



Agroecology and  
Safe Food System  
Transitions



12 October 2022 |

**Introduction Session**

# Results of the Agroecology and Food System Concept and Key Principles Workshop in Vietnam

Hanoi, 12<sup>th</sup> October. 2022  
Trong Hieu Do (NOMAFSI)

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FONDS FRANÇAIS POUR  
L'ENVIRONNEMENT MONDIAL

# Objective

1. To discuss and review the Agroecology and Food system Concept and its key Principles
2. To share our common values and to reach common understanding of these concept and principles

# Methodology

**Format:** Online – Klaxoon

## Plenary Session:

1. Show a video on Agroecology practices
2. Participants share key messages captured from the video.
3. Participants share they own experience on Agroecological practices in the context of Vietnam.

**Group discussion:** 3 groups discuss on three different typical systems in context of Vietnam



### Part 1 - Key Messages on Agroecology Practices (15minutes)

**Instruction:**

> Each participant writes 2 post-it on "agroecology". Please keep only one idea for one post-it (15mn)  
 > The facilitator asks a volunteer participant to share his ideas on "agroecology" and ask the other participants who have similar ideas to share  
 > The facilitator groups the similar keywords and then ask the participants to share the 2nd idea with the same process till the last idea for "agroecology".

	1st idea	2nd idea
1	Đa dạng cây	Đa dạng đất
2	Luân canh cây trồng	Đa dạng sinh học
3	Đa dạng cây trồng	Đa dạng sinh học
4	Có thu nhập, bền vững môi trường	Đa dạng sinh học
5	Đa dạng cây trồng	
6	Đa dạng cây trồng	
7	Đa dạng cây trồng	
8	Đa dạng cây trồng	
9	Đa dạng cây trồng	Đa dạng sinh học

# Characterization through 3 types of agroecosystem dynamics and associated challenges to support Agroecology transitions

## 1/ Agricultural systems connected to urban areas:

Feeding booming cities through safe and fair food circuits  
 Issues related to agroecology and food safety are important in food circuits and locally set as high-ranking priority in development strategies

## 2/ Rice based systems in lowlands:




Sustainable rice production as the cornerstone of food and farming systems  
 Lowland paddy rice is a major production system

## 3/ Crop-livestock-forest integration in uplands:

Preserving uplands from social and environmental degradations

**Subjected to priorities set by partners during Flagship site ToC**

Preah Vihear (Cambodia)  
 Xieng Khouang (Laos)  
 Son La & Dien Bien (Vietnam)

	Challenge #1 Ag. systems connected to urban areas « Feeding booming cities through safe and fair food circuits »	Challenge #2 Rice-based systems in lowlands « Sustaining rice production as the cornerstone of food and farming systems »	Challenge #3 Crop-livestock-forest in rainfed uplands « Preserving uplands from social and environmental degradations »
			
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# Agroecology Key Principles

- Major dimensions raised

- 1/ Practices at farm, field and landscape level:** crop rotation, enrich soil carbon, improve soil fertility (soil life), diversification, reduce chemical inputs usages, local and native species cultivation, integrated system
- 2/ Economic:** better farmer incomes, diversify incomes, importance of markets linkages, certification (PGS), quality transparency, story behind the product, people awareness
- 3/ Resilience:** AE allow to limit the market risks
- 4/ Efficiency:** optimize use of resources
- 5/ Political:** for scaling up strategy (encourage farmers cooperative and market access), to control utilization of chemical inputs (pesticides/herbicides)

# Agroecology Key Principles

- Dimensions less addressed

**1/ Social:** importance of extension services and networks to build upon success pilot, access to information for farmers, gender issues, farmers cooperative

**2/ Environmental:** protect environment

- Dimensions not addressed

Co-creating of knowledge,  
Participation,  
Diversified/local/healthy diets,  
Culture and Food Traditions,

# Points of Discussion / Key challenges:

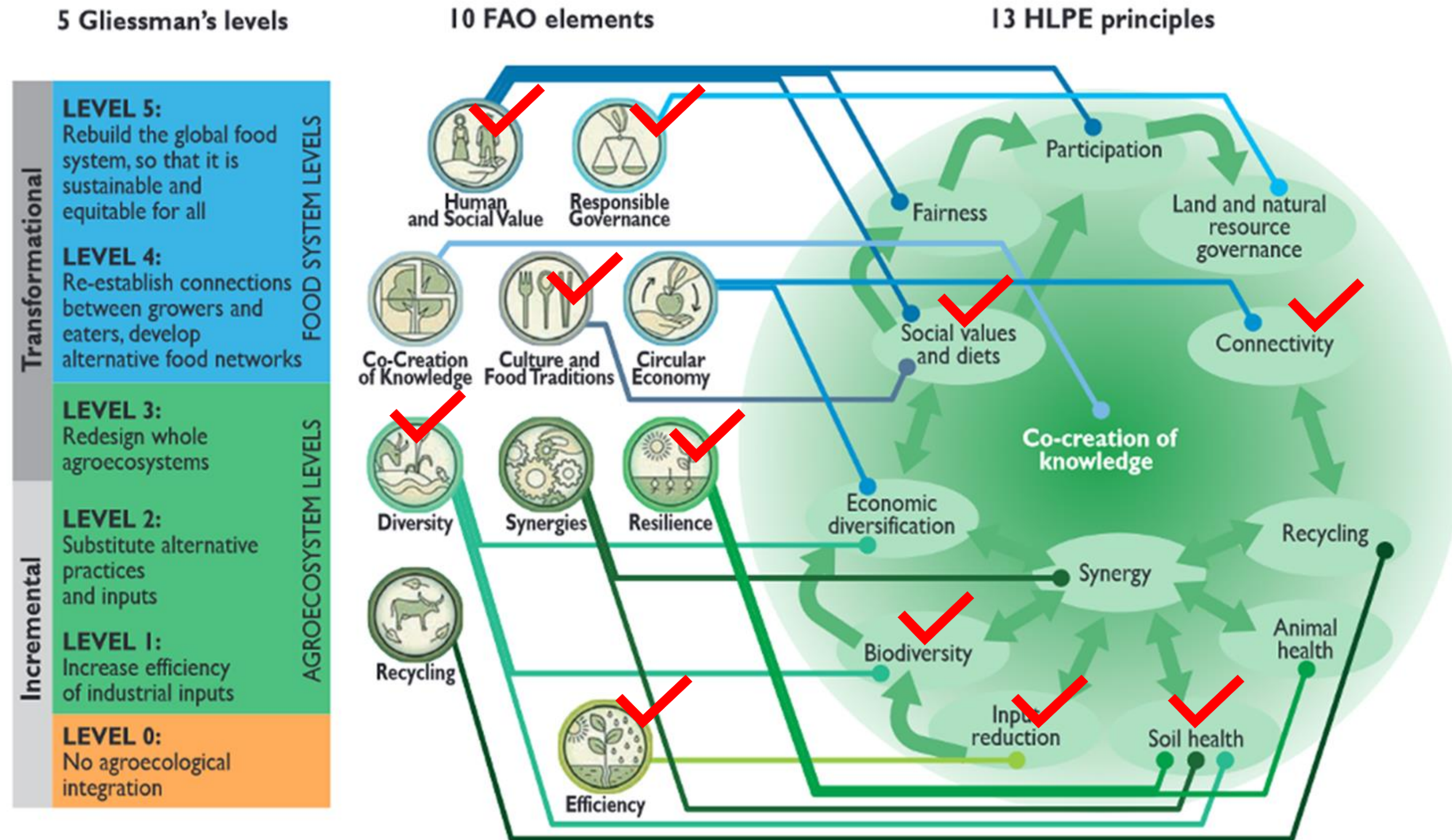
- **How to spread AE at a large scale** (not remaining niche area)?
  - **Local context specific**, take into account diversity of ecosystem (mountains, delta but also, how to deal with heavy chemical production zone)
  - **Difficult adoption and dissemination** of AE farming if farmers have small land, isolated and fragmented
  - AE practices are **labor-intensive**, making them impossible to apply
  - **Need collective involvement** and landscape management
  - Need for **set of indicators** (common and specific to each province) to assess the transitions and use it for awareness raising and recognition of AE

# Points of Discussion / Key challenges:

- If farmers are not well connected and supported, **challenges face during transition** might **drive them back to conventional practices** (how to support farmers that can't take risks);
- **Competition in land cultivation**, industrialization and urbanization force farmers to reduce their land;
- AE put **farmer at the core of the system** and better **take into account** (bottom-up approach, gender equality);



# Reflection of agroecology key principles in Vietnam on FAO's 10 elements and the HLPE principles



▲ Linking FAO's 10 elements, Gliessmann's 5 levels of food system transformation and the 13 HLPE principles

**In your opinion, How is the agriculture in Vietnam in 2045?**