

Exploring the pathway to agroecological transition in northern Ghana: Actors, practices, drivers, and challenges

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1. INTRODUCTION

- Due to the immense pressures on the global food system as a result from climate change, population increase and soil degradation.
- Agroecology has re-emerged as a promising, sustainable alternative. This study explores the agroecological transition in the Northern Ghana.
- By answering the research questions;
 1. What roles do different institutional actors play in shaping agroecology transition in Northern Ghana?
 2. What drivers, challenges, and gender dynamics influence farmer's adoption of agroecological practices?

2. STUDY AREA

The study is conducted in the Northern Region of Ghana (Mion, Tolon and Savelugu districts).

These districts were selected due to,

- ✓ High vulnerability to climate change,
- ✓ Widespread poverty and Food insecurity,
- ✓ Agricultural importance

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

- **Gender trend** - women are generally more unlikely than men to adopt agroecology due to:

- Women's household work load, Cultural norms & land rights, and Limited credits & inputs.

ADOPTED AGROECOLOGICAL PRACTICES

Number of Male Number of Female

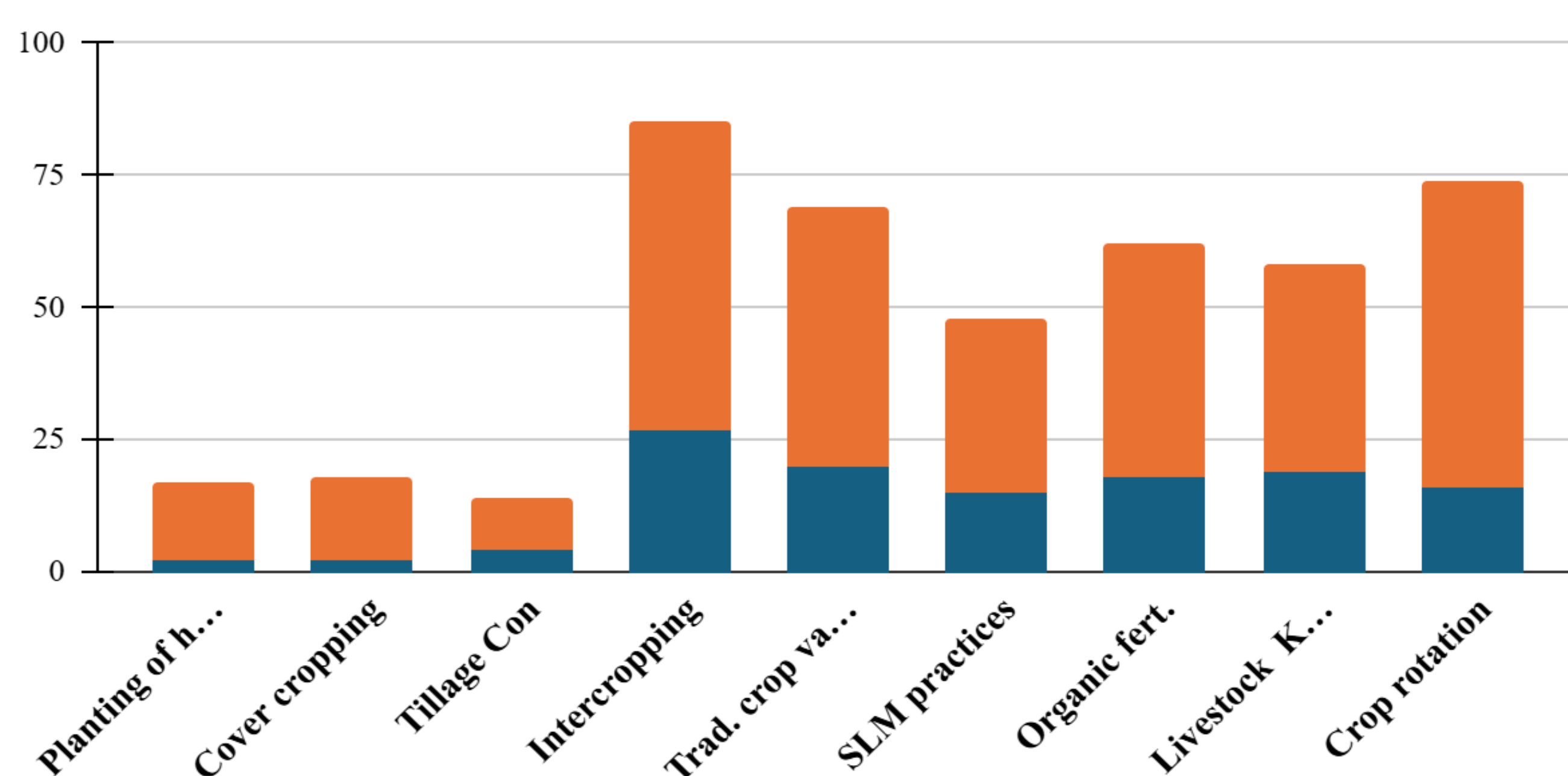


Figure: Adoption of agroecological practices in Northern Ghana

The transition to agroecology is mainly driven by climate change vulnerability and the pursuance of food security. However, this transition is confronted by limited institutional support and knowledge.

WHAT'S DRIVING THE TRANSITION?

- Climate resilience
- Improved soil fertility
- Food security
- Cultural compatibility
- Institutional support

WHAT'S HOLDING IT BACK?

- Limited technical knowledge
- Inconsistent weather patterns
- Insufficient institutional support

Figure 3: Drivers and Challenges of agroecology transition

3. METHODOLOGY

Mixed Methods Approach:

- Household Survey (95 Farmers), Workshop (23 Participants), Semi-structured interview (9 stakeholders).
- Employed gender by community target of 35 percent.

Limitation of women participation

- Limited time due to intensive household duties
- The norms of perceiving men as household head.

ACTORS IN AGROECOLOGY



Farmers are the core actors in the transition to agroecology, supported by other actors through:

- ✓ Knowledge, innovation, & information
- ✓ Training & technical advice, and financial support.
- ✓ **Collaboration** boosts knowledge sharing and farmer innovation

Figure 2. Actors driving agroecology transition in Northern Ghana.

5. CONCLUSION

- Agroecology holds strong potential for enhancing long-term food security and rural livelihoods while, preserving climate.
- Adoption is hindered by institutional fragmentation, limited technical capacity, insufficient financial resources, and social barriers, particularly for women.
- Gender disparities, unpredictable climate patterns, and weak market linkages further slow the transition.

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