

Actors, networks and platforms for the promotion of agro-ecological practices in Burkina Faso

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Background

- The FAIR-Sahel project aims to create favorable conditions for agroecological intensification by promoting agroecological (AE) practices across Burkina Faso, Mali, and Senegal.
- First step involved carrying out an inventory of AE actors involved.
- At part of inventory process, a workshop was organized by ZALF to identify relevant knowledge and services of actors, organizations and stakeholders involved in the promotion their implementation, their types and or level of interactions of AE in Burkina Faso.
- The AKIS (Agricultural Knowledge and Information System) method was used.

Specific aims of workshop

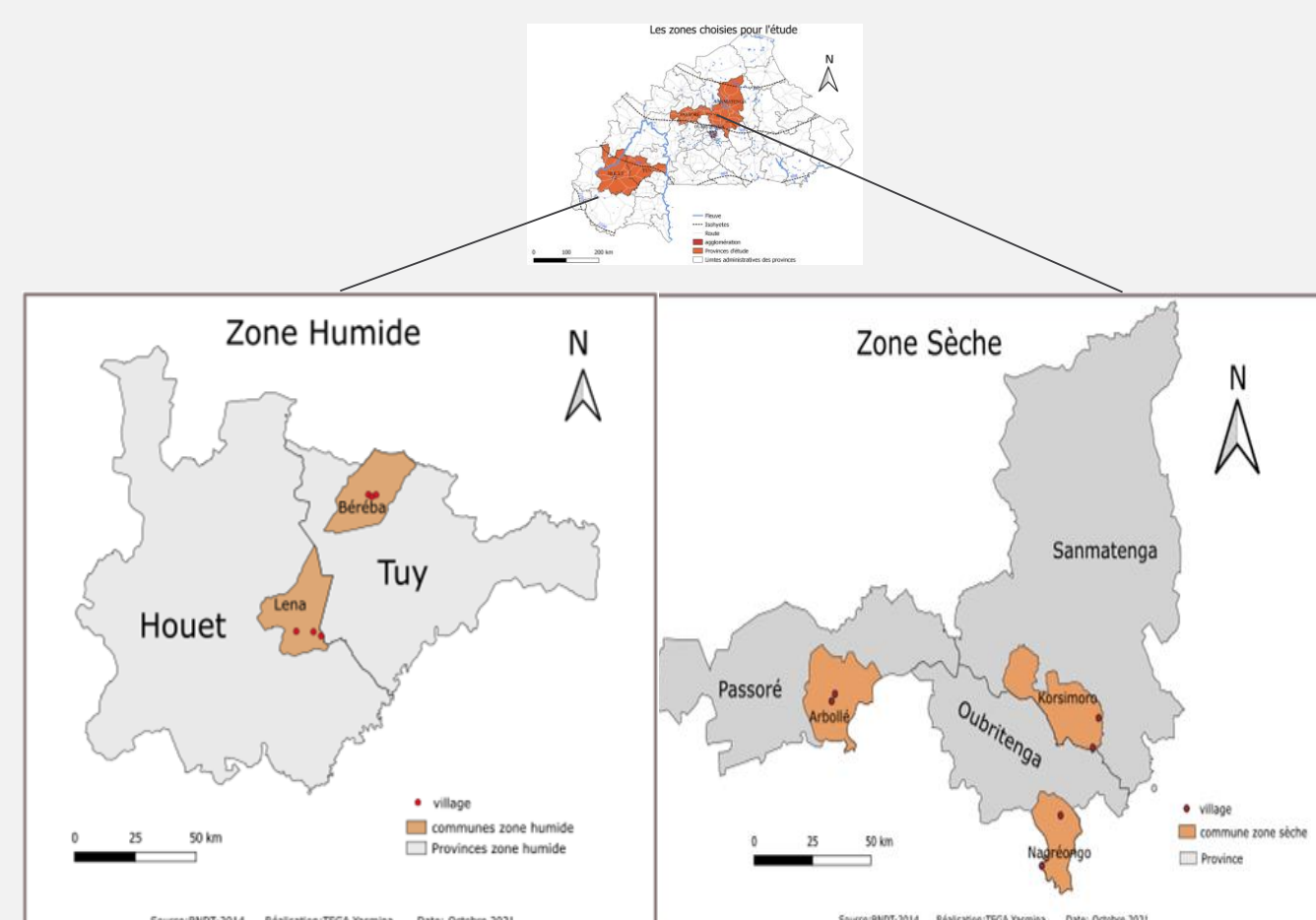
- To identify AE platforms, networks and actors involved in the promotion of agroecology
- To analyze the connections/interactions and quality of interactions (links) between these actors
- To identify existing and analyze influencing policies
- To identify and analyze advisory and innovation support services

Methodology: AKIS Approach

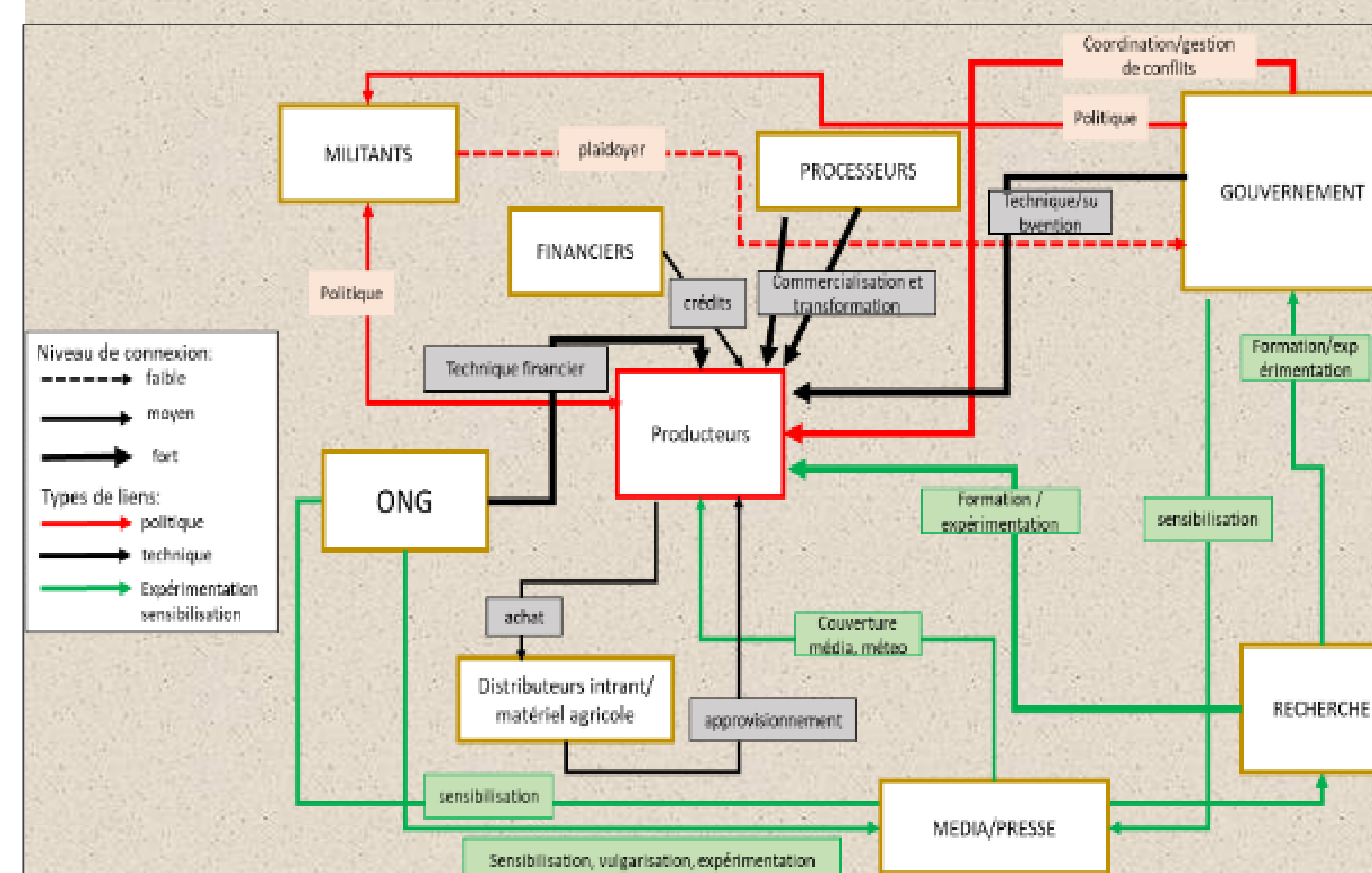
- ✓ Use of draft AKIS map (instrument of discussion)
- ✓ Focus discussion with a diverse AE stakeholder group i.e. NGOs, producers, government agents, technicians, research
- ✓ Pre-activation of existing AE knowledge through individually perceived symbols of AE
- ✓ In-depth discussion and characterization of draft AKIS map (two stakeholder groups)
- ✓ In-depth discussion on service and policy influences

Study Sites in Burkina Faso

- **West:** Sudanese climate with cotton cultivation
- **North:** Sudano-Sahelian climate with subsistence farming

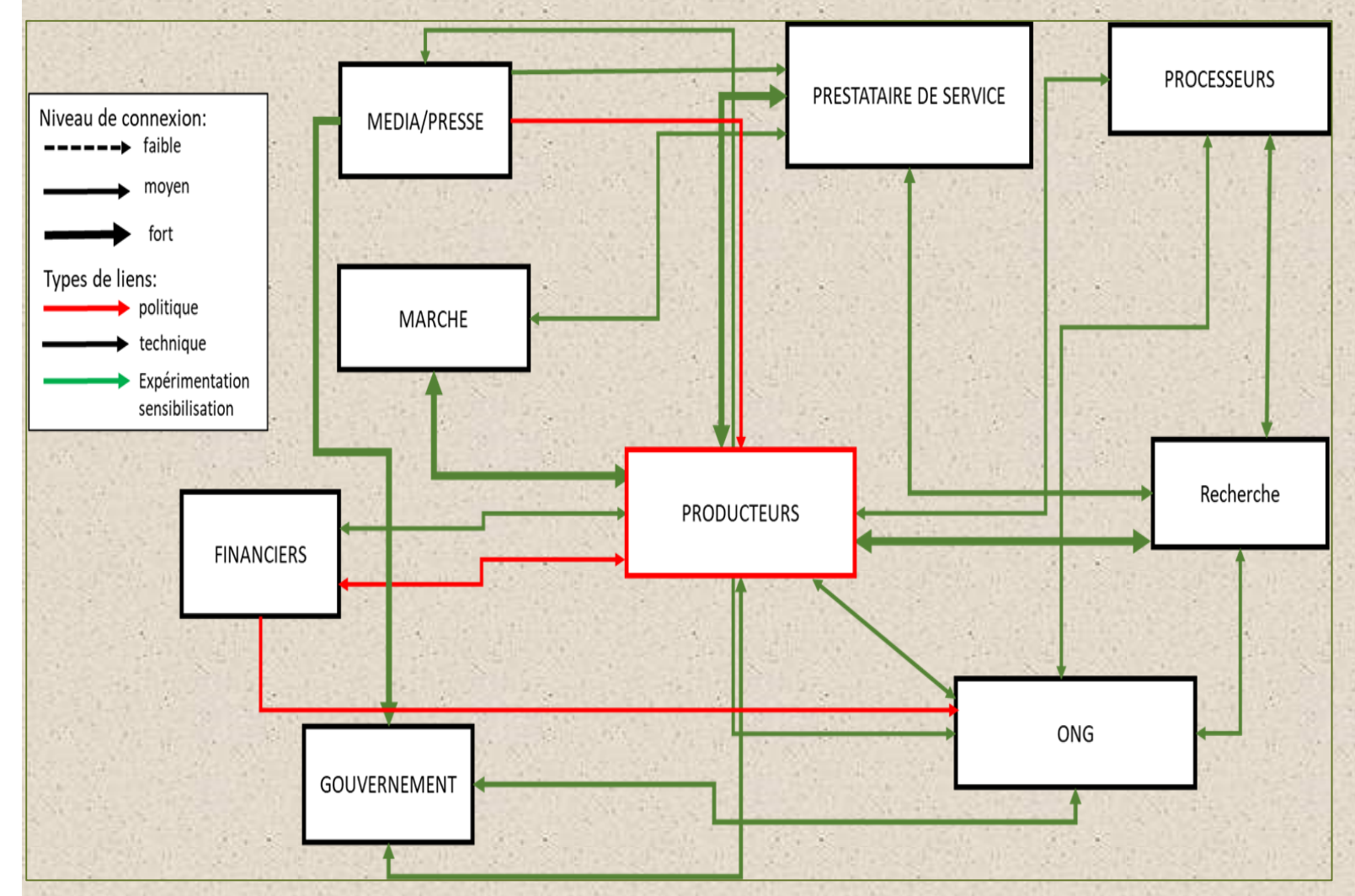


Results in the North



- 57 actors: producers at the heart of AE
- Nature of linkages: political, technical, awareness raising
- Strong link: Producer-Research, Producer-NGO

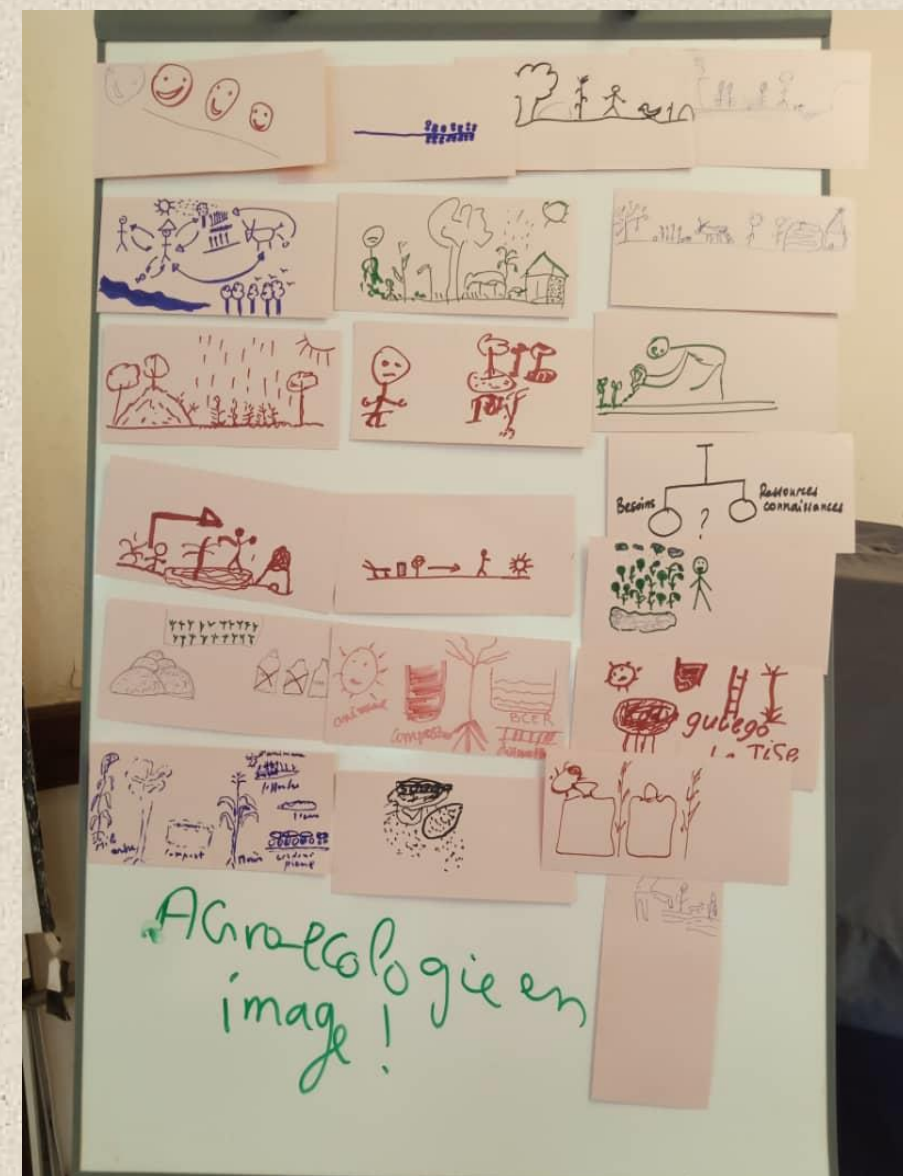
Results in the West



- 43 actors : Producers in the heart of AE
- Weak link: producer-NGO
- Market, food industry and financial players strongly represented

Results

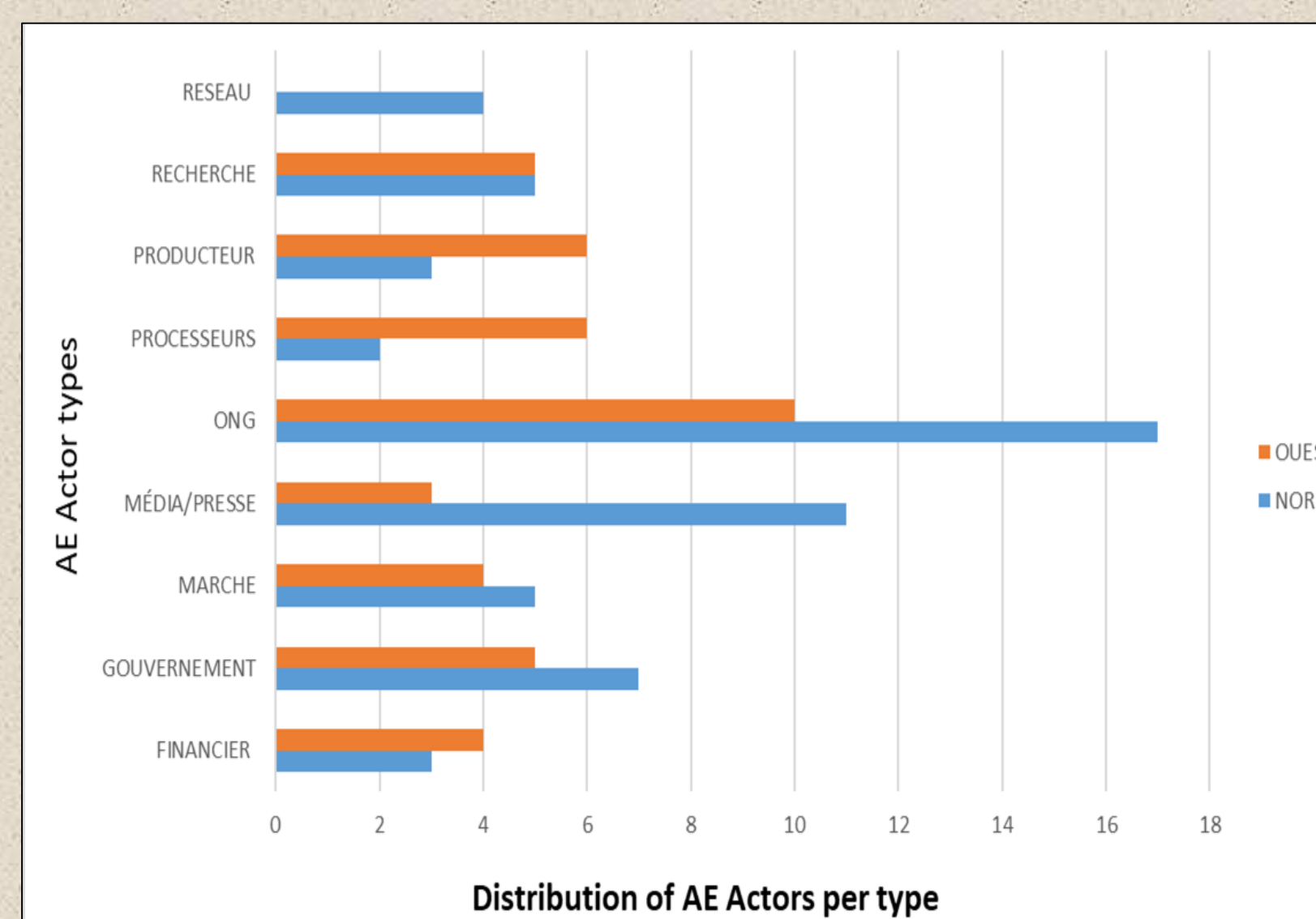
Participants' perception of agroecology



Agroecology according to the participants:

- Agroecology is harmony with the environment
- Agroecology is human perception and action on the environment
- Agroecology is all about the outcome of human action

Distribution of actors



Public policy in AE

Existing initiatives in AE

- AE actors are dynamic
- AE is in process in strategic and operational level (eg AE charter)
- Public and private institutions are in the move for safe agriculture

Challenges

- More evidence needed to boost AE initiative in BF
- Harmony in the perception of AE
- Lack of inputs for AE farms

Conclusion

- 100 platforms and networks of actors identified (predominantly in the North).
- Producers are at the center of AE activities in Burkina and have strong links with research, NGOs and sometimes the government through projects.
- The promotion of AE needs strong agricultural policy with follow-up.

Image production: ZALF team, Date: February 2022, Location: Burkina Faso