

This project Agroecological Transition, Responsive Extension Approaches (ATREA) is funded by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), co-funded by the European Union (EU) and supported by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)."

Agroecological Transition, Responsive Extension Approaches - (ATREA) Initiatives through which the State can support Agroecology Adoption in Kenya

FACT SHEET

BACKGROUND

- **Implementation:** AFAAS & Country Fora • **Duration:** 2022-2024 • **Countries:** Benin, Ethiopia, Kenya & Madagascar
- **Objective:** Identification and documentation of sustainable, inclusive, and responsive extension approaches in support of agroecological transition
- **Implementation area in Kenya:** Kakamega • Bungoma • Siaya • 301 respondents

THIS FACTSHEET OUTLINES HOW STATE INITIATIVES CAN DRIVE THE TRANSITION TO AGROECOLOGY.

Initiatives through which the State can support Agroecology Adoption



KEY MESSAGES

- Cultural Compatibility:**
Ensuring that agroecology practices align with local cultural norms has a significant impact on adoption. The state should promote practices that are culturally compatible across different regions.
- Access to Information:**
Providing comprehensive access to information about agroecology is crucial for supporting the transition. Efforts should focus on improving the dissemination of knowledge and resources.
- Socio-Economic Conditions:**
Addressing socio-economic factors is essential for facilitating the adoption of agroecology. The state should implement policies that consider and support the economic and social contexts of farmers.
- Personal Decision:**
The personal choice to adopt agroecology practices plays a key role in continuity. The state should encourage and support individual decision-making through targeted incentives and support programs.
- Access to Resources:**
Ensuring adequate access to resources is vital for the transition to agroecology. The state should enhance availability and affordability of necessary resources and inputs.
- Education:**
Educational initiatives significantly impact the adoption of agroecology. The state should invest in education and training programs to build farmers' knowledge and skills in agroecological practices.

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Agroecological Transition, Responsive Extension Approaches (ATREA)

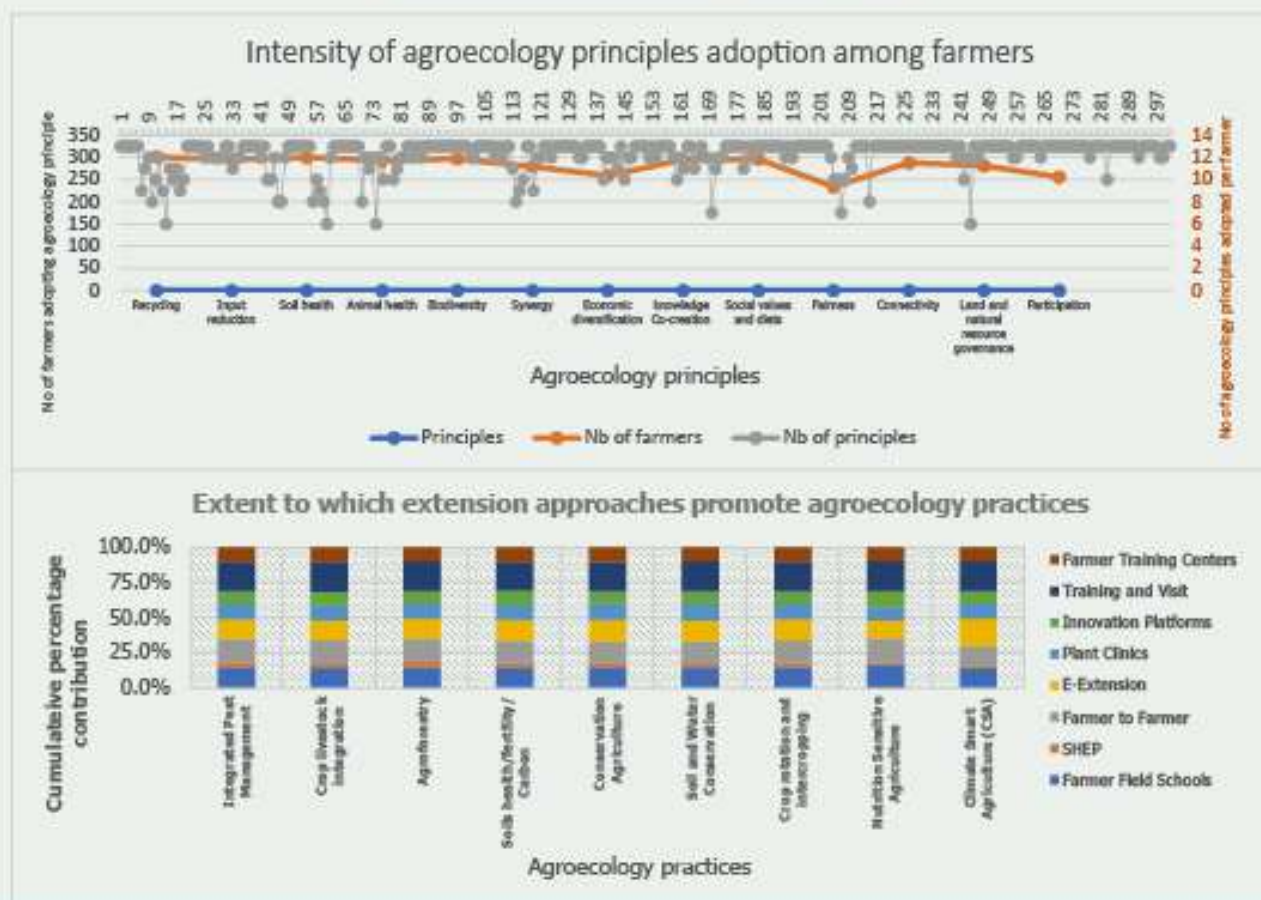
Responsiveness of extension approaches to agroecological principles in Kenya

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THIS FACTSHEET HIGHLIGHTS RESPONSIVENESS OF EXTENSION APPROACHES TO AGROECOLOGICAL PRINCIPLES.



KEY MESSAGES

- Agroecology principles are widely adopted, with over two-thirds of farmer respondents embracing all key principles.
- Over 50% of the farmer respondents have integrated all 13 agroecology principles into their practices.
- On average, farmers are implementing at least six agroecology principles on their farms.
- The Training and Visit (T&V) approach is the most effective extension method for promoting agroecology principles
- Farmer to Farmer and Farmer Field schools approaches are responsive to agroecology principles too

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Agroecological Transition, Responsive Extension Approaches (ATREA) Extension approaches promoting agroecological practices in Kenya

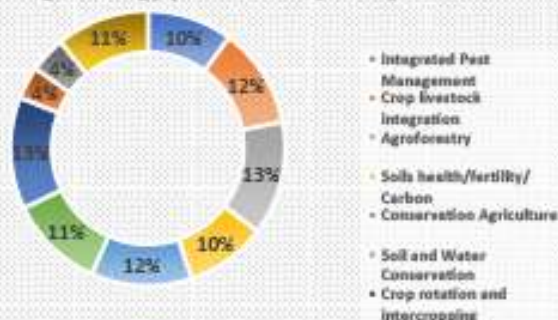
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This factsheet highlights the extension approaches promoting agroecological practices

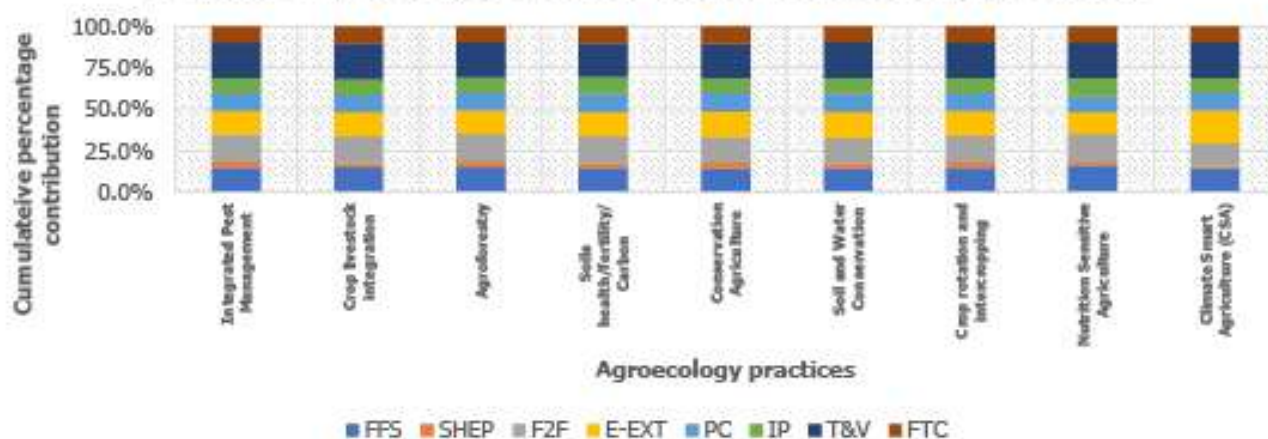
Agroecology practices adopted by farmers



Extent to which extension approaches reach farmers



Extent to which extension approaches promote agroecology practices



KEY MESSAGES

- Agroforestry is the most widely practiced among farmers, reflecting its broad acceptance and benefits in sustainable farming.
- Farmer to Farmer (F2F) is the dominant extension approach, showcasing the effectiveness of peer-to-peer learning in disseminating agricultural practices.
- Training and Visit (T&V) is the most effective approach in promoting agroecological practices in Kenya, due to its structured and comprehensive training combined with field visits.

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Agroecological Transition, Responsive Extension Approaches (ATREA) Costs for different extension approaches in Kenya and the mode of financing

FACT SHEET

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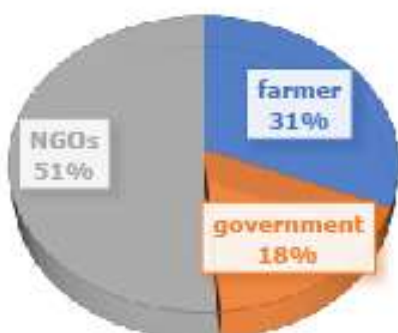
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This factsheet highlights the costs for different extension approaches in Kenya and the mode of financing

Cost for different extension approaches per farmer



MODEL OF FUNDING



KEY MESSAGES

- E-Extension is the most cost-effective approach, with the lowest total expenditure
- SHEP incurs the highest costs, making it the most expensive approach for implementing agroecology extension activities.
- Farmer to Farmer is moderately affordable and is the most popular extension approach among farmers,
- Training and Visits is highly effective in promoting agroecology transitioning. Its costs are moderate, making it reasonably affordable while still providing significant value.
- Farmers are willing to contribute 31% towards the funding of agroecology transitioning, highlighting their commitment to sustainable practices.

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Agroecological Transition, Responsive Extension Approaches (ATREA) Success conditions influencing farmer participation in and uptake/ adoption of agroecology practices.

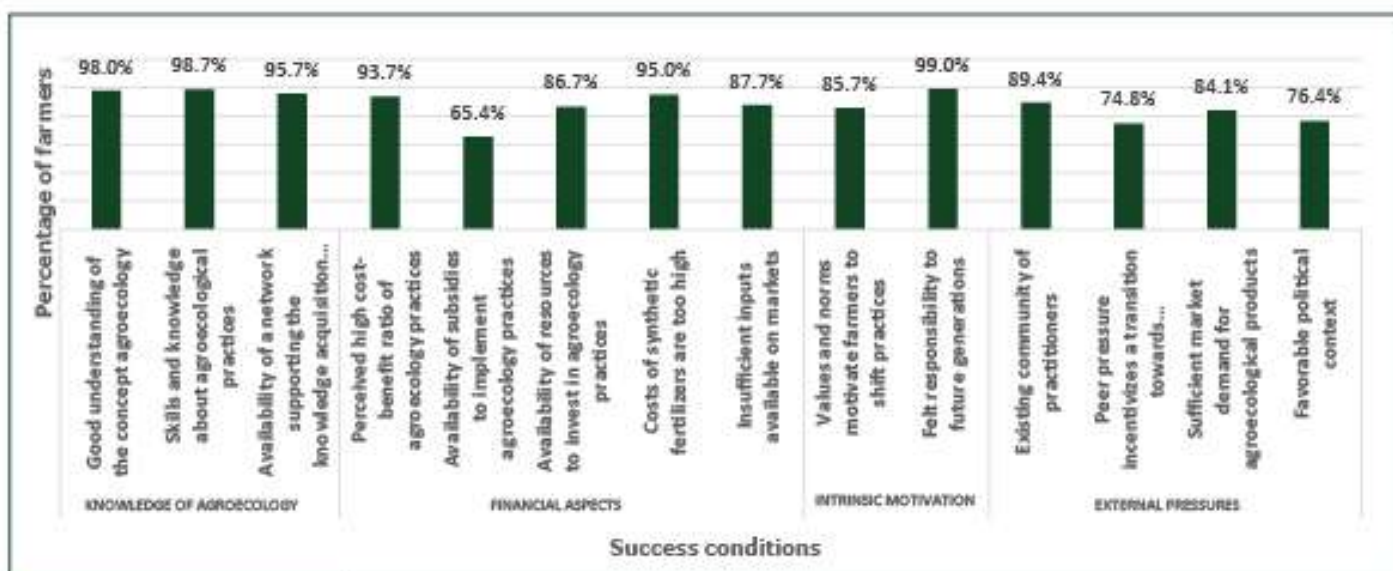
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This factsheet highlights Success conditions in the context of influencing farmer participation in and uptake/adoption of agroecology practices.

Success conditions that influence farmer participation in and uptake/adoption of agroecology practices.



KEY MESSAGES

- **Knowledge and Skills:** Strong knowledge and skills in agroecology are essential for successful adoption.
- **Supportive Networks:** Having access to supportive networks plays a crucial role in the effective implementation of agroecological practices.
- **Cost-Benefit Perception:** A favorable cost-benefit ratio enhances the likelihood of adopting agroecological practices.
- **Investment Resources:** Availability of investment resources is vital for supporting the transition to agroecology.
- **Intrinsic Motivation:** Farmers are motivated to adopt agroecology by a sense of responsibility to future generations, focusing on sustainable production practices and the availability of healthy foods.
- **Cultural Alignment:** Practices that align with farmers' values and norms are more readily adopted.
- **Community Support:** A supportive community of practitioners helps sustain agroecological transitions.
- **Market Demand and Political Context:** Sufficient market demand and a favorable political environment contribute to the successful adoption of agroecology.

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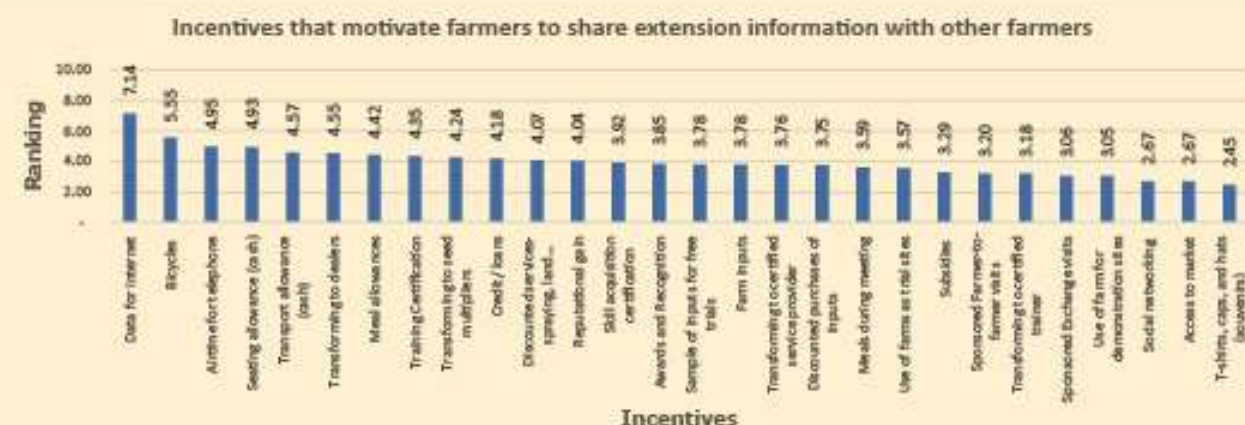
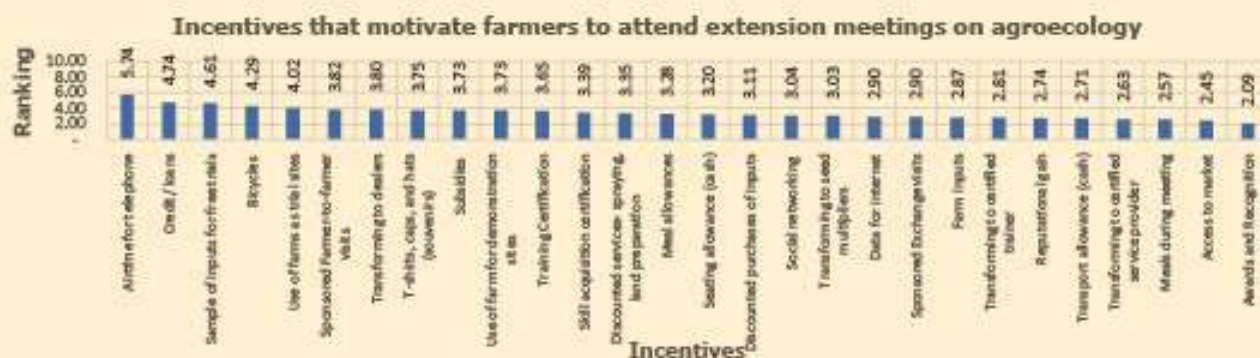
Agroecological Transition, Responsive Extension Approaches (ATREA) Incentives to Sustain Agroecological Extension Approaches in Kenya

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This factsheet highlights Incentives to Sustain Agroecological Extension Approaches



KEY MESSAGES

Incentives to Attend Extension Meetings: Farmers value airtime for phones, credit/loans, free input samples, bicycles, and using farms as trial sites as key incentives to attend meetings.

Incentives to Share Extension Information: Top incentives for sharing information include internet data, bicycles, and phone airtime. Seating and transport allowances also help.

Engagement Strategies: To maintain farmer engagement, provide tangible incentives such as meals, transport allowances, and training certifications. Sponsored visits and exchange programs further enhance learning and sharing.

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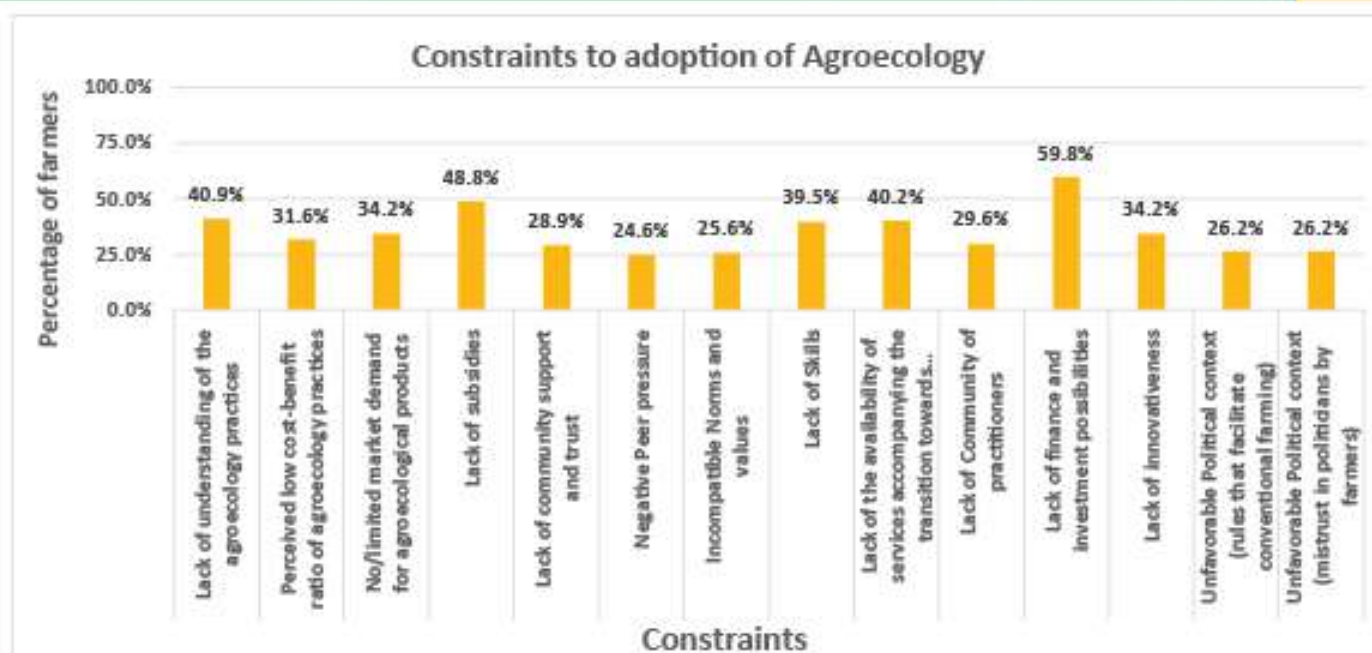
Agroecological Transition, Responsive Extension Approaches (ATREA) Constraints to the Adoption of Agroecology

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This factsheet highlights Constraints to the Adoption of Agroecology



KEY MESSAGES

Motivation - The lack of subsidies and limited understanding of agroecology are major barriers that demotivate farmers from adopting agroecological practices. To facilitate the transition, stakeholders should develop targeted incentives to encourage adoption and ensure that farmers receive clear, accessible information about agroecology.

Ability - Limited financial resources and insufficient investment opportunities are significant obstacles for farmers transitioning to agroecology. Additionally, many farmers lack access to essential support services, making it challenging for them to adopt agroecological practices. Addressing these barriers requires enhancing financial access and strengthening support services to facilitate the transition.

Demand - Limited innovation poses a significant challenge for many farmers, hindering their ability to adopt agroecological methods. Encouraging innovation and sharing successful cases can help overcome this challenge and drive wider adoption.

Legitimacy - Policies that favor conventional farming over agroecological practices is a challenge to farmers, creating an unfavorable political environment. Additionally, mistrust in political leaders further complicates efforts to promote agroecology. Addressing these issues calls for policy reforms and trust building to enable a more supportive environment for agroecological transition.

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Agroecological Transition, Responsive Extension Approaches (ATREA) Stakeholder collaborations driving engagement and commitment in agroecological practices.

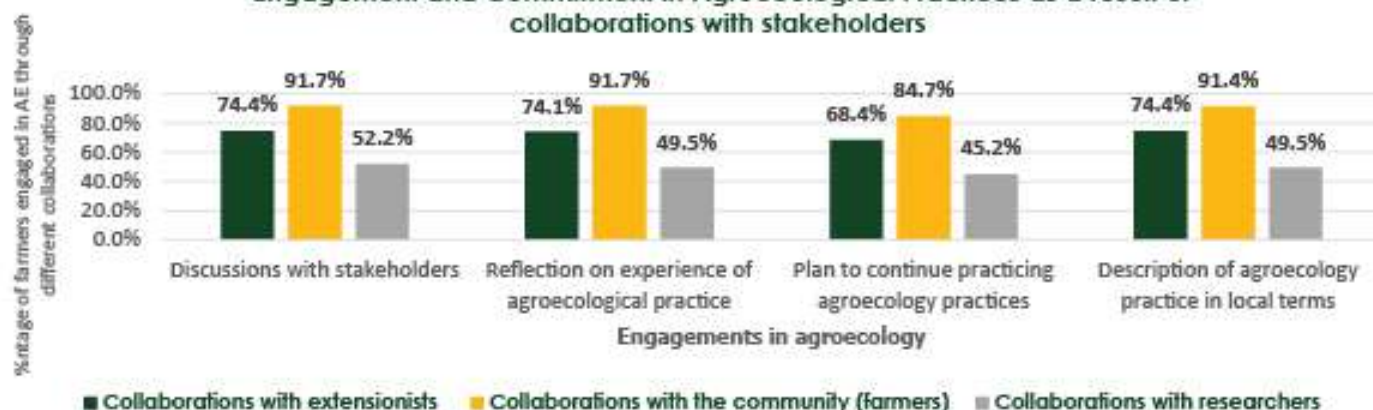
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This factsheet highlights how stakeholder collaborations drive engagement and commitment in agroecological practices.

Engagement and Commitment in Agroecological Practices as a result of collaborations with stakeholders



KEY MESSAGES

More farmers have had collaborations within the community with limited collaborations with researchers. Collaborations between farmers and extensionists induced reflection on agroecology and as a result more farmers dedicate to advancing agroecology.

Partnerships with extension services empower farmers to articulate agroecological practices in locally relevant terms.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Strategies to Involve Researchers: Increase the involvement of researchers in field-level discussions by coordinating joint activities that require their direct input, and by facilitating more frequent interactions with farmers. This could involve increasing the number of on-farm trials or participatory research initiatives.

Support Community Forums: Maintain and potentially broaden support for community-driven forums dedicated to the exchange of agroecological practices.

Documentation and Dissemination: Encourage the documentation of successful practices discussed within the community and disseminate these through various channels to reach other farmers and stakeholders.

Address Barriers: Examine and resolve the causes behind the decline in percentages of farmers reflecting on practices to those planning to continue them. This may involve looking into economic, resource, or knowledge barriers.

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Agroecological Transition, Responsive Extension Approaches (ATREA) Collaboration on Extension Service Delivery and its impact on Farmer Understanding and Uptake in Kenya.

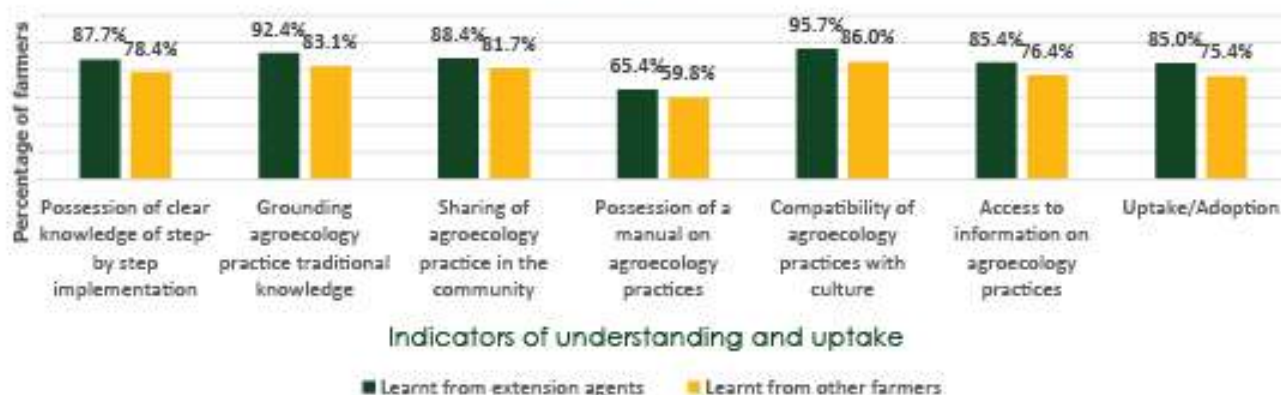
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This Factsheet Highlights Impact of Collaboration on Extension Service Delivery and Farmer Understanding and Uptake.

Impact of Collaboration on Extension Service Delivery and Farmer Understanding and Uptake



KEY MESSAGES

High Learning from Extension Agents: Farmers demonstrate a strong grasp of knowledge and a high rate of adoption due to the guidance provided by extension agents.

Areas with Less Engagement: There is a significant decline in the availability of agroecology practice manuals and access to related information.

Overall, farmers learning from extension agents leads to increased adoption.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Enhance Manual Distribution and Accessibility: To address the declining availability of manuals on agroecology practices, advocate for increased support from governments and NGOs to fund the production and distribution to farmers of both physical and digital agroecology resources.

Increase Access to Information: To improve overall access to information on agroecology practices, expanding digital and physical channels for information dissemination can help.

Cultural Compatibility: Continue to emphasize and build on the compatibility of agroecology practices with local cultures, as this factor shows high engagement and acceptance.