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# Towards the establishment of Agroecological Living Landscapes:

*Considerations for stakeholder engagement  
and the establishment of Agroecological Living  
Landscapes (ALLs)*

**Bernard Triomphe and Nadia Bergamini, WP1 coordination,**  
with inputs from Country teams and country WP1 leaders

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Work Package 1 (WP1) is responsible for the transdisciplinary co-creation of innovations in ALLs. Key activities implemented included stakeholder mapping, assessment of existing multistakeholder initiatives and in some cases, early phases of a visioning exercise. National and local multi-stakeholder events, review of existing documentation, semi-structured interviews and focus group discussions were used to varying degrees by each country for the above activities. Agreements were negotiated with key national stakeholders in some countries to foster and clarify their active participation in the Initiative and in the decision-making regarding ALL identification and establishment. This report presents a reflection about the challenges faced so far with stakeholder engagement and ALL establishment.

The CGIAR initiative Transformational Agroecology across Food, Land and Water Systems develops and scales agroecological innovations with small-scale farmers and other food system actors in seven low- and middle-income countries. It is one of 32 initiatives of CGIAR, a global research partnership for a food-secure future, dedicated to transforming food, land, and water systems in a climate crisis.

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### Introduction

The Agroecology initiative has opted to put at the very center of its action, **Agroecology Living Landscapes (ALLs)**, which are intended to be territories for multi-stakeholder engagement in which agroecological innovations can be identified, codesigned, tested and adopted by its members. Establishing ALLs are expected to achieve a genuine, realistic, and context-specific agroecological transition aligned with the 13 agroecological principles identified by the HLPE (2019).

In this initiative, Work Package 1 (WP1) is responsible for the transdisciplinary co-creation of innovations in ALLs. ALLs operate across all initiative work packages dealing with new agroecological production practices, value chain arrangements and business models, policy- and institutional-enabling environment, and behavioral change strategies. During the initiative kick-off workshop in March 2022, the focal points of the 7 countries in which the initiative operates agreed with WP1 coordination that establishing ALLs could not be done following or applying a standard methodology: in effect, each country presents a different situation, trajectory, and human resources in terms of advancing agroecology and implementing multistakeholder approaches. Also, by its very design, the initiative claims to let its national and local partners in each country have a significant say in how the initiative should work. It was hence decided collectively that what was relevant and useful for identifying and establishing ALLs on the ground was to identify **common engagement principles** and methodological guidelines that each country team could use flexibly to shape and guide its approach and related actions.

Key activities implemented to contribute to ALL establishments included stakeholder mapping, assessment of existing multistakeholder initiatives and in some cases, early phases of a visioning exercise. National and local multi-stakeholder events, review of existing documentation, semi-structured interviews and focus group discussions were used to varying degrees by each country for the above activities. Agreements were negotiated with key national stakeholders in some countries to foster and clarify their active participation in the Initiative and in the decision-making regarding ALL identification and establishment. The ALLs that are emerging in the 7 countries as a result of the implementation of the above set of activities vary in size and scale, stakeholder composition and previous AE trajectories, depending on the country context and trajectory with agroecology and multistakeholder approaches.

This report presents a reflection about the challenges faced so far with stakeholder engagement and ALL establishment.

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# Part 1: Cross-analysis of stakeholder engagement and ALL establishment process

See Table 1 below which provides a comparative view of what different country teams have done.

### Progress achieved with the ALL emergence

Variable progress was achieved by different countries and variable ways of pursuing engagement and appropriating the 6 engagement principles (see Guidelines) used, depending on the country and context and on the composition / speed of consolidation of country WP1 teams.

Some countries developed quite a sophisticated step-wise and careful process to identify potential ALL partners and engage with them: case of Kenya (see Table 1 and Kenya section for details). Others went rather fast and held in quick succession national workshops to create awareness and validate choices, followed by local (ALL-level) workshops: case of Zimbabwe (see Table 1 and Zimbabwe section for details). Some countries had to wait until they were able to constitute an Initiative / WP1 team or mobilize the necessary human resources to get the ALL establishment process going: cases of Laos, and to a certain extent, India (even though in this case, AE dynamics is well advanced as a result of the state-wide Natural Farming program implemented since 2016). Some country teams (case of Tunisia, Burkina for example) have gone forward with conforming ALLs and inviting members to join *even without having completed STH mapping*. This in part reflects their existing knowledge and experiences engaging with a diversity of stakeholders in the framework of previous projects with similar objectives or approaches. There is however an obvious risk in that case that the resulting ALL might resemble an “old friends’ club”, hence the need to complete the stakeholder mapping and remain open to considering and inviting not previously known stakeholders. Burkina Faso for its part could not yet implement ALL-level workshops as a result of political turmoil and security concerns in the second half of 2022.

While different approaches were pursued, most countries implemented a mix of the following activities: creating awareness and sharing the Initiative’s proposed agenda, stakeholder mapping (if only partial), initial assessment of existing multistakeholder initiatives and in some cases, early phases of visioning. Doing so encompassed organizing national and local multi-stakeholder events, reviewing existing documentation, conducting semi-structured interviews and focus group discussions. In some countries (e.g. Tunisia, agreements were negotiated with key national stakeholders to foster and clarify their active participation in the Initiative and in the decision-making regarding ALL identification and establishment).

Some **key factors explaining differences observed in implementation and progress** across countries include the *existence of past or on-going projects or programs and established relationships* to identify / confirm partners and sites. This illustrates the fact that *the initiative does not and should not work in a vacuum* as it has a lot to gain by remaining well aware of what was done or is being done by whom and where. This will

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allow to avoid unnecessary duplication of efforts or stakeholders' fatigue and to create synergies among compatible projects, be this compatibility in terms of the subject matter (see overlaps between agroecology, organic agriculture, sustainable intensification, climate change adaptation for example, which also manifests itself the various CGIAR initiatives that have started being implemented in parallel in some of the 7 countries) or on the approaches (use of living labs or innovation platforms, codesign, etc.). A recurrent question is what is the specific value-added of the AE Initiative to past or on-going efforts in the same territorial or stakeholder configurations, and how to articulate the Initiative functionally to other projects and initiatives in terms of human resources, stakeholders involved, events and activities, and soon in mobilization of complementary funding sources.

A recurring question at this stage in most countries is how best to use the results of stakeholder mapping to help establishing ALLs. In effect, one thing is mapping stakeholders, and another is selecting and inviting some of them to be part of an ALL based on explicit criteria, which in turn must be derived from the 6 engagement principles. Country teams need clear criteria for determining ALL membership or excluding stakeholders from the ALL, even if only temporarily. Criteria should make use of information collected during STH mapping, but also reflect the 6 engagement principles as well as some common sense about where to start or how to engage with and rely on "the strong ones" (cf. Kenya). A related doubt among country teams is how they may best engage with those who are against agroecology and hence might resist the very change the Initiative wants to pursue. A pragmatic short-term solution would be not to invite such stakeholders and organizations to form part of the ALL (cf. application of engagement Principle 3 about motivation and interest). However, they would still need to be engaged somehow if their influence on the agroecological transition is considered to be significant: doing so will hopefully gradually convince them to start supporting agroecology.

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Table 1: Comparative analysis of steps taken

towards ALL establishment, stakeholders involved, physicality of the ALLs and emergence of coleadership

Country	Steps implemented for stakeholder engagement	Main stakeholders of the ALL	Physicality of the ALL	Degree of co-leadership by national or local stakeholders
<b>Peru</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Resuming existing relationships with Cocoa actors.</li> <li>Territorial kick-off</li> <li>STH mapping v1/Database of stakeholders relevant for the ALL.</li> <li>Stakeholder Mapping (Visual map at various scale, influence x affinity graph)</li> <li>Inventory of MSP.</li> <li>Visioning with Gov. Institutions &amp; Civil society; Coop members</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Farmer organization: Agrarian cooperative of aromatic cocoa "Colpa de Loros"</li> <li>Biocacao Association</li> <li>Research: National Institute of Agrarian Innovation (INIA)</li> <li>Regional Government of Ucayali (GOREU)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Smaller area within the territorial unit defined by the government of Ucayali</li> <li>Area under the influence of the Cocoa Cooperative</li> <li>Meeting space in definition (University of Ucayali)</li> </ul>	No coleadership as such, but active involvement of the Cocoa cooperative
<b>India</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Through APCNF</li> <li>Field visits</li> <li>Onboarding of technical partner WASSAN</li> <li>FGDs with farmers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Small and marginal farmers</li> <li>Women farmers</li> <li>Women Self Help groups and their federations</li> <li>Field functionaries</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Selection of ALLs sites based on soil type, cropping systems, n. of farmers practicing NF or who are converting to NF</li> <li>Offices of SHGs</li> <li>Natural farming shops</li> <li>Farmers' cattle sheds</li> </ul>	ACPNF is already leading the NF government program and field functionaries and women SHGs are leading the on-field work
<b>Tunisia</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Online meetings with NARES</li> <li>Initially 3 FOs 1 more FOs was selected</li> <li>National kick-off meeting to present the AE-I</li> <li>FGDs for visioning with FOs</li> <li>MoUs established with NARES and NGOs to define activities &amp; outputs</li> <li>Discussions with private sector</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Farmer organizations</li> <li>NARES</li> <li>Training and extension agencies</li> <li>Local NGOs</li> <li>Private sector</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The selected ALL area forms a transect touching two governorates (administrative units) and includes four farmer organizations</li> <li>The 4 FOs extend along a physical gradient from plains to more abrupt reliefs and cover different social and territorial dynamics of collective action</li> </ul>	
<b>Burkina Faso</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inventory of existing projects, initiatives and stakeholders</li> <li>National kick-off</li> <li>Validation of a roadmap</li> <li>Consultation with institutional actors</li> <li>Political unrest at the end of 2022</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Milk value chain actors</li> <li>R&amp;D institutions</li> <li>Public service actors</li> <li>Producers' organizations</li> <li>NGOs</li> <li>Multi-stakeholder Innovation platform-</li> </ul>	<p>The ALL around Bobo-Dioulasso is based on <b>an existing dairy innovation platform</b> with has a building and staff</p> <p><i>Note: A second ALL was initially envisaged around Ouagadougou centered on legume-cereal systems but security concerns have led to its abandonment</i></p>	

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Country	Steps implemented for stakeholder engagement	Main stakeholders of the ALL	Physicality of the ALL	Degree of co-leadership by national or local stakeholders
<b>Laos</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Literature review of agroecological initiatives and projects</li> <li>National partners identif. &amp; mapping</li> <li>Feasibility/pre identifi. field visit</li> <li>A sustainability planning event</li> <li>Engagement to build partnership, ensure alignment with other initiatives and identify national government priorities</li> <li>Inter-provincial consultation (4 southern provinces)</li> <li>Attapeu ALL preliminary visioning through facilitated FGD and key informant interviews</li> <li>Initial Value chain assessments</li> <li>Initial basic asset mapping</li> </ul>	<p><b>Primary stakeholders</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Marginal farming and fishing households</li> <li>Agricultural producer groups</li> <li>Women and Youth Union members</li> <li>'Partnering' stakeholders</li> <li>Local authorities</li> <li>Farmer networks</li> <li>Research organisations</li> <li>Private sector</li> <li>Local/regional training centers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One ALL established and two more identified along common watershed</li> <li>They incorporate 10 villages along the Xekong River</li> <li>Collective action catalyzed by common property resources</li> </ul>	NAFRI and Lao farmers network already co-leading activities with local institutions and villagers on different relevant issue
<b>Kenya</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identification of a MSP as national anchorage point</li> <li>Initial stakeholder mapping</li> <li>National team planning</li> <li>Initial engagement w/ local STH &amp; MSPs (workshop)</li> <li>Field visits</li> <li>Sustainability planning training workshop with with PELUM, DNRC, and CSHEP</li> </ul>	Community of place small group of FSAs drawn from different stakeholder categories identified based on their likely interest in and/or their track record of lived experience and contribution to the objectives of the Initiative. Actors include government, local administration, learning institutions, NGOs, CBOs, Farmer groups and Private sector actors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Landscape-level space defined by physical boundaries</li> <li>Boundaries are defined by the FSAs conveying a joint meaning to the landscape</li> <li>ALL Host centers (farmer training centers) provide a physical space where FSAs can meet, interact, and co-create</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establishment of true partnerships on the ground through agreements</li> <li>Relationship building in a training workshop through the sustainability planning engagement approach to promote co-creation and co-design</li> <li>Working with existing structures</li> </ul>
<b>Zimbabwe</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National &amp; 2 district-level kick-offs</li> <li>STH and multi-STH initiative mapping</li> <li>Consultative meeting with key stakeholders for ALL establishment and agreement</li> <li>Visioning with ALL members</li> <li>Farm typology</li> <li>Pre-identification of technologies based on opportunities to test in 2022/23</li> </ul>	The ALL activities are steered by the <b>AARDS Officer</b> because of the presence at the local level and because they have the mandate through the government to convene stakeholders for development issues. Other stakeholders include Private sector, Farmers, Service providers and traders	The delineation of the ALLs are based on administrative sub-district units, the ward (level at which development committees operate)	Appropriation of the initiative and interest in engaging in AE have been expressed by different Gov. Dep; by the Ag extension department; by a local association and by a business person

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### Who are the main stakeholders of the emerging ALLs and what motivates them to be part of an ALL and work together around an AET agenda

A rather large number of stakeholders was identified in each country during stakeholder mapping (see related blog). However, the number of core members who did integrate the ALL formally or will be invited to do so in the near future is more limited (see positioning maps of Kenya, Burkina, Peru in the Stakeholder blog)

The following are the core stakeholder types that are represented in basically all ALLs in the 7 countries:

- Farmers organizations or grass root organizations
- Public technical services (extension in particular)
- National research organizations (usually through a local branch)
- Local governments

In some countries, relying on existing government supported multi-stakeholder mechanisms (e.g. District and sub-district level development committees in the case of Zimbabwe) is a good way of anticipating that the ALL are sustainable beyond the life of the initiative.

Less systematically represented are the following stakeholder types:

- NGOs
- private sector
- universities
- consumers

Private sector stakeholders need to be considered more explicitly during the mapping phase, although they should not necessarily be invited to become formally members of the ALL (case of the big chocolate company KAOKA in Peru). The type of stakeholders to involve will very much depend also on the kind of markets the Initiative will be trying to link farmers: for ex. local versus export, or poor consumers versus rich ones. In Kenya for example, an entry point could be linking farmers with organic local markets, whereas in Peru, the entry point is the EU export market for the time being. In Laos, there is an export market to China for quality rice but this happens in a context of high food insecurity and aiming at expanding to EU export market. In Zimbabwe, the target seems to be local markets.

While the corresponding data is not yet available or analyzed, it will be interesting to be able to reflect on the relative presence of local vs. territorial / regional vs. national stakeholders in the ALL, or the proportion of stakeholders that the country teams knew before-hand (from past projects) vs. new partners that were identified thanks to the Stakeholder mapping and multi-STH initiative assessment.

### Physicality of the ALLs

By physicality, we mean the tangible dimensions of the emerging ALLs in terms of territory they operate in, existence of physical spaces for collective actions, etc.

The geographic size of the territories considered for ALL establishment vary from relatively small ones (wards in Zimbabwe, around communities and local farmer organizations in Tunisia), to sub-district and district level, to value chains (Burkina). A major factor considered in ALL formation by most countries is the coincidence with administrative boundaries and hence in particular with the way official public services are structured and operate. Another factor is the space in which value chains operate: this is the case in Burkina Faso with the dairy value chain around Bobo-Dioulasso.

Only 2 countries seem to have given importance so far to the existence of physical convening spaces for implementing ALL activities: Kenya (by targeting an NGO that provides training to farmers on its own



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building and field) and Burkina (by targeting an existing Dairy Innovation platform that possesses its own building).

While conceptually ALLs are generally considered to be operating at a given scale, there are many interactions and overlaps among scales in practice: some stakeholders operate simultaneously across scales (case of national research institutions; of government agencies). Also, depending on the activities considered by the various WPs of the Initiative, a territory associated with an ALL does not provide the most relevant or only space for value chain related actions or for policy work.

### Fostering coleadership of the ALLs by local stakeholders

Fostering local leadership by ALL stakeholders and also by national partners is reflected in the Engagement Principle 6 and should be addressed by country teams, and possibly from the very start. Most countries are not yet there, except when it relates to engaging with historically “strong” partners. India has very strong partners linked to the implementation of the state-wide Natural farming program. Kenya for its part has been very thoughtful about preparing for future local coleadership through its careful engagement process and selection of a strong local partner, which itself is member of a strong NGO network. Burkina also has a strong base for coleadership by deciding to focus the establishment of the ALL around an existing multistakeholder platform

For the time being, signs of active involvement of some stakeholders are noticeable rather than leadership per se. As we work towards identifying a common vision and developing work plans, ensuring gradual coleadership will become a more prominent issue, which might imply also that capacity-building will have to be implemented, particularly to build the capacity and leadership of traditionally weaker stakeholders such as farmer organizations or often poorly resourced extension services.

### Reflecting about the challenges faced so far with stakeholder engagement and ALL establishment

Based on results obtained by the various countries and challenges they faced, the following cross-country and partly overlapping considerations seem, in order:

#### **1. Choosing the right partners for the Initiative and for formalizing ALLs**

While ALLs are basically focused on the territorial scale, it makes much sense to involve partners from different levels considering what the Initiative wants to achieve (as reflected by the objectives of the various WPs): from national to local levels.

As reflected in Engagement Principle 1, building on existing **relationships** with stakeholders involved in previous projects is a good entry point for ALL establishment as it provides a basis for trust between country teams and a host of stakeholders. The same can be said about taking advantage of existing multistakeholder mechanisms to avoid “reinventing the wheel: this is for example the case in Burkina where a Dairy Innovation platform constitutes the core of the proposed ALL.

Also, past projects and pre-existing innovation platforms provide concrete input for engaging in innovation development: this is well illustrated by the design of on-farm experiments on technological production practices that is already taking place in Zimbabwe and Tunisia, where country teams decided to include in the testing, technologies previously tested despite the short time they had to codesign such experiments.



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While stakeholder mapping reveals the existence of many actors in each territory, not all “territorial” stakeholders are to be part of the ALL, following our engagement principles and the recommendation to start with a few “strong” partners and gradually enlarge the membership. A challenge however is to reach out beyond the converted and to engage at some stage with those who somehow resist or are against AE.

### 2. Defining the boundaries of the ALLs and deciding / assessing if an ALL formally exists?

As was discussed with country teams early on, defining ALL boundaries encompass geographical and stakeholder dimensions. Different countries have chosen different boundaries: local administrative ones (ward in Zimbabwe, sub-districts in India), areas defined by the operation of a given value chain and its actors (dairy in Burkina) or area of influence of farmer organizations (Tunisia’s GDA, but also India when zooming in on the village level, and to an extent, Peru), or around a core convening partner (cf. role expected to be played by NGO-operated training centers in Kenya, or by the Dairy Innovation Platform in Burkina).

When the core partner is a farmers’ organization, a question will soon arise about how to reach out to the apparently **vast majority of farmers of the same area that are not part of these organizations?** This is a key question for **future scaling of innovations and other results.**

At this early stage of ALL establishment in most countries, clarifying the criteria for recognizing when an ALL has been formally established is important– this may include clarifying what being an ALL member entails (does inviting an organization to an event make it automatically a member?). The same will apply to clarifying how an ALL will operate over time (facilitation, governance, work plan, M&E, roles, etc.). Doing so will also allow WP1 to conduct in due time a comparative analysis of ALLs emergence and function across countries.

Note: How boundaries were or are being defined has significant implications on the **sustainability of the ALLs** we established in this initial phase of the Initiative. We need to get clarity on the various steps needed to make ALLs sustainable and less dependent on the country teams (see related reflections on co-leadership)

### 3. Dealing with the cross-WP and multiple stakeholder nature of ALLs

While this blog mostly reflects activities and accomplishments achieved within the context of WP1, establishing and operating ALLs is a dynamic and interdisciplinary process, which covers and involves different dimensions and issues that interact with each other (economic, biophysical, social). While WP1 has been at the forefront of ALL establishment, other WPs of the Initiative should also contribute to this process and soon to ALL functioning as different types of innovation will be hopefully codesigned among ALL members.

More generally, there is a need to develop a strong common team vision at the Initiative level and in each country team about what an ALL is, how it is supposed to function, something that has not yet been done in several countries, or only partially. Once each country team is able to confirm who their core partners at national or ALL level will be, this common vision will need to be adjusted to reflect properly the views of such partners. This will be in line with both, the engagement principles WP1 identifies early on and the stated intention of the Initiative to engage in codesign of innovation within the context of the ALLs.

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### 4. Balancing process-based vs output-based issues within the Initiative

From the beginning, establishing ALLs has been identified as a key short-term output of the Initiative. Up to now, by conscious choice or by obligation, different approaches and paces have been used to establish ALL depending on the countries and the specific context in which country teams operate. At the same time, the ALL establishment process is taking on average more time than envisioned in most countries, to the extent that we foresee that it will probably not be fully finalized until towards the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> phase of the Initiative (end of 2024). The challenge hence is to report “enough” progress so that the donors and decision-makers at the CG level are satisfied with the progress being achieved and keep funding activities, yet giving due importance to the process and pace at which stakeholder engagement, codesign and leadership can actually take place, which is very much country-specific. Given the relative marginality and novelty of process-based approaches in the CGIAR, this is and will not be an easy balance to maintain.

### Perspectives and next steps

At this juncture, all countries have been able to make the agroecological Living Landscapes emerge even so ALL membership has not been made formal, a collective vision for of agroecological transition has not yet been finalized or governance and decision-making mechanisms defined. This means that, for the time being, the application of several of the 6 engagement principles is still partial, and most notably principles 5 (ensuring there is a sufficiently demand-driven agenda) and 6 (ensuring coleadership). This is not necessarily a problem as we clearly understand now that ALL establishment is a rather lengthy and iterative process: this means that it may still require significant time to have functional ALLs established in the 7 countries.

Next steps to be conducted in each country with respect to pursuing ALL establishment and formalization depend very much on progress achieved in 2022. For most countries, a priority is to conduct or finalize their stakeholder mapping, including finding a relevant visualization and developing the necessary analysis of mapping results to provide them with clear justification for engaging with stakeholders perhaps not presently known or considered to them, or to select exactly which stakeholders to invite to become formal ALL members. As said earlier, the objective of the stakeholder mapping exercise is not to produce visually attractive maps, databases and technical reports about stakeholder mapping: rather, it is to provide inputs for confirming ALL membership and refining stakeholder engagement:

Based on the corresponding results, WP1 will be able to engage in a more detailed comparative and cross-country analysis of results obtained, as well as provide support to country teams in formalizing ALL membership and developing governance rules with ALL members.

Country teams will also engage in, or finalize, **visioning** with ALL members: conducting this activity or rather process properly and giving attention to the diversity of views, objectives, desires among the different stakeholders is a **crucial step** to come up with a **unified, shared vision** and understanding among members of what the ALL is all about and what an actual agroecological transition adapted to each context may entail. Disposing of a genuine shared vision will also **contribute to developing a collective work plan**, i.e. identifying the activities that each ALL agrees to implement over the 2023-2024 period, how they are to be implemented and who will be responsible for what in their implementation. Up to now, the activities to be implemented were included in the Initiative’s proposal and identified by the CG / CIFOR-ICRAF /

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CIRAD partners. They have not yet been validated and appropriated by the local partners of each ALL. Also, activities that would respond more to needs and demand of ALL partners have not yet been identified. Yet, it is important to provide space for doing so, as this will mark the true difference between an externally-led project implementing its own agenda, and a genuine codesigned approach.

Lastly, country teams will soon need to engage in building the capacities of ALL stakeholders in different dimensions all relevant for undergoing an agroecological transition and working in an ALL: technical capacities related to agroecology, codesign capacities, innovation capacities including functional capacities (capacity to interact with others, lobbying capacity, self-critical capacity, etc.)

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# Part 2: Details about ALL establishment in the various countries

*Note: The country sections were redacted by the respective country team leaders and/or country WP1 leaders, and very lightly edited for content or form for the purpose of this blog. Any omission or misinterpretation is the responsibility of the authors of this blog.*

### List of WP1 country teams

Country	WP1 Team
Peru	Maria Claudia Tristán Febres (Country lead) Gabriela Wiederkehr José Sanchez Choy
Tunisia	Véronique Alary (Country lead) Ayman Frija Udo Rudiger Zied Idoudi Mourad Rekik Mina Devoski Hassen Ouerghemmi
Kenya	Lisa Fuchs (Country lead) Nadia Guettou Djurfeldt Peter Bolo Winnie Ntinyari Levi Orero
Zimbabwe	Frédéric Baudron (Country lead) Vimbayi Chimonyo Mazvita Chiduwa Dorcas Matangi Telma Sibanda George Mapuvire
Burkina Faso	Eric Scopel (Country lead)
India	Alok Sikka (Country lead) Swati Renduchintala
Laos	Mark Dubois (Country lead) Somphasith Douangsavanh

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### The case of Peru

#### 1. Initial engagement process

An important step was to resume the relationships built by the Alliance Bioversity International and CIAT in the framework of previous and ongoing projects. One of the most important projects sought to articulate the actors of the palm oil and cocoa chains in the region. Since both systems are the most relevant due to the degree of involvement of small producers, at the same time as representing the main means of livelihood for them, it was important to resume the relationships that were established in this project with direct and indirect actors in the chain. In this sense, the initial involvement with key actors was quite accessible, managing to formalize an early partnership with a sustainable cocoa cooperative. Knowledge of the actors and their dynamics facilitated the process of identifying key actors. However, we have only managed to formalize the partnership with this cooperative and with the regional government of Ucayali. A next step is the formalization of the ALL that we have planned for the end of February 2023.

To have a first approach with potential ALL actors, we organized a workshop on July 2022 to present the AE-I while taking the opportunity to meet the actors about their expectations with the initiative. An important issue was the limited identification with the term ALL. It is on our agenda as an initiative to propose a space to nominate the ALL with a name identifiable by local actors where the purpose of this multi-stakeholder platform is clear while exploring the governance structure for it. At a local scale, together with the cocoa cooperative, we have led a first workshop on visioning agriculture and the role of the cooperative with members of the organization. A next step is to revisit these visions with the technical team of the cooperative and evaluate to what extent they have been integrating the perspective of small producers, in addition to proposing a work agenda for year 2 of the AE-I.



Figure 1: Initiative launch meeting in Peru

#### 2. Main stakeholders of the ALL(s) and their motivation

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Based on the stakeholder analysis and given the AE-I is in an initial stage, we propose to work with actors with whom we already have a link through other projects, while they are interested in actively participating in the formulation of an agroecological transition. For the first stage the main partners for the AE-I are:

- Agrarian cooperative of aromatic cocoa “Colpa de Loros – implementing partner since it has been applying agroecological innovations at the plot level and it is expected to co-design innovations linked to the business model and financing schemes necessary to support the required changes of their system
- Biocacao Association - With the technical team, together with leading producers, a process will begin to co-design agroecological innovations that will improve the functioning of agricultural systems starting from the cocoa system
- National Institute of Agrarian Innovation (INIA) - key as a partner to develop scaling up strategies, since it is articulated with the agrarian agencies that work locally in the ALL territory
- Regional Government of Ucayali (GOREU) - political stakeholder will be key to co-design innovations of a regulatory and normative nature, in addition to the necessary institutional arrangements to enable favorable conditions for the agroecological transitions.

Based on the characteristics, purposes, objectives, activities, and interventions of the stakeholders, three main groups of interest have been identified on which stakeholders can relate:

- Agroecological production system - stakeholders interested in designing, piloting, and scaling agroecological production systems that allow increasing crop productivity, while reducing and eliminating environmental and social risks
- Regulatory framework and institutional arrangements - actors linked to the normative frameworks and regulations that allow a proper environment for transitions towards more sustainable food systems
- Business models, sustainable & inclusive finance - stakeholders interested in developing partnerships to design and implement sustainable business models and identify financial mechanisms to support agroecological/sustainable innovations



Figure 2: First visioning activity in Peru



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### 3. Physicality of the ALL(s)

The ALL in Peru takes as a proposal a territorial unit defined by the government of Ucayali within the framework of the implementation of the regional low-emission rural development strategy. Given that the strategy was conceived in a participatory manner by the multiple actors that are part of the region, the existence of this territorial space is common knowledge. However, given that the area is large, for the AE-I it is important to focus actions on smaller areas, for example the area of influence of the cocoa cooperative. As a team of the AE-I in Peru, we are interested in defining a meeting space for ALL actors that is permanent and impartial. A first idea is the National University of Ucayali; however, we have not yet materialized it.

### 4. Fostering coleadership by ALL stakeholders

Coleadership has not yet taken place, but active involvement certainly has. Such is the case of the cocoa cooperative who have been implementing actions in the field. Also, the president of the Regional Committee for Organic and Ecological Production (COREPO) has expressed a clear interest; however, as there will be a change of leadership in public institutions in 2023, it will require approaching the new representatives and clarifying if they confirm they want to be involved.

## The case of Tunisia

### 1. Initial engagement process

The process has started in 2021 whereby several online meetings were held with national partners (NARES) to identify the intervention area of the AE initiative in Tunisia (transect Kef / Siliana). Farmer organizations are supposed to be an essential part of living labs. It was decided to continue working with three FO from previous and ongoing projects engaged in soil and water conservation technology, crop-livestock integration, and conservation agriculture. In addition, one new FOs in the initiative intervention area was selected. FO selection criteria were established with local and national partners. In order to identify the new FO, five potential FOs (three in Siliana and two in Kef) have been pre-selected. FO prospection visit were organized in June 2022 with national partners to select the most motivated and engaged FO to join the ALL.

After the identification of the FOs a two-day kick off workshop was held in September 2022, where different NARES and NGOs were exposed to the AE initiative. Brainstorming on activities of potential Agroecological Transition pathways was carried out based on the AE-I TOC. Visioning workshops were held with all four farmers' organizations to discuss farmers ideas of an agroecological future.

A rapid analysis of the future vision obtained from the 8 focus groups (2 FG per FO) highlight the importance of two principles of the AE frame, i.e., Social values and Economic diversification, and secondly the principle of connectivity and soil health (Figure below). These four principles cover the main issues tackled in the three impact pathways proposed in the Tunisian ALL.



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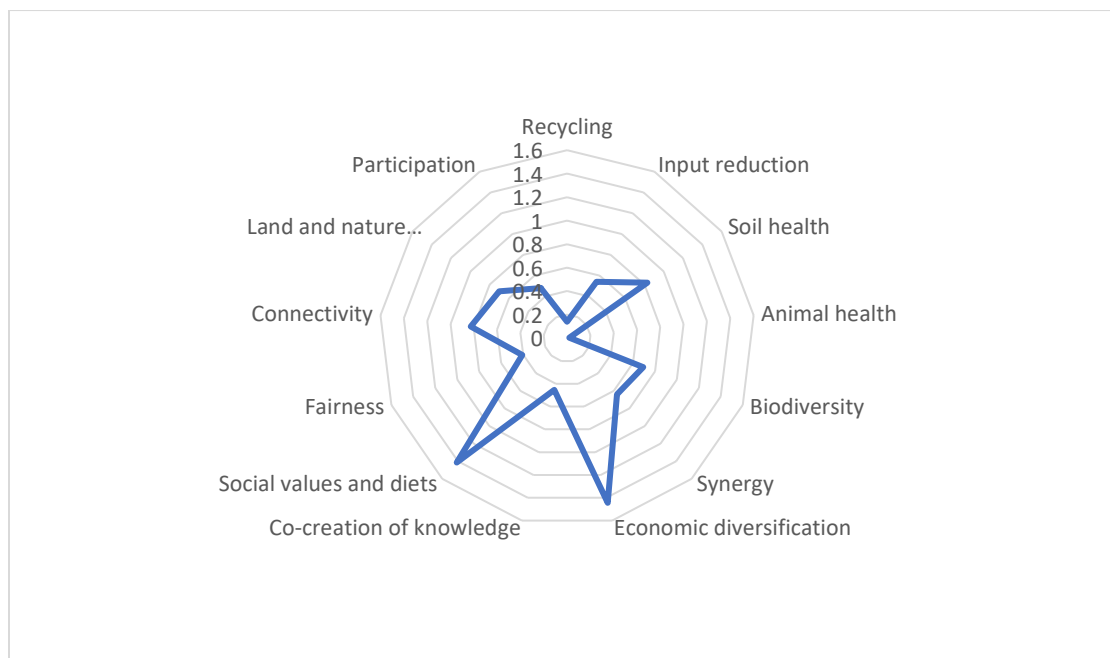


Figure 1: Vision of the Tunisian ALL in regard to the 13 agroecology principles.

The agriculture activities are firstly the basis (or even 'source' of life) and the main source of generation income in the 4 FOs composing the Tunisian ALL. The second common interest is the generational transmission (inheritance for three of four) and social and economic support of the territory (the term of 'vertebral column' was used two FOs). The main problems that are common to the 4 FOs are the financing and the recurrence of dry years. Then it comes the problems of training and access to information due to some issues with the extension services (for three of the 4 FOs). The AE principle "economic diversification" is particularly important for FO Sers who wants to produce and market dairy products, Kesra honey, FO Rhahla feed and fertilizer and FO Chwernia for feed production and marketing. "Input reduction" as AE principle is important for all FOs as fertilizer and feed prices are rising. Indeed, the vision differs between men and women. Women giving the priority to economic diversification and employment, especially for the young generation, although the men expect more technologies and sharing of knowledge to enhance the efficiency of the farm system.

MoUs were established with NARES and NGO to define activities, outputs and budget for 2022. The main criteria of engagement was the common interest in the AE principles and the synergy and complementarity between the knowledge and know-how in line with the impact pathways defined in the Tunisian ALL. Synergies between the different work packages were ensured in their workplan. Discussions with actors of the private sector (seed production and commercialization, milk processing, machinery manufacturers, feed and forage conservation) were initiated to establish MoU within the ALL.

A specialist on Organization, Management Accounting and Fiscality of Agricultural Professional Structures was recruited to develop a plan of social and solidarity-based economy for the four FOs of the ALL and identify potential AE income generating activities for each FO.

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More than 140 on-farm demonstration plots and trials on AE technologies (varieties, crop rotation, CA, etc.) which were all codesigned and approved by national and local stakeholders and the target communities were established.



Figure 2: Initiative launch meeting in Tunisia farmers



Figure 3: Visioning exercise with women farmers

### 2. Main stakeholders of the ALL(s) and their motivation

The following stakeholders who compose the Tunisian ALL are as follows:

- i) *Farmer organizations*: the four FOs are mixed, or female FOs mainly engaged in small ruminant, dairy and cereal production, beekeeping, olive and carob tree production and marketing of local products. The previous ICARDA projects introduced technologies corresponding to real needs of farmers with promising results (new production technology CA, crop rotation, new crops like Sulla and forage mixtures, new machines, etc). So farmers are excited to learn more and co-design together new technologies with ICARDA and partner NARES
- ii) *National Agricultural Research Institutes*: there are three primary NARS involved (INRAT, INGRES, Olive institute) in addition to other IRESA institutes (ESAs) for the AE learning platform at university level. They are excited to contribute with their specific technological and scientific knowledge and skills to enable the Agroecological transition to achieve a more sustainable agriculture
- iii) *Training and extension agencies*: there are two agencies (OEP and AVFA) and the regional agricultural department of the Ministry (CRDA) involved, OEP is specialized in livestock and forage production, AVFA on agricultural extension and training, and CRDA on extension. All three are interested in incorporating AE aspect in their extension work and training curricula
- iv) *Local NGOs*: Two local NGOs are part of the ALL. One is specialized in Best Agricultural Practices, the other Agroforestry (carob tree production). Both are keen to share their knowledge and help co-designing AE technologies.

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- v) *Private sector*: Cotugrain, as a seed producing company will disseminate knowledge on forage seed production and access to seeds through contractual arrangement with FOs. Delice, the dairy company, acts as market opportunity and ensures dairy quality. Sfemi and Juhaina as small scale machinery manufacturer produce or import adapted small scale mechanization to reduce external inputs and valorize the use of by-products
- vi) *Individual lead farmers* as model for AE practices and proximate influencer at the ALL

### 3. Physicality of the ALL(s)

The selected ALL area is a transect between four farmer organizations touching two governorates (administrative units).

The area is characterized by specific agricultural production systems (olive, small ruminant, dairy, cereals, forage and beekeeping production) and challenges like drought and soil erosion. These farming systems and challenges are characteristics of the rainfed zones where is produced the majority of the grain cereals for food and feed consumption, olive oil for national demand and exportation, and red meat for national consumption.

The four farm organizations (FOs) selected along the selected transects El Kef-Siliana extends from the cereals-olive plains up to the mountainous zones most oriented to tree plantations and honey, with small ruminant activities, with a differential degree of land degradation.

The four FOs cover also a differential gradient and principles of collective actions in link with the previous projects, activities and interventions over the last five years. For example, the FO of Chouarnia develops a collective activity of feed supply for animals and the GDA Sers is a collective instance to discuss, exchange and facilitate activities that are implemented at the farm level. In the FO Rahla, the collective action consists on providing seed cleaning and treatment services for their member. Finally, in the new FOs Kesra, it is proposed to develop collection action around added value chains (with honey, carobs..). In summary, these four FOs along a physical gradient from plains to more abrupt reliefs allow to understand and assess different social and territorial dynamics of collection action.

### 4. Fostering coleadership by ALL stakeholders

All stakeholders have initiated certain AE transition activities based on their work plan 2022. For example:

- a) OEP (livestock agency): Introduction of a new vetch variety (Vetch Narbonne) which is drought tolerant and rich in protein. Its multiplication in the ALL will contribute to substitute imported soybean cake. On farm demonstration plats were also established and monitored. In January 2023 OEP will define its national strategy on forage production through AE-I.
- b) OEP wants to work on “silage in bags” technology and identified potential private stakeholders “Aliment vert” who is already producing this innovative animal feed. OEP has exchanged with FO Sers to find farmers interested in co-designing an experiment comparing cows fed on silage and those fed traditionally (farmers practice)

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- c) AVFA : The training agency has initiated a six-day theoretical and practical training workshop for AVFA trainers and CRDA (regional agricultural ministry) extension agents. The workshop was meant to introduce participants to Agroecological principles and permaculture technologies.
- d) The NGO CAPTE has taken the lead to identify farmers in the ALL interested in establishing a Carob tree nursery
- e) INRAT, INGRES and IO have started working on their 2022 workplan and establishing their scientific protocol on the field (CA, minimum tillage, crop rotation, adapted forage varieties, etc.) including identification of indicators of WP 2 based on WP 1 activities.

The national team has also initiated value chain analysis and discussions with VC actors to develop business models. Visioning exercises were also carried out by all stakeholders involved in the AE-I

### The case of Kenya

#### 1. Initial engagement process

Due to the central role of the ALLs, the Kenya team started working by identifying a suitable multi-stakeholder platform (MSP) as national level anchorage point, inventorying potential partners across stakeholder categories, and developing an integrated engagement strategy for all the WPs. During [initial stakeholder mapping in 2021](#), 130 persons across the four target counties (and in Nairobi) were mapped, and interviews with more than 30 of these key informants conducted. Based on the 2021 stakeholder identification and engagement exercise, Figure 1 presents a preliminary stakeholder map that differentiates various stakeholder types (government, non-government, learning institutions, private sector etc.), their domains (research, business, policy, action), and their positionality in terms of their relevance and likely involvement in the AE-I.

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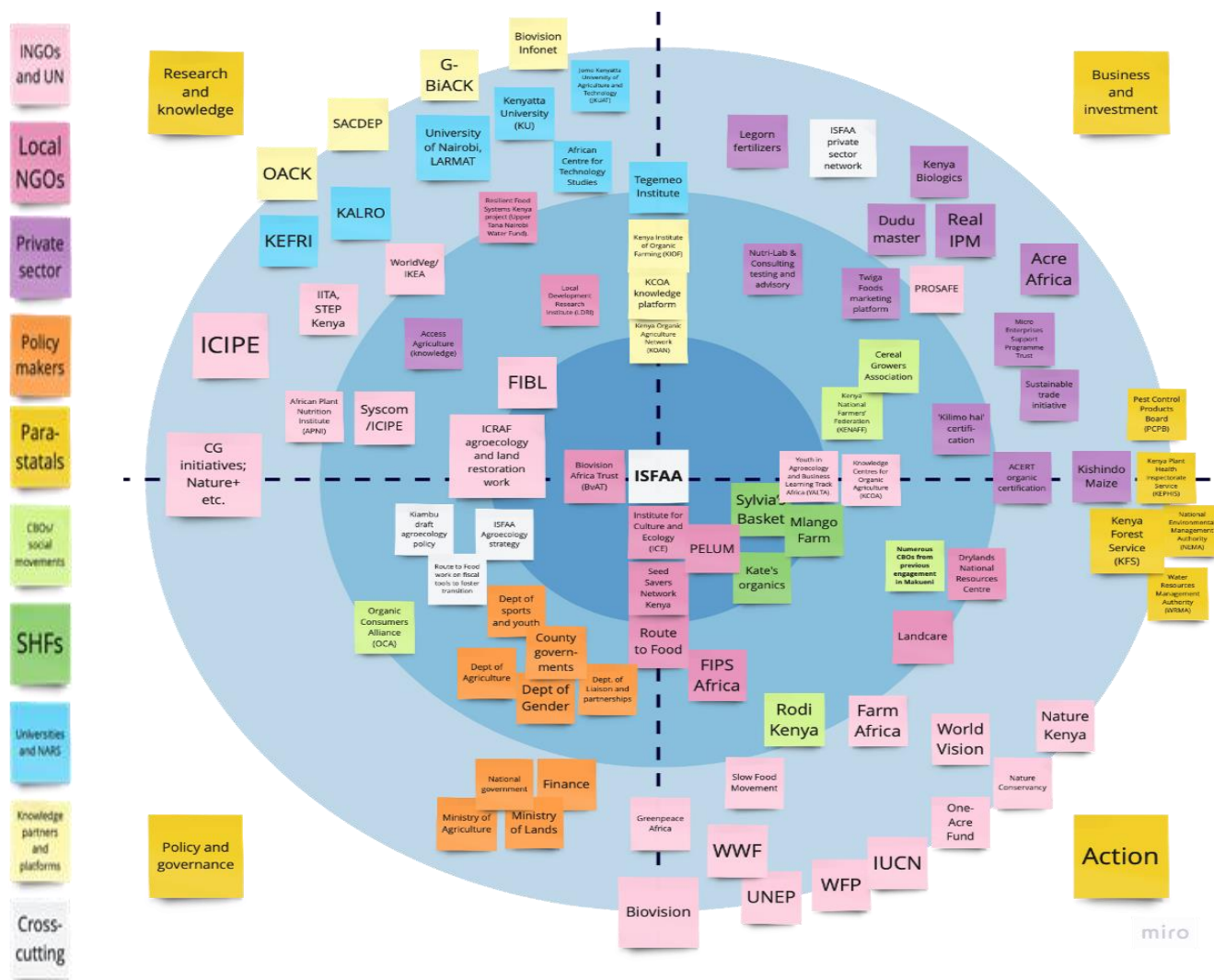


Figure 1: Positioning of stakeholders in Kenya’ ALL  
 Legend: Levels of positionality: 1. **Centre**: ‘Core partners’; 2. **Middle**: ‘Community of place’ that will be directly involved (‘sphere of influence’), 3. **Outer**: ‘Community of those whose actions influence the bigger picture’ (‘sphere of interest’)

This mapping allowed identifying the [Intersectoral Forum on Agrobiodiversity and Agroecology \(ISFAA\)](#) as overarching MSP alongside other likely ‘core partners’. Following a workshop with ten ‘core partner’ organisations in June, during with priorities and desired features of both the ALLs and the overall work on the ground were discussed, the team produced a detailed adapted version of the work plan. This plan both englobes and follows an [explicit engagement strategy](#) that builds on the [Sustainability Planning approach](#) that draws on three important bodies of work about sustainable stakeholder engagement across scales at CIFOR-ICRAF. The approach has since informed the further implementation of the AE-I and proposed guiding principles, priorities, and specific features for the same.



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In line with priorities discussed during the June stakeholder workshop, the Kenya team decided to (a) start gradually and start in two counties, Kiambu and Makueni, (b) seek partnerships with existing farmer training centres to ‘host’ the ALLs in both counties, (c) work with partners to identify suitable training centres that are likely to be able to co-design and drive the intended work sustainably. Following a screening protocol jointly developed by the Kenya WP leads, several centres proposed by ‘core partners’ were pre-characterised. During field visits that accompanied a [September AE-I Kenya team training on how to do engagement differently](#), two centres were identified as suitable ‘ALL host centres’, and partnership negotiations engaged.

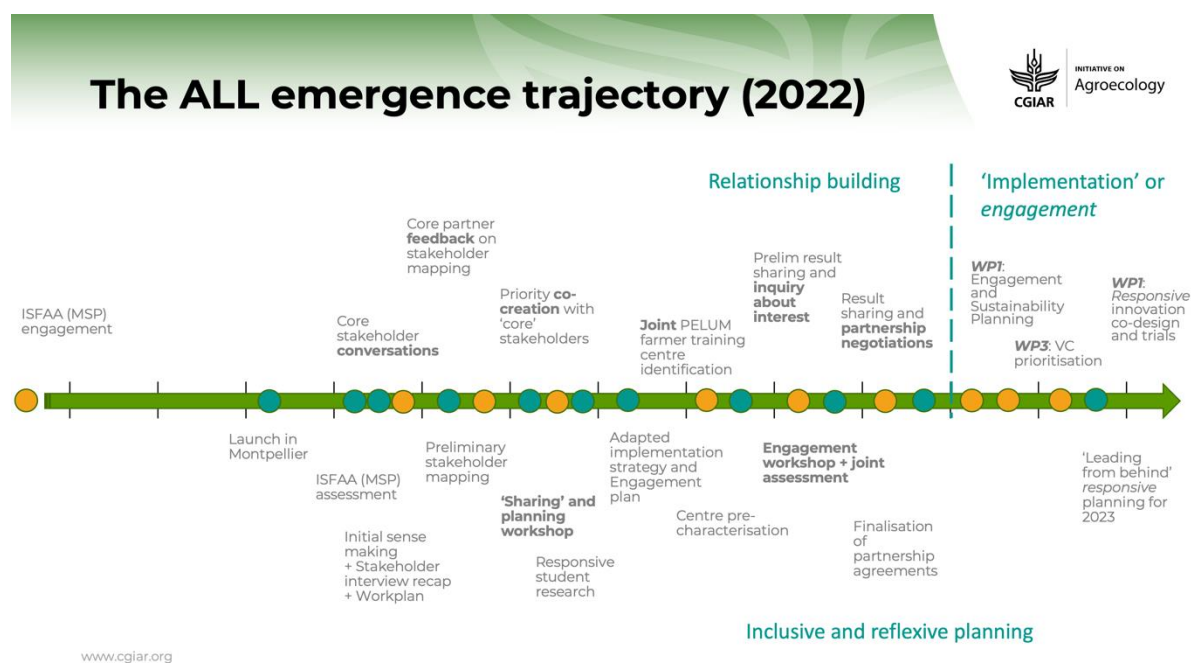


Figure 2: Overview of the ALL emergence trajectory in Kenya ( as presented by Lisa Fuchs during the Early Pause & Reflect meeting in October 2022).

### 2. Main stakeholders of the ALL(s) and their motivation

Potential ‘ALL host centres’ in the form of existing farmer training centres were jointly identified with core AE-I Kenya partners from [Participatory Ecological Land Use Management \(PELUM\) Association Kenya](#) and [ISFAA](#). Indeed, PELUM (that is constituted of 56 member organisations) shared a list of suitable member organisations that have training facilities and on-site experimentation and trials. The AE-I Kenya team developed a list of criteria (that align with priorities of the initiative) and pre-characterised the centres. The AE-I team further developed a conversation protocol for the ground-proofing visits – and ended up selecting two centres with whom AE-I offered to partner. Consequently, two outstanding farmer training centres were identified to become the anchorage points of the initial Kenyan ALLs: [The Drylands Natural Resource Centre \(DNRC\)](#) in Mbumbuni, Makueni County, and the [Community Sustainable Agriculture and Healthy Environment Program \(CSHEP\)](#) in Ndeiya, Kiambu County.

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Invoking appreciative interviewing techniques, the initial September visit helped to confirm a mutual ‘match’ between the visions, interests and activities of the AE-I and the respective centres. Specifically, the AE-I team engaged conversations and witnessed the motivation, lived experience, and existing opportunities in view of establishing a joint vision and co-creating a sustainable approach to agroecological food system transformation. Further relationship building visits and discussions were held, including a 3-day partners’ sustainability planning training workshop with PELUM, DNRC, and CSHEP colleagues.

During the November partners’ training workshop, a central concept was discussed: What and who constitutes a ‘community of place’ and how does it relate to sustainable action towards agroecological food system transformation? The discussion led to the composition of a [glossary document that contextualises important concepts and frequently used terms](#) such as ‘ALL host centres’, ‘sustainability planning’, ‘communities of place’, or ‘mobilising narrative’.

In short: The ALLs facilitate interaction among various **food systems actors** (FSAs). In line with suggestions made by ‘core partner’ identified during preliminary stakeholder mapping, the Initiative’s interaction and engagement with the **ALLs** is organised via central points that we call **ALLs host centres**. The centres represent and provide a physical space where FSAs can meet, interact, and co-create. In line with the **Principles of Engagement** developed by WP1, the Initiative’s *initial* engagement passes through the joint identification of a **community of place (COP)**. A COP is a small group of FSAs drawn from different **stakeholder categories** that are identified based on their likely interest in and/or their track record of lived experience and contribution to the objectives of the Initiative. Members of the community of place are likely to *care* about a given ‘**mobilising narrative**’ or a ‘**common denominator**’ related to opportunities and/or threats identified in the food system, and likely to be self-motivated and to self-mobilise (collective agency and action) in pursuit of food system transformation.

Another information sheet provides [more details about the actual composition of the initial ‘communities of place’ in both ALLs](#). About 30-40 individuals representing government, local administration, learning institutions, NGOs, CBOs, farmer groups, private sector actors and others were identified in view of their likely responsiveness to the ‘mobilising narrative’ in each of the ALLs. The COPs serve several purposes:

- Provide a central coordination group for the ALL via the host centre.
- Represent the various FSAs in the ALLs.
- Engage the visioning process, the planning for action towards the vision, and oversee the embedding of the different AE-I activities.
- Allow for regular evaluation and monitoring of the different activities in the ALL.
- Provide for an opportunity to build synergies amongst multi-level stakeholders.

The joint mapping of the COPs with the respective ALL host centres constituted a fourth step in the (non-linear) sequenced stakeholder mapping, after (the initial 2021 mapping, the preliminary 2022 mapping, the potential ALL host (sub-set stakeholder) mapping). A fifth step in stakeholder mapping was conducted as part of the social asset (both informal community associations and formal institutions) assessment as part of the Sustainability Planning approach, and a sixth step focused specifically on value chain actors in the mango value chain (limited to the Makueni ALL for the time being).



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### 3. Physicality of the ALL(s)

In Kenya, the term Agroecological Living Landscape (ALL) refers to a landscape-level space that is geographically defined and, hence, has ‘boundaries’ – that might or might not align with administrative and/or biophysical boundaries. Importantly, an ALL’s boundaries are primarily defined by FSAs conveying a joint *meaning* to that landscape – and the boundaries might hence be slightly different for different FSAs. Looking at an ALL from a production lens, it can, for instance, extend to those farmers engaging in similar practices and/or producing the same crops. Looking at it from a value chain lens, it is likely to extend a little further, geographically speaking, and include different value chain actors. Looking at it from a ‘mobilising narrative’ perspective, it is likely to be shaped a little differently, again, and include those actors that care and/or are concerned about a given issue.

Drawing on the priority co-creation with core stakeholders during the June workshop, the importance of anchoring the ‘communities of place’ in existing training centres/farmer field schools/demo sites was established. Rooting the ALLs in these ‘ALL host centres’ then allows engaging with the different FSAs, and their different ‘imaginary’ ALL boundaries, from a central vantage point. The **ALL host centres** hence represent the physical manifestation of the broader ALL.

The ALL host centres provide a physical space where FSAs can meet, exchange, experiment and co-create. It is with the active participation of the ALL host centre focal points that the initial COP is identified, and representatives of the COP involved in the initial 3-day engagement workshop that follows the Sustainability Planning approach. Starting to work with the ALL host centres and a jointly identified sample of the COP aligns with the fundamental principle of starting off by ‘running with the strong ones’, Engagement Principle 3, who are characterised by being self-motivated in line with the ‘mobilising narrative’, while observing Engagement Principles 1 and 2 – and jointly and gradually growing from there, in line with Engagement Principle 6.

### 4. Fostering coleadership by ALL stakeholders

Before engaging any activities on the ground, the AE-I team worked on establishing ‘true’ partnerships, rather than service provision agreements, with the ALL host centres. These partnership agreements include both sufficient central funding/institutional overheads, and targeted activity funding (based on many considerations related to sustainability, capacity building, development fairness etc.). The agreements are adapted to the results of the initial engagement with the ‘communities of place’ and will reflect jointly identified but centre-led activities both inside the centres and in the wider ALL. The official partnership agreements followed after extensive partnership and relationship building, building on appreciative interviewing, and the establishment of a minimal mutual ‘match’ that guarantees each partners’ self-drive and ‘ownership’. Part of the relationship building was the 3-day planning training, which included in-depth discussions and adaptations of the proposed Sustainability Planning engagement approach.

The AE-I implementation and engagement strategy on the ground is formulated around the so-called Sustainability Planning approach. Engagement with the COPs in the ALL host centres started with 3-day

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engagement workshops that followed the approach – which was co-facilitated by ALL host centre staff. The overarching objective of using the approach is to both *start* and *structure* further interactions with the ALLs. In doing so, however, it does neither include, predict or pre-empt all the intended/desired activities of the AE-I.

Several more specific objectives underly the Sustainability Planning approach. The first is to start and build sustainable relationships. An in-depth introduction of the logic, mode of engagement and ‘offer’ made by AE-I, as well as the establishment of mutual trust, are core concerns of this structured engagement. The second specific objective is to rally and inspire the COP to work together, to help them in self-realisation about their abilities and existing networks to engage their own transition pathways, and to see how and where our ‘offer’ fits in. The initial workshops are not about the AE-I team making suggestions directly – but about the COP identifying opportunities.

The COP driving that process is likely to get the AE-I mapped during stakeholder mapping (step 4, part 1), and we are likely to witness exactly which value chains matter to them (step 4, part 2), and which potential for expanding/suitability of specific food or tree-based value chains there is (step 4, part 3), and during integrated community action planning (step 5).

In response to the Principles of Engagement, Sustainability Planning fosters the design and implementation of :

- Reflexivity and inclusivity from the on-set of engagement – and the set-up of truly **transdisciplinary** research in development and action
- Explicit processes to facilitate community ownership while providing an opportunity to **‘lead from behind’** or ‘lead by stepping back’ – which refers to the conscious decision to *propose* and *build* in the proposed AE-I activities *in response* to the integrated community action plans
- Integrated and coherent approach to the ‘offer’ made to the ALL ‘communities of place’

Altogether, the sustainable scaling strategy pursued includes (a) ‘true’ partnership building, (b) co-creation and co-design through a **structured engagement process** with an explicitly identified group of people that is not mechanically composed but ‘meaningfully’ (based on shared ‘meaning’, see info sheet on ‘mobilising narrative’) identified that drives the process while we ‘lead from behind’, (c) work with existing structures that have, through their networks, a possibility to scale AE-I – if AE-I convinces them that what we can make a meaningful contribution to what *they* care about and about what *they* mobilise collective agency and action in pursuit of food system transformation.

## The case of Zimbabwe

### 1. Initial engagement process

The team carried first local kick-off meetings in the two districts selected in Zimbabwe, in order to sensitize communities on the initiative and the concept of Agroecology Living Lab/Landscape (ALL). These meetings also helped identify stakeholders and farmers to engage. Using focus group discussions, key informant interviews and net mapping at district and ward level, the team then mapped stakeholders and existing platforms within two contrasted communities in each district. Engaged key informants pointed out other

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stakeholders they knew to be working in target wards and thematic areas, and these were pursued for further engagement (snowballing). Major findings show that multiple stakeholders work in the districts on different community development aspects.

The methodological approach for the establishment of ALLs based on mapping and diagnostics of existing platforms and participatory stakeholder mapping, and co-development of shared vision in Wards 4 and 27 of Murehwa district and Wards 2 and 3 of Mbire District were based on consultative engagements with identified stakeholders (e.g. government departments (District Development Coordinator (DDC), Rural Development Council (RDC), Environmental Management Agency (EMA), Agricultural Advisory and Rural Development Services (AARDS), Department of Veterinary Services (DVS) Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management (ZIMPARKS), development partners, representatives of farmer groups and development committees) and farmers. Including multiple stakeholders of key sectors of microeconomic levels in the consultative process ensured comprehensive coverage of key issues within the scope of agroecology were captured. All these stakeholders were invited for a full one-day consultative meeting where after revisiting the concept of agroecology and the importance of ALLs, an agreement was sought from the participants through raising of hands if they were all in favour of the setting up of and being members of ALLs in their ward. The response from all the targeted wards was overwhelming in favour of establishing the ALLs with present participants. However, it was also noted that some key stakeholders on various aspects of community development were not present.

### 2. Main stakeholders of the ALL(s) and their motivation

Across both districts, multiple stakeholder platforms exist within government structures at district and ward levels and these were used to form four ALLs, two in Mbire District (one in Ward 2 and one in Ward 3) and two in Murehwa District (one in Ward 4 and one in Ward 27). The ALLs consist of stakeholders from government departments, private partners, farmers, service providers and traders. For each ALL an initial list of active ALL members has been defined, with the understanding that according to the different issue that need to be tackled other stakeholder will need to be involved.

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Figure 1: FGD with stakeholder in Zimbabwe



Figure 2: Visioning exercise in Zimbabwe

### 3. Physicality of the ALL(s)

To steer the activities of the established ALLs, it was agreed by all participants present that they are led by the AARDS Officer because of the presence at the local level and also that they have the mandate through the government to convene stakeholders for development issues

### 4. Fostering coleadership by ALL stakeholders

There has been buy-in from government departments like the Environmental Management Agency, who feel that the project relates to their goal and want to attend ALL meetings and advise farmers on conserving the environment. The Department of Research and Specialist Services and the agricultural extension department have been interested in the ALLs as the principles sit well with their mandates. They have also been crucial in linking the project with other stakeholders and advising farmers on agroecological principles.

Mbire Environmental Trust, a local association, has shown interest in agroecological issues as they go well with their objectives and are working with the ALLs to strengthen agroecological principles in Mbire.

A businessperson in Murehwa who owns an indigenous chicken hatchery has shown interest in agroecology. He hosted a workshop under the theme 'Unlocking the agroecology agenda through value addition, community empowerment and market opportunities', and the initiative was invited to present an opening session on "introduction to agroecology". This invitation showed the district's stakeholders' recognition of the initiative on agroecological issues.

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### The case of Burkina Faso

#### 1. Initial engagement process

The Burkina Faso team proposed to set up two regional sub-LLAs and a national connection with the network of Agroecology actors and other important existing projects: one in the dry zone of Ouagadougou and the other in the sub-humid zone of Bobo-Dioulasso, attached to the national food system. Each of them encompasses an urban-rural gradient and focuses on the problem of agroecological intensification of agro-sylvo-pastoral systems by optimizing interactions between agriculture and livestock and introducing legumes, which is a cross-cutting issue in both zones. These LLAs will be based on two main sectors, milk and pulses, both for their role in the direct food and nutritional security of rural households and the potential favorable market access for agro-ecological products. To define these LLAs and delimit their geographical scope, a small working group was set up with representatives from CIRAD (Aida and Selmet), CIRDES and INERA. After several meetings in videoconference held in May 2022 (06, 23 and 31/05/2022), the working group also made an inventory of institutional actors and existing projects, strengths and skills that could be mobilized by the member institutions of the AE Initiative, and then prepared the workshop to launch the AE Initiative.

On June 8, 2022, the launch meeting brought together in Ouagadougou, the national partners and the main potential institutional actors to be mobilized in order to share the objectives of the initiative and discuss the interest of setting up the LLAs. The workshop presented all the projects and initiatives that could be mobilized in the two sub-LLAs and discussed and adapted the practical modalities for implementing activities in Burkina Faso in interaction with the policies and institutional actors involved at the national level in support of agroecology and validated a roadmap for 2022. This roadmap included stakeholder mapping, workshops to launch the sub-LLAs (in Ouagadougou and Bobo-Dioulasso), and various other identified activities.

Several of the institutional actors were consulted and a mapping of their local interactions was initiated in December 2022. The context diagnosis is currently being conducted for each of the two LLAs.

The political unrest at the end of the year and security considerations in Burkina Faso have, however, disrupted the implementation of certain activities, including the workshops to launch the LLAs, the conduct of the study on the milk and agroecology chain that was initiated, and the start of a thesis on the co-design of intensive and agroecological milk production systems in Burkina Faso, the protocol of which has been finalized... This has led the research team to decide to reduce the volume of activity initially planned and to concentrate from 2023 on the LLA around Bobo Dioulasso.



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Figure 1: Initiative launch meeting in Burkina Faso

### 2. Main stakeholders of the ALL(s) and their motivation

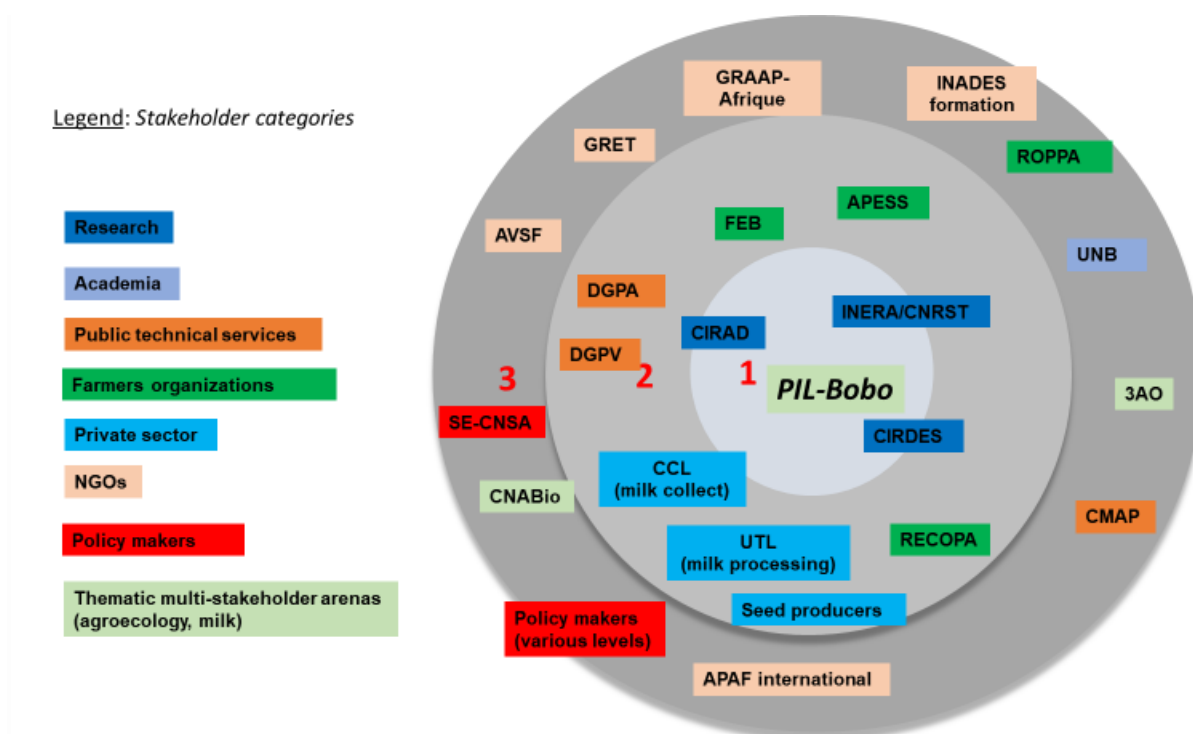
The launch workshop in Ouagadougou on June 8, 2022 brought together several stakeholders who expressed their interest in joining the LLA. These stakeholders include milk and grain legume sector actors, institutional actors, public service actors, producer organizations and non-governmental organizations. These actors were first identified for their role in promoting agroecology, and then contacted individually to participate in this workshop. These are the main actors of Agroecology **at the national level**, namely:

- Research and development and higher education institutions (INERA/CNRST, Universities, CIRDES, CIRAD, IRD...);
- the General Directorate of Plant Production (DGPV), the General Directorate of Animal Production (DGPA)
- the Centre for the multiplication of efficient animals (CMAP),
- National projects/programs (PADEL-B),
- The Executive Secretariat of the National Food Security Council (SE-CNSA);
- NGOs (AVSF, GRET, GRAAP-Afrique, APAF international, INADES formation),
- Structures specialized in the development of agroecology
  - in Burkina Faso, the National Council of Organic Agriculture (CNABio) which is an umbrella organization that brings together about sixty actors, including institutions and individuals (individual producers, NGOs, groups, companies, etc.),
  - at the regional level, the Alliance for Agroecology in West Africa (3AO), which is a platform for intersectoral cooperation aimed at strengthening synergies between different organizations and scales of action to promote agroecology in the subregion;
- Farmers' associations (ROPPA, AMSP),
- The Dairy innovation platforms (DIP),
- The dairy interprofession (IPROLAIT).

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Several existing interactions were noted between different types of stakeholder's present at the workshop through bilateral or multi-stakeholder initiatives. These interactions will be consolidated within the framework of the LLAs. All these actors have in common the promotion of agroecology at various levels at the national, regional or international level.

At the level of the LLA around Bobo-Dioulasso, the main actors mobilized can be positioned according to three levels (Figure 1) : the first level concerns the pilot actors of the LLA (dairy innovation platform (DIP-Bobo), research); the second level concerns the potential members of the LLA who could be involved in specific actions related to the activities of the 5 WPs of the initiative), the third level concerns the actors concerned by agroecological initiatives and potentially interested in the dynamics of the LLA, who will be involved at the request of the LLA.



### 3. Physicality of the ALL(s)

The LLA around Bobo-Dioulasso on which most of the activities will be concentrated from 2023 onwards is based on the dairy innovation platform (DIP or PIL in French). About 30 dairies and about 150 to 200



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milk producers in the Bobo-Dioulasso region constituted this platform together with research, technical services actors, etc. It now has a physical building, a structure, and its own staff.

The agroecological initiative will provide a methodological approach so that this multi-actor mechanism can reflect on and implement actions to support agroecological transition. Numerous results of R&D projects (e.g. VIABILITY, Africa Milk, CASSECS and FAIR) conducted in the area on the theme of agroecological transition will be mobilized to fuel reflection, foresight and action at different scales: production systems, commodity chain, territories.

#### 4. Fostering co-leadership by ALL stakeholders

PIL, the Bobo-Dioulasso multistakeholder platform around mil production, around which the Bobo ALL is formed, was initiated, established and installed with the support of INERA in particular. It is gaining more and more visibility. In 2022, PIL has been the entry point to initiate trials with member dairy farmers on agroecological intensification of production through fodder (instead of/as a supplement to livestock feed) and the dissemination of fodder crops in dairy production systems.

## The case of India

#### 1. Initial engagement process

In India, two ALLs have been established in Andhra Pradesh state. The two ALLs (Bathalappali and Tadipatri) have been selected in Anantapur district for a deeper dive in understanding nuances of Agroecology better. Stakeholder engagement and enrolment process is conducted through APCNF. Partner organisation Andhra Pradesh Community-managed Natural Farming (APCNF) programme is well-established in the state of Andhra Pradesh where the ALLs are based. The stakeholder identification and engagement process in the ALLs are:-

- (i) **Field visits** – For Detailed discussions with APCNF leadership – Exploratory field visits; Selection of potential ALLs at West Godavari and Anantapur
- (ii) **Onboarding of technical partner** WASSAN to assist in field activity and technical support.
- (iii) Detailed discussion, orientation and onboarding with district team and implementing teams on the field of APCNF
- (iv) **In depth FGDs** with farmers including women and their communities along with the APCNF team to identify the stakeholders
- (v) For FGDs and stakeholder engagement within ALL, E-PRA, Fasal Chakra activity and network mapping are used.
  - a. **Electronic – Participatory Rural Appraisal (E-PRA)** uses google map during focused group discussions to map the details within the village boundaries, Resource Mapping exercise: It is subcomponent of the E-PRA activity. The objective of this exercise is to understand village wise land type, land use and details on cropping system practices. This exercise is conducted with the groups of farmers using coloured cards to understand the broader land types of the region. Google map is used to understand the location specific Information on following points

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- i. water resource detail and location mapping on the google earth with the help of community.
  - ii. Local Land types classification viz. saline, Sandy soil, red soil, hillock area and identification of these areas in google .
  - iii. Sample plot wise details on cropping system, horticulture etc.
- b. **Fasal Chakra** is a participatory Crop Systems Analysis tool developed and used for understanding the crop systems in different land types delineated in E-PRA exercise.
  - c. **Network Mapping exercise** include understanding the stakeholders involved in cropping system. In this exercise major crops, the stakeholders related to this crop are mapped.



Figure 1: Field visit in India

### 2. Main stakeholders of the ALL(s) and their motivation

The main stakeholders are small and marginal farmers, especially women, Women self help groups and their federations.

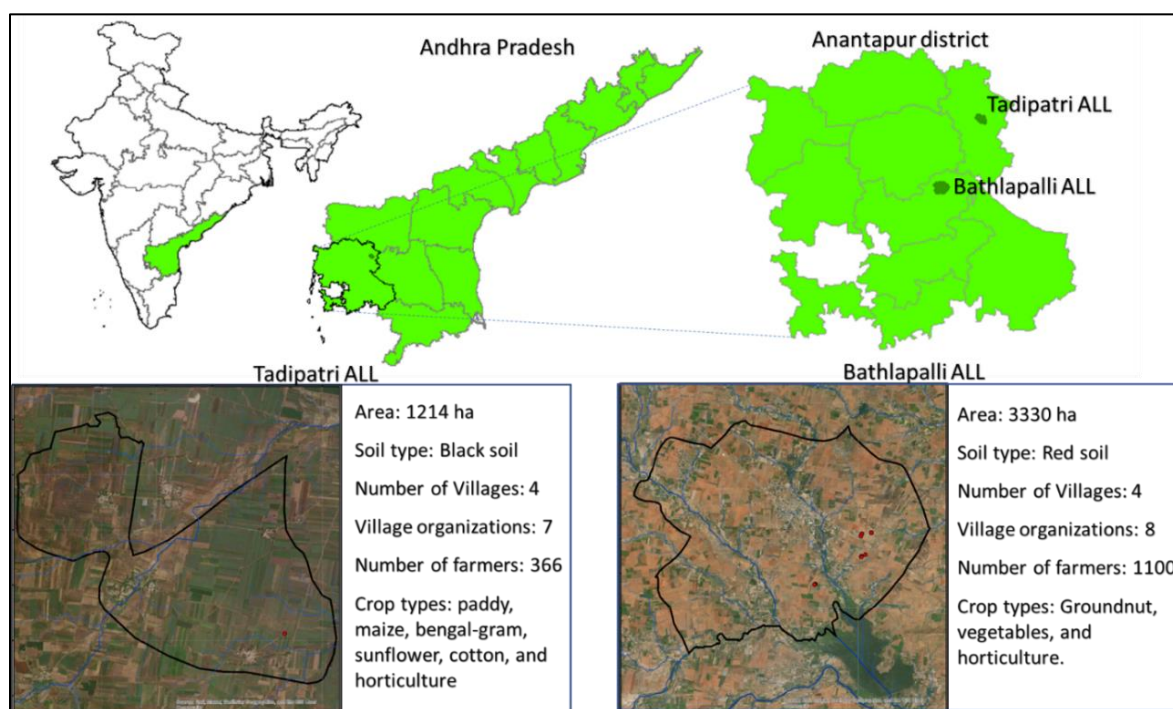
- **Small and marginal farmers** – Agroecological transformation is extremely beneficial for small and marginal landholding farmers, results from thousand farmers field have shown that income increases and cost of cultivation comes down.
- **Women farmers** – Being the actual tillers of the land and working on the field understanding Agroecology is easier and faster for women who are bringing the actual transformation in the field.
- **Women Self Help groups and their federations** – Agroecology shows immense potential to address the agriculture crisis impacting livelihoods in the village. The Women SHGs are leading the transformation from chemical farming to agroecology.

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- **Field functionaries** – They are the champion farmers who have themselves practised Natural farming and understand the benefit that it offers. Through their leadership and motivational skills they undertake the farmer-farmer dissemination to inspire others farmers in the ALLs to switch to Agroecology.

### 3. Physicality of the ALL(s)

Two ALL sites in India have been established based on the presence of two typical soil types (red and black soil), cropping systems, including horticulture and agroforestry, proportion of farmers using natural farming methods, a variety of farmers who are at various stages of converting from conventional to natural farming methods.



Within ALL's, Agroecology work has been happening since the last 3+ years. Several farmers practising Agroecology have cattle sheds for collection of cattle urine and dung. There are infrastructure available for preparation of Natural inputs and concoctions. Women shelf help groups and their federations who are leading the Agroecological transformation in the villages have office spaces for meetings, collective input preparations. There are Natural farming shops, from where farmers can collect inputs instead of preparing themselves through entrepreneurial Natural farming farmers.

### 4. Fostering coleadership by ALL stakeholders

APCNF has been the key stakeholder and shown keen interest in leadership. APCNF is a government programme and the transformation on field is done by field functionaries and women self help groups. They take charge of the programme in the village and assert the work done by the ALL champion farmers.

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The name APCNF itself encompasses the ethos of this agroecological transformation is community-driven through co-creation of knowledge and leadership through grassroots.

### The case of Laos

#### 1. Initial engagement process

In Laos, one ALL has been established (marked 1 - Figure 1, & shown in detail Figure 3), and potentially a further two ALLs have been identified for follow up.

The process of site and stakeholder selection included:

- a) a basic literature review of agroecological initiatives and projects operating in Laos which included a simple stakeholder mapping exercise prior to hosting a national consultation. This consultation introduced the initiative and identified potential sites for the ALL.
- b) National partners identification and mapping. After lengthy discussions to ensure alignment of mandate, values and interests, the National Agriculture and Forestry Research Institute (NAFRI) and later, the Lao Farmers Network (LFN), were selected as institutional partners.
- c) A feasibility/pre identification field visit was conducted lead by NAFRI together with CIAT, IWMI and WorldFish. These consultations were held in all four Southern Provinces at local authority, project base and community levels.
- d) A week-long sustainability planning event was held in Vientiane alongside a review of available information and site selection criteria. The sustainability planning event include a detailed review of available tools, approaches, potential partnerships, host institutional assessment and co-design/planning.
- e) Further engagement with partners, interviews and participation in a national theory of change event hosted by GRET under the ASSET project and later membership of the Agroecology learning Alliance (AliSEA) network to build partnerships, ensure alignment with other initiatives and identify national government priorities.
- f) Inter-provincial (4 southern provinces) consultation and theory of Change event hosted by NAFRI, the ICG team and the Lao Farmers Network, with the participation of district and provincial agriculture, forestry and education authorities alongside representatives of 8 communities. Field visit to the Green Earth Center (GEC) in Salavan Province and key informant interview with a private sector IDP partner.
- g) Attapeu ALL preliminary visioning through facilitated focus group and key informant interviews with ALL partners. Initial co-development of potential social (viz governance) and technical innovations.
- h) Initial Value chain assessments on rice; a) organic, b) traditional varieties and c) new strains introduced by the FAO.
- i) Commencement of basic asset mapping in selected communities through remote sensing to assess land use and hydrological patterns, currently being integrated with novel participatory drone-based asset mapping with community members as part of the innovation co-design.



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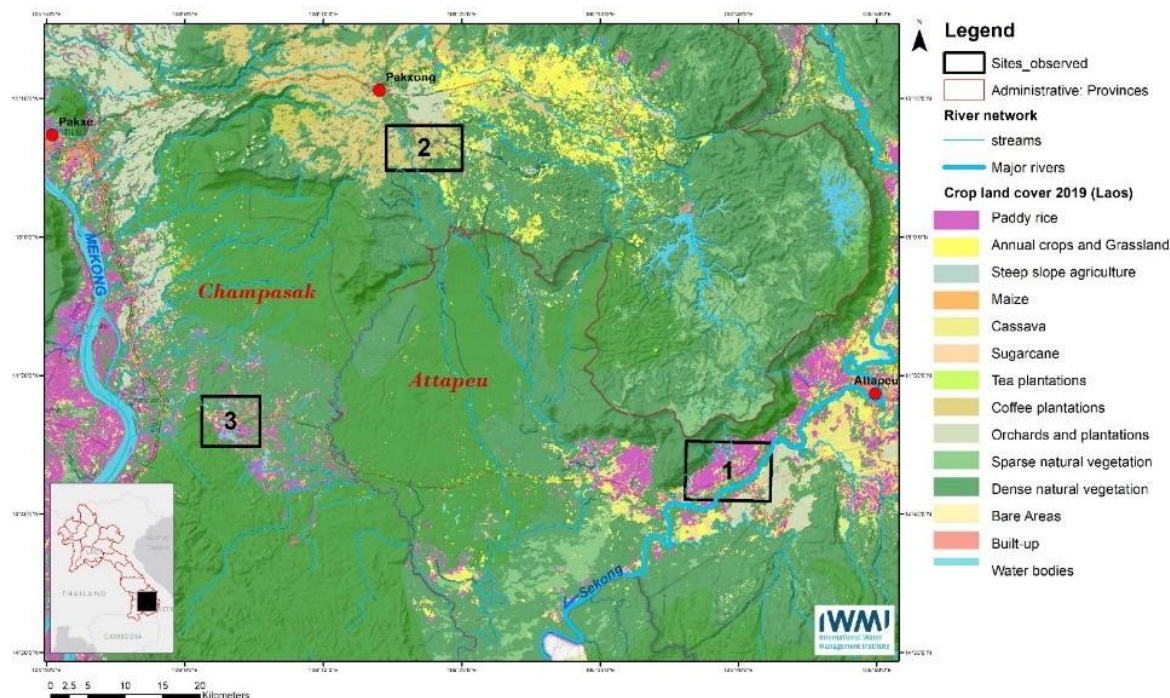


Figure 1 Crop Land Use and Attapeu ALL site #1

### 2. Main stakeholders of the ALL(s) and their motivation

The primary stakeholders are marginal farming and fishing households, agricultural producer groups, and Women and Youth Union members. ‘Partnering’ stakeholders include local authorities, farmer networks, research organisations, the private sector and local/regional training centers (Figure 2).

- Marginal farming and fishing households** – These communities are poor relative to the national average, marginal given the distance from major centers and in terms of their proximity to hazards particularly flash floods and drought. Opportunities remain limited for employment outside of agriculture driving migration to neighbouring Thailand and Viet Nam with knock on effects on the agricultural labour force. AET provides an opportunity for farmers and fishers through more integrated production systems with greater resource efficiency and low agricultural inputs to generate increases in production per unit land area and nutritional benefits of integrating fish and vegetables into predominantly rice monoculture landscapes.
- Producer groups** – A variety of producer groups are active in the ALL including those engaged with the private sector in organic rice production for export, water user groups and vegetable growers. Marketing produce remains difficult and AE approaches which link farmers to markets and address blocks in the value chain show potential
- Women and Youth Union members** – Active in production and marketing, working with women and youth self-help initiatives and micro finance schemes as well as linking with national development

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interventions creates a more stable and viable agricultural base able to draw on local knowledge and resources.

Working in partnership with other stakeholders in the ALL provides access to services, knowledge, networks and resources, foundational to AET and in turn generating evidence to shape more appropriate policies.

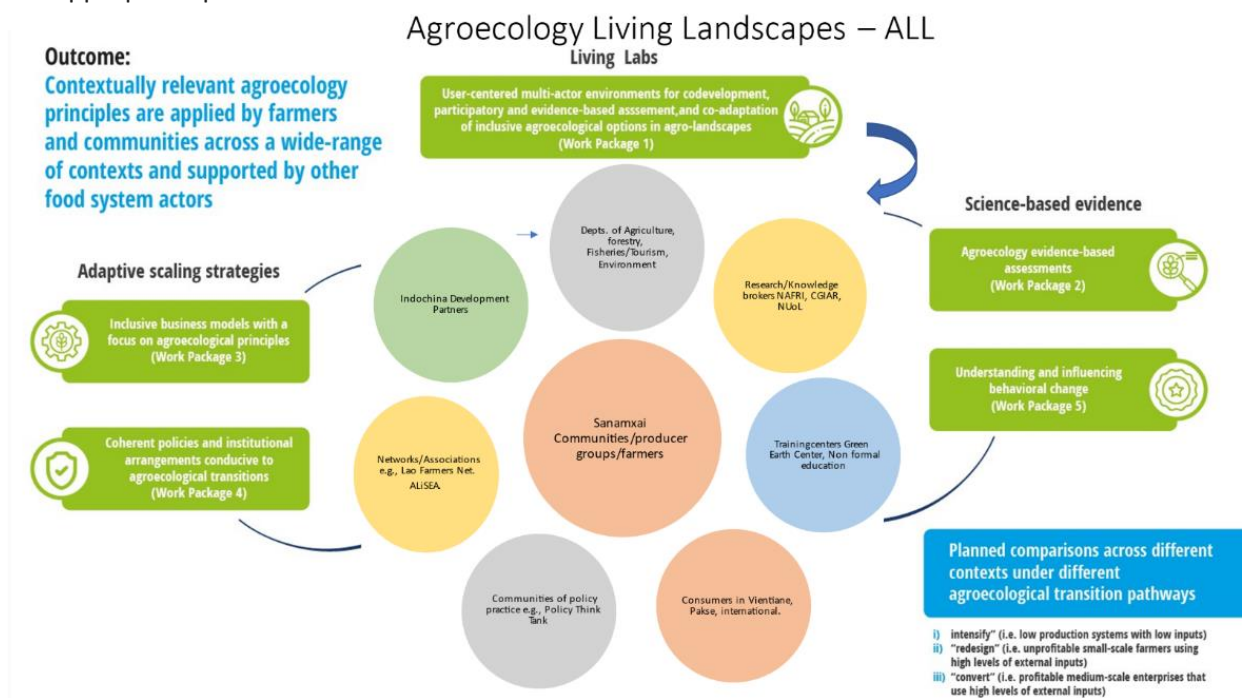


Figure 2: Map of ALL stakeholders

### 3. Physicality of the ALL(s)

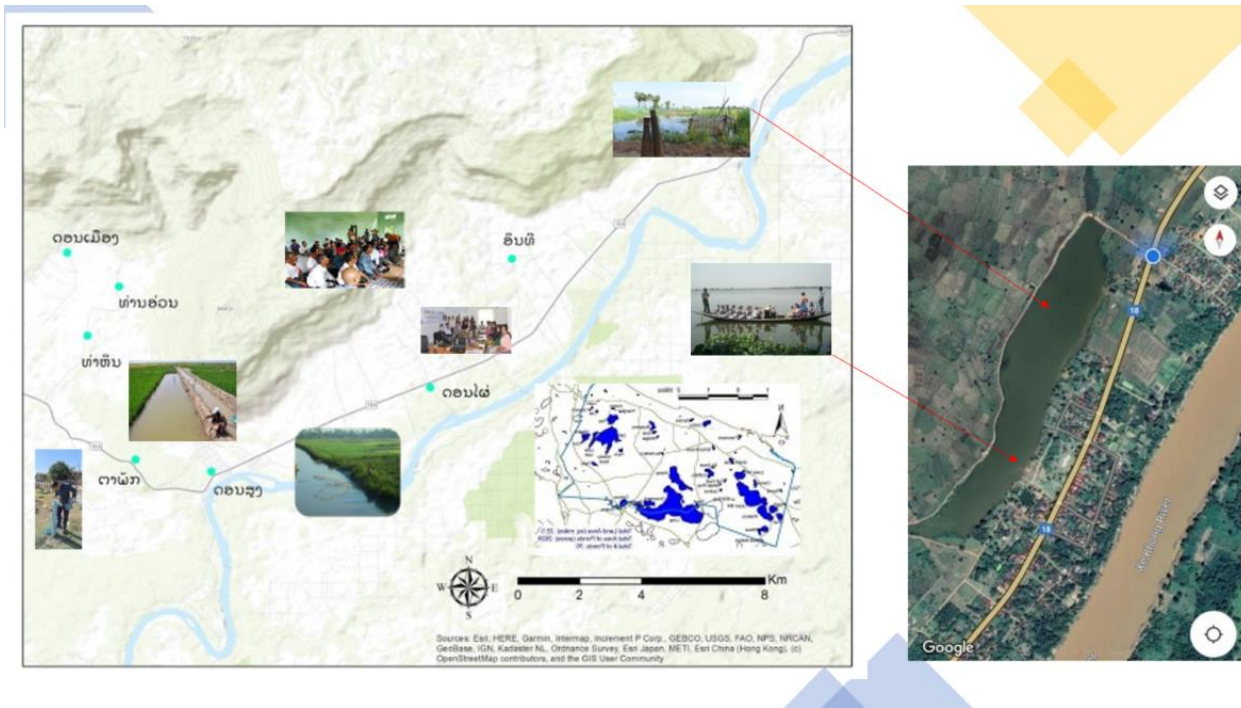
We have established one ALL and identified an additional two (water linked) ALLs situated across two adjacent districts (Sanamxai and Samakhisai) in Attapeu Province, Southern Lao PDR, Figure 3.

The ALL's key territorial features are predominantly flood plain/flooded plains along the Xekong River incorporating 10 villages. As well as within the village boundary areas themselves, collective action can be catalysed around nearby common property resources such as wetlands and community forest areas, which have significant potential including for eco-tourism (exploded view figure 3).

Within the established ALL, organic rice production and a form of community managed fisheries in the rice fields have been practiced for a number of years. Initial farmer field experiments with integrated rice and fish culture and fisheries management utilising trap pond modifications has begun recently alongside trials of new rice varieties. Existing forums/platforms for knowledge exchange and collective action are

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available with clear opportunities for enhancement and scaling evidence and best practice to other geographies with the support of partner stakeholders with national remits for both policy and practice.



**Figure 3 Attapeu ALLs 1 & 2 highlighting opportunities for integrated systems with a range of food system actors.**

#### 4. Fostering coleadership by ALL stakeholders

Both the NAFRI and the Lao Farmers network have demonstrated leadership through engagement directly with local authorities and villagers on relevant issues to do with provision of inputs such as rice seed, institutional strengthening and networking, examples of which include creating links with training centers such as the Green Earth Center (GEC) in Salavan and Community Association for Salvation and the Environment (CASE) in Attapeu. Local government in Attapeu have also been proactive in terms of suggesting links between communities and the private sector and sector development strategies underpinning green growth in the province.