



Agroecology Support to the Collaborative Crop Research Program (CCRP)

FRN Meeting
23 June, 2020



Agroecology Support CORE TEAM



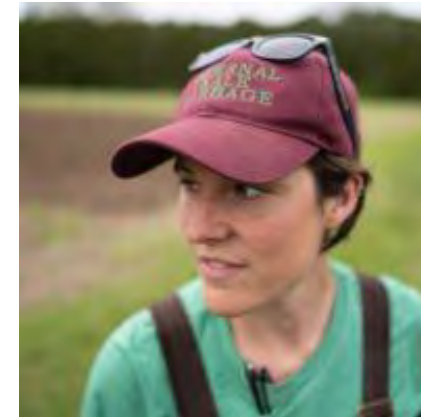
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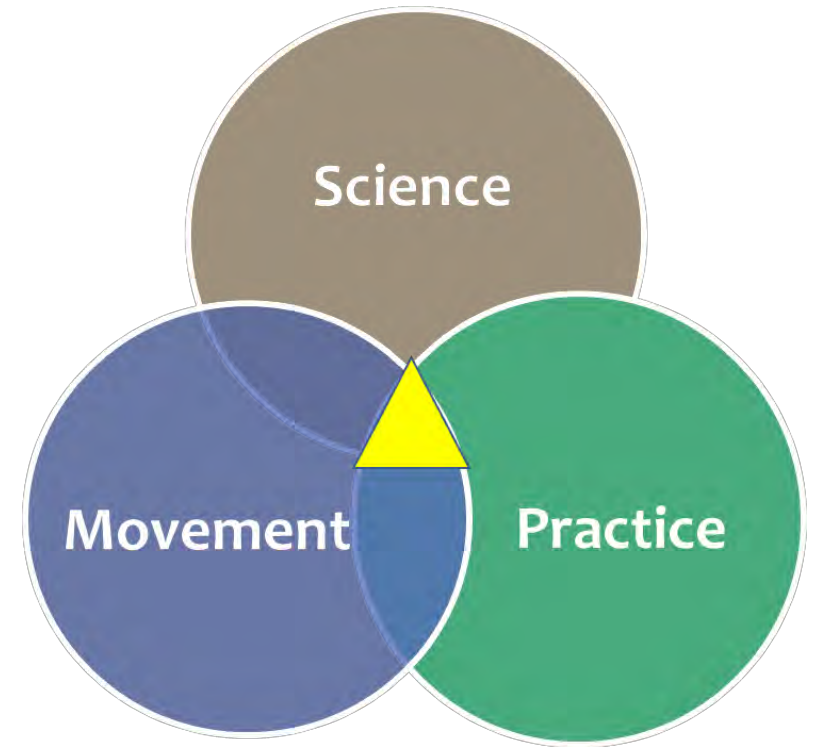
Agroecology

FAO

Agroecology is based on applying ecological concepts and principles to optimize interactions between plants, animals, humans and the environment while taking into consideration the social aspects that need to be addressed for a sustainable and fair food system.

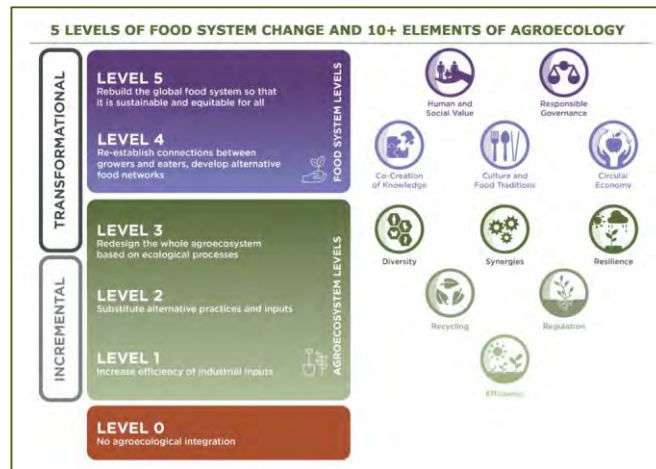
Agroecology & Livelihoods Collaborative (ALC)

An approach that integrates ecological science with other academic disciplines (e.g. sociology) and knowledge systems (e.g. indigenous) to guide research and actions towards the sustainable and just transformation of our current agrifood system.



Goals of the Agroecology Support Grant

1. Deepen Capacity Building in Agroecology
2. Advance Agroecological Assessment and Monitoring
 - Critical review of analytical frameworks
 - Research methods/approaches- participatory action research (PAR)
 - Aggregation/analysis across the program



Source: Biovision Agroecology Info Pool:
<https://www.agroecology-pool.org/>



Goals of the Agroecology Support Grant

3. Coalesce Support Teams and Key CCRP Initiatives around Agroecology



Goals of the Agroecology Support Grant

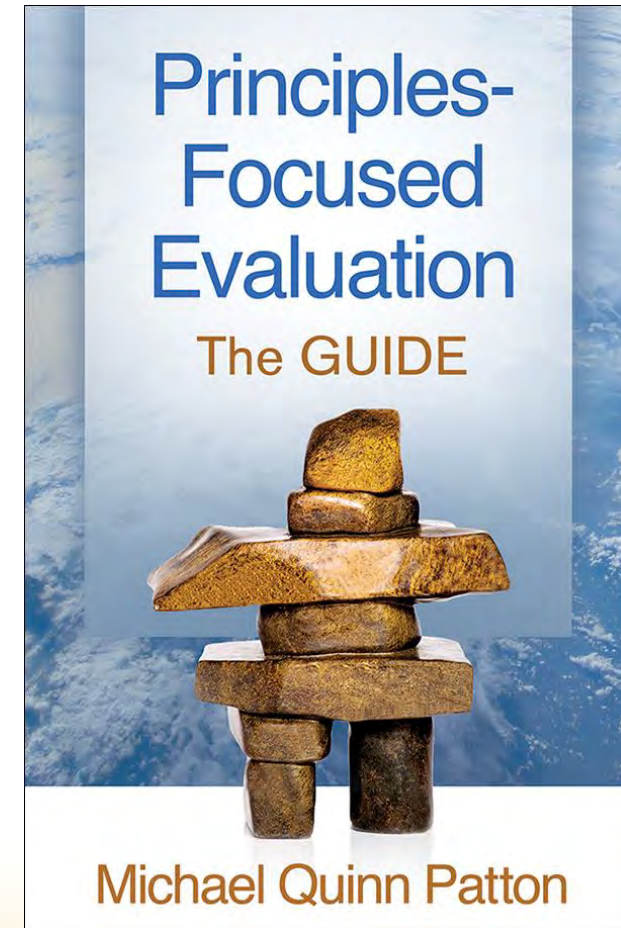
4. Use Lessons Learned to Engage Diverse, Global Actors in a Dialogue that Advances Agroecology



What is a Principle?

“A principle is defined as a fundamental truth or proposition that serves as the foundation for a system of belief or behavior or for a chain of reasoning. An evidence-based effective principles approach assumes that **while the principles remain the same**, in implementing principles **there will necessarily and appropriately be adaptation within and across contexts.**”

Source: Patton, M. Q. (2017). *Principles-focused evaluation: The guide*. New York, NY: Guilford Press.



YOUR STORY – YOUR PRINCIPLES AND VALUES

Write:

What are the principles and values that guide you in your work?

- Scientific
- Social
- Spiritual
- Ecological
- Cultural
- Agroecological ...

FARMER RESEARCH NETWORKS

- “An association of **farmer groups**, working together with research and development organizations to facilitate access to technical, institutional and financial support, which **engages in research** and is networked so as to share information and data”
- “to link **problem-solving** research with action”
- “to facilitate **positive changes** for farmers at scale”

Rebecca (Nelson et al. 2019)

- Build farmers’ proven **capacity to innovate**
- FRNs build on decades of **creative participatory research**



FRN PRINCIPLES

Diverse **farmers** participate in the whole research process.

Research is rigorous, democratized, and useful, focused on AEI knowledge creation that provides practical benefits to farmers based on their social and biophysical context.

Networks are collaborative and facilitate learning and knowledge sharing



YOUR STORY in the FRN

Connect:

Are there principles of the FRN that overlap with yours?

Are there principles of the FRN that you would like to cultivate more as part of your work?



FRN PRINCIPLES

1. **Diverse farmers** participate in the whole research process.

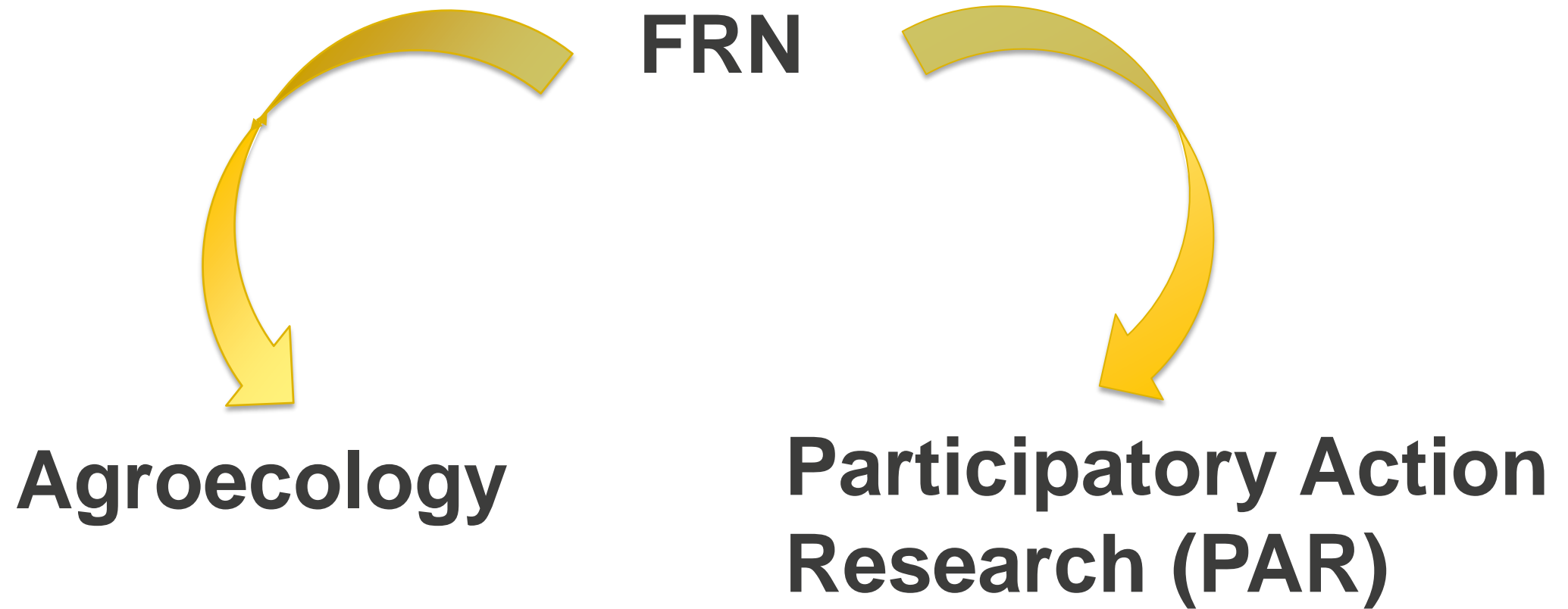
1. Farmers co-create the research agenda.
2. Farmers are engaged throughout the research process.
3. Farmers from marginalized groups have meaningful representation in the network.
4. Farmers strengthen their capacity to learn together.

2. **Research** is rigorous, democratized, and useful, focused on AEI knowledge creation that provides practical benefits to farmers based on their social and biophysical context.

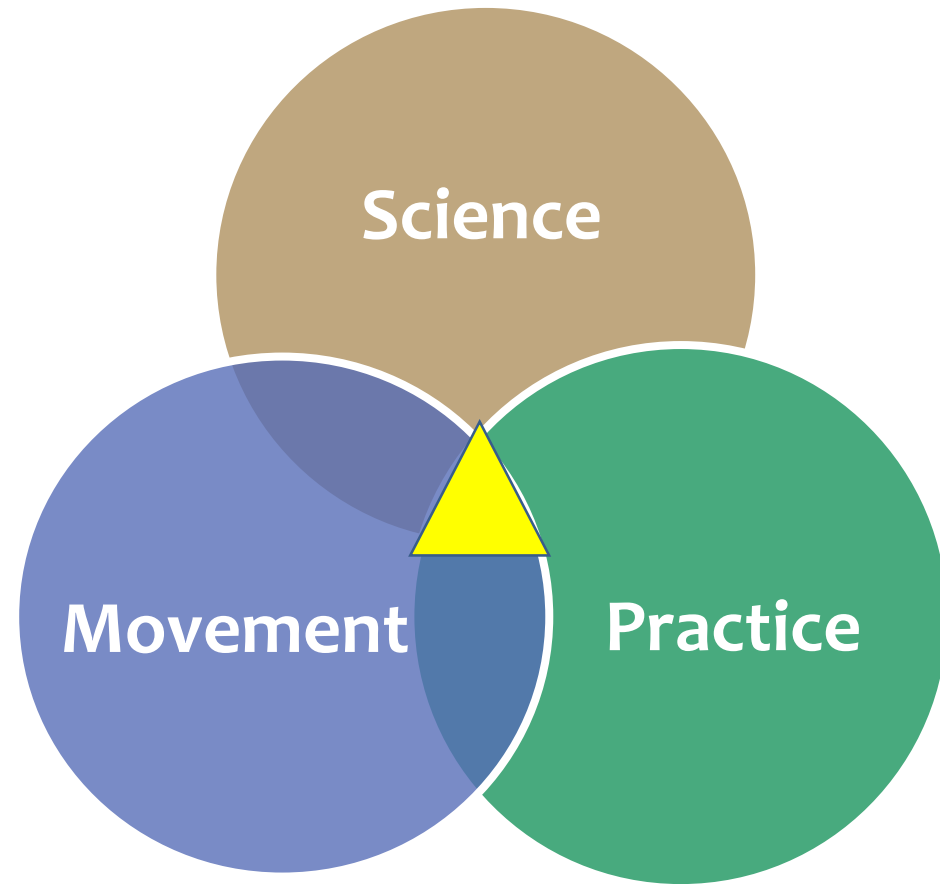
1. Research effectively addresses farmers' problems and opportunities and is continually adapted based on reflection on experiences by FRN members
2. Co-developed research plans are formalized through an agreement of all parties that covers principles, rules of engagement, and responsibilities
3. Research is based on sound, appropriate, and participatory designs and protocols.
4. Relevant local, indigenous, and farmer knowledges are fully integrated into research.

3. **Networks** are collaborative and facilitate learning and knowledge sharing

1. Networks support learning and knowledge sharing among all members.
2. Networks are made up of connections among differently positioned actors and encourage the flow of learning throughout the network.
3. Networks facilitate learning and knowledge sharing among farmer groups and within communities.
4. Network members engage in iterative reflection and planning to guide network activities



AGROECOLOGY



AGROECOLOGY PRINCIPLES

Conserve and enhance soil health and nutrient cycling

Conserve and enhance natural/ecological pest and disease regulating mechanisms

Minimize dependence on external synthetic inputs

Conserve and enhance agroecosystem diversity at multiple levels

Enhance agroecosystem performance without compromising the natural resource base

Diversify livelihoods to manage and mitigate risk

Prioritize and enhance local food production for food security and food sovereignty

Strengthen local organizations

Integrate farmer/local and scientific knowledge

YOUR STORY in AGROECOLOGY

Connect and amplify:

Are there principles of Agroecology that overlap with yours?

Are there principles of Agroecology that you would like to cultivate more as part of your work?



Agroecological Principles

Table 1. Preliminary list of agroecological principles to use in the Agroecological Performance research.
Agroecology and Livelihoods Collaborative (ALC)

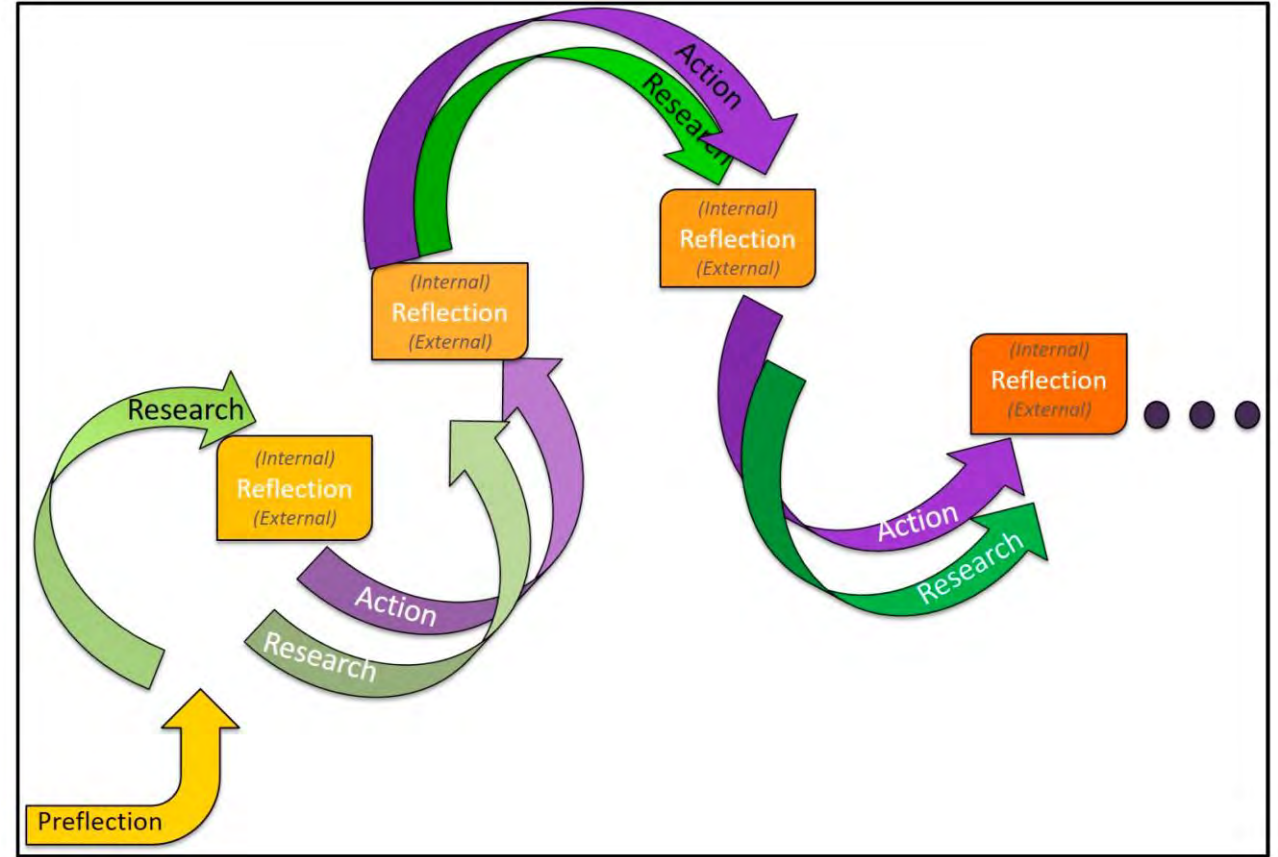
#	Principles	Sub-principles	Practice Examples
1	Conserve and enhance agroecosystem diversity at multiple levels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Preserve and enhance crop diversity ✓ Preserve and enhance crop genetic diversity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Intercropping ✓ Agroforestry
2	Conserve and enhance soil health and nutrient cycling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Manage all soil properties: biological, physical and chemical ✓ Conserve and enhance soil organic matter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Intercropping ✓ Agroforestry ✓ Green manuring
3	Conserve and enhance natural/ecological pest and disease regulating mechanisms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Minimize use of synthetic pesticides ✓ Manage habitat to enhance natural enemies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ ‘Insectary’ crops or hedgerows’ ✓ Organic pest control
4	Minimize dependence on external synthetic inputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Minimize use of synthetic pesticides ✓ Minimize use of synthetic fertilizer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Substitute with organic pesticides and fertilizers

Agroecological Principles

Table 1. Preliminary list of agroecological principles to use in the Agroecological Performance research.
Agroecology and Livelihoods Collaborative (ALC)

#	Principles	Sub-principles	Practice Examples
5	Enhance agroecosystem performance without compromising the natural resource base	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Improve ecological agroecosystem management efficiency ✓ Improve economic agroecosystem management efficiency 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Farm planning ✓ Cost-benefit analysis
6	Diversify livelihoods to manage and mitigate risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Balance cash and subsistence production ✓ Balance number of incomes sources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Intercropping ✓ Agroforestry ✓ Cover cropping
7	Prioritize and enhance local food production for food security and food sovereignty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Link livelihood strategies for food security/food sovereignty 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Community food & seed centers ✓ Agroecological food production
8	Strengthen local organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Support democratic farmer organizing ✓ Strengthen farmer organization networks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Organizational governance. ✓ Gender dynamics. ✓ Type and number of networks (density).
9	Integrate farmer/local and scientific knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Create farmer scientist teams ✓ Generate space for respectful dialogue 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Interest in research and in partnerships. ✓ Cultural competency.

PARTECIPATORY ACTION RESEARCH



PAR PRINCIPLES

Shared interest in research

Belief in collective power

Commitment to participation

Humility

Trust and accountability

Communication



YOUR STORY with Participatory Action Research (PAR)

Connect:

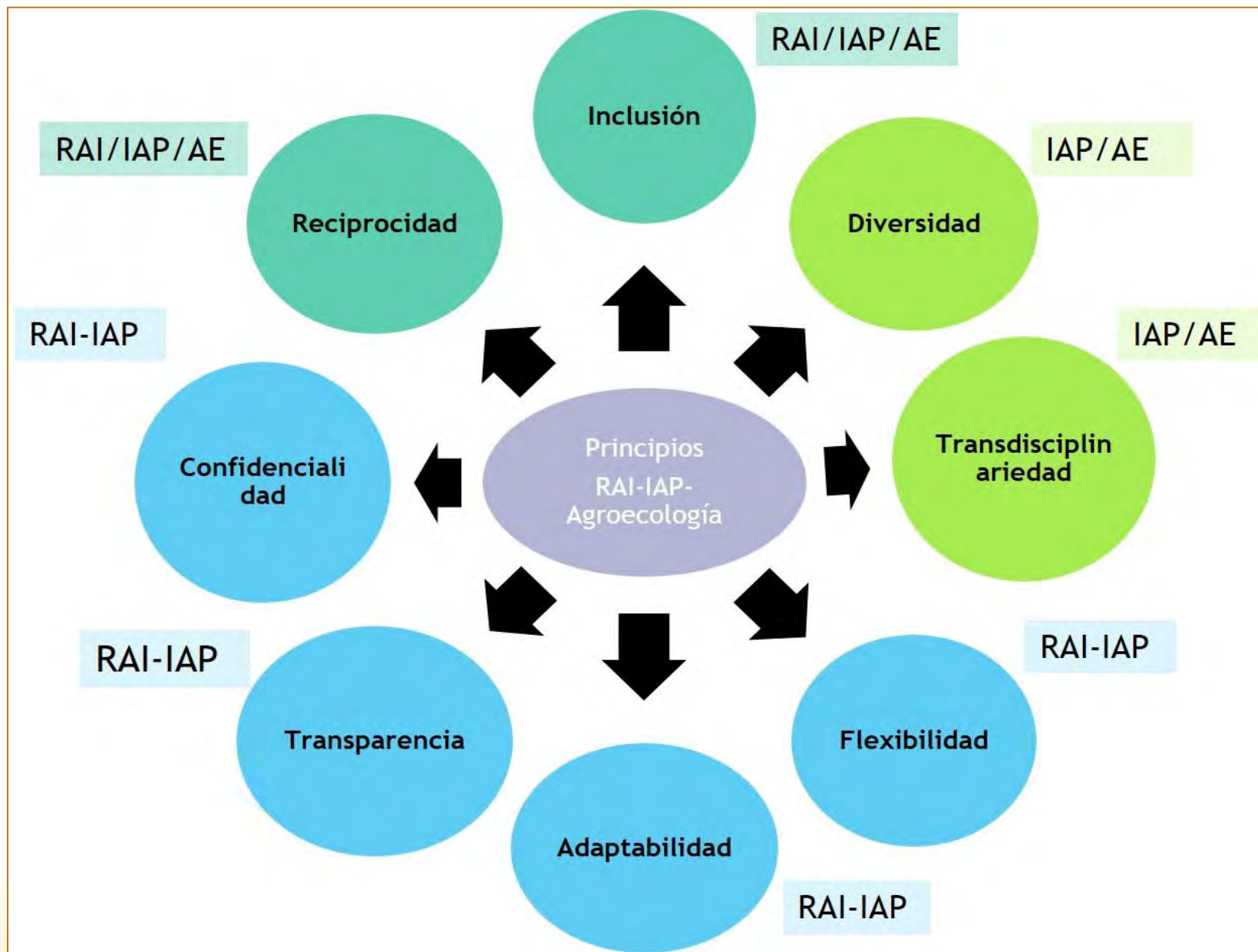
Are there principles of PAR that overlap with yours?

Are there principles of the PAR that you would like to cultivate more as part of your work?



PAR PRINCIPLES

- **Shared interest in research**—PAR facilitates the identification of appropriate solutions (or at least reasonable responses) to real-life problems, through diverse methodologies and with triangulation from multiple perspectives. Partners who are not convinced that research can contribute to their interests will rarely last long in a PAR process.
- **Belief in collective power**—Partners believe that engaging in the PAR process is a way to achieve ends that go beyond what is realized through other approaches and there is an intrinsic valuation of each partners' potential contribution.
- **Commitment to participation**—Beyond just showing up, all partners share ownership of or have contributing roles in as many phases of the research as possible—starting with defining research questions, through data collection, analysis of results, and eventually engaging in actions that represent co-created solutions.
- **Humility**—Space to honor the depth and acknowledge the limitations of each partners' knowledge is fundamental to transdisciplinary work where contextual, practical and technical expertise are each valued.
- **Trust and accountability**—Partners recognize that actions, not words, are what establish a strong base for ongoing collaboration, and intentional design includes opportunities for partners to share leadership and mechanisms for resolving conflict..
- **Communication**—Partners amplify traditionally marginalized voices and perspectives, acknowledge biases, establish an expectation for transparency and prioritize disseminating results in multiple formats to increase accessibility.



Yumbla et al., 2020

Dear all in the FRNs,

VISION: What agroecological journey are you dreaming to co-create?

PRINCIPLES: How will you put principles into action?

SUPPORT: What kind of support would you like from our project?



Reflection and sharing



Thank You !
Muchas Gracias !
Merci beaucoup !

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