Transformative Partnership Platform (TPP)

Agroecological approaches to building resilience of livelihoods and landscapes

Context

Given recent reports placing **agriculture at the centre of human and planetary health** (Willett et al., 2019[i]), indicating an **impending climate emergency** (IPCC, 2018[iii]) and **alarming loss of biodiversity** (IPBES, 2019[iv]), it is increasingly recognised that a **fundamental transformation of the global food system is required to ensure food and nutrition security for all** (SDG2) while **reversing degradation of land and water resources** and restoring rather than further damaging the environment.

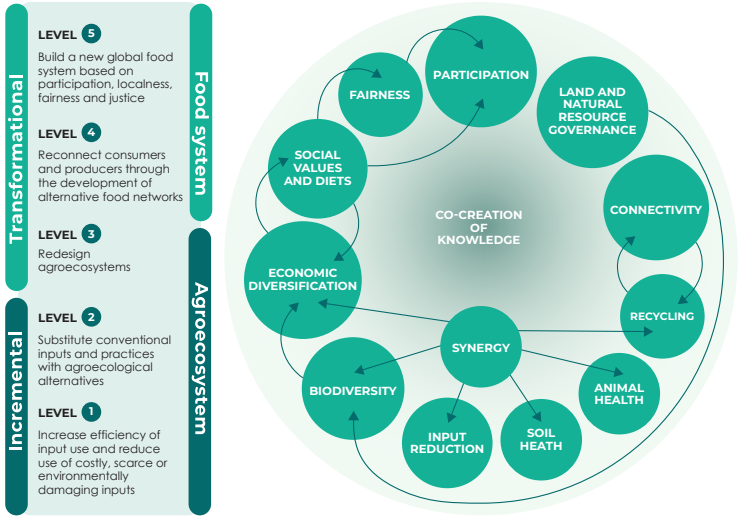

Figure 1. Transition levels (Gliessman, 2016[ii]) towards sustainable food systems and related principles of agroecology (HLPE, 2019) involving more stakeholders and levers at higher transition levels.

Agroecological principles, as shown in Figure 1, are increasingly seen as being able to make a key contribution to transitioning to sustainable agricultural and food systems (HLPE, 2019[v]). These approaches transform agriculture through a diversity of pathways, from different starting points, in a variety of contexts, but their adoption is currently constrained by market failures, maladapted policies and paucity of evidence on their performance in different contexts (Sinclair et al., 2019[vi], Côte et al. 2019[vii]).

Genesis

During 2019 there were several key meetings and events that explored the evidence surrounding agroecological transformation of food systems (Figure 2). At one of these, CG Centers and French research institutions conceived a joint initiative to address critical knowledge gaps about agroecological transitions, to provide evidence to underpin advocacy and inform policy makers and donors about the potential of agroecological approaches to foster innovation that can sustainably improve livelihood and landscape resilience. They produced a call for action on agroecological transition of agri-food systems, stressing the need for change in the way that research is done (France-CGIAR, 2019[viii]).

Platform

This concept note seeks to extend this initiative to encompass a range of institutions that already partner in an ad-hoc fashion, to come together within a holistic **Transformative Partnership Platform** to accelerate and co-ordinate their work on agroecology across international, national and local scales, with the aim of **fostering transitions to more sustainable agricultural and food systems** (Figure 2). This involves working in new ways, bringing together: research and development; science and social movements and local and scientific knowledge through transdisciplinary science and the co-creation of knowledge. It facilitates integration of the work of global partners on priority areas required to unlock the potential of agroecological approaches through situating efforts within a series of 'engagement landscapes' or territories where co-creation of knowledge is pursued with local people, exemplars established and lessons that are learnt generalized across locations to generate global public goods.

Modality

This platform, already invested in by World Agroforestry (ICRAF) through the CGIAR research programme (CRP) on Forests, Trees and Agroforestry (FTA) and French research institutions (CIRAD, IRD and INRAE), is generating interest amongst a range of other bodies who are invited to join and shape the platform as it gains momentum in addressing agroecological transformation. Funding from France to start addressing "documenting and evaluating the socio-economic viability of agroecological practices and their adoption by farmers across Africa" is already committed.

This initiative will run alongside others addressing issues that are progressively formulated by partners, following an approach that involves: defining a knowledge or implementation gap; building a common methodological approach; producing a call to partners to contribute to a coordinated research and/or implementation programme; synthesise

and generalise learning across contexts; and, advocacy, publication and communication of resulting messages through high profile events with decision makers. Interest has already been shown by donors in the indicative issues shown in Figure 2 – with specific dialogue regarding inclusive cross-scale metrics for agricultural systems in progress. The platform will be overseen by a steering committee initially comprising CGIAR and Cirad representatives, to be extended to representatives of other supporting partners, with a secretariat provided by CIFOR-ICRAF through the agroecology priority of FTA.

The TPP works in a demand driven-modality, from the local centre of the diagram out to the global periphery, with representatives of NARES, civil society and social movements involved in steering the direction of the TPP and priority issues emerging from locally articulated needs.

Transformative Partnership Platform on agroecological approaches to building resilience of livelihoods and landscapes

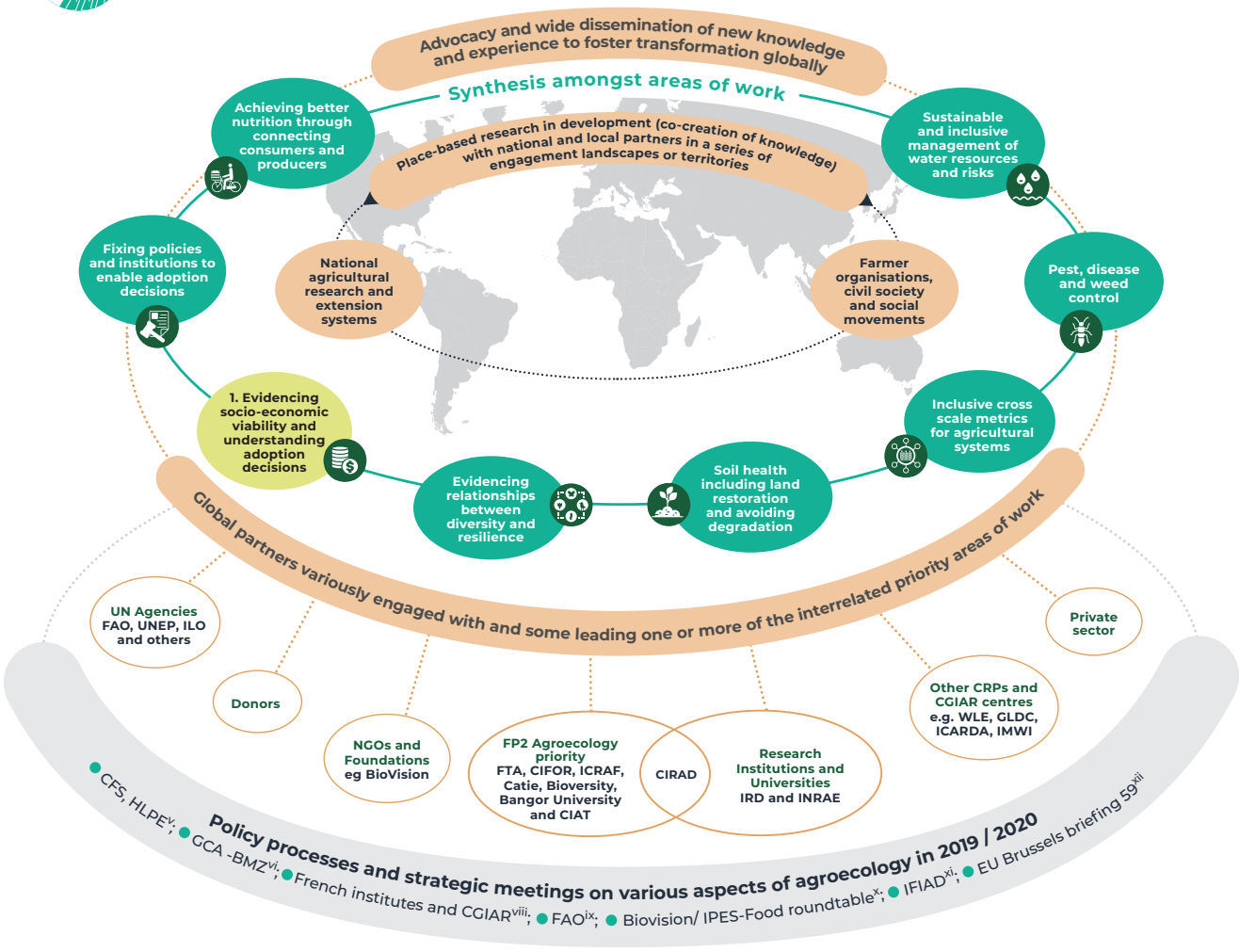

Figure 2. The transformative partnership platform on agroecological approaches to building resilience of livelihoods and landscapes. Partners and areas of work are indicative rather than definitive at this stage.

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