



**TRANSITIONS:** Agroecological transition programme for building resilient and inclusive agricultural food systems

### Objectives of the project

[TRANSITIONS](#) seeks to facilitate agroecological transitions that are informed by climate considerations among farmers in low- and medium-income countries (LMICs). This will be achieved by creating comprehensive metrics to measure the performance of food and agricultural systems, implementing inclusive digital tools, and fostering transparent private sector participation and engagement.

### Background

Global food systems play a vital role in enhancing human well-being; however, they are also a significant contributor to environmental degradation and climate change. To achieve sustainable development goals, agroecological approaches are being advocated as an effective way to promote regenerative use of natural resources and ecosystem services, while addressing the need for more socially equitable decision-making in food systems.

Agricultural investment remains a crucial priority for economic development in LMICs. However, for climate-informed agroecological transitions to take place successfully, it is essential to support farmers in shifting towards more intensive production systems that minimise negative ecological and human impacts. Unfortunately, the widespread adoption of agroecology by farmers faces significant challenges due to several factors, including:

1. **Limited availability of evidence-based information on the overall performance of food and agricultural systems**, taking account their impacts on the environment, human well-being, equity, and fairness, beyond just yield or profitability.
2. **Limited accessibility of Information on agroecological approaches**, especially through digital solutions that can reach a large audience of farmers and provide guidance and support for the agroecological transition.
3. **Insufficient investment in agroecology by the private sector**, which can be attributed to a lack of reliable evidence, information, and incentives to support the transition towards more sustainable and equitable farming practices.

### The theory of change

TRANSITIONS aims to facilitate climate-informed agroecological transitions by farmers in LMICs by aligning policy, investment, and technical support. To achieve this goal, the programme will focus on developing and adopting holistic metrics for food and agricultural systems performance, **inclusive digital tools**, and transparent private sector engagement. By doing so, the programme seeks to incentivize **investment** and encourage farmers to transition to more sustainable agricultural practices.

To promote the adoption of agroecology using **holistic metrics**, we will work with key stakeholders to develop monitoring systems that can be used at different scales, from the farm and landscape level to the national and global level. These novel metrics will be tested and evaluated in partnership with agroecological projects and stakeholders in eight countries with different agricultural systems.



Ultimately, we hope that decision-makers will co-design and use holistic sustainability metrics to evaluate transition options across multiple SDGs, thereby fostering sustainable agricultural and food systems.

The TRANSITIONS digital tools project (ATDT) aims to facilitate the agroecological transition by promoting inclusive digital resources and citizen science. Through this initiative, farmers can co-create, adapt, and innovate their practices, empowering them to improve their agricultural processes. ATDT seeks to align digital design for agriculture with socially inclusive principles, ensuring that all stakeholders have access to these tools. By developing more inclusive digital tools, farmers, technical advisors, and companies can collaborate to create knowledge and assess outcomes for climate-informed, low-emission agroecological practices.

The PSii project has a specific focus on developing innovative pathways for long-term incentives and promoting transparent private sector engagement. The project aims to achieve its goal by facilitating the co-development and uptake of various innovations related to incentive structures, business models, investments, and capacity building for agroecological transitions. Additionally, these innovations are expected to provide transparency and traceability of agroecological metrics, enabling private and public sector actors to work collaboratively towards a sustainable future.

## **Organization**

The TRANSITIONS programme consists of three interrelated projects. The first project, [\*Metrics to Support Agroecological Transitions\*](#) (P1-Metrics) is led by CIFOR-ICRAF. The second project, [\*Inclusive Digital Tools for Agroecological Transitions\*](#) (P2-ATDT) is led by the Alliance of Bioversity-CIAT and the University of Vermont. The third project, [\*Private Sector Incentives and Investments for Agroecology\*](#) (P3 – PSii), is also led by the Alliance of Bioversity-CIAT. The TRANSITIONS programme is part of the [\*Agroecology Transformative Partnership Platform \(TPP\)\*](#), which fosters collaboration and coordination among various actors and projects in the agroecology field, creating synergies to achieve greater impact.

## **Main activities**

- The Metrics project will review the existing metrics available for holistic evaluation of food and agricultural systems across various scales and contexts, and identify the areas where improvements are needed. In order to achieve this, diverse groups of metrics-users will form working groups and devise innovative metrics to assess the performance of food systems at field, household, landscape and food system levels. These metrics will be field-tested in agroecological projects across eight countries to evaluate their effectiveness and practicality. Ultimately, the project will develop an open-access database of metrics and provide guidance on how to develop holistic metrics systems for different purposes.
- The ATDT project will assess the benefits that improved digital tools offer to farmers and their potential to create significant impacts for climate-informed agroecology. To achieve this, the project will assess global and site-specific digital ecosystems. Additionally, they will collaborate with developers and implementors in livestock landscapes in Brazil and rice systems in Vietnam to enhance digital tools that enable farmers to co-create knowledge and farming practices. The project will also conduct tests to assess the efficacy of digital tool innovations in facilitating agroecological transitions.

- The PSii project aims to promote agroecological transitions at different levels by developing private and private-public sector incentives and leveraging investments. The project has several components, including mapping agroecological multi-stakeholder platforms and networks, analysing incentive structures and mechanisms, and creating metrics for traceability tools in cocoa, rice and wheat value chains in Peru, Vietnam, and Ethiopia respectively. The findings from these activities will feed into co-designing incentive structures, attracting investments, establishing benchmarks using holistic metrics, and engaging with multi-stakeholder platforms to accelerate agroecological transitions.

#### **Implementing organization**

- CGIAR

#### **Project partners**

- CIFOR-ICRAF
- The Alliance of Bioversity & CIAT
- International Rice Research Institute (IRRI)
- International Water Management Institute (IWMI)
- University of Vermont
- The Transformative Partnership Platform on Agroecology (Agroecology TPP)

#### **Other main stakeholders**

- [Statistics for Sustainable Development](#)
- [Global Landscapes Forum](#)

#### **Location**

- Asia: India and Vietnam
- Africa: Kenya, Ethiopia, Ghana, and Burkina Faso
- Latin America: Brazil and Peru

#### **Funding**

- EUR 6 700 607 funded by the European Union and managed by IFAD

#### **Duration**

- 2022 - 2025

#### **Additional links**

- TRANSITIONS: <https://bit.ly/3odtX4E>
- Agroecology TPP: [www.bit.ly/AgEc\\_TPP](http://www.bit.ly/AgEc_TPP)
- CIFOR: <https://cifor-icraf.org/>
- Alliance Biodiversity & CIAT: <https://alliancebioiversityciat.org/>
- International Water Management Institute: <https://www.iwmi.cgiar.org/>
- University of Vermont: <https://www.uvm.edu/gund>
- IRRI: <https://www.irri.org/>
- European Union: <https://european-union.europa.eu/>
- IFAD: <https://www.ifad.org/>
- CGIAR: <https://www.cgiar.org/>