

Assessing regional performance of agroecology – comparing two contrasting case studies in Burkina Faso

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Background

- Agroecology is suggested as a holistic sustainable solution for farmers in Burkina Faso to overcome challenges such as climate change.
- However, it remains unclear to what extent agroecology is yet part of regional farming systems.
- The purpose of this study was to assess the level of agroecology implementation in two contrasting regions.

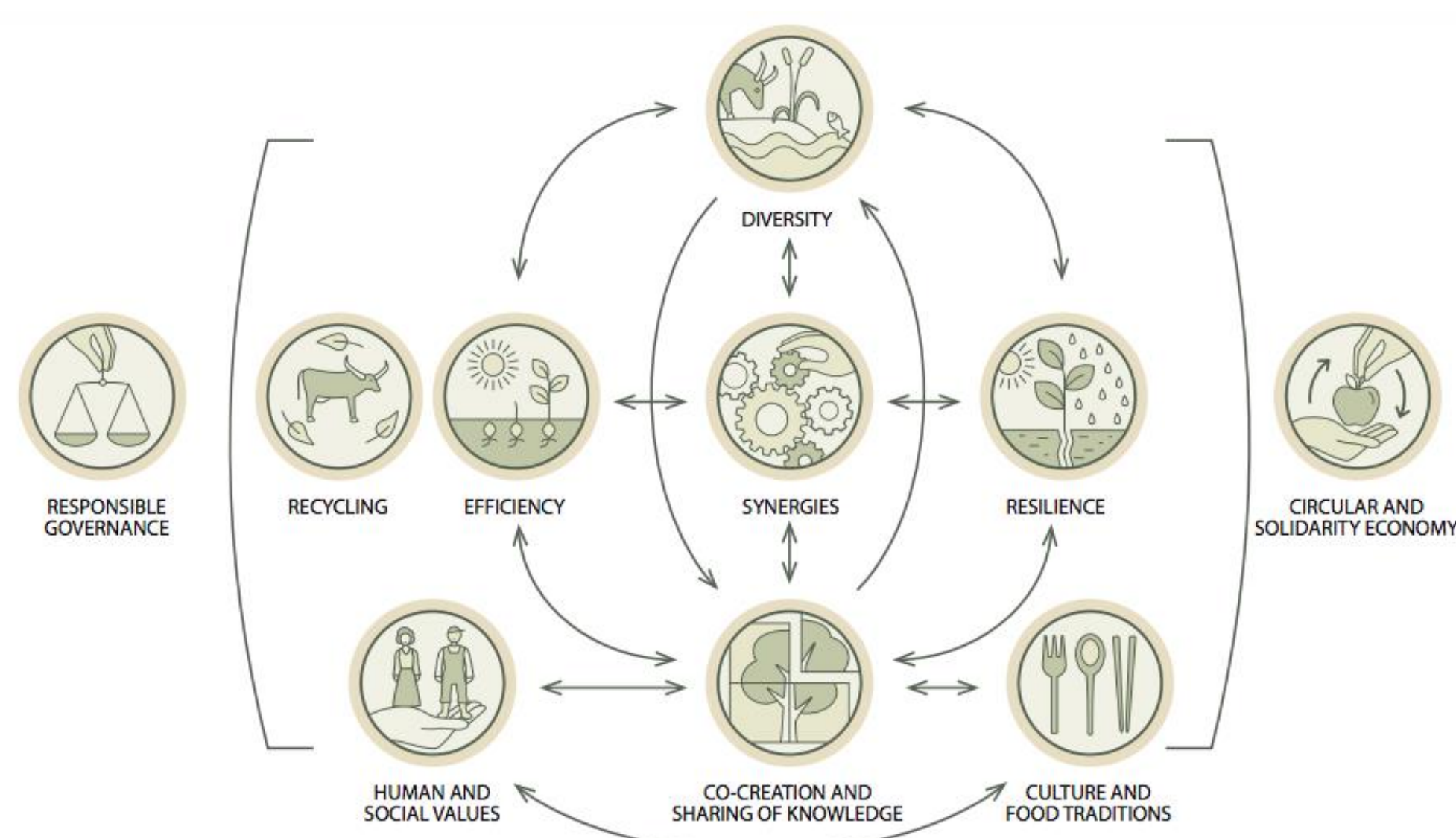


Figure 1: Elements of Agroecology used in the TAPE approach (FAO 2019)

Methods and case study regions

- Utilized the Tool for Agroecology Performance Evaluation (TAPE). aligned with the ten elements defined by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).
- Measures multidimensional performance of agroecological systems.
- Conducted two-day multi-stakeholder workshops (one per region) with farmers and other stakeholders.
- Participants assessed the validity of statements on regional situations.
- Study conducted in two rural regions of Burkina Faso: One in the Northern dry zone, one in a more humid zone in the Southwest.

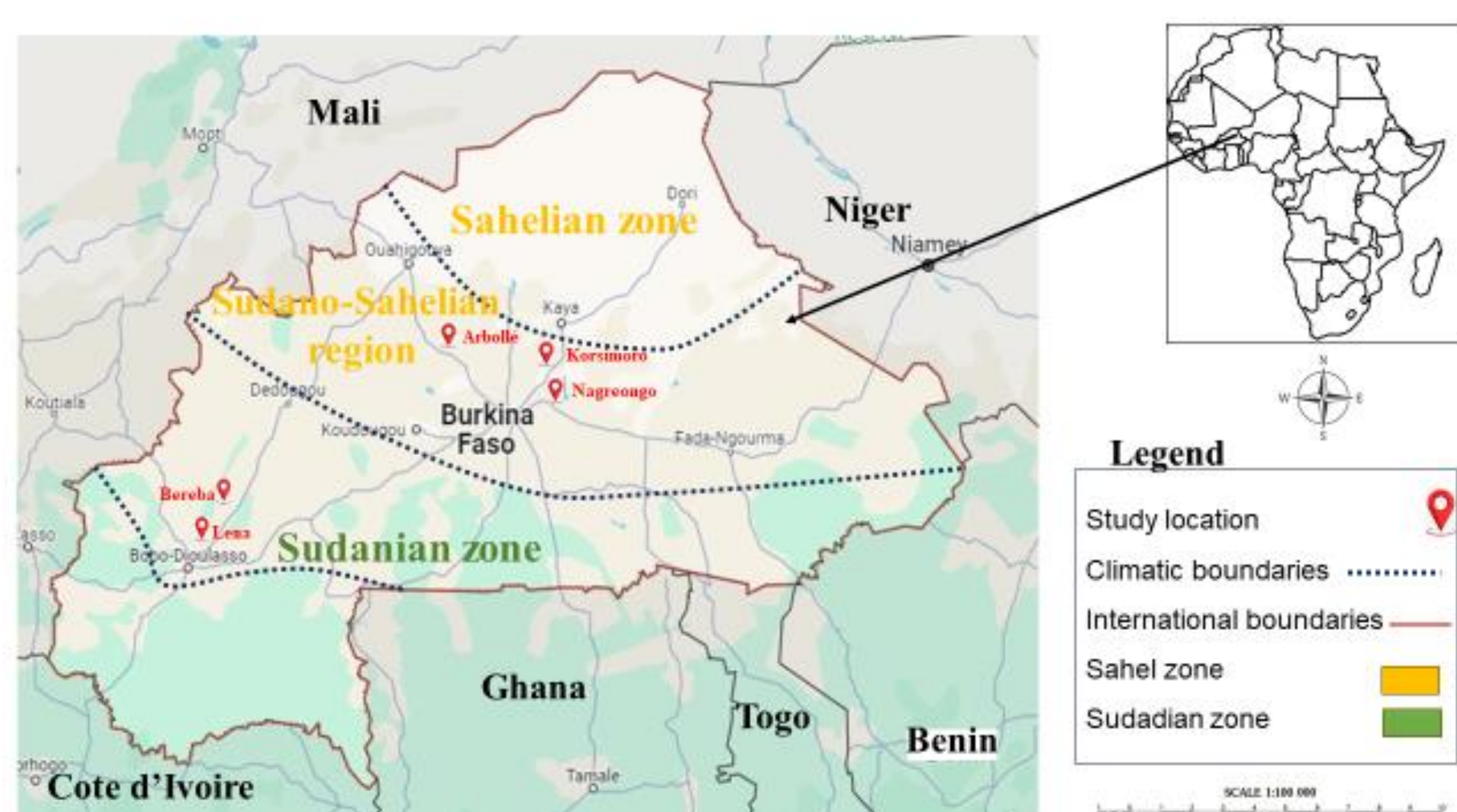


Figure 2: Location of case studies (Map: Pride Ebile)

Results

- Farmers in the southern region stated:
 - a higher diversity of their production as compared to the north (e.g. crops, trees, animals and diversity of activities, products and services).
 - more synergies (e.g. crop-livestock integration, agroforestry),
 - A higher perceived resilience (e.g. stability of income),
 - the preservation of culture and food traditions and the conditions to support human and social values were perceived stronger in the southern region.
- Only the element "circular and solidarity economy" was seen stronger in the Northern region.

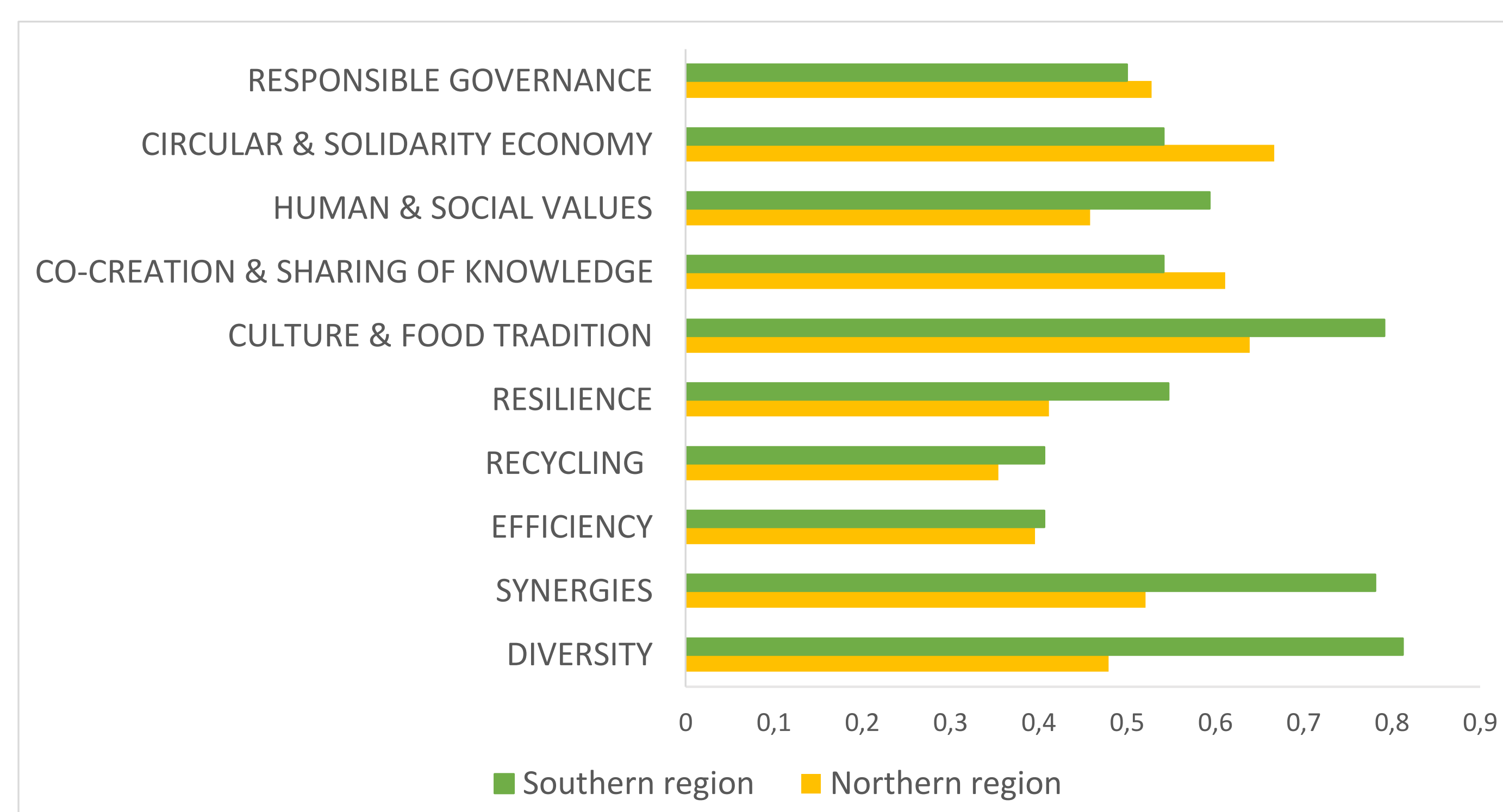


Figure 3: Average results of TAPE assessment per FAO element for villages in North and South-West case studies

Recommendations

- Harsh climates and limited crop options may weaken resilience.
- However, such conditions can promote networks among farmers, fostering a circular and solidarity economy.
- The TAPE tool serves as a rough diagnostic instrument for assessing agroecology performance.
- Individual farm assessments are necessary to understand:
 - Advantages of agroecological practices.
 - Interrelations compared to older mainstream practices.

