

Agroecological Transition of the European Dairy Farming System

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CENTRO DE INVESTIGACIÓN Y TECNOLOGÍA
AGROALIMENTARIA DE ARAGÓN

Outline

1. TEDY project
2. General knowledge of agroecology and key themes
3. Stakeholders survey (Spain)

MAY 2025 - APRIL 2028

TEDY



Agroecology in Action: Shaping the Future of European Dairy

Developing a framework for agroecological transition in dairy farming
Implementing innovative practices
Assessing economic, environmental, and social impacts
Facilitating capacity building, knowledge exchange, and adoption

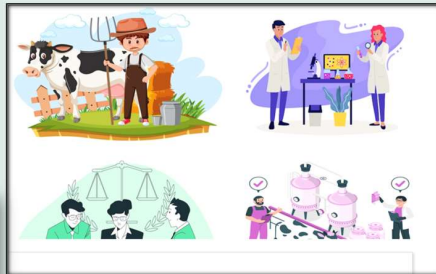
Vision and aim of TEDY

Aim: Promote an agroecological transition of the European dairy sector in line with the EU sustainability goals in collaboration with 15 partners from 11 European countries.

Vision: TEDY will explore the perspective of an agroecological transition in the dairy industry and describe the different perceptions of a transformation at both national and European levels in the participating countries.

TEDY will test potential measures and strategies through case studies and so-called Living Labs, which can promote an agroecological transition at both national and European levels.

Agroecological Living Labs (ALLs)



Expected Outcomes

A clear definition of an agroecological transition in the European dairy sector.
Increased knowledge exchange and stronger stakeholder engagement.
Recommendations for measures and strategies to promote an agroecological transition in the European dairy sector based on the results of case studies and Agroecological Living Labs (ALLs).

AGROECOLOGICAL TRANSITION OF THE EUROPEAN DAIRY FARMING SYSTEM



1. TEDY project

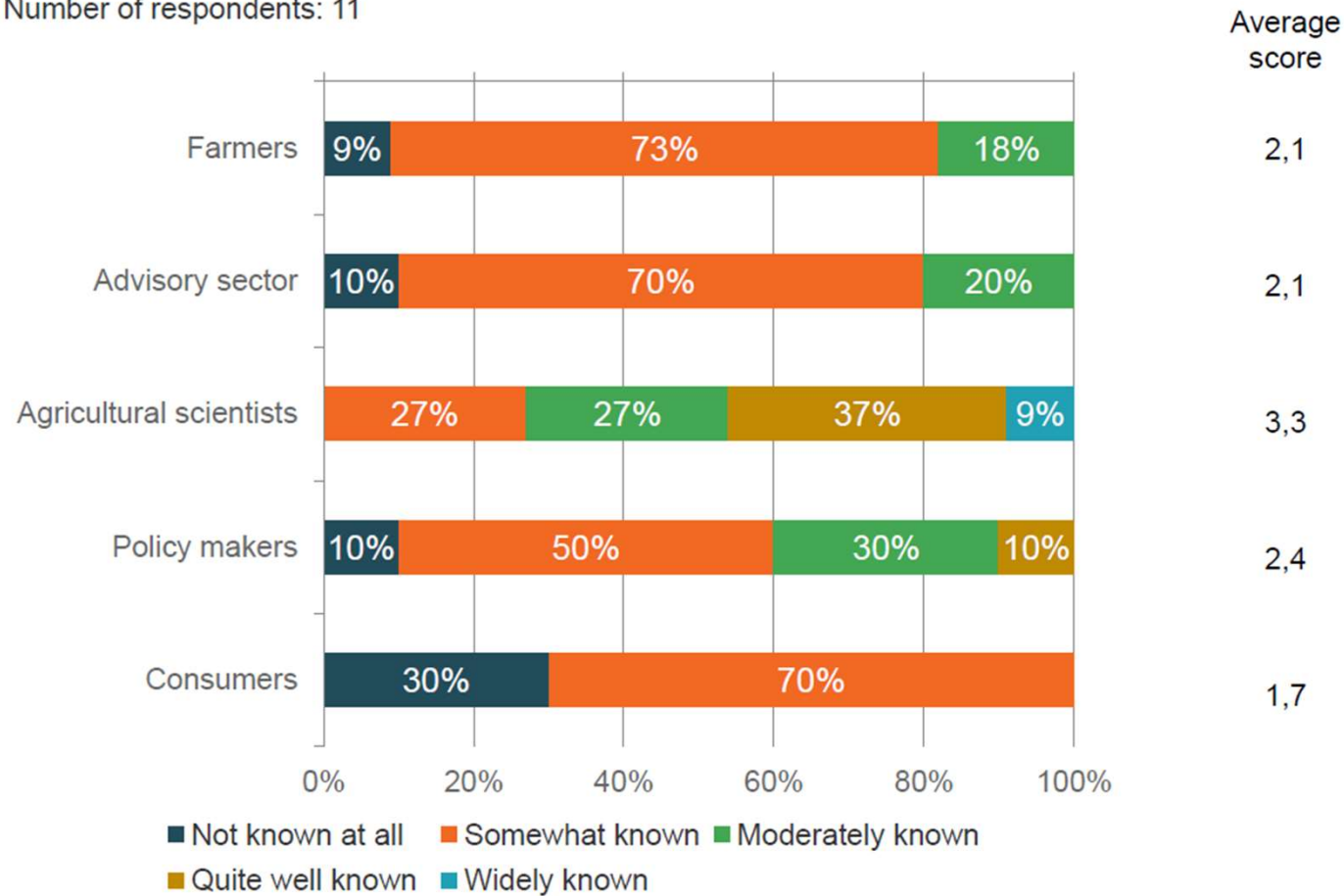
- Agroecology Partnership
- 15 partners across EU
- Lead: Free University of Bolzano (IT)
- 2025-2028
- 2977 k€

<https://tedyproject.it/>

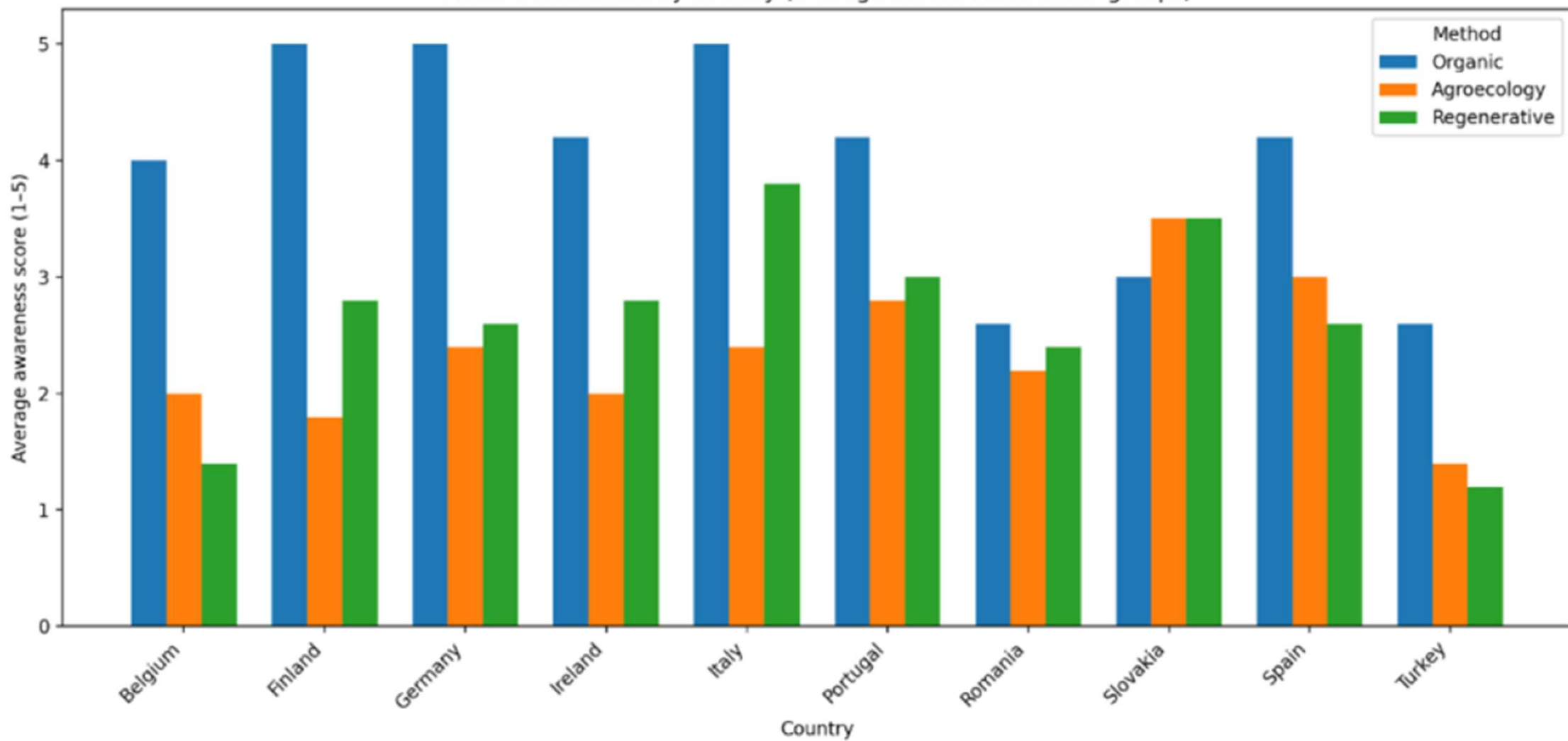
2. Knowledge

How well known is agroecology in your country among:

Number of respondents: 11



Method awareness by country (average across stakeholder groups)



2. Key themes (in living labs)

A. Agroecology & systems transformation

- Introduction and definition of agroecological principles
- Finding agroecological solutions for dairy systems

B. Sustainable & climate-smart & environmentally sound dairy farming

- Sustainable and resilient dairy farming systems & grassland production
- Climate-smart and environmentally sound practices
 - Quantifying and reducing emissions across production systems
- Promoting circular farming approaches
- Improving competitiveness alongside other aspects of sustainability

C. Grasslands & forage production

- Crop diversification in grassland systems
 - Multispecies swards with legumes
- Productivity and forage quality
 - Drought-resistance

D. Soil, nitrogen & biodiversity

- Nitrogen fixation in soils
- Reducing nitrogen losses
- Improving soil biodiversity
- Soil and water management skills for farmers
- Agroecological soil management practices

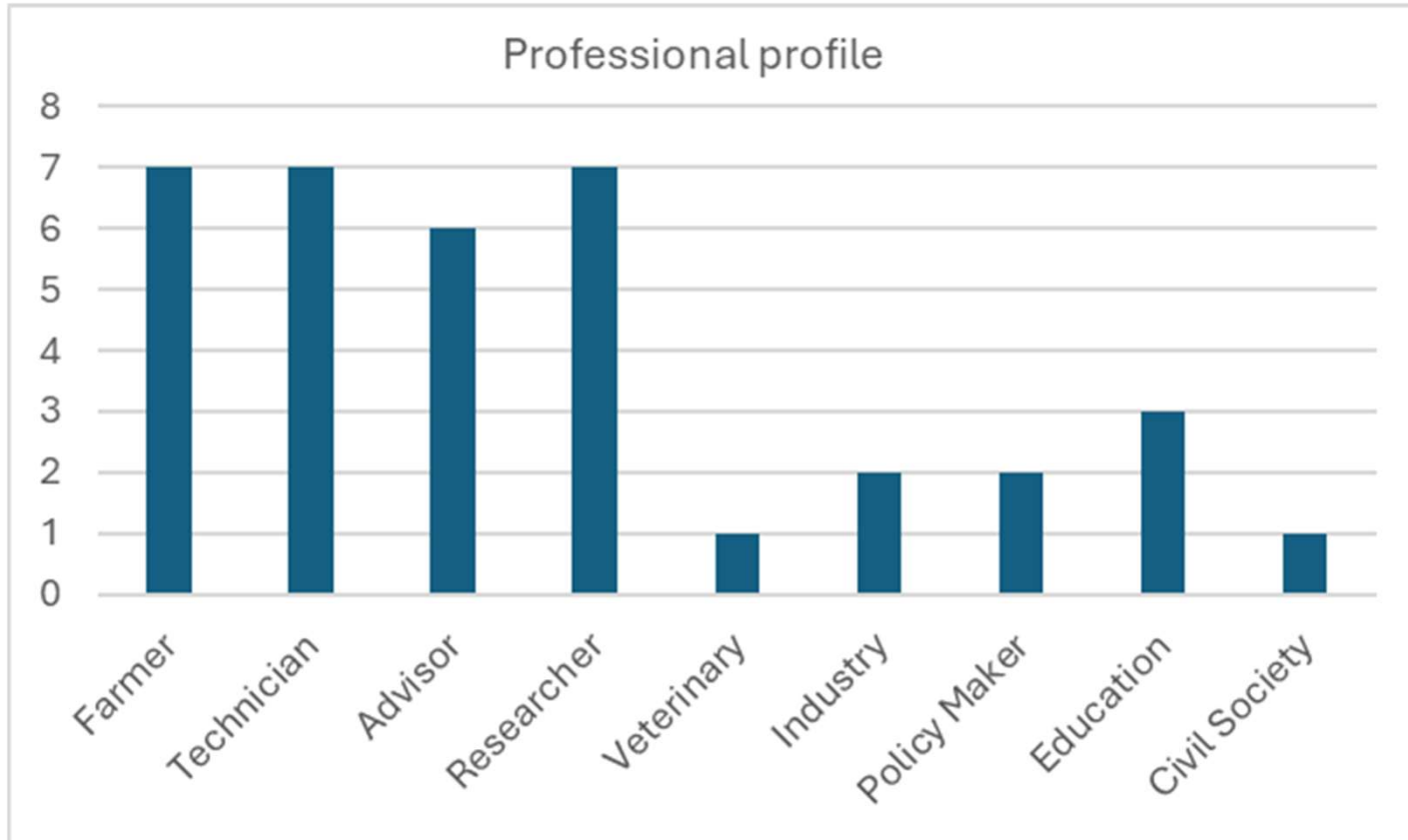
E. Knowledge co-creation & transfer

- Strengthening co-creation between researchers and farmers
 - Implementing strategies, measuring impact, improving approaches
 - Transferring research knowledge into dairy practice & feeding practical farm experience back into research and legislation
- Outreach, demonstration days, and public engagement
- Education and training of farm leaders → probably others will follow

F. Communication, outreach & dissemination

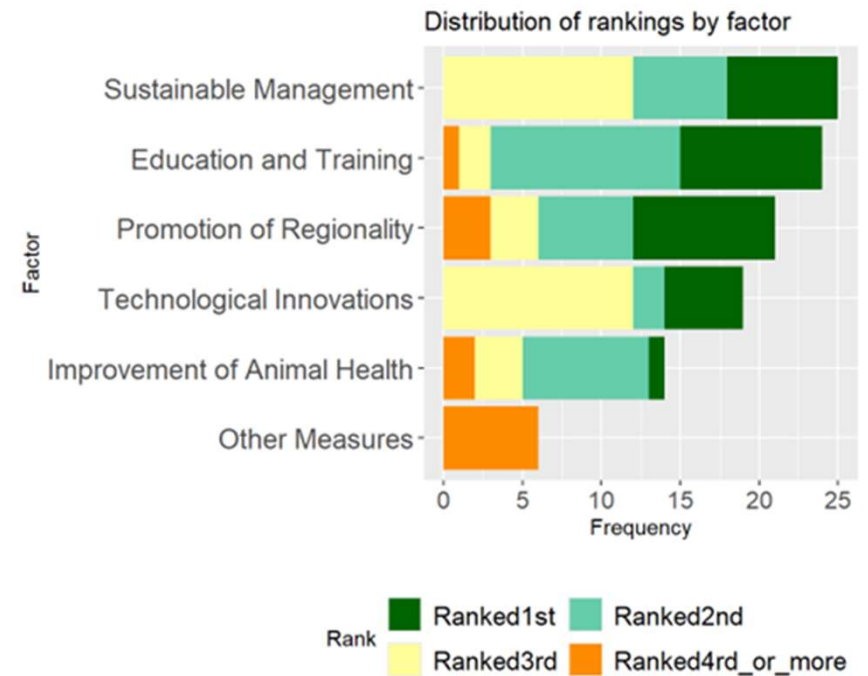
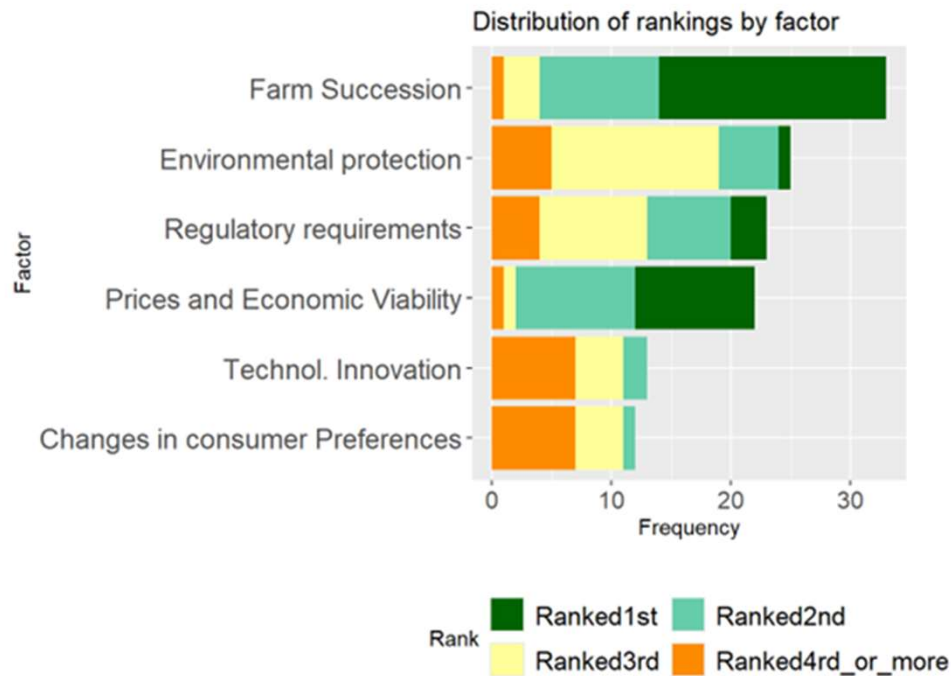
- Evaluation of research results and policy relevance
- Publishing: peer-reviewed articles and conference presentations
- Open data contributions and cross-country synthesis
- Improving visibility of the agricultural sector
- Reducing polarization around agriculture

3. Stakeholders survey (Spain)

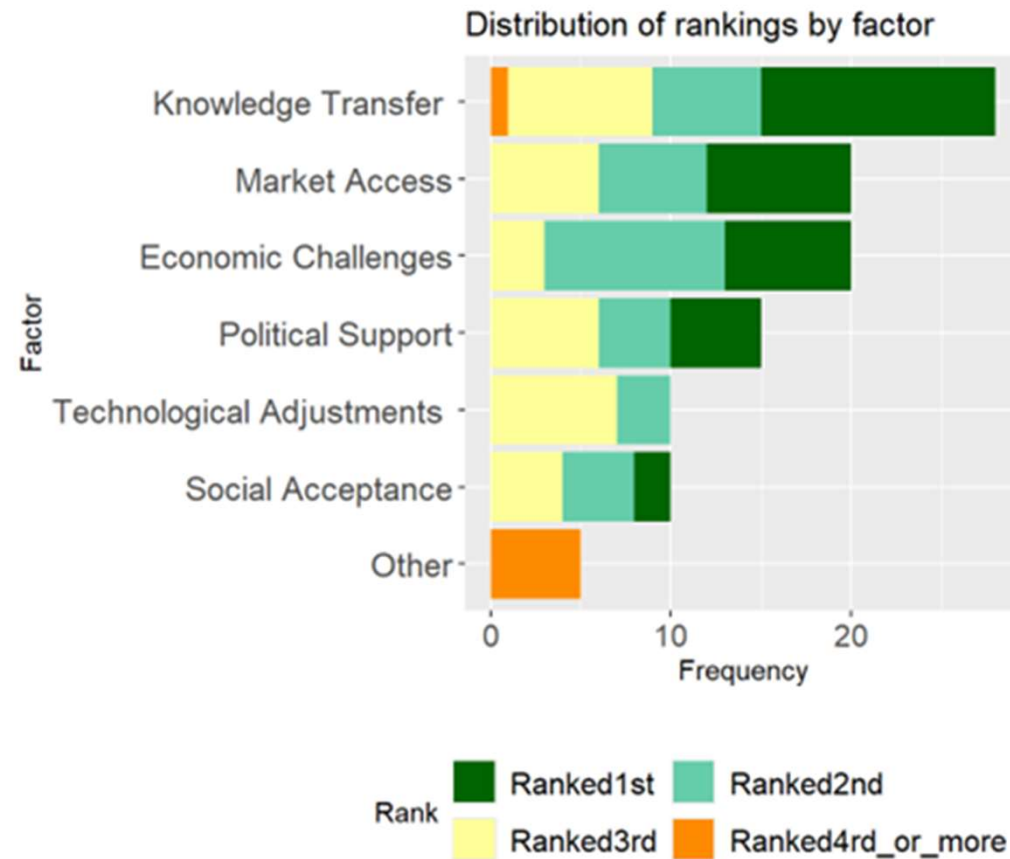


N=36 (47% female)

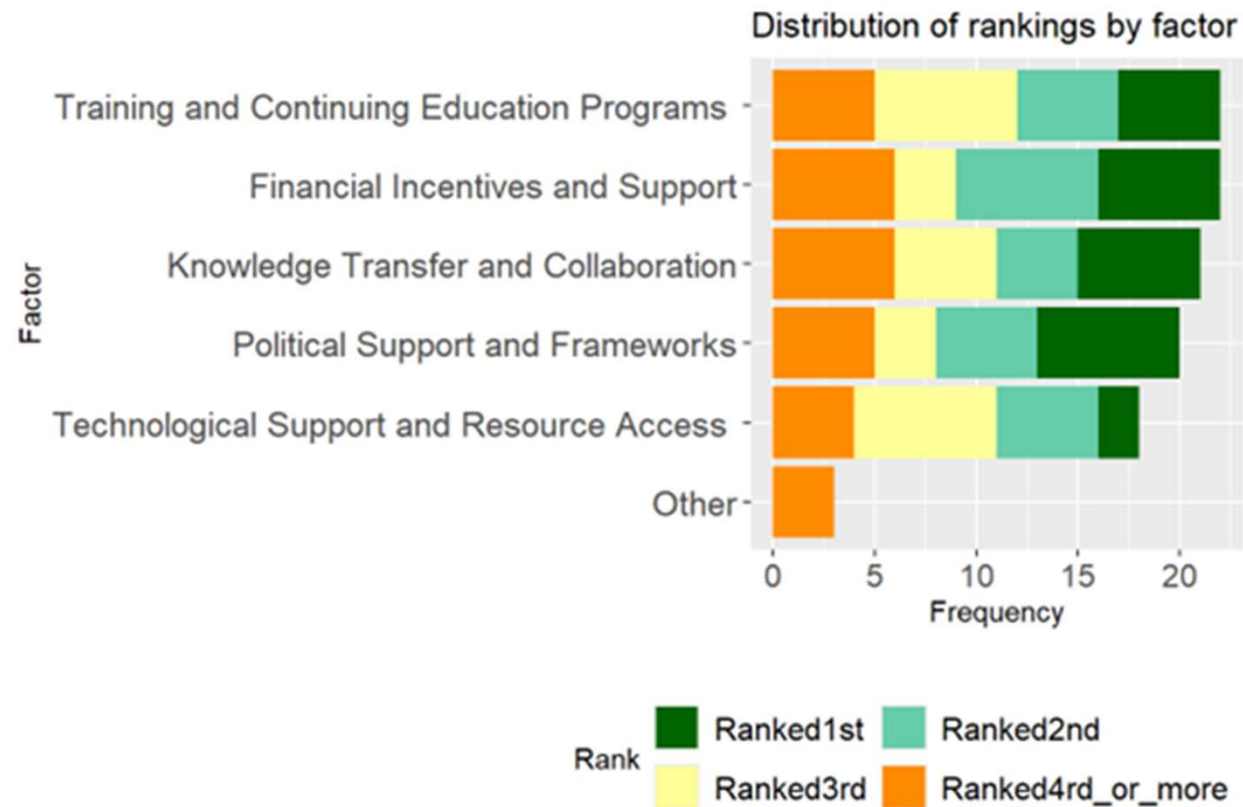
Global challenges and solutions



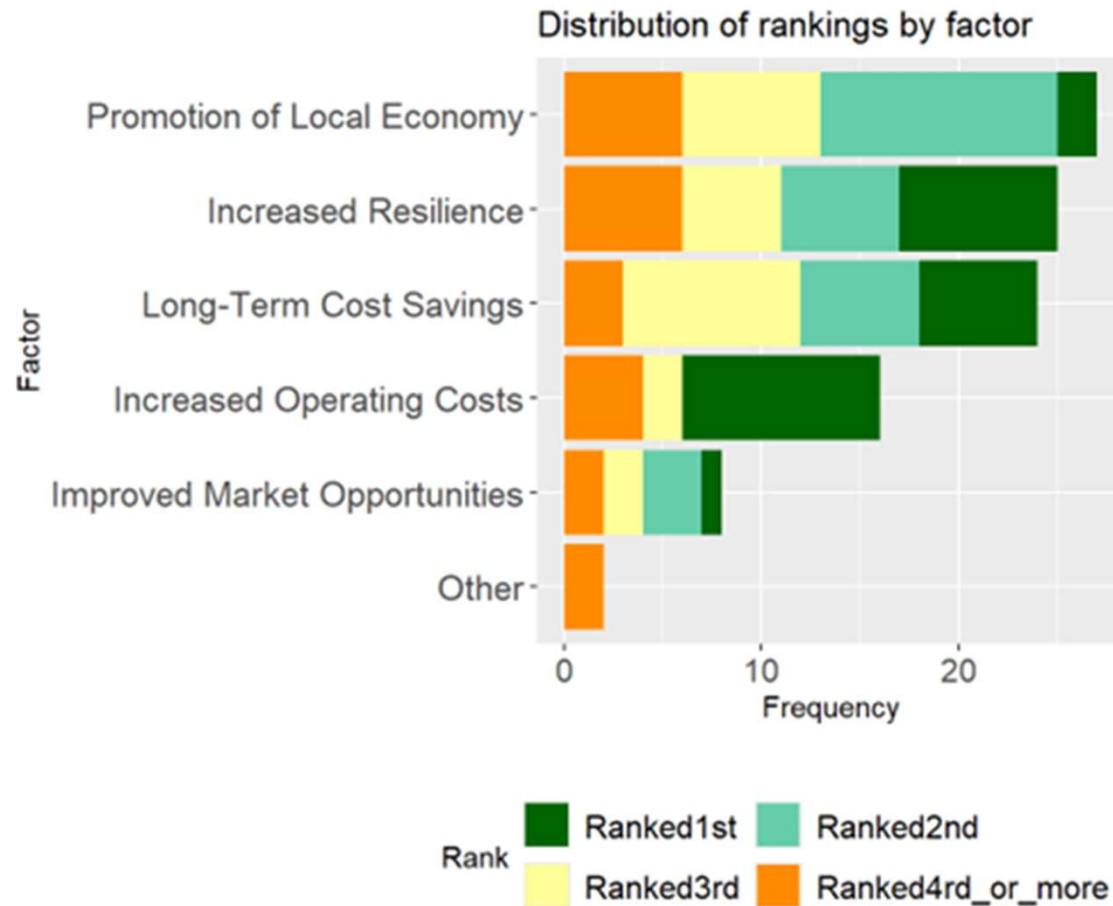
Challenges for agroecology



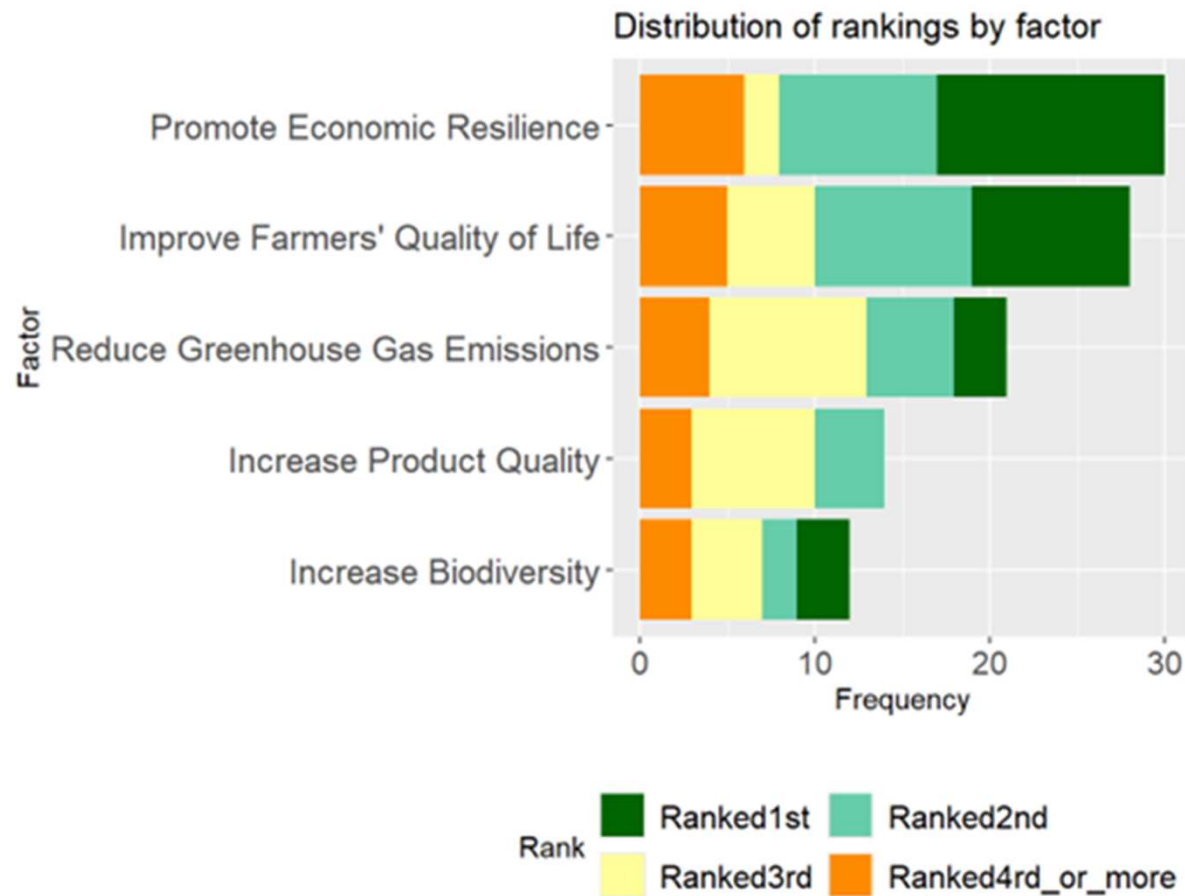
Measures to promote agroecology



Economic impact of agroecology



Long term goals of agroecology



Conclusions

- **Align policy and support programs with farmers' priorities** by emphasizing economic resilience and farmers' quality of life as essential pillars, alongside environmental goals.
- **Strengthening training and knowledge exchange** programs to empower both farmers and advisors on technical skills but also highlighting the benefits of targeting environmental objectives such as soil health, reduction of GHG and biodiversity.
- **Support innovation for system or site-specific conditions** that integrate technology, local knowledge, and ecological management to improve profitability, increase resilience and reduce environmental impact.
- **Prioritize technologies that serve agroecological goals** in terms of resource efficiency, environmental monitoring, and informed decision-making; and support their adoption with financing and training.
- **Strengthen local governance and coordination to enhance cooperation**, farmer networks, and participatory policymaking for a more inclusive approach.
- **Invest in public education and communication**, including school programs and media strategies, to build long-term consumer and societal engagement with agroecological values.
- **Connect agroecological practices to market value** through trusted certification, consumer education, and digital storytelling, highlighting links to product quality, animal welfare, and local development. Explore the possibility of including private funding for establishing payments for ecosystem services (e.g., biodiversity credits).



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Thank you!

