Researching Agroecological Transitions

Current initiatives from France, Europe and Beyond

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* Agroecology research in France

A goal of agricultural policy since the 2014 law, and a structuring research priority

Policy and research milestones

2010 — **INRA makes agroecology a scientific priority**
Orientation document 2010–2020

2012 — **"Produisons autrement": Agroecological Project for France**
Launched by the Ministry of Agriculture

2014 — **Loi d'avenir pour l'agriculture (13 Oct. 2014)**
Agroecology written into the goals of agricultural policy; GIEE farmer collectives

2015 — **Ecophyto II plan**
Target: halve pesticide use by 2025

2019 — **Priority research programme "Cultiver et protéger autrement" (France 2030)**
€30 M for pesticide-free agriculture research [ASIRPA^{rt} integrated]

2020 — **INRAE created (INRA + Irstea merger)**
INRAE2030: accelerate agroecological and food transitions

2022 — **INRAE International initiatives launched**
Agroecological Crop Protection Initiative (ACPI) and Transforming Food Systems and Agriculture Through Research In Partnership with Africa (TSARA)

2023 — **PEPR "Agroécologie et numérique" (France 2030)**
€65 M programme co-led by INRAE and Inria

2024 — **AGROECOLOGY Partnership launched [Horizon Europe]**
€300 M programme co-led by JúT and ANR

Who produces agroecology research, knowledge and learning?

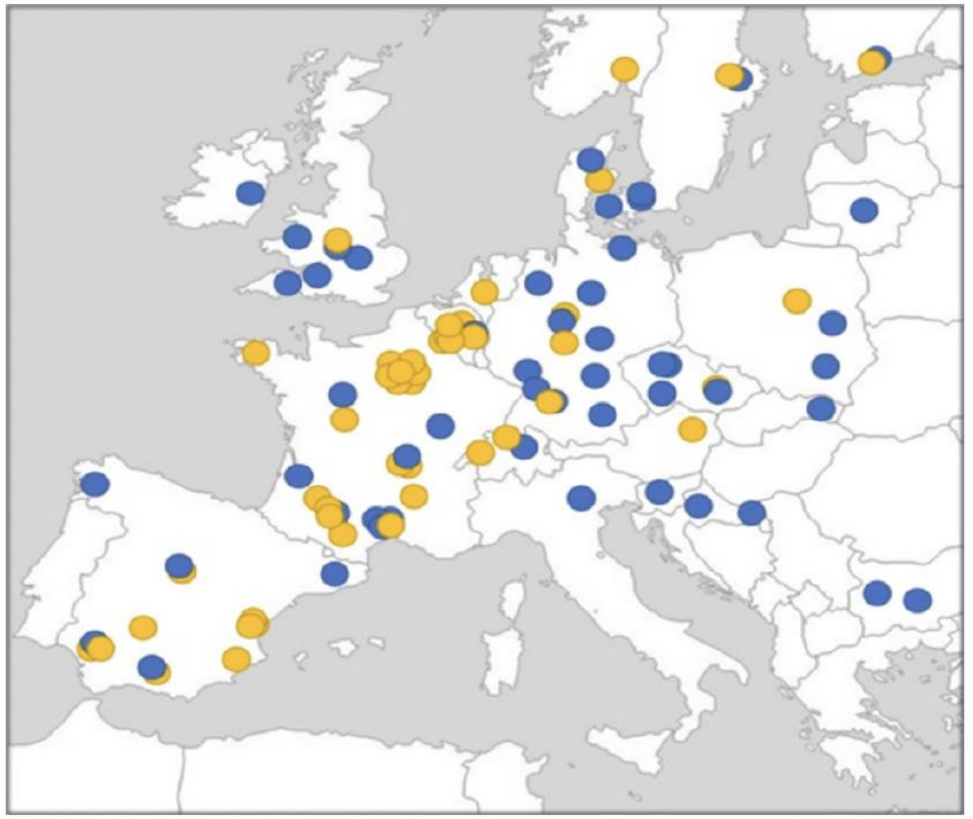


Figure 1: Mapping of stakeholders in agroecology research and training in Europe (1970-2016) (in blue: research, in yellow: training)

Nicot, Rose, Bellon, Stéphane, Loconto, Allison and Ollivier, Guillaume. "The European networks of research, education and training stakeholders in agroecology" *Open Agriculture*, vol. 3, no. 1, 2018, pp. 537-552. https://doi.org/10.1515/opag-2018-0058

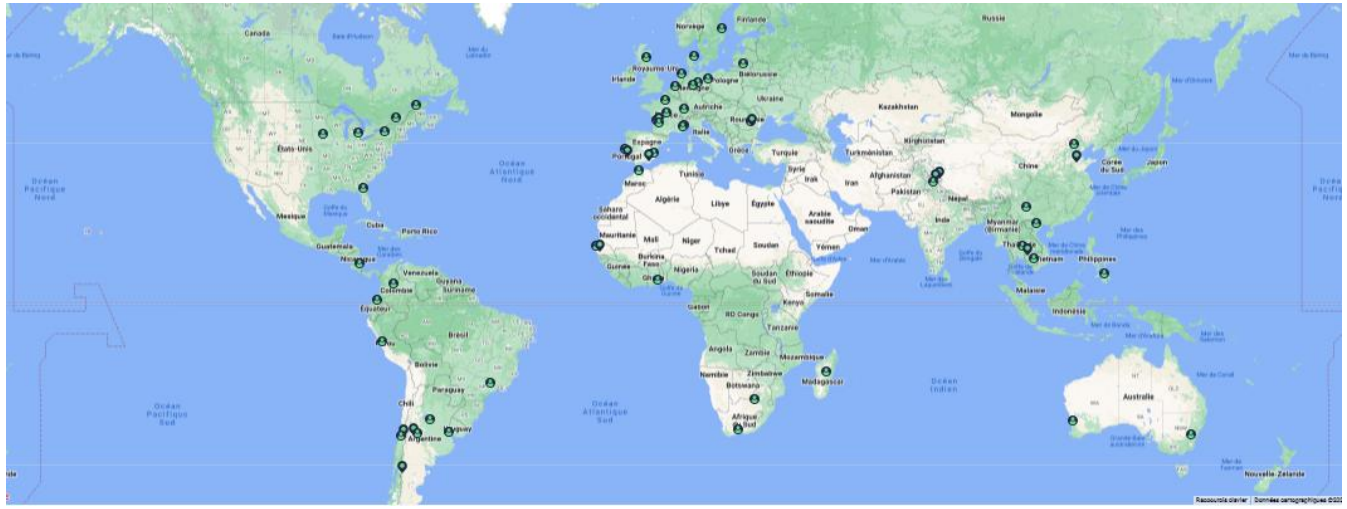
Agroecological Crop Protection Initiative (ACPI)
An International Research through Partnership Strategy

INRAE Priority International Programmes (PPI)
Each PPI builds an international research initiative:

IRC Soil Carbon | PREZODE | One Forest Vision | One Water Vision | World Microbiome Partnership | **ACPI**

ACPI – founded in 2022 by INRAE, IRD and CIRAD
50 scientific entities from 30+ countries on 5 continents joined by 2023

First network project: ACROPICS (Horizon Europe, MSCA 2024–2027)
Four challenges: prevention, functional biodiversity, value and risk along the food chain, evidence for decision-makers.



ACPI network, March 2023 (acp-initiative.com)

Seminars, webinars and annual meetings

2022

Kick-off seminar (May): shared vision, state of the art, mapping of networks and cases, roadmap

2023

Webinars #1–4: SAS case studies – soil management (Ecuador), natural farming (India), Mandela trials (S. Africa), pest-suppressive landscapes, pesticide-freeapproaches, varietal mixtures (Switzerland)

2024

Webinar #5-6: Hani terraces (China), millet diseases (Senegal), Québec living lab (Canada), ACROPICS, TAPE, agrobiodiversity.
Launch of ACPIs 1st project ACROPICS,
ACPI Annual Inter-Network Conference, 1st ed. (Zagreb, May) – TAPE presentations

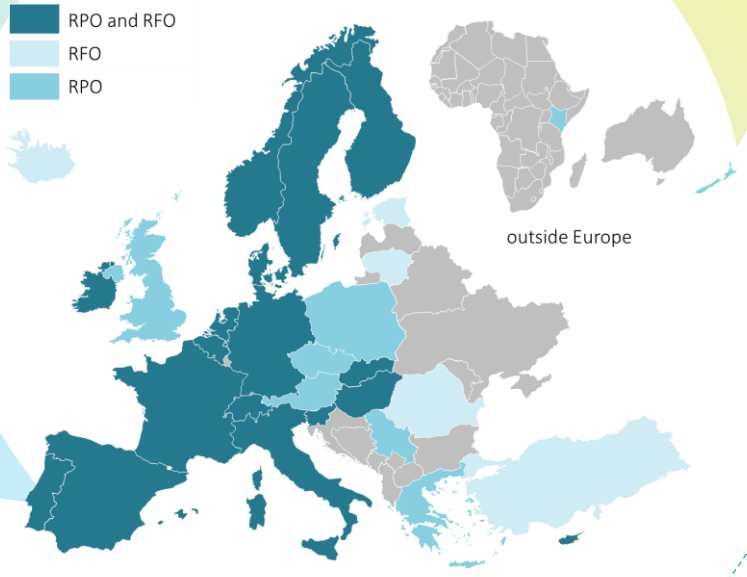
2025

Webinar #7-8: pesticide-free territories (Ecuador), rice SAS (Cambodia), co-innovation, ACROPICS TAPE results
ACPI Annual Inter-Network Conference, 2nd ed. (Bucharest, May)- TAPE & ASIRPA training

2026

Webinar #9 jointly organised with Agroecology Partnership: « Showcasing best practices of Living lab & SAS policy engagement for AE transitions»
ACPI Annual Inter-Network Conference, 3rd ed. (Berlin, June)- project proposal workshop (2027-2031), ACPI student project awards, position papers

Team up and unlock the transition to agroecology, so that by 2050 farming systems are resilient, productive and prosperous, place-sensitive, and good for the climate, the environment, ecosystems, biodiversity and people.



AGROECOLOGY PARTNERSHIP

Co-funded by the European Union

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Jan 2024 – Dec 2033

Horizon Europe co-funded partnership (Cluster 6)
HORIZON-CL6-2023-FARM2FORK-01-1 and HORIZON-CL6-2025-02-FARM2FORK-01

Pooling EU and state/regional resources

€300 M mobilised (50% EU co-funding)

In-kind: research and networking activities

In-cash: up to 7 transnational calls for proposals

111 partners from 31 states/regions

RFOs: national/regional authorities[1]
RPOs: research performing organisations[2] and others[3]

The Network of 58 Living Labs and 21 Research Infrastructures

Visit us: **https://www.agroecologypartnership.eu/**

Coordination: Projektträger Jülich (PtJ), DE · ptj-agroecology-secretariat@ptj.de
Co-coordination: French National Research Agency (ANR), FR

[1]RFOs – research funding organisations, including funding agencies and national/regional/local ministries
[2]RPOs – research performing organisations, including universities and research institutes
[3]NGOs (non-governmental organisations) and companies

Science-Policy Interface for Agroecological Transitions
(led by INRAE and Aarhus University)

Researchers, Living Labs and practitioners ⟷ **Science-policy-society interface (23 partners)** ⟷ **EU, national and regional policy-makers**

Benchmarking research and sectoral policies	Capacity and governance of science-based policy advice	EPAT – European Panel for Agroecology Transition
Collecting and monitoring Partnership policy outputs	Coordinating National Mirror Initiatives for agroecology	CORE Organic expert network

Cross-Partnership Dialogue & Integrating Policy Advice for Agrifood Systems

biodiversa+ European Biodiversity Partnership · Circular Bio-based Europe Joint Undertaking · Water4All Water security for the planet · Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership · FutureFoodS · EUP AH&W European Partnership on Animal Health and Welfare · EU Partnership Agriculture of Data · PRIMA Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area

EPAT: Annual Science-Policy-Society Dialogue

Scientific and Policy evidence mapped using the CorTexT Platform (socio-semantic network analysis, LLM) to analyse 6,011 scientific vs 8,204 policy documents.

2024	2025	2026
Water	**Soil**	**EU competitiveness**
Brussels	Malmö	Brussels, 18–19 November

Strength of the scientific evidence on the ten dimensions of competitiveness

Strong	D4 Circular nutrient and biomass use	D2 Soil health and fertility	
Moderate	D7 Biodiversity and ecosystem services	D1 Productive capacity and food security	D5 Resilience and adaptation
	D6 Climate mitigation	D10 Knowledge, innovation and digital monitoring	
Limited	D9 Markets, value chains and fair governance	D8 Farm economic viability and livelihoods	D3 Reduced dependency on external inputs

Science and policy aligned · Policy lags science · Policy ahead of science

Agroecology's competitiveness case is strongest where it works through soil and nutrient cycles, resilience and climate: positive but conditional, and more conditional in European studies than non-European studies. It is weakest on farm profitability and market position, where policy invokes agroecology more than science measures it .. Clear Research Gap

Monitoring agroecological transitions: the three Ps

1 PRINCIPLES
What guides the transformation?

How actors mobilise, combine, prioritise and reconfigure agroecological principles and values over time

From fixed indicators to dynamic orientations

Existing assessment tools it can combine

TAPE Step 1 (CAET) | OASIS | ACT | HOLPA | AE-APT

2 PATHWAYS
How does change unfold?

Context-specific trajectories: experiments, actors' strategies and networks, leverage points, changes of direction

From predefined stages to open-ended, evolving trajectories

Existing assessment tools it can combine

ASIRPA real time | ImpresS *ex ante* | TAPE Step 0 & 3 | Participatory foresight | Impact pathways

3 PERFORMANCES
What does change produce?

Environmental, social, economic, political and capacity outcomes, read as feedback for learning and adaptation

From end-point measurement to feedback for learning

Existing assessment tools it can combine

TAPE Step 2 | IDEA | LUME | MESMIS | HOLPA

Principles orient pathways, pathways generate performances, and performances feed back into both: the three Ps are monitored together, longitudinally (t0 → t1 → t2 …)

…across five socio-technical dimensions of the transition

Production practices | Economic relationships | Societal values & engagement | Political framework conditions | Knowledge, research & education

Jimenez, Loconto, and Matt (2026) *Monitoring agroecological transition "in the making": towards a process-oriented framework integrating principles, pathways, and performances*. (under review)
Agroecology Partnership WP5.2 (CREA & INRAE led)
ASIRPA, IDEA and ImpresS were developed by French research teams – French Researchers were highly involved in the development of TAPE.

ACROPICS – Operationalising the three Ps

Co-creation for impact: TAPE + ASIRPA real time to follow transitions in 12 SAS across 10 countries (2024–2027)

1 Characterise

TAPE Steps 0–1: context and CAET across the 10 elements

→ PRINCIPLES

2 Build

ASIRPA real-time workshops: a shared impact pathway

→ PATHWAYS

3 Identify

leverage points, actors' roles and an action plan

→ PATHWAYS

4 Monitor

TAPE Step 2 + descriptors of change (T1–T3)

→ PERFORMANCES

TAPE BASELINE · 2025

539 farms in 8 SAS

TAPE proved adaptable across very diverse agroecosystems; Step 1 data reveal farm typologies (D4.2)

INNOVATION ASSESSMENTS · 2025

Lower pesticide exposure

Agroecological practices reduce agrochemical use; innovations improve environmental, social and economic dimensions (D4.3)

ASIRPA REAL TIME · 2025–2027

Pathways co-built with SAS actors

Three iterative workshops (T1–T3) turn impact pathways into SAS impact strategies, e.g. India, Senegal, Argentina

TAPE Step 3 enhancement (T3)

Outputs SAS improvement and impact strategies · TAPE-based farm typologies · descriptors of change and progression

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For more information:
www.acropics.com

ACROPICS | LISIS TEAM
OCTOBER 2026

Funded by the European Union

* Research advances and next frontiers

What partnership-led research brings to evidence generation with TAPE

Core research advances

1. **Conceptual**
   From snapshots to transitions “in the making”: the three Ps link principles, pathways and performances across five socio-technical dimensions

2. **Methodological**
   Co-creation for impact couples TAPE performance evidence with ASIRPA real-time impact pathways and leverage points

3. **Empirical**
   TAPE works across very diverse systems: 539 farms in 8 SAS, farm typologies, a clear signal on reduced pesticide exposure

4. **Institutional**
   Networks that circulate evidence: ACPI, TSARA and the Agroecology Partnership’s science–policy interface

Future research areas

- **Longitudinal evidence:** repeated TAPE assessments and multi-temporal indicators of how principles are reconfigured
- **Extending TAPE:** deeper biodiversity analysis, gender and intersectional approaches, area- and value-chain-wide evaluations
- **Scaling the three Ps:** from farm to territory to nation, within Agroecology Partnership monitoring and living labs
- **Leverage points in real time:** guarantee systems and sub-national policies that enable or block transitions
- **Convergent methods across 5 continents:** shared evaluation approaches with partners (e.g. ACROPICS and AGROECOLOGY PARTNERSHIP)
- **Science–policy evidence:** AI-assisted socio-semantic network analysis methods linking research, policy and practice

Shared aim: evidence that helps actors steer transitions, not only document them