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CHAlleNGE project – Azione TerrAE

Mapping of Best Practices for Agroecological Transition



FINAL REPORT: THE SELECTION PROCESS AND ITS RESULTS

October 15, 2024

With the support of:



Azione TerrAE coalition:



CHAlleNGE project:



CHAlleNGE - Chiamata all'Azione per un cambiamento agroecologico locale e nazionale promossa da Nuove Generazioni Ecologiste - AID 02618/03/5

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1. Introduction

The activity of mapping Best Practices in Agroecological Transition was launched by the CHALLENGE project to promote an integrated and transformative approach among key actors within the agri-food system across various sectors and supply chains, facilitating the exchange of knowledge and experiences.

The initiative behind this activity and the overall design of the CHALLENGE project was inspired by Azione TerrAE, the Coalition for Agroecological Transition, which has long been committed to training and spreading the themes of agroecology. This involves collaboration with the research community, farmers' organisations, civil society, and institutions. In March 2021, member organisations signed a Position Paper titled "Agroecological Transition and International Cooperation in West Africa," outlining the Coalition's goals and orientations, along with a call for urgent action in one of the world's most critical areas.

The Position Paper by Azione TerrAE aligns with the FAO's vision of agroecology, defining it as "an integrated approach that applies ecological and social principles to the management and design of agricultural and food systems, a setting pathways for transitioning to sustainable and resilient models."

The objectives of the mapping, as well as the participation details for the call, were presented in a webinar held on April 9, 2024. The invitation to participate was open to all stakeholders in the agri-food sector, both in Italy and abroad, including private companies, cooperatives, civil society organisations, and public entities of various sizes and characteristics. During the webinar, the standard format for describing one's "best practice" (see attachment) was introduced.

The deadline for submitting best practices was initially set for May 31, and later extended to June 15, 2024.

2. Criteria, Methods and Evaluation Tools

The responsibility of selecting the best practices to be included in the Mapping was entrusted by Azione TerrAE to an Evaluation Committee (EC), composed of experts with relevant and complementary skills and experiences aligned with the objectives of the call. The Committee members were:

- **Giorgio Menchini**, acting as coordinator. Spokesperson of Azione TerrAE, former President of COSPE NGO (2015-2023), and an expert in community-based environmental resource management, with 40 years of experience in international cooperation NGOs across Africa, Latin America, and the Mediterranean.

- **Caterina Batello.** Vice President of the Italian Association of Agroecology (AIDA), a member of the Agroecology Europe Council, and former Team Leader for FAO's Agroecology and Ecosystem Management unit, with a pivotal role in the approval of the 10 Elements of Agroecology. She is an agricultural development expert with experience in Africa, Asia, and Latin America.
- **Cristiana Peano.** Professor at the Department of Agricultural, Forestry, and Food Sciences of the University of Turin and President of CISA, a second-level centre at the same university focused on research, training, and capacity building in Africa. She has 20 years of experience in the transition of agrarian systems in Europe, Africa, and Latin America.
- **Carlotta Ebbreo,** collaborator of the NGO DEAFAL, bridging academia and the third sector in local development, education, and training for agroecology. She has been active for 10 years in Italy, Europe, and Latin America as a facilitator and social researcher in agroecological transition processes.
- **Riccardo Bocci.** agronomist, Technical Director and former coordinator of the Rete Semi Rurali since 2007, and collaborator with the Ministry of Agriculture for the drafting of National Guidelines for the Conservation of Agricultural Biodiversity (2010-2012). He managed European projects such as Farm Seed Opportunities, SOLIBAM, and DIVERSIFOOD (2007-2018).

The Evaluation Committee (EC) was formally established on May 15, 2024, and at that time, it defined its own criteria and working methods.

Considering that the Agroecological Best Practices Mapping, supported by Azione TerrAE and launched by the CHALLENGE Project, aims to promote the dissemination and exchange of experiences among various actors developing processes aligned with the integrated and transformative vision of Agroecology, the EC decided to **focus the evaluation on agroecological transition processes rather than individual, separate practices or projects.** To better reflect this approach, the Mapping was renamed “**Mapping of Agroecological Transition Best Practices.**”

To support this approach, 6 specific evaluation areas were defined:

- 1. Systemic Scope:** integration of ecological and social principles
- 2. Transformative Scope:** transition towards fair, sustainable, and resilient models
- 3. Participatory Scope:** involvement of local actors throughout all stages of design and implementation, with particular emphasis on smallholder and family farms, women, and youth.
- 4. Co-creation and Knowledge Exchange:** in analysing agri-food systems and identifying tailored solutions.
- 5. Sustainability:** sustainability of the processes from environmental, economic, social, and political perspectives.
- 6. Replicability:** with particular attention to the potential for horizontal scaling of these experiences.

These areas, along with the specific criteria for each, form the foundation of the evaluation grid developed during the meeting, which is attached to this report.

Given the interactive and inclusive nature of the Mapping, the Committee decided to make use of the option to request additional information from participants who submitted their applications before May 30, 2024, the date on which a notice specifying the evaluation areas and criteria mentioned above was published on the Challenge website.

To avoid potential conflicts of interest, the Committee also decided that its members would refrain from evaluating proposals submitted by organisations or institutions with which they are affiliated or to which they are linked, or that are involved in projects in which they have had or currently hold any role.

3. Results of the Call

The call received 28 proposals for agroecological transition best practices: 8 were submitted by the initial deadline of May 31, 16 arrived by the extended deadline of June 15, and 4 more were submitted the following day.

The variety and diversity of these proposals immediately stand out, underscoring that the topic of agroecological transition is not limited to specific, isolated experiences of interest only to experts and specialized agencies; rather, it involves a broad network of individuals and social relationships surrounding food, both in Italy and around the world, each with its own histories, agendas, and perspectives.

The ability to gather and represent this diversity is both a strength and a challenge for those tasked with selecting experiences capable of highlighting the richness it represents. This is especially true given that the material does not naturally lend itself to the rigid standardization of formats and language.

This aspect should be considered in future editions when rethinking the structure of the application forms for participants and the methods of describing agroecological transition practices, which currently appear more tailored in form and language to international development cooperation calls.

The Summary Table attached to this report shows that 10 out of the 28 submitted practices were carried out in Italy - Lombardy, Veneto, Trentino, Emilia Romagna, Campania, Sardinia, Basilicata - e 18 were implemented abroad across 15 Countries: Chad, Morocco, Kenya, Peru, eSwatini, Croatia, Serbia, Turkey, Greece, Portugal, Burkina Faso, Senegal, Benin, Guinea Bissau and Niger.

These experiences were initiated exclusively by civil society in its various forms. Specifically, 10 projects implemented in Italy were presented by family farms, cooperatives, social promotion associations, other third-sector entities, and an informal group. Of the international experiences, 18 were submitted by 9 Italian international cooperation NGOs, 1 foreign NGO, 1 cooperative, and 2 local African networks. Among the strategic themes described in the Azione TerraE Position Paper and referenced by the call, "Land" was identified as the primary focus (10 indications), followed by "Seeds" (6) and "Services" (5), with "Markets" (3), "Women" (3), and "Youth" (1) also highlighted.

As for the sectors, training, governance and natural resource management, and associative and institutional development were among the main areas in most practices.

Based on this overview, during the meeting on June 18, 2024, the Evaluation Committee (EC) established the schedule for the selection process:

- June 20 to July 9: preliminary evaluation of the received practices by two EC members, with one responsible for an initial analysis and recommendation based on the evaluation grid established in the prior meeting, and the other reviewing and adding insights. This process aimed to achieve two goals: ensuring double-checking for the preliminary assessment of each practice and allowing the two evaluators to work independently, exchanging comments and assessments primarily via email to minimize the need for remote meetings.
- July 10: In-person session to finalize the selection process, starting with the presentation of preliminary assessments for discussion and final decisions by the entire EC.

The 24 practices submitted by the deadline (June 15) were assigned within the EC according to the above criteria. The 4 practices submitted after the deadline on the morning of June 16 were provisionally accepted, with evaluation postponed until after the July 10 session.

4. Results of the selection

In light of the proposals received, the plenary meeting held on July 10 in Florence allowed the Evaluation Committee to first share some methodological reflections on the application of the criteria outlined in Chapter 2 of this report, with particular attention to the following critical aspects identified in several practices:

- Predominant focus on sustainable agricultural production techniques and soil management: these practices followed a conventional approach, lacking adequate integration of social aspects or connections with broader transformative processes within the agri-food system towards equity and rights
- Under emphasis on the roles and characteristics of the social actors involved: these were often portrayed more as recipients or beneficiaries of projects rather than active participants in the change process, staying within the limits of a conventional approach.
- Insufficient or absent analysis of local needs and resources: in some cases, there was a lack of co-creation and knowledge exchange in identifying solutions tailored to the specific contexts.

The Committee unanimously agreed that these elements are key to an evaluation that aligns with Azione TerrAE's vision. They should be applied consistently and rigorously to signal the distinctive nature of an "agroecological transition practice" versus a mere "agroecological practice". This distinction is intended not only for communication purposes, to convey Azione TerrAE's vision but also for educational purposes. In this sense, the evaluation was emphasized as a tool for reflection and dialogue on the challenges of agroecological transition, aiming to improve our capacity to adapt it to real processes in a continuous learning journey that involves everyone. From this perspective, it was emphasized that all the practices presented represent both a value and a resource, in their strengths as well as in their weaknesses.

The Committee then made decisions regarding how to communicate the evaluation results:

- For each practice, an assessment form will be prepared, containing evaluations for each area and an overall assessment (see attached Evaluation Feedback Form). These forms will be available to each proposing entity upon request, providing a concrete foundation for the development of the dialogue described above
- The selection results will be presented in the Final Report of the Evaluation Committee, accompanied by a Summary Table that will include all relevant information and a concise evaluation for each practice (see respective attachments).
- The Final Report and Summary Table will be submitted to the CHALLENGE project leaders and the Azione TerrAE Coordination for publication and dissemination.

Following a positive response from the CHALLENGE project staff, it was decided to select six top practices, with separate categories for those implemented in Italy and those implemented internationally. The preliminary assessment results, detailed in the previous chapter, were presented and discussed. To complete the evaluation of some practices and standardize all accompanying documentation, additional time and effort were required, which the Committee members completed remotely in the following weeks. It was not possible to evaluate the 4 proposals submitted late and provisionally accepted. Therefore, 24 practices completed the evaluation and selection process, with 16 recommended for inclusion in the best practices mapping. For the remaining eight, as well as the late submissions, the EC suggests considering these for the 2025 selection round to fill in missing information and address issues highlighted in the evaluation forms through dialogue and the development of a common language and framework.

For the selection of the top practices, the following were chosen:

In Italy:

- **Agroecologia in Montagna** (Trentino)
- **Mesa Noa** (Sardinia)
- La filiera degli 11 grani (Lombardy)

Internationally:

- **Women peasants as protagonists** (eSwatini)
- **Reviving Traditional Knowledge of Cassia Nigricans** (Burkina Faso)
- **Circulating in the Amazon** (Perù) and **Organic Fonio Production** (Senegal). It is suggested to maintain both.

In concluding its rigorous and passionate work and presenting its findings, the Evaluation Committee thanks Azione TerrAE for the trust placed in them.

It recommends creating adequate spaces for dialogue, comparison, and communication to share not only the results but also the lessons learned from this experience. Such sharing can inspire and contribute to the development of evaluation models tailored to the unique characteristics of agroecological transition pathways, moving away from standard models where necessary. The Committee also highlighted two key challenges that emerged during the process, requiring innovative responses in methods, tools, and language: the need to shift focus from project-centred to process-centred approaches, and the diversity and variety of the participants and contexts involved.

In closing, special thanks go to Sara Baglioni from the Azione TerrAE Secretariat, who participated in all group activities, providing invaluable and timely support.

October 18, 2024

Giorgio Menchini, Caterina Batello, Cristiana Peano, Carlotta Ebbreo, Riccardo Bocci

With the support of:



Azione TerrAE coalition:



CHAlLENGE project:





Attachment a

Format for submission of good practices





Submit your Best Practice

This is a participatory and interactive MAPPING of Best Agroecological Practice solutions of proven efficacy and positively tested in international and European cooperation projects.

Title of the Best Practice

Country

Description of the Best Practice (max. 1500 char.)

1. Organization

The data to be collected should consider the integrated approach of agroecology, which applies ecological and social concepts and principles to the design and implementation of agricultural and food systems, and promotes cooperation between producers, civil society, research, institutions to carry out direct actions, supported by appropriate public policies, using participatory tools aimed at the co-creation of knowledge between the farmer world and the scientific community". The outcome of this data collection contributes to the achievement of the result: "To strengthen the capacity to share knowledge and best practices of the key actors in agroecology".

Organization or informal group

Is the Organization already part of the Azione Terrae Coalition?

Yes

No

Address

Referent

Email

Phone number

Website (or another meaningful link)

2. General information

This section aims to correctly place the Practice both geographically and within the different categories and pillars.

Start Date

End Date

Title of the project (if the Practice is part of a specific project)

Yes

No

Specify the title and donor of the project.

Country(s) of implementation of the Practice

Specify your primary Country

Specify Region and City

Select all dimensions of agroecology involved in your Practice (multiple choice)

Environmental

Social

Economic

Political

Which strategic theme is considered the main one?

- Land
- Seeds
- Markets
- Services
- Women
- Young people

For each of the areas of intervention/pillars, indicate their priority

Land: Priority

- None
- Low
- Medium
- High

Seeds: Priority

- None
- Low
- Medium
- High

Markets: Priority

- None
- Low
- Medium
- High

Services: Priority

- None
- Low
- Medium
- High

Women: Priority

- None
- Low
- Medium
- High

Young People: Priority

- None
- Low
- Medium
- High

Specify the priority choices of your pillars (max. 800 char.)

Explain how the Practice is cross-sectoral (max char. 800)

Does the Practice have any certification?

Yes

No

Specify Certification

3. Context

In this section, we intend to look at the starting situation, in order to better verify the change after the implementation of the Best Practice.

Previous agroecology experience in the identified area, considering the chosen category and the areas of intervention/pillar

Yes

No

Specify agroecological dimensions (multiple choice)

Environmental

Social

Economic

Political

Identified needs, related to context and categories (multiple choice)

Economic needs

Environmental needs

Social needs

Political needs

Describe the identified needs (max 1200 char.)

4. Details

In this section we intend to deepen the Practice in relation to the document [AT paper](#) and [SDG 4.7](#).

Purposes of the Best Practice (max. 800 char.)

What kind of challenge was faced? (max. 800 char.)

Explain your choices/decisions (max. 800 char.)

How the Practice meets the 5 Ps of the 2030 Agenda (max 800 char.)

5. Changes

In this section, we intend to explore how Practice has produced effective and measurable change.

In which areas has the Practice brought about the most changes? (multiple choice)

- Research
- Training
- Governance of natural resources (land, water, forest, agrobiodiversity)
- Infrastructure
- Associative and institutional development (including networks and active citizenship)
- Other

In which Strategic Theme has the Practice made the most changes? (multiple choice)

- Land
- Seeds
- Markets
- Services
- Women
- Young People

Explain in qualitative and quantitative terms (max. 1500 char.)

Describe actions to replicate the Practice (max. 800 char.)

Indicate how the Practice is sustainable (max. 800 char.)

Attachment b

Grid for evaluation and selection of good practices



Title	Entity	Country
FIELDS AND EVALUATION CRITERIA ¹	SYNTHETIC EVALUATION	COMMENTS
<p>1. <u>SYSTEMIC FIELD</u>: Integration of ecological and social² principles into the design and management of agri-food systems.</p>	<p><i>Insufficient</i> <i>Sufficient</i> <i>Good</i> <i>Excellent</i></p>	
<p>2. <u>TRANSFORMATIVE FIELD</u>: Transition towards fair, sustainable, and resilient³ agri-food systems.</p>	<p><i>Insufficient</i> <i>Sufficient</i> <i>Good</i> <i>Excellent</i></p>	

¹ The evaluation system adopted, concerning both the fields and the criteria related to each of them, is based on the [13 Principles of Agroecology](#) (HLPE, 2019) and the [10 Elements of Agroecology](#) established by FAO.

² It considers the environmental, economic, social, and political dimensions, in line with the [Principles of Agroecology](#) (CIDSE, 2018).

³ Particular attention is given to assessing the coherence of the pathways initiated with the foundational principles of food sovereignty, as outlined in the [NGO/CSO Forum on Food Sovereignty](#) in 2002 and the [Niélény Declaration](#) of February 27, 2007.

<p>3. <u>PARTICIPATION of local actors</u> in all phases of design and implementation, with particular emphasis on smallholder and family farmers, women, and youth⁴.</p>	<p><i>Insufficient</i> <i>Sufficient</i> <i>Good</i> <i>Excellent</i></p>	
<p>4. <u>CO-CREATION AND KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE</u> in the analysis of local agri-food systems and the identification of responses tailored to the characteristics, resources, and challenges of different contexts.</p>	<p><i>Insufficient</i> <i>Sufficient</i> <i>Good</i> <i>Excellent</i></p>	
<p>5. <u>SUSTAINABILITY</u> of the initiated processes in relation to environmental, social, economic, and political dimensions.</p>	<p><i>Insufficient</i> <i>Sufficient</i> <i>Good</i> <i>Excellent</i></p>	

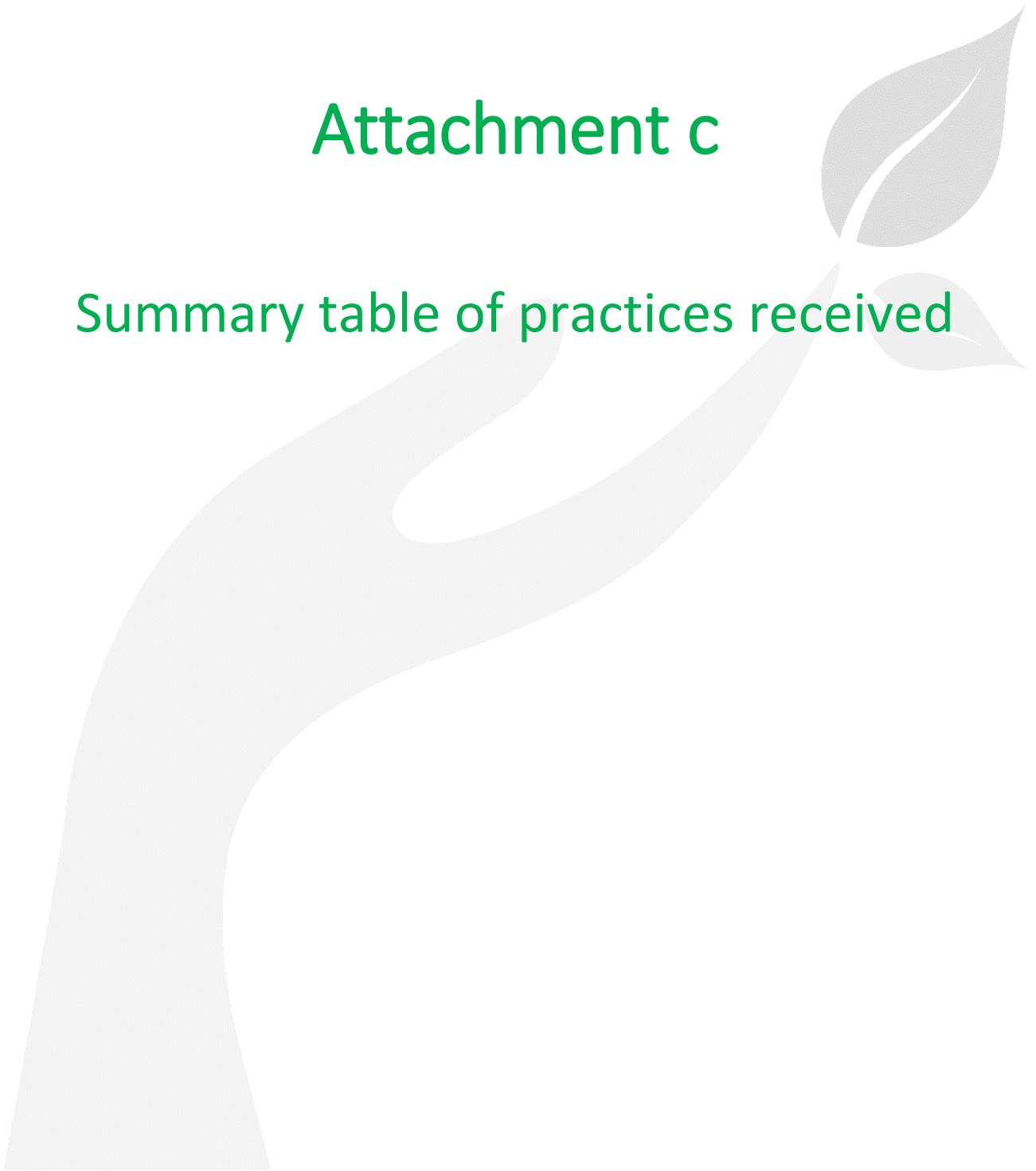
⁴ Prioritize “smallholder and family farms, emphasizing the role of women and youth, strengthening associative forms that ensure the participation and representation of all actors, and that are capable of engaging in dialogue with institutions, starting with those at the territorial level.” [Azione TerrAE, Position Paper, Chapter 2: The Response of Agroecology.](#)

6. REPLICABILITY , with particular reference to the presence of elements of horizontal proliferation.	<i>Insufficient</i> <i>Sufficient</i> <i>Good</i> <i>Excellent</i>	

FINAL COMMENTS AND EVALUATION	

Attachment c

Summary table of practices received





GOOD PRACTICES – OVERVIEW OF SUBMITTED PROPOSALS

N.	Title	Country	Proposing Entity	Main Strategic Theme	Main Sectors¹	Date of Receipt
1	Sustainable Food Policies in N'Djamena	Chad	ACRA ETS International Cooperation NGO	Services	Training; Associative and Institutional Development	By May 31
2	Rocciaviva – Ecosystem Regeneration	Italy (Basilicata)	Rocciaviva APS Association – Social Promotion Association	Earth	Governance and Natural Resource Management; Training	By May 31
3	Enhancing the resilience of High Atlas Ecosystems	Morocco	DEAFAL International Cooperation NGO	Earth	Training; Governance and Natural Resource Management	By May 31

¹ Indicate a maximum of two sectors among those listed in the call and reported in the form: Research, Training, Governance and Natural Resource Management, Infrastructure, Institutional and Associative Development.

4	Agroecology in Mountain Areas	Italy	La Fonte Family Farming Business	Earth	Natural Resource Management - Associative and Institutional Development	By May 31
5	Transforming food and agricultural systems	Kenya	Network for Ecofarming in Africa - NECOFA Community-based organisation CBO	Seeds	Training - Governance and Natural Resource Management	By May 31
6	Circulating in the Amazon	Perù	Terra Nuova International Cooperation NGO	Markets	Research - Governance and Natural Resource Management	By May 31
7	Food, Community, Territory	Italy (Veneto)	A Garden Among the Chestnut Trees Family Farming Business	Youth	Governance and Natural Resource Management - Associative Development	By May 31
8	Sensory Reactivation ²	Italy (Emilia Romagna)	Informal Group	Earth	Governance and Natural Resource Management	By May 31

² Start date less than 1 year: 10/20/2023. NOT ELIGIBLE

9	Women Farmers as Protagonists	eSwatini	COSPE International Cooperation NGO	Seeds	Research - Training - Associative and Institutional Development	By May 31
10	MedCaravan	Italy Croatia Serbia Turkey Greece Portugal	DEAFAL International Cooperation NGO	Services	Training - Associative and Institutional Development	By May 31
11	The Ecosphere – Experiential Permaculture Center	Italy Campania	The Ecosphere APS	Earth	Training; Governance and Natural Resource Management - Associative and Institutional Development	By May 31
12	Rareche	Italy Campania	Rareche ETS – Third Sector Entity	Market	Associative and Institutional Development	By June 15

13	Mesa Noa Food Coop	Italy Sardegna	Mesa Noa Community Cooperative	Services	Training - Associative and Institutional Development	By June 15
14	Urban Regeneration in the Orchard-Garden	Italy Lombardia	Cosmonauts APS	Earth	Governance and Natural Resource Management - Associative and Institutional Development	By June 15
15	Zai Traditionelle³	Burkina Faso	Relwend Manezanga De Pell Cooperative	Earth	Governance and Natural Resource Management - Training	By June 15
16	Agroecological Rice Production	Burkina Faso	Mani Tese International Cooperation NGO	Earth	Training - Associative and Institutional Development	By June 15
17	Land Development	Burkina Faso	Mani Tese International Cooperation NGO	Seeds	Governance and Natural Resource Management - Associative and Institutional Development	By June 15

³ Start date less than 1 year: 04/15/2023. NOT ELIGIBLE

18	Improvement of Food Security	Burkina Faso	Mani Tese International Cooperation NGO	Women	Training - Infrastructure - Associative and Institutional Development	By June 15
19	From Hoe to Soup ⁴	Italy Lombardia	Solidarity Gardens - City Forest by Italia Nostra APS (Association for Social Promotion)	Services	Not Specified	By June 15
20	Organic Production of Fonio ⁵	Senegal	Network of Stakeholders in the Organic Fonio Sector in Senegal (RAFF – AB) Local NGO	Seeds	Governance and Natural Resource Management	By June 15
21	"Double Bêchage" Techniques for the Creation of Market Garden Beds	Benin	Mani Tese International Cooperation NGO	Women	Training - Governance and Natural Resource Management	By June 15

⁴ 6 fields not completed: unable to evaluate

⁵ Start date less than 1 year: 09/01/2023.

22	The 11 Grains Supply Chain	Italy Lombardia	DESR (Solidarity Economy District of the Agricultural Park of Southern Milan) Public Entity	Seeds	Governance and Natural Resource Management - Associative and Institutional Development	By June 15
23	Community Gardens ⁶	Guinea Bissau	COPE International Cooperation NGO	Women	Training - Associative and Institutional Development	By June 15
24	Recovery of Traditional Knowledge of <i>Cassia nigricans</i> for Controlling Pathogens in Cowpea (<i>Vigna unguiculata</i>)	Burkina Faso	ACRA ETS International Cooperation NGO	Services	Research - Governance and Natural Resource Management	By June 15
25	Recovery of Local Rice Varieties ⁷	Guinea Bissau	LVIA International Cooperation NGO	Seeds	Training - Governance and Natural Resource Management	After June 15
26	National production of neem oil ⁸	Guinea Bissau	LVIA International Cooperation NGO	Earth	Training - Governance and Natural Resource Management	After June 15

⁶Start date less than 6 months: 11/13/2023.

⁷ 7 fields not completed: unable to evaluate.

⁸ 5 fields not completed: unable to evaluate

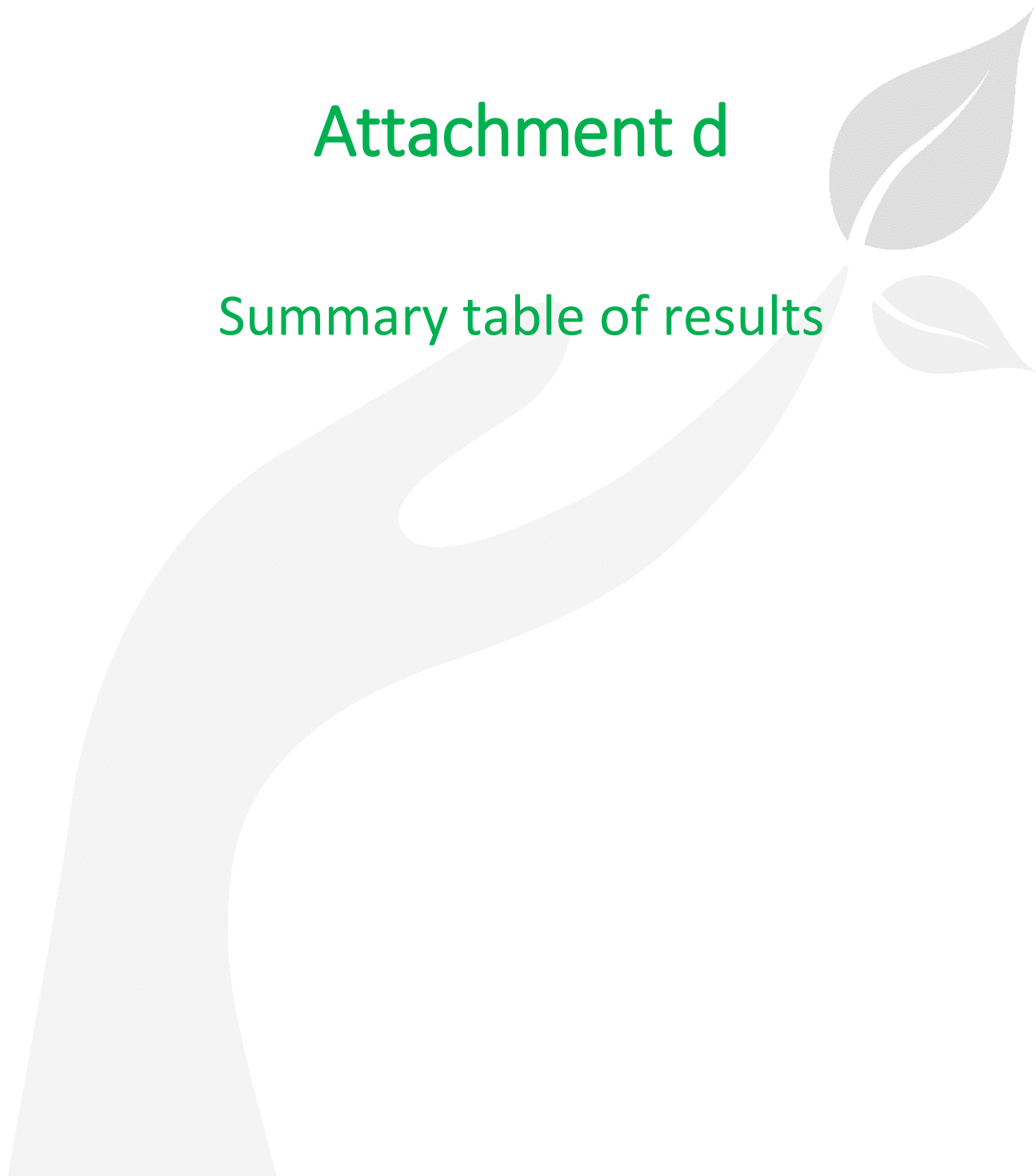
27	Composting⁹	Guinea Bissau	LVIA International Cooperation NGO	Earth	Training - Governance and Natural Resource Management	After June 15
28	Niamey – Sustainable City	Niger	ACRA ETS International Cooperation NGO	Market	Training - Governance and Natural Resource Management	After June 15

⁹ 7 fields not completed: unable to evaluate



Attachment d

Summary table of results





GOOD PRACTICES – OVERVIEW OF RESULTS

No.	Title	Country	Proposing Entity	Evaluation Summary	Results ¹
1	Sustainable Food Policies in N'Djamena	Chad	ACRA ETS International Cooperation NGO	The practice represents the beginning of a transition towards an inclusive and sustainable food security system, in an urban context marked by severe factors of crisis and vulnerability, with a specific focus on public policies, training, and the role of women. The topics addressed, and the responses provided, are of particular relevance for defining and implementing strategies in such a context. The components related to participation and co-creation of knowledge should be further developed and explored.	To be included in the mapping (pts. 13)
2	Rocciaviva – Ecosystem Regeneration	Italy (Basilicata)	Rocciaviva APS Association – Social Promotion Association	Ecosystem regeneration is taken as the axis of a broader, integrated process of social regeneration and economic and cultural rebirth of degraded and	To be included in the mapping

¹ The final overall score, indicated in parentheses, refers to the sum of the partial scores assigned to each area of the evaluation grid, corresponding to the following 4 levels: Insufficient (1), Sufficient (2), Good (3), Excellent (4). Only practices with a total score of 12 are included in the mapping.

				<p>impoverished rural areas emptied by emigration. It is a process focused on community involvement, also to address the issues of its "most vulnerable social groups" and offer future opportunities for young people. The political dimension (governance of resources, public policies, relations with the competent institutions) needs to be further developed.</p>	(pts. 13)
3	<p>Enhancing the resilience of High Atlas Ecosystems</p>	Morocco	<p>DEAFAL International Cooperation NGO</p>	<p>The practice addresses a highly relevant environmental and social issue: the sustainable management and recovery of fragile mountain ecosystems, which are the basis of an agro-pastoral economy rooted in local culture and tradition, whose development is essential to guarantee the future of communities and halt the depopulation of territories, focusing, however, directly on the environmental component. To assess whether and how it can contribute to significant results in terms of equity and rights, the social component needs further development, especially in clarifying and describing the connection with the broader change process, which involves the Amazigh communities of the High Atlas, and the role of local actors who should drive and support it, particularly women, who are</p>	<p>To be integrated and revised for the 2025 session</p> <p>(pts.10)</p>

				identified as the main beneficiaries, but are assigned a low priority.	
4	Agroecology in Mountain Areas	Italy	La Fonte Family Farming Business	The recovery and rebirth of abandoned mountain areas is the challenge addressed by the practice. In the simplicity of the information provided and the immediacy of the language used, it explains how this challenge is faced by a family-run agro-food business, with an integrated approach that spans agriculture, livestock, wild plant collection, transformation, and direct sales, through an interesting and tested experience of urban farmer's markets open to other local producers. Important activities also include promoting networks, such as professional training for young people and education on healthy eating for children.	To be included in the mapping as a best practice (pts. 16)
5	Transforming food and agricultural systems	Kenya	Network for Ecofarming in Africa - NECOFA Community-based organisation CBO	An interesting project due to the cross-cutting nature of some of its actions and their spread across the territory. Potential steps towards agroecological transition are visible, but they are mentioned more generically than described. It remains to better understand some essential elements of the project development process, the ways in which participants/beneficiaries are involved in the process, the	To be integrated and revised for the 2025 session (pts. 9)

				characteristics of the microcredit pathway in relation to agroecological transition, and the relationships between the different activities.	
6	Circulating in the Amazon	Perù	Terra Nuova International Cooperation NGO	In a context where food sovereignty is threatened by the extraction of ecological and cultural resources from the agroecosystem, the practice focuses on local production, its use in food preparation, and the use of waste products, creating circular food economies with a One Health approach, which places community empowerment and the promotion of spaces for political articulation with external institutions at the center. The eco-tourism component, with the training of local guides, can improve the community's narrative and negotiation ability regarding the value and inviolability of its agroecosystem. The theme of decision-making processes within the pathway should be further developed to ensure participation and inclusion of the vulnerable groups referred to.	To be included in the mapping as a best practice ex aequo (pts. 16)
7	Food, Community, Territory	Italy (Veneto)	A Garden Among the Chestnut Trees Family Farming Business	The practice is consistently inspired by the principles of agroecology and places at the center the recovery and rebirth of abandoned lands and areas, "the stay" and "the return to the land" as a response to the dual problem of	To be included in the mapping (pts. 14)

				ecosystem conservation and the rebirth, including cultural, of places, particularly through the creation of new life and income opportunities for young people. The aspects of ecosystem management and integrated agro-silvo-pastoral production show important results, while it is difficult to evaluate in the same clear way the part related to the inclusion and role of young people, which is crucial for the long-term sustainability of the experience.	
8	Sensory Reactivation ²	Italy (Emilia Romagna)	Informal Group	Not evaluable. Start date less than 6 months from the launch of the call (20/10/2023).	To be integrated and revised for the 2025 session
9	Women Farmers as Protagonists	eSwatini	COSPE International Cooperation NGO	The project aims to integrate a gender empowerment pathway with one of food sovereignty, linked to the conservation, reproduction, and commercialization of local seed varieties. It integrates gender equity factors by increasing the political and technical power of women in agriculture, with the generation of work opportunities (including through the creation of value chains via seed	To be included in the mapping as a best practice (pts. 20)

² Start date less than 1 year: 10/20/2023. NOT ELIGIBLE

				certification), while enhancing the capacity for maintenance and local control of the territorial agroecosystem. At the same time, the project, by promoting the preservation of local seed varieties through agroecological practices, and particularly the choice of evolutionary mixtures, contributes to climate change mitigation actions in the territory and autonomy from agribusiness.	
10	MedCaravan	Italy Croatia Serbia Turkey Greece Portugal	DEAFAL International Cooperation NGO	An important example of agroecological training, with a strong component of inclusion, exchange between different peoples and cultures, empowerment of people and women, and innovative in approach, with a significant bottom-up approach to actions and the active sharing of motivations and the socio-economic conditions of the involved actors, establishing original proposals for connections between different countries. The foundations for anchoring it in a replicable model (out-scaling) are not sufficiently defined.	To be included in the mapping (pts. 14)
11	The Ecosphere – Experiential Permaculture Center	Italy Campania	The Ecosphere APS	The practice addresses important themes such as the return to the land and ecosystem regeneration, with an integrated approach covering the entire food economy cycle, and a strong focus on both participation and integration	To be included in the mapping (pts. 13)

				into the local context, as well as some significant social aspects (nutrition, education, people with disabilities, women). The co-creation of knowledge aspect, which is particularly important for a group of people settling in a territory that is not their own, is not as developed. The economic dimension also remains largely undeveloped, starting from the experiences already initiated (eco-building, direct sales).	
12	Rareche	Italy Campania	Rareche ETS – Third Sector Entity	The Rareche experience covers an essential aspect of agroecological transition, namely disintermediation and market access through the development of the farmer market. This allows the creation of market and community spaces, starting from the food dimension, indirectly supporting the maintenance of agroecological production in the territory and directly enabling access to quality food. Some aspects, such as the inclusion of a specific focus on reducing inequalities, the description of the process leading to the market creation, and the valorization of local resources and skills in the process, need further development.	To be included in the mapping (pts. 14)
13	Mesa Noa Food Coop	Italy Sardegna	Mesa Noa Community Cooperative	Mesa Noa Food Coop represents an excellent example of transition to more	To be included in the mapping

				<p>sustainable, equitable, and resilient food systems. It particularly highlights the possibility of creating situations of direct confrontation between farmers and consumers, including the most vulnerable segments of the population, thereby activating new community links. It also provides an excellent opportunity for restoring city-country ties, not just at the point of product purchase. The involvement of local farmers and artisans and the network formed with other associative realities allows addressing the theme of responsible consumption comprehensively.</p>	<p>as a best practice</p> <p>(pts. 20)</p>
14	<p>Urban Regeneration in the Orchard-Garden</p>	<p>Italy Lombardia</p>	<p>Cosmonauts APS</p>	<p>The integrated approach to environmental and social regeneration of urban green spaces in this practice presents elements of originality, which could be shared with others engaged in similar contexts. Of particular interest is the "diversity" of the association that promotes it ("in terms of age, skills, abilities, gender, health status..."), a diversity that enables reaching a wide variety of targets and developing activities in different areas. However, the key issue of governance of the green space (private area? Public ownership? Concession, lease?) has not been</p>	<p>To be included in the mapping</p> <p>(pts. 13)</p>

				sufficiently addressed, and this needs to be developed, along with the relations with the relevant public authorities for its protection and/or management, and the related regulations.	
15	Zai Traditionelle³	Burkina Faso	Relwend Manezanga De Pell Cooperative	The practice represents an attempt to improve regionally consolidated agronomic techniques from a sustainability perspective. However, the presentation highlights only the purely agronomic aspects. The integration with social and economic aspects still needs to be developed, and the connection to a genuine agroecological transition process needs to be explained. The modes of community participation are not sufficiently clarified, nor is the articulation of the involved actors and their roles.	To be integrated and revised for the 2025 session (pts.9)
16	Agroecological Rice Production	Burkina Faso	Mani Tese International Cooperation NGO	The project has worked with women's groups, with courage and determination, developing their capacities and highlighting their roles at various levels, to improve sustainable practices in rice production, transformation, and distribution, with significant attention to nutrition and community well-being. The identified limitations, particularly in terms of co-	To be included in the mapping (pts. 13)

³ Start date less than 1 year: 04/15/2023. NOT ELIGIBLE

				creation of knowledge, can be addressed by coherently developing the agroecological transition pathway, adapted to the context, of which this practice can represent the starting point.	
17	Land Development	Burkina Faso	Mani Tese International Cooperation NGO	The practice addresses various important aspects of environmental and economic sustainability. However, the social components do not appear to be sufficiently integrated and described, and the theme of the role of social actors – women and young people – indicated as priorities, and the activities carried out to project it also into the political-institutional dimension, a necessary condition to transform a set of good practices into an agroecological transition process, still needs to be developed.	To be integrated and revised for the 2025 session (pts.10)
18	Improvement of Food Security	Burkina Faso	Mani Tese International Cooperation NGO	The project certainly builds on good agricultural and social practices for sustainable intensification, drawn from other experiences promoted for years, including in Burkina Faso by many other donors. However, there are no innovative elements consistent with the integrated, transformative, participatory vision of agroecology, which it refers to. Specifically, the topics of valuing local knowledge and cultures,	To be integrated and revised for the 2025 session (pts.8)

				food sovereignty and equity, the integration of agricultural ecology and biodiversity elements, governance, and sustainable water resource use in the territory need to be developed.	
19	From Hoe to Soup ⁴	Italy Lombardia	Solidarity Gardens - City Forest by Italia Nostra APS (Association for Social Promotion)	Not evaluable. The form presents 6 fields not completed in the format for presenting the practice.	To be integrated and revised for the 2025 session
20	Organic Production of Fonio ⁵	Senegal	Network of Stakeholders in the Organic Fonio Sector in Senegal (RAFF – AB) Local NGO	The practice focuses on the production, transformation, and commercialization of a neglected cereal species, fonio, tied to the traditions of local ethnic minorities, the Bedick and Bassari. It is part of a process initiated approximately two decades ago by a Senegalese network of producers and integrates important elements of the agroecological approach on both environmental and social levels. The valorization of fonio is a means to promote food economies rooted in the local context, with a strong focus on women and their roles, biodiversity, and seed management and use. The target market for these products needs to be further clarified, including	To be included in the mapping as a best practice ex aequo (pts. 16)

⁴ 6 fields not completed: unable to evaluate

⁵ Start date less than 1 year: 09/01/2023.

				understanding the usefulness and importance of their organic certification.	
21	"Double Bêchage" Techniques for the Creation of Market Garden Beds	Benin	Mani Tese International Cooperation NGO	A practice primarily centered on using a soil regeneration technique for vegetable production, with specific attention to involving women and young people, aiming to diversify their income sources and improve their dietary habits. It can serve as a starting point for initiating an agroecological transition process, by developing key areas that currently appear insufficiently articulated, such as participation and the co-creation of knowledge.	To be included in the mapping (pts. 12)
22	The 11 Grains Supply Chain	Italy Lombardia	DESR (Solidarity Economy District of the Agricultural Park of Southern Milan) Public Entity	A process initiated 10 years ago as part of a project aimed at producing organic bread using a blend of 11 wheat varieties. It covers the entire value chain "from seed to plate," with the active involvement of a significant number of actors from both the solidarity economy and institutional sectors. This is an easily replicable experience that has activated an urban community within the framework of peri-urban agriculture. Its geographical location in the Milan area further enhances this practice as an example of urban food sovereignty work, offering an important opportunity	To be included in the mapping as a best practice (pts. 20)

				for exchange to tackle the challenges associated with such initiatives.	
23	Community Gardens ⁶	Guinea Bissau	COPE International Cooperation NGO	Not evaluable. Start date less than 6 months from the launch of the call (13/11/2023).	To be integrated and revised for the 2025 session
24	Recovery of Traditional Knowledge of <i>Cassia nigricans</i> for Controlling Pathogens in Cowpea (<i>Vigna unguiculata</i>)	Burkina Faso	ACRA ETS International Cooperation NGO	An innovative project, consistent with the principles of agroecology, effectively integrating environmental and socio-cultural elements, and deeply rooted in the traditional knowledge of the territory. It is attentive to the preservation of natural resources and the valorization of local species, spanning from field production to the transformation and commercialization of products. It also aligns with the fundamental principles of One Health concerning human and ecosystem health. Certain aspects related to participation need further development and exploration, particularly the structuring and description of the roles of all local actors involved.	To be included in the mapping as a best practice (pts. 18)

⁶Start date less than 6 months: 11/13/2023.