



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

EMPOWERING AGROECOLOGY: ENGAGING STAKEHOLDERS, SHARING KNOWLEDGE, AND BUILDING CAPACITIES FOR SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

Agroecology is recognized as a crucial approach for advancing sustainable food systems, with significant global growth in research, practices and policies over the past decade. Since 2014, FAO has organized global and regional meetings aimed at fostering a multistakeholder dialogue on agroecology to identify both opportunities and barriers for scaling up this approach. The project specifically focused on addressing critical gaps related to the co-creation and sharing of agroecological knowledge and evidence. Specifically, the intervention aimed to achieve three primary objectives: enhancing accessibility to agroecological knowledge, fostering a platform for information sharing, and establishing strategic connections to facilitate collective action in advancing agroecological transitions.



WHAT DID THE PROJECT DO?

The project successfully engaged diverse stakeholders through various fora, building their capacities and sharing agroecological knowledge and information, including through the development of an Agroecology Knowledge Hub (AKH) populated with a comprehensive range of knowledge resources and by conducting capacity building initiatives at the country level within the framework of Farmer Research Networks and Farmer Field Schools. It facilitated the development of the “10 Elements of Agroecology” analytical framework, approved by the 197 members of FAO, to support the design of differentiated paths for agriculture and food systems transformation. It also facilitated the designing, testing and validating of the Tool for Agroecology Performance Evaluation (TAPE) along with new decision support tools aimed at promoting the sustainable management of organic matter for soil health enhancement.

All of the above ensured improved access to agroecological knowledge, tools/methods, principles, evidence and cases, especially for application under resource constrained circumstances and underserved groups such as indigenous communities and rural women. It provided a platform for sharing information and combining data and observations relevant to agroecological knowledge and resulting from collaborative studies between farmer organizations and researchers and established strategic links, including in follow-up to FAO’s agroecology regional meetings and to facilitate collective action supporting agroecological transitions and food systems transitions.

KEY FACTS

Latest Approved Budget

USD 1 310 000

Duration

January 2015–May 2023

Resource Partner

McKnight Foundation (MKF)

Beneficiaries

Developing nations with a shared goal of enhancing the sustainability of agrifood systems

IMPACT

By adopting a participatory approach to involve stakeholders from all regions across the globe, the project supported FAO's efforts to facilitate the process of global and regional dialogue on agroecology. In addition, through the process of global and regional dialogue and the creation of the AKH, the project supported the creation of global and regional communities of practice that are used daily by stakeholders to share information on best practices, innovations, and experiences on agroecology, as well as relevant events and initiatives. Eventually, the TAPE validation workshop provided an opportunity to bring together the key implementing partners who piloted the tool to create an equivalent community of practice involving a wide range of technical experts who can continue to support the improvement and implementation of TAPE. All of the above eventually contributed to a sustainable food system based on agroecological approaches.

ACTIVITIES

- Developed an AKH web platform and a wide range of content in six United Nations languages to include, as of May 2023, 2 494 items and 240 legal frameworks, policies and programmes on agroecology.
- Developed a website for the Self evaluation and Holistic Assessment of climate Resilience of farmers and Pastoralists (SHARP) tool, further identifying and publishing 56 in depth profiles on best practices.
- Trained 121 stakeholders on agroecology in Burkina Faso, Mali and Mozambique from government ministries, research institutions, farmer organizations and civil society..
- Developed key studies and knowledge products to strengthen the evidence base on agroecology, including field level collaboration and testing with researchers in Ethiopia, Kenya and Zimbabwe.
- Built an active global network of over 3 000 subscribers covering all regions, sectors, and stakeholder groups, including over 1 900 members from 126 countries of the family farming and agroecology community of practice.
- Developed and pilot tested the TAPE and its supporting database in more than 40 countries, covering over 5 000 farms.
- Organised a side event on strategic funding for agroecology during the second FAO international symposium on agroecology, bringing together representatives of the donor community and other stakeholders to discuss the role of strategic funding in accelerating agroecological transitions.

Project Title

Strengthening multistakeholder cooperation on agroecological approaches for sustainable agriculture

Project Code

FAO: MTF/GLO/664/MKF

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MCKNIGHT FOUNDATION



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Partnerships and Outreach
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