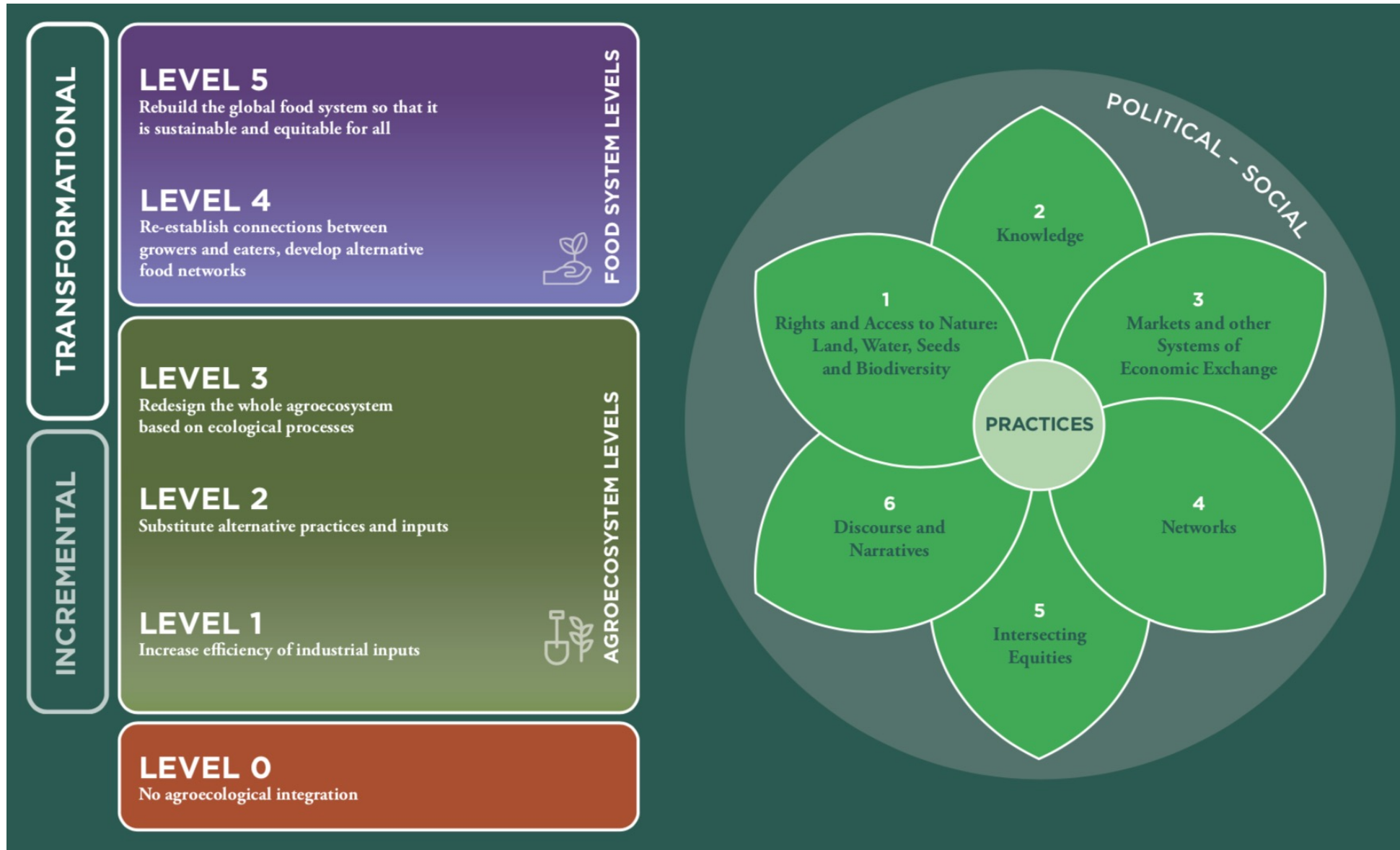


OVERVIEW OF RESEARCH



Transformative Agroecology



Research Approach

43 people over 17 interviews & 5 focus groups

	Interviews	Focus Groups
Total participants	17	26
Women	10	
Men	16	
Southern CSO representatives	8	
Northern CSOs representatives	9	
Academia representatives	2	
Philanthropy organization representatives	3	
International institution representatives	3	
Representative from national/governmental institution	1	

Table 1 – Composition of interviews and focus groups

Summary of Research Findings

Works against transformative agroecology	→	Works for transformative agroecology
Approach and Governance of Financing		
No co-governance mechanisms	→	Mechanisms for co-governance
One-way accountability	→	Co-accountability
Cookie-cutter approach	→	Bespoke approach from the ground up with local actors
Farm-level approach only	→	Territorial approach and multi-scale
Short term, one-off funding	→	Long term, phased approaches
Focuses on technical practices to increase production or efficiency	→	Focuses on improving farm design to deliver social, ecological, political and cultural benefits
Disregards political dimensions of transition	→	Incorporates action to address political dimensions of change
Intervention: Top-down involvement of institutional actors, policy-makers and scientists	→	Dialogues and Collaboration: Enrolling Institutional, policy-makers and scientists actors in agroecological projects
Rigid monitoring & evaluation looking for narrow short-term indicators of benefit	→	Flexible multi-dimensions, long term, participatory monitoring and evaluation
Humanitarian – crisis response	→	Humanitarian + transformation
Big Picture		
Equity-blind	→	Confronts intersecting dimensions of equity
Agroecology as niche	→	Agroecology as central
Ignores wider systemic problems	→	Addresses the disabling dynamics of wider systems
Dismissive of local knowledge; top down approach to knowledge, learning, research and innovation	→	Embraces a dialogue of a diversity of knowledges; peer-to-peer learning, participatory research and development

RECOMMENDATIONS



1. Engage in reflection and examination of donor practices

- Increase funding – set targets
- Include farmers and communities in evaluation of funding approach
- Share the process

It is clear there are so many investments damaging what agroecology proposes to revitalise. [Focus group]



2. Transform relationships between funders and recipients

- Co-governance vs one way
- Participatory decision-making
- Be connected

“We have a complex network of advisors, with eyes and ears to the ground”.



3. Change modalities, methodologies and foci for delivering funding

- Decentralised – long term - flexible
- Support farm re-design
- focus on collective territorial processes & peer-to-peer learning
- Movement building, political work
- Strengthen farmers organisations



“We don't really fund projects, we look for organizations with a strong philosophical orientation”.

4. Create and adopt more appropriate measurement and evaluation tools

Logframes are too rigid

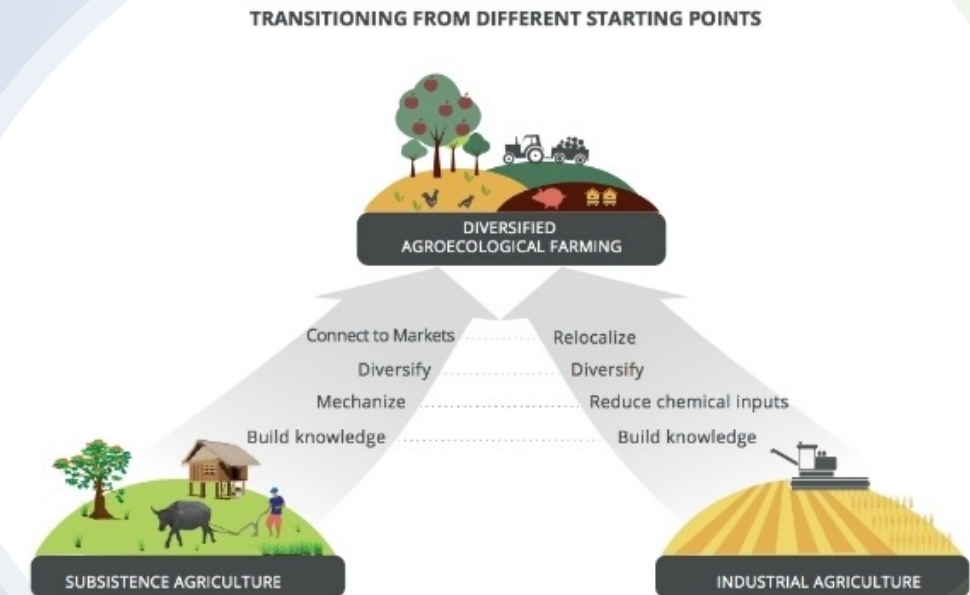
	PROJECT SUMMARY	INDICATORS	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	RISKS / ASSUMPTIONS
Goal (a.k.a. Impact)	This is the overall project goal - the broader issue (i.e. at the national or global level) that your project seeks to contribute to: Ex. Goal: Children in low-income communities have increased life opportunities.			
Outcomes (a.k.a. Objective or Purpose)	This is your project's outcomes - the specific changes you want to see in the community that will support the achievement of the goal. Ex. Outcome: 1000 children (50% girls) in low-income communities have increased life opportunities. Ex. Outcome: 1000 children (50% girls) in low-income communities have increased life opportunities.	Ex. 1000 children (50% girls) in low-income communities have increased life opportunities.	Ex. Student survey	
Outputs (a.k.a. Results)	Listed here are those observable changes, and tangible products, delivered by the intervention, that will help achieve the above goal and outcomes. Ex. Output 1: Increased youth, especially girls, participation in community activities. Ex. Output 2: Increased youth, especially girls, participation in community activities.	Ex. Student survey	Ex. Student Database	Ex. Local stakeholders remain stable. Youth are interested to take part in skateboarding activities.
Activities	Supporting need to be achieved to achieve the goal and outcomes. Ex. Activity 1.1: Skateboarding classes.	Ex. Activity 2.1: Skateboarding classes. Activity 2.2: Arts classes		

Communities develop own metrics of change and resilience



5. Address the big picture issues that undermine a more just and sustainable food system

- Move AE in the centre – integrate in larger funding envelopes
- Shift away from funding detrimental forms of agriculture and development



“We can't keep just funding African CSOs to be fighting this goliath in our backyard! We need to do our part; to clean up our backyard and erode the influence [some actors] are having in Africa”

5. Address the big picture issues that undermine a more just and sustainable food system

- Shift policies at international, national and local level for systemic political and cultural change
- AE must be rooted in feminism, equity and radical participation



Agroecology cannot be another tool for colonisation. It has to be congruent with our cosmovisions. (Interviewee)