

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)."

FACT SHEET - BENIN

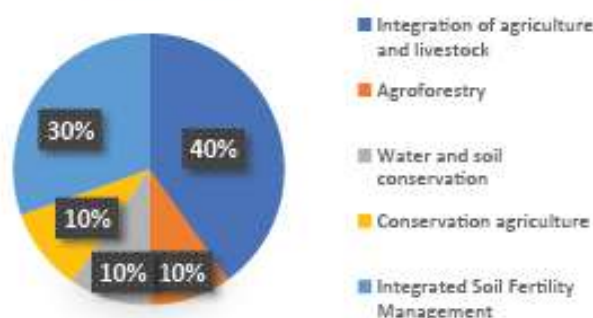
Agroecological Transition, Responsive Extension Approaches (ATREA) Extension approaches promoting agroecological practices in Benin

Background

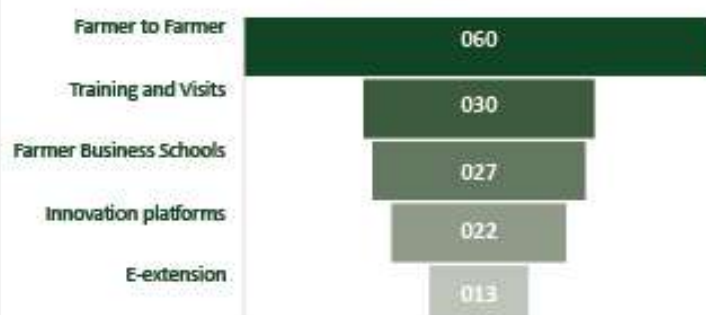
- **Implementation:** AFAAS & Country Fora • **Duration:** 2022-2024 • **Countries:** Benin, Ethiopia, Kenya & Madagascar
- **Objective:** Identification and documentation of sustainable, inclusive, and responsive extension approaches in support of agroecological transition
- **Location:** Alibori region (4 districts) • Borgou region (3 districts) • 357 respondents

This factsheet highlights the extension approaches promoting agroecological practices

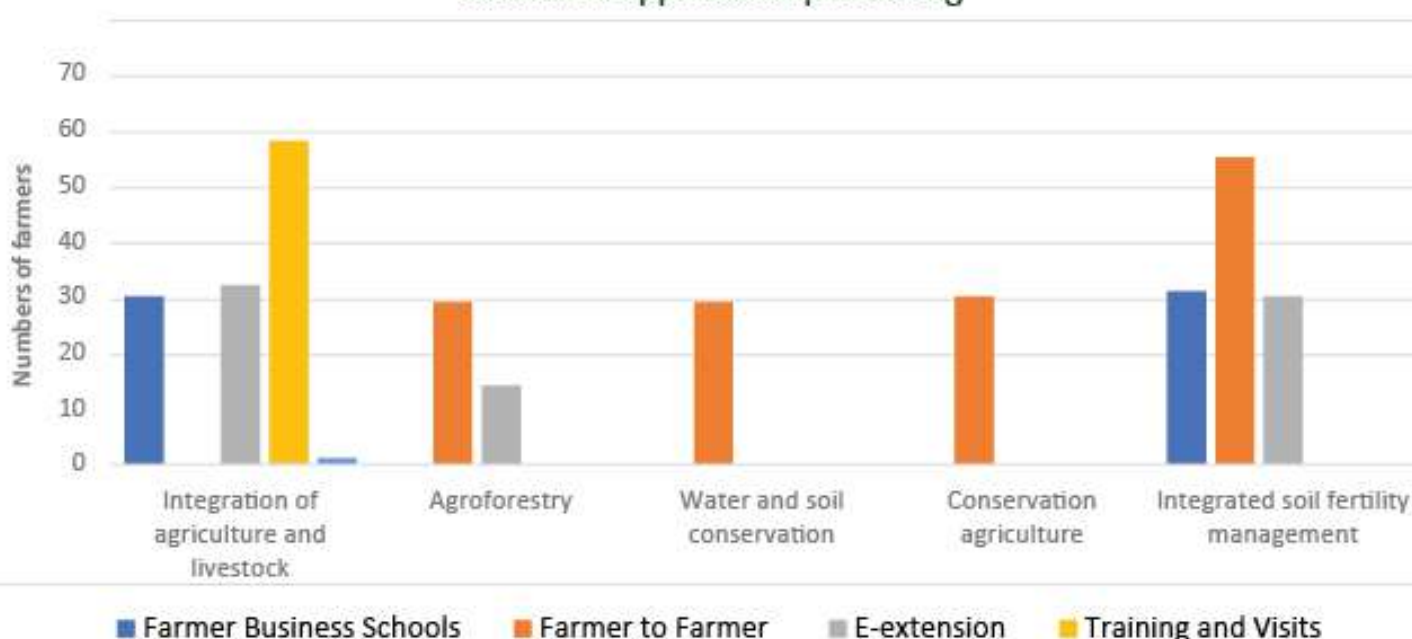
Proportion of farmers applying different agroecological practices



Proportions of farmers reached by extension approaches



Distribution of farmers having learned agroecological practices through extension approaches promoting



Farmer to farmer, farmer business school and E-extension are prominent extension approaches promoting agroecological practices, specifically Crop-livestock integration and integrated soil fertility management.

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Agroecological Transition, Responsive Extension Approaches (ATREA) - Benin Costs and financing and of extension approaches

BACKGROUND

Implementation: AFAAS & Country Fora;

Duration: 2022-2024; **Countries:** Benin, Ethiopia, Kenya & Madagascar

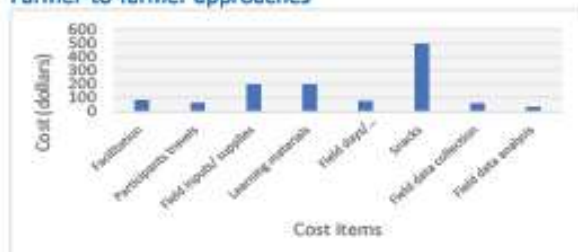
Objective: Identification and Documentation of Sustainable, Inclusive, and Responsive extension approaches in support of agroecological transition

Location: Alibori Region (4 districts) | • Borgou Region (3 districts) | • 357 Respondents

This factsheet provides insights into the average costs of various extension approaches used in support of agroecological transition and explores potential financing mechanisms to support these initiatives.

EXTENSION APPROACHES COST AND FINANCING MECHANISM

Farmer-to-farmer approaches



Average cost: \$1,536.87 for 1 extension worker covering 25 farmers per month

Farmer Business school (FBS+)



Average cost: \$1,267.61 for a three-day training session per trimester for 30 farmers.

Mobile soil -video approach e extension



Average cost: \$507.87 per screening session during 2 days,

Radio broadcasting approach (e-extension)



Average cost: \$169.01 for local radio agroecological practices broadcasting during 15 minutes

- **Farmers/Farmers' organization (10%):** Minimal contributions for travel, snacks, and some supplies. Participation in cost-sharing for specific inputs when necessary. In kind contribution or through membership fees or pooled resources within cooperatives.
- **Community (10%):** Support for facilitation and local events (field days, graduations). Partial funding for monitoring and evaluation activities. Contribution through small fees or in-kind contributions, such as providing local knowledge or resources.
- **Government (50%):** Major funding for facilitation, monitoring, and evaluation. Support for learning materials, data collection, and analysis. Budget allocation for agricultural extension services and capacity-building.

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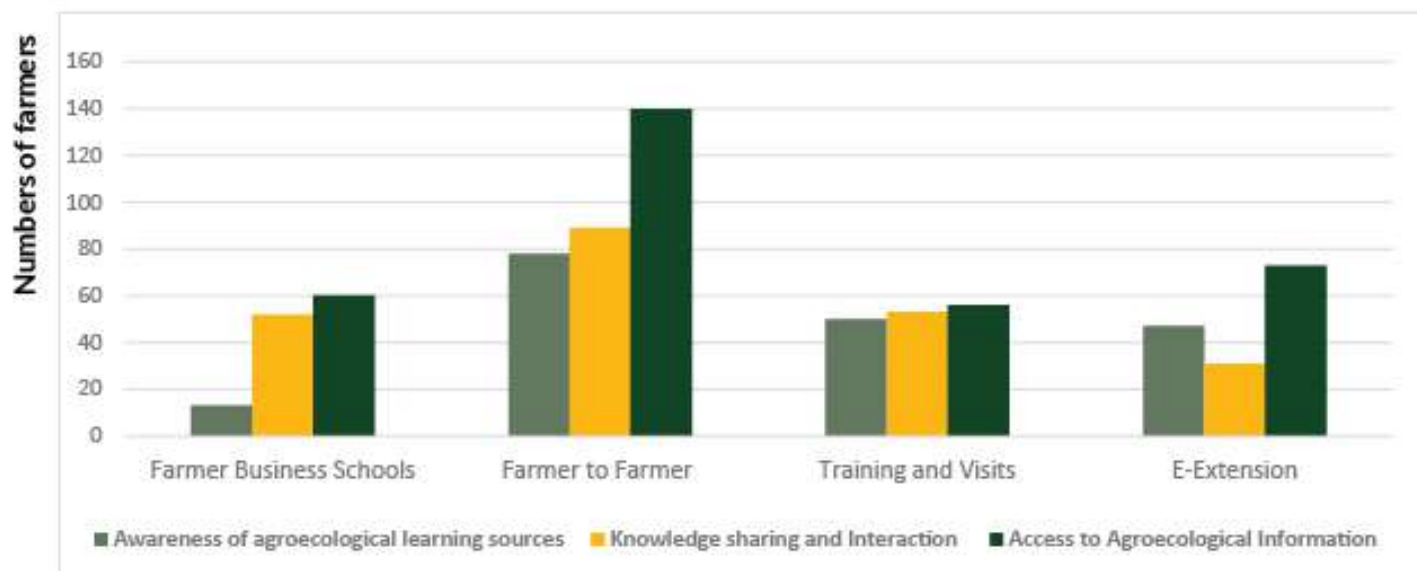
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Agroecological Transition, Responsive Extension Approaches (ATREA) - Benin
Knowledge co-creation on agroecology through extension approaches.

- **Implementation:** AFAAS & Country For a
- **Funding:** GIZ – 2022-2024
- **Countries:** Benin, Ethiopia, Kenya & Madagascar
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This factsheet highlights Knowledge co-creation through extension approaches.

Distribution of farmers having got access to agroecological information, knowledge sharing and interaction through extension approaches



1. Farmers to farmer extension enhances knowledge co-creation on agroecology .
2. Knowledge co- creation through farmer to farmer extension approach fosters local innovation in agroecology.
3. E- extension contribute sto agroecology knowledge dissemination.
4. Intensive interaction among actors in farmer business schools and training and visits actors will promote knowledge co-creation

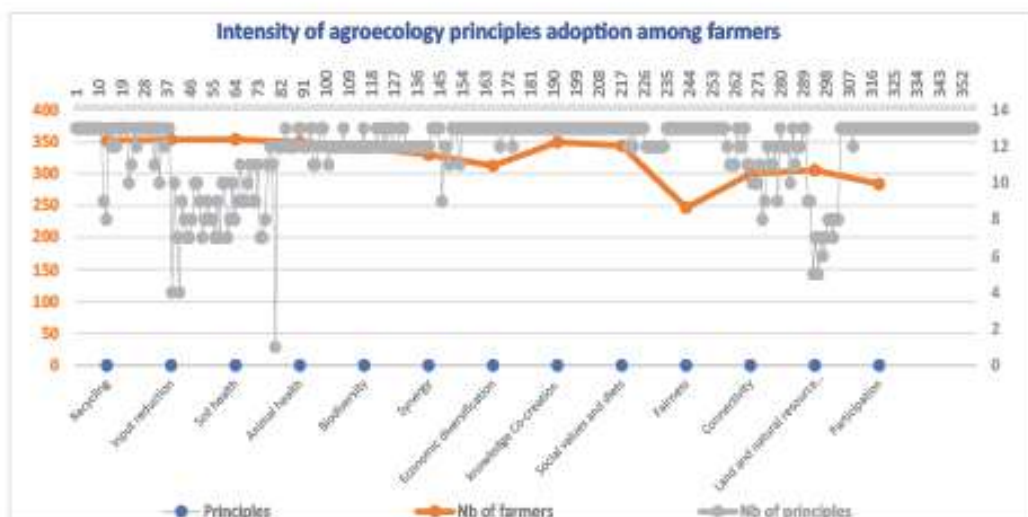
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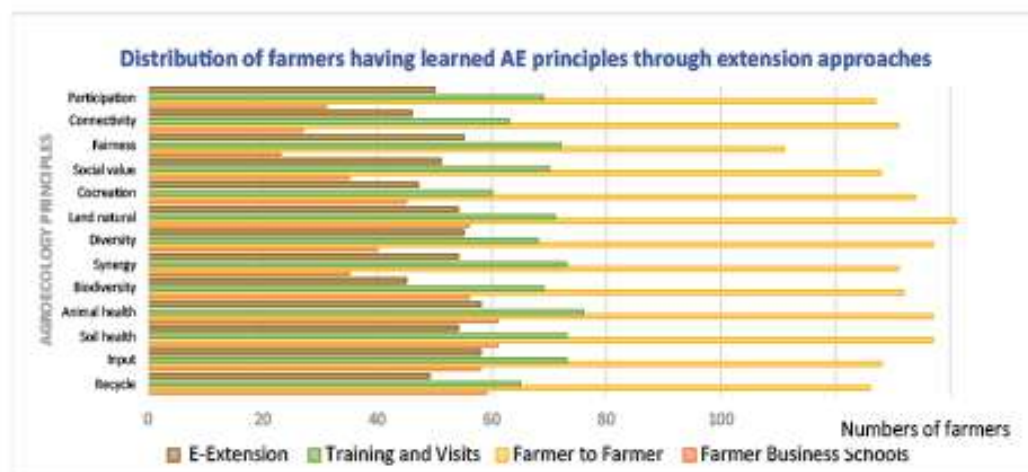
BACKGROUND

- 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
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- This factsheet highlights responsiveness of extension approaches to agroecological principles.

Intensity of agroecology principles adoption among farmers



Distribution of farmers having learned AE principles through extension approaches



Key Messages

- Farmer to farmer extension effectively supports the adoption of agroecology principles
- Greater emphasis is placed on technical aspects such as recycling and input reduction than on social considerations like fairness and participation.
- Approaches such as farmers business school and training & visits could perform better if issues addressed in joint sessions deliberately target agroecology principles.
- E-extension can contribute through information and technology dissemination.

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Agroecological Transition, Responsive Extension Approaches (ATREA) Incentives and engagement strategies for farmers in extension approaches in Benin

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 Benin: Alibori region (4 districts) • Borgou region (3 districts) • 357 respondents

KEY QUESTIONS ADDRESSED

Which incentives/modes of delivery help sustain extension approaches in Benin?

How to keep farmers engaged in such approaches?

Strategies for keeping farmers engaged

1. Offer practical incentives: High percentages of farmers indicated that farm inputs (79.9%), market access (79.3%), and credit/loans (80.3%) are significant motivators for participation. Providing these resources ensures that farmers see tangible benefits from their involvement.

2. Facilitate knowledge sharing: Incentives that promote sharing, such as sponsored visits between farmers (64.9%) and training certificates (75.9%), encourage collaboration and learning among peers, enhancing the overall experience.

3. Utilize engaging delivery methods: Incorporating various delivery methods, such as workshops and sponsored exchange visits, can make participation more attractive. Farmers are more likely to engage when they can interact with others and learn from different experiences.

4. Recognize contributions: Awards and recognition (49.2%) serve as a form of acknowledgment for farmers' efforts, fostering a sense of community and encouraging ongoing participation.

5. Create networking opportunities: Social networking (59.5%) allows farmers to connect with others, share experiences, and learn from each other, which can enhance their commitment to the program.

Extension approaches for agroecological practices promotion in Benin

- Farmer to farmer
- Training and Visits
- Farmer Field School
- Innovation platform
- E-extension

Incentives/Delivery modes to sustain extension approaches

Incentives/Delivery Modes	Participation %		Sharing %	
	Yes	No	Yes	No
Farm inputs	79.9	20.1	71.6	28.4
Sample of inputs for tree trials	7.9	92.1	65.6	34.4
Boycots	5.8	94.2	41.8	58.2
Transport allowance (in cash)	5.2	94.8	61.1	38.9
Sealing allowance	39.5	60.5	23.4	76.6
Meal allowances	44.1	55.9	39.5	60.5
Arttime telephone	48.5	51.5	34.4	65.6
Data for internet	33.1	66.9	10.7	89.3
Sponsored visits between farmers	6.9	93.1	64.9	35.1
Sponsored exchange visits	56.5	43.5	50.8	49.2
T-shirts, caps, and hats (souvenirs)	46.5	53.5	40.8	59.2
Meal during meetings	5.8	94.2	48.5	51.5
Training certificates	75.9	24.1	75.9	24.1
Certificate in skills acquisition	70.9	29.1	64.8	35.2
Market access	79.3	20.7	67.2	32.8
Subsidies	52.0	48.0	50.5	49.5
Credit/loans	80.3	19.7	72.6	27.4
Registration gain	44.5	55.5	41.5	58.5
Use of farm demonstration site	66.6	33.4	62.6	37.4
Awards and recognition	49.2	50.8	45.8	54.2
Discounted purchases of inputs	64.9	35.1	62.9	37.1
Discounted services	64.9	35.1	60.9	39.1
Social networking	59.5	40.5	51.2	48.8
Transforming into dealers	5.2	94.8	43.8	56.2
Transforming into seed multipliers	52.5	47.5	47.2	52.8
Transforming into certified trainers	54.5	45.5	47.5	52.5
Transforming into certified service providers	50.5	49.5	46.5	53.5

Making approaches attractive

To enhance the attractiveness of extension approaches:

- **Direct incentives:** Focus on providing benefits that meet farmers' needs, such as quality inputs and financial support.
- **Community involvement:** Involve farmers in decision-making processes to foster ownership.
- **Diverse incentives:** Offer a variety of incentives, including social recognition and access to resources.
- **Build trust:** Foster trust and cooperation through regular communication and collaborative activities.

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AGROECOLOGICAL TRANSITION, RESPONSIVE EXTENSION APPROACHES (ATREA) - BENIN

Enhancing Adoption and Scalability of Agroecological Extension Approaches

Background

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- **Duration:** 2022-2024
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This factsheet provides recommendations for integrating agroecological principles into extension approaches and scaling successful practices

Key recommendations for integrating agroecological principles into extension approaches and scaling successful practices

1. **Training and capacity building**
 - Essential training: Invest in training agricultural advisors and farmers to enhance their capacity to implement agroecological practices. Develop training modules based on each agroecological principle
 - Materials availability: Provide educational materials for advisors, farmers, and trainers.
2. **Continuous Support**
 - Long-term guidance: Implement for example a three-year support program for farmers to ensure sustained engagement.
 - Coaching for trainers: Offer coaching to improve trainers' effectiveness in supporting farmers.
3. **Input provision**
 - Agroecological inputs: Ensure availability of necessary inputs like organic fertilizers and pest management tools.
4. **Awareness campaigns**
 - Mobilization efforts: Use mobile soil approaches and radio broadcasts to raise awareness about agroecological principles.
5. **Farmer-to-farmer approach**
 - Peer learning: Facilitate farmer-to-farmer exchanges and visits to successful agroecological sites.
 - Average cost: \$1,536.87 per extension worker for 25 farmers per month.
 - Financing: Costs should be covered by the state, producers, projects, and farmers' organizations. Effective organization of value chains can facilitate funding.
6. **Monitoring and Evaluation**
 - Establish evaluation frameworks: Set up monitoring systems to assess impact and make necessary adjustments.
7. **Financial support**
 - Long-term financing: Secure a minimum of three years of funding for training, input provision, and farmer engagement.
8. **Multi-Stakeholder involvement**
 - Engage all actors: Involve stakeholders, including farmers' organizations, government, and research institutions.

To enhance the adoption and sustainability of agroecological practices in Benin, it is crucial to integrate agroecological principles into extension services effectively. This requires comprehensive training, financial support, robust M&E systems, and stakeholder involvement. By scaling successful approaches and ensuring continuous support and training, Benin can achieve significant improvements in sustainable agricultural practices.