

Food system transformation through agroecology

Current food systems are not sustainable

- Produce about 1/3 of greenhouse gases
 - Are responsible for 80% of biodiversity losses
 - Pollute the soil, air and water
 - Are vulnerable to climate change
 - **Do not address the triple burden of malnutrition**
 - **Impact human health**
 - Maintain social inequity and the loss of cultural values
- **Directly associated with current food systems based on industrial agriculture**

Our food systems are making people sick.

**HOW WE PRODUCE, DISTRIBUTE, MARKET, PREPARE,
EAT AND DISPOSE OF FOOD HAS A SIGNIFICANT AND
GROWING COST TO PUBLIC HEALTH**



UNRAVELLING THE FOOD-HEALTH NEXUS:

ADDRESSING PRACTICES, POLITICAL
ECONOMY, AND POWER RELATIONS
TO BUILD HEALTHIER FOOD SYSTEMS

www.futureoffood.org #foodsystems4health

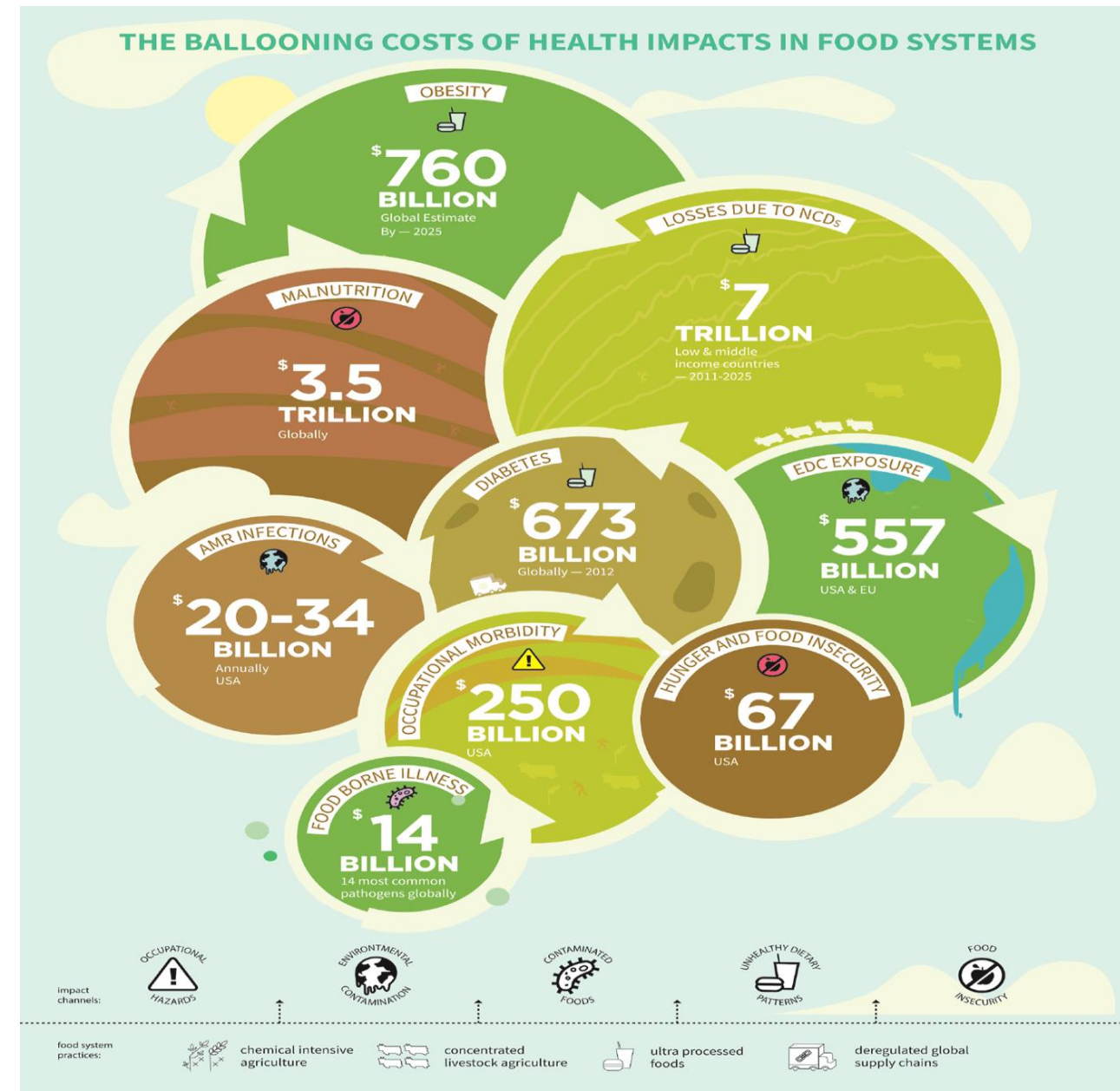


A coalition for food system transformation through agroecology.

5 CHANNELS OF IMPACT



THE HUMAN AND ECONOMIC COSTS ARE SEVERE AND GROWING

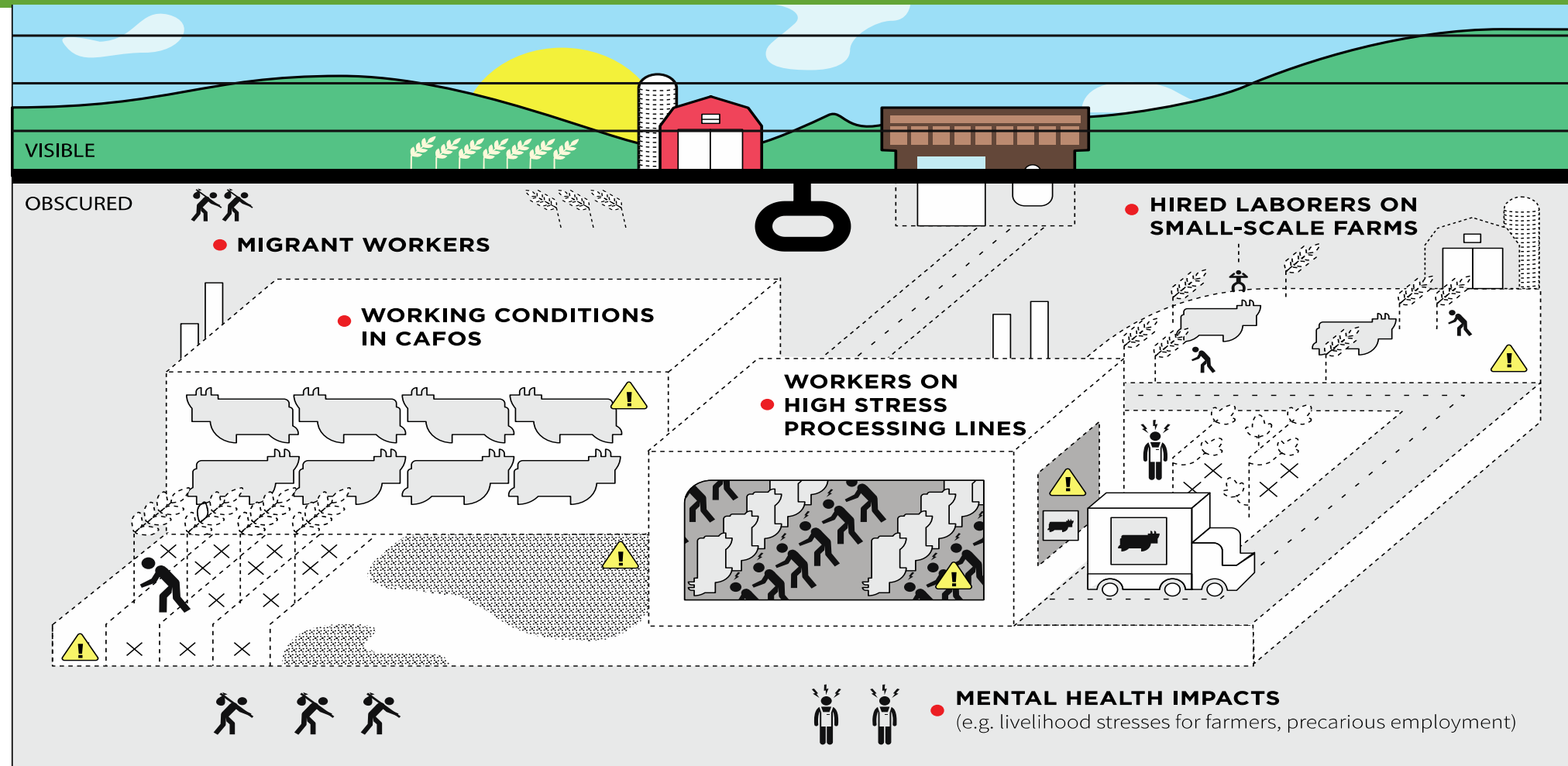


WE KNOW WHAT'S LEADING TO THESE HEALTH IMPACTS

- Chemical-intensive monocropping
- Intensive livestock production
- Mass production and marketing of ultra-processed foods
- Development of deregulated and dangerous supply chains

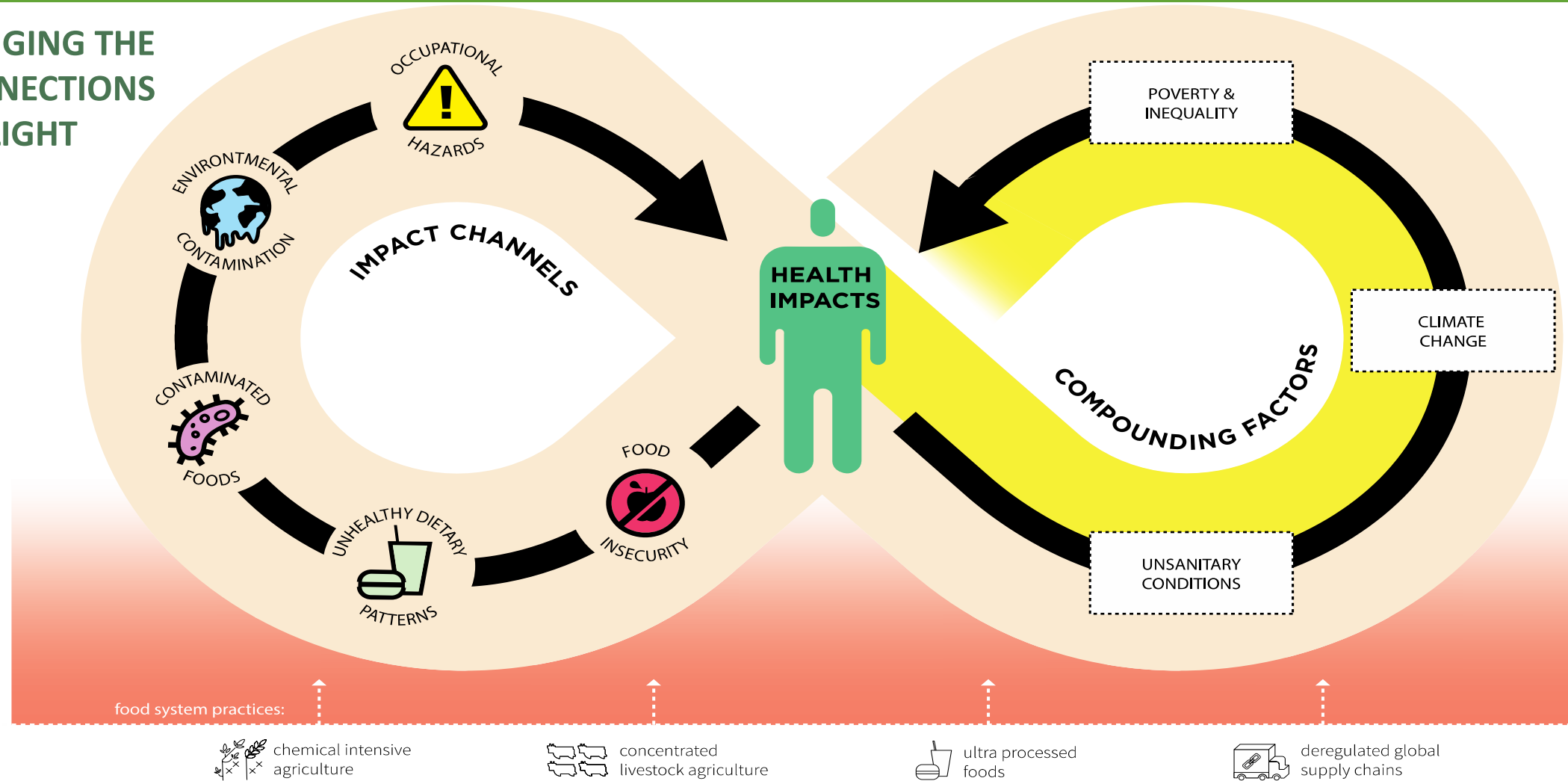


SEEING THE COMPLETE PICTURE



- The general public is disconnected from agriculture & does not see systematic nature of health risks

BRINGING THE CONNECTIONS TO LIGHT



- Food systems drive poverty & climate change, creating the conditions for poor health

We need transformational change

IPES-Food From uniformity to diversity 2016

IPBES report on land degradation 2018

TEEB for Agriculture and Food 2018

IPBES report on Biodiversity 2019

HLPE report on Agroecology 2019

IDDRI report on Agroecology 2019

IPCC report on CC & land 2019

GSDR 2019

Global comm. adaptation 2019

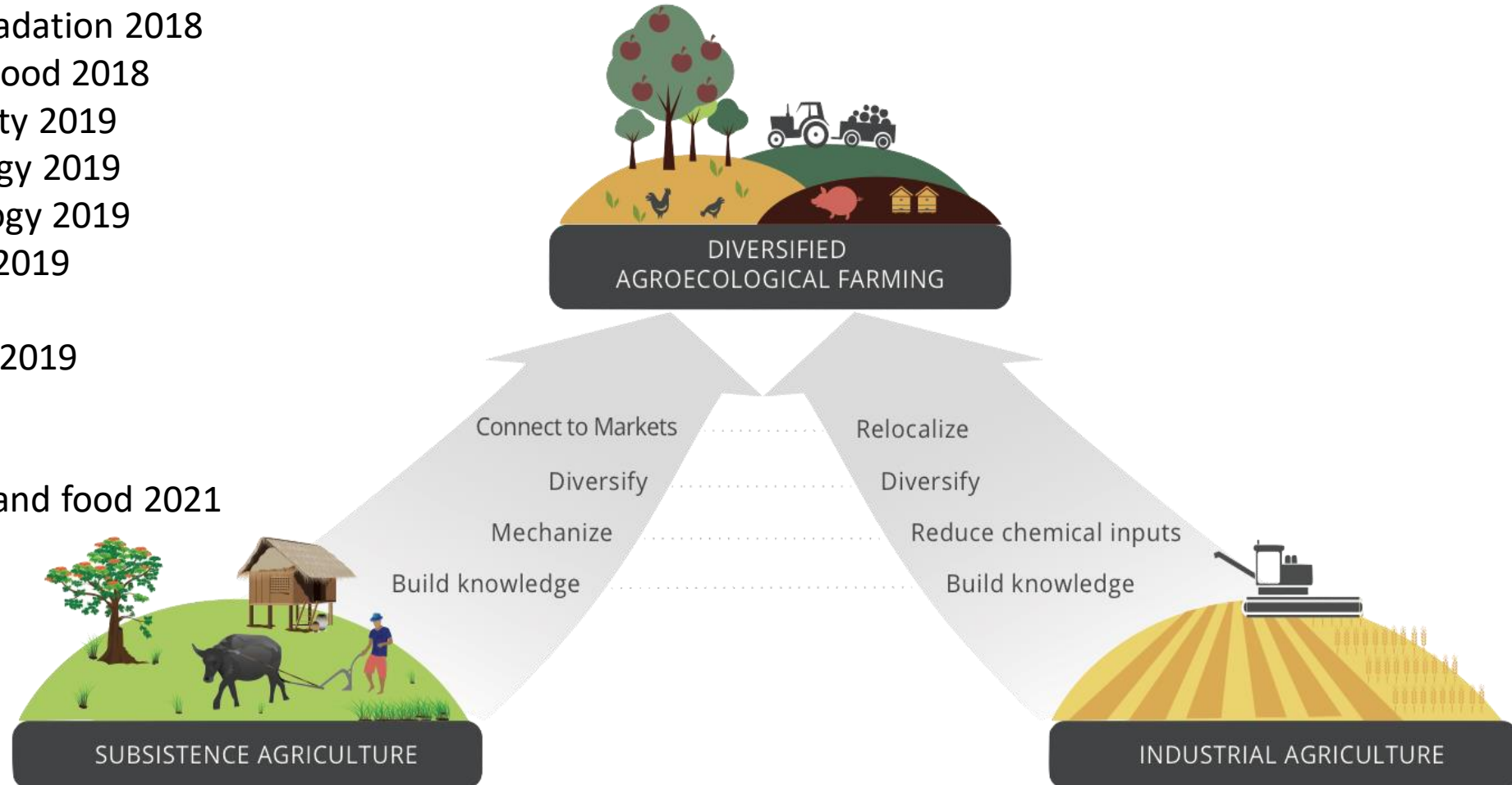
GBO-5 2020

HLPE 2020 report

EC Mission on soil health and food 2021

IPCC report 2022

All mention agroecology

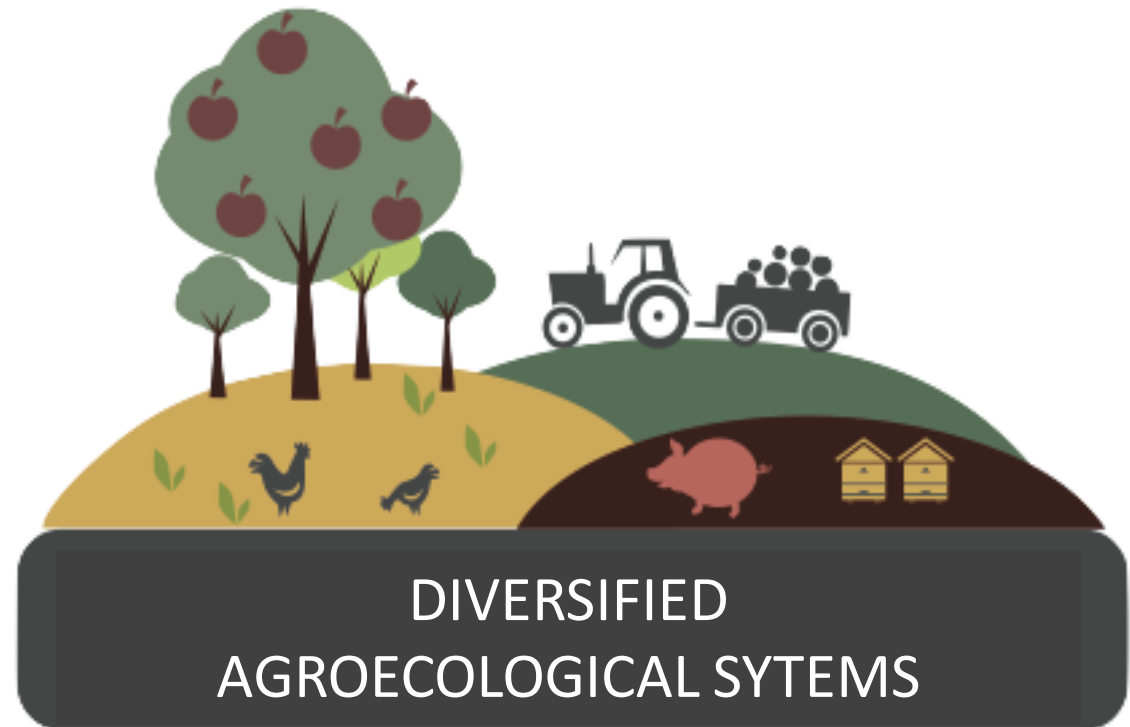


A different paradigm: diversified agroecological systems

To address:

- **Economic**
- **Environmental**
- **Climate M & A**
- **Health**
- **Social**
- **Cultural**

objectives simultaneously



A paradigm based on the 13 principles of agroecology

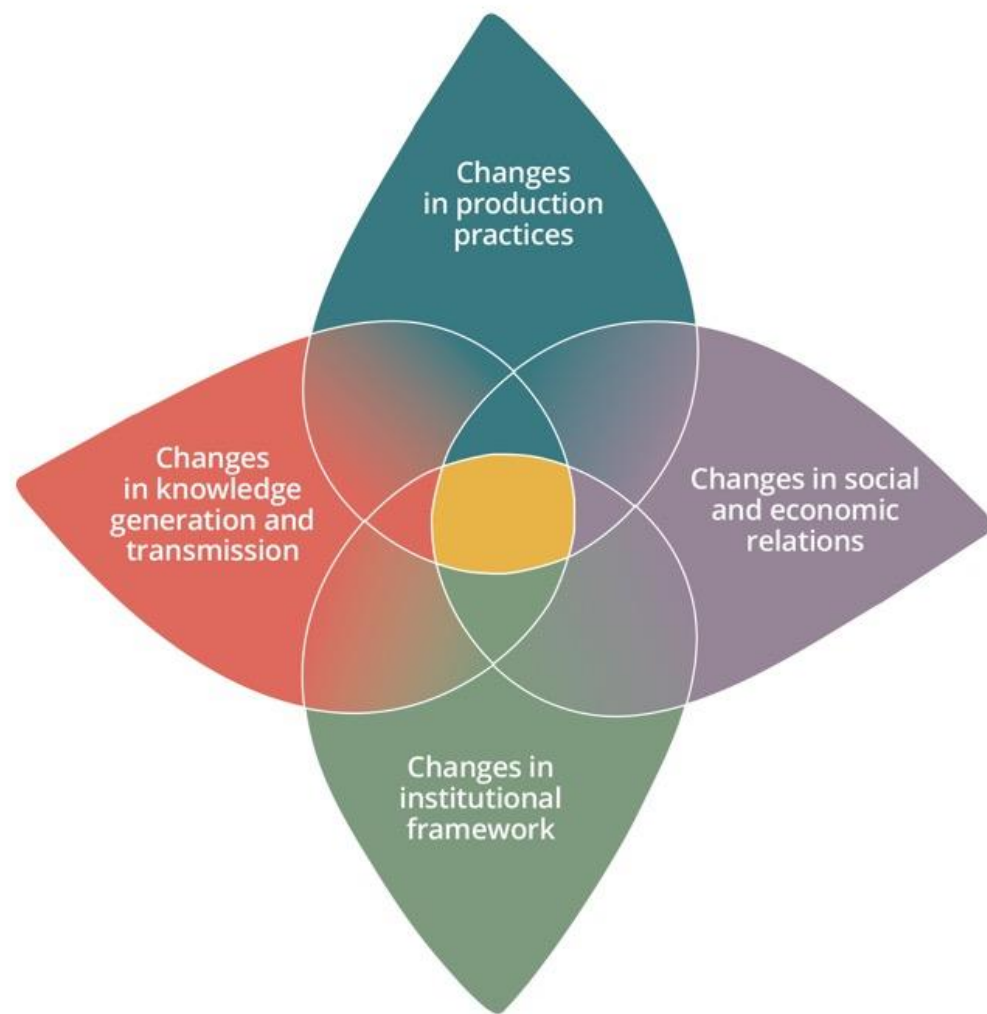
HLPE, 2019



Source: <https://www.agroecology-pool.org/fact/>

ILLUSTRATIONS: DOROTTYA POOR

Transformational change and food system approach



Agroecology: a different paradigm

- Agroecology is not just a set of agricultural practices. It addresses the entire food system from production to consumption
- It takes the best of all innovations that are compatible with the 13 principles of agroecology, combined with traditional and farmer knowledge
- It is also about changing social relations, empowering farmers, adding value locally and privileging short value chains that link consumers and producers
- It is a holistic, integrated approach to reach economic, environmental, climate, health, social and cultural objectives
- It aims to achieve the sustainable development goals in an integrated manner.

Examples of agroecology at scale

- Sahel : millions of Ha farmer-managed natural regeneration are re-greening the sahel
- Andrah Pradesh : 750 000 farmers, + 20 % productivity, + 50 % net income
- Alliance for agroecology in West Africa: 72 organisations practicing agroecology
- ROPPA and AFA adopted agroecology in their strategy
- More and more national policies supporting agroecology (Mexico, Senegal, Nicaragua, India, France, Denmark ...)

A multitude of successful initiatives by youth

YALTA Initiative StoryMap

A Story Map

YALTA

YALTA Background YALTA in Kenya YALTA in Rwanda YALTA in Uganda YALTA in Ethiopia Agroecology Initiatives Dashboard



Scooping opportunities from insect farming

The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) says that the world population is expected to grow to almost 10 billion by 2050. Population increase means rising demand for food and increased pressure on natural resources such as land. This has called for actors in agriculture to invest to more sustainable food systems.

Some actors led by research institutions, have over last years' been coming up with innovations on integrating insects as part of food. This mostly for animal feeds (protein supplements).

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YALTA Background

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YALTA in Uganda

YALTA in Ethiopia

Agroecology Initiatives Dashboard

Rabbit Keeping becomes a lucrative agri-business (A story of a young man in Kenya)

At Mbooni Village of Makueni County, Kenya is where **Robin Njau** hails. The village has beautiful view of Mbooni hill which is about 7km away, where he is undertaking Cuniculture.

When Robin finished his high school, he started searching for a job, but unfortunately he did not succeed in securing one. At first, Robin decided to start a business and what came into his mind was on events organizing and offering outside catering. While doing this, Robin had a passion in farming especially keeping of small livestock; therefore, he was also rearing rabbits.



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Jane of Kuuno Organics limited, on the other hand, another mentee of YALTA from Nairobi who is also in macadamia production, decided to engage in value addition too.

*“since there is ready market for roasted nuts in Nairobi, I do not sell my macadamia as raw nuts but roast them and sell around”
She says*

Jane is also growing mushroom under macadamia tree as another enterprise. The same case with Augustine who grows beans under and in between his mangoes trees. Farmers are happy that they are able to diversify farm enterprises which minimize risks.



A coalition for food system transformation through agroecology.

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Operating a Vegetable Kitchen Garden Earns Nyakato Cash

Maureen Nyakato, founder of Greco Organic Farm in Fort Portal on an acre of land, operates kitchen gardening, planting vegetables in different varieties. Because of the continuous exposure to different organizations like, enable Youth Uganda that trained her on entrepreneurship and value addition in vegetables and spices.

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Beta blockers and Beenu food

“Nothing hurts worse than seeing your community struggle. We began with the intention of assisting a limited number of people, but today we are able to save lives and we are planning to save even more. Our efforts also earned us first place in a Norwegian competition for young entrepreneurs.”

Beta blockers and beenu food are youth initiatives run by two Addis Ababa-based young entrepreneurs. Beenu Food is owned by a young woman entrepreneur who is a food science expert, while Beta Blockers is owned by four pals who are medical students. Both companies make nutritious biscuits, beverages, and cookies, as well as providing nutritional counseling to malnourished and obese patients.

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Agroforestry has long been part of Rwandan farmers. Farmers planted trees for food (fruit), timber, renewable wood energy, fodder, stakes for climbing beans and shade for livestock, but also for soil conservation because they believe agroforestry increases soil fertility, retains water, maintains and improves the surrounding environment.

In Rwamagana District of Eastern Province, you meet ISHIMWE Sylvine, a young woman under YALTA program. Since her first day of graduation, she started a business of fruit seedlings preparation.



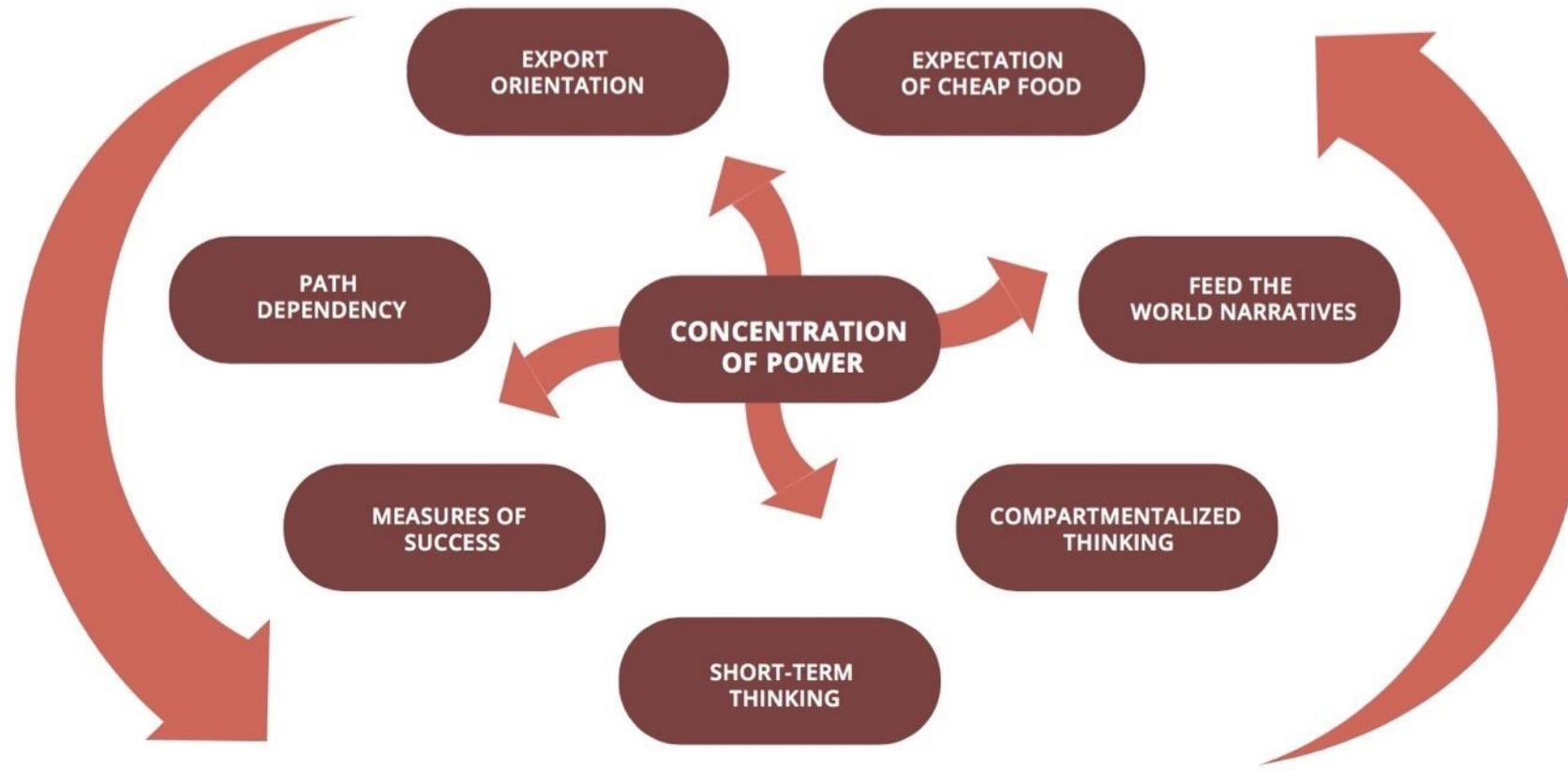
A coalition for food system transformation through agroecology.

A major question

Why do we not see a rapid transition towards diversified agroecological systems, given the expanding evidence that they can deliver on all dimensions of sustainable food systems?

→ The political economy of food systems

What prevents change: 8 Lock-ins



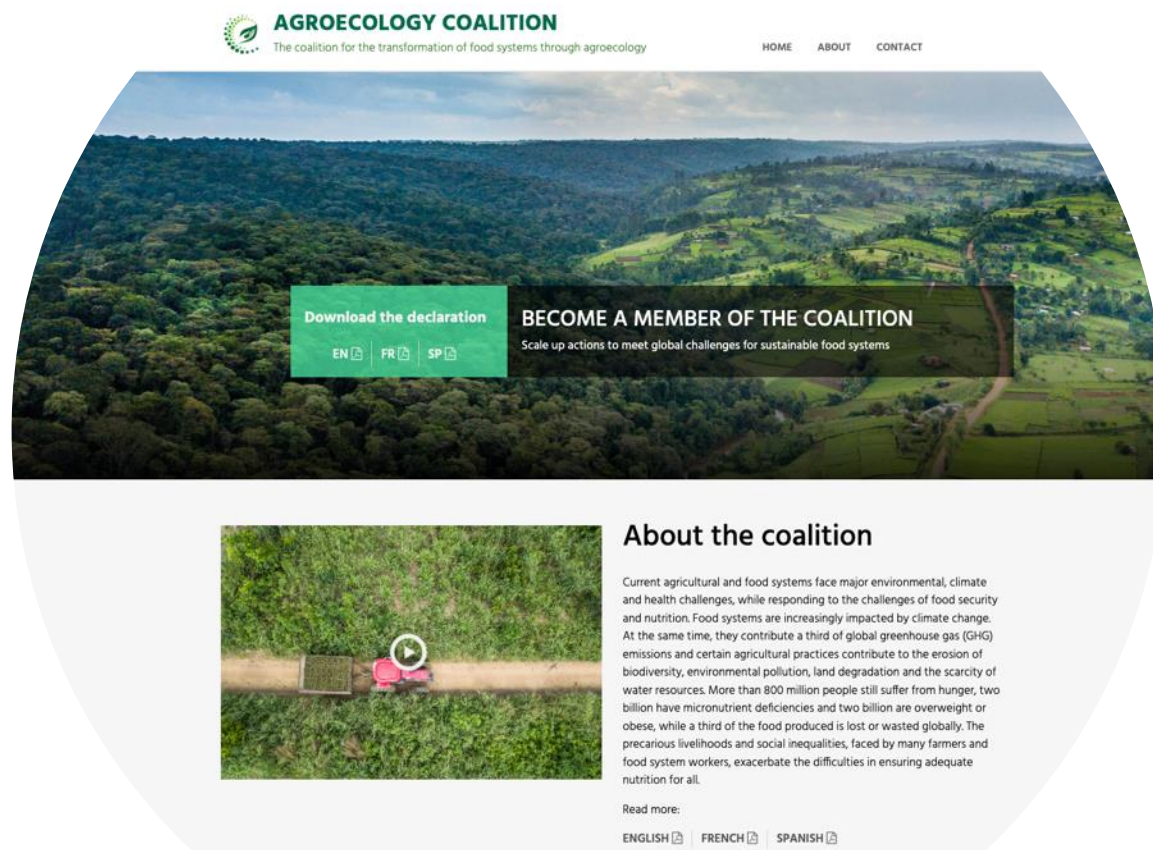
How to accelerate the food systems transformation?



AGROECOLOGY COALITION

The coalition for the transformation of food systems through agroecology

A coalition of the willing



<https://agroecology-coalition.org/>



46 Countries

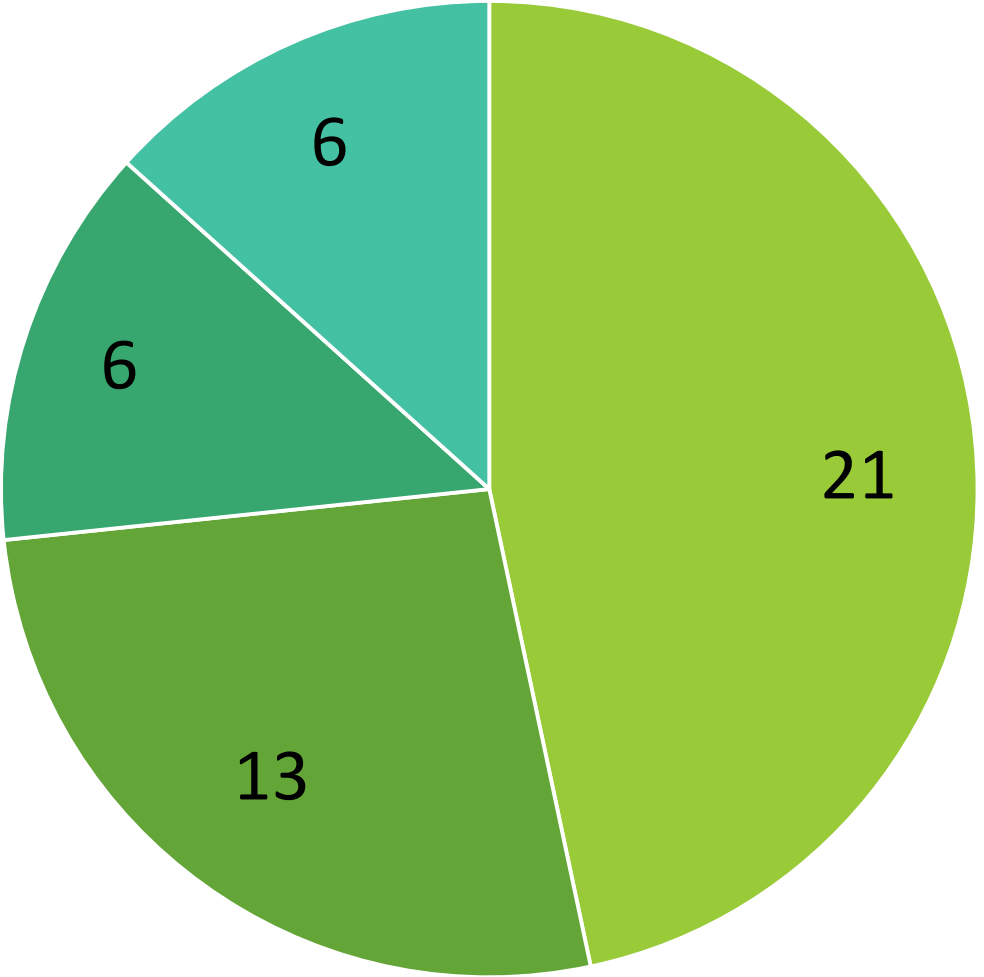


102 Organizations



A coalition for food system transformation through agroecology.

Member countries per region



■ Africa ■ Europe ■ Asia ■ Latin America

Africa

- **African Union Commission**
- **Burkina Faso**
- **Cameroon**
- **Congo**
- **Côte d'Ivoire**
- **Democratic Republic of Congo**
- **Economic Community of West African States Commission**
- **Ethiopia**
- **Ghana**
- **Guinea**
- **Madagascar**
- **Malawi**
- **Mali**
- **Mauritania**
- **Morocco**
- **Niger**
- **Senegal**
- **Tanzania**
- **Uganda**
- **Zambia**
- **Zimbabwe**

Europe

- Austria
- Belgium
- Denmark
- Estonia
- European Commission
- France
- Hungary
- Ireland
- Netherlands
- Norway
- Portugal
- Spain
- Switzerland

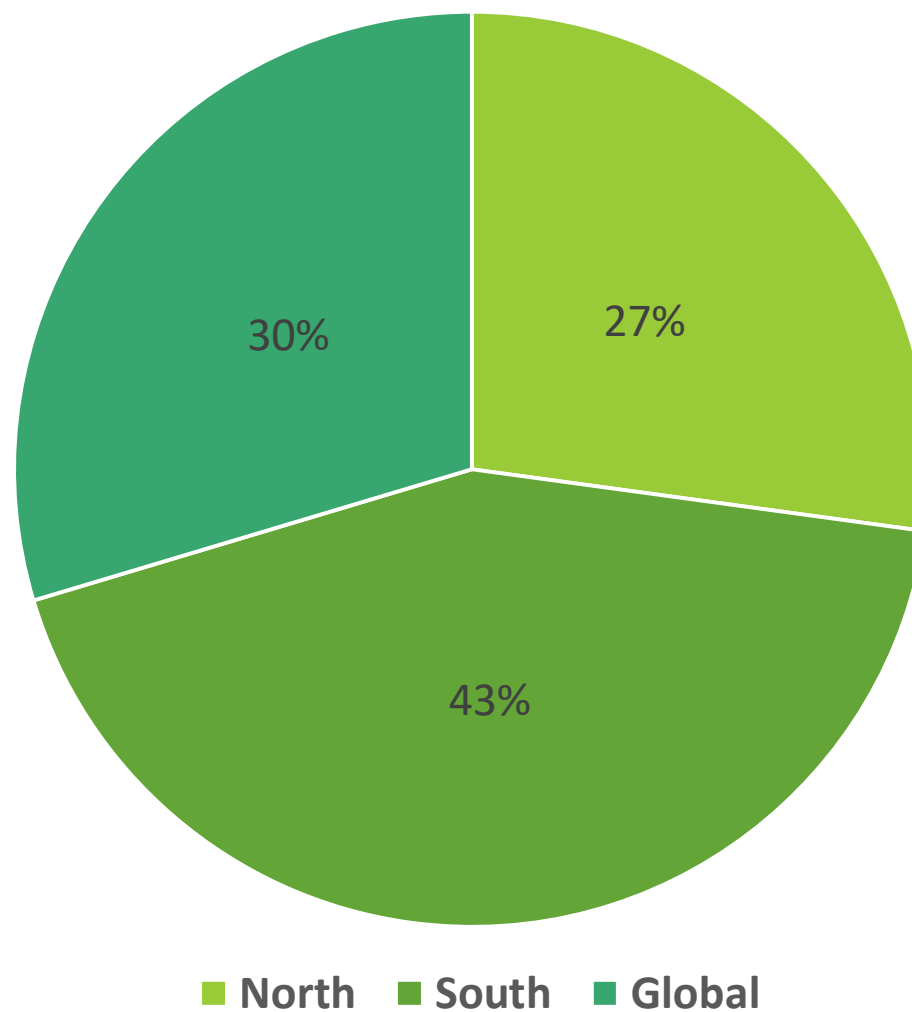
Americas

- Chile
- Costa Rica
- Cuba
- Dominican Republic
- Mexico
- Uruguay

Asia

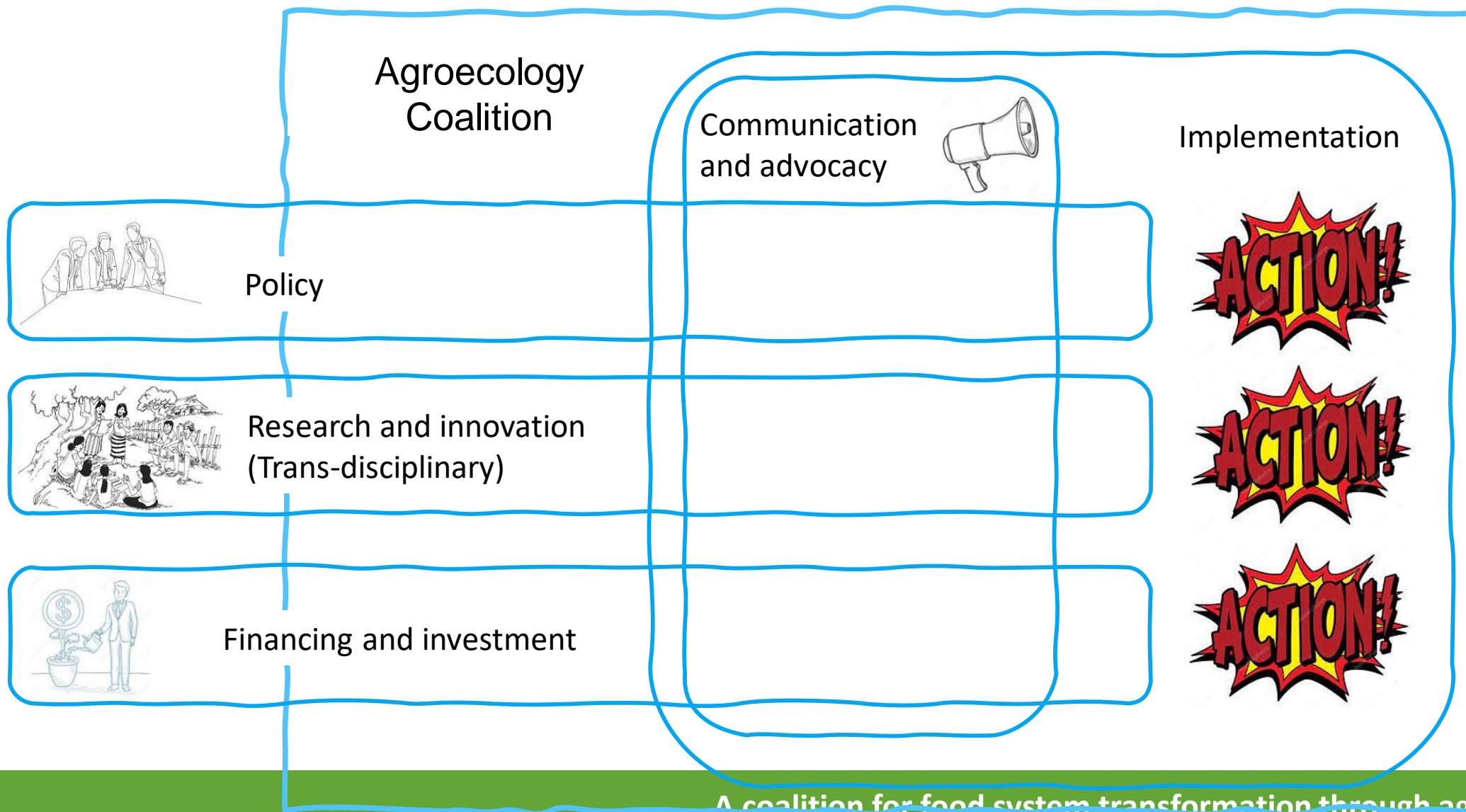
- Cambodia
- Islamic Republic of Iran
- Papua New Guinea
- Philippines
- Sri Lanka
- Thailand
- Vietnam

Organisation members





5 Working groups



WG name	Co-facilitators	No. of members	Types of members
Research, Innovation and Education	Fergus Sinclair (CIFOR-ICRAF, AE TPP), Laurent Cournac (IRD), Marcos Lana (SLU), Carlo Fadda (Alliance), Cecilia Elizondo (ECOSUR)	60 members	22 country reps 38 organisation reps
Policies	Ronnie Brathwaite (FAO), Martina Fleckenstein (WWF Int.)	48 members	15 country reps 33 organisation reps
Finance and Investments	Daniel Moss (Agroecology Fund), Rex Raimond (TIFS)	30 members	10 country reps 20 organisation reps
Communication and Advocacy	Monica Yator (IWGI), Robbie Blake (IPES-Food)	42 members	8 country reps 34 organisation reps
Implementation	Jimena Gomez (FAO), Joshua Aijuka (PELUM Uganda)	51 members	12 country reps 39 organisation reps

Working Group activities

- Identified co-facilitators
- Held between 3 and 5 meetings
- Defined the objectives of the Working Groups
- Initiated concrete activities

Agroecology Coalition Secretariat

- Hosted in Rome by Bioversity International
- Staff:
 - Coordinator: Oliver Oliveros
 - Communication Officer: Valentina Pavarotti
 - Associate Coordinator: Amélie Steu (From 15 April)
 - Senior Advisor: Emile Frison
- Funding from
 - Switzerland
 - European Commission through IFAD
 - Biovision Foundation, McKnight Foundation ...

Conclusion

- A deep transformation of our food systems is essential and is urgent
- Incremental improvements of our food systems will not be sufficient to address current challenges
- An agroecological approach allows to meet the challenges

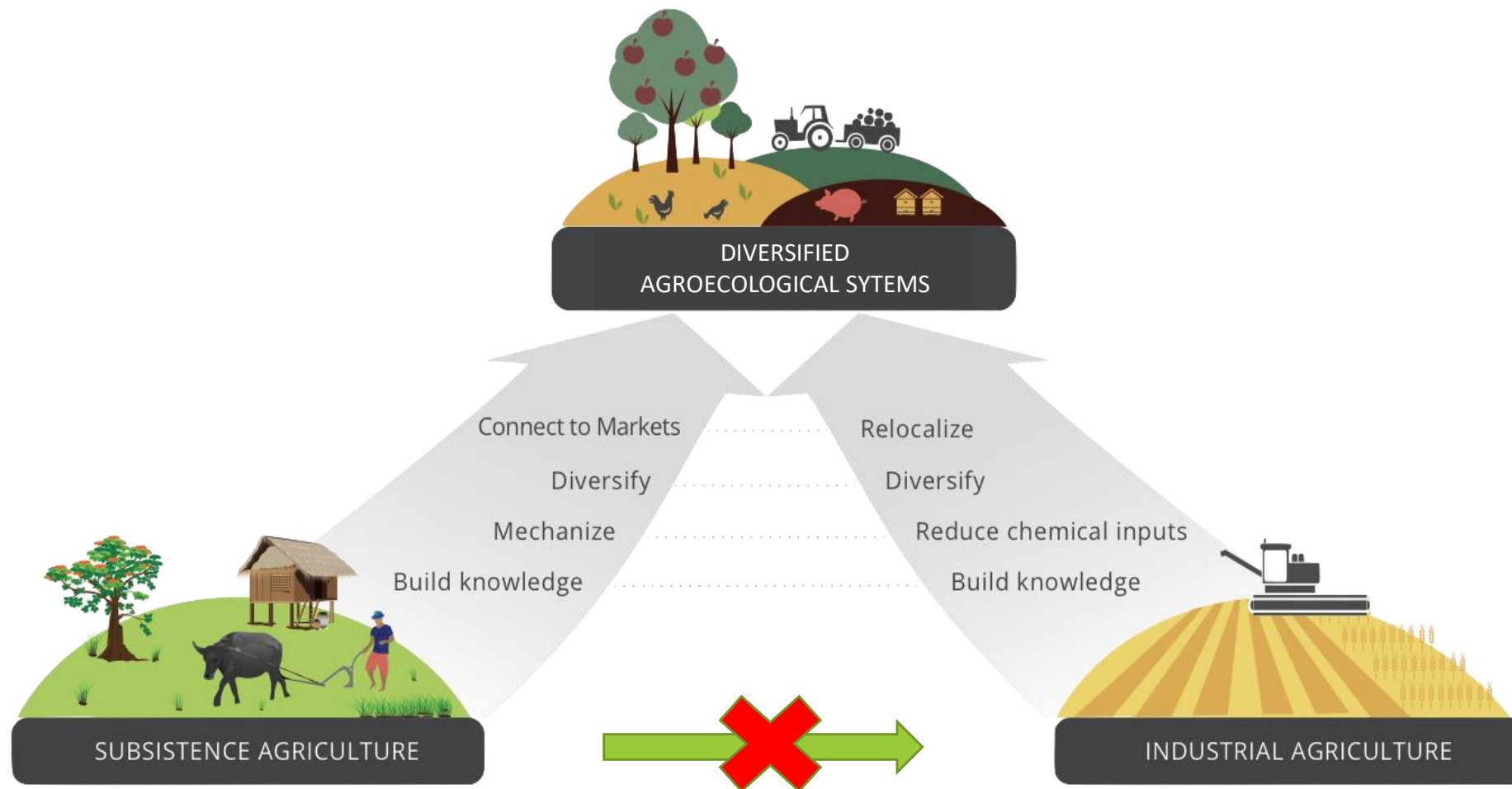
Co-optation and green-washing

It is important to guard against co-optation and green-washing

Mainstream players, including the pesticide industry have used the term ‘agroecology’ in a very narrow sense to serve their interests.

All 13 principles of agroecological transformation need to be respected

Different pathways, common goal



A close-up photograph of a person's hand holding a large bunch of fresh, vibrant green leafy vegetables, likely Swiss chard or similar. The person is wearing olive green cargo pants. The background is a soft-focus garden with various green plants and trees, suggesting a healthy, natural food source.

Thank you!

<https://agroecology-coalition.org/>