



Pesticide
Action
Network
Europe



Friends of
the Earth
Europe



Agroecology
Europe



European
Network of
Scientists
for Social and
Environmental
Responsibility

PRESENTATION

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SYTRA, Catholic University of
Louvain

26 June 2024, 14:00-17:00 CET
Brussels and online

*Multiburo Brussels EU Parliament,
Square de Meeus 38-40*

About SYTRA

Research team of 12 members :

- 4 PhD,
- 7 Research Assistants and
- Professor Philippe Baret

Based in Louvain La Neuve

Principles of action

- Inclusivity
- Meso level
- Transdisciplinarity

Thematics of research



Value chain



Production
system



Transition
pathways

A collaboration between research and action



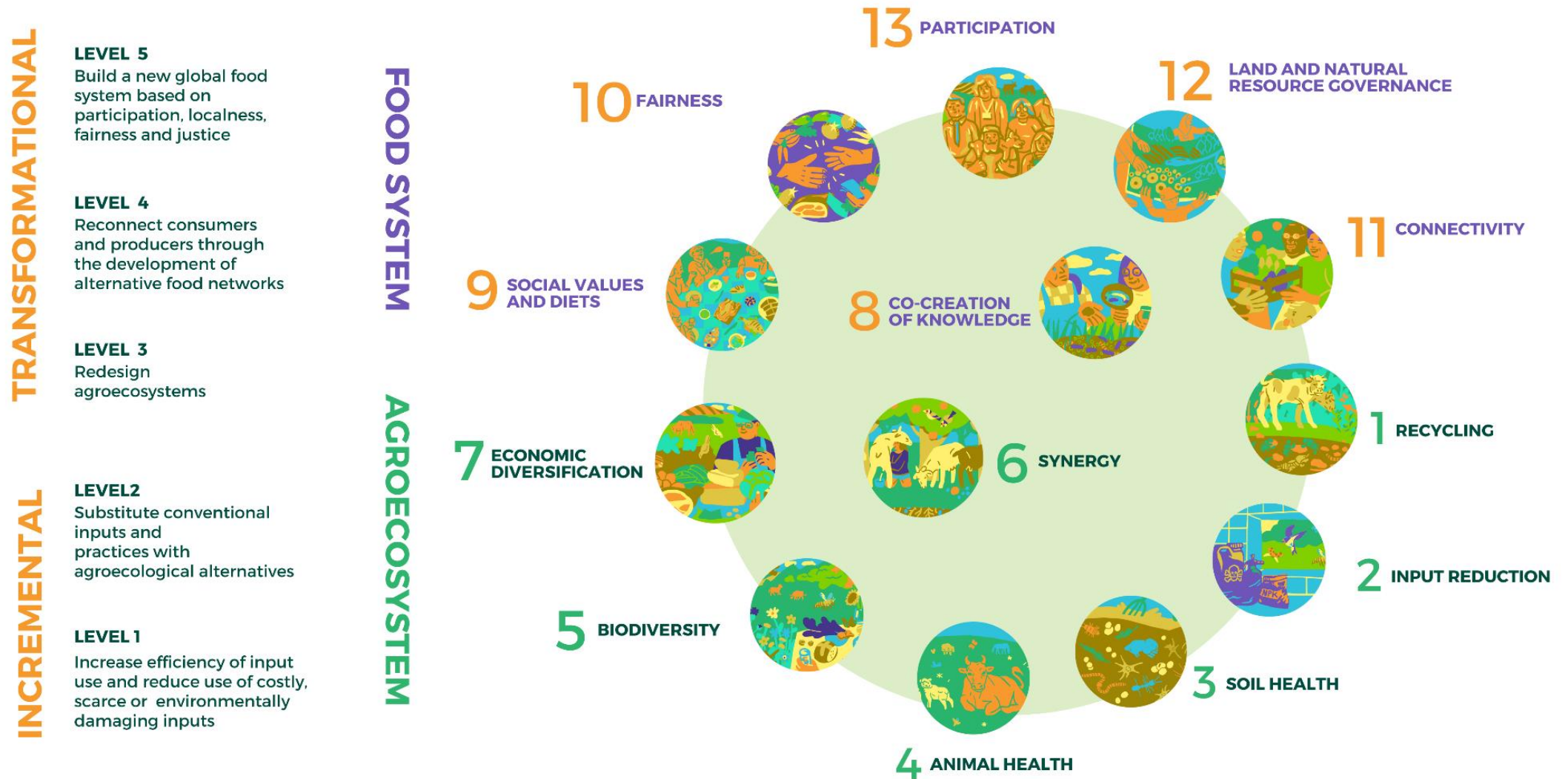
Sytra builds scientific knowledge on agriculture and food systems in a rigorous and interdisciplinary way, with the aim of providing stakeholders with the keys to a transition towards fair and sustainable system



Agroecology in Action represents a broad movement that is taking concrete action to promote the transition to agro-ecological and solidarity-based food systems in Belgium.

Agroecology?

13 principles of Agroecology in regards of the five levels of transition towards Sustainable Food Systems and the related - Source: Gliessman (2007) and HLPE (2019)



Scope of the study

What is the level of funding of agroecology by the Walloon government (2019-2024)?

- **Scope** : agricultural and food related budgets including CAP 2017-2022 & 2023-27
- **Methodology** : based on the framework developed by Research Center Agroecology, Water and Resilience of Coventry University (Moeller, N., *et al*, 2023)

Methodology

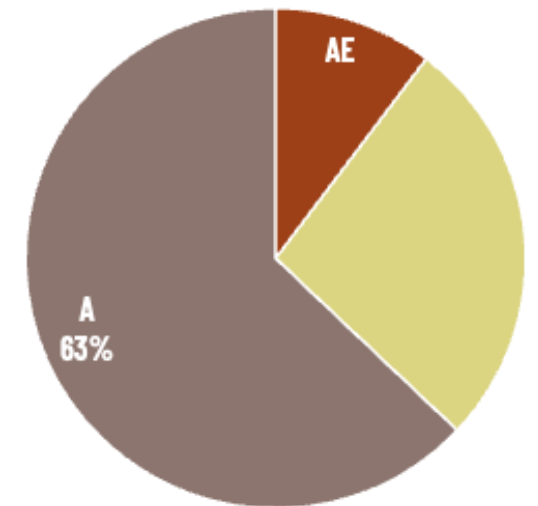
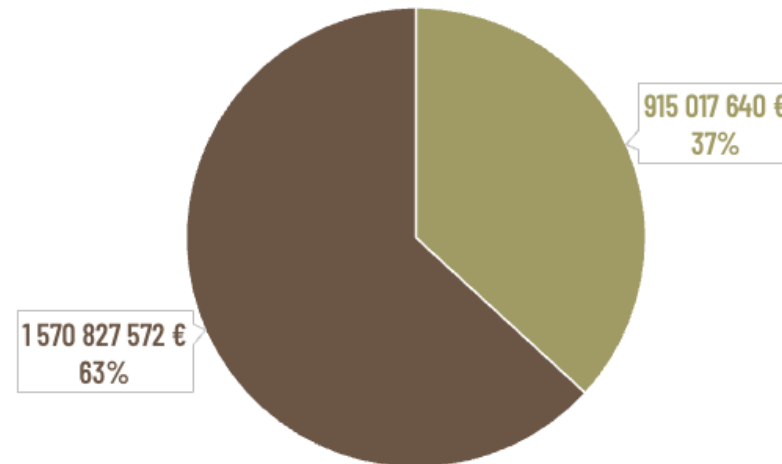
Remark : Only the intention of financing were considered : no check was done on the ground for actual expenses

Step 1 : Building a complete data base (2,485 billion euro for 122 Flows)

Step 2 : Qualifying the financial flows (Agroecological score)

Step 3 : Calculate an effective contribution to Agroecology

ID	Code	Score
022	PRW_01	16,67%
023	PRW_02	0,00%
024	PRW_03	3,85%
025	PRW_04	3,85%
053	BIO_01	33,33%
063	BIO_11	75,00%

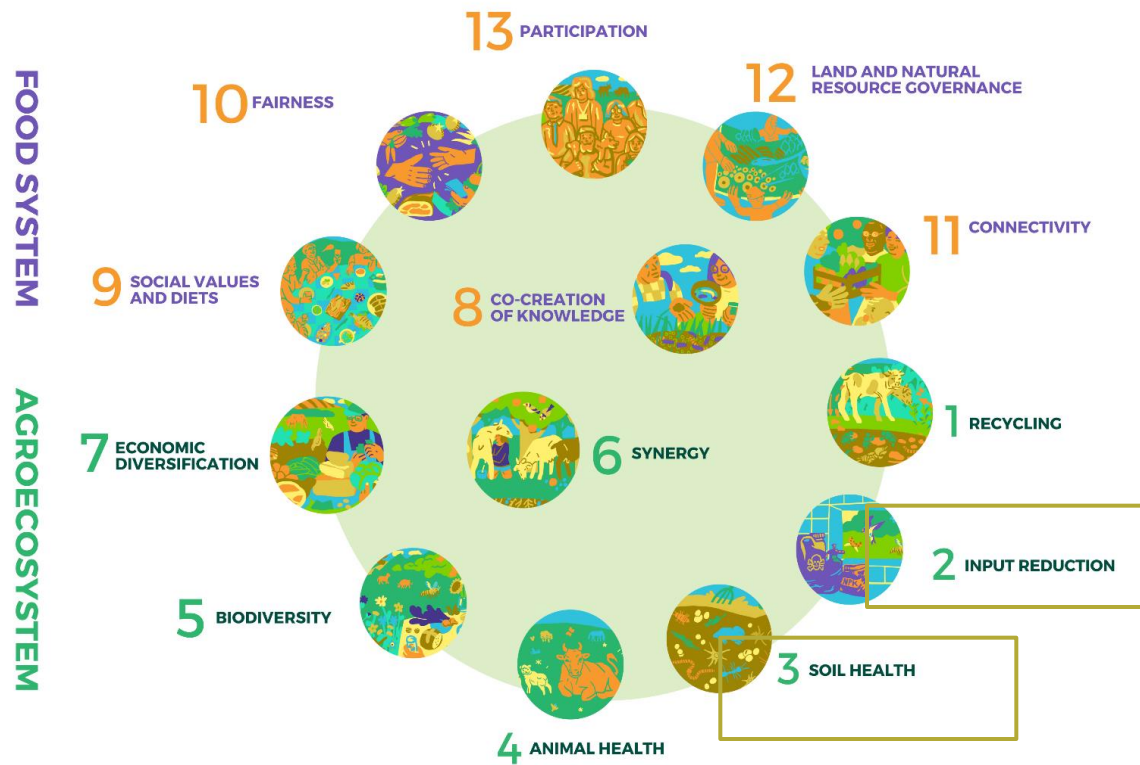




Result 1 - Limited access to data

- Very unsatisfying access to public data
 - Very scattered information (activity reports, strategies, estimation of budget,...)
 - Limited disclosure of financial flows from public bodies and ministries
 - No consolidated financial information on the topic
-
- How does the region pilot, monitor, and assess progress?
 - How do the ministries know if their action contributed to any systemic changes ?
 - Difficult for the civil society to check ministries' accountability

Result 2: Low agroecological ambition of most of the projects



- Agroecological scores are low
- Most of the financial flows obtained low scores as they would only focus on one or two of the 13 principles



A limited amount of financial flows tackles food system and agroecosystem principles

Result 3: Only 10% of the analyzed budget supports the agroecological transition

Total (2,485 billions €)

A
(1 570 827 572 € - 63%)

B
(915 017 640 € - 37 %)

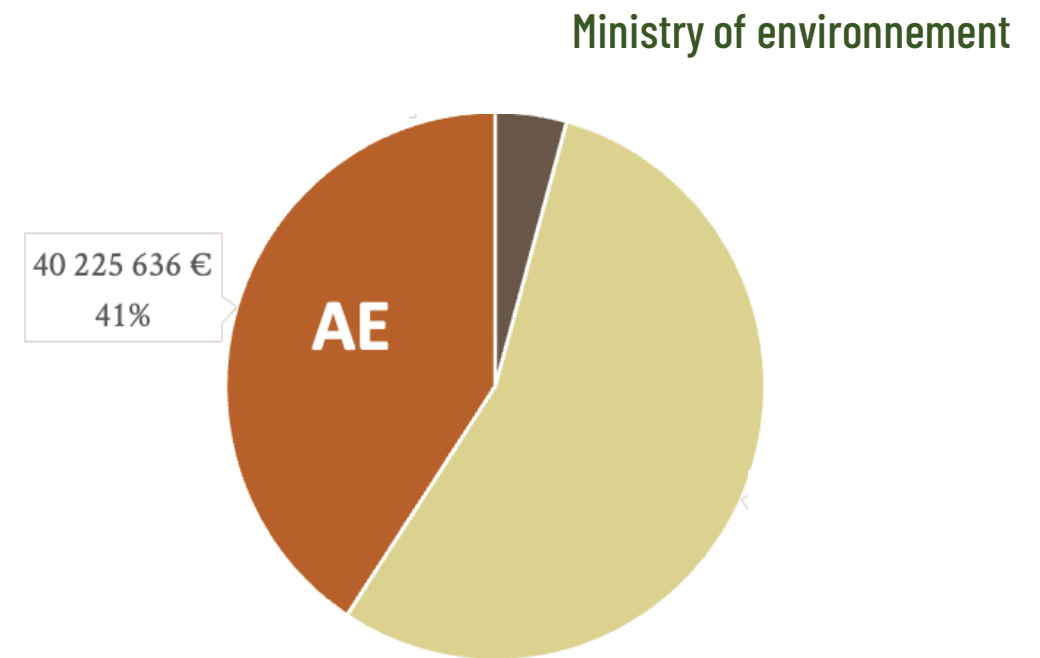
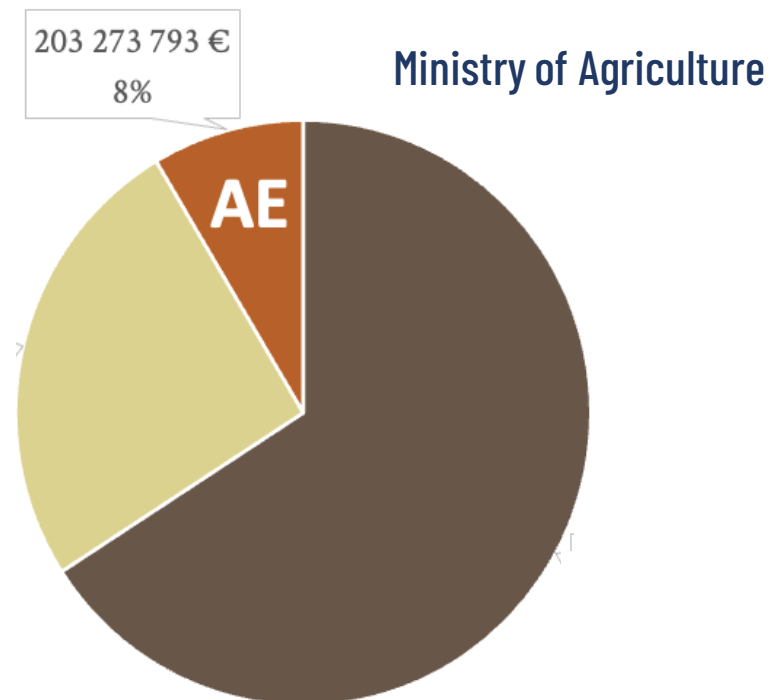
(668 067 842
€
- 27 %)

AE
(246 949 797
€
- 10 %)

Result 4 - Unbalanced support between the Ministries

Share of budget of Ministry of Agriculture for AE : 8 % - 203 millions

Share of budget of Ministry of Environment for AE : 41 % - 40 millions

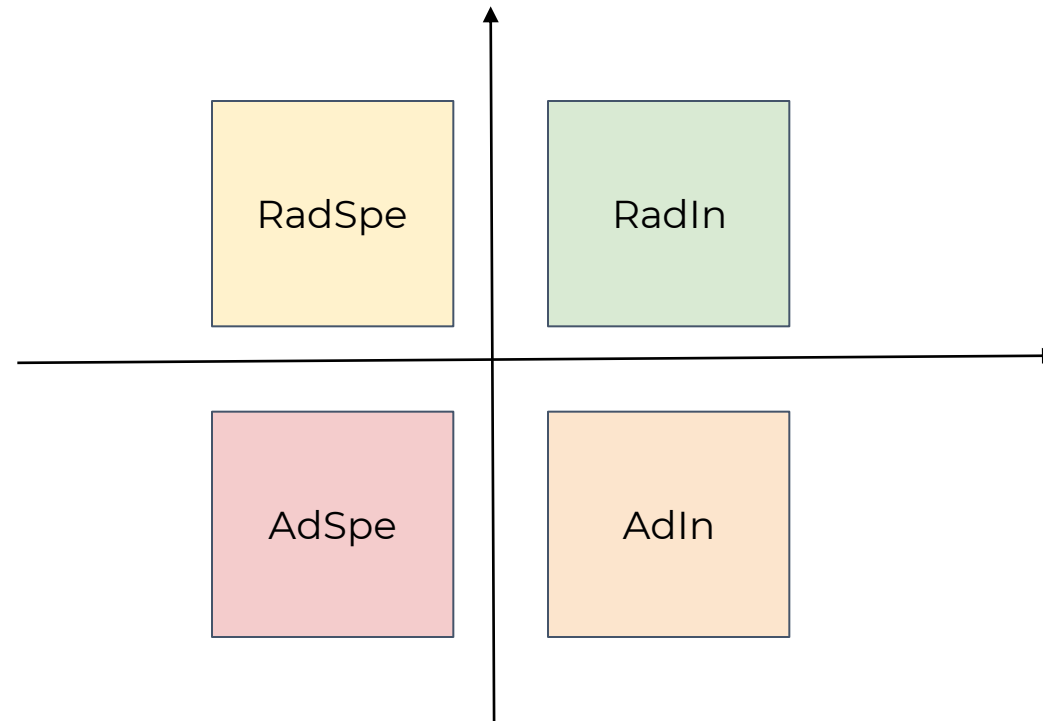


Discussion

Radical

An agroecological system based on ecosystemic services that integrates social dimensions

Specific
Centered on a limited amount of actors representing an homogenous group



Inclusive
Integration of all actors in their diverse situation

Adaptative

Progressive adaptation of the techniques to integrate sustainable practices

Discussion

Radical

An agroecological system based on ecosystemic services that integrates social dimensions

Scaling up

More budget

Specific

Centered on a limited amount of actors representing an homogenous group

RadSpe

RadIn

Inclusive

Integration of all actors in their diverse situation

AdSpe

AdIn

Ecologisation

Adaptative

Progressive adaptation of the techniques to integrate sustainable practices

More ambition

Policy recommendations

- **Greater access to data**

Defend a greater transparency and accountability of our government

- **Greater ambition**

Defend the development of a proper agroecological transition plan that involves a support to projects and programs that include radical and inclusive approaches

- **Larger perimeter**

Pursue the research at different scales and governance level (Flanders, Europe, etc)

Remark : Organic + ...

The organic agriculture remains a priority thanks to success of the specifications, let's search and support "organic plus" and not instead of organic



SYTRA

transition of
food systems

WWW.SYTRA.BE