

**Wondering how the world can meet the goals  
of the Convention on Biological Diversity?**



**Agroecology has solutions**

# The Context: Agroecology and the CBD

There is growing momentum within the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) to recognize agroecology as a transformative solution and a paradigm for systemic change. There are openings for agroecology to be part of the global response to biodiversity loss, climate change, and unsustainable land use. At COP15 in Kunming–Montreal (2022), parties adopted the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)—an ambitious roadmap toward a world living in harmony with nature by 2050. Countries are now translating this vision into their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), adapting global targets to national realities and priorities.



At COP16 in Cali, Colombia (2024), Decision 16/35, advanced potential cross-Convention collaboration among the three Rio Conventions—on biodiversity, climate change, and desertification—offers a powerful opportunity to position agroecology as a unifying approach that delivers solutions across these interconnected challenges. By improving soil fertility, restoring biodiversity, and enhancing ecosystem resilience, agroecology naturally supports all three agendas.

Agroecology aligns strongly with the 23 global targets of the Global Biodiversity Framework. It offers multiple co-benefits for climate adaptation and mitigation, food security, public health, and sustainable livelihoods. Its emphasis on diversity, ecological balance, and community empowerment makes it a cornerstone of resilient and inclusive transformation.

When embedded in national strategies, agroecology and related approaches such as agroforestry can drive ecosystem diversification, improve livelihoods, enhance carbon sequestration, and strengthen the connection between people and nature. By doing so, they turn the CBD's vision of "living in harmony with nature" into a practical, achievable reality—one rooted in the knowledge, innovation, and stewardship of farmers, Indigenous Peoples, and local communities around the world.



# The Big Picture

- The world is facing a **triple planetary crisis** - the three intersecting global environmental crises of climate change, biodiversity loss, and widespread pollution.
- Dealing with these issues in isolation is not working. Climate change is not just about carbon emissions. Land degradation is not just about soil. Biodiversity loss is not just about endangered species. Food systems are playing a key role in this crisis. **A profound food system transformation is needed**, and agroecology offers a route map for this change.
- Agroecology delivers as a solution for the three main planetary challenges identified by the UN: **Climate change, biodiversity loss and desertification (degradation of fertile land)**<sup>[1]</sup>.

[1] Derkimba, A., Alabgnac, M., Grenade, F., Jandrain, A., & Rouand, C. (2024). La reconnaissance de l'agroécologie dans les conventions de Rio : un potentiel pour sa mise à l'échelle. Note de synthèse. Viols le Fort: CARI.

## The Specifics: How does Agroecology intersect with the Global Biodiversity Framework?

Agroecology is a system of farming that cares for the earth and that offers a critique of existing power relationships. By transforming the way we see and engage with the environment, agroecology offers robust responses to the questions of how we meet the 23 targets in the CBD while also feeding our communities and reducing inequality.



Over the following pages we show how each of the core aspects of agroecological practice address CBD targets.

The core aspects are adapted from: Global Alliance for the Future of Food, Biovision Foundation, WWF International, Alliance of Biodiversity International and the International Center for Tropical Agriculture, & Agroecology Coalition. (2024). [Boosting Biodiversity Through Agroecology Guidance for Developing and Updating National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans](#).

## A core aspect of agroecology

### 1: On-farm practices for soil, water, and integrated pest management



**"We found a consistent increase in biodiversity and climate change mitigation variables between levels along an agroecological transition gradient, and evidence for some synergies between biodiversity and climate change mitigation in response to agroecological interventions."**

Blaix, et al. (2026 - forthcoming). Agroecological interventions increase biodiversity and the potential for climate change mitigation in Europe.

**Agroecology naturally minimises the environmental impact of farming on the local environment, addressing CBD targets 1, 2, & 7:**

**Target 1: Ensure that all areas are under participatory integrated biodiversity inclusive spatial planning** and/or effective management processes addressing land and sea use change, to bring the loss of areas of high biodiversity importance, including ecosystems of high ecological integrity, close to zero by 2030, **while respecting the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities.**

**Target 2: Ensure that by 2030 at least 30 per cent of areas of degraded terrestrial, inland water, and coastal and marine ecosystems are under effective restoration**, in order to enhance biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, ecological integrity and connectivity.

**Target 7: Reduce pollution risks and the negative impact of pollution from all sources**, by 2030, to levels that are not harmful to biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, considering cumulative effects, including: reducing excess nutrients lost to the environment by at least half including through more efficient nutrient cycling and use; **reducing the overall risk from pesticides and highly hazardous chemicals by at least half** including through integrated pest management, based on science, taking into account food security and livelihoods; and also preventing, reducing, and working towards eliminating plastic pollution.

## A core aspect of agroecology

### 2: Nurturing diverse local seeds and crops



**“Using continued, biodiversity-based crop enhancement, farmers are best able to develop resilience strategies that also preserve ecosystems, food security and livelihoods. Locally adapted varieties require few external inputs, favouring ecological practices in agriculture that significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions.”**

SeedChange. (2020). Farmer seed systems – A critical contribution to food sovereignty and farmers' rights.

**Agroecology places farmers and local genetic resources at the heart of an approach which doesn't just protect biodiversity, but embodies it, addressing CBD targets 10 & 13:**

**TARGET 10: Ensure that areas under agriculture, aquaculture, fisheries and forestry are managed sustainably**, in particular through the sustainable use of biodiversity, including through a substantial increase of the application of biodiversity friendly practices, such as sustainable intensification, agroecological and other innovative approaches contributing to the resilience and long-term efficiency and productivity of these production systems and to food security, conserving and restoring biodiversity and maintaining nature's contributions to people, including ecosystem functions and services.

**TARGET 13: Take effective legal, policy, administrative and capacity-building measures at all levels, as appropriate, to ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits that arise from the utilization of genetic resources and from digital sequence information on genetic resources**, as well as traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources, and facilitating appropriate access to genetic resources, and by 2030 facilitating a significant increase of the benefits shared, in accordance with applicable international access and benefit-sharing instruments.



## A core element of agroecology

### 3: Strengthening territorial markets for agroecological products

**“Agroecology and territorial approaches are both people centred and process based, and they aim at long-term solutions.**

**They share key core values, such as sustainability, resilience, equity and justice.**

**(...). There is also potential in territories for building on local synergies to integrate farming and non-farming activities, including through food and livelihood diversification, market development, learning and knowledge exchanges”.**

FAO et al. (2023). Agroecology dialogue series: Outcome brief no. 1, January 2023 – The interface between agroecology and territorial approaches for food systems transformation.

**Agroecology develops local food systems which connect communities to the benefits of their local genetic resources, addressing CBD targets 16, 18, and 19:**

**TARGET 16:** Ensure that people are encouraged and enabled to make sustainable consumption choices including by establishing supportive policy, legislative or regulatory frameworks, improving education and access to relevant and accurate information and alternatives, and by 2030, reduce the global footprint of consumption in an equitable manner, halve global food waste, significantly reduce overconsumption and substantially reduce waste generation, in order for all people to live well in harmony with Mother Earth.

**TARGET 18:** Identify by 2025, and **eliminate, phase out or reform incentives, including subsidies harmful for biodiversity**, in a proportionate, just, fair, effective and equitable way, while substantially and progressively reducing them by at least 500 billion United States dollars per year by 2030, starting with the most harmful incentives, and scale up positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

**Target 19c: (c)** Leverage private finance, promoting blended finance, implementing strategies for raising new and additional resources, and **encourage the private sector to invest in biodiversity**, including through impact funds and other instruments.



## A core aspect of agroecology

### 4: Creating value and Recognition

**“The results indicate that overall agroecological practices are more often associated with positive socio-economic outcomes than negative or neutral ones”.**

Mouratiadou et al. (2024). The socio-economic performance of agroecology. A review.

**Agroecologists work for a greater valorisation of diverse genetic resources, stimulating society to a wider recognition of biodiversity, addressing CBD targets 15 & 16:**

**TARGET 15:** Take legal, administrative or policy measures to encourage and enable business, and in particular to ensure that large and transnational companies and financial institutions:

- (a) Regularly **monitor, assess, and transparently disclose their risks, dependencies and impacts on biodiversity** including with requirements for all large as well as transnational companies and financial institutions along their operations, supply and value chains and portfolios;
- (b) Provide information needed to consumers to promote sustainable consumption patterns;
- (c) Report on compliance with access and benefit-sharing regulations and measures, as applicable; and in order to **progressively reduce negative impacts on biodiversity, increase positive impacts**, reduce biodiversity-related risks to business and financial institutions, and promote actions to ensure sustainable patterns of production.

**TARGET 16:** Ensure that people are encouraged and enabled to make sustainable consumption choices including by establishing supportive policy, legislative or regulatory frameworks, improving education and access to relevant and accurate information and alternatives, and by 2030, reduce the global footprint of consumption in an equitable manner, **halve global food waste, significantly reduce overconsumption and substantially reduce waste generation**, in order for all people to live well in harmony with Mother Earth.



## A core aspect of agroecology

### 5: Including and empowering underrepresented actors

**"The mutual reinforcement of ecological and social practices empowers marginalised groups, especially women, to build systems that prioritise both production and reproduction, challenging the extractive logic of conventional agriculture. If these practices are widely adopted and integrated into policy frameworks, these practices have the potential to promote a future where access to nutritious, sustainably produced food is an inalienable right for all, not a privilege of the few".**

Ume et al. (2025). Women smallholders build an agroecology food system: the construction of empowerment and food sovereignty.

**Agroecology is a social movement, which identifies and addresses social exclusion, in line with the goals outlined in CBD targets 21 & 22:**

**TARGET 21:** Ensure that the best available data, information and knowledge, are accessible to decision makers, practitioners and the public to **guide effective and equitable governance, integrated and participatory management of biodiversity**, and to strengthen communication, awareness-raising, education, monitoring, research and knowledge management and, also in this context, traditional knowledge, innovations, practices and technologies of indigenous peoples and local communities should only be accessed with their free, prior and informed consent, in accordance with national legislation.

**TARGET 22:** Ensure the full, equitable, inclusive, effective and gender-responsive representation and participation in **decision-making**, and access to justice and information related to biodiversity by indigenous peoples and local communities, respecting their cultures and their rights over lands, territories, resources, and traditional knowledge, as well as by women and girls, children and youth, and persons with disabilities and ensure the full protection of environmental human rights defenders.

## *A core aspect of agroecology*

### **6: Recognising linkages between gender and biodiversity action**



**“(...) women have historically acquired a vast knowledge of agroecological systems, demonstrating, in many regions of the world, very significant knowledge about the species of genetic and phytogenetic resources, by their relevant role of managers of biodiversity conservation and domestication of plants. (...). Gender issues are contrasted in the axiom of agroecology, bringing to the forefront the feminine relevance in the agroecological transition, all of it verified by several successful experiences already recorded in the scientific literature.”**



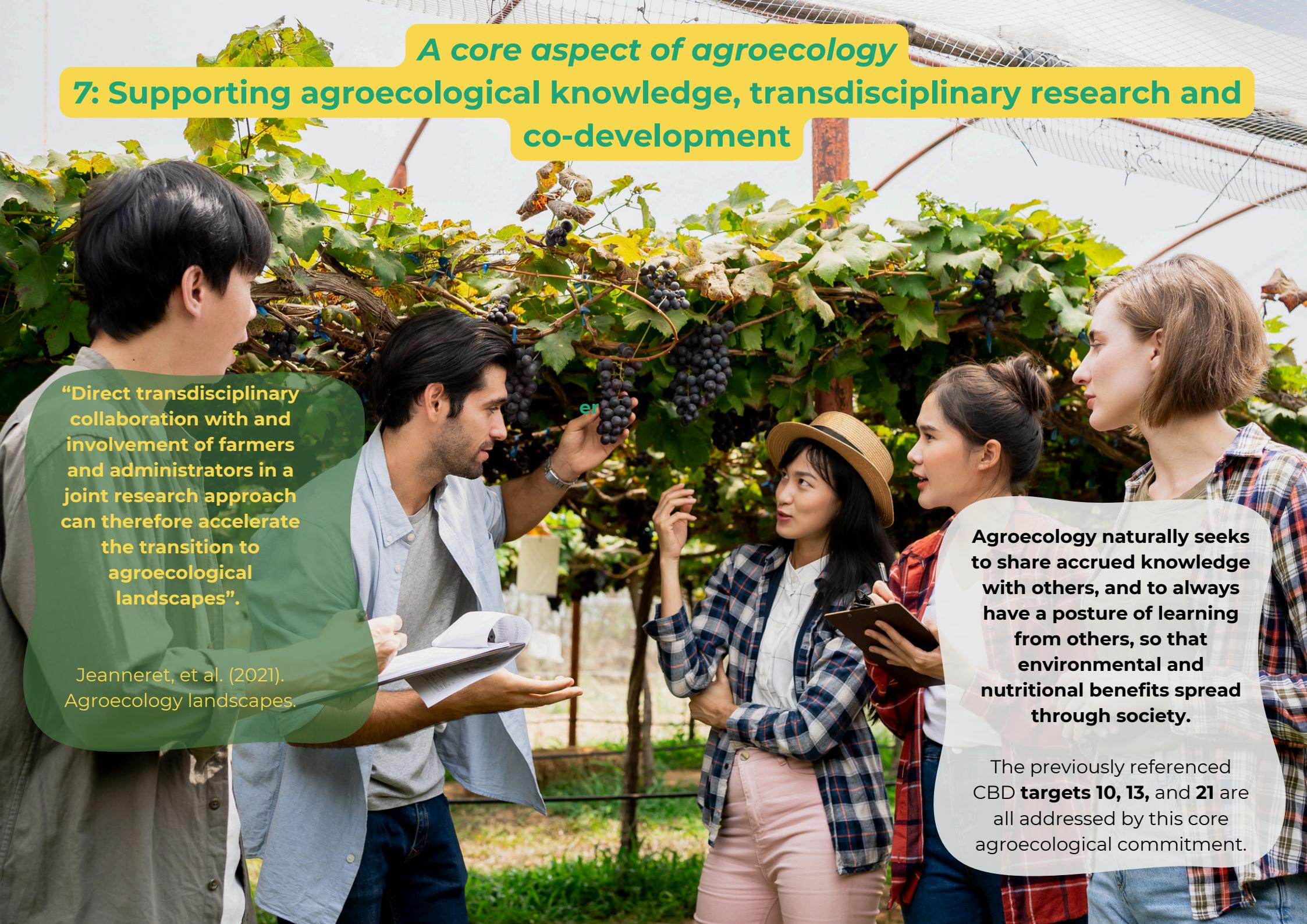
Cavalcanti Santa Rita et al. (2022). Women in the agroecological transition: Promoting food sovereignty and agrobiodiversity conservation.

**Agroecology identifies imbalances in political economy and in gender relations present in food systems, and then seeks to actively rectify them, in the spirit of CBD target 23:**

**TARGET 23: Ensure gender equality in the implementation of the framework** through a gender-responsive approach where all women and girls have equal opportunity and capacity to contribute to the three objectives of the Convention, including by recognizing their equal rights and access to land and natural resources and their full, equitable, meaningful and informed participation and leadership at all levels of action, engagement, policy and decision-making related to biodiversity.

## A core aspect of agroecology

### 7: Supporting agroecological knowledge, transdisciplinary research and co-development



**"Direct transdisciplinary collaboration with and involvement of farmers and administrators in a joint research approach can therefore accelerate the transition to agroecological landscapes".**

Jeanneret, et al. (2021).  
Agroecology landscapes.

Agroecology naturally seeks to share accrued knowledge with others, and to always have a posture of learning from others, so that environmental and nutritional benefits spread through society.

The previously referenced CBD **targets 10, 13, and 21** are all addressed by this core agroecological commitment.

## A core aspect of agroecology

### 8: Managing landscapes, territories, and conservation areas

Agroecologists focus on the impact that food systems have on the landscape and develop landscape-scale strategies to encourage biodiversity, addressing CBD target 3, 8, and 11, as well as the formerly mentioned 1, 2, 4, and 10.

**TARGET 3:** Ensure and enable that **by 2030 at least 30 per cent of terrestrial, inland water, and of coastal and marine areas**, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, **are effectively conserved and managed** through ecologically representative, well-connected and equitably governed systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures...

**TARGET 8:** **Minimize the impact of climate change and ocean acidification on biodiversity** and increase its resilience through mitigation, adaptation, and disaster risk reduction actions, including through nature-based solution and/or ecosystem-based approaches, while minimizing negative and fostering positive impacts of climate action on biodiversity.

**TARGET 11:** Restore, maintain and **enhance nature's contributions to people**, including ecosystem functions and services, such as regulation of air, water, and climate, soil health, pollination and reduction of disease risk, as well as protection from natural hazards and disasters, **through nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based approaches** for the benefit of all people and nature.

**"Most biodiversity issues need landscape scale consideration because of the natural tendency of any living organism to spread and colonize new habitats.**

**Agroecosystems inserted in farmed landscapes are no exception, and their biodiversity-based functioning is embedded in a landscape context. Putting in place an agroecological approach of pest management and improve crop pollination are excellent examples.**

Jeanneret, et al. (2021). Agroecology landscapes.



## Conclusions

- **Scientific findings demonstrate the multiple environmental benefits obtained from adopting an agroecology approach to farming, highlighting the value of this approach in achieving EU targets on biodiversity and GHG emission reductions. (Blaix 2025)**
- **Agroecology interventions show a general positive effect across biodiversity and climate change mitigation metrics. Agroecology interventions increase diversity of functional groups of organisms and promote changes in soil carbon storage. (Blaix 2025)**



**More information**  
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