

IFAD technical inputs for the Agroecology and Other Alternative Approaches Policy Convergence Process

General views on the recommendations coming from the HLPE:

- They are very political/institutional, the technical content could be enhanced.
- They should consider two sets of countries, regarding the adoption of agro-ecology practices: countries where agro-ecology will lead to progress in yields in the short term (for example Sahelian countries where the soils are degraded), and countries where farmers will need support to face a transition period after having reduced the use of chemicals, with lower incomes before a new equilibrium.
- The examples given for agro-ecology practices make think that agro-ecology practices ban chemical inputs. The mixed use of organic inputs and a light dose of synthetic fertilizers can also be accounted as an agro-ecology practice if the farmer has lowered his consumption of chemicals.
- The linkages with food security outcomes and climate change related subjects could be presented more precisely. Agro-ecology practices help to adapt to climate change and to sequester carbon at field and landscape levels. They contribute to improve food security in chronic food insecure countries. In this regard, agro-ecology contributes to reach the goals of food security and climate policies, such as national determined contribution to the Paris Agreement. Key figures (metrics) can also be developed at the policy level (such as the amount of food imports avoided, the number of food insecure people experimenting a reduced lean season, the GHG mitigation potential of the scaling up of agro-ecology practices).

Main points to inform the policy recommendations:

- Being more specific on agro-ecology and other practices;
- Taking into account the different contexts;
- Working on metrics, with a focus on the farm level and the policy level (not only the food system/value chain level);
- Linking to policies: on climate, on food security;
- Avoiding the confusion between agro-ecology and organic farming.