

## **Continental experiences, and lessons learned in implementing interventions on Nature based solutions**

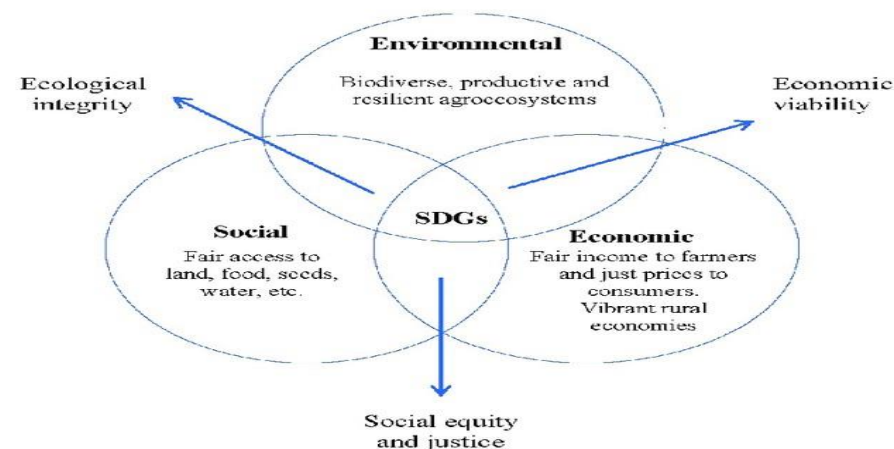


# AEAS Approaches and models for Agroecological Transition in Africa: Key lessons from the ATREA project

Agroecology is central to Nature-based Solutions, Food System Transformation in Africa and contributes directly to multiple Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) ( 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 12, 13, 14, & 15)



An agroecology–agricultural extension nexus exists because innovations and practices are rooted in the change in attitude, knowledge, and skills of actors.





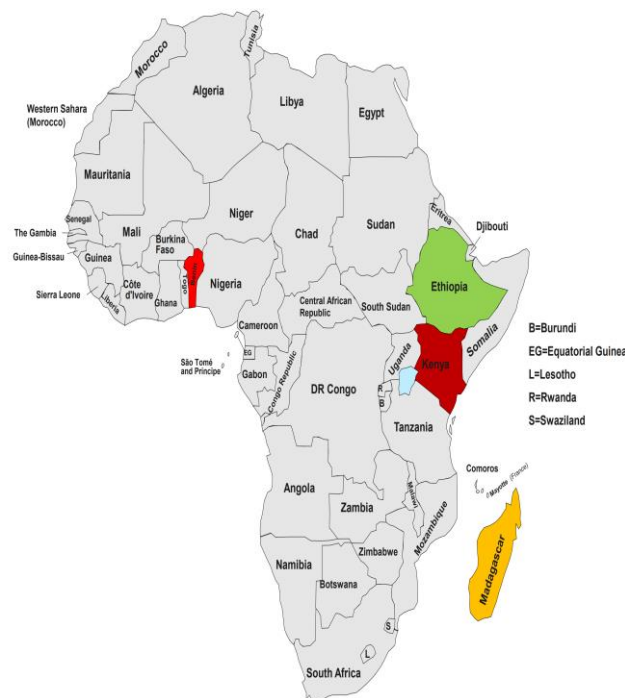
# Project overview

## • Objectives:

Identification and documentation of responsive extension approaches for agroecological transition.

Keeping farmers engaged in extension such as Farmer Field Schools, Farmer Business Schools, Farmer to Farmer

Integrating farmers into co-creation exchanges



Agroecological Practices	Extension Approaches
Integrated Pest Management	Farmer Field Schools
Crop livestock integration	Smallholder Horticulture Empowerment Project (SHEP)
Agroforestry	Farmer Business Schools/ Management Advice Farming
Soils health/fertility/ Carbon	Farmer to Farmer approaches (Lead Farmers)/ Model Farmers
Conservation Agriculture	Plant Clinics
Soil and Water Conservation	Innovation Platforms
Crop rotation and intercropping	Farmer training centers (Ethiopia)
Nutrition Sensitive Agriculture	
Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA)	

Partners and Stakeholders: [GIZ](#), [Country forum](#), [Value chain actors](#), [Ministry of Agriculture](#), [ProSoil project](#)

## Implementation Strategies

- **Approaches Used:**

A descriptive research was employed in this study to determine extension approaches enabling agroecological transition.

- **Innovative Practices:**

Data collected from 1033 respondents, extension officers, input dealers, government officials, marketers, community leaders and researchers; within and around communities where GIZ ProSoil/ProSilience interventions had taken place.

- **Timeline:**

2023 to 2024, Country forum inception planning and meetings, Country Forum Dialogue, Knowledge Products (Factsheet, Policy Briefs, Technical report, Manual, Country synthesis)

# Success and Achievements

## Key Outcomes:

Farmers from Benin were the most **responsive**, while Ethiopia was the least responsive to agroecology principles.

Lack of accompanying services – **Major constraint**

**Prominent agroecology practices**- crop-livestock integration, (Benin and Ethiopia ), crop rotation and agroforestry (Madagascar and Kenya).

Prevalent extension approaches is farmer to farmer, (Benin and Kenya); Madagascar (e-extension), farmer training center (Ethiopia).

Benin and Madagascar farmers were involved most in **knowledge co-creation** more than Kenya and Ethiopia farmers

**Knowledge co-creation** was enhanced most by Farmer to farmer, and Innovation Platform

**Success conditions** high cost of synthetic fertilizers, Perceived cost-benefit ratio & Peer pressure agroecology transition

## **Impact Metrics:**

**Responsiveness to agroecology principles**

**Highest for connectivity, recycling, soil health, and knowledge co-creation.**

## **Incentives for participation in extension**

**Data for Internet, airtime for telephone; meals during meeting, social networking opportunities, meal allowances, transport allowance, use of farms as trial sites, training certification, sample of inputs for free trials, and use of farm for demonstration sites.**

## **Cost per extension methods on agroecology dissemination**

**Farmer field schools, Training and Visit, were the most expensive while e-extension is the most cost-effective and farmer to farmer had the lowest cost.**

## **Community Benefits:**

**Improved soil health,  
Improved yields,  
enhanced resilience, and  
social cohesion.**

# Challenges faced

## Implementation Challenges:

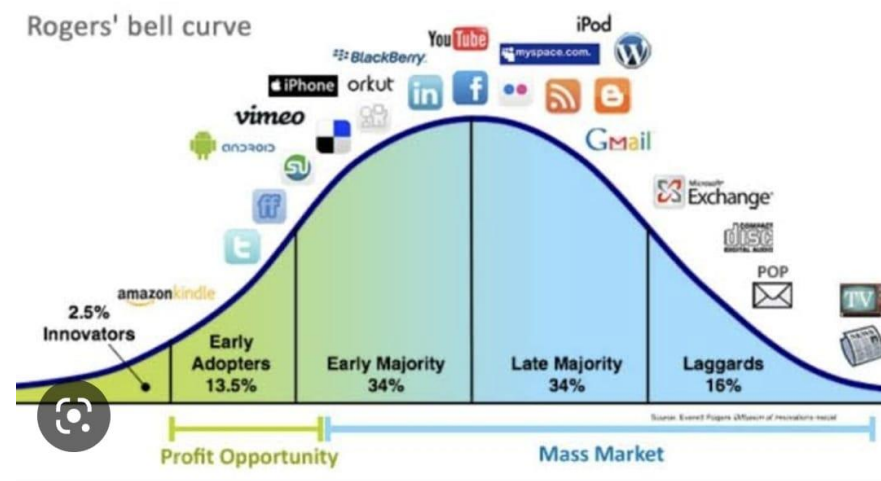
- Associated services were lacking
- Improper application of e-extension services

- Obstacles encountered

Terminologies, categorization, classification and application

- Adaptation Measures:

Focus on Technologies, Innovation & Practices





# Lessons Learned

## Key Insights:

- Tailor-made approaches to local contexts,
- Integration of social dimensions into agroecological practices,
- Incentives that resonate with farmers' needs and priorities.

## Best Practices:

- Matching extension approaches with specific agroecological practices
- Incentives for agroecological transitioning

## Unexpected Outcomes:

Existing networks on agroecological transition



# Stakeholder Engagement

## Community Involvement:

**Farmer groups, input dealers, extension officers and researchers re-orientation towards agroecology transition**

## Capacity Building:

**Use of agroecology principles as solutions to challenges of climate change**

## Collaboration and Partnerships:

**Country Forum, Input dealers association, farmer organization, researchers,  
Knowledge co-creation is most significant for agroecology transition**

# Sustainability and Scaling

- **Long-Term Sustainability:**

**Agroecology principles and practices continuously support enhanced livelihoods with reduced cost**

- **Scalability:**

**Extension Approaches that foster scaling of agroecology practices**

**Specific extension approaches for certain agroecology practice facilitate scaling**

**Farmer to farmer, (Benin and Kenya); Madagascar (e-extension), farmer training center (Ethiopia).**

## Policy and Advocacy

- **Policy Support:**

Pluralistic extension services enhanced the project activities

- **Advocacy Efforts:**

- Country forum dialogue, discussion and validation of ATREA reports
- Engagement with private sector, NGOs, INGOs

## Recommendations

**Promotion of agroecology transition should engage specific extension approaches for certain practices**

**Incentives for agroecology transitioning would enhance the scaling**

**Responsiveness to agroecology is reflected in principles and practices**

**Extension approaches with least-cost and direct interactions with end users should be employed in agroecology transition**

**Knowledge co-creation is central to agroecology transition**





African Forum  
for Agricultural  
Advisory Services

Kigobe Road, House No. 26 - Ministers Village  
P.O. Box 34624 Kampala, Uganda  
Tel: +256 312 313 400  
Email: [info@afaas-africa.org](mailto:info@afaas-africa.org)  
Web: [www.afaas-africa.org](http://www.afaas-africa.org)

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