



ASSESSMENT OF EU SUPPORT TO AGROECOLOGY IN FIVE AFRICAN COUNTRIES: SENEGAL, BURKINA FASO, DR CONGO, UGANDA, KENYA

September 2025



Photo by Adama Matika / Irene from Burkina Faso, Broederlijk Delen

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The views expressed in this report are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the position of the commissioning organisations.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AFSA	Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa
CBO	Community Based Organisations
CIDSE	Coopération Internationale pour le Développement et la Solidarité
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
DCA	DanChurchAid
DKA Austria	Katholischen Jungschar
EU	European Union
EUD	European Union Delegation
EU/D	European Union and European Union Delegation
ESAFF	Eastern and Southern Africa small-scale Farmers Forum
INTPA	European Commission, International Partnership
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für internationale Zusammenarbeit
PSG	Participatory Guarantee Systems

FOREWORD

As the European Union begins shaping its next seven-year budget, this study arrives at a crucial moment. It shines a spotlight on a growing recognition within EU development policy: agroecology is essential for building resilient, just, and sustainable food systems in Africa.

Commissioned by a diverse alliance of African and European civil society organisations, this study explores how EU development cooperation is supporting agroecological transitions in five African countries—Senegal, Burkina Faso, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, and Kenya. It offers fresh insights into how EU policies, funding mechanisms, and Delegations on the ground can either enable or hinder systemic change.

At the heart of the EU's external action lies the Global Gateway strategy, which puts climate and clean energy front and centre. But in agriculture, its focus on value chains and international markets risks sidelining farmer-led, locally rooted food systems. The danger is clear: without a shared definition of sustainability, EU investments may end up reinforcing industrial agriculture models, rather than empowering agroecological solutions.

Yet there is also real potential. Agroecology offers more than an alternative—it is a pathway to transform food systems by aligning with ecological principles, empowering small-scale farmers, supporting local markets, and ensuring inclusive governance. By investing in participatory approaches like territorial markets, local food processing, and people-centred certification systems, the EU can help unlock this potential.

For the Global Gateway to truly support agroecological transformation, the EU must clearly define sustainability in agriculture, adopt binding standards that distinguish agroecology from “green-washed” models, and ensure responsible investment practices. The upcoming Operational Guide on Agroecology from DG INTPA could provide much-needed direction.

With the right political will, financial tools, and partnerships, the EU can become a genuine ally in the global shift toward food systems that are just, climate-resilient, and rooted in the knowledge and agency of African farmers.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This study assesses the European Union's support for agroecology across five African countries—Senegal, Burkina Faso, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Uganda, and Kenya—by analysing policy trends, funding flows, and the role of EU Delegations (EUDs).

Commissioned by a consortium of European and African civil society organisations (ActionAid, AFSA, Broederlijk Delen, Caritas Africa, Caritas Europa, CIDSE, DanChurchAid, DKA Austria, Entraide et Fraternité, ESAFF, and Misereor), the report explores the opportunities and barriers that influence EU Delegations' engagement in agroecological transitions, particularly in light of evolving EU priorities under the 2024–2029 European Commission.

The findings show that while agroecology is increasingly acknowledged within EU policy frameworks as a transformative approach to achieving sustainable and resilient food systems—including in the European Green Deal, Farm to Fork Strategy, Horizon Europe, and the Global Gateway—there is no binding EU definition of sustainability or dedicated policy on agroecology. This policy ambiguity allows for diverse and sometimes competing interpretations of sustainable agriculture, including those that dilute agroecology's transformative potential.

Funding analysis

Financial data reveals that, on average, 31.63% of EU Official Development Assistance (ODA) for agriculture in the five countries (2021–2023) is managed by DG INTPA. Many supported projects are partially aligned with agroecological principles. However, most fall within the early stages of transition (Gliessman Levels 1 and 2), focusing on input substitution rather than systemic transformation. A smaller number support deeper shifts, such as agroecosystem redesign and participatory governance (Level 3), while only a few adopt holistic food systems approaches (Levels 4–5). A qualitative assessment using the Agroecology Coalition's finance tool yielded moderate scores, highlighting the need for clearer operational guidance.

The study anticipates that the forthcoming DG INTPA operational guide on mainstreaming agroecology will strengthen the integration of agroecology principles into projects under the Multi-annual Indicative Programmes (2021–2027 or 2024–2026). It expects a growing share of projects to meet at least one-third to one-half of the HLPE principles and to achieve Gliessman Level 3 or higher.

Country-level insights

Consultations and interviews across the five countries reveal varied progress. Four countries—Kenya, Senegal, Uganda, and Burkina Faso—have adopted national agroecology strategies, but implementation is constrained by limited financing. National governments often prioritise industrial agriculture, seen as more productive and economically beneficial. EU funding is predominantly channelled through international NGOs and multilateral institutions, creating structural barriers for smaller national and local civil society organisations (CSOs) and farmer-led initiatives.

EUDs generally play a limited operational role, often deferring to Brussels or regional intermediaries. Their engagement depends heavily on the initiative and capacity of individual programme staff to identify opportunities, build synergies, or navigate barriers related to agroecology. The EU's lack of a clear position on agroecology allows for broad interpretation at Delegation level—ranging from holistic approaches that integrate ecological, social, and political dimensions to narrower views focused mainly on the interface between ecology and agronomy. Without stronger direction, other drivers—such as EU trade priorities or investment goals—may override agroecological objectives. The anticipated restructuring of the European External Action Service may further limit EUDs' human resource capacity and budgetary autonomy, underscoring the urgency for a coherent and binding EU agroecology policy.

Key recommendations

1. Strengthen Policy Coherence and Leadership

The EU should adopt a dedicated agroecology policy or binding programming guidelines to ensure consistent implementation across instruments and Delegations. The forthcoming Operational Guide by DG INTPA (expected May 2025) should serve as a strategic anchor, with EUD leadership ensuring alignment between Brussels and country-level programmes.

2. Enhance Transparency and Accountability in Funding

The EU should publish a comprehensive review of its agroecology funding portfolio. Transparent reporting mechanisms would support parliamentary oversight, enable independent evaluation, and foster better coordination between headquarters and Delegations.

3. Increase Direct and Inclusive Financing

EU programmes should include earmarked funding streams for CSO networks, farmer platforms, and local actors, prioritising organisations with strong grassroots connections. Calls for proposals and contracts should require participatory design and implementation, ensuring fair and equitable access to resources.

4. Support Transformative Approaches and Local Ownership

Agroecology programming must go beyond technical fixes and short-term projects. Greater emphasis should be placed on co-creation, interdisciplinary methods, and long-term community engagement. Programmes should include clear indicators of local ownership and learning, avoiding rigid logframes that limit meaningful participation.

5. Ensure Strategic Reporting and Institutional Learning

EUDs should improve both internal and external reporting to support a shift from project-based to food systems-based approaches. Stronger accountability will help align EU strategies with local realities and foster adaptive learning.

6. Promote Agroecological Value Chains Rooted in Territorial Markets

Agroecology should be embedded in value chain development through minimum standards that reduce input dependency, protect farmer-managed seed systems, safeguard biodiversity, and ensure inclusive governance. The Agroecology Coalition's finance assessment tool offers a practical framework to evaluate project alignment with the 13 HLPE principles of agroecology.

Conclusion

This study reveals both a challenge and a tremendous opportunity.

Yes, agroecology still faces barriers—from policy ambiguity to funding structures that favour industrial agriculture. But it also shows that change is already underway. Across Africa, local civil society groups, farmer networks, and national governments are laying the groundwork for transformation.

The European Union has the tools—and the responsibility—to support this shift. By setting clear standards, ensuring transparent and inclusive funding, and backing locally led innovation, the EU can help agroecology thrive.

Now is the time to move from potential to practice. With bold leadership, smarter investments, and stronger partnerships, the EU can help build a future where African food systems are healthy, equitable, and sustainable—for people and the planet.

INTRODUCTION

General context about funding flows for agroecology

In the early 2020s, several studies analysed agroecological funding mechanisms and allocations revealing significant barriers and deficiencies in financing agroecological transitions despite their potential in addressing climate change, biodiversity loss, and food system resilience. Research from CIDSE (CIDSE, 2020, Finance for agroecology: more than just a dream?) indicates that only 10.6% of GCF's agricultural funding and 2.7% of EU funds allocated through FAO, IFAD, and WFP contribute to agroecological projects. In contrast, approximately 80% of these funds continue to finance conventional agricultural approaches, maintaining existing industrialised systems. The report "Money Well Spent?" (Biovision 2023) further highlights that major climate finance mechanisms, including GCF and GEF, fail to channel sufficient resources to smallholder farmers and community-led agroecological initiatives.

Since 2017, the European Union (EU) has launched several initiatives and allocated funding to support agroecological transitions in Africa. Taking an action-research approach, the DeSIRA initiative, launched in 2017, aims to promote the climate-relevant, productive, and sustainable transformation of agriculture and food systems in low- and middle-income countries, particularly in Africa. Agroecology and nature-based solutions are considered part of the solutions to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. Introduced in December 2021, the EU's Global Gateway Initiative is a strategy to invest €300 billion worldwide over 2021–2027, with Africa as a regional priority, receiving €150 billion. These initiatives aim to improve the green transition, digital transition, sustainable economic growth, healthcare, and education in Africa, some of which may be conducive to an enabling or disabling policy environment or may directly or indirectly support agroecological transitions.

Recognition of agroecology in policy settings

The role of agroecology in preserving biodiversity, healthy ecosystems, climate adaptation and improving livelihoods are highlighted in various EU (or EU-supported) policy documents. For example, the EU recognises agroecology as a globally used concept in an international setting; elaborated and conceptualised by the High Level Panel of Experts (HLPE) 13 principles and the FAO Agroecology Hub. The European Commission and 12 EU member states are members of the Agroecology Coalition, which published its Strategy 2024-2030 on Accelerated Food Systems Transformation through Agroecology. The EU Environmental Council from October 2024 refers to the 13 HLPE principles of agroecology. The OECD Agricultural Policy Monitoring and Evaluation 2024 mentions agroecology. More recently, the G20 Agriculture Ministers Declaration (Brazil, 13 September 2024) notes "the importance of the sustainable use of bioeconomy in strengthening food security and nutrition – supported by – agroecological practices...". The previous European Commission 2019-2024 under the leadership of Ursula von der Leyen introduced a comprehensive new initiative, the European Green Deal. The EU policy framework

for supporting agroecology in third countries is built on the European Green Deal and its Farm to Fork Strategy, which explicitly refers to agroecological practices as a valid pathway towards sustainable food systems. A new EU Agroecology Partnership funded by Horizon Europe runs from 2024 to 2030.

A particular reference in the European Green Deal to agroecology was the basis for the European Commission, DG INTPA to support and promote agroecological transition as a viable pathway towards sustainable food systems in third countries. Led by DG INTPA and DG AGRI, an informal internal consultation group within the Commission services allows the exchange of data collected, arguments and evidence in favor of agroecological food systems. This group also attracts other services, such as DG Environment, DG Climate, DG Research and Innovation. However, it remains informal, which means no formal procedures for guidance or decision-making exist.

Changing policy context: the new Commission 2024-2029

The new EU democratic and policy arena is changing. The power of agroecology's narrative is strong, and scientific evidence regarding its sustainability is increasingly provided. Still, the discourse pushing for solutions based on increased food production (instead of how food is produced and who can access it) continues to dominate, in contrast to scientific evidence. Inconsistently, EU institutions succumb to farmers' protests. The swift rolling back of long-winded, legally agreed, and scientifically supported CAP greening measures followed European farmers' protests in early 2024. The suspension of the 2024 adopted EU deforestation strategy and the curbing down of the EU's Nature Restoration Law are disquieting. Meanwhile, a new process has been launched involving key stakeholders to develop a common understanding of European agriculture. In their final report on the Strategic Dialogue on the Future of EU Agriculture in 2024, they call on the Commission and member states to support the agroecological transition.

On 1 December 2024, President Ursula von der Leyen started a new mandate with a new team of Commissioners. This brings changes to the previous priority settings. The review of the Global Gateway strategy emphasises value chain development, innovation and digitalisation, and private sector investment. Under the leadership of DG INTPA, the new programming cycle continues to mainstream agroecology, using these new entry points in their revision of project proposals and design. It is unclear how the new political majorities in the EU will position themselves in the next EU budget negotiations and on currently agreed EU policy commitments.

Objectives and research questions of this study

Commissioned by a consortium comprising ActionAid, Caritas Africa, Caritas Europa, Coopération Internationale pour le Développement et la Solidarité (CIDSE), Broederlijk Delen, Dan Church Aid (DCA), Dreikönigsaktion der Katholischen Jungschar (DKA Austria), Misereor, Entraide et Fraternité, the Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA), and the Eastern and Southern Africa Small-Scale Farmers Forum (ESAFF), this study aims to understand the barriers and opportunities to increase policy and financial support to agroecology as part of the EU's external support for agriculture. The analysis particularly focuses on the role of EU Delegations

in finance for agroecology, looking at five African countries: Senegal, Burkina Faso, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, and Kenya. Within the selected countries the research aims to identify the barriers and enablers, the drivers, the decision-making processes, and the stakeholders that influence those dynamics to mainstream policy and financial support to agroecology.

Drawing upon the identified barriers and opportunities for policy integration and financial support to agroecology, the study provides targeted recommendations to key stakeholders, including European Union Delegation (EUD) financing patterns related to agroecology within these five selected nations, identifying trends and potential avenues for enhancing future resource allocation towards agroecological practices.

Specific objectives and research questions

Specific objectives	Research questions
1. Examine EUD and host government financial policy architecture and processes that inform decision-making on funding of agricultural programming	What are the national policies and institutional pressure points in each target country that exert influence on EUD funding allocations toward industrial farming or agroecology?
2. Identify the quantity of funds committed to conventional/ industrial agriculture compared to agroecology by each EUD.	To what extent and how can EU member states / other donors committed to agroecology be conducive to increasing EUD support in-country?
3. Assess the quality of agroecology finance and its support to enabling conditions to advance transformative agroecology according to HLPE's 13 Agroecology Principles	How are EUDs trying to support or influence the existing national/regional policies or use their leverage for particular policy changes?
4. Evaluate the support for smallholders and their linkages to territorial markets provided by local NGOs, CSOs and other stakeholders promoting agroecology.	Who are the stakeholders (including civil society organisations) who could be more engaged in influencing agroecology transitions, and how might their voices be heard?
5. Identify drivers for enabling or disabling the environment in the country for agroecology transition.	Which policies and drivers are considered most relevant by EUD/EU/CSOs in their specific context?

In addition to the objectives and research questions formulated above, our preliminary desk research reveals the need to look at the broader context of enabling policy environments for agroecology and the EU's prevailing policy framework under the Global Gateway strategy (new EU programming cycle).

SCOPE AND METHODOLOGY

Concept of agroecology

The findings presented in this study derive from both quantitative and qualitative evaluations of financing and programming labelled as agroecology by the EU Commission, EU Delegations, EU member states, or associated multilateral institutions in their respective project documentation. For the consortium members, the 13 principles of agroecology outlined by the High-Level Panel of Experts (HLPE) serve as the foundational criteria for identifying and evaluating agroecological financing. This study operates under the assumption that many projects labelled as agroecological by INTPA, Team Europe, or the FAO meet at least Gliessman's level 3¹ or higher. This assumption is informed by the project documentation used for compiling the country profiles, and by an initial qualitative evaluation conducted with a small sample using the Agroecology Coalition Finance assessment tool, wherein six selected projects were tested, achieving scores ranging from 50% to 60%, with one project notably scoring 84% (See Annex 1). Consequently, this study aligns with and builds upon the mainstreaming approach adopted by INTPA, reflecting their dynamic interpretation of agroecology. Projects classified under agroecological finance might incorporate only a subset of agroecological principles or could aim toward broader objectives involving transformations of food systems and agroecological practices. EU sustainable agriculture and food system policies collectively guide the allocation of EU financial resources and significantly influence the progression or hindrance of transitions towards agroecology.

The Agroecology Coalition is expected to publish a first anonymized summary of entries in their database once a critical number of donors and AE Coalition members have started to use their assessment tool. The data set by the Coalition is expected in summer 2025 and would provide some evidence base for the qualitative assessment of over 100 projects that INTPA has agreed to enter the AE Coalition database.

Desk research

Most activities during this phase involved the collection of information about EU-funded initiatives and national policies that strengthen agroecology within the five targeted countries. The data set used for the analysis of agroecology finance and programming is based on the EU Commission and on Team Europe finance which combines EU institutions and EU member state finance.

The European Commission, INTPA provided the researchers with a list of projects and programmes that they qualified under agroecology finance. This includes Regional Indicative Programmes, NDICI-Global Europe, decommitted funds from 10th and 11th EDF on food production and resilience of food systems, and DeSIRA funds. The programmes are at different

¹ Redesign the agroecosystem so that it functions based on a new set of ecological processes.

phases, some are closed, some are ongoing, some were extended, and some are in the pipeline, with adoption expected in 2025.

Information on programming in the Multi-annual Indicative Programmes and Action Plans were obtained online from European Commission websites and vary greatly from country to country. Most of the data includes projects financed under MIP 2021-2027 or the revised new MIP for 2025-2027. Additional information on programming was received from the interviews conducted. Funding under the MFF 2014-2020 was not taken into account due to sparse information and programming data provided during the desk research and interview findings, but also to limit the scope of the study.

For the quantitative assessment, we used the Team Europe Explorer for ODA, Official Development Assistance database for Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing that includes EU institutions and EU member states bilateral and multilateral aid. Sectors included under ODA 310 for Agriculture are: Agricultural alternative development; agricultural cooperation, agricultural development, agricultural educational/training, agricultural extension, agricultural financial services, agricultural inputs, agricultural land resources, agricultural policy and administration, agricultural research, and agricultural services. Some other agricultural related ODA-sectors were looked at if considered relevant for contextualizing EU finance on agroecology. This includes EU ODA sector 320 on industries (agro-industries), sector 410 on Environmental Policy (biodiversity), sector 430 on Multisector aid (rural development). To complete the data set, we used project and programme information provided by EU member states or specialized agencies, or project initiatives. In sum, the data sources used are (links provided in the annex):

Database:

- Team Europe Explorer for EC+OECD data source on ODA. Search by country, by year, by sector, by channels. It draws on the Commission's internal database as well as open data reported by the EU member states and the European Investment Bank to the OECD database and the IATI database. It is managed by DG INTPA.
- International Aid Transparency Initiative database. Search by donor, by year, by sector. It draws on several EU donors reporting and has more detailed project information but is less complete than the EC+OECD database, and there is no third-party verification.

EU programming documents:

- EUD MIP - Multiannual Indicative Programmes – search results by headings and keywords
- EUD Annual Action Plans – search results by headings and keywords
- European Commission, Knowledge for policy – search results by country
- DeSIRA-Development Smart Innovation through Research in Agriculture - search results by country
- EU JRC - Joint Research Centre

EU co-financed, bilateral and multilateral projects:

- FAO Agroecology database – search by country
- CIRAD – search by country or by project
- GIZ – search by country or project
- KCOA - Knowledge Centre for Organic Agriculture and Agroecology in Africa – search by regional hub
- ICRAF – search by country or project
- FibL - Research Institute of Organic Agriculture – work in Africa - interactive map
- Project CABI - Commonwealth Agricultural Bureaux International
- Project Evergreen Agriculture Partnership
- Project Greening Africa Together
- Project The Great Green Wall

Other sources:

- Export Processing Zones – free online search
- Specific project sources pointed to by interviewees

In addition to financial and programming data, we collected information about AE-related policy instruments and implementation mechanisms in the five target countries.

Virtual and in-person consultations

We conducted interviews virtually and in person (in Kenya and Senegal) of stakeholders from the five target countries: representatives from the European Union Delegation (EUD), the consortium members' partners, national government representatives and CSOs working on agroecology.

The virtual consultations with representatives from the EUDs were semi-structured interviews guided by the following questions:

1. The barriers and enabling factors to EUDs promoting agroecology,
2. The EUD entry point in engaging with local partners supporting agroecology,
3. Involvement of EUD staff in the coordination of actors in the implementation of AE projects in country
4. The record of in-country finance flows of agroecology and of agriculture.

Attention was given to understanding in-country and institutional funding dynamics. We also assessed the EUD representatives' interest in and availability to engage with domestic Civil Society organisations (CSOs).

The different policy environments in the five countries meant a semi- or rather loosely structured interview was conducted focusing on a qualitative assessment. Focus was on:

1. In-country dynamics
2. INTPA-EUD-CSO relations
3. Financial intermediaries: official donor and CSO policy platforms
4. Support mechanisms and synergies

Limits of this study

This study relies on data that was either publicly accessible online or directly provided by interviewees. Given its scope and timeframe, the assessment of the EU and its EU Delegation (EUD) funding for agroecology in the five selected countries represents only a snapshot at a given time. Conducting a more detailed and methodologically rigorous analysis of both the quantity and quality of EU financing for agroecology or conducting comparative analyses between agroecological and other agricultural financing, falls beyond the intended scope of this research. Moreover, undertaking such comprehensive comparisons may not be proportionate to the expected insights or their advocacy relevance. Indeed, a comprehensive assessment of a portfolio may best be done by the donor itself, responding to requests on transparency and accountability. This would also serve as a base for parliamentary scrutiny or independent external reviews.

Direct comparisons between EU financing for agroecology and other sustainable forms of agriculture in the five selected countries are constrained by the absence of distinct Official Development Assistance codes for these categories, making it impractical within the study's limitations. Obtaining comprehensive data typically requires substantial time and resources that extend beyond the constraints of this study's timeline. Consequently, a pragmatic decision was made to utilize readily accessible data collected between December 2024 and March 2025.

Combining programming data from diverse sources and databases presents challenges in ensuring comparability. Frequently, available data sets were incomplete or lacked uniform categorisation. Project scopes varied significantly, including country-specific, multi-country, and regional initiatives. Large consortia often operate through independent calls for proposals, collaborating with key partners or subcontracting specialized entities. Multi-country programs may allocate specific funding to individual countries, while regional programs could incorporate cross-border initiatives, or be complimented by EU member states' own bilateral aid. Furthermore, implementation timelines were diverse, often requiring extensions.

This study should thus be regarded as an initial exploration intended to stimulate further data collection, sharing, and comprehensive analysis to inform policy advocacy effectively. It offers foundational insights into the scope of EU finance on agroecology, and into the factors facilitating or hindering access to EU or EUD financing for agroecology. It critically examines the sometimes ambiguous role played by EU Delegations in this context.

BACKGROUND TO EU FINANCE AND PROGRAMMING

EU Finance

The Team Europe Explorer EC+OECD ODA database used in this report provides information on EU ODA from 2007-2023 according to ODA sectors. ODA reporting is done by donor (EU institutions, EU member states, individual EU member states), by sectors (ODA 310 for Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing) and by different channels (European Commission, European Investment Bank, Non-Governmental Organisations, African Development Bank, etc.) and by recipients (five selected countries, Kenya, Uganda, Burkina Faso, Senegal, DRC).

Focus of this research is on EU finance of ODA 310 over the period 2021-2023. The EU ODA funding for agriculture is committed to supporting sustainable food systems. EU ODA 310 reporting is done against the 17 Sustainable Development Goals; some of which contribute to different degrees to the 13 HLPE principles on agroecology, for example under SDGs addressing poverty, inequality, decent work and economic growth, resilient infrastructure and industrialisation, life on land, water, biodiversity or global partnership. The extent to which 17 SDGs match the 13 HLPE principles may be of interest beyond this study.

The European Green Deal launched in 2019 included a proposal for a legislative framework for sustainable food systems that has not been pursued by the new Commission. This means there is no binding EU definition of sustainability, or on sustainable food systems and its underlying agricultural production models that may qualify or disqualify (nature-based solutions, regenerative agriculture, conservation agriculture, sustainable intensification). There are no predefined red lines (e.g., on productivity and monoculture, or GMOs, etc.).

At the time of writing this study, the EU Commission has published its proposal for a new Vision for Agriculture and Food. This process includes a proposal to benchmark sustainability or to develop an On-Farm Sustainability Compass. However, the Commission proposal from January 2025 shifts priorities back to competitiveness rather than sustainability while emphasising resilience; a setback that could harm more ambitious sustainability efforts.

EU Programming

The Global Gateway strategy is a new EU initiative introduced in 2021 and is the EU contribution to the G7 initiative to meet global infrastructure development needs. The aim is to invest up to 300 billion Euro in digital, energy, transport, health, education and research projects worldwide over the period 2021- 2027. About half of the funds, 150 billion Euros, are allocated to the Global Gateway Africa-Europe to improve the green transition, digital transition, sustainable economic

growth, health care and education. Key areas under green transition are sustainable energy, biodiversity, agri-food systems, climate resilience and disaster risk reduction.

The Team Europe Global Gateway initiative and priorities guide the overall EU ODA spending. Global Gateway is delivered through Team Europe, a new approach to joint programming. The Team Europe initiatives are coordinated actions by the EU institutions, its member states and its partners to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. Launched during the COVID crisis, it addresses global challenges of the effects of climate change and dependence on global value chains. Financial reporting on Team Europe's ODA is aligned with the SDGs and accountable.

The Multi-annual Indicative Programmes establish the priority areas and specific objectives for cooperation with each partner country and region. At country level, programming and financial allocations are done for 2021-2024, at regional level for 2021-2027. The multi-annual programming documents 2021-2027 were formally approved under the new NDICI (Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation instrument). All programming requires taking full account of the prevailing broader EU policy framework.

Overall, Global Gateway builds on the new financial tools in the EU MFF 2021-2027, the NDICI-Global Europe, the main financial tool for EU international cooperation; other instruments include the IPA, the digital and international part of the Connecting Europe Facility, but also Interreg, InvestEU and Horizon Europe. Global Gateway will be implemented as part of the Team Europe approach, either through flagships of the Team Europe Initiative or through joint programming that brings together the EU and EU member states with their financial and development institutions. Global Gateway aims to mobilise the private sector to leverage investment. Underpinning all actions is the EU's renewed and reinvigorated ambition to work better together, as originally outlined in the 2017 European Consensus for Development.

Following the mid-term review of the programming of NDICI-Global Europe, all MIPs were adopted and amended in 2024. Adjustments respond to (geo)political changes for remaining finance for 2025-2027. For example, Burkina Faso and DRC both are considered under the new "Action in countries in complex settings" emphasizing the triple nexus of humanitarian aid - development – peace as guiding principles for interventions in fragile countries, which means, for example, increased support to improve the resilience of the local population. In addition to the MIPs, Global Europe programming also includes thematic multi-annual indicative programmes on Human Rights and Democracy, on Peace, Stability and Conflict Prevention led by the European External Action Service, and on Civil Society Organisations, and Global Challenges led by the European Commission International Partnership.

The four phases of the EU programming and intervention cycle are programming, design, implementation and closure. Programming documents are first discussed in country-regional-thematic team meetings involving relevant Commission directorates-general and inter-services consultation. Documents are adopted by the Commission after discussion with Member States through the relevant comitology. The Commission services involved in programming external actions are Directorate General Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations, DG Humanitarian

Service & Civil Protection, DG Service for Foreign Policy Instruments and DG International Partnership.

The design phase defines the operational and financial aspects of an Action. It combines the knowledge and expertise of Headquarters and EU Delegations for the preparation of the Annual Action Plans and is endorsed by the INTPA Strategic Steering Committee. An indicative choice is made on the implementing modality (budget support or blending) that is later specified in supporting action documents. During the implementation phase, action is carried out by implementation partners and monitored by INTPA, including managing relations with the partner country and implementing partners. Monitoring includes field visits or results-oriented monitoring that may be done either internally or externally. The implementation modality of an intervention is the combination of type of financing (contracts, grant, budget support, public procurement, financial instrument) and the management mode (direct by the Commission INTPA or the EU Delegation, or indirect through the implementing partner).

Review of EU Delegation network

Discussions on reviewing the EU Delegation structure may, according to information by CONCORD (internal workshop document for members, March 2025), lead to the establishment of regional INTPA Budget Implementation Hubs. These hubs would pool management resources, including investment management, and be responsible for the full project management cycle and contracting. EU Delegations based in-country would have a reduced Partnership Section Team (i.e. INTPA section) focusing mainly on policy dialogue to inform broader EU regional strategies outlined in the Global Gateway. Regional INTPA Budget Implementation Hubs are, according to CONCORD, planned for Kenya, Senegal and DRC, three of the focus countries of this study, in addition to Ivory Coast, Ghana, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Zambia and South Africa. A total of 20 regional hubs in Africa, Latin America and Asia are considered.

RESULTS

Overview of agroecology-related policy instruments and implementation mechanisms

Increasingly, African countries are integrating agroecology into their national policies. The [brief by Biovision Foundation \(2024\)](#) synthesizes ongoing developments in National Agroecology Strategies (NASs) in Eastern and Southern Africa, emphasizing their role as comprehensive policy instruments to scale agroecological transitions. Rooted in the 13 agroecology principles and FAO's 10 elements of agroecology, NASs serve as holistic frameworks for reorienting food systems toward sustainability, resilience, and equity. They span multiple sectors—agriculture, environment, education, health, and commerce—and target diverse policy areas, from production and natural resource governance to market development and food consumption.

In West Africa, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) has been instrumental in promoting agroecology across its 15 member states. Since 2018, ECOWAS has been implementing the West African Agroecology Programme with a total budget of €16.2 million. In addition, as part of the drive to build on the achievements of the Programme, another project - DéSIRA+ with a total budget of €20 million - also funded by the EU and AFD will soon kick off to support innovation activities that address agroecological issues on a larger scale. ECOWAS has played a catalytic role in promoting agroecology in West Africa by fostering regional policy convergence and supporting national initiatives. While not explicitly adopting a regional agroecology strategy, ECOWAS has provided institutional backing for agroecological integration through its agricultural policy frameworks and coordination mechanisms and has facilitated exchanges among member states to align agroecological efforts. However, its influence remains largely facilitative, and calls persist for ECOWAS to adopt a dedicated agroecology policy or action plan to scale its impact across the region.

Governments are embedding agroecological principles within their agricultural strategies, climate adaptation plans, and food security policies (see Annexe 2 for detailed policy instruments in the five selected countries). For instance, Senegal incorporated agroecology into its Plan Sénégal Émergent Vert (PSE Vert) in 2019, with substantial contributions from the civil society coalition DyTAES. Similarly, Burkina Faso has implemented the National Strategy for Agroecology (SND-AE) for 2023–2027, developed with input from the Confédération Paysanne du Faso. In Kenya, the National Agroecology Strategy for Food Systems Transformation (2024–2033) aims to establish ecologically resilient and socially inclusive food systems. These policies focus on institutional reforms, inter-ministerial coordination, and participatory governance. Countries such as Senegal and Burkina Faso have linked agroecology to food sovereignty, economic resilience, and environmental sustainability. Key mechanisms include subsidies for organic inputs, land access reforms and agricultural financing, and the establishment of agroecology coordination bodies within ministries. Capacity building - targeting farmers, extension agents, and institutions - is central to operationalizing agroecological transitions. Market development efforts, such as supporting local consumption and certification schemes, are also recurrent themes. Implementation challenges persist, particularly in financing, cross-sectoral integration, and ensuring equitable access to resources.

Analysis of EU finance and programmes on agroecology

Programming of EU/D finance for agroecology in five selected countries

The findings of EU agroecology finance and programming are presented in the five country profiles or mappings for Kenya, Uganda, Burkina Faso, Senegal and DRC included in the annex. These profiles are fragmentary and partial, as the programming and financial data collected were frequently incomplete or categorized differently. During the interviews and the in-country research phase, these country-specific tables were circulated among consortium members and their partners to solicit feedback and comments. This approach was adopted to foster a participatory environment and ensure transparency in data collection and sharing among consortium members and partners.

Table 1: Multi-country projects on agroecology in country profile tables

	KE	UG	BF	SE	DRC
Agroecology multi-country projects					
DeSIRA+ Agroecological transition to sustainable food systems: Innovations at scale for AE in SSA			X	X	
DeSIRA + Agroecological transition to sustainable food systems: Regional Multi-actor Research Network	X		X	X	
DeSIRA ILSA – Investing in Livelihoods Resilience and Soil Health	X				
GP-SAEP Global Programme for Small-scale Agroecology Producers and Sustainable Food System Transformation		X	X	X	X
DeSIRA Prosilience: Enhancing soils and agroecology	X		(X)		
DeSIRA – FAIR Sahel: Fostering an Agroecological Intensification to improve farmers' resilience in Sahel			X	X	
DeSIRA Lift: Organic and Biofertilisers	X	X		X	
DeSIRA Biorisks Anticipating and managing biological risks to strengthen farmers' resilience to climate change in West and Central Africa			X		X
DeSIRA BIOSTAR – Bioenergy for SMEs in West Africa			X	X	
DeSIRA ABEE: West African Breeding Network and Extension Empowerment			X	X	
DeSIRA CaSSECS -Carbon sequestration, ecosystems and sylvo-pastorals			X	X	
DeSIRA TAP AIS – Bioenergy for SMEs in West Africa			X	X	
DeSIRA Global: FO-RI9: Farmers Organisations Leading Research & Innovation on Agroecology for Sustainable Food Systems			X	X	X
FO4ACP – Farmer Organisations for ACP	X	X	X	X	X
CGIAR – Regional Integrated Initiatives in Africa					
DeSIRA+ for agroecological innovations in Africa					
<i>Bilateral multi-country</i>					
KCOA- Knowledge Centre for Organic Agriculture and Agroecology (BMZ)		X		X	
ProEcoAfrica and Organic Food Systems in Africa (SIC)					
DeSIRA – GEF-8 FSIP					

HLPE agroecology principles

From studying the data set for the country profiles and interviews conducted, we find the references to specific HLPE principles on agroecology, documented in table 2.

Table 2: Assessment of HLPE principles found addressed in the data analyzed (see also annex)

HLPE principles	Comments
1-Recycling	No reference
2-Input reduction	Yes, frequently referred to, but often in combination with the promotion of local business and value chains for example, for bio fertilizer - or other principles.
3-Soil health	DeSIRA Global Programme on Soil Health
4-Animal health	Mostly only specific sylvio-pastoral projects

HLPE principles	Comments
5-Biodiversity	Biodiversity is mentioned. More attention is given in specific biodiversity focused projects that are funded under environmental programmes or under sustainable management of natural resources; genetic diversity and seed projects, or under biodiversity conservation projects (NaturAfrica)
6-Synergy	Long list by GIZ of partners' interventions and how they complement each other and increase potential for synergy for the transformation of food systems by GIZ. Interviewees make the point that more synergies between organisations are needed.
7-Economic diversification	Often referred to but these may be thematic focused projects.
8-Co-creation of knowledge	Highlighted in all ICRAF agroecology projects
9-Social values and diets	Gender equity and youth empowerment is emphasised in many EU/D projects. See also EU Action Plan on Nutrition (2015-2025).
10-Fairness	Fairness is more often matched by EU/D finance for sustainable economic diversification and livelihoods projects.
11-Connectivity	Yes, frequently referred to local markets, farmer organisations, SMEs, resilient economies and resilient livelihoods, improved consumer and producer relations
12-Land and natural resource governance	Rarely mentioned. However, a specific Land Governance programme, and specific Human Rights and Democracy budget line exist that includes work on land rights.
13-Participation	Inclusive participation is encouraged and wider civil society involvement in decision-making is mentioned in project descriptions. Indeed, this distinguishes Great Green Wall projects that remain, which address combating desertification but unclear whether this is about planting trees or about farm-managed regeneration or simple tree planting.

Spending on total EU ODA in SSA

The figures on overall EU ODA to Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) in this section provide for some context and comparison before looking into more detail at EU spending on agriculture². The first table looks at total EU ODA spending in SSA compared to the five selected countries. It compares spending by the European Commission with total EU ODA by the EU institutions and its member states (Team Europe). The period for comparison is for the last three years 2021-2023 and for a longer period of 2007-2023 for which data is available. The second table looks at EU ODA 310

² Database used: Team Europe explorer ODA (EC+OECD), gross disbursement.
https://team-europe-explorer.europa.eu/oda/explore-oda_en

spending in all of SSA compared to the five focus countries, to the European Commission versus total EU ODA and again to a longer and a shorter time period.

Total EU ODA in Sub-Saharan Africa (compared to 5 selected countries) in EUR

<i>EC+OECD</i>	Sub-Saharan Africa		Kenya, Uganda, Burkina, Senegal, DRC	
Total EU ODA	EC	EU ODA (28+)	EC	EU ODA (28+)
2021-2023	10.870.970.359	34.201.529.075	1.785.142.387	5.987.183.867
2007-2023	63.088.942.919	193.180.477.022	10.249.235.128	36.386.357.283

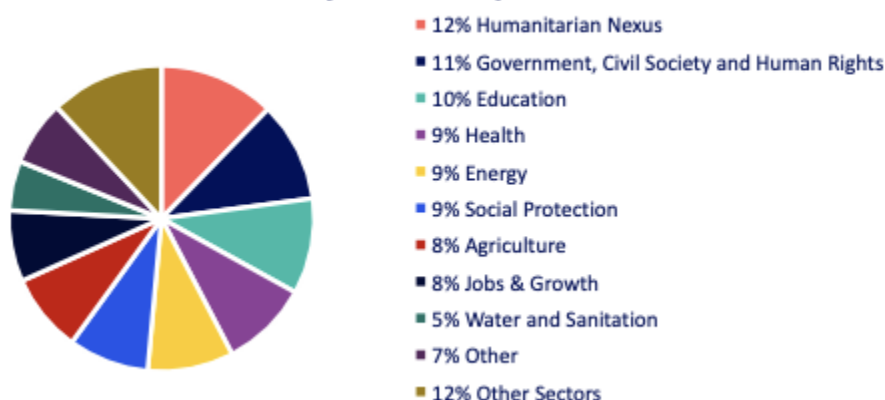
Total EU ODA on 310 Agriculture in Sub-Saharan Africa (compared to 5 selected countries) in EUR

<i>EC+OECD</i>	Sub-Saharan Africa		Kenya, Uganda, Burkina, Senegal, DRC	
Total EU ODA on 310 Agriculture	EC	EU ODA (28+)	EC	EU ODA (28+)
2021-2023	1.021.276.660	2.715.963.017	228.195.303	591.192.527
2007-2023	4.725.169.964	12.985.046.134	879.046.221	2.928.352.746
			<i>See also figures in table below</i>	

The next graphic is taken from the Global Gateway infographic that does not allow to accumulate years and has no entry for 2023. The graphic shows total EU ODA for agriculture in SSA in 2022 is 8% or 1.064.763.447 Euro. By comparison, total EU ODA for agriculture in SSA in 2021 is 10% or 1.225.818.073 Euro and for 2020 it is 9% or 1.217.535.084 Euro.

Total EU ODA by sector for SSA, 2022

Main Sectors Funded by Team Europe



By comparison, the EU ODA for agriculture in the five selected countries does not show major differences. For the longer period 2007-2023, agricultural spending for SSA is 7% compared to 8.5% for the priority countries. For the three-year period 2021-2023, expenditure on SSA is 8.5% compared to 11.5% in the focus countries. The somewhat higher spending on agriculture in the five selected countries means it is a priority area. The slightly higher expenditure is also explained

by the fact that four of the five priority countries are among the top recipients of total EU ODA in SSA, with the DRC, Kenya, Uganda, and Senegal among the top 10 recipients for the period 2021-2023.

Spending on EU ODA 310 Agriculture

Databases used are Team Europe explorer ODA (EC+OECD), gross disbursement and the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) database that provides details on Commission Service INTPA but that do not necessarily match with all details from EC+OECD database.³

The following tables compare three datasets for ODA 310 for agriculture, total EU ODA spending, European Commission and INTPA spending for a three-year period 2021-2023. Total EU ODA includes bilateral ODA by the EU member states and other EU institutions, i.e., the European Investment Bank or the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development; the latter is not engaged in ODA 310 and EIB is only rarely involved, see details in the table in the next section.

A look at trends in agricultural spending over the period 2007-2023 shows that sudden peaks may occur in one year but not in the other, although they tend to even out over a longer period. For example, total EU ODA in 2023 is equal to that of the European Commission, whereas it was significantly lower in previous years. These fluctuations can result from disbursement or programming cycles and are therefore not (necessarily) a sign of policy priority.

Total EU ODA 310 on Agriculture

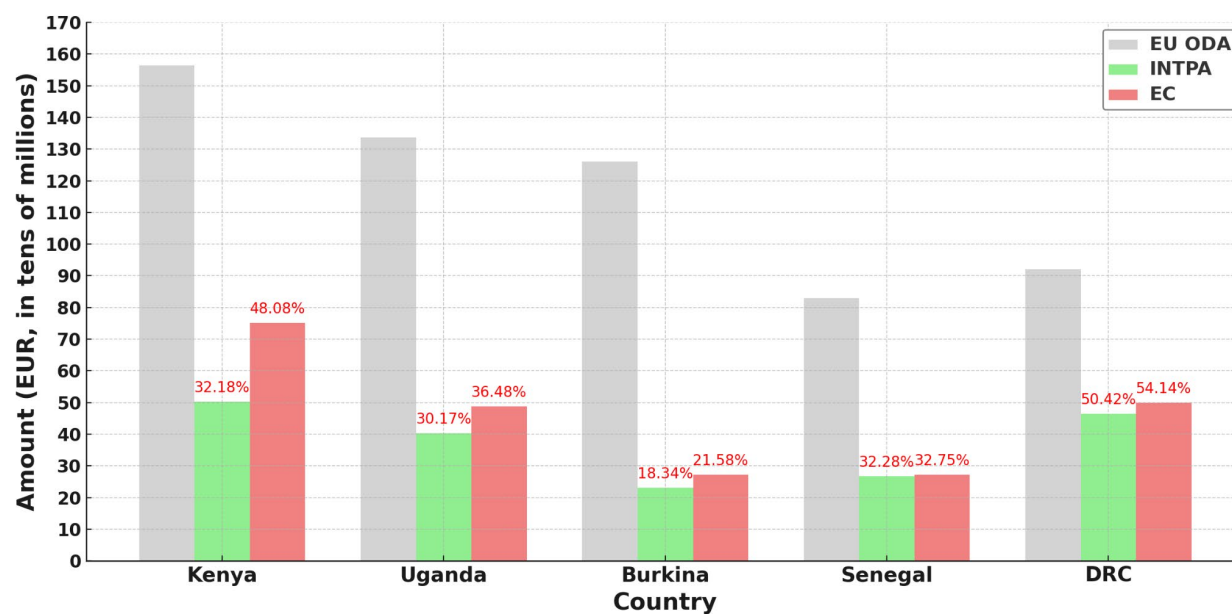
Total EU ODA 310 in euros					
EC+OECD	Kenya	Uganda	Burkina	Senegal	DRC
2023	38.271.884	16.506.043	16.877.203	13.064.981	29.997.791
2022	58.454.134	50.640.246	47.225.542	34.531.606	37.621.400
2021	59.682.699	66.523.371	61.943.028	35.366.977	24.485.623
TOTAL	156.408.717	133.669.660	126.045.773	82.963.564	92.104.814

European Commission ODA 310 on Agriculture

European Commission ODA 310 on Agriculture					
EC+OECD	Kenya	Uganda	Burkina	Senegal	DRC
2023	38.271.884	16.506.043	16.877.203	13.064.981	29.997.791
2022	14.788.025	11.824.077	6.295.721	6.547.163	15.429.427
2021	22.138.614	20.428.788	4.027.052	7.560.386	4.438.149
TOTAL	75.198.523	48.758.908	27.199.976	27.172.530	49.865.367

³ Sources used are https://team-europe-explorer.europa.eu/oda/explore-oda_en and <https://countrydata.iatistandard.org/data>

Comparison of total EU ODA 310 on Agriculture with European Commission ODA 310 and INTPA ODA 310 on Agriculture for the five selected countries over 2021-2023



On average, 31,63 % of EU ODA 310 for agriculture is managed by INTPA in the five selected countries over 2021-2023, per country it is 32,18% for Kenya, 30,17% for Uganda, 18,34% for Burkina Faso, 32,28% for Senegal, and 50,24% for DRC.

Comparison of EU ODA 310 on Agriculture with EC and INTPA ODA 310 over 2021-2023

Comparison of EU ODA 310 on Agriculture with EC and INTPA ODA 310			
	Kenya		
	INTPA*	EC	EU ODA
2023	18.035.190	38.271.884	38.271.884
2022	14.107.461	14.788.025	58.454.134
2021	18.190.721	22.138.614	59.682.699
TOTAL	50.333.372	75.198.523	156.408.717
% of EU ODA	32,18	48,08	100,00

	Uganda		
	INTPA*	EC	EU ODA
2023	17.454.994	16.506.043	16.506.043
2022	8.820.106	11.824.077	50.640.246
2021	14.057.660	20.428.788	66.523.371
TOTAL	40.332.760	48.758.908	133.669.660
% of EUODA	30,17	36,48	100,00

	Burkina Faso		
	INTPA*	EC	EU ODA
2023	15.542.629	16.877.203	16.877.203
2022	5.067.023	6.295.721	47.225.542
2021	2.513.341	4.027.052	61.943.028
TOTAL	23.122.993	27.199.976	126.045.773
% of EU ODA	18,34	21,58	100,00

	Senegal		
	INTPA*	EC	EU ODA
2023	12.879.189	13.064.981	13.064.981
2022	6.547.163	6.547.163	34.531.606
2021	7.356.422	7.560.386	35.366.977
TOTAL	26.782.774	27.172.530	82.963.564
% of EU ODA	32,28	32,75	100,00

	DRC		
	INTPA*	EC	EU ODA
2023	29.340.568	29.997.791	29.997.791
2022	13.982.232	15.429.427	37.621.400
2021	3.118.266	4.438.149	24.485.623
TOTAL	46.441.066	49.865.367	92.104.814
% of EU ODA	50,42	54,14	100,00

*Figures are taken from the IATI database with details on DG INTPA, which do not necessarily match with all details from EC+OECD database. Source <https://countrydata.iatistandard.org/data>

Comparison of total EU ODA with EU ODA 310 on Agriculture with funds managed by the European Commission or by INTPA in the five selected countries over different time periods⁴

<i>EC+OECD Gross disbursement</i>	Kenya, Uganda, Burkina, Senegal, DRC		
in euros	2007-2023	2016-2018	2021-2023
Total EU ODA	36.386.357.283	6.377.072.175	5.987.183.867
Total EU ODA 310 on Agri	2.928.352.746	693.751.580	591.192.527
Total EU ODA 310 on Agri by EC	879.046.221	208.806.227	228.195.303
Total EU ODA 310 on Agri by INTPA*			187.012.965
% for 310 out of total EU ODA	8%	11%	10%
% for 310 managed by EC	2%	3%	4%
% for 310 managed by INTPA			3%

Over time, the European Commission has increased the total amount of ODA 310 agricultural funds. For 2021-2023, EU ODA 310 on Agriculture presents 10% of total EU ODA. The European Commission - including DG Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations, DG European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), Service for Foreign Policy Instruments and DG International Partnership - manages 4% of total EU ODA for agriculture. DG INTPA ODA 310 managed funds on agriculture represent 3% of total EU ODA for 2021-2023, implying that DG INTPA is managing the majority of European Commission managed ODA for agriculture. By comparison, in the period 2007-2023, the EC managed 2% of total EU ODA for agriculture.

How much of the total EU ODA for agriculture is directed towards ‘agroecology’?

Findings from the desk study and interviews suggest that ODA for agriculture (310) that is managed by INTPA will be directed mostly towards agroecology. We assume that the forthcoming operational guide on mainstreaming agroecology, which is to be published by INTPA, will explain this in more detail. Based on the data assessed, we deduct and assume that projects designed for MIP 2021-2027 or 2024-2026 score at least high on about a third or roughly on about half of the HLPE principles and reach Gliessman level 3 or beyond.

The suggestion is that if INTPA programming is to be transformative and reach level 4 or 5, it will depend on EU Delegations and EU member states complementing and supporting actions to strengthen local ownership, broader outreach and uptake on the ground. Partnering with EU member states that have specific bilateral or EU co-financed agroecology initiatives such as France, Germany, Belgium, Denmark, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands or Austria; improving the conditions for the lead implementing agency to ensure more inclusive consortium partners. If

⁴ Figures for INTPA are provided in the IATI database only which has different reporting years

we assume that INTPA funds on 310 agriculture are spent on agroecology at Gliessman level 3 or higher, we would propose that an average of 31,63% of EU ODA 310 expenditure is spent on agroecology in the five pilot countries over the period 2021-2023.

Portfolio analysis by DG INTPA

As mentioned earlier, a portfolio analysis is currently commissioned by DG INTPA, using the Agroecology Coalition tool to assess the quality or transformative potential of DG INTPA funded projects on agroecology.

Portfolio analysis by BMZ/GIZ

The BMZ, the German Ministry on Economic and Development Cooperation, has already finished a portfolio analysis carried out for GIZ or KfW funded projects over the period of 2014-2023 with DAC coding LE 2 or LE 1. A fact sheet on the results was published in November 2024. The findings show that agroecology funds were continuously increasing. Since 2014, a total of 344 interventions equivalent to 3.65 billion Euro have been disbursed. In 2022 and 2023 finance for agroecology doubled following new projects and the extension of previous programmes. About 50 percent of BMZ agroecology funds are going to Africa. Findings show that 612 out of 2019 pre-selected projects with over 1 million Euro scored positively at all or most of the 13 HLPE principles based on their project documents. The HLPE principles of co-creation of knowledge, fairness, participation, social value and nutritional diets, were considered a minimal requirement for any successful scoring in the analysis.

Channels for agricultural and agricultural related ODA

A look at channels for ODA 310 shows that the EIB and AfDB channel is only used in Kenya, while central government spending in the other four countries is high and can be used for government priorities or for private sector development in agriculture; in Kenya and Uganda, spending on private sector category is also high. The figures for FAO and IFAD funding in Kenya and Uganda confirm information received from interviewees on EUD funding patterns. NGOs from donor countries often transfer significant amounts of their funds to partners in recipient countries, which increases funding for developing country-based NGOs. Universities are often partners in agricultural research related programmes (DeSIRA).

Channels for total EU ODA 310 on Agriculture per country for 2021-2023, in euro

Channels for total EU ODA 310 on Agriculture per country for 2021-2023, in euros					
EC+OECD	Kenya	Uganda	Burkina	Senegal	DRC
Total EU ODA 310 over 2021-2023	156.408.717	133.669.660	126.045.773	82.963.564	92.104.814
Central government	8.699.774	25.293.964	28.645.189	22.114.486	2.562.937
EIB	5.051.630				
AfDB	19.220.000				
FAO	5.991.592	9.601.499	4.710.916	3.103.578	3.771.343
IFAD	9.472.889	8.625.063			
CGIAR					7.204.098
Donor country based NGOs	22.021.870	31.865.057	36.351.597	15.466.936	28.425.044
Developing country based NGOs	8.729.462	7.024.838	3.997.010	839.737	4.960.111
International NGOs	10.169.094	1.008.300	10.477.368	353.873	18.254.057
University, college, training inst.	1.713.892	2.413.484	2.102.567	429.147	1.590.775
Private sector *	9.558.836	4.669.046		192.180	346.337
<i>(sub-total)</i>	<i>100.629.039</i>	<i>90.501.251</i>	<i>86.284.647</i>	<i>42.499.937</i>	<i>67.11.702</i>

* Private sector category includes five sub-categories: provider private sector, recipient country private sector, third country private sector, private sector institution, public-private-partnership.

The table on agricultural-related ODA sectors for the period 2021-2023 contains specific data, such as the agro-industries financed under ODA 320 Industries. Biodiversity is coded under ODA 410 Environmental Policies. Rural development is part of ODA 430 Multi-sectoral aid, strongly supported by EU member states that are listed in order of the amount of funding. Other industrial agriculture is not further defined and most likely financed through loans and equity or blending as well as various investment portfolios, which are outside the scope of this study. The ODA data shows that bilateral financing from France and Sweden also includes loans or equity investments.

Total EU ODA on other (agricultural related) sectors over 2021-2023, in euros

EC+OECD	Kenya	Uganda	Burkina	Senegal	DRC
Total EU ODA 2021-2023	156.408.717	133.669.660	126.045.773	82.963.564	92.104.814
321 61 agro-industries	2.706.433	555.476	761.675	4.677.399	21.958
<i>(EU MS and EC)</i>	<i>I, SLO, D, IRE</i>	<i>EC, IRE</i>	<i>EC, I, D</i>	<i>EC, I</i>	<i>E</i>
321 61 SME development	27.805.003	20.020.621	327.204	7.843.044	3.430.424
410 30 biodiversity	15.264.919	3.586.728	1.599.852	2.029.058	34.428.774
<i>(EU MS and EC)</i>					<i>D, EC, BE, S</i>
430 40 rural development	16.530.443	28.432.738	15.254.763	29.213.349	24.050.223
<i>(EU MS and EC)</i>	<i>F, D, S, FI, DK, I</i>	<i>EC, NL, D, FIN, S, BE, AU, LX</i>	<i>F, D, BE, I, EC, AU</i>	<i>FR, D, BE, E, AU, S, I</i>	<i>NL, S, BE, D, EC, F, E, AU</i>

Outlook: Decision-making and new programming of the EU external budget

Forthcoming negotiations on the new EU external budget for 2026-2027 and programming have started and need to be approved in 2025 under the EU's co-decision-making procedures. Negotiations on the next EU Multi-Financial Framework for 2028-2035 will start in 2025. While there is progress in support and affirmation of agroecology as a viable pathway for delivering on the EU's policy commitment to sustainable food systems, the EU is unlikely to develop its specific agroecology policy under the incoming Commission term 2024-2029 and the changing prevailing EU policy framework.

The EUD depends on (firm or clear) policy commitments and guidance from the EU headquarters as well as on negotiations with national governments and ministries for country programmes. This is a dynamic process. EUDs will define their interactions with Commission headquarters and/or member state programmes in-country responding to pressures or drivers in the changing environment. While room for manoeuvring exists, progress will depend on commitments by the head of delegations or individual staff using favourable institutional setups and/or strategic alliances to advance agroecology commitments or increase synergies with bilateral or global programmes.

Feedback from the NGO consortium emphasizes that a shift away from agroecology would be a missed opportunity. Agroecology is demonstrating its multiple mitigating and adaptive effects it has on the major ongoing crises (loss of biodiversity, desertification and climate change) as well as interrelated sectors such as environment and health (one health approach). At the very least, a "Value-for-Money" argument should be introduced. The promising results on environmental and climate management, on plurality of knowledge and on social equity by agroecology is confirmed by the IPES study (IPES 2022, Smoke and Mirrors) when comparing agroecology to other sustainable food systems approaches. This is also backed by an earlier 2017 ActionAid brief on climate smart agriculture, causing confusion.

While EU institutions may face pressure to curb previously agreed sustainability ambitions, namely by EU member states and the powerful corporate farming sector, the EU's long-term competitiveness as well as resilience depends on facing the real costs of environmental degradation and climate change to the economy and the agri-food sector.

Background to institutional funding and decision-making

The programming of the NDICI-Global Europe is jointly carried out by the Commission and the European External Action Service, both at EU Headquarters in Brussels and in EU Delegations. It reflects the priorities of both the EU and partner countries and is structured through country, regional, and thematic multi-annual indicative programmes. The mid-term review (launched in 2023) assessed to what extent programmes adopted are still fit for purpose. The review process involved consultations with stakeholders at country and headquarters levels, in particular partner

country governments, EU Member States, their development agencies and financial institutions, CSOs, private sector and the UN agencies. The programmes are adopted by the Commission and establish the priority areas for cooperation. Implementation is translated through the adoption of (multi-)annual action plans.

New programming of Global Gateway 2025-2027

The EU mid-term review aims to enhance the implementation of the EU Global Gateway for 2025-2027. The review of the NDICI-Global Europe for Sub-Saharan Africa adopted by the European Commission includes thematic programmes such as support to Human Rights and Democracy, Civil Society Organisations, Peace Stability and Conflict prevention, and Global Challenges.

Funds have not been reduced but rather bundled and reallocated. Regional envelopes become SSA envelopes, allowing for greater flexibility between regional and national programming. A new approach to “countries in complex situations” will be introduced for fragile and conflict-affected countries. Financial commitments for social human development that advances social equity, for a human rights-based approach, and for engagement in fragile and conflict-affected countries remain stable overall. It is expected that reallocations and cuts will be made in the next budget round after 2027 to increase investment in (global) value chains and investment promotion for local business and productivity increases.⁵

In response, INTPA is taking a mainstreaming approach to agroecology, integrating it into value chains. They argue and understand that inter-service consultation on programming and interactions under the Team Europe approach requires articulating the agroecological principles in a way that are aligned with the incoming Commission and their new overarching binding policy directions - for programming to pass the internal decision making.

New Sub-Saharan Africa Multiannual Indicative Programme 2025-2027

The MIP recognises the increasing negative impact of climate change and environmental degradation in Sub-Saharan Africa, which goes along with the socio-economic shocks of the Covid-19 pandemic, the war in Ukraine, and the numerous coups d'Etats. In response, the MIP seeks more complementarity and flexibility between the country and regional interventions to combat the further deterioration of food insecurity. Countries' vulnerability to climate change is increasingly impacting on nutrition, food security and the economy. The MIP aims to reinvigorate the private sector to enhance value chain effectiveness for food production, market access and micro-finance.

Some of the changes in the new MIP ensure a stronger alignment with the Global Gateway strategy and strengthen support to investments (leverage private and public sector investment, for example for the green transition and sustainable agri-food systems), often for value chains. The new “Actions in countries in complex settings” comes in response to humanitarian challenges

⁵ See Overview Global Gateway mid-term review

notably due to climate change. The priority areas are adjusted to support regional value chains and partnerships on critical raw materials and to support investments to fight climate change and secure global supply chains. Support to investments is channelled through the European Fund for Sustainable Development Plus, a financing tool of the Global Gateway, to achieve results in Critical Raw Materials, water, regional value chains, and sustainable agri-food systems. For each of the five focus countries of this study a revised MIP and Action Plan was adopted.

New DeSIRA Lift

The broader DeSIRA agricultural research community emphasises the need for co-design by stakeholders, project participants and beneficiaries (GFAiR conference, 13 March 2025). African government officials, farming communities, and civil society organisations argue that African country governments, national agencies and grassroots need to be involved in the country-design and research focus from the outset. There is a growing recognition that agricultural research can only be successful if there is a rethink on prioritisation, funding and resource mobilisation. The agricultural research community urgently needs more collaboration on the ground. This conclusion drawn by INTPA at the GFAiR conference in Brussels could be an opportunity for CSO platforms to get involved and fill the gap on the ground. CSO umbrella organisations with knowledge of DeSIRA programming and contacts with European research agencies include the Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM), Eastern and Southern African small-scale Farmers Forum (EASFF), Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA), and the West-African network of Peasants and Agricultural Producers (ROPPA) members. Specific DeSIRA programmes to support farmers' organisations on research and information will also continue under the regional programmes.

Findings from interviews with EUD, CSO partners and other stakeholders

Field visits findings

Senegal

While Senegal has made meaningful progress in promoting agroecological practices, critical analysis exposes deep-rooted issues around power imbalances, external dependency, policy inconsistencies, and socio-cultural challenges. Agroecology in Senegal receives substantial support from international collaborations, primarily with NGOs from Europe and North America and global development programs (Bottazzi et al., 2021). Although these alliances deliver crucial financial and technical resources, they also induce dependency, potentially distorting the internal dynamics of power within the movement. These dynamics raise critical questions regarding "the prioritization of interests and the authenticity of representation for local farming communities" (Bottazzi et al., 2021; Horizont3000, 2023). A pronounced dependency on international funding has led to a "project-based environment that often lacks continuity once external financing concludes" (Bottazzi et al., 2021). Furthermore, the government's "partial adoption of agroecological rhetoric without substantial shifts in policy or resource allocation" indicates a superficial commitment that inadequately addresses the actual needs and rights of smallholder farmers (Bottazzi et al., 2021; Horizont3000, 2023; MDPI, 2023).

Insights from various stakeholders involved in agroecology initiatives in Senegal consistently reveal delayed EU project starts, a lack of field-level impact, and limited involvement of local actors in project design. Several interviewees noted the low proportion of resources reaching grassroots organisations, with the majority spent on coordination, trainings and meetings. In addition, the same actors and institutions are repeatedly receiving EU funds (CIRAD) with little diversification and increase of actors involved in agroecology. Some infrastructural needs for effective deployment of agroecology, such as small-scale mechanization, water systems, and farmer-managed seeds, remain underfunded.

Key messages from interactions with agroecology stakeholders are:

- Call and selection processes for EU-funded projects are perceived as overly complex and restrictive, often requiring European partners.
- There is a significant gap between allocated funds for agroecological projects and actual implementation on the ground, with only a small portion of funds reaching local organisations and communities. Most resources are absorbed by coordination, meetings, and trainings, limiting practical impact.
- Delays in project implementation are frequent due to bureaucratic processes and inefficient coordination, sometimes causing activities to considerable delay with multi-country projects often experiencing additional complexities, affecting timely fund allocation and project execution.

- There's recognition of the potential value of EU delegation involvement, particularly in ensuring sustainability and scalability of projects beyond the current limited oversight role.
- Interviewees emphasize the urgent need to prioritize tangible agroecological actions over theoretical or training-focused activities, advocating for investment in key infrastructure, appropriate technologies, and locally driven innovation.
- Involving local communities and organisations from the project design stage is crucial to ensuring relevance and effectiveness of agroecological initiatives.

Kenya

Kenya has emerged as a key player in the agroecological transformation landscape in East Africa, while only a few years back, Kenya faced export restrictions on avocados and other fruits due to high pesticide residues. In 2020, the European Union imposed stricter regulations on Kenyan beans, subjecting them to mandatory 10% sampling checks on residue levels, with excessive pesticide residues potentially leading to a total ban. This led initiatives to promote organic farming practices and reduce chemical pesticide use.

A particularity of the Kenyan context is the role and engagement of counties in advancing agroecology. In fact, in Kenyan legislation, agriculture is a devolved function, making counties the primary decision-makers for agricultural activities. Murang'a County is a key vegetable-growing area in the Central region of Kenya, this region previously faced export restrictions due to high pesticide residues on avocados and other fruits. In 2023, Murang'a County, in collaboration with other partners, enacted the Murang'a Agroecology Policy 2022-2032 and the Murang'a County Agroecology Development Act, 2022 aiming to transform agricultural practices by integrating ecological principles. The county established the Agroecology Development and Marketing Board to regulate the agroecology sector, promote its products, collaborate with stakeholders to enhance trade and marketing, ensuring alignment with both national and international standards. At the national level, the Inter-Sectoral Forum on Agrobiodiversity and Agroecology (ISFAA) played a key role in the recent formulation and launch of Kenya's National Agroecology Strategy for Food System Transformation (2024-2033) marking a significant policy milestone (Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Cooperatives, 2024).

During the field visit to Kenya, a Workshop organised by a coalition of European and African civil society organisations titled: 'Advancing agroecology and sustainable food systems: Uniting African civil society for advocacy and action' was held.⁶ The workshop was attended by 100 participants from 22 African and European countries. It aimed at positioning agroecology as a transformative strategy for sustainable food systems in Africa. Key objectives of the workshop included resisting co-optation by industrial models, reinforcing the political and conceptual foundations of agroecology, and developing a shared action plan among civil society actors. Currently, Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania have a National Strategy on Agroecology or Ecological

⁶ Sagana, 10-14 February 2025, workshop organised by ABN - African Biodiversity Network, African Centre for Biodiversity, AFSA, Biowatch South Africa, Brot für die Welt, PELUM Association, Rural Women's Assembly, SKI - Seed and Knowledge Initiative.

Organic Agriculture. However, they all encounter financial challenges for the implementation of those strategies.

A representative of Kenya Murang'a county shared the process taken to develop the Murang'a Agroecology Policy 2022-2032 and the Murang'a County Agroecology Development Act 2022, aiming to transform agricultural practices by integrating ecological principles. Murang'a County University provides training in agroecology for farmers and extensionists in addition to an MSc in agroecology.

Key messages from interactions with agroecology stakeholders are:

- EU funding access is often restricted for smaller CSOs due to institutional requirements, pushing them to rely on accredited intermediaries like FAO or IFAD.
- Project modalities differ significantly and are not standardised across donors, requiring analysis of funding mechanisms at the project level.
- There is weak communication between large institutions such as FAO, IFAD, ICRAF-CIFOR and grassroots actors, there is a need for a donor mandate to support community engagement throughout project cycles.
- Pelum was highlighted as a capable CSO umbrella that could manage funds and enhance outreach if better resourced.
- There seems to be a disconnect between EU delegations and Brussels, because of existing different lines of accountability that are not necessarily coherent; this would require structural changes to improve coherence and accountability.
- There is a need for conditionality in funding to ensure intermediaries allocate meaningful resources to civil society actors.

Insights from the interviews by research questions

The following tables on the four research questions are descriptive and the last table is an assessment of barriers and enabling factors the EUD are facing in supporting agroecology.

What are the national policies and institutional pressure points in each target country that exert influence on EUD funding allocations toward industrial farming or agroecology?

This section outlines the key national policy and institutional dynamics that influence how European Union Delegations (EUDs) allocate funding in support of either industrial agriculture or agroecology in five African countries: Kenya, Uganda, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Burkina Faso, and Senegal.

In **Kenya**, the EUD engages actively in the Donor Working Group on Rural Development and collaborates with other agroecology-aligned donors and EU Member States to influence the Government of Kenya. These partnerships seek to promote policy shifts and funding allocations more favourable to agroecological approaches.

In **Uganda**, the food policy environment remains weak, particularly due to inadequate food safety regulation. There is a lack of institutional standards and certifications to support producers, processors, and consumers—including those involved in agroecology. Public health risks are insufficiently addressed by the Government of Uganda, which further undermines policy support for agroecological practices.

In the **Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)**, the EUD maintains strong working relations with conservation organisations involved in protected park management. These institutional alliances reinforce existing power structures and limit broader engagement with agroecological actors. Current agroecology-related interventions focus on cash crop value chains, which are more likely to attract government interest but tend to sideline efforts aimed at local food systems and community-level transformation.

In **Burkina Faso**, the national government is broadly supportive of agroecology and has committed 30% of the implementation budget for its National Agroecology Strategy. The EUD collaborates constructively with both government entities and civil society organisations (CSOs) on the ground. The diversity of actors and initiatives within the agroecology space in Burkina Faso further enhances opportunities for effective policy influence and funding alignment.

In **Senegal**, agricultural policy and finance are closely controlled by the national government, which prioritises industrial farming. Although agroecological enterprises - such as those producing biofertilisers - are emerging, they face structural barriers to market entry and expansion.

The European Union Delegation (EUD) in Senegal supports agroecology primarily through alignment with broader EU strategies such as the European Green Deal and climate policy. In terms of project coordination, the EUD plays a limited operational role in implementing agroecology-related initiatives. Flagship programs like DeSIRA are financed and programmed by INTPA in Brussels, not directly by EUDs. Although the EUD was initially involved in DeSIRA's Senegalese envelope in 2019, the implementation and contracting remain under INTPA. Multi-country programs are managed by CORAF (West and Central Africa Council for Agricultural Research and Development), which partners with EU research institutions (e.g., CIRAD, IRB) and some producer organisations and NGOs. However, the co-creation model is imbalanced, as CORAF retains strong influence over agenda-setting. For example, in a 2025 call for proposals involving 17 applicants, only one consortium led by CORAF and CIRAD was selected.

Domestically, the Senegalese government plays a dominant role in agricultural investment, primarily through large-scale initiatives like Agripole, a program aimed at establishing agro-industrial processing zones to enhance the value addition of agricultural products. The EUD aligns with these efforts but promotes sustainability safeguards, particularly around natural resource management. EUD budget support to the Senegalese government now includes subsidies for organic inputs, reflecting progress in policy alignment - these represent 10% of agricultural subsidies, up from 8% a few years ago. Though incremental, this shift is seen as a pragmatic reconciliation of EU and national priorities. Rather than pushing for radical change, the EUD prefers negotiating realistic, context-driven targets (e.g., increasing climate-related spending from 10% to 15%).

Summary table of national policies and institutional pressure points

Kenya	Uganda	DRC	Burkina	Senegal
Participation in Donor Working Group on Rural Development. Teaming up with other AE donors and EU member states to impact on GoK.	Very weak food safety leads to a disabling food policy environment. Lack of institutional standards and guarantees for producers, processors and consumers, including for agroecology. Health risks not effectively addressed by GoU.	Privileged working relations of GoDRC and EUD with conservation organisations of protected park management keeps power structures in place. Focus of AE interventions on cash crop value chains to solicit interest of GoDRC, but detrimental to localisation agenda.	The state is supportive of agroecology and committed 30% of the budget for the implementation of the National Agroecology strategy. Good cooperation between EUD and GoBF on agroecology and CSOs on the ground. Diversity of AE actors and projects.	Agricultural sector and finance is closely monitored by GoS, giving priority to industrial agriculture. Agroecological enterprises e.g., in the biofertilizer sector are emerging but face systemic challenges to establishment in the market.

How are EUDs trying to support or influence the existing national/regional policies or to push for particular policy changes?

The five focus countries—Kenya, Uganda, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Burkina Faso, and Senegal—European Union Delegations (EUDs) engage with national and regional institutions in various ways to support or influence policy frameworks related to agroecology. These engagements range from participation in national forums to the implementation of research and development initiatives and strategic policy alignment with governments.

In **Kenya**, the EUD actively participates in the Donor Working Group on Rural Development and engages in the Kenyan Intersectional Forum for Agroecology and Agrobiodiversity. Through these platforms, the EUD collaborates with other agroecology-aligned donors and EU Member States to shape national discourse and influence the Government of Kenya’s direction in agricultural policy.

In **Uganda**, the EUD contributes to national-level food and agricultural policy discussions through its involvement in the country-level Codex Alimentarius committee. It also supports institutional capacity-building in areas related to sanitary and phytosanitary standards (SPS).

The European Union Delegation in DRC supports the landscape approach under the NaturAfrica programme⁷, focusing on innovative research in five specific cash crop value chains such as coffee, banana and maize. Each of the agroecology interventions takes place in a geographical region presenting different microclimates. The EUD expects that delivering on agroecology approaches to internationally trade value chains will be an important leverage to impress the government to consider the relevance and value of agroecology to the national economy. Concretely, the EUD has chosen to continue building on privileged relationships with organisations recognised by the government in protected park management. Successful enablers of the projects were a newly found genetic variety of robust coffee. Focus on the natural enemy of maize (fall armyworm) was successful thanks to increasing biodiversity in the protected park zone. The rigorous approach to long term training in field farmers schools to adopt agroecology practices by engaging smallholders is a key component of the EUD projects. Farmers trained to experiment with banana plants and agroecology innovation (hot water treatment, biocontrol) increased the genetic diversity of banana plants otherwise threatened. The combination of soil health, soil fertility measures, and organic fertilisers demonstrate success of AE interventions to pest management, productivity and sustainability of the value chain to governmental actors. The EUD in DRC is keen to share these results, presented for example, by INTPA at the World Banana Forum in 2024.

Interviews with partner organisations in DRC understood the EUD concentrates on specific regions only at the expense of other (more remote) areas. However, contrary to some views by the EUD, they reaffirm the willingness of farming communities to take up agroecological practices, if and where they respond to real needs in the fields, if and where continuous and trustful accompaniment is provided on the ground. They point out that clearly, with increased financial resources - beyond the support of their European CSO partners -, more outreach would result in scaling out agroecology uptake in more rural areas. A localisation agenda in the EUDs approach would contribute to the resilience of local populations and local ecosystems, a priority under the new *Actions in countries in complex settings* of increasing insecurity.

⁷ The NaturAfrica programme is a regional initiative under the Global Gateway. It was officially launched by the European Commission in 2020. It is a flagship initiative under the EU Green Deal and the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030, aiming to integrate biodiversity conservation with sustainable development across key African landscapes.

Summary table of EUDs support or influence of national/regional policies

Kenya	Uganda	DRC	Burkina	Senegal
Participation in Donor Working Group on Rural Development; and in the Kenyan Intersectional Forum for Agroecology and Agrobiodiversity. Teaming up with other AE donors and EU member states to impact on GoK.	Participation in Codex Alimentarius in-country. Support to institutional capacity and institutional building on SPS.	Excellency on AE research in piloting cash crop value chains i.e., increased genetic diversity of robusta coffee and bananas, new biocontrol for maize pest - showcasing AE research contribution to national economy.	Identifying lack of marketing infrastructure and facilities. Contributing to enabling policy environments to CSOs, ownership and localisation.	Sound policy analysis, preparing gradual changes in careful, fine-tuned negotiations with GoS. Reconciling INTPA and GoS objectives in programming.

Who are the stakeholders (including civil society organisations) who could be more engaged in influencing agroecology transitions, and how might their voices be heard?

This overview outlines key stakeholders, particularly civil society organisations (CSOs) who could be more actively involved in shaping agroecology transitions in Kenya, Uganda, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Burkina Faso, and Senegal. It highlights both potential roles for these actors and mechanisms through which their voices can be amplified in national and regional agroecological policymaking and implementation.

Across all five countries, there is a need to improve early-stage engagement of CSOs in the design of programmes and policies. Financial intermediaries and intermediary platforms could play a critical role in facilitating this participation. Strengthening cooperation with international actors already active in-country may also be used more strategically to amplify agroecological agendas.

An encouraging example from Burkina Faso is the Belgian NGO Autre Terre Consortium successfully applied to an IFAD call for proposal under the Global Programme on Small Scale Agroecological Producers (GP-SAEP) for a project in Burkina Faso. The consortium includes eight different Burkinabe NGOs benefiting from this joint proposal: APIL, ARFA, Le Baobab, CEAS Burkina, CNABio, GIE Bioprotect, IRSAT/ CNRST, Association Yolse Tuuma. Together, they address the main obstacles to the scaling of agroecology and identify opportunities.

In Kenya, the Global Gateway Team Europe proposal activities include circular economy, climate-smart and sustainable agricultural value chains, natural capital and biodiversity, and resources efficiency. The Global Gateway calls for unlocking opportunities through the EU-Kenya Economic Partnership Agreement, for example, for agribusiness and horticulture by the EuroChambers

network of EU and Kenyan companies, meeting at the Kenya Business Forum 2025 on Digitalisation of Trade. A different approach is taken by agroecology entrepreneurs, who integrate agroecology principles into agricultural value chains, who privilege local, national and regional territorial markets, identifying key safeguards and taking a participatory approach to marketing.⁸ Work on agroecological entrepreneurship could be supported by EUDs creating synergies with other agricultural programmes. Such measures could bridge the seemingly disconnect between Brussels INTPA commitment to agroecology and the EU Delegations commitment ambiguity to (some of) the 13 HLPE principles.

A case in point could be the support to sustainable coffee value chains in Uganda and Kenya under the Global Gateway Team Europe approach. Their alignment with HLPE production is clearly advancing, while alignment with equity and social responsibility principles could be further strengthened, complementing the regenerative agricultural coffee farming systems approach by Biodiversity Alliance & CIAT and GGIAR with a comprehensive agroecology food systems approach.

Summary table of stakeholders who could be more engaged

Kenya	Uganda	DRC	Burkina	Senegal
Financial intermediaries to ensure CSO participation in design processes early on. CSO Intermediary platforms. Cooperation with international actors in the country could be used more strategically.	Community Based Organisations to increase farmers uptake - potential for scaling out. Joint campaigning of CSOs to stop exports / imports of toxic pesticides in response to national health and food systems crisis. Join forces to recognize and reward AE products in the market.	Community Based Organisations to increase farmers uptake – potential for scaling out. Recognition of their potential and outreach work done already.	Marketing organisations. Reward and recognition of agroecology products in the market. European CSO consortium partnering with national CSOs to access EU/D finance.	CSO to engage in uptake of AE practices at farm level rather than (only) advocacy. Lead implementing partner of EU/D projects to engage more proactively in localisation agenda, offering new forms of interactions and connectivity with local actors.

⁸ See Biovision on investing in the Agroecology Business Case programme 2022-2024, (iABC) at <https://www.biovision.ch/infopool/agroecological-business-case/>

To what extent and how can EU member states / other donors committed to agroecology be conducive to increasing EUD support in-country?

Civil Society Organisations and Community Based Organisations demonstrate that they can deliver on scaling farmer uptake of agroecology practice and co-creation of knowledge. However, they have difficulties in meeting EU eligibility criteria. An earmarked fund managed by the EUD could be made available to national, regional or continental CSO umbrella organisations that could act as intermediaries for CBOs working with rural farming communities. EU member states and other donors could support such an approach under Team Europe or piloting such in their own finance policies. Earmarking a percentage of funds for agencies with proven domestic constituencies could advance localisation of agroecology agenda in the country. It would strengthen country-based actors often competing on unequal terms with professional fundraisers to access EU funds.

EUDs in Senegal and Uganda were hardly aware of the Knowledge Centre on Organic Agriculture and Agroecology, a bilateral GIZ project with regional hubs in Uganda and Senegal, as KCOA are mainly supported and run by local CSOs, and emerge in the local context, this way increasing impact, reach and local ownership. The KCOA hubs have shown to be conducive to the functioning and structuring of regional and national CSOs platforms.

In sum, barriers and enabling factors to EUDs promoting agroecology

Enablers	Barriers
EUD to convene a local agroecology advisory group to improve quality of EUD finance to agroecology composed of local experts, academia and CSOs.	Risk of correlation of the agroecology concept with EU/D funding of projects focussing on efficiency or input substitution of previous funding at Gliessman level 1 and 2.
NGO umbrella organisations to upscale their support services to broader CSO groups interested in agroecology.	EU/D finance of AE and agriculture and Team Europe finance operate in silos, missing out on synergies and complementarity.
CSO and CBOs with reach out to rural communities have huge potential for scaling out farmer uptake of AE practices and adjusted innovations.	Limited number of (professional) stakeholders may occupy AE space and take advantage of EU finance at the detriment of other local actors.
EUD to increase and open policy space for new forms of interactions of old and new stakeholders.	Risk of input substitution, reducing AE to level 1 and 2 of Gliessman, omitting upgrade to systems approach and equity and inclusivity.
EUD to use its convening role in-country to activate AE principles that promote social equity and co-creation of knowledge.	Single focus on innovation or agroecology 'delivery mode' may become a barrier - at risk of competing, ignoring or sidelining existing traditional indigenous knowledge to be activated or enhanced.

Investing into agroecology-based value chain and market systems development, stimulating demand for agroecology through EUD policy and investments (public procurement, support for enabling agri-food policy development, healthy food standards, etc.)	Lack of effective and alternative marketing infrastructure and connectivity for agroecology producers' organisations.
Team Europe partners and financial intermediaries to invest in co-creation, dissemination and multidisciplinary; increasing connectivity to the ground, as done already by some lead implementing partners.	The duration of projects does not give enough time for proper participatory and living labs approaches in agroecology and implementation are not sufficient. EU log frame rationale may not always be conducive or responsive to local dynamics and ownership.
Adding an additional layer for reach out and dissemination of project results. Field visits of agroecology projects by EUD would be beneficial to both donors (get a better understanding of local actors' constraints) and recipients (recognition of their work).	Lack of localisation and ownership becomes a barrier to effective implementation of EU/D finance. This is an issue for discussion on the role of CSO platforms and umbrella organisations in-country.
EUDs to increase coherence in reporting and accountability towards Brussels headquarters and towards internal hierarchies to increase synergies, moving from donor or project driven to food systems approach.	Lead implementing partners face inconsistencies between headquarters and EUDs when it comes to reporting and narrative on agroecology.

Agroecology and value chain integration

How and to what extent can compatibility of agroecology be ensured with the increased focus on value chain approach by INTPA under the Global Gateway strategy? How and to which extent are power imbalances in global markets, with the EU as a standard setter and African countries as standard takers, considered?

An agricultural value chain is an integrated range of goods and services necessary for an agricultural product to move from the producer to the final consumer. This involves at least partly a food systems approach, looking at how to re-establish a more direct connection between those who grow food and those who consume food. For example, developing short food chains or community-supported agriculture, or a re-localisation of food systems and markets within the same territories (see Gliessman level 4). However, a value chain approach may also focus on sustainable intensification of one single cash crop for export to international markets.

The integration of agroecological principles into a value chain approach requires assessing not just the economic performance but also ecological integrity, social equity, and systemic resilience along the value chain. This requires supporting farmer-led, diversified systems embedded in territorial markets, not export-oriented chains (IPES-Food, 2021). Value chains must be restructured to redistribute power, strengthening producer cooperatives, women's leadership, and participatory governance (IPES-Food, 2021). Agroecological value chains promote co-creation of knowledge and inclusive innovation, using tools like Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS) instead of corporate certification (IFOAM, 2023). Public policies and donor investments should be aligned to enable localized processing, equitable market access, and socially embedded food systems (Agroecology Coalition, 2023).

Formulating an agroecological value chain

When formulating future agroecological value chains it is imperative to establish **redlines** or non-negotiable principles to preserve the dilution of agroecology into conventional, input-intensive value chain models. The following key redlines, aligned with the 13 agroecological principles consolidated by the High Level Panel of Experts (HLPE) in 2019, could guide the development of agroecological value chains:

- **Avoidance of High External Input Dependency** which emphasizes minimizing external inputs and maximizing the reuse of local resources to enhance sustainability.
- **Protection of Farmer Seed Systems and Genetic Resources** to support the principle of **Biodiversity**, aiming to maintain and enhance genetic diversity within agroecosystems.
- **Mandating Equity and Inclusion** to ensure fair participation of smallholders, women, youth, and Indigenous groups in decision-making processes, markets, and resource allocation (principles of **Fairness** and **Participation**).
- **Regulation to Prevent Corporate Concentration** to prevent monopolistic control in processing, distribution, and retail sectors that could undermine local markets and farmer autonomy (principle of **Economic Diversification**).

- **Recognition of Diverse Knowledge Systems** to value and protect local and Indigenous knowledge.
- **Comprehensive Environmental Safeguards** beyond focusing solely on carbon metrics, agroecological value chains should incorporate criteria for biodiversity, soil health, and water governance (supports the principles **Soil Health** and **Biodiversity**).
- **Support for Localized Food Systems** to promote territorial markets and public procurement mechanisms that favour agroecological producers, rather than prioritizing export-oriented or corporate food chains. This reflects the principle of **Connectivity**, aiming to strengthen the links between producers and consumers within local economies.
- **Institutionalization of Participatory Governance** to establish participatory structures in value chain governance, ensuring accountability and transparency from production to consumption (principle of **Participation**).

Main findings of EU study on agroecology and responsible value chains

The document "VCA4D Conference, Knowledge Brief No 3 - Agroecology" explores the relationship between agroecology (AE), responsible value chains (VCs), and the transformation of agricultural and food systems. Drawing on transversal analyses from seven case studies across Africa, Latin America, and the Pacific, the study evaluates the degree of alignment between value chains and the 13 agroecological principles defined by the High-Level Panel of Experts (HLPE). The analysis reveals that while alignment with production-related principles, such as recycling, input reduction, and biodiversity, is relatively strong in certified and organic sub-chains, alignment with principles related to equity and social responsibility remains weak, even in certified systems.

The relationship between markets and agroecology is complex. Certification schemes like Organic and Fair Trade facilitate some improvements in production practices but often fail to address deeper issues related to fairness, land governance, and participation. Alternative mechanisms such as Participatory Guarantee Systems offer potential pathways but face significant challenges in scaling up and ensuring access for low-income consumers. Moreover, the report highlights that agroecological transitions are influenced not only by technical practices but also by broader factors including policies, governance structures, local social organisation, and participatory research processes.

The brief emphasises that supporting agroecological transitions requires more than promoting environmental certification; it demands confronting and transforming the structural inequalities embedded in existing agricultural markets and governance systems. Policymakers are encouraged to promote multi-stakeholder dialogue, embrace a plurality of agroecological pathways, and move beyond market-based solutions to achieve deeper transformations toward equity, resilience, and sustainability in food systems.

What role can EUDs play in facilitating agroecology and value chains approaches

EUDs play a pivotal role in trade facilitation by representing EU interests, coordinating with member states, and implementing development cooperation programs in host countries. They

facilitate dialogue, coordinate technical assistance, and monitor the implementation of trade agreements and related development programs on the ground. EUDs provide critical insights to Brussels on local economic, social, and political contexts, influencing policy design and decision-making. Their potential to shape Brussels' agenda lies in their direct engagement with local stakeholders, governments, and civil society, enabling them to advocate for context-sensitive policies and programs. However, their influence towards Brussels can vary depending on the strength of local EUD leadership, available expertise, internal coherence, and the strategic importance of the host country to EU priorities.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

EU finance for agriculture even if not labelled agroecology may have an important impact on the policy environment for agroecological transformation. Taking a broader view of EU interventions in one of the five pilot countries, for example on water, infrastructure, institution building, human rights and democracy, civil society and participation, gender equity, or climate adaptation and forestry, SMEs and youth empowerment, all together may be key elements to advance the agroecology agenda.

Comparing agroecology to other nature-based solutions or regenerative agriculture shows that social equity and the plurality of knowledge are key to its transformative potential. (IPES 2022, Mirrors, figure 5). Importantly, the EU as a donor scores well in areas concerned with social equity and participation, gender equality, youth empowerment, participation and support to civil society and farmer organisation. Infrastructure for territorial and local marketing will not qualify for agroecology finance, even though it is a condition for an enabling policy environment. Human development will not qualify for agroecology either, even though labour intensity and household-based informal labour are key features in agroecology systems. All this should be maintained.

Foreign Direct Investment in Agricultural Corridors and Export Processing Zones (2019 Africa FDI: 52 billion USD) provide infrastructure such as transport, electricity, communication and IT facilities, storage and processing plants, and market access. It will be key to ensure that these investments are supportive also of local and territorial markets and are inclusive to small-scale farmers. They further risk competing or sidelining public procurement and sourcing from small scale agroecology producers.

Localisation and local civil society engagement

The 2030 Agenda calls for civil society engagement in localisation, implementation and monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals. To support the work of the DAC, the OECD Development Cooperation Directorate gathered evidence on how to better enable civil society in this regard. The 2021 OECD-DAC Recommendation on Enabling Civil Society in Development Cooperation ([OECD/LEGAL/5021](#)) refers to three pillars of how development cooperation and humanitarian assistance providers should enable civil society: 1) by respecting, protecting and promoting civic space; 2) by supporting and engaging with civil society; and 3) by incentivising civil society organisations' effectiveness, transparency and accountability. Efforts to foster local leadership in development cooperation have been made by different movements, the 'shifting the power' or 'decolonising aid' movement, working to address existing power dynamics, norms and bias, requiring a commitment to the redistribution of power and (financial) resources.

Localisation should be promoted not just because it is more efficient or cost-effective, but because it can advance the realization of the human right to self-determination, the right to adequate food, and cultural rights - including the ways in which people connect and work on their land and

produce their food. Local leadership is also about food sovereignty and the right of people to define their own food and their own agricultural systems.

The role of the European Delegations

Even for international actors, who act as lead implementers of EU funding, it can be challenging when faced with inconsistencies between EUDs and headquarters management lines, or lack of awareness of some agroecology interventions. To improve coherence, line management by EUD staff towards headquarters and towards senior EUD management could be improved, thereby increasing accountability and transparency of EUDs finance towards civil society and local stakeholders.

EUD could take more responsibility and work with local evaluators to do qualitative assessments of agroecology projects and research programmes. They could also feed insights into their own programming or back to headquarters. The INTPA Agroecology Focus Group may be a good place to do so.

Following an [euractiv news article](#) on 17/01/2025, and the Politico news agency access to an internal European External Action Service document from September 2024 on the restructuring of EU missions abroad, the news of some drastic reduction in EU Delegation staffing in the field was circulating. The response to MEP Assita Kanko's written parliamentary question (P-002951/24), received on 5/03/2025 from the EU High Representative Kallas, states that, in principle, no EUD would close, while efforts will be made to further improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the European External Action Service in the current complex geopolitical context. Hence, the EU Delegations in the country will remain but will lose staffing and budgeting power, focussing instead on policy dialogue related to international partnership and cooperation.

Relating findings to CIDSE's 2020 study

The CIDSE (2020) study examined EU disbursements to the Rome-based agencies - FAO, IFAD, and WFP - during the period from 2016 to 2018. The study found that only 2.7% of EU disbursements supported projects that represented initial steps towards agroecology, specifically through initiatives focused on substituting harmful inputs. According to the study's assessment using Gliessman's transformative levels (levels 4 and 5), none of the projects qualified as transformative. Conversely, approximately 79.8% of the EU funding channelled through FAO, IFAD, and WFP supported conventional agriculture or efficiency-oriented approaches, such as sustainable intensification. The methodology applied was scientifically rigorous, employing strict criteria for data categorization and selection. Doing so, the study emphasized that the dataset reviewed constituted only a portion of the total EU Official Development Assistance (ODA).

The CIDSE dataset included an analysis of 139 projects corresponding to a total budget of USD 343.3 million. An initial broader identification of 367 projects, with a combined budget of USD 1.26 billion, was ultimately excluded from the final dataset. EU bilateral aid in the agriculture, forestry, and fisheries sectors from 2016 to 2018 amounted to USD 3.7 billion, nearly tenfold the budget

analysed in the study. Other, for example, rural development sectors that potentially include agroecological initiatives were not covered. The CIDSE 2020 report highlighted that the results of their analysis of EU finance flows via FAO, IFAD, and WFP "should not be taken to be easily extrapolated to the entire EU approach and funding to agroecology."

In contrast, the projects selected in the country profiles for this study consider a broader range of data, accepting all projects labelled as agroecology by INTPA, Team Europe, or multilateral institutions. Consequently, the findings of this current study are not directly comparable to those presented in the CIDSE report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

EU policies

- The lack of a clear and consistent policy framework for agroecology risks undermining support to agroecology in EU programming. To be coherent, the EU should develop its own specific agroecology policy or binding programming guidelines. The forthcoming publication by DG INTPA of an Operational Guide on Agroecology (expected in May 2025) may be a key milestone, affirming policy commitments and guidance from the EU headquarters. Heads of EUD should join this effort to ensure consistency and increase synergies with bilateral and global programmes.
- More transparency on EU funding flows for agroecology and other forms of agriculture is needed. A comprehensive assessment of the agroecology portfolio would best be conducted and published by the EU and donors themselves, responding to requests on transparency and accountability. This would also serve as a basis for parliamentary scrutiny or independent external reviews.

Innovative financing for CSO umbrella organisations and platforms

- Future EU programming could open spaces for civil society organisations and platforms to contribute to outreach, uptake, and mobilisation - making sure agroecology research and innovations are reflecting community needs and realities from the ground.
- Future EU funding for agriculture should acknowledge the contribution of agroecology to resilience, as emphasised in the revised EU Global Gateway. This may have implications on how CSOs frame agroecology.
- Earmarked funds could be dedicated to local actors with a proven record of mobilising domestic constituencies to conduct outreach to local farming communities on agroecology.

Engaging financial intermediaries

- Increased accountability is necessary for EU/D financing within recipient countries, particularly regarding the contracting of financial intermediaries and the centralisation of links to their call for proposals.
- Conditionality in EU/D contracts should ensure greater participation of civil society organisations and farmer organisations in program design and implementation.
- Regional EU/D implementation hubs should invite CSO intermediaries to become eligible as regional intermediaries, drawing lessons from the KCOA knowledge hubs.

- Farmer organisations are key stakeholders and potential implementers of agroecology, and intermediaries should engage with structures for farmer participation based on principles of fairness and resource governance.

Transformative agroecology

- The integration of agroecology principles into agricultural value chains is increasingly happening and should prioritise local, national, and regional territorial markets, include key safeguards and adopt a participatory approach to define what constitutes an agroecological value chain. Ongoing work on territorial markets and on agroecological entrepreneurship should inform this integration.⁹
- A single focus on innovation may become a barrier to transformative change. It may reinforce a kind of 'agroecology-delivery-mode' that risks undermining participatory approaches, and of ignoring or competing with indigenous knowledge.
- Team Europe partners and financial intermediaries should invest more in co-creation, dissemination, and multidisciplinary, increasing connectivity to the ground. Often, the duration of projects does not allow enough time for proper participation, and relying solely on living lab approaches in agroecology and implementation is not sufficient. The EU log frame rationale may not always be conducive or responsive to local dynamics and ownership. Designing specific indicators on ownership in programmes could change monitoring and evaluation outcomes.
- EUDs should increase the coherence in reporting and accountability towards Brussels headquarters and towards internal hierarchies to increase synergies, moving from a donor or project driven to a food systems approach.

Frame value chain programming to centre agroecological principles, prioritising territorial markets, localised food systems and participatory governance

- The EU and EUDs should explicitly embed agroecological redlines into value chain programme design to prevent dilution into conventional models. This includes avoiding dependence on high external inputs, mandating support for farmer-managed seed systems, and ensuring ecological integrity is assessed beyond carbon metrics - addressing biodiversity, soil health, and water governance. Applying these safeguards will ensure that value chain initiatives under the Global Gateway Strategy support systemic transformation.
- EUDs should promote public procurement policies and funding instruments that favour short value chains, territorial markets, and agroecological enterprises. Supporting

⁹ See 2022-2024 programme launched by Biovision on investing in the Agroecology Business Case (iABC) at <https://www.biovision.ch/infopool/agroecological-business-case/>

Participatory Guarantee Systems and local certification mechanisms over corporate certification can increase equity and accessibility for smallholders and low-income consumers. Value chains should be designed to support diverse, decentralised production systems that link local producers directly with local consumers, enhancing food sovereignty and reducing dependence on export-oriented models.

- The EU and EUDs must facilitate the redistribution of power within value chains by strengthening producer organisations, fostering inclusive governance structures, and supporting women's and indigenous leadership. EUDs should institutionalise participatory governance mechanisms that give civil society organisations, farmers, and community-based organisations a voice in shaping value chain design, implementation, and monitoring.

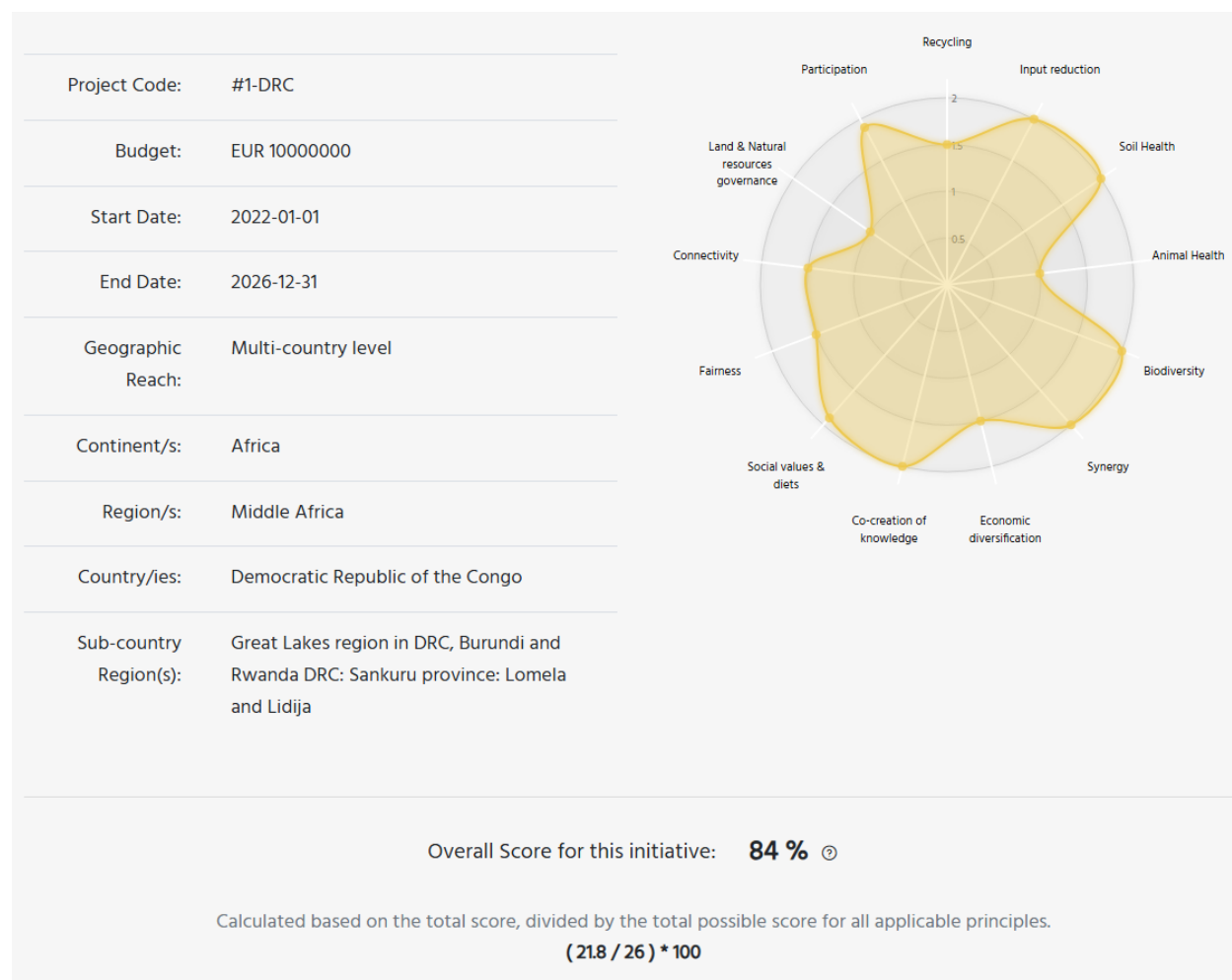
ANNEXES

Annexe 1: Assessment of two EU-funded agroecology projects using the Agroecology Finance Assessment tool

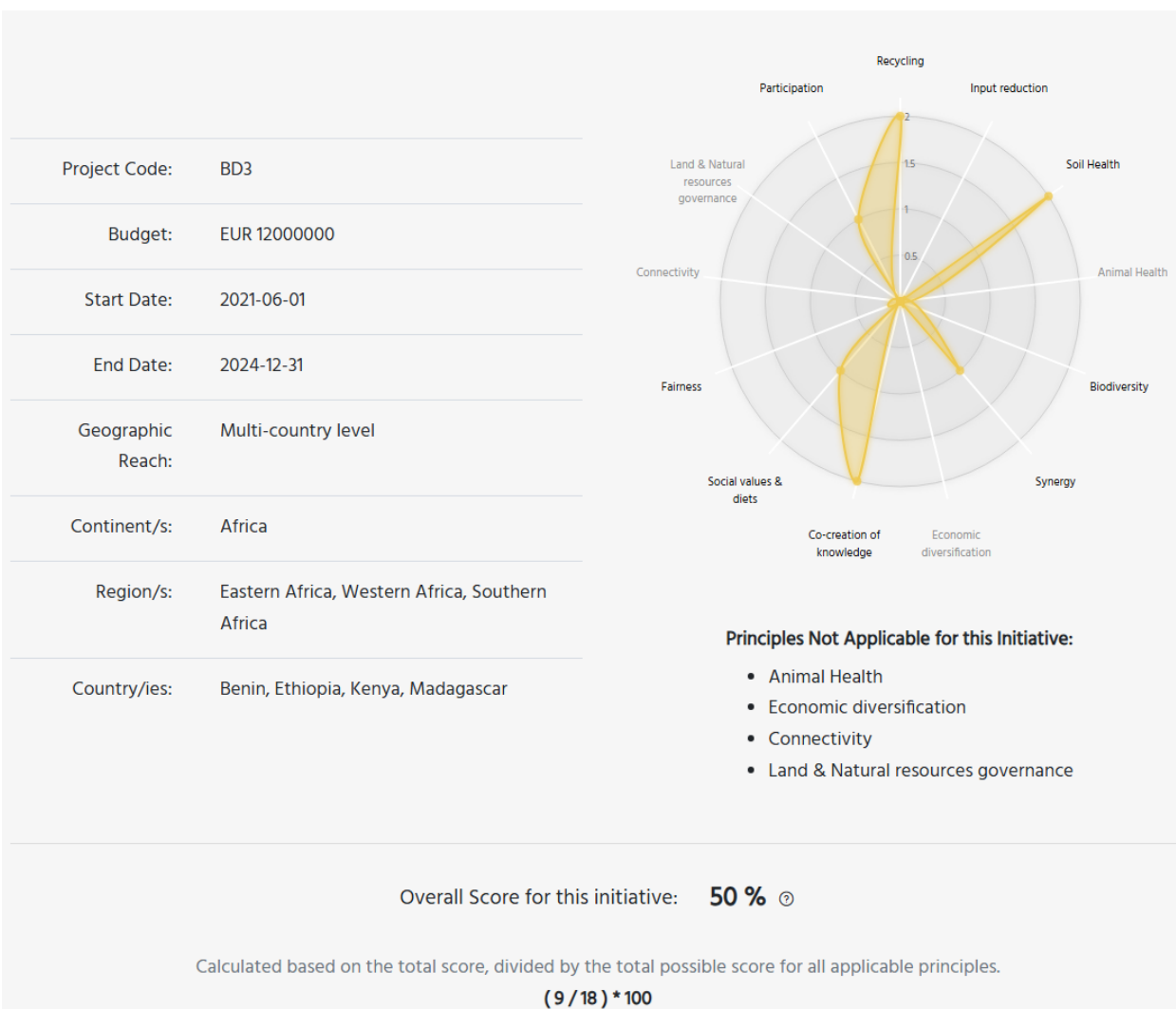
Project initiative summary used for agroecology assessment tool:

- DeSIRA Save Vegetables, Burkina Faso
- DeSIRA + Agroecological Transition towards Sustainable Agriculture, Burkina Faso
- DeSIRA Robusta Coffee Agroforestry, Uganda
- DeSIRA + Agroecological Innovations in Central Africa
- DeSIRA ProSilience : Enhancing Soils and Agroecology for resilient Agri-Food Systems in SSA, Kenya+

Desira+ Agroecological Innovations in Central Africa



Prosilience: Enhancing Soils and Agroecology for Resilient Agri-Food Systems In SSA



Annexe 2: Highlights of AE-related policy instruments and implementation mechanisms in the target countries

Senegal

The Senegal Emerging Plan (PSE)

The year 2019 marked a significant political turning point with the integration of agroecology into the Plan Sénégal Émergent (PSE) Vert. This plan illustrates the government's commitment to tackling issues such as land degradation, water scarcity and deforestation. To give concrete expression to this commitment, the government has also granted subsidies for organic fertilizers and, at the instigation of ECOWAS, created a focal point for agroecology within the Ministry of Agriculture. The 'Dynamique pour la Transition Agroécologique au Sénégal (DyTAES)' played an essential role in the integration of agroecology into the political agenda.

The Senegal Emerging Plan (PSE) is the key document for the Senegalese government's economic, social and environmental development policy. As its name suggests, it aims to create the conditions for Senegal's development by 2035.

The PSE is implemented through a five-year Priority Action Plan (PAP) based on strategic axes and objectives, as well as expected outcomes. The PAP is implemented through development projects, programs and reforms over a five-year period, which are then rolled out as part of a three-year public investment program.

Two PAPs were implemented during the 2014-2023 period:

- PAP 1 (2014-2018), which generated an average growth of 6.6% over the period.
- PAP 2 (2019-2023) was reorganised in 2020 as PAP2A to adapt to the new realities due to Covid-19.

The third Priority Action Plan (PAP 3) covers the next 5 years (2024-2028) and marks the entry of the PSE into its second decade of implementation. It aims to drive inclusive and sustainable growth to transform Senegal by accelerating industrialisation and promoting a resilient and competitive economy. In line with the Senegalese government's ambition to be auto-sufficient, agriculture in general and horticulture in particular feature prominently among the themes addressed by PAP 3.

The general objective of PAP 3 up to 2028

In operational terms, PAP 3 is structured around a set of twenty-four (24) growth sectors, grouped around nine (9) key areas, including Food Sovereignty. Strengthening food sovereignty is one of

the strategic objectives set out in Axis 1 of the PSE, entitled "Structural transformation of the economy and growth". Hence, the adoption in 2024 of Senegal's Food Sovereignty Strategy (SAS) aims to ensure sustainable food and nutritional security for the population, develop greater resilience in the face of various hazards, and drive economic and social development by 2035.

Senegal's food sovereignty strategy

The context marked by the succession of crises resulting from COVID-19 and the war in Ukraine has demonstrated the urgency of implementing the agricultural self-sufficiency policy subsequently by the Senegalese government. Indeed, the question of dependence on the outside world has become highly acute, highlighting the need to strengthen food systems as quickly as possible by increasing production. In addition to defining policies for the primary sectors of agriculture, fisheries and livestock, Senegal's Food Sovereignty Strategy (SAS) sets out several strategic orientations, as follows:

- Increase the availability of food in sufficient quantity and quality in the long term (SO1)
- Promote the physical and economic accessibility of a diversified and nutritious diet to the population (SO2)
- Strengthening funding, Research & Development and advisory services (SO3)
- Strengthening the institutional framework (SO4)

A series of priority programs have been established to help achieve the objectives set by the SAS. These are as follows:

- Promoting the availability of a varied and nutritious diet at an affordable price.
- Promoting "local consumption" and supporting the marketing of local products.
- Increasing Research & Development funding and services.
- Improving agricultural mechanisation.
- Strengthening and optimising agricultural facilities.
- Connecting commercial ports, marinas, fishing ports and logistics zones.
- Strengthening national market regulations.

Implementation of PAP 3 in the agricultural sector

Agriculture accounts for almost 6% of the total PAP 3 budget, which will include the following projects:

- A 25, 400 ha development fertile land project.
- An agricultural mechanisation project.
- Project to reconstitute horticultural seed capital.
- Project to exploit water for the development of value chains.
- Project to develop integrated farms using renewable energies and to develop horticultural sectors.

However, the implementation of these projects requires reforms that have been identified in the National Strategy for Food Sovereignty. These include in-depth reform of the method of

subsidising agricultural inputs, setting up an information platform to create a secondary market, introducing a seed control and certification system, and enhancing access to land.

Burkina-Faso

Burkina Faso has implemented several agricultural and environmental policies to promote agroecological practices, aiming to achieve sustainable agriculture, enhance food security, and improve resilience to climate change. Key policies and initiatives include:

- **National Strategy for Agroecology (SND-AE):** Developed with the involvement of the Confederation Paysanne du Faso, this strategy provides a framework for promoting agroecological practices nationwide.
- **National Law on Organic Agriculture:** The development of this law aims to create an enabling framework for the growth of the organic agriculture sector. It includes support measures for producers, such as access to markets and certification processes, facilitating adoption of agroecological practices.
- **Innovative Platform for Resilient Agriculture:** Burkina Faso has launched a platform that brings together scientists and policymakers to collaborate against the threats of climate change on agriculture. This initiative aims to enhance food security and promote sustainable development by adopting agroecological practices.
- **Inter-Ministerial Coordination Platform:** Burkina Faso has established an inter-ministerial coordination platform to facilitate the effective implementation of agroecological policies. This platform enables collaboration among various government ministries and agencies, ensuring that agroecological initiatives are integrated across sectors.

The National Strategy for Agroecology (SND-AE)

The strategy's vision is formulated as follows: *"By 2027, agroecology will be the driving force for sustainable, competitive agro-sylvo-pastoral, fisheries and wildlife production that respects the environment, consumer health and cultural values, and is resilient to climate change".*

The overall objective of the SND-AE is to sustainably increase productivity and agro-sylvo-pastoral, fisheries and wildlife production through agro-ecological intensification. It will be implemented according to the following guiding principles: anticipation, results-based management (RBM), good governance, subsidiarity, and attention to gender and equity. This strategy must meet two major challenges: (i) the large-scale application of agroecological practices throughout the country, according to agro-climatic zones, and (ii) the strengthening of the governance of agroecology in Burkina Faso. The SND-AE is structured around three strategic axes:

Strategic axis 1: Improving the governance of agroecology. This strategic axis consists of five specific objectives:

- 1.1: Integrate agroecology into agricultural policies;
- 1.2: Develop and implement policies that support the agroecological transition;
- 1.3: Facilitate sustainable access of family farms to rural land and markets for agroecological products;
- 1.4: Support the establishment and operation of agroecological governance and coordination structures at national, regional and local levels;
- 1.5: Develop and implement a strategy to mobilise stable and sustainable financing for agroecology.

Strategic Axis 2: Scaling up agroecology in all regions of Burkina Faso. Three specific objectives are expected under this axis.

- 2.1: Develop and implement agroecology projects;
- 2.2: Integrate agroecology into regional and communal development plans;
- 2.3: Disseminate best agroecological practices throughout the country.

Strategic Priority 3: Strengthen the capacity of agroecology actors and extension agents. This strategic priority has four specific objectives.

- 3.1: Integrate agroecology modules into training curricula;
- 3.2: Train extension agents to disseminate agroecological practices;
- 3.3: Train producer organisations to improve their knowledge and mastery of agroecological practices; and 3.4: Promote research and development in agroecology.

Action Plan for the National Agroecology Development Strategy

They consist of a clear political commitment to agroecology, support for agroecology players, support for research and development in the field of agroecology, empowerment of women and young people, search for sustainable financing, inclusion of agroecology in the resources transferred by the State to local authorities; - organisation of markets for agricultural products.

Kenya

Kenya has implemented several agricultural and environmental policies to promote agroecological practices, aiming to achieve sustainable agriculture, enhance food security, and improve resilience to climate change. Key policies and initiatives include:

Kenya National Agroecology Strategy for Food Systems Transformation (2024–2033)

The National Agroecology Strategy for Food System Transformation 2024–2033 by Kenya's Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development establishes a framework for transitioning the country's agri-food systems toward sustainability, resilience, and inclusivity. Recognising the vital role of agriculture, which contributes significantly to GDP, export earnings, and rural livelihoods, the strategy addresses challenges such as food insecurity, malnutrition, climate change, and biodiversity loss. It emphasises agroecology as a holistic approach to enhance productivity while maintaining ecological health, supporting livelihoods, and promoting social equity. The strategy

outlines five key challenges: unsustainable production systems, malnutrition, weak policy frameworks, limited integration of agroecology in education and practice, and social inequalities affecting vulnerable groups. To address these, it proposes fostering sustainable agriculture, promoting healthy diets, enabling supportive policies, enhancing research and innovation, and ensuring social inclusion. Implementation will involve collaboration between government, counties, private sectors, and communities, with coordination led by the Intersectoral Forum on Agrobiodiversity and Agroecology. The strategy also emphasises participatory governance and the empowerment of marginalised groups, particularly women, youth, and indigenous communities. ([FAO LEX Database](#))

Several counties of Kenya have developed and continue to develop municipality (county) level policies for agroecology.

- **Murang'a County Agroecology Policy (2022–2032):** This county-level policy promotes adopting sustainable and climate-smart farming practices such as crop diversification, organic farming, and soil conservation to enhance food security and environmental sustainability. [Muranga County](#)
- **Vihiga County Agroecology Policy (2024):** Like Murang'a's policy, Vihiga County has developed its own agroecology policy to promote sustainable farming practices tailored to local needs. [Vihiga County](#)

Uganda

The Agroecology Promotion Initiative, supported by non-governmental organisations and international partners, aims to promote agroecology through pilot projects, training, and awareness campaigns. It works closely with the Ugandan government to integrate agroecology into national agricultural policies. (FAO and local NGOs (2020). Agroecology Promotion Initiative in Uganda). The initiative focuses on several core areas to achieve its objectives:

Capacity Building and Training

- Farmers are trained in agroecological practices such as crop rotation, intercropping, agroforestry, and organic farming.
- Extension services are strengthened to provide ongoing support and knowledge sharing.

Research and Innovation

- Local research institutions collaborate with international organisations to develop and adapt agroecological technologies.
- Emphasis is placed on indigenous knowledge and traditional farming practices.

Policy Advocacy

- The initiative works to influence national and local policies to support agroecology.
- This includes advocating for incentives for organic farming, land rights, and access to markets for agroecological products.

Community Engagement

- Farmer cooperatives and community-based organisations play a central role in implementing agroecological practices.
- Participatory approaches ensure that farmers are actively involved in decision-making processes.

Market Development

- Efforts are made to create market linkages for agroecological products, ensuring farmers receive fair prices.
- Certification programs for organic and agroecological products are promoted.

DRC

Sustainable Management of Agriculture and Livestock Program (PGDA)

Supported by the Central African Forest Initiative (CAFI), the PGDA focuses on integrating forest conservation into agricultural policy. Objectives encompass formulating laws that support sustainable practices, enhancing capacities at various governance levels, and promoting savannah-based agriculture to reduce deforestation.

(https://www.cafi.org/countries/democratic-republic-congo/sustainable-agriculture-policy?utm_source=chatgpt.com)

Agroecology Advocacy and Support

The Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA) has advocated for agroecological practices in the DRC. In August 2023, AFSA organised a forum in Kinshasa titled "Reconciling food production with biodiversity conservation and climate emergency in the Congo Basin." The event gathered over 200 decision-makers, donors, civil society members, and Indigenous representatives to discuss reorienting food production systems and agricultural policy towards agroecology.

Collaborative Initiatives

The Agroecology Fund, with support from organisations like the Arcus Foundation and the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, backs a collaborative initiative in the Congo Basin. This effort focuses on grassroots-led agroecology and rights-based, locally-led conservation. In the DRC, the Congo Basin Conservation Society (CBCS) network leads projects that include agroecological training by the Association des Agriculteurs Sans Frontières (AASF) Bukavu, policy advocacy by the Société Civile Environnementale et Agro Rurale du Congo (SOCEARUCO), and forest research by the Institut Supérieur de Développement Rural (ISDR)-Kindu.

Annexe 3: Integrating agroecology and value chain approaches

Good and bad examples of the integration agroecology and value chain approaches

Good Example: The Agricultural Development Programme (PDA) in Burkina-Faso

In Burkina Faso, the Agricultural Development Programme (PDA), launched in 2004 and implemented by GIZ, supports the development of diverse agricultural value chains—including mango, poultry, rice, cassava, and sesame—through the application of the ValueLinks methodology. ValueLinks provides a structured, participatory framework for value chain development, integrating interventions at the micro (farm-level productivity and agroecological practices), meso (cooperatives and service providers), and macro (policy and institutional environment) levels. This approach fosters economic upgrading while promoting social equity and ecological sustainability, with the goal of enhancing rural incomes, expanding the adoption of sustainable practices, and improving nutrition outcomes (GIZ, 2023).

Bad Example: Pineapple in Uganda – Export-Oriented Organic Model

Uganda's organic pineapple value chain, though marketed as “sustainable,” poorly aligns with agroecological principles. Its monoculture approach prioritizes export markets, resulting in heavy reliance on certification by external bodies and limited influence by local producers over pricing and value chain decisions. Furthermore, the model is extractive, as nutrient export compromises local soil fertility, undermining ecological sustainability and local resilience. Despite organic certification, the chain does not genuinely support circularity, farmer participation, or integration into local food systems (Bolwig & Odeke, 2007; Kwesiga et al., 2017).

Annexe 4: Overview Global Gateway mid-term review 2025-2027

<i>RMIP Component</i>	<i>Original Amount 2021-27 (million EUR)</i>	<i>MTR impact^{III} (million EUR)</i>	<i>Amount 2021-27 post MTR (million EUR)</i>	<i>% Total</i>
Priority area 1 – Human Development	880	-50	830	6.9%
Health	400	-40	360	3.0%
Education and Skills	480	-10	470	3.9%
Priority area 2 – Democratic Governance, Peace and Security, Culture	855	0	855	7.1%
Democratic Governance	130	-	130	1.1%
Peace and Security	650	-	650	5.4%
Culture	75	-	75	0.6%
Priority area 3 – Green transition	2,100	-394	1,706	14.2%
Climate mitigation and Resilience	300	58	358	3.0%
Sustainable energy	570	-400	170	1.4%
Sustainable agri-food Systems	470	-32	438	3.7%
Biodiversity and Environment	400	-	400	3.3%
Water and Oceans	360	-20	340	2.8%
Priority area 4 – Digital and Science, Technology and Innovation	1,240	-750	490	4.1%
Digital transformation	940	-700	240	2.0%
Science, Technology and Innovation	300	-50	250	2.1%
Priority area 5 – Sustainable growth and decent jobs	1,830	-729	1,101	9.2%
Regional economic integration, Trade and Trade facilitation	630	25	655	5.5%
Transport connectivity	1,000	-796	204	1.7%
Sustainable finance, Investment climate and Private sector development	200	42	242	2.0%
Priority area 6 – Migration and forced displacement	1,600	260	1,860	15.5%
Migration	500	250	750	6.3%
Forced displacement	500	10	510	4.3%
Flexible funding mechanism	600	0	600	5.0%
Support to Investments	1,450	3,233	4,683	39%
Actions in countries in complex settings	-	238	238	2%
Support Measures	287	-50	237	2%
Capacity building and institutional support	170	-50	120	1.0%
Technical Cooperation Facility including Strategic Communication and Public Diplomacy	75	-	75	0.6%
Contribution to OACPS Framework	42	-	42	0.4%
TOTAL	10,242	1,758	12,000	100%

^{III} The renamed 'Support to investments' envelope is resourced with funds for provisioning for guarantees and from reallocations of funds from priority areas of health; education and skills; energy; agri-food systems; water basin management; digital transformation and connectivity; and strategic economic corridors. These funds will address the same priority areas. 'Priority area 6 Migration and forced displacement' was increased through a reallocation of funds from 'Priority area 4 Digital and Science, Technology and Innovation' and 'Support measures'.

Annexe 5: Country profile tables on EU/D finance on Agroecology

Senegal

Senegal country profile, March 2025

SENEGAL Agroecology (2019-2028)	Donor/ Partners	Period/ Budget
# DeSIRA+ in Africa Agroecology Transition to sustainable food systems: Component-1: Innovations at Scale for Agroecology in SSA Multi-country: Western African component, Senegal, Burkina, etc Partner: AFD, CEDEAO: 3AO, RESCAR-AOC, Universities, committees (URC, CPR, CTS) (RESCAR-AOC, IPAAD, MOOC, Access Agriculture, AVSF-IRAM-INADES, etc).	EU AFD (EUR 10M)	2024-2028 EUR 20M
# DeSIRA+ in Africa Agroecology Transition to sustainable food systems: Component-2: RMRN-Regional Multi-actor Research Network on Agroecology Multi-country: West Africa component, Senegal, Burkina, etc Partners: Nat Agri Research Systems, Sub Regional Organisations-SRO, RUFORUM	EU	2024-2026 EUR 4.5M
# GP-SAEP: Global Programme for Small-scale Agroecology Producers and Sustainable Food Systems Transformation (GP-SAEP) Multi-country: Burkina, Senegal, DRC, Niger, Benin + 5 countries in Latin America Partner: IFAD, Enabel. Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services, Bioversity, SDC	INTPA BE-DGD (UN-FSS-AEC)	2023-2026 EUR 23.2M
# DeSIRA: FAIR Sahel: Fostering an Agroecological Intensification to improve farmers' resilience in Sahel: DyTAES - Dynamique pour une Transition AE au Sénégal Multi-country: Senegal, Burkina, Mali Partners: CIRAD, ActionAid, Caritas, HEKS, SOS Faim, Agile Consulting	INTPA	2020-2023 EUR 7M
# DeSIRA: CaSSECs - Carbon sequestration, ecosystems and sylvo pastorals, in cooperation with CILSS Multi-country: Burkina, Senegal, plus, see also Great Green Wall Partners: World Vegetable Center: CILSS, CIRAD, ISRA, UCL, INRAE, FAO, Recopa	EU	2020-2023 EUR 5.55M
# DeSIRA Global: FO-RI9: Farmers Organisations Leading Research & Innovation on Agroecology for Sustainable Food Systems Multi-country: Senegal, Burkina, DRC (16 countries) Partners: AgriCord, CSA, PACO, ROPPA	EU global	2022-2026 EUR 10M
# DeSIRA ABEE: West African Breeding Networks and Extension Empowerment Multi-country: Burkina, Senegal, Niger Partner: CORAF, CIRAD, AfricaRice/IBP, INERA	EU	2019-2024 EUR 8.7M
# DeSIRA BIOSTAR- Bioenergy for SMEs in West Africa Multi-country: Senegal, Burkina Partner: CIRAD + UCL, Uni Hohenheim, ISRA, IRSAT-CNRST, Nitidae Ong, Uni Roma Tre, 2IE Foundation, Gaston Berger University	EU AFD	2020-2024 EUR 9.4M EUR 2M
# DeSIRA TAP AIS – Tropical Agriculture Platform / Agricultural Innovation System Multi-country: Burkina, Senegal, Eritrea, Malawi, Rwanda, plus 4 Partner: FAO-TAP	EU	2019-2024 EUR 5M
# DeSIRA SYRIMAO – Innovative Regional Control System of Fruit Flies in WA Multi-country: ECOWAS 15 Partner: ARAA: CIRAD, ICIPE, Royal Museum for Central Africa, IITA, CORAF	EU AFD	2020-2024 EUR 11.4M
# DeSIRA: Health & Territories: Health as a development leverage in the frame of agroecological transition Multi-country: Senegal, Benin, Laos, Cambodia. Partner: CIRAD	EUD	2021-2026 EUR 4M

# DeSIRA LIFT: Organic and Biofertilisers (OFBF) Multi-country: Kenya, Senegal, Uganda etc. Partner: Agrinatura, CIRAD, ISA, NRI, SLU, WUR, EFARD networks-COLEAD	INTPA	2021-2025
# FO4ACP – Farmer Organisations for Africa, Caribbean and Pacific Multi-country: DRC, Senegal, Burkina, Kenya, Uganda Partner: IFAD, AgriCord (EAFF, PAFO, PROPAC, ROPA, SACAU), DRC FO: CONAPAC, COOINDELO, COOPEBAS, COCAMA	EU (ACP)	2019-2025 EUR 10,7M
# RIPOSTES Project - Green Wall Initiative (ASERGMV) Agroforestry, sylvo-pastoral, Kaydara agroecological farm school Partner: FAO, GEF	EU 82% FAO/GEF	2021-2025 EUR 6M
# KCAO-Knowledge Centre for Organic Agriculture and Agroecology in Africa Agrecole Afrique - developing a Participatory Guarantee System for Bio Senegal Partner: IFOAM bio	BMZ	2019-2022
# Review of 2015-2025 AU EOA-Initiative Strategy for recommendations 2025-2035 Multi-country: Senegal, Kenya, Uganda Partner: Agile Consulting	INTPA	2024
# Value Chain Development and Market Systems for EOA-Initiative Multi-country: Senegal, Kenya, Uganda Partner: Biovision Africa Trust.	Biovision Africa Trust	2023
# Baseline Study of the Ecological Organic Agriculture Initiative in Africa Multi-country: Senegal, Kenya, Uganda Partner: Biovision Africa Trust	Biovision Africa Trust	2019
Others (agroecology components)		
# Evergreen Agriculture Partnership: Farmer-Managed Natural Regeneration Multi-country: 17 countries incl. Senegal, Burkina Faso, Niger and Mali Partner: ICRAF, World Vision, GIZ, FAO	BMZ, IrishAid Flanders, gef, FAO, NEPAD..	2013-2017 EUR 800,000
# Greening Africa Together: Climate partnerships and CO2 compensation Multi-country: incl. Senegal, Burkina Faso, Kenya, Uganda, DRC Partner: African and European universities, local African NGOs	GIZ	
Sustainable Agriculture, Sustainable Food Systems (MIP 2021-2027)		
Multi-annual Indicative Programme: 2021-2024 Priority 1: Sustainable agricultural value chains and food and nutrition security: Pesticide and fertiliser use reduction, organic agriculture, biodiversity, livestock and pasturals, smart agriculture, marketing, agropoles centre, agroecology, sustainable use of land, Great Green Wall, improved farm income. Use of EFSD+. Use of AgriFI under EDFI and Global Green Bonds Initiative. Support to agri-business, SB4A. G20 Compact.	EUD	2021-2024
MIP-Agripole: Agricultural growth hubs EUD support to Agripole Centre on sustainability challenges (smaller amount)	EUD, Enable, IT, EIB, AfDB	
# EDFI AgriFI: Agricultural Financing Initiative: support to Kossam, subsidiary of Senegalese dairy producer La Laiterie du Berger.	EDFI	2021-2025 EUR 600 000

Senegal country profile, March 2025

Annual Action Plan 2023: Annexe 2: Economic growth: PAPSEN- Projet d'Appui à la Sécurité Alimentaire au Sénégal, PAIS-Programme Agricole Italie Sénégal, etc., develop synergies and complementarities.		
2024 Amended Regional Sub-Saharan African MIP: (no amendments for Senegal) Territorial integrated approach. Green transition, climate mitigation and resilience; sustainable agri-food systems, biodiversity and environment, water and oceans.		3.7% of total Regional MIP
Global Gateway: NDCIC Global Europe: flagships: Agriculture and environment: Food security and sovereignty, agro-industry, agroecological transition. Transforming strategic value chains e.g. peanuts, cereals, onions and bananas for local consumption and export. Credit for small agriculture enterprises and cooperatives.	Team Europe	2020-2027 EUR 66.5M
Global Gateway: Great Green Wall Multi-country: Burkina, Senegal (11 countries, incl Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria). Funded under EU-Africa Global Gateway Investment Package with commitments to three Rio conventions, promoting external dimension of the European Green Deal.	EU	2021–2025 EUR 17.7BN
Investment Flagship Global Gateway: Land Degradation Neutrality Target: Restoring forest, grasslands, rangelands, cultivated land; wetland, marginal land. Partners: GIZ, DANIDA, and many others (Includes EU project # RISPOSTES with EUR 4.9M, # AMCC+ on land restoration and climate change with EUR 5M, # CaSSECs on carbon sequestration and sylvo-pastorals)	EU EIB AFD AfDB, GCF, WB WFP, GEF, IFAD	USD 11.2M USD 312M USD 33.1M
Research budget		
Joint Research Centre, GFAIR Global Forum on Agricultural Research and Innovation: Economic Performance and Climate Change Mitigation Potential of Agroecology.	EU	2016 EUR 4.9M
EU Agroecology Partnership funded by Horizon Europe (Research programme)	EU	2024-2030 EUR 300M
Foreign Direct Investment (blending)		
Senegal: Diamniadio Integrated Industrial Park (P2ID), Public Private Partnership		

Burkina-Faso

Burkina Faso country profile, March 2025

Burkina Faso Agroecology (2019-2028)	Donor/ Partners	Period/ Budget
# DeSIRA+ in Africa Agroecology Transition to sustainable food systems: Component-1: Innovations at Scale for Agroecology in SSA Multi-country: Western African component, Burkina, Senegal Partner: AFD, CEDEAO: 3AO, RESCAR-AOC, Universities, committees (URC, CPR, CTS) (RESCAR-AOC, IPAAD, MOOC, Access Agriculture, AVSF-IRAM-INADES, etc).	EU AFD (EUR 10M)	2024-2028 EUR 20M
# DeSIRA+ in Africa Agroecology Transition to sustainable food systems: Component-2: RMRN-Regional Multi-actor Research Network in Agroecology Multi-country: West-Africa component, Burkina, Senegal, etc. Partners: Nat Agri Research Systems, Sub Regional Organisations-SRO, RUFORUM	EU	2024-2026 EUR 4.5M
# GP-SAEP: Global Programme for Small-scale Agroecology Producers and Sustainable Food Systems Transformation (GP-SAEP) Multi-country: Burkina, Senegal, DRC, Niger, Benin + 5 countries in Latin America Partner: IFAD, Enabel, Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services, Bioversity, SDC GP-SAEP Burkina Faso: Autre Terre with consortium of 8 organisations (APIL, ARFA, Baobab, CEAS Burkina, CNABio, GIE, IRSAT/CNRST, Yolse Tuuma), (EUR 2M)	INTPA BE-DGD (UN-FSS-AEC)	2023-2026 EUR 23.2M
# DeSIRA: FAIR Sahel: Fostering an Agroecological Intensification to improve farmers' resilience in Sahel: Multi-country: Burkina, Senegal, Mali Partners: CIRAD, ActionAid, Caritas, HEKS, SOS Faim, Agile Consulting	INTPA (EUD)	2020-2023 EUR 7M
# DeSIRA: CaSSECs - Carbon sequestration, ecosystems and sylvo pastorals, in cooperation with CILSS Multi-country: Burkina, Senegal, plus, see also Great Green Wall Partners: World Vegetable Center: CILSS, CIRAD, ISRA, UCL, INRAE, FAO, Recopa	EU (EUD)	2020-2023 EUR 5.55M
# DeSIRA Global: FO-RI9- Farmers Organisations Leading Research & Innovation on Agroecology for Sustainable Food Systems Multi-country: Burkina, DRC, Senegal (16 countries) Partners: AgriCord, CSA, PACO, ROPPA	EU global	2022-2026 EUR 10M
# DeSIRA ABEE: West African Breeding Networks and Extension Empowerment Multi-country: Burkina, Senegal, Niger Partner: CORAF, CIRAD, AfricaRice/IBP, INERA	EU	2019-2024 EUR 8.7M
# DeSIRA BIOSTAR- Bioenergy for SMEs in West Africa Multi-country: Burkina, Senegal Partner: CIRAD + Ucl, Uni Hohenheim, ISRA, IRSAT-CNRST, Nitidae Ong, Uni Roma Tre, 2IE Foundation, Gaston Berger University	EU AFD	2020-2024 EUR 9.4M EUR 2M
# DeSIRA TAP AIS – Tropical Agriculture Platform/ Agricultural Innovation System Multi-country: Burkina, Senegal, Eritrea, Malawi, Rwanda, plus 4 Partner: FAO-TAP.	EU	2019-2024 EUR 5M
# DeSIRA SYRIMAO – Innovative Regional Control System of Fruit Flies in WA Multi-country: ECOWAS 15 Partner: ARAA, CIRAD, ICIPE, Royal Museum for Central Africa, IITA, CORAF	EU AFD	2020-2024 EUR 11.4M
# DeSIRA SAFEVEG: Safe locally produced vegetables for West Africa's consumers Multi-country: Burkina, Benin, Mali, potential scaling to other ECOWAS countries	EUD	2020-2025 EUR 8M

Burkina Faso country profile, March 2025

Partners: CIRAD and WUL, INERA, IER, INRAB, local NGOs	NL	EUR 3,97M
# DeSIRA: Biorisks Anticipating and managing biological risks to strengthen farmers' resilience to climate change in West and Central Africa Multi-country: Burkina Faso, DRC, West Africa, (in total 10 countries) Partner: CORAF	EU ACP	2020-2024 EUR 5M
# DeSIRA IRRINN – Intensification of agricultural production through upscaling of innovative adapted irrigation practices Partner: CIRAD, irrinn	EU	2021-2024 EUR 2.4M
# DeSIRA LIFT - SUSTLIVES, Agricultural Innovation Systems Multi-country: Burkina, Niger Partner: AICS, CIHEAM-Bari, Agrinatura-EEIG, EFARD (CIRAD, COLEAD, etc.)	INTPA EUD IT-AICS	2021-2024 EUR 6.5M
# DeSIRA AccSeSS - Accelerate innovations dynamics in the agricultural sector through the strengthening of Innovation Support Services Partner: CIRAD, FAO, CNRST, Experts Synergy Consulting, Afric'Innov, CEDRES, CNABio	EU	2021-2025 EUR 2M
# DeSIRA PRISMA -Research and Innovation Project for Productive, Resilient and Healthy Agro-Pastoral System in West Africa Multi-country: Burkina, Niger, Mali Partner: Enable, AECID, LuxDev, VSF-BE, INERA, KIR, INRA, CO2Logic, Sciensano, INSAH	EU	2022-2025 EUR 6M
# DeSIRA ProSilience: Enhancing soils and agroecology: Agroecology Leadership Acad Multi-country: Burkina added to Kenya, Benin, Ethiopia, Madagascar, Tunisia Partner: GIZ, TPP	EU BMZ	(2021)-2024 (EUR 8M)
# FO4ACP – Farmer Organisations for Africa, Caribbean and Pacific Multi-country: DRC, Senegal, Burkina, Kenya, Uganda Partner: IFAD, AgriCord (EAFF, PAFO, PROPAC, ROPA, SACAUI), DRC FO: CONAPAC, COOINDELO, COOPEBAS, COCAMA	EU (ACP)	2019-2025 EUR 10,7M
# Projet d'agriculture contractuelle et transition écologique (PACTE) Partner: Ministry of Agriculture, ONGs, associations, cooperatives	EU, (EUD) AFD, KfW	2020-2024 EUR 28M
# Projet Résilience économique et système agroalimentaire dans la province du Tuy Partner: Gret, Caritas Burkina COPSA-C, CEAS Burkina	EU	2023-2026 EUR 4M
# National programming on agroecology in Nord, Centre, Plateau Central Partner: BD, ODJ, MBDHP, GEIP-C, UGNK, AMR, Inades-Formation, CAN Bio	BD	EUR 2. 97M
# The Sahelian Bocage in Burkina Faso Partner: Terre Verte NGO (FR - BF), CARI, AFRA	CARI	2021
# Global Soil Doctors Programme –Burkina Faso Partner: FAO Global Soil Partnership, Bureau National des Sols-BUNASOLS	DE-BMEL	2023
Others (agroecological components)		
# CABI PlantWisePlus project: Empowering smallholders to safeguard crops, livelihoods and biodiversity, using integrated pest management and biocontrol. Multi-country: 30 countries Partners: SciDevNet, IFAD	INTPA Team Europe	2021-2030 EUR 20M

Burkina Faso country profile, March 2025

# Evergreen Agriculture Partnership: Farmer-Managed Natural Regeneration Multi-country: 17 countries incl. Senegal, Burkina Faso, Niger and Mali Partner: ICRAF, World Vision, GIZ, FAO	BMZ, IrishAid, Flanders, gef, FAO, NEPAD...	2013-2017 EUR 800,000
# Greening Africa Together: Climate partnerships and CO2 compensation Multi-country: incl., Burkina Faso, Senegal, Kenya, Uganda, DRC Partner: African and European universities, local African NGOs	GIZ	
Sustainable Agriculture, Sustainable Food Systems. (MIP 2021-2024)		
Multi-annual Indicative Programme 2021-2024 Priority 3- <u>Green economy and resilience</u> : EGD, biodiversity, food systems: Transformation and diversification of agri-food system, promotion of agroecology, rural urban connectivity, natural resource management and biodiversity (complementing NaturAfrica), territorial approach. Great Green Wall. Improved livelihoods of smallholders, agro-sylvo pastoral practices.	AU, BE, DK, FR, IT, LX, S, CH...	2021-2024 EUR 134,4M, (35% of total budget)
2024 Amended Regional Sub-Saharan African MIP: Post Covid, African countries in complex situations (conflicts). Territorial integrated approach remains preferred methodology. Green transition includes climate mitigation and resilience, sustainable agri-food systems, biodiversity and environment, water and oceans; support to sustainable agri-food system at 3,7% of total RMIP.	MIP ends in 2024 (replaced by EU Trust Fund/emergency response)	3.7% of total RMIP 2021-2027
EU Trust Fund: Emergency response top G5 Sahel incl. Burkina Faso 2024 Based on 2023 Results-oriented monitoring (ROM). Strengthening the resilience of communities. Improved migration management. Positive contribution to humanitarian-development-peace nexus. (RECOSA project by Handicap International)	MIP replaced by EU Trust Fund	
Global Gateway: NDCIC Global Europe: flagship projects: Regreening the country: strengthening and expanding the Great Green Wall	Team Europe	
Global Gateway: Great Green Wall: Multi-country: Burkina Faso, Senegal (total 11 countries). Funded under the EU-Africa Global Gateway Investment Package. Pan-African Agency of the Great Green Wall. Land Degradation Neutrality Target. Agroforestry supply chains. 5 EU projects out of 88.		2021–2025 17.7 bill Euro
Research budget		
Joint Research Centre, GFAIR Global Forum on Agricultural Research and Innovation: Economic Performance and Climate Change Mitigation Potential of Agroecology National Innovation Platform for Burkina Faso	EU	2016 EUR 4.9M
EU Agroecology Partnership funded by Horizon Europe (Research programme)	EU	2024-2030 EUR 300M
Foreign Direct Investment (blending)		
# AgriFI: Gebana Burkina Faso GBF, Bobo Dioulasso (dried mango/cashew processing) Partner: BIO Belgium investment Company for Development Countries	EDFI	2023 EUR 3M

Kenya

Kenya country profile, March 2025

KENYA Agroecology (2019-2033)	Donor/ Partners	Period/ Budget
# DeSIRA+ in Africa Agroecology Transition to sustainable food systems: Component 2: Regional Multi-actor Research Network on agroecology programme Multi-country: East African component Partners: Nairobi Uni, KALRO, Biovision, CIAT, CIFOR-ICRAF	INTPA EUD	2024-2025 EUR 17M
# DeSIRA+ ILSA: Investing in Livelihood Resilience and Soil Health: Multi-country: Kenya, Cameroon, Ethiopia Partners: GIZ: MoALD, DARBE, ICRAF, Biovision, EOA-I, PELUM, TPP	INTPA EUD BMZ	2025-2028 EUR 12M
# DeSIRA ProSilience: Enhancing soils and agroecology (Builds on bilateral Kenya-German Climate and Development Partnership) Multi-country: Kenya, Ethiopia, Benin, Madagascar Partners: GIZ, TPP	EUD	2021-2024 EUR 8M
# DeSIRA LIFT: Organic and Biofertilisers (OFBF) Multi-country: Kenya, Senegal, Uganda etc. Partners: Agrinatura, CIRAD, ISA, NRI, SLU, WUR, EFARD networks-COLEAD	INTPA	2021-2025
# DeSIRA: Kenya: National Agroecology Strategy for Food System Transformation Partners: GIZ, PELUM, Biovision, ICRAF, AA, WWF, KOAN, HBF, TPP, BIBA ISFAA	INTPA BMZ, CGIAR	2024-2033 KES 26.8 BN
# DeSIRA: ICSIAPL: Kenya: Integrated & Climate Smart Innovations for Agro-Pastoralist Economies and Landscapes Partners: SNV, Kenya Agriculture Livestock Research Organisation	EU NL-DGIS	2021-2023 EUR 2,5M
# DeSIRA: ESSA East Africa: Earth observation for agropastoral ecosystem Partner: University of Helsinki	EU	2020-2024 EUR 5M
# DeSIRA: WATDEV: Climate Smart WATER Management and Sustainable Development for food and agriculture in East Africa, Kenya	INTPA IT-AICS	2022-2026 EUR 7,5M
# DeSIRA: LSC-IS: Land, Soil and Crop Information Services to support: AKIS, sustainable intensification Partner: CGIAR, Wageningen University, KALRO, Nat Agri Research Centres	EU NL	2021-2024 EUR 5,3M EUR 1,4M
# Boosting sustainable food production in Kenya (BSFPK) Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda BETA. Partners: GoK (KCEP-GRAL), IFAD, FAO	EUD	2024-(2026) EUR 10M
# ProEcoAfrica & OFSA: Participatory Market Linkages for Organic Smallholders Partner: FiBL	SDC +	2019-2021
# Acumen Resilient Agriculture Fund: Farmer training, territorial market. # Agroecology: an effective approach to prisoner rehabilitation: AFSA – RODI # BIOGI: Bio gardening innovations: Food forests in Kenya: AFSA	GAFF FAO	
# Potential of PGS to improve smallholder market access and supply # Landscape Assessment of Agroecology in Africa: Biovision Africa Trust # DeSIRA-LIFT: Fairtrade Africa Strategic Plan 2021-2025 # EOA-I 2015-2025 AU Strategy for 2025-2035 # EOA-I Training on Value Chain Development and Market Systems		

Kenya country profile, March 2025

# AgriBiz Programme # EOA-I Baseline study		
Others (agroecology components)		
# CABI PlantWisePlus project: Empowering smallholders to safeguard crops, livelihoods and biodiversity, using integrated pest management and biocontrol. Multi-country: 30 countries Partners: SciDevNet, IFAD	INTPA Team Europe	2021-2030 EUR 20M
# Evergreen Agriculture Partnership Multi-country: 17 countries, incl. Kenya Partners: ICRAF, WV, GIZ, BMZ, Norad, Irish Aid, Flanders, gef, Nepad, FAO	BMZ, IRE, Flanders, gef, FAO, etc	2013-2017 EUR 800,000
# Greening Africa Together: Climate partnerships and CO2 compensation Multi-country: incl. Senegal, Burkina Faso, Kenya, Uganda, DRC Partner: African and European universities, local African NGOs Kenya	GIZ	
Sustainable Agriculture, Sustainable Food Systems (MIP 2021-2027)		
Multi-annual Indicative Programme: 2021-2027 Priority 1: <u>Green transition, environmental sustainability and resilience:</u> Global Alliance on Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency and sustainable agri-food systems, natural capital and resilience, agroforestry, climate-smart agriculture, biodiversity conservation, pastoral ecosystems. Green economy and sustainable business, supply chains, access to finance for agri-business and smallholders; synergies with regional African and EU markets.	EUD Team Europe	2021-2024 EUR 188M
Global Gateway: NDCIC Global Europe: flagships: Agriculture and Environment	Team Europe	
Research budget		
Joint Research Centre, GFAIR Global Forum on Agricultural Research and Innovation: Economic Performance and Climate Change Mitigation Potential of Agroecology.	EU	2016 EUR 4,9M
# EU Agroecology Partnership funded by Horizon Europe (Research programme)	EU	2024-2030 EUR 300M
# PrAeCTiCe: helping smallholders in their agroecological transition. Multi-country: Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania Partner: Steinbeis-Europa, AFSA	EU	
Foreign Direct Investment		
Kenya: Pearl River China and Africa Economic Zones Ltd (AEZ)		

Uganda

Uganda country profile, March 2025

Uganda Agroecology (2018- 2026)	Donor/ Partners	Period/ Budget
# DeSIRA Robusta Coffee Uganda agroforestry to adapt and mitigate climate change Partner: CIRAD: National Forestry Research Institute, National Coffee Research Institute, Makerere Uni, Uganda Coffee Farmer Alliance, Icipe, IRD, Wageningen University, International Women Coffee Association.	EU COM EUD #C-Af	2021-2025 EUR 4.15M EUR 0.28M
# DeSIRA: WE4F-Water and Energy for Food, Uganda Depletion of natural resources, biodiversity, uptake by smallholders Partner: GIZ, MLFA	EU BMZ, Norad, Sida, USAID	2020-2024
3# DeSIRA LIFT: SIRGE-Strengthen the Innovation System for the Reduction of GHG emissions and environmental impacts of the nascent beef industry, Uganda Partner: SIRGE		
# DeSIRA LIFT: Organic and Biofertilisers (OFBF) Multi-country: Uganda, Kenya, Senegal, etc. Partners: Agrinatura, CIRAD, ISA, NRI, SLU, WUR, EFARD networks-COLEAD	INTPA	2021-2025
# DeSIRA+ for agro-ecological innovations in Africa Multi-country:	INTPA EUD	Planned 100M EUR
# DeSIRA/GEF-8: FSIP – The Food Systems Integrated Program Kunming-Montreal-Global Biodiversity Framework Multi-country: 32 countries, incl. Uganda Partner: FAO, IFAD	GEF EU	2023 EUR 250M
# Support to CGIAR Regional Integrated Initiatives (RIIs) in Africa Multi-country:	INTPA-RIP	Planned 40M EUR
# GP-SAEP: Global Programme for Small-scale Agroecology Producers and Sustainable Food Systems Transformation	INTPA (AAP 2022)	Planned EUR 18M
# ProEcoAfrica and Organic Food Systems in Africa Multi-country: Kenya, Ghana, Uganda Partner: FiBL, Biovision Africa Trust, GLS, FARA, Hivos, Icipe, KALRO, OACK, AfroNet, IFOAM, Louis Bolk, IITA	SDC plus	2013-2021
# Trees on Farms for Biodiversity: German International Climate Initiative Partner: ICRAF, IUCN, UFZ (Helmholtz), Leibniz Uni, CATIE, CIFOR	BMUV-IKI	
# KCOA - Knowledge Centres for Organic Agriculture and Agroecology. Knowledge Hub East Africa, Uganda. 2nd Agroecological Conference 25-28 March 2025 Multi-country: Uganda, Senegal, Kenya. Partner: African Biovision Trust, PELUM	BMZ GIZ	2019-2026 EUR 66.000
# A pathway to food security: Tackling land rights to food security in Uganda Partner: ESAFF		
# KAFSCUL - Karamoja Agro-Farm Systems Consults, soil fertility Northern Uganda Partner: AFSA, DFID, Tufts University, GoU	Irish Aid, UK Aid, USAID	2018

Uganda country profile, March 2025

Uganda country profile, March 2025		
# DeSIRA LIFT: Review of the Fairtrade Africa Strategic Plan & Development of the 2021-2025 Strategic Plan, Netherlands Multi-country project: study sites include Kenya, Uganda, Senegal	INTPA DeSIRA-LIFT	Euros 30,000
# DeSIRA-LIFT: Review of 2015-2025 AU EOA-Initiative Strategy Multi-country: Kenya, Uganda, Senegal, etc. Partner: EOA-I, Wageningen university	EU	
# Synthesis of Existing Research on Livestock Political Economy Multi-country: Uganda, Kenya, IGAD region Partner: Centre for Pastoral Areas and Livestock Development.	EU IGAD	
# Value Chain Development and Market Systems for the EOA-I Multi-country: Senegal, Uganda, Kenya Partner: Biovision Africa Trust		
# Review of the Fairtrade Africa Strategic Plan & Development Strategic Plan. Multi-country: five African regions Partner: Fairtrade Africa	EU	(2021-2025)
Sustainable Agriculture, Sustainable Food Systems (MIP 2021-2027)		
Multi-annual Indicative Programme 2021-2027 Team Europe Vision for its development cooperation with Uganda 2020-2025: Priority 1: <u>Green and Climate Transition</u> : Sustainable management of natural resources . Priority 2: <u>Sustainable Growth and Jobs</u> : Agri-business. Sustainable Business for Uganda Initiative SB4U. Industrial Business Parks and/or Free Zones. Maximise EU-EAC Economic Partnership Agreement.	EUD Team Europe	2007-2023 EUR 1.8 BN
Multi-annual Indicative Programme 2014-2020 (11th EDF): Sector 2: <u>Food Security and Agriculture</u> : EUD is key partner on agriculture and forest sector in Northern Uganda. EUD chairs Development Partner coordination on Environment and Natural Resources.	EUD	
Research budget		
# Horizon 2020: Upscale - Realising the transformative potential of push-pull technology: Integrated agroecological management Multi-country: East Africa, Uganda Partners: KALRO, IGAD, EAFF, SLU, ISD, icipe	EU No 861998	
# PrAectiCe: EU funded Agroecology research Multi-country: Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. Partners: Steinbeis-Europa, AFSA		
Foreign Direct Investment / blending		
# AgriFi: 30 investments into high-growth SMEs over 10 years, Uganda Partner: INUA Impact Fund / Capital	EDFI	2023 EUR 2M

DRC

DRC country profile, March 2025

DRC country profile 2021-2027	Donor/ Partners	Budget/ Period
#DeSIRA+ Afrique Central (RIP) Multi-country: DRC, Burundi, Rwanda (total budget: EUR 10M). DRC: Sankuru Agroforest: Total budget: BE for DRC: EUR 42,3M EUR (multi-sector) Partners: Enabel-BE, AFSA, EAC, EUD responsible for contracts.	INTPA/EUD BE-Enable ACT-61950 BEL: 23010	2022-2026 EUR 4.15M
#DeSIRA Global: FO-RI9 -Farmers Organisations Leading Research & Innovation on Agroecology for Sustainable Food Systems: Multi-country: DRC, Burkina, Senegal, (16 countries) Partners: AgriCord, CSA, PACO members, COOCENKI Nord-Kivu, Farmer Org	EU global	2022-2026 EUR 10M
# DeSIRA: Biorisks Anticipating and managing biological risks to strengthen farmers' resilience to climate change in West and Central Africa Multi-country: Burkina Faso, DRC (in total 10 countries) Partner: CORAF, Felix Houphouet Boigny University, WAVE. BIMAF	EU ACP	2020-2024 EUR 5M
# RDC : Unis pour l'agriculture et l'alimentation DRC component: Gemena, Budjala in the province of Sud-Ubangi. Partner: Enabel. AFD, GIZ, WWF... Studio Hirondelle, nel	EUD Enable	2024- Ongoing 45.8M EUR
# DeSIRA+ for agro-ecological innovations in Africa Partners:	INTPA EUD	Planned 100M EUR
#Production and Resilience of Food Systems in ACP countries. Multi-country project: all ACP countries (total EUR 350M) DRC component of decommitted 10th & 11th EDF Food (Council 21/6/2022 decision) Partners:	EUD	Planned 25M EUR
# Global Programme for Small-scale Agroecology Producers and Sustainable Food Systems Transformation (GP-SAEP) Multi-country: DRC, Burkina, Chad, etc NDICI Challenge Partners: Rural Advisory Service	INTPA F3 (AAP 2022) (2023/440-066)	Planned 18M EUR (EUR 23,2M)
# CGIAR Regional Integrated Initiatives (RIIs) in Africa Countries: Partners:	INTPA-RIP	Planned 40M EUR
# FO4ACP – Farmer Organisations for Africa, Caribbean and Pacific Multi-country: DRC, Senegal, Burkina, Kenya, Uganda Partner: IFAD: AgriCord (EAFF, PAFO, PROPAC, ROPA, SACAU) and DRC Farmer Organisations: CONAPAC, COOINDELO, COOPEBAS, COCAMA	EU (ACP) IFAD No 2000003055 No 2000004572	2019-2025 EUR 10,7M
# IFOAM Bio: Training of Trainers Multi-country: Senegal, DRC, Cameroon, plus... Partner: GIZ	BMZ GIZ	2019-2022
# EEAS Programme Environnement et Agriculture Durable en RDC Yangambi biosphere reserve and Salonga parc, conservation, biodiversity, Programme Agricole Rural et de Conservation du Complexe de la Salonga -PARCCS. Partner: COFED, WWF, CIFOR, FORETS, YPS, NPC	EUD 11th EDF	

DRC country profile, March 2025

Landscape Assessment of Agroecology in Africa Multi-country: DR Congo, Kenya, Obj: landscape of initiatives, programs in EOA and non-EOA countries	EU Biovision Africa Trust	2023-2024
Sustainable Agriculture, Sustainable Food Systems (MIP 2021-2027)		
The DRC also benefits from regional and global EU programmes. MIP flagships: <u>Biodiversity preservation and agri-business</u> : To foster the agroecological transition: <u>Sustainable management of protected areas</u> : supporting regeneration and conservation of biodiversity and agroecological systems in 5 NaturAfrica andscapes: Garamba, Salonga, Upemba, Virunga and Yangambi. <u>Value chains</u> : wheat, maize, cassava, and coffee/plantain banana.	Team Europe (BE, F, DE, NL, S, EIB, AFD, Proparco, FMO, KfW)	2021-2024 EUR 424M
Research budget		
FDI		
2021 Miluna concession EPZ. Green Congo Development (USAID) Sud-Ubangi, Kwango, Lualaba, Haut Uele, Sud-Kivu	USAID	USD 60M

Annexe 6 : Report on financing agroecological transition in ECOWAS - Summary of key findings (report [available here](#))

This study, commissioned by CEDEAO's Agroecology Programme (PAE), examines existing mechanisms for financing the agroecological transition (TAE) across West Africa, with case studies in Burkina Faso, Ghana, Senegal, Togo, and multiparty initiatives. Its objective is to identify practical pathways for scaling agroecology financing through better coordination, more inclusive financial instruments, and stronger institutional support. This report highlights that unlocking agroecology's full potential in West Africa requires systemic, multi-actor financing strategies rooted in local realities and supported by long-term political and financial commitment

Key Findings:

1. Demand for Agroecological Financing:

- Demand exists but remains limited and uneven, particularly outside of export-oriented sectors.
- Financial needs span the entire value chain: inputs, infrastructure, reforestation, irrigation, seed systems, processing, and market access.
- Financing alone is insufficient—awareness, training, and long-term technical support are also critical.

2. Barriers to Financing:

- Structural gaps persist in access to finance, especially for smallholders and local SMEs.
- Many financial actors lack understanding or incentives to support agroecology.
- Existing mechanisms often don't match agroecology's multi sectoral and systemic nature.

3. Good Practices Identified:

- Blended finance (credit, subsidies, equity) adapted to diverse actors.
- Integrated support that combines financial products with technical assistance.
- Local anchoring via microfinance institutions, producer organisations, and cooperatives.
- Innovative models, including digital finance and social enterprises (e.g. Bboxx, FairAfric).

4. Institutional Challenges:

- Many national funds (e.g. FONAFI, BOAD) remain bureaucratic, underfunded, or poorly aligned with agroecology.
- Risk-averse financial institutions and short project cycles limit impact.
- Lack of harmonized frameworks and metrics to evaluate agroecology investment outcomes.

5. Strategic Recommendations:

- Develop and harmonize national agroecology strategies with budgeted financial plans.
- Build long-term partnerships between public and private actors.
- Create targeted financial instruments for SMEs and upstream/downstream actors.
- Leverage international climate and green funds and develop tax-based financing mechanisms.
- Strengthen monitoring systems and align them with agroecology principles and climate finance standards.

Annexe 7: List of interviewed people

European Commission, EU Delegations

Marion, Michaud and Etienne, Coyette, European Commission, INTPA-F3, Brussels
Abdulaye, Traore and Paco Bellafont, EUD Burkina-Faso
Jean-Piere Busogoro, EUD DRC
Boubakar, Kanoute, EUD Senegal
Luis, Lechiguero, EUD Uganda

International organisations

Emile Frison, Agroecology Coalition
Liesa Nieskens, Dorith von Behain, Andrea Bender, GIZ
Matthias Geck, ICRAF

Country partners

Kenya

David Karanja, OACK
Esther Bett, RODI

Burkina-Faso

Karim Sawadogo, 3AEO LuxDev
Isidore Della, Inades Formation-BF

Uganda

David Kabanda, CEFROHT
Fr Michael Omaria, OCADIDO
Godfrey Onenthoo, Caritas Uganda
Harriet Cynthia Nakasi, ACSA

DRC

Euphraim Kivayaga, CPR-Centre de Promotion Rurale
Clément Bisimwa, E&F Coordinator

Senegal

Famara Diedhiou, AFSA
Aissatou Gueye, Action Aid

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Julie Middleton, Action Aid
Emmanuel Yap, CIDSE
Emmanuel Justine, ESAFF
Godfrey Onentho, Caritas Africa
Daniel Fernandez, Entraide & Fraternité
Sarah Schneider, Misereor
Nina Moeller, DSU

Field visit Senegal

Borgui Yerima, Coordinateur de programme, ARAA-CEDEAO
Patrice Djamen, Chercheur au CIRAD, ses travaux portent sur le renouvellement du conseil agricole pour faciliter les transitions agroécologiques.
Farma Ndiaye, Chercheure à ISRA (Institut Sénégalais pour la Recherche Agricole),
Coordinatrice du projet Fair Sahel au Sénégal
Ebrima Sall, Directeur Exécutif, Trust Africa
Saliou Ngom, Directeur de la Protection des Végétaux, ministère de l'Agriculture et de l'équipement rural et de la souveraineté alimentaire
Laure Tall, Chercheuse en agroécologie, Directrice de Recherche à l'IPAR (Think Tank)
Hassna Founoune, Chercheure à ISRA (Institut Sénégalais pour la Recherche Agricole)

Field visit Kenya

Iba Mar Faye, Country Representative, GRET
Mamadou Goita, Executive Director of IRPAD/ Member of IPES-Food panel
Charles L. Tumuhe, Healthy Soil Healthy Food Project Officer, AFSA

Participants of workshop on Advancing agroecology and sustainable food systems, 10-14 February 2025, Sagana, organised by ABN - African Biodiversity Network, African Centre for Biodiversity, AFSA, Biowatch South Africa, Brot für die Welt, PELUM Association, Rural Women's Assembly, SKI - Seed and Knowledge Initiative.

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