

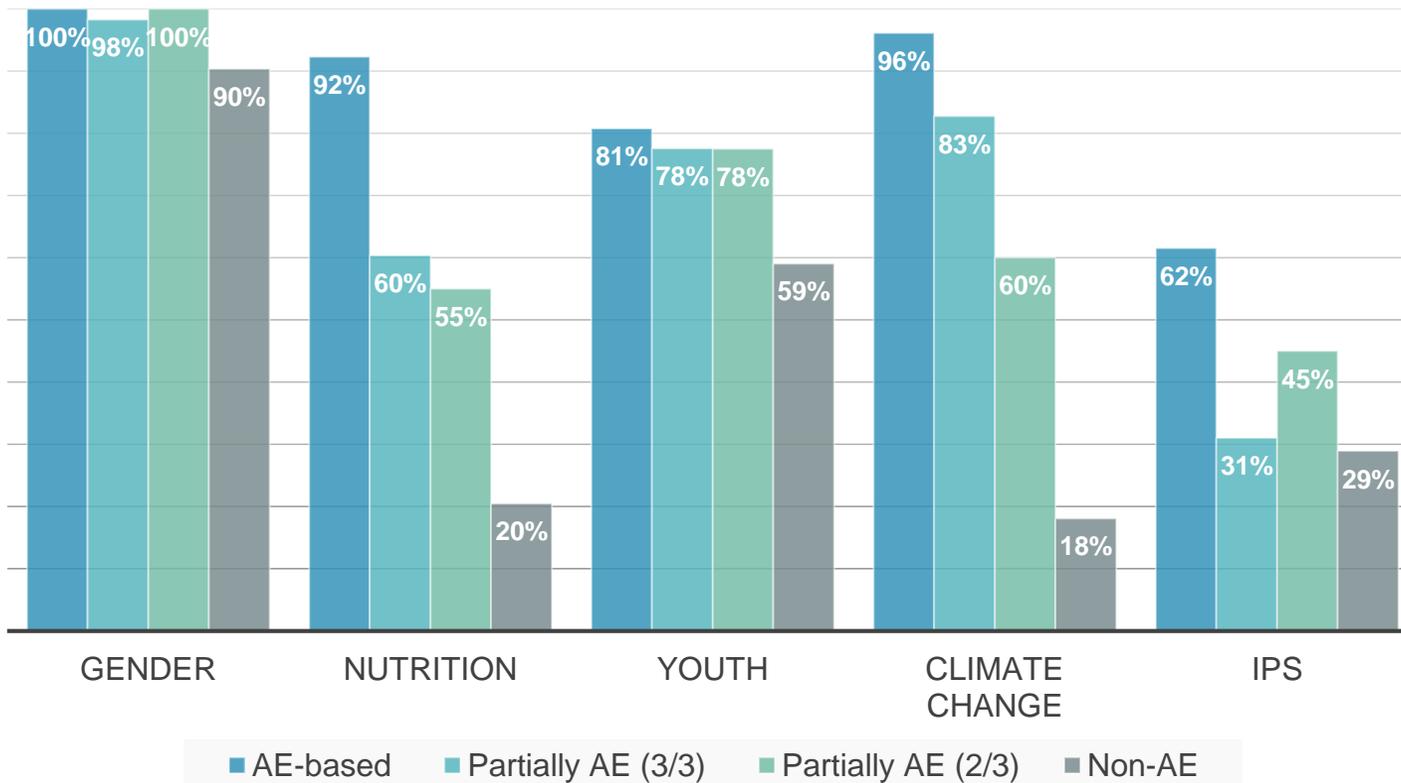
Percentage coverage of activity groups at each level by type of project



How well is agroecology supporting IFAD's mainstreaming priorities and Indigenous peoples?



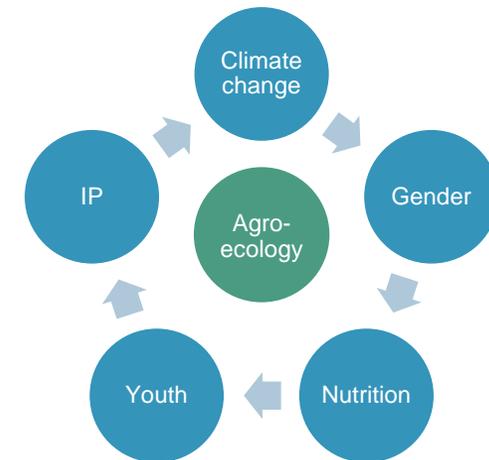
Support for mainstreaming priorities by project type



Agroecology projects are:

→ early adopters of climate change, nutrition and youth

→ Relevant for indigenous peoples



To what extent are activities particularly benefiting Biodiversity included in agroecology projects?

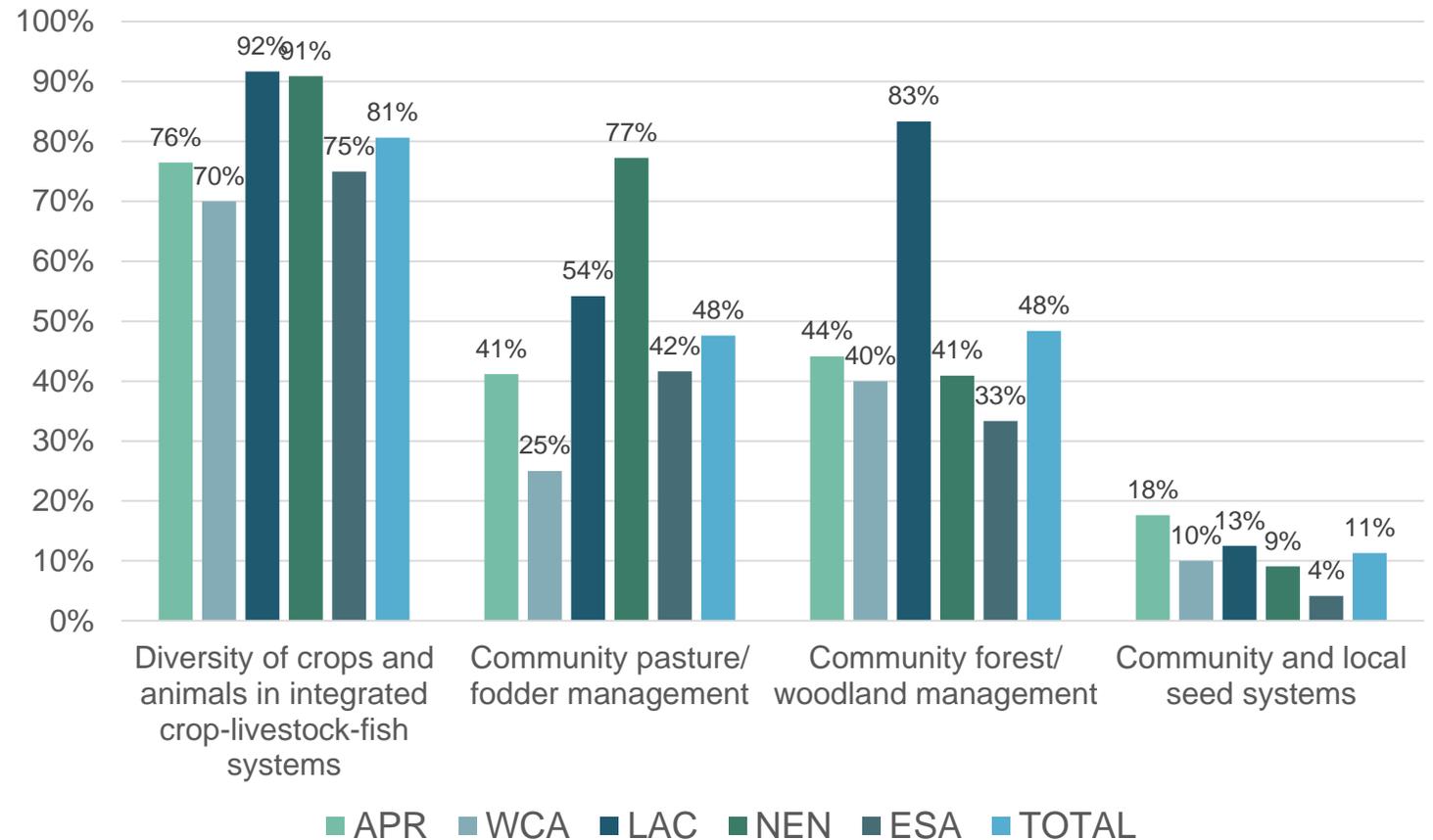


Agrobiodiversity:

➔ 81% of agroecology projects support diversity in farming systems vs only 1% of non agroecology projects

➔ Further opportunity to support community seed systems currently only supported by 7% of agroecology projects

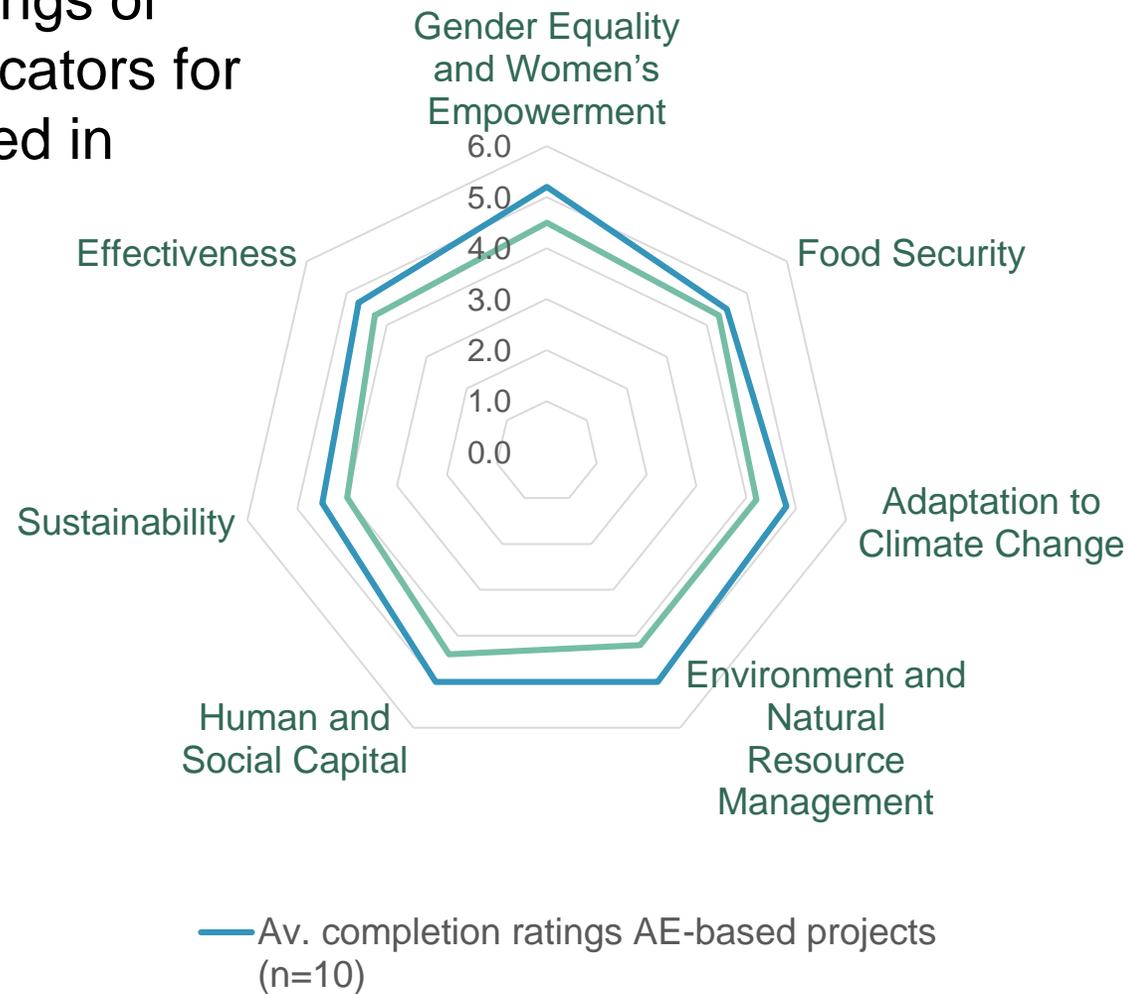
Biodiversity activities in projects supporting agroecology



Are agroecology projects performing better than non agroecology projects?



Average final ratings of performance indicators for projects completed in 2018-2020



Agroecology projects:

➔ Outperformed non agroecology projects on all key indicators relevant for inclusive and sustainable food systems

➔ Perform particularly well in Gender, Human and Social Capital, Environment and NRM, and Adaptation to Climate Change



Agroecology in Practice

The Rural Sustainable Development Project in the Semi-arid Region of Bahia, Brazil (Pro-Semi-Arid) 2013-2022

The PSA Project – co-funded by IFAD in collaboration with the State of Bahia



➤ Activities and innovations:

- ❑ Restoration of the *Caatinga* biome
- ❑ Local seed guardians and seed systems
- ❑ Agroecological backyard gardens
- ❑ Agroecological Logbooks
- ❑ Improving access to markets
- ❑ Territorial approach

➤ Outreach:

- ❑ **70,000** rural families → **250,000** people, of which:
 - **35,719** women
 - **20,200** young people
 - traditional and indigenous communities of **6,474** rural families
- ❑ **32** municipalities comprising of **115** rural territories - **460** communities

Recuperation of and sustainable production in the *Caatinga* biome



“Marizete Carolina”
agroecosystem

Backyard sub-system
(0.5 ha)

Roçado collective
subsystem (10 ha)

Collective *Fundo de Pasto*
area (5.2 ha of 140 ha)

❑ Monetary profitability → a remuneration of BRL 1.53 for every BRL 1.00 invested

(Data source: LUME methodology)



Local seed guardians and seed systems with collective “seed banks” increasing local agro-biodiversity



➤ Results:

- ❑ Income generation → higher prices and new local markets
- ❑ Food security and nutrition
- ❑ Climate change adaptation and resilience
- ❑ Engaging women and youth

- Support to 420 “seed guardians” (more than 1,000 families) in Bahia promoting more than 235 varieties of traditional creole seeds



The Agroecological Backyard Gardens managed by women



- ☐ Increase in production for 55% of families (92% of the target)

- ☐ Adoption of new practices by 93% of families (155% of the target)



- ☐ Value addition to 54% of the products generated (109% of the target).

- ☐ Enhanced nutrition and recovered ancient traditions contributing to local food supply systems

Agroecological Logbooks – a methodological tool rendering women's work visible



Recording of:

- Consumption
- Donation
- Exchange
- Sale



- ❑ Employed by 370 women
- ❑ Total recorded value produced in six months → 90,000 USD
- ❑ 41% out of 290,000 USD produced by women correspond to non-monetary socio-economic relationships



Innovative interventions enhancing access to markets increasing value



- Certified "organic" and "family farming" agroecological products
- Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS)
- “*Economía Solidária*” market strategy
- Public procurement programmes
- Conventional markets in partnership with the local private sector

Territorial approaches building community resilience



- Youth engaged as Rural Development Agents of their territories

- ❑ Formation of Territorial Collegiate (CODETER) for policy dialogue
- ❑ Implementation of agroecological practices beyond communities reaching the territory as a whole.
- ❑ Removal of market barriers through the adoption of the Municipal Inspection Service (SIM)
- ❑ Participation in public policy processes
- ❑ Adequate technical assistance - the Center for Studies in Agroecology and Coexistence with the Semi-arid (NEACS)



Forward Looking

From learning to strengthening engagement and impacts



Findings

Agroecology (AE) strongly contributes to IFAD mainstreaming priorities

AE projects perform well on key indicators linked to inclusive food systems



Way forward

Support small-scale producers and communities in adopting integrated and holistic approaches, such as agroecology, to sustainable food systems transition, in particular in areas where the main development objective is to stabilize outputs and incomes and increase the production and availability of a diversity of foods accessible to low-income families

Strengthen community ownership, responsible governance and enabling services and policy environments to improve project sustainability and development effectiveness

Develop technical guidance for the design and implementation of agroecological approaches in investment projects, facilitate exchange and learning between regions and various stakeholders

From learning to strengthening engagement and impacts



Findings

Consistent support for agroecological practices at farm and landscape level

Interesting innovations in 1/3 of AE based projects with opportunities to engage further in supporting the commercialization and marketing of agroecology products

Limited support for improving policies, services and instruments for up-scaling and transition to sustainable food systems



Way forward

Document lessons learned, best practice examples and provide guidelines for:

- investing in innovative approaches to connect small-scale agroecological producers with food markets and consumers
- multi-stakeholder territorial platforms engaging small-scale producers, women, youth and Indigenous Peoples in finding solutions to systemic barriers for agroecological production and food systems transition

Develop and apply results monitoring instruments to evidence theories of change, impacts and benefits of agroecological farming and commercialization systems (e.g. EFA+, resilience scorecard, TAPE)

Partner with governments and other actors to support development of comprehensive policy frameworks and/or adjustments enabling agroecology and sustainable food systems transition.

From learning to strengthening engagement and impacts



Findings

Most financing goes to non-agroecology projects

Limited private sector co-financing

Climate financing has important catalytic role



Way forward

Seek partnerships to improve and apply results-based investment tools to assess and monitor impacts of investment contributions to sustainable food systems to encourage and scale up investments

Under IFAD's Private Sector Engagement Strategy and in relation to sovereign investment projects, partner with private impact investors and identify business cases and related financing instruments for co-investing with agroecological entrepreneurs, working with small-scale producers in aggregation and commercialization

Conclusion



Holistic approaches, such as agroecology, performs better on IFAD's mainstreaming priorities and various indicators linked to sustainable food systems



IFAD is widely supporting agroecology and to fully achieve food system benefits needs to scale emerging innovations in:

- a) Access to markets valuing agroecology
- b) Territorial approaches for multistakeholder engagement to solve systemic barriers for up-scaling



Need for more systematic evidence and learning on the benefits for small-scale producers and broader impacts on the transition to sustainable food systems



Thank you

More information:
Rikke Olivera, Senior Technical Specialist
R.Olivera@ifad.org



Contribution of Agroecology Stock-take to IFAD's Strategy on Biodiversity 2022-2025

8 September 2021



IFAD Strategy on Biodiversity 2022-2025

- Tool to step up and guide IFAD's operations in the coming years.
- The purpose is to facilitate a more systematic, strategic and widespread integration of the protection, sustainable use and promotion of biodiversity in IFAD operations.
- It builds on the “IFAD strategy and action plan on environment and climate change 2019-2025”.

Contributions of the AE stock-take



Positive correlation between projects promoting integrated and holistic approaches, and the sustainable use of agrobiodiversity



Need to strengthen policy engagement and market-level interventions for biodiversity-friendly produce



Enhance monitoring, knowledge management and learning from biodiversity interventions