



# Agroecological transitions in value chains – A multiple case analysis



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## INTRODUCTION

Agroecology is increasingly recognized as a promising approach to address the challenges confronting our food systems. While evidence underscores its potential impacts, there is a critical knowledge gap regarding the successful scaling of agroecological practices, particularly in the global south.

The CGIAR Initiative on Agroecology (AE-I), aims at understanding the mechanisms conducive to the adoption and expansion of agroecological principles across diverse landscapes, including market-type interventions such as value chain (VC) and business models (BM) development.



## OBJECTIVES

1. Characterize **ten distinct agricultural VC** and identify potential BM in selected landscapes from seven countries, involved or venturing in agroecological transitions
2. Identify common and distinctive factors that enable or hinder the adoption of agroecological principles along the VCs.



## METHODOLOGY

- Rapid value chain assessments (RVCA) in each landscape using a simplification of the Value Links 2.0 methodological framework (Springer-Heinze, 2018).
- The RVCA was complemented with an AE module, which integrated themes and questions based on the 13 AE principles compiled by the HLPE (2019). Data was collected through literature review, key informant interviews and focus group discussions with local actors.
- A general guideline for conducting similar assessments was developed, integrating the lessons from these experiences (see Suggested Readings)



## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

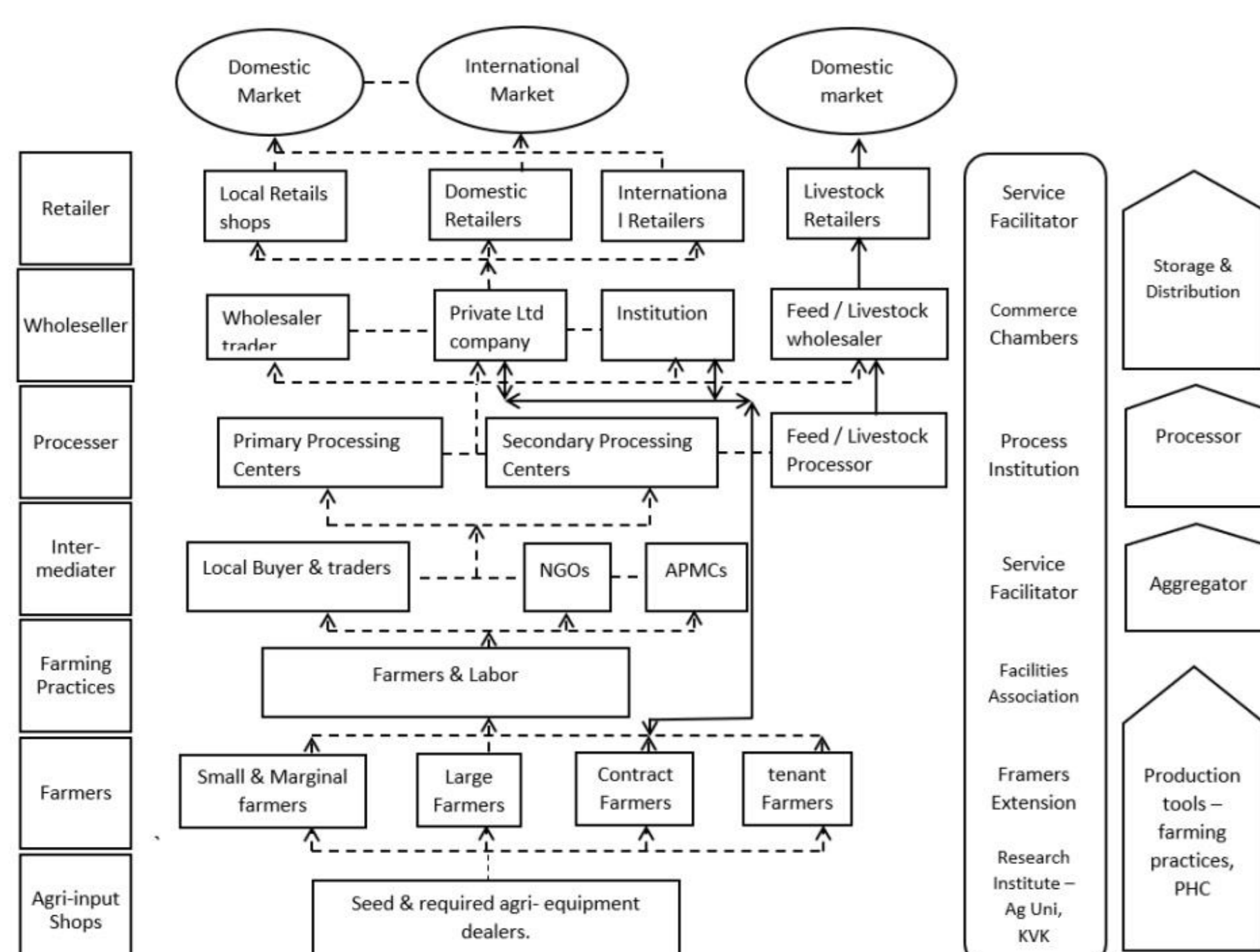


Figure 1. The groundnut value chain in Anantapuramu, Andhra Pradesh, India

- The AE principles integrated across all VC focused on improving resource efficiency and strengthening resilience of the production systems.
- Notable dearth in activities promoting social equity –a less tangible, yet key aspect prioritized disparately among stakeholders.
- Various initiatives from public, private and third sector supporting AE and other sustainable agricultural approaches, as well as high interest from selected farmer groups.
- With some exceptions, lack of institutional coordination and effective integration of public and development programs with AE orientation.



## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 1. Value chains analyzed and relevant reports per country

Country	Value chain and region	Reports
Burkina Faso	Dairy in Bobo-Dioulasso	<a href="https://agritrop.cirad.fr/607875/">https://agritrop.cirad.fr/607875/</a>
India	Groundnut in Andhra Pradesh	<a href="http://cgspace.cgiar.org/handle/10568/137493">http://cgspace.cgiar.org/handle/10568/137493</a>
Kenya	Green Leafy Vegetables in Kiambu Mango in Makueni	<a href="https://hdl.handle.net/10568/137728">https://hdl.handle.net/10568/137728</a> <a href="https://hdl.handle.net/10568/138772">https://hdl.handle.net/10568/138772</a>
Peru	Cocoa in Ucayali	<a href="https://hdl.handle.net/10568/136134">https://hdl.handle.net/10568/136134</a>
Senegal	Dairy and Millet in Fatick	<a href="https://agritrop.cirad.fr/607772/">https://agritrop.cirad.fr/607772/</a> <a href="https://hdl.handle.net/10568/138759">https://hdl.handle.net/10568/138759</a>
Tunisia	Olive oil in Siliana and Kef	<a href="https://hdl.handle.net/10568/149127">https://hdl.handle.net/10568/149127</a>
Zimbabwe	Poultry and Sorghum in Mbire and Murehwa	<a href="https://hdl.handle.net/10568/137361">https://hdl.handle.net/10568/137361</a>

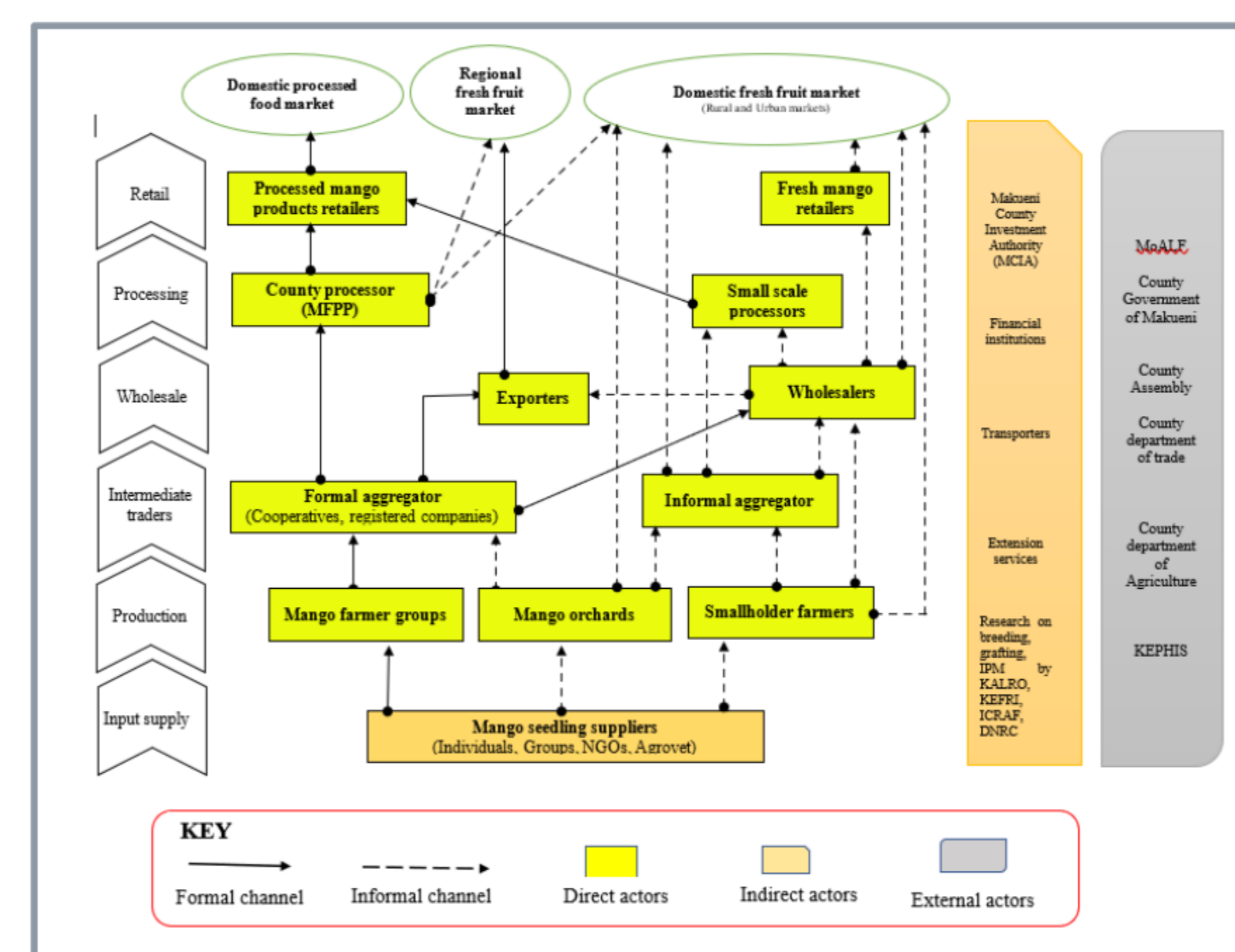


Figure 2. The mango value chain in Makueni, Kenya



## CONCLUSIONS

- Reducing dependance on external inputs and environmental impacts, and improving diversification were the main drivers for the adoption of AE principles.
- Major barriers stem from lack of access to inputs and information, high dispersion, lack of economic and technical capacities, absence of standardized AE products and processes, labor and land constraints, infrastructure inadequacies, and limited incentives and support services.
- Though prevalent in conventional food systems, these challenges are even more hindering for the stakeholders interested in integrating AE.
- We hope our findings facilitate the replication of similar interventions in diverse regions, while also documenting diverse pathways to inform, caution, or inspire other stakeholders in advancing AE across varied landscapes.



## REFERENCES & SUGGESTED READINGS

- Springer-Heinze, A. (2018). ValueLinks 2.0. Manual on Sustainable Value Chain Development.
- High-Level Panel of Experts. (2019). Agroecological and other innovative approaches for sustainable agriculture and food systems that enhance food security and nutrition. A report by the High-Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition of the Committee on World Food Security.
- Charry, A.; Vargas, A.; Narjes, M.; Gonzalez, C. (2023) Agroecological transitions in value chains: Main findings, challenges, and opportunities for the agroecological transition of the value chains in the agroecological living landscapes. Agroecology Initiative Technical Report. 44 p. <https://hdl.handle.net/10568/137773>
- Charry, A.; Narjes, M.; Gonzalez, C.; Chege, C. (2024) Guideline for integrating agroecological principles into rapid value chain analyses. 38 p. <https://hdl.handle.net/10568/148726>

## Acknowledgments

The authors of this document oversaw the compilation and synthesis of the countries' information, nevertheless, the bulk of the research was conducted by each country's AE-I teams. Accordingly, their work and the collaboration of all the local stakeholders made this report possible. More information on the country findings and authors can be found in the reports and suggested readings.