

Supporting Locally Driven Agroecological Transformation through Agroecological Living Landscapes (ALLs)

A Practical Toolkit for Implementation



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Learn more about the Initiative at <https://www.cgiar.org/initiative/agroecology/>
To request the Toolkit when it goes live, email s.freed@cgiar.org

What is an Agroecological Living Landscape (ALL)?¹

ALLs are **multi-stakeholder** spaces for the **co-production** of knowledge and the **co-design, testing, and scaling** of agroecological innovations in alignment with the HLPE’s thirteen principles of agroecology. This approach was developed by the **CGIAR Agroecology Initiative** and is currently implemented in Burkina Faso, India, Kenya, Lao PDR, Peru, Senegal, Tunisia and Zimbabwe.

The focus on the **landscape level** reflects ALLs’ intentional place-based design. This responds to agroecology’s far-reaching, **interconnected nature**, and acknowledges that agroecological transformation is not just about changing practices on farms, but **reform of wider agri-food systems**.

ALLs respond to the challenges that external partners often face in **accompanying and supporting local stakeholders** on agroecological transition pathways without imposing their own views and agendas. They offer a **structured approach** to engage with local stakeholders and support the **realization of a local vision** for the agri-food system.



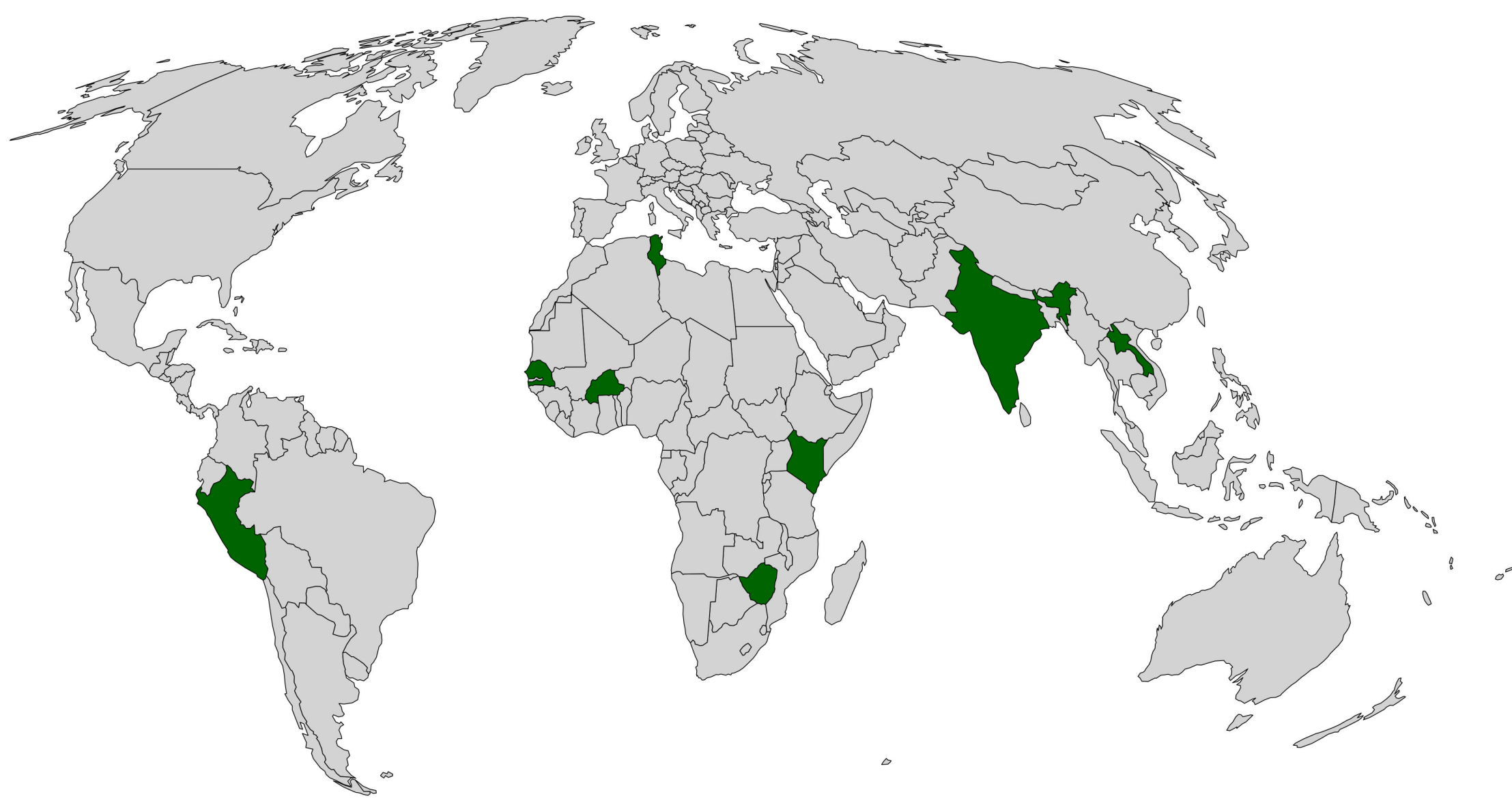
Local stakeholders in Murehwa District, Zimbabwe, engaging in ALL activities with the CGIAR Agroecology Initiative.

What is the ALL Toolkit?

This **online, multimedia Toolkit** presents modules in a set sequence to **guide external partners** (researchers and development partners) through the establishment and implementation of ALLs in partnership with local stakeholders.

Each module provides either **operational guidance** to inform effective ALL facilitation, or **methodological guidance** to aid in understanding the local context and working toward a local vision for agroecological transition. Experiences from the CGIAR Agroecology Initiative’s ALLs are shared in multimedia formats, providing insights into **challenges and lessons learned**.

The Toolkit will go live soon! To be notified, send an email request to s.freed@cgiar.org



ALLs have been piloted in eight countries involved in the CGIAR Agroecology Initiative.

What does the ALL Toolkit offer?

Best practices for effective and inclusive facilitation

- ❖ Connect with and work through local leadership and institutions
- ❖ Be respectful and transparent about rules, roles, and decision-making
- ❖ Understand social differences and possible barriers to participation
- ❖ Lead from behind, using responsive approaches to leadership
- ❖ Practice “deep listening” to understand needs and priorities

Guiding principles for engaging local stakeholders

1. Build on existing multi-stakeholder mechanisms
2. Aim for inclusiveness, diversity, legitimacy, representativeness
3. Build willingness, interest, trust, & motivation
4. Ensure the agenda is demand-driven
5. Prioritize capacity building and collective learning
6. Work toward local ownership, empowerment and leadership

Gender and social inclusion considerations in ALLs

- ✓ Ensure representation of and accessibility for marginalized groups
- ✓ Understand social norms’ impacts on power and resource access
- ✓ Assess and build stakeholders’ agency and capacity
- ✓ Incorporate meaningful social inclusion indicators in ME&L
- ✓ Implement gender transformative approaches

Vision to Action planning

Co-develop a local vision for agroecological transition and planned pathways to achieve it.

Stakeholder mapping and policy analysis

Map the policy context and key actors, their relationships, and power dynamics.

Identifying determinants of behavior change & agency

Through participatory timelines, explore factors influencing the behaviors and agency of diverse actor groups.

Holistically upgrading business models

Work with local enterprises in priority value chains to integrate agroecological principles into their business models.

Co-designing innovations

Co-develop and test contextually-appropriate agroecological techniques, monitoring indicators of local concern.

¹ Quintero, M.; Wiederkehr Guerra, G.P.; Staiger Rivas, S.; Dickens, C. (2023). CGIAR Initiative on Agroecology. Montpellier (France): CGIAR. 4 p. <https://hdl.handle.net/10568/130662>

