

6 RECOMMENDATIONS TO STRENGTHEN SUPPORT FOR THE AGROECOLOGICAL TRANSITION

FROM THE “RETROSPECTIVE EVALUATION
OF AFD AND FFEM INTERVENTIONS SUPPORTING
THE AGROECOLOGICAL TRANSITION, 2015–2024”



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The agroecological transition in rural areas addresses major challenges such as food security, climate change, and the sustainable management of land and natural resources, thereby contributing to more sustainable and equitable development.

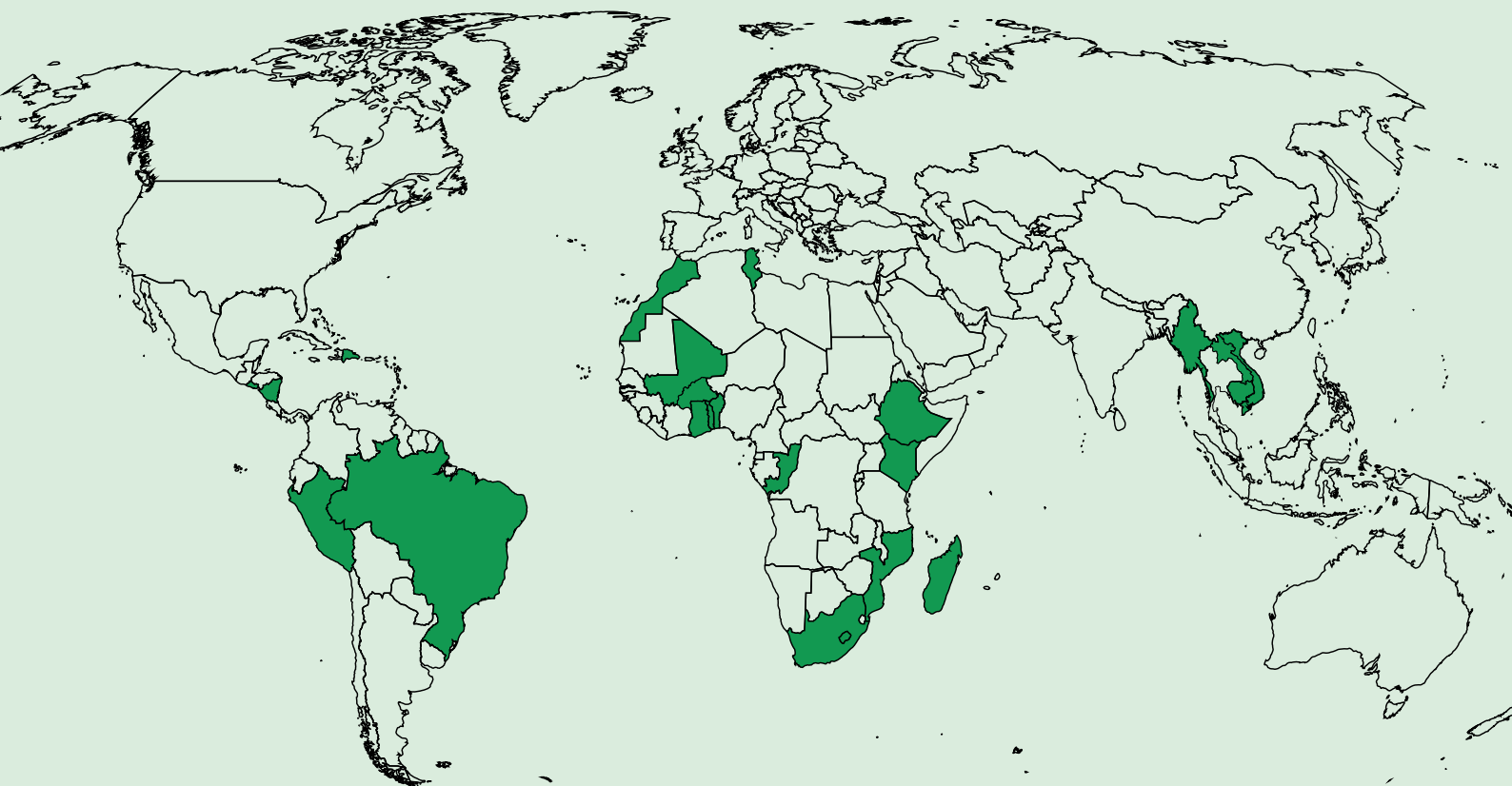
Key takeaways from the document

- > Strengthen the integration of agroecology into public policies
- > Secure transition pathways for family farms
- > Anchor the transition in territorial food systems and pathways
- > Promote the local and inclusive scaling-up of the agroecological transition
- > Strengthen the capacities and roles of all stakeholders involved in the agroecological transition
- > Adapt interventions to the timeframes and complexity of transitions

CONTEXT

For more than 20 years, AFD and FFEM have been supporting public, private, and civil society initiatives promoting the agroecological transition. **A cross-cutting evaluation of 129 projects carried out in 68 countries (2015–2024) highlights a wide diversity of contexts and approaches.** It underscores progress in agricultural practices, capacity building, and the integration of agroecology into public policies, but also points to persistent challenges related to scaling up, economic viability, and the structuring of food systems.

It outlines six key recommendations for strengthening the impact of AFD-FFEM interventions and highlights the role of the FFEM in innovation, experimentation, and the dissemination of promising pilot approaches.



01

Strengthen the integration of agroecology into public policies

It is essential to contribute to the direction, development, and implementation of public policies that support the agroecological transition by strengthening their integration into sectoral policies (agriculture, livestock, climate, healthcare and training).

This requires supporting multi-stakeholder dialogue frameworks bringing together governments, civil society, producer organisations, research institutions, and the private sector, in order to ensure cross-sectoral coherence and alignment with territorial dynamics and farm trajectories.

The FFEM can support research to generate robust data and insights from innovative local experiences in order to inform public policy decisions.



Members of a water users' association in discussion with an agricultural expert in Cambodia.

02

Secure transition pathways for family farms

Farms require better access to a range of services in order to secure the viability of agroecological transition pathways.

This involves developing adapted upstream services (technical advisory, training, agroecological inputs, equipment, credit), facilitating access to profitable markets (local processing, short supply chains, public procurement), and supporting rural entrepreneurship.

The FFEM can pilot innovative risk-reduction mechanisms (guarantee funds) and mechanisms for valuing externalities (carbon, biodiversity) in partnership with financial and private sector stakeholders.



Tambobamba Agroecological Fair in Peru.

03



Product processing as part of the EQUITE project with the TON Association in Côte d'Ivoire.

Anchor the transition in territorial food systems and pathways

The agroecological transition must be embedded into territorial pathways while strengthening local food systems. This requires supporting participatory assessments, multi-stakeholder consultation, and territorial action plans that combine agroecological practices, natural resource management, and the structuring of value chains. The challenge is to secure market opportunities while improving access to quality food, strengthening territorial governance, and coordinating coherent clusters of projects over the long term.

The FFEM can bring together public, private, and civil society stakeholders to ensure the fair economic valuation of agroecology.

04

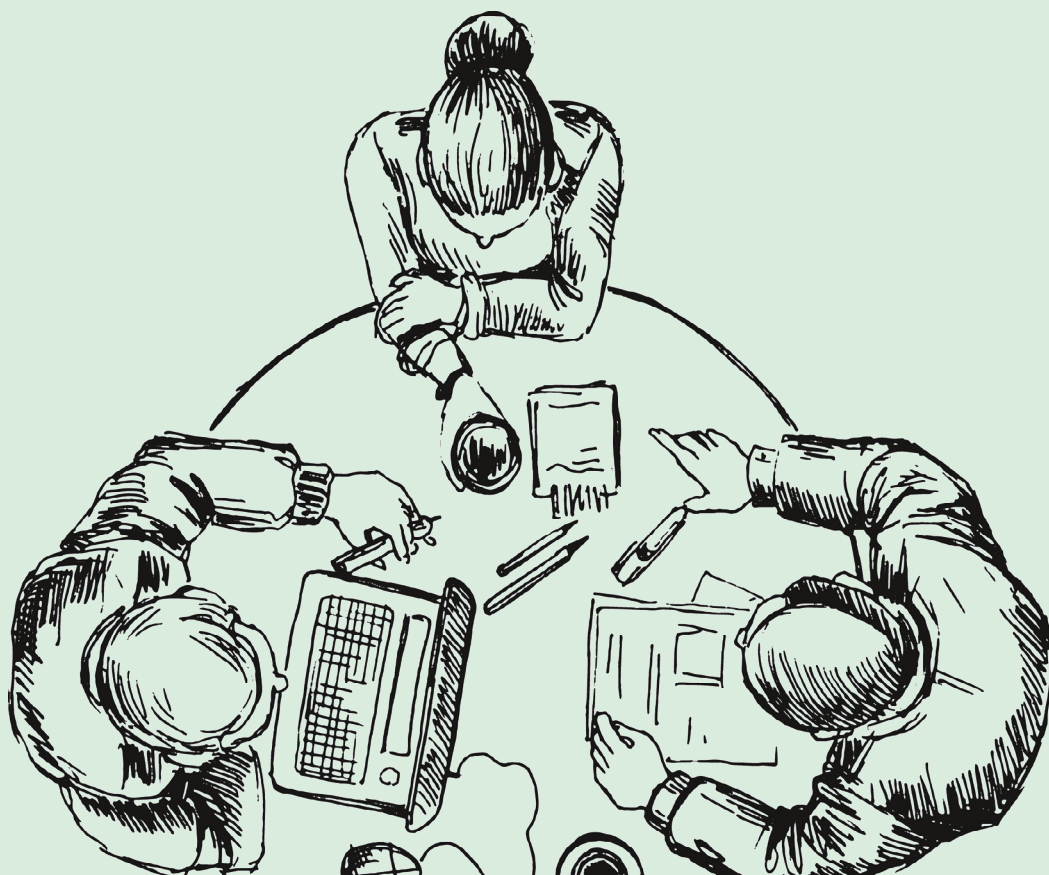
Promote local and inclusive scaling up of the agroecological transition

It is necessary to recognise and strengthen informal local social dynamics (villages, peer groups, interpersonal networks) as strategic levers for agroecological intensification. This involves relying more heavily on farmers' knowledge, peer learning, and farmer-led experimentation, in coordination with agricultural advisory services, training, participatory action research, and territorial policies.

The FFEM can test mechanisms aimed at strengthening these dynamics to produce operational guidelines for scaling up.



Farmers in discussion in Tunisia.



05

Strengthen the capacities and approaches of the stakeholders

The objective is to strengthen both the technical capacities and the individual and collective approaches of those involved in the agroecological transition in order to design complex, multi-stakeholder, and multi-scale transitions.

This involves promoting facilitation approaches, integrating training, agricultural advisory services, peer learning, and incorporating transformative gender approaches. Agricultural and rural training programmes must also be strengthened and better aligned with territorial dynamics.

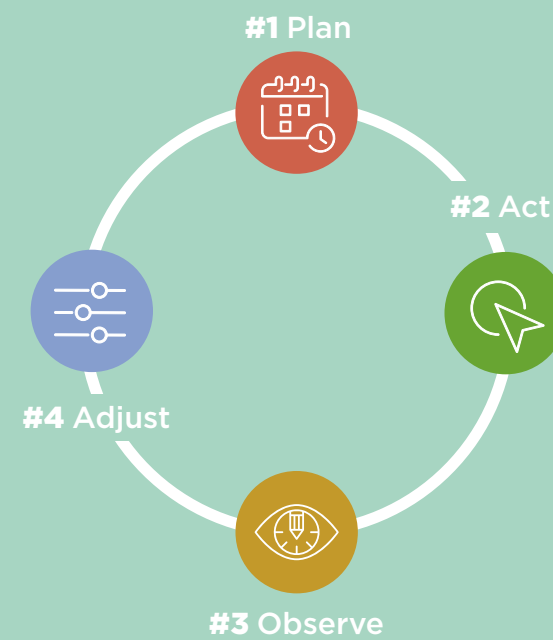
The challenge is to consolidate the role of producer organisations, civil society, public services, and the private sector in improving coordination and the flow of knowledge among producers, research, markets, and public policies.



Training in rubber tapping in the village of Bassadzin as part of the RESILIENT TERRITORIES project in Côte d'Ivoire.

06

Learning loop for intervention frameworks



Adapt interventions to the timeframes and complexity of transitions

Intervention, financing, and monitoring/evaluation frameworks must be adapted to the long timeframes and nonlinear nature of agroecological transition pathways.

This requires designing multi-phase approaches, flexible financing, and a limited and harmonised set of indicators. The challenge is to strengthen steering, learning, and advocacy based on robust evidence. It is also essential to strengthen networks and platforms to translate knowledge into tools and advocacy.

The FFEM can experiment with innovative monitoring and evaluation systems tailored to the complexity of transitions and strengthen mechanisms (networks, platforms, etc.) to disseminate knowledge, particularly through South-South and North-South exchanges.

Next steps

This evaluation highlights significant achievements and areas for improvement to enhance the effectiveness and impact of supported interventions promoting the agroecological transition. These lessons learned provide an operational framework for improving project design and implementation. They underline the need to strengthen systemic, territorial, and multi-stakeholder approaches linking public policies, local dynamics, and food systems. Scaling up will mainly depend on the economic viability of the pathways, an adapted service environment, and better integration of downstream segments.

They also highlight the importance of better linking research, farmers' knowledge, training, agricultural advisory services, and intermediation mechanisms. In this context, the FFEM can play a key role by supporting innovative solutions such as the financial mechanisms that mitigate the risks associated with the agroecological transition, by capitalising on territorial experiences and facilitating their dissemination to support sustainable and large-scale transitions.

The French Facility for Global Environment (FFEM) funds innovative environmental projects in developing countries. It supports initiatives capable of generating local environmental, social, and economic benefits. Established in 1994 by the French government following the first Earth Summit, it has already supported nearly 420 projects in over 130 countries, two-thirds of which are in Africa.

The projects supported by the FFEM aim to preserve biodiversity, the climate, international waters, land, the ozone layer and to combat chemical pollution.

The FFEM draws lessons from these pilot projects so that the most effective solutions can be deployed in other locations or on a larger scale.

The FFEM works in partnership with public and private stakeholders in countries from both the South and the North: NGOs, local authorities and communities, public institutions and businesses, as well as with other donors and international organisations.

The projects it funds are also supported by the ministries that are members of its steering committee or by the Agence Française de Développement (AFD).

Visit www.ffem.fr/en

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