Final report

Evaluation of Kilimo Endelevu Arusha: Program for sustainable land management and agroecological transition in the Arusha region of Tanzania

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Abbreviations and acronyms

AE: Agroecology

AFD: French Development Agency

ARUTAE: Support program for sustainable land management and Agroecological transition in the Arusha region in Tanzania (also called KEA)

ASDP: Agricultural Sector Development Plan (Tanzania)

ASFSP: Arusha Sustainable Food System Platform

CARI: Center for International Actions and Achievements

CSFD: French Desertification Scientific Committee

DC: District Council

DGD: Belgian Directorate-General for Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid

FAO: Food and Agriculture Organization

FO: Farmer Organization

GTAE: Agroecological Transitions Working Group

GTD: Desertification Working Group (France)

ICT: Information and Communication Technologies

IDP: Iles de Paix

KEA: Kilimo Endelevu Arusha

MVIWAARUSHA: Mtandao wa Vikundi vya Wakulima na Wafugaji Mkoa wa Arusha

NEOAS: National Ecological Organic Agriculture Strategy

LDN: Land Degradation Neutrality

NGO: Non-Governmental Organization

OS: Specific Objective

PELUM: Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (Tanzania)

PSA: Partnership for Social Accountability

RECODA: Research, Community, and Organizational Development Associates

RIPAT: Rural Initiative for the Participatory Agricultural Transformation

SHF: Small Holder Farmers

SHIWAKUTA: Shirikisho la Vyama vya Wakulima Wadogo Tanzania *(Confederation of Smallholder farmers' Asociations in Tanzania)*

SLM: Sustainable Land Management

SO: Specific Objective

TABIO: Tanzanian Alliance for Biodiversity

TSH: Tanzanian Shilling

TOAM: Tanzania Organic Agriculture Movement

UNCCD: United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

UNCDF: United Nations Capital Development Fund

VICOBA: Village Community Bank

1 Executive summary

Kilimo Endelevu Arusha project

Kilimo Endelvu Arusha (KEA) project is implemented since February 2022 in Arusha District Council, Arusha region of Northern Tanzania. It is co-financed by AFD (Feb. 2022 to Jan. 2025) and DGD (Jan. 2022 to Dec. 2026) and mobilizes additional smaller funds. Its general objective is contributing to the resilience of the populations of the Arusha region through support for sustainable, territorialized food systems. More specifically, it pursues the specific objectives:

1. Small scale farmers in the Arusha region improve their food and nutritional security, as well as their economic viability, through sustainable land management and agroecological intensification.
2. The institutional and social environment of the Arusha region facilitates the deployment of sustainable land management and agroecological intensification.

It is implemented by four complementary organizations, CARI, Iles de Paix, RECODA and MVIWAARUSHA, in collaboration with local village authorities, Arusha District Council, two regional platforms of the food & agroecology sector as well as SHIWAKUTA national confederation. It also mobilizes various national and international technical partners such as ECHO East-Africa, TOAM, etc.

It aims at addressing important challenges of the Arusha region food system, such as important soil and environmental degradation, decreasing yields in agriculture, lack of diversification of the farming systems and sources of income and food, poor post-harvest management practices and access to market to name a few. It also aims at influencing the institutional environment at local, regional and national levels to be more conducive to adapting and transforming the food system towards more sustainable and healthy practices and products.

Its holistic approach aims at bringing positive changes to various stakeholders' groups: (1) Family farmers and groups of farmers, (2) village authorities, schools and actors of the local territory (including district), (3) regional and national networks of actors, (4) food vendors, consumers and policy makers. It mobilizes principles and methodologies of agroecology, farmer-centered extension, land restoration, territorial development, platform collaboration, media communication and advocacy.

Objectives and context of the evaluation

This evaluation serves purpose of accountability to the project's donors, but also to provide the four partners with an external eye with an analysis and recommendations so that they can learn collectively, promote their results and support reflections and decisions regarding the short term and longer-term strategy. It serves both as a final evaluation of the AFD co-funding and a mid-term evaluation of the DGD program.

The methodology mobilized both secondary data from the documentation provided by the partners and qualitative data collected and analyzed from a mission conducted in September 2024, which allowed to meet all categories of actors involved in the project.

The results of the evaluation, presented hereafter, follow the structure of the evaluation questions and are followed by an analysis on the partnership, gender and youth inclusion and recommendations.

1. Results of the strategy on agroecology and sustainable land management

The following statements aim at answering to the evaluation question**: *"Does the project's strategy, based on agroecology and sustainable land management, engage family farms on a pathway toward resilience in the face of weather incidents and market fluctuations?".***

Activities implemented: diagnostics in 11 villages, engagement with village authorities, formation of groups of farmers (total of 21 groups), deploying land restoration activities (distribution of trees, training of farmers and of environmental champions on land terracing and other land restoration techniques),

training farmers and technical lead farmers, demonstration of agroecological practices aiming at diversifying farmers' production systems (conservation agriculture, introduction of perennial crops, introduction of livestock, etc.), capacitating leaders and groups of farmers and ultimately improving spreading mechanisms to other farmers and in other villages, through the training of "spreading lead farmers" and the development of training materials and field days.

Relevance: This strategy is relevant. The agroecology and land restoration practices are well adapted to the constraints of the farmers and their environment. The combination of activities at both individual farm and collective level optimizes the potential impact. The methodologies and approaches, centered on the farmers and their institutions are also fully adapted to the communities and are well aligned with the operations and objectives of the district extension officers and national policies.

Effectiveness: most of the activities planned have been implemented, even if the project faced some delays, mostly due to weather conditions.

Effects on farmers: A large variety of changes are already taking place at farmers' level. Farmers start to diversify their production both in livestock and crops, they adopt agroecological farming practices (cover crops, increased use of manure, composting, etc.). The practices contribute to reducing some of their production costs, while raising their autonomy (self-production of inputs, storage of indigenous seeds, …). This starts contributing to their diversification of sources of food and income and positively affecting their cash-flow. The trainings and mechanisms developed within the groups for financial lending and saving (VICOBA) and marketing of products (marketing committee) have raised the financial and marketing literacy of the groups while started being effective in their operations.

Effects on the resources and local environment: It is not yet possible to assess the impact on the soil and water availability (except for water reservoirs), but for all techniques implemented some effects are already mentioned by the farmers, as well as confirmed by scientific literature. The combination of terracing techniques and other positive farm management practices (fodder grass, minimum soil disturbance, soil cover, use of manure, etc.) contribute to reducing the water runoff, thus erosion and improving soil fertility and moisture content. The trees planted on individual farms and collective lands are most likely to reduce pressure on the forests. Activities conducted with schools and sensitization activities with the villages contribute to raising awareness on the importance of managing the environment. It has led in some villages to the adoption of bylaws which shall limit negative effects of cultivation in steep slopes or free grazing.

Scalability and sustainability: Agroecology practices are already spreading through combined mechanisms: members of the groups trained at least 3 farmers in their village, environmental champions and technical lead farmers are equipped to train interested farmers in their villages or other villages, "Spreading lead farmers" are already forming and training other groups. It is most likely that the spreading mechanism will focus on the most appropriate techniques in this farmer-to-farmer process. It will be monitored by the project. The sustainability is currently ensured through capacity building and networking mechanisms: training of lead and champion farmers, capacity building of groups and leaders, connecting them with market agents and inputs providers, involving and training extension staff from the district.

As a conclusion to the evaluative question, ***"Does the project's strategy, based on agroecology and sustainable land management, engage family farms on a pathway toward resilience in the face of drought?"***, we can answer positively while highlighting the following points of attention:

Limits and points of attention:

- Labor and costs of production may not yet be sufficiently collected and monitored, though they are discussed with the farmers. Those are key elements to build capacity of farmers when envisioning increasing production volumes and increased access to markets.
- Some techniques or technologies, in land restoration or agroecology, though relevant, are capital and/or labor intensive (water reservoirs, terracing), thus will face the financial constraints of the producers. It will most likely not benefit to the less advantaged households if no solution is found to make their access easier.
- The spreading of land restoration practices (especially terracing) is slow and may require intensified efforts to motivate and enforce the application of techniques.
- Sustainability of a large part of the techniques, functions (lead farmers) and institutions (groups) will highly depend on their access or membership to sustainable networks/farmers' organizations and a reliable market for agroecological products.

2. Results of the strategy regarding marketing and awareness raising

The following statements aim at answering to the evaluation question**: *"Does the project's strategy, which focuses on improving the marketing of agricultural products and raising awareness of healthy, sustainable eating, effectively contribute to increasing the consumption of healthy products from local family farming?".***

Activities implemented: diagnostics in 11 villages, training of technical lead farmers on post-harvest management and nutrition, training of farmers on storage and stock management, cooking demonstrations, training of groups on marketing, market assessments and connections, training of vendors and restaurants, establishment of an organic Participatory Guarantee System, connections to vendors, awareness raising campaigns, journalists and media trained, school teachers and students trained, communication materials developed on markets and to support vendors.

Relevance: This strategy is relevant. It combines activities at different relevant and complementary levels, from village to Arusha city markets and final consumers. It mobilizes relevant activities combining capacity building, networking and communication, which are all highly needed. It mobilizes relevant actors and additional partnerships (through platforms) to meet the needs and is aligned with the objectives of the government to increase food safety and to improve access to market for smallholder farmers. The strategy might have to evolve on the way, as the context of market and actors' capacities might evolve in the future.

Effectiveness: Most activities have been implemented as planned, though some have been delayed (training on post-harvest management and nutrition, feasibility study on the marketing). They most probably will be implemented by the 1st quarter of 2025.

Effects: Farmers directly involved in the project are improving their access in volume and diversity of quality food, thus contributing to saving some money and improving their diet. They have also improved their understanding on the importance of having diversified and healthy diets as well as having improved practices on the post-harvest management (storage, processing, …). A majority of farmers now sell some surplus at the village level and the most advanced groups or farmers all reach new markets in Arusha region, on both organic specific and conventional market. Vendors and restaurants supported by the project are aware of the importance of agroecological products. They communicate about them and increase their sales. A PGS is in place in one village and is well adhered to and managed by its members. The communication campaigns, through the training of journalists, though hard to evaluate, are most likely to sensitize urban citizen, who are aware of some food safety issues.

Scalability and sustainability: The activities supporting groups and vendors/restaurants are scalable. The diversified nutrition and sales in the villages will most probably spread, through the spreading mechanism (technical lead and spreading lead farmers). The PGS is a key approach that can guarantee a quality standard while growing in volume, which will be important on the urban market. The volumes are still limited but will slowly grow. Sustainability will highly depend on the capacity of the actors (from farmers to vendors) to differentiate their products and have them sufficiently remunerated, as they may face some additional transaction costs when comparing to conventional products.

As a conclusion to the evaluative question, ***"Does the project's strategy, which focuses on improving the marketing of agricultural products and raising awareness of healthy, sustainable eating, effectively contribute to increasing the consumption of healthy products from local family farming?"***, we can answer positively while highlighting the following points of attention:

Limits and points of attention:

- The growth of a specific market segment for agroecological products will remain highly dependent on the production capacity of the farmers, which will grow slowly and will depend on their access to capital, as well as on the consumers propensity to pay at a higher price quality products.
- The market differentiation will require sustained efforts to improve the visibility and accessibility of these products on the market, as well as strengthening its market agents, not only in their knowledge and connections, but potentially also in their capital.
- The production costs (including raising labor) and transaction costs (control of the PGS, aggregation of small volumes, …) might be a challenge when opposed to large volumes and low transaction costs for conventional products, at least to reach the urban market.

3. Results regarding the enabling environment for the transformation of food systems

The following statements aim at answering to the evaluation question**: *"Does the project's strategy contribute to the creation of an enabling environment to the deployment of a sustainable food system on a regional scale?".***

Activities implemented: training and piloting of a "territorial development" approach in one village, village and district staff mobilized and contribution to activities, mobilization of the mayor of Arusha city on exchange visit and participatory analysis of the wastes management system of Arusha, analysis of the territorial planning system, contribution and organizing of events in the framework of 2 regional platforms (ACAF and ASFSP), analysis of the national policy framework regarding agroecology, support to the organizational development of the national farmers confederation SHIWAKUTA, participation or organizing of advocacy meetings and development of position papers to promote agroecology and farmers managed seeds systems, involvement in UNCCD meetings, …

Relevance: This strategy is relevant. It mobilizes the relevant stakeholders which can influence the food systems, from local/territorial level to the national institutional and political framework level. The activities combine consultation/visioning mechanisms, capacity building, dialogue and lobbying approaches, which are all relevant. It is aligned with the newly adopted NEOAS, while at the same time contributing to show-casing how it can be implemented on the ground and translated into institutions and collaboration mechanisms.

Effectiveness: A majority of the planned activities have been implemented, though the territorial approach was narrowed down to one village. The project partners have made good use of their experience and networks to effectively address different levels of the food system environment, up to the national level, through the strong involvement of IDP at national level on topics such as agroecology and Farmers Managed Seed Systems, CARI on topics such as desertification and land use and the emergence and strengthening of SHIWAKUTA national confederation.

Effects: The territorial approach has been exploratory and has led to the adoption of a strategy document for one village. The process itself has raised the capacity of its leaders and committees to plan and implement at the village level. The replication process is currently going on. The involvement of the technical extension teams from the district and their adhesion have enabled them to learn new techniques and approaches towards agroecology and land restoration. They declare using them in other villages outside KEA scope. The two Arusha platforms have been instrumental in synergizing and cross-learning on key topics such as food safety, agroecology, farmer managed seed systems, etc. contributing to a larger sharing of innovations and knowledge. SHIWAKUTA holds a more and more strategic position to represent farmers' organizations and is already active in promoting agroecology. All these contribute to the long walk towards a conducive environment for food systems transformation.

As a conclusion to the evaluative question, ***"Does the project's strategy contribute to the creation of an enabling environment to the deployment of a sustainable food system on a regional scale?"***, we can answer positively while highlighting the following points of attention:

Limits and points of attention:

- The territorial approach, though relevant, is still at an early stage in one village and is a long and heavy process that questions its replicability if the methodology remains the same.
- The platforms at regional level are useful but could gain in effectiveness if they were more strategic into knowledge management and engagement of government.
- SHIWAKUTA, as well as all partners engaged in the transformation of food systems might gain in legitimacy if they could produce more references and evidence about agroecology and its different dimensions, thus influencing training curriculums, extension models and references, etc.
- The scaling of this agroecological approach will also highly depend on the capacity of the sector to mobilize funding. Besides the classic "project funding", actors should target and experiment other sources of funding such as influencing the content of the national budget to the agricultural sector, or exploring other more innovative funds such as the carbon credit market or climate finance …

Partnership and cross-cutting topics:

The following statements aim at answering to the evaluation question**: *"How effective is the partnership towards implementing the project and achieving the common vision of its partners and building sustainability?"*** and brings highlights on the cross-cutting topic of gender and youth.

The partnership is fully relevant as it mobilizes organizations with complementary and proven experience in their field, while at the same time sharing the same long-term vision and a "learning spirit". It mobilizes stakeholders which are fully embedded into national and regional institutions and networks, which makes the action even more effective. The partners have adopted functioning principles which operate well. The sub-strategies of the project components have been codeveloped in the initial phase of the project. These, combined with the experience of the project partners has led to an effective project implementation.

The governance structures have met their objectives in terms of steering the project. Some evolutions might be seen in the future to limit overlapping of its different structures, and to reflect the strategic scope of the next phases.

The M&E framework (TAPE/FAO methodology) is interesting to monitor long term changes and processes but will require an internal evaluation to better assess its relevance (it was only partially possible during the evaluation) and should lead to its review towards a more efficient and effective monitoring and decision making system. Some slight improvements might make the administrative and technical reporting mechanisms more fluid.

Capacity building of all stakeholders involved in the project, including the partners themselves, is a key component of the project. It contributes to the sustainability of the activities and institutions supported. It is well translated into the activities but would gain of an improved knowledge management (production and spreading of knowledge), targeting both project stakeholders, farmers' communities and policy makers.

Regarding the cross-cutting topics:

- **Women** are very well represented in the project teams and beneficiaries (71% of farmer members are women) and they also are dominant in technical lead positions. The practices promoted seem to impact them positively (technical empowerment, recognized role in their groups, …). Nevertheless, it would be necessary to deepen the analysis to identify potential side effects (heaviness of the workload, …) and ways of better empowering them through a dedicated strategy.
- **Youth** represent 26% of the farmers' groups members. They show great dynamism and are involved in activities. As for women, as specific analysis and strategy would worth investing in.

Conclusion and recommendations:

KEA project and its overall holistic strategy is relevant to address the needs of the food system transformation, though at the limited scale of ten villages for now. Some spreading mechanisms, fully part of the project, were in action at the time of the evaluation to increase the number of villages and farmers engaged in the transformation. It has implemented most of its planned activities in an effective manner, thanks to the complementarity and experience of its four partners and their capacity to synergize with other initiatives. Though it is too early to measure impact, numerous positive effects are witnessed and different levels of the food system (farmers, vendors, networks, consumers, …). Capacity building and networking are cutting across all activities towards sustainability.

The recommendations summarized hereafter aim at correcting weaknesses identified, but also at reflecting on elements of the strategy that would strengthen sustainability of the first positive results of the project and scaling-up its activities and impact:

1. **Short-term recommendations:**
    - **a.** Projections of the budget and activities will have to be conducted shortly to ensure both are achievable and maximize impact for the remaining period of the first phase of the project. Some reallocations could be foreseen in that sense.
    - **b.** It would be worth investing in some methodology capitalization to improve the efficiency of the "RIPAT/land-restoration/territorial approach" continuum.
    - **c.** The project could improve its knowledge management through the production of some knowledge products, the production of technical-economic references.
    - **d.** Some initially planned activities should be maintained, as they will inform future strategies, and importantly on the commercialization (opportunity study).
    - **e.** In terms of Monitoring and Evaluation, the end of that first phase of the AFD project and mid-term data collection for DGD program should be the opportunity to properly reconcile internal implementation data, results from the TAPE second data collection, to

quantify results and reflect on a more effective and efficient monitoring and evaluation system for the next phase.

2. **Recommendations regarding the overall strategy and project management:**
    a. **All 3 sub-strategies are relevant and should be continued in the coming years** to strengthen the processes and capacities of the food system actors.
    b. KEA partners should shortly reflect on and define their **upscaling strategy** so that they can plan their activities and adjust their methodology accordingly. The chosen scale should be well embedded into KEA partners' strategies and principles, with a right balance of qualitative impact at family level and sufficient spreading and quantitative upscaling.
    c. This strategy should include a vision and additional activities to **reinforce the sustainability of the created institutions and functions** (lead farmers, champions, farmers groups, etc.). Their "viability" should be monitored in the course of the next phase so that they can be properly reinforced. Their integration in MVIWAARUSHA networks seems to be key in that matter.
    d. KEA should invest in raising **internal competencies in knowledge production & management as well as innovation**. This would be an asset in the production of effective and pedagogical material, generating references on the production systems and providing evidence to reinforce the lobbying strategy.
    e. **A more proactive approach towards women and youth** empowerment could be reflected through specific studies and strategic reflection.
    f. **The monitoring and evaluation system and governance** of KEA project should be revised or adjusted so that they reflect the scope, objectives, activities and institutions concerned by the strategy, and so that the M&E becomes a decision-making tool not only for the project partners but also the food system actors.

3. **Specific recommendations regarding the strategy on agroecology and sustainable land management:**
    a. Sufficient support to land restoration practices should be provided in the future, as their spreading is slower than for agroecological practices.
    b. Economic and labor analysis should be increased to raise capacity of the farmers to make informed decisions on production and marketing.
    c. Some additional extension/pedagogic material could be reflected on to strengthen the lead farmers and champions in their missions.
    d. The use of ICT to strengthen spreading agents and mechanisms would be advised to extend their exposure and relation with extension staff.

4. **Specific recommendations regarding the strategy on marketing and awareness raising:**
    a. Continuing investing in a better understanding of the market, experimenting the support to a diversified set of marketing channels and remaining flexible in the marketing strategy will be key, as this topic is exploratory by essence.
    b. The upscaling of the PGS should monitored and discussed, with an open mindset on the "Kilimo Hai", in order to ensure its full relevancy to the local context (farmers' constraints, targeted market segment, …).
    c. While maintaining a good level of diversity on the farms, it will become important, to remain competitive on the market and grow the level of professionalism of the services to identify and promote local production specificalities.

5. **Specific recommendations regarding the strategy on the enabling environment for the transformation of food systems**

a. The territorial approach should be cross-bred with RIPAT and land restoration/MVIWAARUSHA practices so that it is more effective
b. Platforms would gain in effectiveness if they could improve their knowledge management and dissemination and if the engage further with local/regional government.
c. SHIWAKUTA and KEA partners could push further some lobbying topics such as the financing of the agroecological and land management transition and the extension and training models at national level.

2 Context and objectives of the evaluation

2.1 Kilimo Endelevu Arusha project

2.1.1 A holistic two-pronged pilot project

The general objective of Kilimo Endelevu Arusha (KEA) project is **contributing to the resilience of the populations of the Arusha region through support for sustainable, territorialized food systems.** More specifically, it pursues the following specific objectives:

6. **Small scale farmers in the Arusha region improve their food and nutritional security, as well as their economic viability, through sustainable land management and agroecological intensification.**

7. **The institutional and social environment of the Arusha region facilitates the deployment of sustainable land management and agroecological intensification**.

Kilimo Endelevu Arusha project – in brief

Global budget: 1,197,955 euros

Implementation period: Feb. 2022 to Jan. 2025

Funders: AFD (41%), DGD (41%), MIROVA foundation (13%), Occitanie region (5%)

Beneficiaries: 1,500 small-scale farmers of the district of Arusha Rural (50% women and 20% youth minimum); 115 representatives of local authorities; representatives of the 17 member organizations of the regional platform « Arusha Sustainable Food Systems »; 24 people responsible for 12 farmers organizations active at national level

It takes place in Arusha region, northern Tanzania, and more specifically in the district of Arusha Rural, in a context of a high density of population (proximity of Arusha) and very accurate agro-environmental problems: limited and unstable access to water, soil degradation, erosion and general lack of productivity of the farming systems due to the effects of climate change and poor agricultural practices. Despite the proximity of markets with a strong demand for animal and crops products (Arusha population, tourism industry), farmers have difficulties to access valuable markets and improve their incomes. On a family level, farmers' diets lack diversity and quality. The excessive use of pesticides, especially on vegetables, also affects food safety of both farmers and urban consumers.

The environment supporting farmers and helping the transition towards more sustainable food systems is active through certain actors (Farmers' Organizations, NGOs, networks, …) but needs to be strengthened and capacitated to be more effective. From local level to regional and national levels, actions need to take place to raise awareness and identify actionable good practices to put at scale the transformation of food systems and create a conducive political environment to allow this transformation.

Kilimo Endelevu Arusha project, implemented by CARI, Iles de Paix RECODA and MVIWAARUSHA, mobilizes a two-pronged approach to tackle these challenges:

(1) accompanying family farms in their transformation through demonstration and support to the adoption of agroecological and sustainable land management practices at farm and local level, as well as supporting their access to market, and
(2) supporting an enabling environment through capacitating local to regional authorities, displaying awareness campaigns and the support to networks aiming at sharing practices, learning together and influencing local to national decision makers.

2.1.2 Context of the project

- ***Agriculture and political context at national level***

Tanzania is a major country in size and economy in Eastern Africa. In 2022, 80% of its population relied on agriculture for its livelihoods and agriculture represented 23 to 29% of its gross domestic product. This makes agriculture in Tanzania a strategic sector both for food security and income generation. While most

of the rural population is composed of small-scale farmers living from subsistence farming, a substantial population is also living from cash crops, often for export for a certain number of commodities (coffee, horticultural products, cashew nuts, etc.). The government's vision and policy for the agricultural sector is part of its "Tanzania Vision 2025", which sets a target for the country to become a middle-income economy by 2025. This vision aims at increasing the level of productivity in all sectors, agriculture being at the center of the strategy. It aims more specifically at "transforming a largely agrarian economy with low productivity to a diversified and semi-industrialized economy with a modern rural sector and high productivity in agricultural production". The vision is translated into programs, ASDP II (Agricultural Sector Development Programme) being implemented currently, since 2017. It largely embraces principles of the "green revolution", such as the promotion of hybrid seeds, the use of mineral fertilizers and chemical pesticides as "modern" techniques.

Despite this overall conventional agriculture "mainstream", agroecology principles and organic farming are still low in the country but are coming up on the national agenda. In a recent assessment (Agroecology in Southern Africa: Financing the transition, August 2024, PSA), agriculture was allocated a 9% share of the national budget in 2023/24, among which measures compatible with agroecology represented a share of 27% (see figure below). Like in other countries, input subsidy programs dominate agricultural budgets, with provision of synthetic fertilizers and hybrid maize remaining dominant.

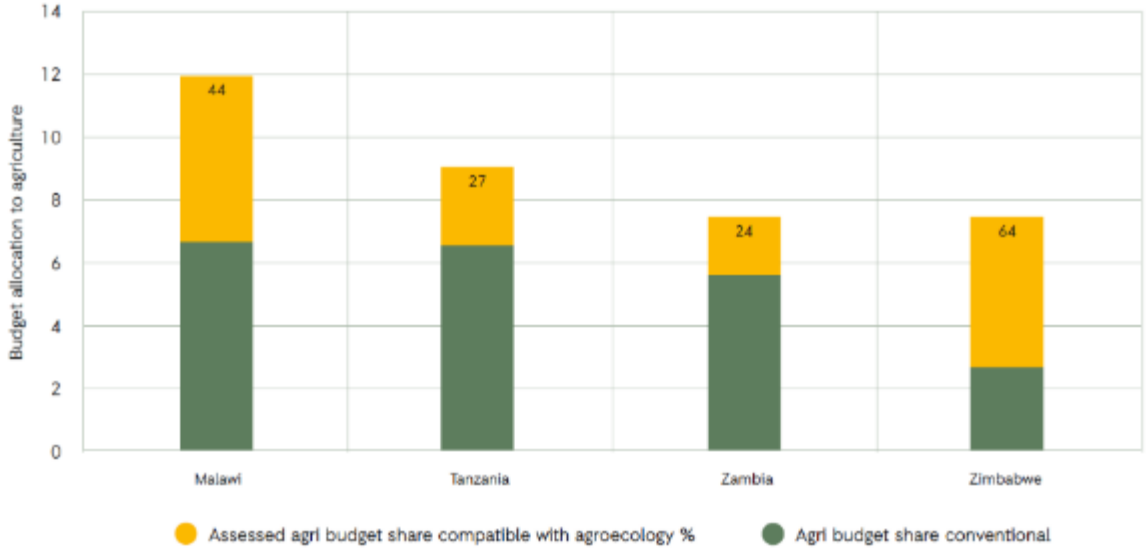


Figure 1: Budget allocations to agriculture 2023/24, and assessed share compatible with agroecology (Partnership for Social Accountability, 2024)

But this situation should not be seen as static, as the strong mobilization of national networks and civil society organizations with the support of international organizations[1], led in 2023 to the adoption of the "National Ecological Organic Agriculture Strategy" (NEOAS). It recognizes the interest of the "Ecological Organic Agriculture, as (…) a holistic system that considers a combination of more than one production entity (soil, water, air, sun) in an ecologically sound manner and promotes rational and sustainable use of inputs and conservation of environment". KEA partners, in particular IDP and SHIWAKUTA[2], have notably contributed to its emergence and adoption. The document, validated by the Ministry of Agriculture, officializes a framework in which agroecology principles can be implemented. Though a strategy document such as NEOAS is by far not the only condition to see agroecology spread

[1] National platforms such as TOAM and PELUM, and international partners such as Biovision Foundations, SWISSAID, GIZ, Iles de Paix (IDP), FAO, HELVETAS and the French Embassy to the Republic of Tanzania.

[2] SHIWAKUTA Shirikisho la Vyama vya Wakulima Wadogo Tanzania (The National Confederation of Smallholders Farmers' Associations in Tanzania) is a non-political, non-profit and member-based organization for all smallholder farmers in Tanzania. SHIWAKUTA was lawfully registered under the Society Ordinance Act, with Registration number S.A. 22435 of the 17th of June 2021.

in the country, it is considered by KEA project partners and other stakeholders from the sector as a great political step towards it.

- ***Agricultural and environmental context of Arusha region***

The Arusha region in Tanzania faces significant challenges related to agriculture, food security, environmental degradation, and gender disparities. The region's economy is largely dependent on agriculture and animal husbandry, contributing around 40% of the regional GDP, with maize being the primary crop. Despite its agricultural potential, Arusha faces the challenge of high levels of food insecurity, malnutrition, and limited dietary diversity. Roughly 39% of households in the region are food insecure, with maize accounting for up to 70% of total energy intake, while the consumption of meat and vegetables remains minimal. Women and youth also face critical barriers in this agricultural landscape, which contributes to rural youth migration and the overall underperformance of family farms.

In terms of agricultural and environmental issues, one of the central challenges affecting family farms in Arusha is soil degradation and erosion, largely caused by overexploitation of natural resources such as deforestation, overgrazing, and unsustainable agricultural practices like continuous monoculture and shifting cultivation. More than half of the region's territory is impacted by land degradation, which results in reduced agricultural productivity, limited water infiltration, and diminished carbon storage. These environmental concerns are exacerbated by climate change, marked by erratic rainfall, droughts, and floods. These factors lead to declining crop yields, degraded pastures, and higher food prices, further stressing the agricultural system.

Another critical challenge is the lack of knowledge and application of sustainable farming techniques among smallholder farmers. Crop pests and diseases frequently cause losses due to poor cultivation and post-harvest practices, while insufficient or inadequate extension services prevent farmers from adopting improved methods. Family farms have limited access to inputs such as quality seeds, materials, and financial resources. Additionally, weak infrastructure, particularly in irrigation, limits agricultural development. Land tenure insecurity also discourages long-term investments in soil fertility and productivity, with women being disproportionately affected by these restrictions.

In terms of post-harvest management and access to market, family farms in Arusha are not well-integrated into agrifood value chains, which restricts their economic security and exacerbates food insecurity. Despite producing a significant portion of the region's food, most smallholder farmers face several obstacles in maximizing the value of their products, including inadequate food storage systems, poor transport infrastructure, and a lack of processing facilities. Traditional storage methods (in house, in simple bags) are still widely used, leading to significant post-harvest losses caused by pests and spoilage. Because of the limited sources of income and financial constraints, farmers often sell their crops immediately after harvest when prices are lowest, only to repurchase the same products at higher prices during lean seasons. Farmers rely heavily on middlemen for transportation to markets, but also have a lack of knowledge on how the value-chain functions and how to improve their power in the chain. Farmers also struggle with limited market knowledge and poor decision-making in agricultural management. They often lack the skills necessary to make cost-benefit analyses and are not well-versed in quality control or market opportunities. Weak organization within farmer groups further undermines their bargaining power in price negotiations, leaving them vulnerable to fluctuations in commodity prices on the market.

Arusha region's agricultural weaknesses also result in **poor food safety standards, contributing to public health challenges**. A significant portion of food sold in local markets is contaminated by either pesticides or biological contaminants, posing a risk to consumers. Recent studies conducted in Arusha region (RIKOLTO) have shown that 63.2% of fresh fruit and vegetable samples in Arusha were contaminated with at least one bacterial strain, while 47.5% contained pesticide residues, with 74.2% exceeding the maximum residue limit. Aflatoxin contamination in locally produced cereals further compounds the issue, contributing to many malnutrition and health problems. Lack of knowledge about safe agricultural practices and the health impacts of contaminated food remains a critical problem for both rural and urban populations.

In terms of gender, women in the Arusha region play a crucial role in agriculture, representing half of the labor force and producing over 70% of food. However, they face severe inequalities in access to productive resources such as land, credit, and agricultural services. Women tend to farm smaller plots and have less access to modern farming technologies, leading to lower yields compared to men. Additionally, their multiple household responsibilities limit their ability to engage in training and extension services, further restricting their economic opportunities. Women-owned businesses also suffer from reduced profitability compared to those run by men, mainly due to limited access to financial services, communication tools, and transportation. Customary land rights and inheritance laws often prevent women from owning land, hindering their ability to secure credit and invest in their farming activities. Despite national efforts to address gender disparities, women, particularly in the agricultural sector, remain disproportionately disadvantaged, requiring targeted capacity-building initiatives.

The above highlighted challenges, both at regional and local level are the ones KEA project aims at meeting through its strategy and activities, which will be analyzed in this report.

2.2 Partners and origin of the project

2.2.1 Short presentation of the partners

KEA project involves two international partners, CARI and Iles de Paix (IDP), and two national partners, RECODA, and MVIWAARUSHA:

- ***CARI (Centre d'Actions et de Réalisations Internationales)***

Since 1998, CARI, a French NGO has been working in the Saharan rim, particularly in Maghreb and Sahel countries, combating desertification and promoting sustainable land management and agroecology. It has extensive experience working with civil society, local authorities, and advocacy at regional and international levels. CARI brings its expertise in sustainable land management, participatory approaches for territorial development, capacity-building tools for local authorities and advocacy.

CARI is the lead organization as regards the AFD funding of Kilimo Endelvu Arusha project. The organization is starting its cooperation in Tanzania through this project.

https://www.cariassociation.org/en/

- ***Iles de Paix (IDP)***

Founded in the 1960s, IDP is a Belgian NGO promoting sustainable, inclusive, and climate-resilient food systems. IDP has been active in Tanzania, and more specifically in Arusha region since 2015, supporting agricultural diversification, agroecology, and the development of fair marketing channels for smallholder farmers.

IDP contributes its expertise in agroecology, food system sustainability, and post-harvest management. It also provides strong networks within Tanzania and seeks to collaborate with CARI to improve sustainable land management. IDP in Tanzania has a prevailing partnership experience in Arusha region with RECODA and MVIWAARUSHA. The three partners implemented the "Kilimo Endelevu" project in Karatu district of Arusha region.

https://www.ilesdepaix.org/en/

- ***RECODA (Research, Community, and Organizational Development Associates)***

Founded in 2000, RECODA is a national NGO focusing on agricultural development and poverty eradication in Tanzania through socio-economic research, capacity-building, and advisory services. It developed the RIPAT (Rural Initiative for Participatory Agricultural Transformation) approach, which helps small-scale farmers adopt appropriate agricultural technologies.

RECODA offers deep local knowledge of the Arusha region, expertise in agricultural diversification, and tools for building farmer resilience and food security. Their RIPAT approach empowers smallholder farmers to overcome donor dependency and adapt sustainable farming practices.

The NGO is also active in other regions of the country such as Kilimanjaro, Morogoro, Singida, etc. through numerous collaborations with national and international partners. It acts as project implementer or through consultancy services.

https://recoda.or.tz/

- ***MVIWAARUSHA (Mtandao wa Vikundi vya Wakulima na Wafugaji Mkoa wa Arusha)***

Formed in 2001, MVIWAARUSHA is a regional farmers' organization in Arusha that supports over 14,564 small family farmers. It focuses on strengthening farmer groups to enhance their participation in local development, including production, processing, and marketing of agricultural products.

MVIWAARUSHA brings grassroots mobilization and organizational skills, offering strong social networks across six district councils in Arusha. It ensures the voices of smallholder farmers are represented in public and political arenas and aims to use its networks to further promote financial inclusion and technical skill transfer for small farmers.

MVIWAARUSHA is a founding member of SHIWAKUTA (National Confederation of Smallholder Farmers in Tanzania). It plays a leading role in the confederation through its guidance, staff and offices (MIWAARUSHA is hosting SHIWAKUTA in its offices, in Arusha).

The Farmer Organization is also involved in long standing partnerships with international partners such as the Agri-agencies Trias and We Effect or international NGOs such as IDP and JustDiggIt.

https://www.mviwaarusha.or.tz/

2.2.2 Origin of the project

KEA project, in its partnership set-up, finds its origins in the search from IDP in Tanzania to enlarge its international partnership base with the aim of both enlarging its fundraising capacity and its technical expertise. Connections through some of CARI's board members (notably Marc Dufumier who had some background knowledge of Tanzania) and the two organizations' teams confirmed a reciprocal interest in working together. While CARI could contribute through its experience gained in Northern Africa and Sahel, IDP would offer, through its experience and engagement with national organizations, an opportunity to CARI to reinvest its expertise and to transform its wish for more operational collaborations in a new geographic region, East Africa. CARI confirmed through its assessments and discussions with IDP that the issues of desertification and land degradation, which are at the core of its interventions in Sahel and Maghreb regions, are also fully relevant in Tanzania. Notably, Tanzania is officially a signatory of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification since 1997.

Concerning the prevailing partnership between IDP, RECODA and MVIWAARUSHA, the "Kilimo Endelevu" program, implemented in Karatu district of Arusha Region and co-funded by DGD, confirmed its relevance and effectiveness. The program, conducted from 2017 to 2021, and evaluated in 2022 was considered as positive by its partners and by the external evaluation: (1) "Highly relevant", (2) Worked in an efficient and effective manner", '3) "Positive impact on beneficiary farmer groups and farmer organizations", (4) "outputs of the project interventions will continue on the level of the beneficiaries", where some of the statements provided by the external evaluation[3].

The partners wished to build from this successful project by covering another geographical area, in the neighborhood of Arusha city, to be able to address both production, land restoration and

[3] https://www.ilesdepaix.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/SIA_IDP_Tanzanie_Evaluation-finale_Rapport.pdf

marketing/consumption challenges. The Arusha District Council, in Arumeru District, was chosen by the four partners. The content of the project was reflected both from the lessons learned from the former "Kilimo Endelevu" project and a will to build a more comprehensive approach to the food system transformation, as it will be highlighted in the coming paragraphs.

2.2.3 Some lessons learnt from past Kilimo Endelevu program

The following lessons were learnt from the past interventions of IDP, RECODA and MVIWAARUSHA in "Kilimo Endelevu" program, conducted in Karatu DC:

- It is important to work in different agroecological zones, as their transition pathway may differ.
- It is preferable to work in all target villages since the beginning as agroecology transition takes time.
- The RIPAT approach with basket of options is confirmed as relevant to allow different options to be adopted by farmers.
- It is important to involve a large number of relevant actors so that more knowledge and resources are mobilized in such a systemic change required in the whole food system.
- In the context of a wide spread water scarcity, it seems important to address this is issue through dedicated solutions (such as water reservoirs), in addition to other options mobilized.
- Including micro-finance (in the form of local saving and credit processes such as the VICOBA) is a good way to develop financial literacy, binding group members and ultimately increasing sustainability of the groups.

These lessons have influenced the design of the KEA project.

2.3 Intervention logic of KEA project

KEA project is a combination of two projects, linked to two main donors (AFD and DGD) that concur to the same general objective of supporting agroecological transition and sustainable land management towards sustainable food systems in the Arusha Region. It was decided by IDP and CARI, for the sake of consistency, efficiency, and effectiveness, to merge these two projects into one.

The two projects slightly differ by the period of implementation, the organization of the objectives and results, as highlighted in the tab below.

Donor	**AFD** (French Development Agency)	**DGD** (Belgian cooperation for development)
Implementation period	**February 2022 - January 2025**	**January 2022 - December 2026**
Partnership setup	Project coordinated by CARI and implemented wit IDP, RECODA and MVIWAARUSHA as partners	Project coordinated by IDP and implemented with CARI, RECODA and MVIWAARUSHA as partners
General Objectiv	**Contribute to the resilience of the populations the Arusha region, in the North of Tanzani through support for sustainable ar territorialized food systems**	**Farmers and other social economy actors, with speci focus on youth and women, enjoy improved livi conditions, through co-construction, with citizens North and South, of sustainable and resilient foo systems and a healthy environment.**
Specific Objectiv	SO 1 - Family farms in the Arusha region a improving their food and nutrition security, as well a their economic viability, through sustainable lar management and agroecological intensification SO 2 - The institutional and social environment of th Arusha region facilitates the deployment sustainable land management and agroecologic intensification	The commitment of the program's target actors in favor the co-construction of a Sustainable Food System and healthy environment is strengthened.
Result 1	600 family farms have initiated the transformation their production systems towards great performance and sustainability	Farmers and other actors of the social economy supporte by the program are engaged in agroecological productio methods and sustainable management of the environmen

Result 2	Family farms have improved and secured the integration into the agri-food sectors throughout th year	Farmers and other actors of the social economy supporte by the program have established and/or strengthened fa and sustainable collection, storage, processing an marketing systems
Result 3	A structured and active dynamic of multi-act dialogue on healthy food, a sustainable environme and an organized territory is established	At local level, public actors and actors representing farme and other actors of the sustainable economy have set u inclusive territorial development dynamics supporting th co-construction of sustainable food systems and sustainab environmental management
Result 4	Citizens and organized civil society are mobilizing i favor of agroecology and healthy food	National and international public policies realizing the righ of farmers and other actors of the social economy have bee discussed, adopted and implemented
Result 5		The citizens reached by the program are sensitized, engage and mobilized for the development of SFS and a health environment.
Result 6		Women participate more in the different levels of management of the SFS and of the environment

Figure 2 AFD and DGD logical frameworks alignments (CARI)

In terms of activities, the DGD funding is more comprehensive in its activities (see detailed list of activities from both fundings in Appendix 1). Nevertheless, they are all aligned with the same intervention logic and theory of change.

The following graph simplifies the different levels of change ambitioned by the Kilimo Endelevu Arusha project and its holistic theory of change.

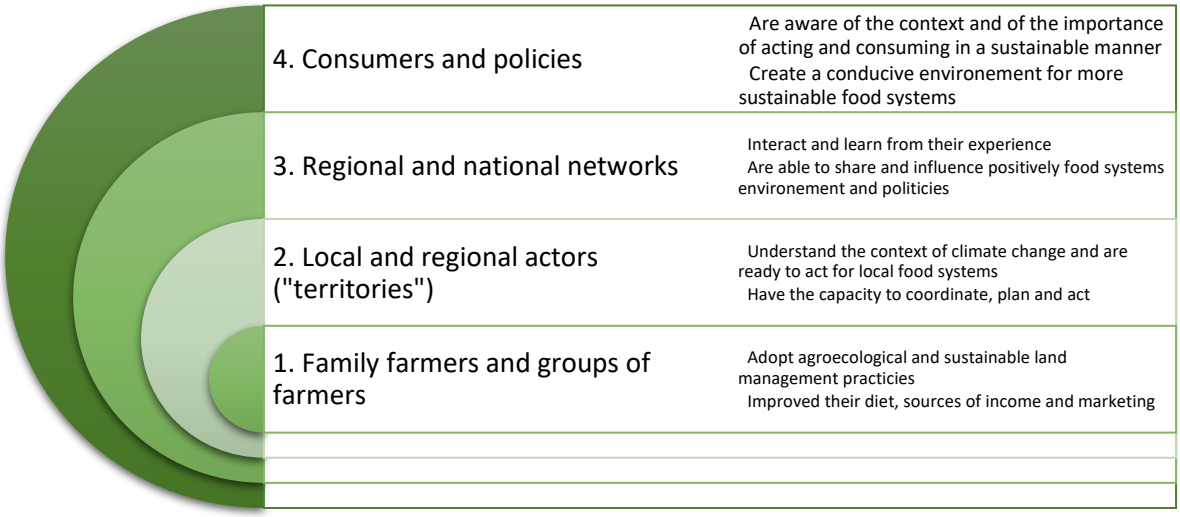
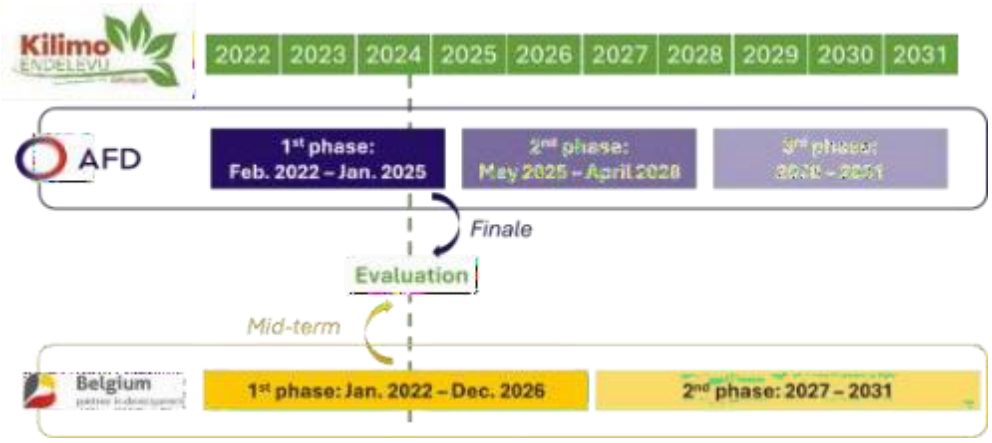


Figure 3 Systems of actors and vision towards the transformation of food systems in "Kilimo Endelevu Arusha" project (as interpreted by IRAM)

2.4 Context and objectives of the evaluation

Timing and scope…

The evaluation takes place in a quite early stage of the KEA project framework:



The conclusions and recommendations will serve both the reporting and preparation of (1) the first phase of AFD project funding (Feb. 2022 to Jan. 2025) and preparation of its second phase, as well as (2) the mid-term evaluation of the DGD project funding (Jan. 2022 to Dec. 2026) and preparation of the second phase.

To keep the coherence of the intervention logic, though the reference framework of the evaluation is the AFD logical framework, the evaluation will also cover statements, opinions and recommendations related to the whole AFD/DGD co-funding covered by KEA project.

… dictate expectations!

This context dictates the expectations from the donors, as well as CARI and its partners. **In addition to a "classical" evaluation, drawing facts, conclusions and recommendations, the consultancy aims at providing an opportunity for CARI, IDP and their partners to analyze (1) how to improve the short term impact, (2) how to build sustainability in the perspective of potentially seven more years of implementation, (3) how to improve efficiency and effectiveness of the partners set-up and (4) what good results and approaches to keep and what changes to bring in the next phases of AFD and DGD projects.**

In other words, the evaluation aims at helping CARI, IDP and their partners meet the following complementary expectations:

(1) **Learn collectively**, from the findings and reflection process facilitated during the evaluation,
(2) **Report to their donors**, through the production of both qualitative and quantitative facts regarding the results,
(3) **Promote their results**, to better influence and communicate about good practices and transformation of the food systems in Arusha and in wider networks,
(4) **Support reflection and decision**, through the common learning from identified strengths and weaknesses.

2.5 Methodology of the evaluation

2.5.1 Evaluation phases

The evaluation has been composed of the following phases:

- **Scoping phase:** this phase aimed at gathering background information from the project partners, key informants and documentation provided by CARI to prepare a scoping note. This note was presented during a steering committee meeting of KEA partners (27/06/24). It was an opportunity to present, discuss and validate the evaluation questions, the methodology of the evaluation and planning the field mission.
- **Evaluation phase:** this phase was composed of desk review, preliminary interviews and field mission in Tanzania. The field mission took place from the 12th to the 27th of September 2024 in Arusha. The field mission was conducted by Augustin Douillet as head of mission and Efraim Malissa as national consultant.

- **Feedback workshop:** a workshop was organized at the end of the mission (26/09/24) to present the field findings and collect additional explanations from the partners. All partners were represented, including CARI, who's project manager, Manon Albagnac, was on a mission in the country. The workshop was also an opportunity to have a collective evaluation of the partnership and for the team of consultants to share first recommendations and collect reactions. This feedback has been incorporated into this report.
- **Report writing:** a draft report was shared and allowed the collection of further comments of all four partners to ensure accuracy of the statements.

2.5.2 Mission roll-out

The mission roll-out is presented in Appendix 2. It consisted of fourteen full days of individual interviews or focus group discussions conducted in the field. The mission allowed to meet physically or virtually the following categories of actors:

- **Key informants and projects partners**: 36 persons or institutions (see the detailed list in Appendix 3)
- **Villages field visits**: 7 villages out of 10 villages covered by the project were visited. During this village visits, the following categories of actors were met: 1) farmers' groups (2 per village) members and representatives (more than 100), 2) lead technical farmers, agroecology and environmental champions (more than 20)
- **Local and district authorities**: village/ward agriculture or livestock extension staff (7 in total) Arusha District agricultural officer and Arusha DC focal person for KEA project, village authorities' representatives (village leader or village officers)
- **Schools**: teachers and head teachers (5 from 3 villages)
- **Vendors / restaurants in Arusha:** 5

2.5.3 Remarks and limits of the evaluation

The evaluation relies mostly on the information (documents and contacts) shared by the project team before, during and after the mission in Tanzania. A very good collaboration from the project team helped us access a large number of documents and optimize the time in Tanzania. This enabled us to meet a broad range of actors. The detailed content of the program was proposed by KEA partners, based on the criteria proposed by the evaluators:

- Diversity of agroecological zones and socio-economic environments and levels of access to services to farmers
- Diversity of types activities/interventions and technical options to be seen
- Both successful situations and challenging situations.

Seven out of ten villages were visited, and group members were all invited bringing a good opportunity to triangulate information from one group to the other and among group members, thus limiting a possible bias in the findings. The time limits due to the organizational constraints (logistics, burials or events within the communities), have not enabled deep individual discussions, which would have been useful to bring nuances. It would have been interesting to spend time within the communities to hear from the perspective of people benefiting less directly from the project, to hear from them about the spreading mechanisms, for instance, and discuss their constraints and conditions for upscaling. The M&E system, which will be further discussed in this report, could not be used to determine effects, as only a baseline was established, while a new collection of data is planned in November 2024. This did not allow to include quantified data related to the effects of the project (the sets of data provided to the consultants were related to the level of achievement of the activities). To mitigate these limits, we have triangulated qualitative information as much as possible to verify the coherence and accuracy of our understanding. We consider the value of this report is to be seen in its qualitative findings and can express a confident opinion on our statements,

though remaining humble, regarding the limited time available and the large diversity of actors and activities.

Most of the activities and results have been covered throughout the mission, with a stronger weight on result 1.1 and 1.2 which are the biggest investment in agroecology and sustainable land management.

3 Implementation of Kilimo Endelevu Arusha project

3.1 Partnership set-up and functioning

3.1.1 Steering and coordination mechanisms

- ***The steering and coordination structures are summarized in the following tab***

Mission	Responsible entity	Composition / Mandates/tasks
Technical and financial responsibility – AFD funding	CARI	CARI ensures the overall coordination of administrative, financial and operational activities regarding AFD funding. This includes compilation of technical reports and financial reports and transferring to AFD, as well as other additional donors (Mirova foundation and Région Occitanie) To be noted: IDP ensures the same for the funds it is mobilizing (DGD French Embassy, and Luxembourg)
Technical and financial responsibility – DGD funding	IDP	IDP ensures the overall coordination of administrative, financial and operational activities regarding DGD funding. This includes compilation of technical reports and financial reports and transferring to DGD, as well as its other additional donors (French Embassy, Luxembourg)
Steering of KEA project	Steering committee (SC) Online	Composition 1) CARI: program director and project manager, (2) IDP Country Director and Program Manager, (3) RECODA: director or deputy director and program manager, (4) MVIWAARUSHA: coordinator and program Officer Mandate: (i) monitor the implementation of the general planning of the project according to the objectives, (ii) identify the problems or blocking points and propose / validate solutions, (iii) prepare the following project phases, (iv) refine the overall partnership strategy of the project. Since the beginning of the project, the steering committee met 5 times
Methodological and technical coordination	Implementation committee meetings (ICM) Online	Composition: projects managers from CARI, IDP, MVIWAARUSHA and RECODA and additional officers in case of need. Notably, the focal person of Arusha District Council has been also participating Mandate: responsible for validating the content of the activities proposed by the operational team and for mobilizing the technical and methodological expertise necessary for the quality of the project. Since the beginning of the project, the technical committee met 8 times (as per the meeting records shared).
Project coordination in Tanzania	IDP Arusha	Since IDP has a permanent office in Tanzania, it ensures a national coordinating role: - Supervising the Tanzanian partners in the development and monitoring of the periodic planning of the project - Supervising the implementation of activities and daily relations with Tanzanian partners.

		- Review and proof evidence control of expenses of RECODA MVIWAARUSHA and IDP
Operational weekly planning	Monday meetings	A very operational planning meeting gathering all operational partners in Tanzania takes place every Monday.

- ***Findings regarding the steering and coordination mechanisms***

Both Steering Committees and Implementation committees have taken place as initially agreed upon by the partners and are considered filling their function. They serve as information sharing and planning.

The ICM has been very instrumental in strengthening the partnership to gain alignment of the partners in terms of implementation strategy and practically make the partnership work. Its members are all active in operations and share the same spirit of a "learning project" (as qualified by Richard Masandika, coordinator of MVIWAARUSHA). The ICM seems effective in planning but also into problem solving as partners easily and transparently share challenges to other partners for advice and collective reflection on the implementation of the activities (as for instance problems related to water scarcity have been largely discussed).

The Steering Committee seems to have fulfilled its functions, including discussing strategic topics. However, according to some of its members, there has been some overlapping of functions/discussion with the ICM. This can be understood by the fact that the partnership is still new, and probably the early stages of the project required adjustments and communication on operational planning also in the Steering Committee. Also being composed of the same structures as the ICM (but not same positions/persons), it may lack the distance and points of view necessary to lead more strategic reflections. This point will be discussed in the recommendations.

The Monday meetings are considered useful but have shown a tendency to be too long, affecting internal meetings which usually take place the same day (Monday) and have been overlapping the function of the ICM. According to the partners, there should be attention and discipline to keep the initial intention of harmonizing weekly plans among field teams.

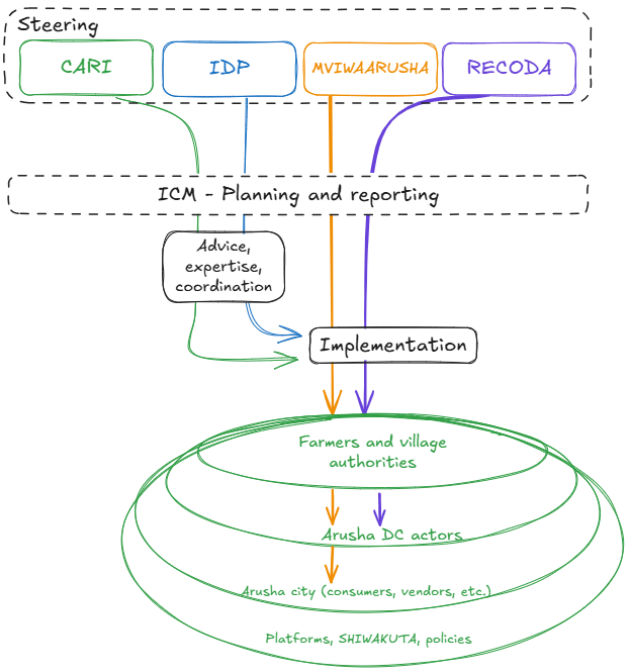
A quarterly coordination meeting has been established in addition to the former committees, with the intention of sharing achievements, challenges and planning with communities and partners involved (local authorities, schools, etc.). This meeting, facilitated by RECODA takes place at a central place and involves leaders of groups leaders, villages leaders and extension officers involved in KEA project, who present their progress and challenges. These meetings, lasting a full day and gathering approximately 100 representatives of the 10 villages and partners, are a great opportunity for participants to learn from others and address the difficulties they face. It is a great venue to help a quick feedback loop to the project management to address difficulties and enhance progress. The project has decided to shift to 2 day-meeting instead of 1 day, as the number of groups and topics covered is important.

3.1.2 Technical responsibilities of the partners

- ***Allocation of activities among the partners***

The allocation of activities for each partner was decided based on where each partner has the highest experience. This was informed from the past project (Kilimo Endelevu) and the added value they could see from one or the other. While MVIWAARUSHA and RECODA are the most engaged into field operations, IDP and CARI play important roles of coordination, methodological support and conduct directly some activities, which will be highlighted further.

The following graphic on the right and the table below summarize the operational responsibilities (Appendix 1 shows a more detailed list of activities and who implements it):



Organization and HR	Technical activities and level of interventions
RECODA HR (100% Tanzania): 1 program manager, 2 senior field officers, 10 interns (for 3 months), 1 accountant, 1 driver	**Village level interventions** Conducting village diagnostics on land, forest and agricultural practices forming groups of farmers, capacitating farmers through the RIPAT approach on production techniques, diversification (through agroecology approaches), organizing field days, developing training material, capacitating farmers on post-harvest management and nutrition
MVIWAARUSHA HR (100% Tanzania): 1 project manager, 2 senior field officers, 1 adm./finance assistant, 1 driver	**Village level, Arusha city and national level interventions** Contributing to village diagnostics, identifying areas to be restored capacitating farmers on land management practices (terracing, tree planting), establishing tree nurseries, supporting the marketing of agricultural products (training marketing committees, participatory market research, …), implementation of the territorial development approach, sensitizing citizen on healthy food, supporting local and district networks members, supporting the development of SHIWAKUTA
IDP HR (100% Tanzania): part-time country director, 1 project coordinator, 1 part-time technical advisor	**Village level, Arusha region and national level interventions:** Supporting/contributing to the regional platforms on agroecology and food safety, developing or strengthening farmers' managed seed banks developing Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS)
CARI HR (100% France): 1 project manager, Admin and Finance manager part-time and programs director part-time	**Project level and technical expertise** Methodological support and training to the territorial approach supporting the development of an advocacy strategy, mobilizing expertise and trainees from France

- ***Findings regarding the distribution of activities among partners***

It is important to note that some activities might have been implemented interchangeably by MVIWAARUSHA or RECODA, as both organizations have some overlapping competencies (extension, lead farmer training, agroecology, micro-finance, leadership training, etc.). The decision on the allocations was made collectively as mentioned above. It is well accepted by partners and does not seem to be a problem. The partners also decided not to have a geographical distribution of villages for the two operational partners to ensure the same approach for all villages. This seemed to make sense as all villages don't face the same conditions. The fact that RECODA and MVIWAARUSHA cover through their activities all villages allow them to compare and adapt according to needs. This may allow good conditions for learning and improving the approach for further extension.

Among the partners, it seems the operational roles are clear and their competencies have enabled them to conduct their activities as planned, as we will see in the next chapter. It may have taken some time at the beginning of the project, but the regular meetings have helped to harmonize and align operations.

Where new competencies were needed, trainings and exchange visits were organized for the operational teams and for farmers to skilled organizations of the region or country: Just dig it (https://justdiggit.org/) for the training on land management, ECHO East Africa in Arusha (https://echonet.org/) and SJS Organic Farm (https://www.sjsorganic.org/) in Mwanga for Agrecological practices, NPGRC[4] (https://bold.croptrust.org/genebanks/tanzania/) and TOAM (https://kilimohai.org/) for PGS.

Being several partners intervening in the same villages is not an easy set-up, as it may bring some confusion to the communities. From our discussions with the communities, it appeared that their understanding was clear about who does what. The fact that they mention the project partners (especially RECODA and MVIWAARUSHA) instead of "Kilimo Endelevu Arusha" project is a positive point in the sense that roles and mandates are clear and might allow them to refer to one or the other organization in the future in case of need. This is a factor of sustainability. On the other hand, it appeared that the two partners would gain in developing a "merged" approach towards farmers, which would build more alignment towards sustainability and be less partitioned. This will be discussed in the recommendations.

Concerning CARI, who is a new organization in the partnership and in Tanzania, the first year of the project has been challenging for different reasons: a limited knowledge on the local and national context as well as of the partners, some slow responsiveness in documenting progress from national partners while being far away geographically, no legitimacy/background among authorities, among others. In terms of technical support, CARI could have shared some experience in Sustainable Land Management and agroecology, but competencies were found among the partners who were better placed to implement it, or locally through other partners. CARI was also supposed to support the development of the advocacy strategy towards SHIWAKUTA but was not so much solicited by MVIWAARUSHA. Nevertheless, the added value of CARI is clearly mentioned by its partners on other aspects:

- CARI provides a more distant point of view on operations, helping to guide the conversation towards effectiveness and quality. It has also been witnessed that the fact that CARI is not involved in the daily operations helps the organization to bring topics and concerns which would not have been discussed so openly by the three partners.
- Technically, CARI has brought some topics which are of high interest for the partners: the territorial approach, the carbon neutrality study conducted by a French intern from CARI in 2024, the waste management study and the discussions regarding "Desertif'actions" and the topic of desertification have led to "methodological and knowledge learnings" which made the partners progress. We will see in the next chapters its contribution to the results of the project.

Despite these positive statements, the geographical distance of CARI remains a barrier to more interaction and cross-learning, which is regretted by all partners. This issue is currently being discussed by CARI and

[4] National Plant Genetic Resources Centre

might lead to a closer proximity involvement in the next phase of the project. This will be emphasized in the recommendations of this report.

3.2 Implementation of activities

3.2.1 Result 1.1- Transformation of production systems

- ***Activities implemented in 1.1***

Activity	Details of activities implemented
A 1.1.1 RECODA / MVIWAARUSHA	- Diagnostic surveys of 1,770 farmers in 11 villages and data collected in 10 villages for project reference situation (M&E system based on TAPE). - 10 village diagnostic reports (including 1 map per village) and maps produced and distributed for the 10 villages; no reports done at ward level as considered not relevant
A 1.1.2 MVIWAARUSHA	- Land restoration strategy developed and adopted - 13 environment champions identified in 6 villages and trained (on Fanya Juu Fanya Chini and Assisted Natural Regeneration of trees) - 220 hectares of farmland under restoration through terracing, tree planting and elephant grass planting on edges - Support to tree nurseries (6 in total) - 84,000 trees planted (mostly on field borders as no land is available for sole tree planting) - A study conducted by French student on the contribution of KEA to combating land degradation within the framework of UNCCD in Tanzania
A 1.1.3 RECODA	- 21 groups set up (target 20) in 10 villages, representing 709 farmers including 492 women (71%) and 177 youth (25%) - 21 demonstration plots established, covering 7.91 ha, support to training on conservation agriculture (maize, beans, cassava, Orange fleshed Sweet Potatoes), fruit growing (improved banana production), vegetable farming (agroecological production), organic pests and diseases control, use of manure composting - 63 group leaders trained on group management - 43 technical lead farmers trained on poultry farming - 60 agroecological champions identified, trained and benefiting from increased support (ex. rainwater harvesting reservoirs)
A.1.1.4 RECODA	- Action plan for capacity building and support for the agro-ecological transition established - 14 training modules adapted and distributed to 21 groups - Poultry produced within the poultry units were sold within the groups - 34 "spreading farmers" selected and trained - 14 new spreading groups set up in 7 additional villages - Farmers field days (visits to demonstration plots and to farmers' homes) organized in 4 villages and attended by 598 farmers (target 1500) and local government representatives.
Level of achievement (planned vs executed): almost 100%, though follow-up, mentoring and monitoring of groups, lead farmers, champions and demonstration plots remain necessary. No reports were produced at Ward level but was considered as not relevant and duplicating efforts. Radio programs still to be developed.	

- ***General remarks regarding implementation***


Figure 4- Diagnostics conducted in 11 villages covering different agroecological zones of Arusha DC

The activities of result 1.1 are at the forefront of the project and mobilize the biggest human investment of the project (3-4 full time officers). According to the partners, these activities have faced some delays in terms of starting (developing methodology, alignment of partners, weather). The diagnostics conducted in the villages, by both RECODA, MVIWAARUSHA, IDP and with the support of some university students were very instrumental in understanding the situation of the farmers and villages in terms of farming practices, land degradation, access to market and nutrition practices. This step was key in developing the actions plans for the land restoration and basket of technical options proposed by RECODA.

Their implementation has faced challenges of poor weather conditions which have affected agriculture related activities (drought in 2022-2023 cropping season). The logistics to access certain villages have also been affected by heavy rains, which made it impossible to reach them (such as in Oldonyosapuk and Orkokola villages). This factor may have caused some delay in the roll out of activities and oversight. It was mentioned by RECODA that the use of one vehicle to conduct the large number of activities has brought some tension to its use. Logistics might be a topic of discussion when preparing the budgets for the next phase of the project.

- ***Remarks regarding the implementation of land restoration activities (1.1.2)***


Figure 5 An "environmental champion" explaining the Fanya Juu terracing technique and a tree nursery owner mobilized and capacitated to produce more for the village

Land restoration is a great need in most of the areas (high lands, middle lands and lowlands), though problems caused by land degradation do not occur in the same scope (land being more degraded where there is slope). MVIWAARUSHA was already formerly engaged in tree planting / tree nurseries development and land restoration in the former Kilimo Endelevu project in Karatu district but

incorporated new techniques through its involvement in another program on land restoration[5] : Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (Kisiki Hai) and terracing / water harvesting techniques (Fanya Juu Fanya Chini). This engagement has helped gain some time through this synergy. According to Just dig It, a partner of this program, the collaboration with MVIWAARUSHA is very effective as the FO seems to have a great connection to the communities. The approach mobilizing champions, who will by themselves be motivated to show and train others is also seen as very positive. From the village diagnostics, MVIWAARUSHA was able to propose and discuss with village and group representatives some land restorations activities according to the given specific situation of the village. Some activities have taken place at the collective level (communal land) in a very limited proportion, and some have taken place at individual level.

The terracing techniques of Fanya Juu and Fanya Chini seem to be effective in terms of limitation of erosion and water harvesting in sloppy terrain. MVIWAARUSHA has trained "champions", selected in the communities, to learn the techniques and be able to "sell" their service to others. The champions are co-opted within the groups for their technical capacity, motivation and dedication to their community. They act as a form of "community technical advisor" regarding land restoration. These techniques are quite labor intensive, thus are considered as an investment that not all farmers are ready or in a position to make. The evaluators could not get a precise figure on the quantification of the terracing (linear meters of tranches for instance, number of farmers who "invested" and mobilized the champions), but the testimonies showed that it is still limited. The farmers invested in this technique (and paid some labor to do it for them, under the supervision of the champion) were very satisfied by the potential they saw in it (longer planting period, more water availability, soil protected, potential higher income). This was also confirmed by the district extension officers.

A larger spreading of this technique would require training more champions (13 champions may seem to be limited) and emphasizing the communication regarding the productive benefits of the investment. Some farmers and extension staff also consider that the adoption of bylaws at Arusha DC level to enforce the obligation for individual farmers in sloppy terrains to adopt it. This point was discussed with some village leaders and seems to be progressively advocated for by local district councilors, with the support of MVIWAARUSHA. Some ways of addressing collectively the financial constraints of the less advantaged families would also be necessary.

The tree planting campaign has mainly been done on individual land, surrounding fields. One village, Losikito, offered a larger space for range land rehabilitation where 200 acres of steep hills were planted with 28,000 trees. The trees were purchased to community or private tree nurseries who benefited from a support of KEA (training, small equipment), or were provided by the district authorities. The trees provided were a majority of timber varieties. According to group members and tree nursery owners, this represents a growing demand as timber is regarded as an investment that can benefit the family.

All these activities have been conducted with a strong collaboration with the local and district authorities, who share the same objectives. The local authorities are associated with the activities in the field (implementation and monitoring) and get reports shared by MVIWAARUSHA, which allow them to compile results of all interventions in their district. This trustful relationship is a positive point for sustainability.

[5] Husisha program, supported by Trias, Lead foundation and Just dig it.

- ***Remarks regarding the implementation of agroecology activities (1.1.3)***

Figure 6- Champion agroecology farmer, comparison of conservation vs traditional practices on a demonstration farm and poultry parent stock by a technical lead farmer

This activity was solely the responsibility of RECODA and was conducted through the RIPAT approach (https://www.ripat.or.tz/), which was developed by the NGO in 2006 and progressively improved since then. It mobilizes well experienced staff who intervene interchangeably in all groups and villages. The diagnostics conducted in the villages led to the proposition of "baskets of options", which are presented to farmers for decision. This approach combining "top-down" and "bottom-up" processes ensures the technical relevance of the technical options, allows to save time and keeps on building farmers' ownership on what they want to decide. The RIPAT approach is initially not necessarily an "agroecology" extension approach but is well adapted to family farms in an objective of diversifying sources of incomes and improving productivity. It incorporated more agroecology principles in the phase of Kilimo Endeleo project, in Karatu district, which allowed to increase the range of techniques and technologies proposed by RECODA. Under KEA, some additional techniques were introduced or revived through the training of other organizations (SJS organic, ECHO East Africa, …).

The range of techniques seen in the field through the evaluation are as follows:

- Conservation farming, nine seeded holes and use of a ripper,
- Training on Integrated pests' management: botanical pesticides, plant repellent, resistance varieties, crop rotation, intercropping, push-pull,
- Tree planting for fodder and banana production (improved varieties),
- Fertility management: green manure, tea manure, cover crops, compost making,
- Water harvesting (reservoirs),
- Improved production of Pigs, dairy goats, poultry,
- Animal health handling (housing, hygiene and vaccination),
- Fodder production,
- Diversification of crops and rotation with legumes or oilseeds: lablab, finger millet, pigeon peas, cowpeas, sunflower,
- Diversification of crops with vegetables and tubercules (Irish potatoes, orange fleshed sweet potatoes, cassava, …),
- Improving access and sustainability of seeds (cereals and vegetables): farmer managed seed systems.

In the 10 villages, the first steps after the diagnostic have been to form 2 groups per village (each group gathers approximately 30 members, including in average 70% of women), with an objective of optimizing the geographical distribution of farmers in the village. These groups are formed for learning and are based on the common motivation to learn and innovate. The main approaches used to introduce and train on

the innovations decided by the farmers have been the establishment of demonstration plots managed by the group, the training of technical lead farmers (including training at RECODA office), exchange visits, training and support to the agroecology champions[6], and establishment, for livestock, of a "seed system" (the farmer benefiting of a goat or pig parent stock must share half some of the descendants to other farmers[7]). The advisory work is quite intensive from RECODA, as the visits to the groups and beneficiaries take place at least once in two weeks for each group.

Regarding the demonstration approach, of the 7 villages that were visited, out of 10, the groups have shown great enthusiasm for the techniques they have learned, both from the demonstration plots and from demonstration sheds owned by lead farmers. The lead farmers are co-opted from within the groups based on their technical capacity and willingness to adopt new techniques, literacy, capacity to communicate and dedication to the community. Apart from being a place for learning a technique, it is also an opportunity for farmers to meet and discuss, thus allowing ideas and ambitions to come up. The competencies acquired by the technical lead farmers seem to be implemented on their farms and contribute to spreading the technical knowledge. This was noticed during the field visits but could not be quantified (which techniques adopted by how many farmers). The effects will be further discussed in chapter 4. The implementation of the demonstration plots has faced some challenges in the first year of the project as drought has hit almost all groups, hindering the learning effect of the approach. The consortium of partners managed to partially mitigate this problem by mobilizing two additional funds[8] aiming, among other objectives, at increasing the water storage capacity of the farmers. Approximately 100 water reservoirs were financed and allocated to demonstration plots (the reservoir becoming the ownership of the landowner after a 5-year period) and technical lead farmers or agroecology champions. Also, the techniques demonstrated are globally aiming at improving water retention capacity of the soil (conservation agriculture, among others).

The reservoirs, financed through external sources of funding (outside of KEA), were recently introduced (2023-2024) and some were not yet finalized. These water reservoirs are bringing clear benefits to the farmers who received them[9]. This is considered as a determining factor to produce vegetables all year long and to be in a capacity to produce some surplus for selling. The discussions with the farmers clearly showed that without any external support to access them, none of them would have been in a capacity to "invest" in their purchase. This is a point of attention and discussion, as water scarcity is a clear concern all over the region. This solution is very effective, but hardly affordable, which limits its spread. Though farmers who did not benefit of these did not complain and understood why lead and champion farmers benefited through their contribution (all farmers were offered the opportunity to benefit), it has clearly created a "hope" that someday, they might benefit. The discussion with the project team also clearly shows that this situation is not likely to happen in the near future, as the project is in a stage where it needs to spread to other groups and villages. The risk might be also that demonstrations in vegetable production might be influenced by this presence of water, which is far from being widespread, thus not reflecting the most representative situation of the farmers. The project should be careful not to focus only on enhancing production on those systems, but also addressing needs of "lower level" farmers, who were not in a capacity to acquire them and improve their systems as fast as the technical leads or champions. Still, specific attention and monitoring must continue. The RIPAT approach implemented by RECODA allows

[6] Technical lead farmers are trained on very specific techniques (generally one) and train other farmers of their group, while Agroecology champions are not necessarily supposed to train others but benefit of a stronger technical support and inputs to become local "model farms".

[7] Goats: the receiver gives 2 female offsprings to the group members. Pigs, the receiver give 5 female piglets to group members

[8] Two projects were established by IDP and were financed by the French Embassy for the first and the Government of Luxembourg for the second one

[9] Water reservoirs consist of an earthen basin covered with a thick plastic hermetic linen and protected with a shade net to reduce evaporation and prevent accidents with children. Their cost ranges from TSH 900,000 for individual reservoir to TSH 3,000,000 for collective ones.

the rest of the farmers in the group (the ones who are not lead farmers nor champions) to adopt as many techniques as they wish and can.

According to the discussions, this "spreading effect" inside the group seems to be working and to be adapted to the conditions and willingness of the members, though the data regarding the spreading was not yet available to assess to what extent this was effectively spreading (the spreading has just started and data is collected twice a year).

On the economic dimension, RECODA has been facilitating discussions around the demonstrations as a process to compare the benefits and costs of a new technique or production compared to the "traditional" one. Farmers were able to explain the technical and economic differences and benefits with quite precise figures. It seems though that the project could go further into economic analysis and recording, at least at the level of the lead farmers. Farmers were rarely able to mention the price of the inputs which were used in the demonstration fields as well as that of the equipment that was used for the water reservoirs. This is a clear limit to be addressed, as it may limit their ability to calculate in a comprehensive manner their production costs. Also, the labor did not seem to be recorded. The farmers were commenting on the fact that some techniques are more intensive in labor (especially for terracing) and in some cases they were mentioning it was helping them to save time. This is normal considering that all techniques are different, and one should not minimize the complexity of recording labor time. Nevertheless, we believe that in a perspective of increasing sizes of plots under agroecology or going progressively more into commercial, it will become critical to mobilize data and train farmers to make good use of it. Especially as we know that labor and production costs are key factors on small farms with limited financial capacity and a market which is not yet remunerating premiums on organic products.

The farmer managed seed systems (FMSS) is one option among other technical options that has been implemented in some villages (the evaluators were able to visit one seed bank but this has been implemented in other villages). It was implemented by RECODA with the support of IDP, who shows a great experience in this. IDP is indeed involved nationally in the promotion, recognition and research on FMSS. It consists of a physical storage where the group members can store their seeds (cereals, legumes, vegetables) after having conducted a mass selection based on certain criteria such as yield, phenology criteria (color especially), resistance to diseases and drought … The farmers expressed their pride of being able to save seeds for their demonstration plot, but progressively also to the group members and had the ambition to sell to the villagers. Farmers insisted on the autonomy they have gained from this approach, but also the reduction of production cost, as they did not need to buy hybrid seeds every year, which seemed a good strategy in a context of high weather unpredictability. It illustrated the large range of activities which have been developed and implemented and which showed a great level of ownership. The evaluators had the opportunity to visit a national farmers seeds fair in Maseru, organized by Pelum and IDP. Farmers were able to showcase and sell their seeds. The selling of seeds at a regional level (instead of village level) is more questionable, as there doesn't seem to be a clear traceability system which can bring a certain guarantee on what was bought. It was not the core of the mission (nor of KEA project) to evaluate such systems, but some deeper assessments and research would be highly beneficial to better document the systems and open ways for improvements.

- ***Remarks regarding the groups' dynamics***

Group dynamics seemed to be very high. For most of the groups, their membership slightly decreased from 2-4 members since their creation, which seems low when compared to what is commonly seen in similar contexts. But also often, numerous farmers outside the group wish to join, as they witness their neighbors progressing. They are in that case encouraged to form their own group. RECODA provides training for leaders of the groups (group record keeping, planning, conflict management, leadership, and finance management) and provides a form of accompaniment, through the quarter meetings, which are an opportunity for leaders to share with others their achievements and challenges. The group dynamic has also been highly supported by the introduction by MVIWAARUSHA of the VICOBA system (Village

Community Bank). In this saving and lending well known system, groups meet on a weekly or biweekly basis to buy shares for saving or request loans. All members of "RIPAT groups" must also be part of the VICOBA. This is a great factor to encourage interaction and binding in the groups. In chapter 4 we will further discuss the sustainability and scalability of the groups.

From our observations, the group's dynamics and response to the support provided seemed to differ from one village to another. Some villages/groups were very dynamic (Oldonyowas, Losikito, Marurani, Bwawani for instance), while some others seemed in a less advanced stage of adoption of the techniques (Oldonyo Sapuk, Olkokola). The difficulty of accessing the latter during the rainy season seems to have lowered the number of visits from the project team. This has certainly affected their dynamism but cannot be considered as the only explanation. The local mindset regarding external support, pre-existing offer of services, reluctance to change are some other internal factors which must have contributed to this situation.

- ***Remarks regarding the consolidation and spreading of knowledge on agroecology and sustainable land management (1.1.4)***

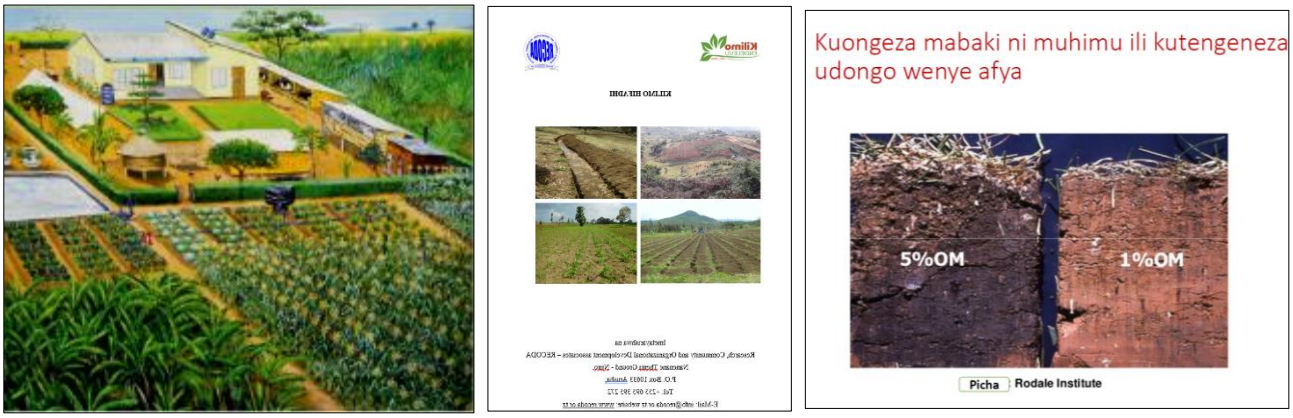


Figure 6- Training material developed by RECODA and used for training groups or lead farmers

A major effort has been made by RECODA to update or produce training manuals on a large number of topics related to agroecology, soil conservation, land management, livestock production, group management, etc. 14 in total were distributed.

The "Kaya Bora" poster (on the left of the above illustration) was used with groups to visualize what can an ideal farm be in the context of Arusha district. It has been quite instrumental in showing an accessible future for farmers, though promoting important innovations. The manuals aiming at training technical lead farmers were less visual than this poster. They might suffer from a lack of illustrations and be too narrative. The lead farmers appreciated the training they received but the evaluation could not assess in-depth how far the information provided in the manuals is useful, remembered and used by their recipients. Specific attention should be given to the pedagogic dimension of these tools, especially as they are supposed to be used for spreading knowledge and techniques to others. If they constitute a good ground for a training of trainers, they do not seem yet to be tuned as pedagogic tools that can be used by the lead farmers in their training activities. Some propositions will be made in this report regarding improvements.

From the initial 21 groups, the project team reported that 14 new spreading groups were in a stage of formation in 7 additional villages. 34 "spreading lead farmers" were selected and trained recently (2024). This is the start of a process of dissemination of both techniques and group processes (demonstration plots, group functioning, etc.). The evaluation mission was too early in this spreading process to meet spreading groups, but the lead spread farmers showed a great motivation in their mission. This point will be further discussed in paragraph 4.

3.2.2 Result 1.2 - Integration into the agri-food sector

- ***Activities implemented 1.2***

Activity	Details of activities implemented
1.2.1 – Diagnostic and strategy	- Diagnostic surveys of 1,770 farmers in 11 villages and data collected in 10 villages for project reference situation (M&E system based on TAPE). - A post-harvest management strategy in place (adopted from a previous RECODA project) but no specific strategy document developed - A marketing strategy developed and adopted
1.2.2 - Post-harvest management	- Training of 41 technical lead farmers and 9 extension officers trained on post-harvest management (49% women) - 709 farmers (target 600) trained on food stock management, conservation and storage - Demonstrations and distribution of maize storage equipment in 5 villages (grain storage) – 294 set distributed to groups (hermetic containers, bags, …) - Two training brochures shared
1.2.3 - Marketing	- Assessment of the groups' abilities in terms of knowledge and production (4 groups assessed) - A marketing strategy established - Vendors identified and evaluated, support, training and equipment of 35 market vendors and 12 street vendors - 1 village (Oldyonowas) trained on PGS; internal PGS committees established (production, marketing, training, quality control) and inception of PGS approach in 8 other groups from 4 villages (78 farmers from 3 groups trained) - Training and support to marketing of 51 producers from 3 groups (including 39 women) attending the monthly farmers' market of Mesula
1.2.4 – Post-harvest knowledge and skills	- 2 training brochures distributed (target = 5) - One open-bag ceremony organized during ACAF meeting
Level of achievement (planned vs executed): 60-70% of achievement. No specific strategy was specifically designed on the post-harvest management but was agreed to be adopted from the former KE project. Training of the spreading farmers on post-harvest management still to be done, as well as cooking demonstrations in some villages. Vendor's equipment and branding to be finalized.	

- ***Remarks regarding implementation of post-harvest management (1.2.2)***

The implementation of post-harvest management activities was informed by the diagnostics conducted at the beginning of the project. No strategy document was developed within the KEA framework, but RECODA used the same approach that was used in Kilimo Endelevu project. The post-harvest management training and demonstrations took place later in the project. Demonstrations were conducted in 5 villages out of 10, while 3 more villages are planned for February 2025. Overall, 60% of the activities planned were implemented in September 2024, according to the coordination of the project. The training documents were adopted from the previous Kilimo Endelevu project and were not fully distributed at the time of the evaluation. The implementation of this component by RECODA, initially planned in 2023, was pushed to 2024, as no sufficient harvest was available due to the failed season 2023. The training is following the harvesting seasons, some villages from June to August, some in January-February. This will require some further follow-up to ensure techniques are indeed understood and adopted. RECODA

should be able to address this delay while also not compromising the quality of the documents and trainings and ensuring all groups will benefit from the trainings.

Apart from the certain delay in these activities, they were positively perceived: farmers who participated in the training and demonstrations were satisfied and convinced of the interest in the technologies showcased. While hermetic tanks were considered effective, farmers considered they would not buy them if not subsidized, while hermetic bags seem to them more accessible in terms of price. They are also available in many shops, thus being more replicable. Due to the limited surplus in most of the villages, the project partners decided not to develop any collective solution for storage, except for the seed banks. In that case, village authorities were allocating a store in the communal premises, which is a sign of good cooperation.

- ***Remarks regarding implementation of marketing (1.2.3)***

Figure 8- Mesula / Glen Farm city shop and market and retailer at Kilombero central market

The activities regarding marketing were guided by a strategy document developed within KEA framework. It clearly highlights the different activities, means and targets. Activities aim both at raising farmers' understanding and capacity to reach specific markets of Arusha, as well as developing awareness on the buyers' side on the availability and interest of agroecological products. The project plays the role of raising knowledge and capacities and connecting producers to market agents but does not interfere in the business deals.

According to the project coordination, 60% of the planned activities have been implemented, which represents some delay considering phase 1 is ending in January 2025. MVIWAARUSHA should be able to finalize the foreseen plan before the end of the project.

The market agents (retailers from different major markets, street vendors and restaurants) were selected by MVIWAARUSHA and trained. They are currently connected to the groups which manage to produce some surplus for sales. Though not all their products come from agroecological farms, they have been advised to differentiate them on their stall and are able to explain their origin and how they have been produced. They are branded as "Kilimo Endelevu" (which translates as "Sustainable agriculture") but have not yet any means to guarantee the quality standard of their products. Some of them sell products from the Participatory Guarantee System established in Oldonyowas village, but did not differentiate them on their stall. The products are sold at the same price as conventional products. They also have benefitted from training on safety food storage and received equipment (crates), and branding materials (aprons, banners), which contribute to attracting more buyers.

A village was trained on the Participatory Guarantee System, with the standard set by TOAM for organic PGS "Kilimo Hai. This standard has been established for all East Africa region and adopted in Lesotho. IDP, who is in charge of this activity benefitted from the support of TOAM to implement the training

and facilitation. Four committees are put in place and functioning in the group: production, quality control, training and marketing.

The results are discussed in chapter 4.

3.2.3 Result 2.1 - Multi-stakeholder dialogue

- ***Activities implemented in 2.1***

Activity	Details of activities implemented
2.1.1 Territoria development	- A strategy for the territorial development has been drawn up - Two training sessions for project partners took place, benefitting to respectively 13 and 21 representatives of the partner organizations and district technical services and ward representatives - The methodology was tested in 1 village (Losikito), involving 343 producers in consultation meetings (4) - A village development vision and strategy document was adopted in this village and a territorial development committee is established (35 members including 21 women and 10 youth) - The process is being replicated in a new village (Marurani)
2.1.2 Support to distric authorities	- A focal person from Arusha DC identified and mobilized in numerous activities of KEA. The focal person reports and shares learnings in all - Village chairpersons and village/ward extension staff involved in various activities - Participation of the Mayor of Arusha in the Désertif'actions 2022 Summit and raising awareness of the challenges of food systems - Participatory analysis of the territorial planning system at the training workshop (April 2023, leading to a report on the planning process at village level) - An awareness-raising and consultation conducted with Arusha city authorities on waste management and the recovery of organic waste
2.1.3 Contribution to platforms	- Contribution of KEA partners to 3 meetings of the Arusha Collaborators Forum for Agroecology (ACAF) - Contribution to 2 meetings of the Arusha platform on a sustainable food system (ASFSP)
Level of achievement (planned vs executed): 50% to 100% - Territorial development will not reach its target of 10 villages, but 2 villages instead. The action plan aiming at the participation of civil society representatives in the preparation of future district development plans was not yet implemented. The "What is my district's territory" document was also not yet produced. Some activities with the platforms had not yet taken place at the time of the evaluation: press releases, press-book, sharing of capitalization documents, common vision for the platforms.	

- ***Remarks regarding territorial development (2.1.1)***

This activity was inspired by CARI's experience in West and Northern Africa, where the territorial approach has been well developed. It was clearly new to the partners and took some time to be "digested" and transformed into a practical methodology. The partners thus decided to narrow down their objectives from 10 villages to 1, to have it tested. The evaluation came at a time when a first result was achieved, in the form of a vision and strategy document for Losikito village. According to MVIWAARUSHA, who tested the methodology, the process was somehow long, but brought interesting discussions which would not have taken place without this holistic territorial approach. The agent facilitating the process has now

an overview of the process and seems to be in a position to implement it more effectively in a new village. Its effects will be highlighted in chapter 4.

- ***Remarks regarding the engagement of local authorities (2.1.2)***

The three local partners seem to have long experience in involving the local authorities. We were positively surprised to see the level of alignment between the village and district officers and KEA project. Not only were they well informed about the activities, but they benefited from numerous training courses from RECODA, which contributed to their ownership and some replication in other villages not covered by KEA. The Arusha district agriculture officer also mentioned an interest for her team to benefit from training from other partners such as MVIWAARUSHA and IDP. The topics they cover (land restoration, marketing, PGS notably) are of high interest to them.

The engagement with Arusha City Council is more exploratory and focused on one topic proposed by CARI, urban wastes management. It took the form of an exchange mission to Montpellier in France, involving notably the Arusha Mayor, and a mission of Renaud Piquemal, a specialist of waste management and re-use in urban context. This exploratory topic is relevant when considering holistically the food system of Arusha city, and to identify an entry point to strengthen the interactions between the municipality and KEA. It just seemed a slightly different approach from the rest, which is more experimental, thus riskier to invest in.

- ***Remarks regarding the engagement with platforms (2.1.3)***

KEA partners (IDP, MVIWAARUSHA and RECODA) are active in the two platforms of Arusha: Arusha Collaborators' Forum for Agroecology (ACAF), which IDP is the chair of and Arusha platform on a sustainable food system (ASFSP), which is chaired by RIKOLTO, a Belgium NGO very active on food safety. The engagement of the partners on these platforms consists of participating in planning meetings and organizing workshops, with the objective of sharing experience on subjects of common interest. They work on the volunteer engagement of their members.

Concerning the ASFS platform, we did not manage to meet RIKOLTO during the mission but were able to see some results of the collaboration within the platform: common communication material regarding food safety on markets was established, as well as communication campaigns. This platform aims at supporting the city of Arusha in its strategies regarding food safety. It currently has 20 members representing various types of organizations (NGOs, private sector and public service).

ACAF was initially focusing on conservation agriculture but increased its scope through the positive leadership of IDP, including new topics such as agroforestry, farmers managed seed systems, post-harvest management, …. Through KEA, the platform organized 3 workshops or field days which seemed to mobilize many actors from NGOs, private sector, farmers and local government. They serve as open platforms for sharing experience and have been, according to their members, farmers and local government, very useful.

The platforms seemed to be useful but tend not to formalize their plans and report their activities, which makes it harder to analyze their tangible results. Some activities planned with KEA were also not conducted: publication of press releases, press-book, sharing of capitalization documents; 1 common vision of the platform is disseminated, shared and debated by stakeholders (regional and local authorities, media).

3.2.4 Result 2.2 – Citizen, civil society and advocacy

- ***Activities implemented in 2.2***

Activity	Details of activities implemented
2.2.1 Awareness raising on healthy food and nutrition	- Interactive radio campaigns (17 programs with 5 radio stations) - An awareness-raising campaign in the Arusha market, with the display of awareness-raising posters and the organization of a public event (through ASFS platform) - Support to 11 schools in developing their school gardens and education regarding healthy food consumption (water reservoirs and irrigation systems provided through KEA+) - 550 students involved and trained (50% boys, 50% girls) - 69 journalists and media owners trained the food system and importance of healthy food - Facilitation of exchange with journalists through a dedicated Whatsapp group - 11 restaurants trained and supported in improving their food safety and healthy products supply (9 women and 2 men) - 42 lead farmers trained on nutrition (86% of women) and a total of 668 people trained; cooking demonstrations conducted in 4 villages
2.2.2 Analysis of the political context	- 1 study of policies, plans and institutional frameworks for agro-ecological transformation in Tanzania by the Agricultural Non-State Actors Forum (ANSAF) - 1 study of policies, plans and institutional frameworks for agro-ecological transformation in Tanzania commissioned by MVIWAARUSHA - 1 study from a French student on the "Contribution of civil society to land degradation neutrality in Tanzania" in the framework of the UNCCD
2.2.3 Support on the advocacy strategy	- Support for the SHIWAKUTA network in developing organizational and strategic management tools (data collection in 20 farmer organizations members of the network): 1 strategy document developed, and 4 administrative and financial management manuals developed - Organization of a general meeting of the network (85 representatives of member FO attending) - Training farmers' organizations on agroecology and sustainable food systems - Several advocacy meetings about farmers' seeds with national authorities (Ministry of Agriculture, members of parliament) - Participation of partners in international meetings on food systems, including the Désertif'actions 2022 Summit organized by CARI in Montpellier) - Development of advocacy messages and 3 position papers by SHIWAKUTA
Level of achievement (planned vs executed): 90-100% - The study on the institutional framework for agroecology in Tanzania still to be summarized to valorize key learnings	

- ***Remarks regarding awareness raising (2.2.1)***

Figure 9 - School Garden in Bwawani village, nutrition lead farmer in Olkokola and restaurant owner in Arusha city

The activities conducted in the villages were informed by the initial diagnostics. They were conducted through different channels: schools, lead farmers identified in the groups and villages inhabitants directly (4 villages). The training to schools was conducted in the framework of KEA+, which was thus implemented at a later stage. This support, provided by RECODA consisted of equipping schools with water reservoirs and irrigation kits, as well as providing a starter kit for the seeds. The schools, according to community members and RECODA team are a very powerful tool to display technology and convince parents to adopt new practices in terms of farming and nutrition practices. Somes schools even managed to generate some surplus to be sold outside the school in the village. During the evaluation mission, out of 3 schools visited, 2 were facing problems of a lack of supervision, leading to a water tank not yet being installed and 2 school gardens not being managed. These were caused by some delay in the supervision by RECODA (due notably to difficult weather conditions), but also and quite importantly by a lack of management and communication of the head teacher in charge of the project. The other school was achieving great results in terms of production, demonstration and engagement of teachers and surrounding groups. This shows that the work with schools is very potential but is less straight forward than activities implemented by farmers' groups. Indeed, it highly depends on the heads of schools' engagement.

The training of groups on nutrition was conducted through cooking demonstrations and the training of nutrition lead farmers. The nutrition lead farmers declared having learnt a lot of useful information and were able to share it, but some who had been trained more than 5 months ago had not organized any training or sensitization to their groups. This situation may not be representative of all villages but may illustrate a need for close follow-up of their activity, which may have been missing in some villages. It also shows that unlike agricultural practices which show a clear motivation and demand from farmers, nutrition will not spread as effectively and may require some specific monitoring, with potential the support of other actors (such as the local dispensaries).

Regarding the urban population, the collaboration with RIKOLTO and Farm Radio International, through the ASFS platform enables a large campaign of sensitization via journalists. This seems to be giving a great echo to growing expectations of the consumers.

- ***Remarks regarding the policy and advocacy activities (2.2.2-3)***

These activities have been mainly implemented by MVIWAARUSHA, who plays a pivotal role in supporting the development of the national confederation of farmers' organizations SHIWAKUTA. Indeed, its interim coordinator is the coordinator of MVIWAARUSHA, as well as some of its employees support some functions of the confederation. This is relevant, as the regional FO has a long-standing experience in farmers' representation and advocacy, as well as in organizational development, having

benefited of the support of and partnered with agri-agencies[10] such as TRIAS on We Effect since more than a decade. The development of the administrative manuals was outsourced and financed through the KEA DGD co-funding.

SHIWAKUTA, though being a young confederation, benefits from the experience of its most active founding members and was thus quickly operational to voice important positions regarding agroecology or farmer managed seed systems for instance.

The study analyzing the legal and institutional framework on agroecology in Tanzania, commissioned by MVIWAARUSHA, seemed not to be well framed and deepened to inform the strategy on agroecology advocacy. CARI would have wished to be more involved in its design and monitoring.

The topics related to combating desertification and the international UNCC framework, brought by CARI, through Desertif'actions and the study conducted by the French student raised a great interest form the Tanzanian partners, opening a new window for policy dialogue.

3.3 Activities implemented in synergy with KEA

As mentioned earlier, the project has mobilized additional funds which enabled the partners to include activities, which were initially proposed but had to be dropped out for budgetary limitations. These are:

- **"Maji kwa Chakula"** project, led by IDP and implemented in the 10 villages by RECODA. For a total contribution of 99,808 €, this project is providing approximately 100 water reservoirs to the group members (demonstration plots or agroecology champions) and schools supported by KEA.
- "**Kilimo Endelevu Arusha+"** project (KEA+), led by IDP and implemented by IDP, RECODA and MVIWAARUSHA. This project, implemented in Karatu and Arusha districts, pursues the same objectives as KEA through the following additional activities (not exhaustive):
    - *Establishment of infrastructure and equipment for water storage and training for its rational use by farming families,*
    - *Support for the revitalization of peasant seed systems*
    - *Support for the development of urban agriculture through the establishment of urban gardens in the city of Arusha*
    - *Support for micro and small enterprises supporting the agroecological transition of the Arusha food system*
    - *Implementation of dialogue and advocacy actions from local to national level in favor of sustainable food systems*
    - *Support for the structuring of the national federation of farmers' organizations (SHIWAKUATA) and its advocacy actions*
    - *Implementation of citizen / consumer awareness actions for the promotion of sustainable food systems*
    - *Support for the establishment of school gardens in rural schools as a means of raising awareness among young people.*
- KEA project on its DGD funding side, implemented also some activities, which are not included in the KEA AFD co-funding, such as the support by MVIWAARUSHA to the VICOBA formation, or the farmers seeds fairs, for instance.

These activities, added to the "backbone" of KEA in Arusha DC are to be mentioned, as they contribute to the results which are discussed in chapter 4, though they are not formally in the scope of the KEA AFD co-funding.

[10] Agri-agencies are NGOs founded by farmers organizations in their country of origin and members of the alliance AgriCord. They specialize in the development of services to farmer through the strengthening of farmers organizations.

3.4 Monitoring, evaluation and learning system

3.4.1 Monitoring and evaluation framework

KEA adopted an evaluation framework from FAO, the "Tool for Agroecology Performance Evaluation" (TAPE - https://www.fao.org/agroecology/tools-tape/en/). This approach is documented in a very detailed manual, which outlines very standardized procedures and evaluation criteria. KEA log-frame adopted many indicators from this tool as Objectively Measurable Indicators for objectives and results indicators and added additional progress markers to cover audience which are not covered through TAPE indicators (students, restaurants, journalists, etc.). This methodological framework was adapted by KEA partners so that it suits the context and used some of its indicators to establish the baseline (as of November 2022) of the situation of the farmers accompanied by KEA. It is planned to be assessed again in November 2024 and by the end of 2026. The evaluators thus could not use the results of the second assessment to measure the effects of the project. TAPE was developed by FAO through a long process which mobilized many other reference systems to evaluate agroecology transition. It is meant to "provide evidence to policy makers and other stakeholders on how agroecology can contribute to sustainable food and agricultural systems", as stated by FAO. Interestingly, "TAPE can also be used to establish a baseline of agricultural sustainability for project design, monitoring and evaluation, and to diagnose and compare the performance of different agricultural systems over time, at farm and territorial levels. It can therefore support the re-orientation of public investment towards more sustainable agriculture and food systems."

The indicators used are very comprehensive to capture the situation of the farmers, but some limits were identified by the partners and the evaluators. The following limits are not here to evaluate TAPE tool itself, but to comment on the relevance and applicability of using it as a project monitoring and evaluation framework, in the specific case of KEA:

- The indicators are index indicators combining several indicators, delivering ranking notes which are not easy to interpret in their absolute values (see example on the figure). It will though be interesting to invest some time in discussing their evolution over time, which is one of the major advantages of such a tool, if the enumerators and evaluation teams manage to avoid biases, which can be numerous.
- The TAPE assessment is a long process for each farmer (long list of questions) and cannot be shortened, due to the strict methodology of FAO. This may represent a duplication of effort with the same audience with the diagnostics conducted by KEA team in the villages.

Figure 10 - One of the results of the TAPE baseline assessment conducted in November 2022 in the villages where KEA project intervenes

- Its usefulness for the farmers themselves might be discussed, as they contribute a lot of their time, without being in a position of making any use of the date they provided, as no feedback was organized (and the reporting formats are not necessarily friendly to them).
- The statistical dataset management until the results and possible interpretation is outsourced, making the process longer and leading to a lack of control over the process.
- More importantly, the heaviness of the process cannot allow a frequent update of the progress, thus not allowing the project partners and steering committee to use for the project steering and decision making.

The next data collection will soon be conducted, and data results might come in a few weeks. It will be at that time interesting for partners to discuss in depth the usefulness of the indicators and of the whole process, but at that stage, for the reasons stated above, we consider that the TAPE indicators framework does not seem to us as a convenient set of indicators for an effective project monitoring (which requires more frequent access to data for decision making).

Nevertheless, it seems to us that TAPE may serve well as the purpose of research and observatories of agroecology and its transitions. It can certainly be interesting to help monitor long term processes of transition, over a longer period than initially foreseen by KEA project coordination. Some of its findings may be used for documenting agroecology and its advantages. Cases studies could be used in policy dialogue and evidence provision, through some additional data should be collected as the evidence talking to FAO and agroecology specialists do not necessarily talk as effectively to decision makers. Economic and technical data may have to be collected in addition, for instance. This methodology should be further discussed by KEA partners to debate its potential future use and adjustment. It could be used as an activity for evidence and reference development, but not a M&E framework.

3.4.2 Organizational set-up for monitoring, evaluating and reporting

The project is complex as it involves four partners and a very large number of activities. Another factor of complexity is that it mobilizes different sources of funding, with different scopes: some activities are to be reported to AFD and DGD, some only to AFD, some only to DGD, some other only to the French Embassy or Luxembourg government, and this to with different reporting timelines and indicators. For the explanations given in the former paragraph, the M&E framework adopted through TAPE did not help to grow the ownership and control over the data management to make a proper use of it. It led to some important data not being captured, according to the partners. The partners have managed to implement the planned activities and to progressively function as a coherent team, but the M&E and reporting set-up has shown some limits, as stated by the partners' teams and identified by the evaluators:

- Technical reports from partners are often coming after the deadline for reporting,
- The M&E organizational set-up does not seem to be clear to the different teams (especially roles and distribution of tasks),
- The partners have their own internal operational monitoring systems (TSO for IDP for instance), which help them to assess their operational progress, but which are not shared to other partners.
- The files management seems to bring some confusion, as no common storage (cloud based for instance) is in place,
- All these lead to some indicators not being captured and some interesting / important information being not reported.
- These may also lead to more time consumed for reporting, but also affect the decision-making process (decisions must be informed by an effective information system).

Despite the complexity mentioned in the introduction of the paragraph, it seems feasible (and necessary) to set systems that would harmonize the reporting formats and indicators, reporting timeframe, though allowing the "granularity" to meet the different donors' expectations. These require a methodological investment from the partners and some "change management" processes (training and adopting new processes and attitude towards information management). KEA partners are aware of this need and have shown their intention to progress.

3.4.3 Learning and communication

Learning and communication are two different objectives which are not necessarily serving the same audiences.

In terms of communication:

- External communication seems to be effectively done through different formats (leaflet, web pages, articles, radio broadcasts, fairs) and meets the minimum requirements (communication about the project and its donors).
- The communication is compliant with donors' visibility criteria, though the complex funding and co-funding framework makes it sometimes difficult (which logos to include on specific activity / investment sign boards).
- The communication materials seem to capture well both institutional communication (all partners are visible) and a common identity, through the "Kilimo Endelevu Arusha" logo.

Thus, external communication seems to be well managed and does not require further improvements, according to us.

The internal communication has been effective through both partnership processes (ICM and weekly meetings, a WhatsApp group including all teams' members), which helped to align methodologies and plan., and also several bilateral meetings between partners when need be.

In terms of "learning" and knowledge management, some limits may be mentioned:

- The manuals developed internally seem to be heavy in text and may require some further work to be more digestible and pedagogic for its recipient users (lead farmers, farmers, schools, …).
- The use of ICT in the peer-learning processes does not seem to have been utilized, while the context could be convenient (network coverage, level of literacy).
- The project is very active in its operations but is limited in documenting the results and references.

Without going further, this topic will be discussed in chapter 5, as knowledge management is a key lever for further upscaling agroecology. The effort of KEA project has not been capitalizing in this first phase (though some work seems to be planned in the coming months) and should not wait too long to improve that process, as it will become highly needed for the coming phases.

3.5 Financial management

3.5.1 Financial management system

The evaluators did not access any audit report, which would have provided specific expertise and opinion on the financial management of the partners and of the project, but this was not the objective of the evaluation, which analysis focuses on effectiveness and efficiency of the partnership, as far as financial management is concerned. Nevertheless, through the discussions with management and finance officers of the partners, it appeared to us that each individual partner is experienced in financial management, with a long-standing experience of a multitude of donors and have competent and dedicated staff.

At the level of the project financial management, financial reports follow the process: (1) RECODA and MVIWAARUSHA report monthly to IDP, (2) IDP reviews reports and supporting documents (and ak for complements or comments if needed, (3) IDP reports to CARI every semester. All supporting documents are scanned and shared with CARI. IDP does the same on its side. Financial reports are provided on time and do not attract any major concerns. Financial supporting documents are clear and well managed. Some areas of improvement were mentioned by the partners:

- Though all information about the co-financing sources and reports is shared among all partners' management teams, the complexity seems to have led to some light misunderstanding of the financial arrangements. It highlights the need for regular information and communication on this.
- Some meetings between financial management teams might help to improve the fluidity of the process (harmonizing financial reporting formats to make the consolidation easier, discussing options for digitalization in compliance with requirements, etc.).

These are no major concerns, but attention should be given to them to gain some efficiency and mutual understanding.

3.5.2 Budget and disbursement

- ***Budget balance***

The budget is balanced as summarized in the following table:

Category	Types of expenses	% of total budget
Project activities	Project cross-cutting activities (communication, workshops, visibility, …) Training, exchange visits, inputs and small equipment for demonstrations in agroecology transition training activities, land restoration activities, post-harvest management, etc. Training of lead farmers, field days, printing of manuals and technical posters Market research, communication material, training for restaurants, vendors awareness raising events and communication. Travel and consultancy for the lobbying strategy and support to SHIWAKUTA	**31%**
Human resources	Staff from the four implementing partners	**46%**
Transport	International and local transport of partners' staff	**6%**
Equipment	IT equipment	**1%**
Evaluation and audit		**3%**
Administrative costs	Overhead costs	**9%**

Human resources represent 46% of the budget. Considering the nature of the project, mostly based on training and building capacity of farmers and other actors and considering that most of the work is conducted internally by partners' staff, this proportion seems normal.

The budget allocated to equipment is very low (1%). The activities require a lot of logistics to go in the field and the partners have done a lot to optimize the use of their vehicles (which they owned already). It appears that accessing villages has been challenging sometimes due to the hard conditions of the jeep tracks and has affected the quality of the supervision work. KEA might consider investing in the future phase in transport means to lower the tension and risk of breakdown to the existing vehicles fleat.

- ***Budget disbursement***

Out of an overall budget of 1,197,955 € (co-funding AFD and DGD, but not considering additional budget mobilized from Mirova foundation and Region Occitanie), KEA project had disbursed and justified 784,283 € (65%) on the date of 30/06/2024 (30 months of implementation). This means that the remaining balance (413,672 €) should be spent in the remaining 6 months (July to December 2024). This brings an average disbursement of 68,945 € per month, while the average disbursement for the past period of the project was 39,932 €. This seems hard to achieve, given the type of activities which are planned in the remaining period.

KEA had disbursed and justified the activity budget line (which represents 31%) only 54% of its budget, which shows a clear delay in its disbursement. Without going into details of each activity category, this means that activities have been effectively implemented (overall good level of activities' implementation) with a limited budget.

This can also mean that the budget design was not fully representing the real needs and activities, while on the other hand, some initially planned activities were dropped out during the design phase, considering that the budget could not allow them. This will mean that the budget should be finely monitored and adjusted in the coming weeks (for the last months of KEA AFD) and should also help to inform the preparation of the foreseen phase 2 of KEA.

4 Evaluation of the results and strategies

This part aims at highlighting the opinion of the evaluation regarding the evaluation questions provided by CARI and IDP in the terms of reference:

(1) Does the project's strategy, based on agroecology and sustainable land management, engage family farms on a pathway toward resilience in the face of drought?
(2) Does the project's strategy, which focuses on improving the marketing of agricultural products and raising awareness of healthy, sustainable eating, effectively contribute to increasing the consumption of healthy products from local family farming?
(3) Does the project's strategy contribute to the creation of a context conducive to the deployment of a sustainable food system on a regional scale?

Each evaluation question is answered through the following evaluation criteria: (1) relevance, (2) effects and impact, (3) Scalability and sustainability, and is summarized at the end of each evaluation question.

4.1 Strategy on agroecology and sustainable land management

4.1.1 Relevance

The strategy based on agroecology and sustainable land management is highly relevant. Its conception mobilized the experience of the partners in terms of agroecology, farmers' centered extension approach and land restoration and management. The combination of activities at both households' individual level (farming practices) and village collective level (land management practices) is fully relevant to address the problems faced by farmers (degraded soil, low water retention capacity, lack of diversification of source of income and food, low productivity, etc.) and their environment (soil erosion, lack of soil cover and tree cover, …). Agroecology principles, as they are integrated in KEA approach at both individual and communal level, are fully relevant to addressing both direct and indirect causes of land degradation. The activities promoted are most likely to avoid, reduce or invert land degradation, as it is documented in Marion NOUVELLON report[11].

The RIPAT farmer' centered approach and land restoration approaches, conducted through groups and involving village institutions are well embedded into pre-existing consultation, planning and development mechanisms in the villages. The set of innovations proposed in the RIPAT, and land restoration approaches are highly adapted to the contexts of the farmers in the different agroecological zones covered by KEA, and fully adhered to by the farmers. They are also well aligned with the operations and objectives of the district extension officers.

KEA partners have also shown their capacity to adapt this strategy to challenging weather conditions.

4.1.2 Effects and impact

- ***At farmers' level***

Even though some delay in the start of the project was mentioned by the partners and despite the weather challenges, many positive effects are mentioned or seen at farmers' level:

- **Farmers are starting to diversify the productions** on their own farm, both in livestock (poultry, piggery or goats) and in crops: the introduction of trees (especially banana) and other perennials (such as fodder production), as well as the introduction of additional legumes and vegetables already start **contributing to the diversification of sources of food and income**. It also contributes to a **positive change in the cash-flow**: while incomes are initially very seasonal as

[11] Marion NOUVELLON, 2024: "Contribution of civil society to land degradation neutrality in Tanzania", based on KEA activities.

highlighted in the initial diagnostics, the diversity of sources of income and their different cycles (shorter cycles almost all year long), **start contributing to reducing the length and amplitude of the "low-income/low-food" months**.

- Some farmers mention that the fact that they earn more income **allows them to save and borrow more money** in the VICOBA[12], helping them to cover some social or productive needs. The VICOBA involves all members of the farmers' groups, it also plays a role of **cohesion within the group**. The process of the VICOBA (buying shared, taking loans, …) plays an important role in **improving farmers' literacy** in terms of anticipation of financial needs, budget planning and potentially farm management.
- **New production techniques are adopted** from the demo plots and from the lead farmers, such as the 9 seeded holes, improved use of manure, integrated pests' management (biopesticides, push-pull, …), vaccination of poultry, … According to farmers, these techniques contribute to the **reduction of production costs**, but also to **improved yields**, when comparing to what they call the traditional techniques[13]. Farmers consider them relevant and effective. The level of adoption is hard to assess as the range of techniques proposed is broad and may differ from one group to the other. Technical lead farmers and agroecology champions are adopting more than 6 new technologies or productions, while other members adopt at least 3.
- **In terms of labor**, at that level of adoption, the farmers don't seem to consider the diversification, and new technologies are affecting their workload, except for the ones who engage into terracing (which is more to be considered as a punctual investment). The workload is considered by both women and men **as well balanced**, and not contributing to a bigger volume for women. Sometimes even, women mention that they spend less time in the field as some operations allow less attention for watering or weeding (in the case of mulching for instance). The more advanced groups consider labor as one of the **major factors that will hinder their capacity to produce more organic products** to sell. And as they mention, labor is expensive and is another cost to add to some other costs of the organic production, such as farmyard manure.
- **In terms of diet**, quite surprisingly, farmers mention the **improvement of their food in quantity, diversity and safety (for the whole family)** as a first positive effect, while in some other contexts in Africa selling of farm products comes first at the detriment of the diet. "Our kids go now to school after having eaten an egg", this statement shows the importance the family farms see in diversifying their production for improved feeding and education. The most advanced groups in organic farming (Oldonyowas village for instance) insist on the healthiness of their food, which has less chemicals and is more palatable. These arguments are well received and perceived as well by their buyers, as we will see in the paragraph on the marketing strategy.
- **In terms of marketing**, farmers have a **good understanding** of the different channels they can use or target. The most commercially advanced farmers are already engaged in selling their products directly to retailers on **specific agroecological segments**, while some are able to sell a still limited surplus within their village. The more advanced benefitted of pre-existing support (Oldonyowas for instance), but the project has had a **clear effect on farmers' mindset** regarding their understanding of the market and possible strategies.
- **The land restoration measures** constitute activities which are slower in terms of effects. The trees which have been distributed are being **managed**, as they are mainly on individual farmers' land. They will contribute to additional **sources of income but in a much longer period**. The terracing seems to be **slowly picking up**. As for tree planting, the effects will not be immediate. The terracing (Fanya Juu, Fanya Chini) **will have an effect on water retention, thus on the productivity of this cultivated land**.
- **In terms of the capacity of the farmers to manage their farms** and make informed decisions, this is an area which was not at the core of the project. Some activities, though, contribute to

[12] Village Community Banks have been set-up by MIVIWAARUSHA in the same groups, but are not part and parcel of KEA (but KEA+, financed by the Government of Luxembourg)

[13] No comparison was done with more conventional practices (use of mineral fertilizers and chemical pesticides) but these are anyway not used by the categories of farmers reached by the project, and considered by them too expensive.

improving the farmers capacities: the economic information mobilized on the demo plots, the exposure to markets and new productions/techniques, the VICOBA and groups' discussions through the RIPAT approach in general help farmers to take distance from their own farm, have a higher level of financial literacy and make more informed decisions.

- ***Effects on the resources and local environment***

There is not yet any measurable evidence that KEA has already some effect on preserving or renewing the soil functions. These processes take time. Nevertheless, some effects can already be mentioned:

- The techniques improving the soil function (use of manure, use of compost, intercropping, Fanya juu/chini, …) have been adopted on some farms (but only since a maximum of two cropping seasons[14]). These techniques are well known scientifically to have an impact on the soil: as highlighted in Marion NOUVELLON's report:
    - **Fanya juu and Fanya Chini reduce water runoff and retain sediments and nutrients**. The combined effect of the terrace and the roots of the planted grass and shrubs also contribute to the soil stability. "Erosion could be reduced up to 68% through the installation of terraces (Gebremeskel and al., 2018)". **They also have a clear effect on water retention** on the plot but also reduce flooding downstream of the slope. The elements were clearly highlighted by farmers who adopted the technique.
    - **Conservation Agriculture,** through its three principles (minimum soil disturbance, soil cover and crop rotation) have a documented impact on the soil structure, microbial activity and its fertility. Some of the techniques introduced within KEA groups have been minimum tillage, direct seeding under plant cover, nine seeded holes.
    - **The increase of farmyard manure** (through the investment in livestock) and composting are also well known to improve soil fertility and water retention. These techniques are currently spreading, according to farmers.
- The planting of trees on an individual and collective level, largely adhered to by members of the groups, **will contribute to decreasing the pressure on the forests**.
- The strong engagement of KEA into the sensitization of villagers, through farmers groups, villages environment committees, environmental champions and **schools raises awareness and creates a conducive environment** for more individual and collective actions. It is also enabled through the engagement and alignment with district, ward and village authorities.
- **Water reservoirs are contributing to better water management** (improved access in volume through storage and improved use for farming) and have already an impact on the farmers who benefited and invested in them. They are a good example of the potential of such investments.
- The activities have already shown some **positive secondary effects.** In Ekenywa village for instance, farmers mention that the planting of fodder tree and elephant grass led them to adopt bylaws at the village to forbid animal grazing on the land (including on own farms) and shift to stall feeding. If effectively enforced by the village, this can potentially have a greater impact on the village as a whole.

As concluded by Marion NOUVELLON in her research, "the integrated and participatory agroecological approach adopted by the Kilimo Endelevu Arusha project represents an effective and holistic response to the challenges of land degradation. By integrating sustainable land management practices with a strong participatory dimension, the KEA project not only avoids and reduces degradation, but can also help to reverse these processes, thereby aligning its actions with the national objectives of land degradation neutrality." **It indeed has the potential to do so, and has started, but also show some limits which need to be discussed**:

- Its spreading pace will be mostly determined by the capacities of farmers: not only in terms of knowledge and know-how (which is well addressed by KEA through the technical lead farmers and environmental champions), but also by their capital. The adoption of new techniques and

[14] With an exception to the groups or groups members who already benefitted of former projects, as for instance Oldonoywas village, which was already engaged into organic production, with the support of the NGO OIKOS East Africa.

productions, as well as the land restoration practices (such as Fanya Juu / Fanya Chini) and water storage represent an investment that is not accessible to all.
- This means that the less advantaged farms may have difficulties adopting these technologies, thus contributing to the land restoration.
- Access to water in all its forms (sources protection, canals rehabilitation, water storage, water saving distribution technologies) are some of the highest needs of the farmers. They can at that stage only be addressed partially, as they constitute expensive infrastructures which are hardly accessible to farmers and can only partially be addressed by projects. It is an area where some further experiments and references should be looked at. There is a high need to assess and explore all potential accessible technologies and sources of funding, as well as finding ways of mobilizing collective solutions, which would mitigate the limited capacities of the less advantaged. This will be further discussed in the recommendations.

This is also where the territorial approach and the training of groups and leaders, as well as their membership to MVIWAARUSHA can become key, so that the communities can acquire the capacity to plan and advocate for investments in their villages. In that sense, KEA project seems to be heading to the good direction. The territorial approach is still at an early stage and will have to be simplified so that it becomes less intensive in terms of facilitation. But it can be instrumental in raising the capacities of villages to intervene at a collective level, as for enforcing bylaws preventing further degradation (free grazing, etc.).

4.1.3 Scalability and sustainability

The spreading of innovations and practices is part of the RIPAT/KEA strategy. From a limited number of 21 groups, within 10 villages, the approach implements spreading processes within the villages and in new villages, which show a real potential for a larger impact:

- **Each member of a group is committed to training at least 3 other farmers** in his surrounding (this commitment is taken when the farmer agrees to join the group. This seemed to be implemented, though it was difficult to assess to what extent. Apart from this commitment, surrounding farmers interested by what they saw by their neighbors learnt from them (in an "over the edge" spreading effect).
- **Technical lead farmers and environment champions are also training other farmers** within their village (though it was not possible to assess to what extend). Those we met seemed very motivated and proud of contributing to sharing what they have learned.
- **The involvement of the village extension staff and the organization of village field days also contribute to spreading** (the extension staff which were met during the mission declare they use the techniques and manuals in other villages, though limited by their limited means of transport and not monitored under the project).
- RECODA also recently trained "**spreading farmers",** these spreading lead farmers have already formed 14 new groups in 7 new villages. The spreading lead farmers are convinced of what they do, and seem, according to project staff, to be very effective, as they know better how to convince other farmers.

The spreading effect of the land restoration is also seen through the e**nvironment champions and the passing of bylaws** regarding terracing and forbidding free grazing. The good involvement of the district extension officers is also instrumental in overseeing this spreading, in addition to the project staff.

Necessarily, the limits of the spreading strategy will be in the capacity of the project to provide to new groups the in-kind support they benefited from (inputs for demonstrations, small equipment, water reservoirs, etc.). This will be further discussed in the recommendations.

Some factors are contributing to the sustainability of the operations and services developed, under certain conditions:

- **Through the knowledge farmers have acquired and put into practice**, and through the connections they have made with extension staff, service providers and buyers, there is a great chance that the adopted techniques would remain. This may be even more likely to happen if they

remain members of active groups, which would allow them to access further exposure to training and innovations, through their membership to MVIWAARUSHA or engagement with extension officers.

- **The "community agents"** (lead farmers and environment champions) are currently very motivated and knowledgeable. There is a great chance that they will continue, as they are known from the farmers and from extension staff. They may increase their scope if they find some additional sources of motivation (small compensation provided by other farmers …), and if a process is in place to keep them "updated" and "connected" to sources of information and recognition.
- **The groups have acquired competencies for planning, financial management and representation** (through leadership training). The groups who have collective "services", such as VICOBA, marketing, or seed banks are likely to continue after the end of the project. The fact that the groups were mostly created afresh at the start of the project (outside of the pre-existing groups), may lead some of their members to "come back" to their original group as the project phases out and thus no additional support is provided. This should be an area of discussion among the partners, to work on a more strategic vision towards the future of the groups. This might require investing more in the capacity building of the groups, their formalizing process and recruitment into MVIWAARUSHA networks, so that they can benefit from being members.
- **The market availability** will also be a factor that will determine the continuation of some techniques.

As a conclusion to the evaluative question, ***"Does the project's strategy, based on agroecology and sustainable land management, engage family farms on a pathway toward resilience in the face of drought?"***, we can answer positively. The project' strategy is clearly relevant in its holistic methodology, combining complementary approaches and agroecological practices which are adapted to the context and the farmers. It has already shown some effects at individual and collective level, which are likely to lead to a stronger resilience of family farms and improving the management and access to soil and water in the 10 villages of KEA project. The diversified sources of income, the agroecological and land management practices adopted will contribute to mitigating the negative effects of climate change (unpredictable weather patterns, higher temperatures, droughts, heavy rains, …) and of economic shocks. The evaluation mission has witnessed visible improvements by the farmers and villagers in terms both of understanding and practicing agroecology and land restoration. We can thus conclude that, though it is too early to talk of a sustainable impact at farmers and environment level, the process is well started. Some limits can be also identified at that stage/

- The important levers or assets are not yet fully acquired and can quickly be lost if the support to these families and communities decreases too abruptly.
- The spreading of the techniques and technologies is highly dependent on the capital of the households. Further growth (adoption of new productions and technologies, terracing, etc.) will face the financial constraints of the producers.
- The sustainability and spreading of the techniques will also most probably be conditioned by access to a remunerative market for agroecological products.

These points will be discussed in the recommendations part.

4.2 Strategy regarding marketing and awareness raising

4.2.1 Relevance

The project' strategy on marketing and awareness raising has combined activities from different levels: (1) farmers and village levels (including schools), through the training, demonstrations and linkages on nutrition and marketing, (2) value-chain actors' level (vendors, restaurants, markets), through training, linkages and marketing support, (3) media and citizen from Arush, through the training of journalist and conduct of sensitization campaigns. This strategy targets the main players through activities which are adapted to their needs. According to our findings, the consumers seem to be aware of some problems related to the heavy use of chemicals in agriculture and tend to be open to alternatives. KEA, through its targeted messages seemed to go a step further through improving actionable levers to changing consuming habits both at village and Arusha city levels.

It also involved relevant partners, through its collaborations with schools and the Arusha food systems platform and is fully aligned with the national policies and commitments regarding food and nutrition In terms of activities, strategies have been reflected and adopted by KEA partners and seem fully adapted to their audiences.

We can thus consider this strategy as highly relevant, though, as this is a learning process in action, it might have to adapt its content in a flexible manner to address a moving reality.

4.2.2 Effects on the farmers, buyers and consumers

It is still early to consider an impact in terms of transformation of the marketing models and food system in Arusha region. This is normal as these processes take time. Nevertheless, some first effects of the activities have been noticed and tend to show that some change is happening:

- At farmers and village level, **farmers are improving their access to quality produce**: as they declare, while they were buying from outside in the past, a growing number is **in a capacity to produce for themselves**, thus saving some money and **improving their diet** (though we cannot quantify to which extent). As highlighted earlier in the former evaluation question, the project contributes to the diversification of their sources of income and overall income.
- Cooking demonstrations and training on nutrition have not yet been rolled out in all villages, but farmers who have benefited from them can **clearly explain the need for improved and balanced diets**. Some have already improved their diets through the **introduction of more proteins** to their kids (eggs for breakfast, for instance).
- It is not yet possible to measure how far the post-harvest losses have been reduced, but most of the farmers met **clearly explain the importance of a good post-harvest management practices** (harvesting/drying/storing) and the **utility of some improved technologies** (hermetic tanks and bags, …).
- Still a limited number of groups and farmers are in a capacity to sell to buyers from Arusha (especially vegetables) but **have increased their sales**. Most of the farmers **grow their sales locally, within their village.** Some groups consider this very local market to be still far from being fulfilled.
- **Groups have market research committees** and are **aware of the different marketing channels** (agroecology specific and non-agroecology specific). This represents a change in their understanding of their marketing environment and in their capacity and limits to reach certain markets. All groups **have ambitions to sell more** and are aware of their constraints.
- Two groups are engaged in a Participatory Guarantee System (PGS). The PGS is well **understood and "owned" by their members**. The system ensures a guarantee of organic production standards for the buyers and the consumers. Some of the products are already sold to specific agroecological markets (a retailor and some farmers' market).
- The project team has learnt from the first experience of PGS and is starting training new groups

- Vendors (street and market vendors) as well as restaurants **are promoting safe, healthy agroecological food.** They declare that they are growing sales volumes thanks to the quality of their products and the quality and safety of their stalls and restaurants.
- **Journalists and media are more aware** and keener on sharing information related to healthy food and agroecological products.

More globally, there is a growing awareness of the importance of healthy food and of the risks related to conventional agriculture. It is not necessarily the direct effect of the project but a more general fact in the society of Tanzania, notably due among other factors to famous food poisoning and food safety problems. It was not possible for the evaluators to assess the effects of the awareness raising campaigns, but considering the receptive environment and the diversity of channels used, we can consider that this was useful. These fist effects are positive, but must be balanced with the following limits:

- No sales volumes data was accessed by the evaluators, but though the sales are growing, they seem to be still small in quantities. The PGS farmers for instance, who are the most advanced in agroecological production consider now that the market for their specific produce is the limiting factor in volumes and price. Despite the large number of advantages they see in agroecological production, they consider the prices paid by the buyer are not yet compensating for their investment in labor. This may hinder the growth of the volumes produced and marketed.
- Currently only one buyer (Mesula / Glen Farm) is paying a slight premium on agroecological products. Other retailers (such as Kilombero market vendors) increase their market share as they offer better produce and sell at the same price. They consider they cannot increase the price, due to their customers' limited purchasing power. Though they might be increasing their margins as they buy directly from the farmers, they are not retributing the farmers their investment. On the other hand, they take a risk when they get their supply from farmers directly, (time and lack of consistency of the supply has a cost).
- The capacity to generate surplus for the market in these agroecological farming systems is growing very slowly (due to the size and characteristics of the farms) and is very dependent on the farmers financial capacity or external support to invest (to access water reservoirs, livestock, terracing, labor etc.). The volumes produced per unit will thus grow slowly, unless some other sources of funding can be mobilized. Volumes growth will also come from the number of farmers engaged in agroecological farming, which is an ongoing process. This will mean that an important organizational investment will have to be made in terms of coordination and information management so that organized farmers can effectively communicate to buyers what is available and buyers communicate their needs.
- As well, the labor being potentially a limiting factor, it might be important to prioritize techniques which are less labor intensive.
- The organic PGS standard "Kilimo Hai", does not allow any chemical treatment or mineral fertilizer. It can be seen as a very restrictive regulation, which may pose a risk of excluding many farmers who are transitioning. It can also be seen as a risk of seeing of exclusion for farmers who may face serious pests' attacks and were in an obligation to treat chemically if organic pesticides are not effective enough. These risks led certain farmers' organizations (such as Fifata in Madagascar for instance) to create their own agroecological standards, which better reflect the transitioning and precarious situation of their members, who don't want to risk losing their production. In marketing and standards establishment, there is no ideal recipe. KEA should just continue this type of discussion and remain flexible in its strategy to better adapt to the farmers and market, as these two are not fixed elements of the strategy.
- Apart from the above-mentioned limits or obstacles on the farmer's side, some other may remain on the vendor's sides. Growing a pure "agroecological" market segment requires some consequent investment in promotion, logistics and marketing channels. The fact that they cannot necessarily use the same economies of scale as for conventional products (bulked transport from high production zones for instance) puts them in a situation where they face higher costs. Currently, only one vendor (Mesula / Glen Farm) is really in this position. If they cannot properly grow their specific market segment, it seems most likely that their supply will not allow a higher remuneration of the farmers.

4.2.3 Scalability and sustainability

In terms of scalability, the training of farmers through the marketing committees and the establishment of PGS organs and processes are already in a process of scaling up. They should continue involving more groups of farmers. The adoption of this standard of production and its adoption by a growing number of farmers is a key component to secure the growth while maintaining quality standards. As discussed above, it can be interesting at that stage to discuss the standard and its adaptability to the reality of the farmers and the expectations of the market, to either keep it as it is or adjust it slightly. Apart from the standard itself, the processes and organs developed under the PGS operations have been well document by IFOAM and seem to be a good operating model. It was not possible (and may be too early) to evaluate the costs of operations of the different organs and see how it might be impacting the selling price. A PGS is supposed to be less expensive than a third-party certification body (as for Organic certification), but it is also targeting a less remunerative market, thus monitoring of costs and prices is highly needed.

The activities targeting vendors and restaurants are also effective and can be upscaled in terms of numbers, as it has been shown to be working well. But this growth should not compromise the quality. Currently, the volumes produced do not meet the volumes needed by the restaurants and vendors. A good strategy might be at that stage to increase the support for a limited number of vendors and should aim at helping them grow and sustain their market share for agroecological products, while working on a improving the remuneration of the farmers. Some more specific investments could be foreseen in that sense. In parallel, further reflection and studies should be conducted to increase the potential new marketing channels which could absorb in the future larger volumes.

Some other approaches were also not tested and might be reflected about: training community agents (from the groups) could be identified and trained as "commercial lead farmers" (this model as worked in some other countries), holding the functions of aggregators, but belonging and under the control of the groups. Other needs of the groups for marketing might also be reflected about: storage and collection points, logistical means, … This is most probably too early considering the level of surplus and maturity of the groups, but could be envisioned in further stages of KEA, and as this is already seen in some of MVIWAARUSHA local networks.

In terms of sustainability, KEA is supporting existing businesses and groups and works on capacitating them in their operations. Those are good conditions for sustainability. As discussed above, the biggest risk is that the lack of differentiation on the urban market would lead to the absence of remuneration of a premium for agroecological products. This may hinder the growth of available products for the vendors and consumers. On the other hand, the surplus sold at the village level is most likely to grow, thus resulting in an improved access to healthy food to the rural population.

As a conclusion to the evaluative question, ***"Does the project's strategy, which focuses on improving the marketing of agricultural products and raising awareness of healthy, sustainable eating, effectively contribute to increasing the consumption of healthy products from local family farming?"***, we can answer positively regarding farmers and villagers, as the evaluation highlighted some direct effects on rural households in the 10 villages (changes in knowledge, accessibility of food and consumption practices). This might most probably increase in the coming months and years if supports continues, through the growth of production and surplus, as well the training mechanisms which have been put in place but not yet fully implemented.

Concerning the urban population of Arusha, we can consider that the strategy is starting to have effects through the differentiation of some marketing channels and a recognition of the benefits of agroecological products by their consumers (restaurants or final consumers). It is hard to evaluate the effects of the mass sensitizations campaigns, but the environment is receptive to the messages directed by KEA project. The strategy to grow the market demand for agroecological products on urban market is relevant as it shows some first positive results, but it is too early to draw conclusions on its sustainability, as it still fragile. This area is exploratory by essence. A close monitoring and regular discussions should continue to discuss how to address its limits:

- The growth of a specific market segment for agroecological products will remain highly dependent on the production capacity of the farmers, which will grow slow.
- The market differentiation will require sustained efforts to improve the visibility of and accessibility of these products on the market, as well as strengthening its market agents.
- The production costs (including raising labor) and transaction costs (control of the PGS, aggregation of small volumes, …) might be a challenge when opposed to large volumes and low transaction costs for conventional products, at least to reach the urban market.

Some recommendations will be proposed in that regard.

4.3 Strategy regarding the enabling environment for the transformation of food systems

4.3.1 Relevance

The strategy mobilizes activities targeting different levels of actors: (1) The village level, (2) the district level, (3) the regional level, (4) the national level. KEA partners are well integrated in all networks related to the food system transformation and seem to have made relevant choices on who to involve and how to navigate in this multi-dimensional environment. The territorial approach was redefined during the project, as the approach is complex and needed to be piloted in one village, before upscaling. This was a necessary review of the strategy.

In terms of activities, the strategy has mobilized a good balance of "learning/sharing" activities and of "lobbying and advocacy" activities, which both are important in the agenda for the transformation of food systems. The different "layers" illustrate very well the holistic dimension of the project and its ambition to improve the food system (and not only changes at farm level). The strategy is aligned with the newly adopted NEOAS, while still contributing to show-casing how it can be implemented on the ground and translated into institutions and collaboration mechanisms.

4.3.2 Effects

An enabling environment can be analyzed through legal or institutional frameworks put in place but must (which can be long processes), but should also assess perceptions, attitudes and actions taken by actors. Some other dimensions can be also analyzed, but which are outside the scope of the project (communication infrastructure, energy, etc.) It cannot be quantified, but some activities which are most likely to contribute to the environment change, as well as some effects and qualitative changes can be outlined as follows.

Concerning the "territorial approach", through the introduction by CARI of what we can call a "conceptual and methodological experiment", the partners, and particularly MVIWAARUSHA, who implements this activity, **positively engaged into a learning journey**. From the perception of a complex concept, considered by them as very holistic and interesting, but not fully practical, they have experimented a facilitation process with led to positive outcomes:

- The facilitation process led to the definition of a village committee, who worked from the understanding of the village territory, its assets, its constraints, etc., to a **vision and a strategic document which translates some important potential activities the village wants to conduct** towards achieving a greener and sustainable Losikito : tree planting, terracing, controlling the cutting down of trees, controlling gullies, developing a local market, establishing financial services and wholesale shops, etc.
- Some interesting facts seem to show this initiative as promising:
    - Apart from the document itself, the different consultations towards different groups of actors in the village **engaged already some actions** which seem to be beneficial to the village (though they need to be more deeply assessed in terms of feasibility). The village has established bylaws forbidding animals grazing on any land (shifting to stall feeding). Very strict rules have been defined and are enforced, as they have been proposed and validated both by formal leaders of the village (elected representatives) and traditional and religious leaders. For instance, the fine for a cow witnessed grazing in a field will cost its owner TSH 50,000 per cow. The same for a goat will cost TSH 100,000 per goat! Other bylaws will be enforced on the obligation of terracing private land with set standards and an obligation to maintain them.
- **Committees have been established** (overall committee and village environment committee) and are connected to the households through a system of "household group ambassadors" (22 groups in total), which were pre-existing. This network seems to be an effective system of cascading decisions, control and feedback to the village committees.

- The process seem to have created within the village committees a **sense of ownership of their village and desired future**. This positions them in a more proactive attitude to attract further projects/fundings to support their vision (to the district or any other external partner.
- It shows also that **some activities rely on the community itself and not only on external support**, which is an important step for the community to take a stronger control on its future.
- The process and formalized document show to the village leadership a way to develop further plans, reaching other topics which are not covered (schools' development, road maintenance, etc.).
- The district focal person was associated to the process and can guide the village into the attempt to voice its projects to the Arusha DC authorities.

Some activities are still planned, to make the document and vision well shared and accepted in the village and with the district authorities.

We can conclude that the process has been fruitful for the village of Losikito, but also informative to KEA partners, in terms of methodology. It also presents some limits:

- Its heaviness questions its replicability. MVIWAARUSHA expresses the need to make it lighter so that is more easily replicable. It seems indeed key to reflect on how to make it more effective so that it is less time-consuming, otherwise it could face the risk of being implemented in a very limited number of villages.
- It seems also that the initial diagnostic, which was conducted in participatory way and touch and document many similar topics should be better mobilized in this territorial approach so that it is properly used in the visioning process.
- The implementation and monitoring of the proposed activities might require some external assistance from extension staff and district authorities, as it is quite new for the village. This should be a point of attention so that effects are effectively seen. Therefore, the recognition and integration of this proposed plan at the level of the district will be important.

More generally, the very large mobilization of village, ward and district authorities has had positive effects:

- **The technical extension teams have learnt new techniques** from RECODA training and from their participation to many interventions in the villages. They mention that they consider themselves **in a capacity to spread what they have learned** to other villages, and fully **adhere to the agroecological practices**, as they are more relevant to the context and types of farmers they serve.
- This constitutes, as such, as a **"soft power" that contributes to modify technical references**, convincing, through action, the extension staff of the interest and applicability of agroecological practices, progressively moving them from a "conventional agriculture "mainstream, which was their initial educations and framework background.
- It contributes to the reach of their yearly objectives (number of farmers supported in land restoration, number of trees planted, number of farmers linked to a market, …), proving that agroecology and land restoration practices are well aligned and contributing to the district and regional objectives.

The two actors' platforms of Arusha are playing an important role which brings collective learning and synergies in the implementation of common actions. This is currently their main objective, and seems to be working well, though it is not fully documented. KEA project's objectives were not clear about what it wanted to achieve in terms of evolution. The project has contributed to the participation of its members, though it is difficult to assess to what extent. In some areas, there might be some progress, according to some of its members and to the evaluators:

- Improving the information and knowledge management, so that the platforms enhance, beyond their events, their capacity to share knowledge and experience,
- Increasing the engagement with government actors and engaging with national NGOs and actors to contribute to the national agenda for agroecology. The NEOAS seems to highlight well the

different topics and workstreams in which the platforms could find a way of practically contributing to the implementation of the NEOAS.

At a national / lobbying level, the accompaniment of SHIWAKUTA in its strategy has been the result of different interventions, not only in the framework of KEA project. Nevertheless, the combined efforts are leading to a national confederation of farmers which represents the only Farmer Organization of a national level in Tanzania.

- **SHIWAKUTA holds a strategic position** and the organization, as illustrated through its strategy document and position papers.
- It **embraces agroecology principles and voices them in different lobbying and policy dialogue** modalities (3 position papers communicated), several meetings conducted with parliament and government representatives.
- It is still early to evaluate the capacity and effectiveness of the organization in its influencing capacity, but we can consider that it is a dynamic start. Its legitimacy, as the only national farmers' confederation can help agroecology to be heard from policy makers, education and research institutions.
- Its participation in the national consultation leading to the adoption of the NEOAS must have contributed to making the organization visible in the landscape, alongside national and international NGOs engaged into the organic or agroecology agenda.

Agroecology in general, and in Tanzania in particular, has difficulties to produce and share evidence of its effectiveness, which contribute to the belief of certain "opponent" or "skeptical" actors, that it is not a solution for the country and is not competitive and "professional".

As a conclusion to the evaluative question, ***"Does the project's strategy contribute to the creation of a context conducive to the deployment of a sustainable food system on a regional scale?"***, we can answer positively. KEA partners made the choice of mobilizing levers at different scales (local to national), which is a large scope. It would have been risky if this was not built on a pre-existing strong involvement of the partners and their good understanding of the context. The local level, addressing village territorial approach is still exploratory, but seems to show encouraging results to leverage on village and district potential efforts towards land management and economic development. The engagement in the regional platform allowed KEA partners to be more effective into conducting their activities but also allowed them to positively contribute to their dynamism. SHIWAKUTA national confederation of Farmers' Organizations is now in a position and active to promote agroecology principles. Considering the slow pace of the timing of such environmental changes, we can say that the different actors mobilized and contributing through their combined efforts are fast. We might be witnessing what we can call as a "movement in the making". Considering the conducive current situation (a Minister of Agriculture favorable to agroecology, an urban population well aware of the importance of healthy food, a growing middle class, a national strategy NEOAS being adopted) and the good positioning of the actors in the landscape. Some limits or reflections could be addressed in the future phases of KEA:

- The territorial approach, though relevant, is still at an early stage in one village and is a long and heavy process that questions its replicability.
- The platforms at regional level are useful but could gain in effectiveness if they were more strategic into knowledge management and engagement of government.
- SHIWAKUTA, as well as all partners engaged in the transformation of food systems might gain in legitimacy if they could produce more document results about agroecology and its different dimensions, thus influencing training curriculums, extension models and references, etc.
- The scaling of agroecology will also highly depend on the capacity of the sector to mobilize funding. Besides the classic "project funding", actors should target and experiment other sources of funding such as influencing the content of the national budget to the agricultural sector, or exploring other more innovative funds such as the carbon credit market or climate finance …

Some recommendations will be proposed in that regard.

4.4 Inclusion of gender and youth

4.4.1 Concerning women

The project set an objective of a balance between women and men in the groups and having at least one third of women in leading positions in the groups. The project records 71% of women members of the groups. This is the result of the initial selection process in the group formation process. No couples were allowed in the groups, meaning that the women in groups represent the household.

Women represent also 60% of the technical lead farmers in agroecology, 40% of the agroecology champions, 49% of the post-harvest management technical lead farmers, 76% of the farmers involved in the marketing activities and 82% of the restaurants. Statistics are not available for their proportion in the leadership positions in groups. Despite that, it is very clear that they are highly involved in the project and take critical functions in spreading the techniques and offering services. Women being a majority in the groups and technical positions, they are technically empowered. This may lead to a progressive stronger position and recognition in the society, though not automatically.

In terms of effects of the adoption of agroecological practices and diversification of productions, when asked they did not seem to consider a negative impact in terms of workload, even mentioning sometimes that it could result in a reduced work in the field, which was re-invested in other activities.

This topic could be deepened, and specific assessment could be conducted to assess the changes in the workload and decision making in the household compared to the initial diagnostics. These highlighted indeed quite unequal situations in accessing capital, workload and decision making. No specific tools or meetings were conducted by the project, while methodologies exist to better help the decision making in the couple or discuss of the allocation of tasks. These required a specific attention and time, which might be a challenge to KEA teams, who are already overloaded. Some approaches could be tested, inspired by the "lead farmers approach", to raise awareness and help guiding solution-oriented facilitation processes (examples exist on that).

4.4.2 Concerning youth

The project set an objective of involving at least 30% of youth (under 35 years) in its activities. They currently represent 26% of farmers' groups members. The selection process during the farmers' groups' formation took this objective into consideration, as for women. It seems no data was available to disaggregate the proportion of youth in the governing bodies of the groups and among the lead farmers and champions trained, which would have been interesting. Nevertheless, the youth met during the groups' focus discussions showed a great dynamism on their side, which is not always the case in agriculture, which is often regarded as not attractive for this category of rural population.

The project document mentioned the following strategy statement: "The partners want to be able, at the end of the action, to measure the specific effects of supporting young people, whether they are in the phase of individual settlement or members of the family farm. The partners will then be able to establish, for the following phases, a better adapted strategy and specifically targeting the employment of young people in the agri-food sectors, whether at the level of production, processing, marketing or the provision of services."

This remains relevant, as the youth show a great potential for certain functions in addition to farming (technical lead farmers, engagement into marketing, …) for the coming phases of KEA and should be reflected on.

5 Conclusions and recommendations

5.1 Conclusion on evaluation criteria

After having discussed the results and changes happening in KEA project, we can summarize our opinion through the framework of classic evaluation questions:

Relevance:

- The KEA project is highly relevant in its objectives, results and interventions. In the design of the project, lessons were drawn from past experiences from the past project in Karatu (Kilimo Endelevu project) and included the experience of CARI in other regions of Africa (sustainable land management, collaboration with local authorities, advocacy, …).
- The four partners complement each other through their different background experiences and areas of expertise. the partners drew lessons from their past program in Karatu as well CARI's.
- The project addresses the challenges of Arusha food system transformation in a very holistic approach, combining both agroecological farming practices with land management practices. Post-harvest management and marketing is tackled through a combination of activities at both farmer level, group level and downstream marketing level in Arusha city. Relevant actors are engaged at territorial (local), district, regional and national level to mobilize all potential levers to the food system transformation. The technical and organizational solutions proposed are well adapted to the situation of the farmers of Arusha DC, to the agroecological diversity of the district, as well as to the climatic context. Though some techniques are somehow new in the Maasai cultural context (pig production for instance), the approach leaves the choice to the farmers, which are good conditions for the adoption of relevant techniques and productions.
- The project is well aligned with the political framework (especially the newly adopted NEOAS) at the national and regional/district level. It contributes to this framework in terms of results, but also contributes to its progress towards more sustainable practices through its lobbying activity.

Effectiveness:

- The KEA project has implemented most of its planned activities, though some delays were noticed, due mostly to difficult climate conditions. All partners have been very engaged into the operational process and have progressively adjusted and aligned their approaches to meet to a challenging reality (weather especially).
- The communities (farmers, local authorities, vendors, restaurants, journalists, platforms, etc.) have not only been beneficiaries of KEA project but clearly contribute to its implementation and spreading, demonstrating its relevance.
- Some delays were identified such as post-harvest management and nutrition and will most probably be addressed before the end of the project. The territorial development facilitation process reviewed its ambitions in terms of the number of villages facilitated (from 10 to 2 villages). This was due to the experimental nature of this new activity. The project should learn from it to adjust the approach to a more effective and efficient implementation.

Efficiency:

- The project resources have been used efficiently when considering the level of disbursement. 46% of the budget covers human resources, which is high, but normal for a project based on capacity building. Investments such as water reservoirs were not considered in the budget as some additional funds were mobilized for it.
- The executed budget of 784,283 € (on 30/06/24) represents a ratio of approximately 1,050 € per farmer benefiting directly (in the groups) and restaurants and buyers. This may be considered high, but if we include the school children and teachers, the ratio drops down to 610 € per beneficiary. Considering the spreading effect that seems to be happening, this will probably drop down this ratio.

- The complementarity of the four partners and the collaboration with other regional partners, for instance through the regional platforms has also allowed a lot of synergies and mutualization of costs, reducing significantly some of the foreseen costs of the project.
- This efficiency might also improve with time, through the de-multiplication effect of the spreading process. We may discuss if a higher level of investment, in addition to the strong "soft" dimension could have made the level of adoption faster.

Impact: It is far too early and challenging to measure an impact, but there are signs that some change is occurring:

- At farmers / village level: income, cash-flow, diversity of production, diet, as well as access to market, though not quantified. It could likely lead to an improved resilience to the farmers who applied the highest diversity of techniques and productions. The agroecology champions and technical lead farmers (approx. 100 households) will be the more advanced in the process of transitioning and thus the most resilient. A second layer might be around the members of the groups who adopted at least 3 techniques or productions (approx. 600) and might progressively adopt more. This should be assessed by the project. A third layer might be indirectly the farmers' neighbors or spreading groups who are currently being embarked in the transition.
- With consistent and durable support (though decreasing) and consistent market access the spreading effect may lead to a durable impact on households and the food system of Arusha DC district.
- In terms of consumption, some first effects are already taking place with a surplus of agroecological products being consumed in villages and starting to reach urban consumers, though still in limited volumes yet.
- The activities involving local and regional stakeholders, as well as consumers and policy makers are of a nature of changing behaviors and perception of agroecology, if they are continued with consistency. Some local frameworks, such as the enforcement of bylaws in villages has already started to contribute to a more sustainable land management and food system transformation.

Sustainability:

- The project approaches integrate principles that can conduct to sustainability: building capacity of farmers individually and collectively, involving local extension staff, village, ward and district authorities, connecting farmers groups to private services providers, training lead farmers and champions, etc…
- At that stage, there is no guaranty that is can will indeed work and for these new institutions and functions, a long-term accompaniment will be necessary to ensure that they reach viability (technical, organizational, economical, …). The presence of MVIWAARUSHA in the partnership can be a good opportunity to strengthen the integration of these institutions and functions within the regional network of farmers.
- Concerning the environmental sustainability, the adoption of agroecological and land restoration practices have a positive impact on the environment and on the climate, contributing to a sustainable management of soil and water resources and carbon sequestration.

These positive conclusions must be nuanced by points of attention or recommendations, which are gathered in the recommendations. These are split between "short term recommendations", which concern the coming weeks and months before the end of KEA AFD "phase 1" and of DGD program 2022-2026 and "recommendations regarding the longer-term strategy", which gather recommendations for the potential next phases of the project and recommendations beyond it.

5.2 Short term recommendations (current phase of AFD/DGD)

The following recommendations are related to KEA AFD implementation in its first phase, aiming to make good use of the last months of the project:

1. **Budget**: projections of the budget execution until end of the AFD project period should be urged to assess the possibility of relocating some funds to the most urgent needs. This may lead to the submission of a Notice of No Objection to AFD, if important budget adjustments are to be made. The following points can give some suggestions of activities to be discussed by KEA partners.

2. As emphasized earlier, access to capital is a major constraint to the adoption of new techniques or productions in agroecological practices or land restorations practices. As the "social process" of spreading is already in place (lead farmers, champions, spreading groups, …), the **provision of additional inputs, tools or animals** could help to boost the adoption and spreading process. Of course, this should not change the approach of a progressive and farmers' centered decision process.

3. **In terms of knowledge management**, some learning/capitalizing work could help in the short term to adjust and improve some methodologies and approaches so that a potential second phase of KEA would have a quicker start. More precisely:

    a. An "hybridization" or "crossbreeding" of **methodologies** would be very beneficial between the "RIPAT approach", the "MVIWAARUSHA structuring approach" and the "territorial approach", to make it a proper "KEA approach". RIPAT and MVIWAARUSHA have implemented their methodologies with success, but we feel that some processes could be optimized and adjusted so that we gain efficiency and clarify the sustainability strategy. For instance, MVIWAARUSHA could be more proactive in involving the farmers group's leaders into its networks, benefiting from the experience of other leaders' networks and be more engaged into leadership training and groups and services development. The territorial approach is also echoing some approaches MVIWATA used in the past to address village level challenges and needs. The territorial approach could be integrated to this methodological review to make it lighter and more efficient. This methodology should be reflecting also the longer term up-scaling and sustainability strategy.

    b. Some **knowledge products** could be published so that the lead farmers can use effective pedagogical tools. The partners should prioritize the most needed topics to support the lead farmers' activities. Different formats could be developed, depending on how best the lead farmers can use them: posters, leaflets, short videos (testimonies or technical pedagogic videos), podcasts, etc. The tools would have the interest of being used in future phases of KEA, but also within other networks such as MVIWAARUSHA and SHIWAKUTA members, Arusha and national platforms.

    c. **Technical-economic references** of the innovations introduced during KEA AFD phase 1 would also help to both document results achieved and produce references for further dissemination. These references could establish comparisons between "traditional" and agroecological practices, or any other innovation introduced. These references would complement the TAPE references produced.

4. **Some operational activities should be conducted before the end of the current phase of KEA**. For these, some are already planned by the partners, some may require more attention:
    a. Ensuring all training provided to the technical lead famers or spread farmers are well shared & cascaded to the groups (for instance, composting seemed in some villages not to have been shared to members yet at the time of the evaluation).

b. The work of the spreading lead farmers will have to be properly supervised and monitored, as they are new in their functions. It is highly important to monitor closely the new groups formed and their areas of interest/innovation and have this information also reported in KEA phase 1 final report. Indeed, we can assume that not all techniques and productions will be transferred and adopted to the same extent as the ones introduced by technicians with the project means. This information may inform further the design of the new phase of KEA.
c. Some further engagement with the district authorities could also showcase the land restoration practices (terracing especially) and push further the agenda for the adoption of district bylaws (which are more effective and respected than village bylaws).
d. An important effort should be maintained to ensure training and demonstrations on post-harvest management and nutrition in all 10 villages.
e. A further support to the small enterprises, including Mesula / Glen Farm shop, would help them to be more visible and increase their market share (branding, social media marketing, radio advertising, …).

5. **In terms of commercialization,** the "feasibility study" which was planned by the end of 2024 should be conducted. At that stage it seems this should be more an "opportunity study" that would assess the market opportunities and potential value-chains development interventions, thus remaining quite open compared to a "feasibility study". This study would help to better design the interventions in the second phase of KEA regarding the support to the commercialization.

6. **In terms of project management** a few areas could be improved in the short-term to help gain in efficiency:
    a. Some financial management procedures could be optimized through a discussion among partners' finance/administrative teams. The coming final audit may help also validate or advise on some adjusted or proposed changes in the procedures.
    b. Close attention should be given to the timing of all partners' technical reports to make the final reporting easier. This should also be the opportunity to draw lessons from the M&E system and propose relevant indicators to monitor in the next phases.

7. **In terms of monitoring and evaluation**, an important effort should be provided to fill the gap of quantified information and to make use of it in the decision-making process as well as establishing a baseline to AFD phase 2 and DGD phase 2:
    a. A new TAPE assessment is planned for November 2024. It should be an opportunity to analyze through its results the effects of the project and deepen the analysis provided by the present evaluation. It will be also an opportunity to discuss further the relevance of utilizing this tool in the future and under which conditions it could be useful to the partners' strategy.
    b. Some data should be completed by specific assessments to better quantify the effects and work on potential projections. For example, a precise quantification of the distributed packages (seeds, pig and goats parents' stocks, etc.) or trained techniques and their level of adoption and spreading would be very useful to analyze. Technical lead farmers, under the supervision of the field officers would be very instrumental in that.

5.3 Recommendations regarding the longer-term strategy (next phases of the project and beyond)

The following recommendations aim at supporting the reflection of KEA partners in the preparation of the potentially coming two phases of KEA AFD and DGD. The recommendations are organized in the following structure:

- Recommendations regarding the overall strategy and project management,
- Specific recommendations regarding the strategy on agroecology and sustainable land management,
- Specific recommendations regarding the strategy on marketing and awareness raising,
- Specific recommendations regarding the strategy on the enabling environment for the transformation of food systems

5.3.1 Recommendations regarding the overall strategy and project management

As highlighted in the report all 3 sub-strategies of the project are relevant and should be continued in the coming years to strengthen the processes and capacities of the food system actors.

1. Upscaling KEA to have a larger impact

KEA is a project which deliberately decided to cover a limited number of villages and use "spreading" processes to increase its impact in the rural communities. Yet no precise ambition seems to have been drawn by the partners in terms of geographical coverage or number of farmers for the future. Some strategic questions can be proposed:

- **What number of farmers should be reached directly in 3 years' time and in 6 years' time?** Taking into consideration that the partners agree to the importance of qualitative and proximity work, it most probably can be answered through projections of the current approach and spreading mechanisms in place and the experience of past projects.
- **What geographical coverage should KEA aim at?** Different choices can be made: Arumeru District? Arusha Region? The partners should embed this reflection in the coverage of MVIWAARUSHA, as a Farmer Organization (targeting its members or supporting "new groups" in new locations?), and take into consideration the role that government extension agents can play and their motivation to be more involved (beneficiaries of the trainings or actors of the spreading and monitored as such?).
- **What indirect beneficiaries would the project target?** It is evident that KEA project can effectively benefit to more farmers and organizations, through its knowledge products and methodology (for instance SHIWAKUTA members, members of regional and national platforms, …). Defining these categories and how they will benefit would help increase the impact of KEA in the coming years.

Practical propositions / options:

1.1 Consider an internal workshop in 2025 mobilizing lessons learnt and data on past projects, current evaluation, results of TAPE assessment and projections to draw different scenarios and options for decision. This workshop could involve a larger representation than the current steering committee and implementation committee, to consider views of key stakeholders (Farmers' Organizations, local government, food system actors).

1.2 Capitalize the methodology/approaches in 2025 with farmers and other food systems actors in the perspective of gaining efficiency and enhancing spreading mechanisms.

1.3 Develop or improve specific training curriculums, monitoring & mentoring processes and tools in the next phases to enhance effectiveness and recognition of (1) Lead Farmers (ToTs for MVIWAARUSHA), (2) government extension staff, (3) Market agents.

2. Strengthening services and organizations for sustainability

KEA project has implemented a broad range of technologies, built knowledge and established connections which contribute to the sustainability of the action. A stronger attention should be paid to the potential services and structures which could be strengthened and sustained in the long run. A continuous reflection on the viability of the services and organizations should start, so that it can inform future interventions. Some strategic questions can be proposed:

- **What services are and will be the most important to remain within the communities and the food system in the coming decade? How effective are they currently and how better technically should they be? How can we improve their relevance and effectiveness?**
  Some services are currently being consolidated by KEA such as extension/technical innovation, production of inputs and seeds, savings and loans, market information, quality control, retail, processing, communication and advertising, advocacy. Some might be foreseen, such as aggregation, transport, etc.
- **What are the most relevant institutions (groups, associations, private companies, local and regional extension services, etc.) are most likely to hold these functions and how to strengthen their viability (technical, organizational, economic, networking)?**
  Currently, the model of the lead farmer is promoted at local level through different services/functions (different technical leads, environmental champion, etc.). Other institutions are also capacitated such as groups of farmers, extension staff, individual enterprises, platforms, Famers' Organizations and Confederations, local authorities. The project partners as such are also Their viability is heterogenous and could be further strengthened and monitored in the future.

Practical propositions / options:

2.1 Conduct specific analysis / studies on the viability in the coming phases of the project of the lead farmers and environmental champions and develop specific capacity building, mentoring, networking and incentivizing plans. Aiming at "professionalizing" and recognizing them, as "para-professional" could help them sustain their functions within the farming community, as "agents" of a farmer organization (MVWIAARUSHA) and potentially recognized by authorities for their functions.

2.2 Enhance the scope of the farmers' groups capacity building to improve their capacity in planning, financial management, services delivery and monitoring. In that field, MVIWAARUSHA could play a larger role than currently, to mobilize the experience of its more experienced networks and associations and enhance the peer-learning process between farmer leaders.

2.3 Analyze and support the viability of some key functions of farmers' organizations, such as marketing centers, farmer managed seed systems, etc. for MVWIAARUSHA, fund raising capacity for SHIWAKUTA.

2.4 Include in the next phases of KEA indicators and targets related to sustainability and viability of services/institutions

3. Developing an innovation, knowledge and dissemination management strategy and competencies

Knowledge management is a key activity that seems to have been underestimated in phase one. For a project that aims at being demonstrative and a starting point for upscaling, developing internal capacities to generate knowledge and references is key. It is instrumental in supporting the spreading strategy and to generate evidence for lobbying activity. Some strategic questions can be proposed:

- **What are the areas where we need to constantly look for innovation (including farmer's innovation)? Where to access it? How to test it and spread it?**

Agroecological practices in their holistic understanding (production, commercialization, etc.) are by essence quite experimental and require to be very open to numerous innovations from stakeholders and also likeminded organizations. It remains important to be flexible to test and evaluate their relevance, effectiveness and scalability (like water storage and irrigation technologies for instance).

- **What knowledge needs to be shared, to whom, with which objective and through which formats?**
  Is has clearly been highlighted in the report the need for lead farmers to have user-friendly manuals/posters, but also for the project to generate references about the promoted techniques/technologies, to generate evidence for lobbying and advocacy. These should be listed and prioritized regularly.
- **Do we have the competencies, strategy and planned processes to identify innovation, to generate references and knowledge, to design/edit it and spread it?**

Practical propositions / options:

3.1 Consider developing in 2025 an "innovation and knowledge management strategy", which will identify (1) innovation tracking and testing modalities and responsibilities, and (2) the topics, audiences, potential formats, display channels, responsibilities and budgets for knowledge products

3.2 Invest in competencies and skills in the coming years in innovation and knowledge management: (1) competencies to facilitate learning processes (co-creation of knowledge), (2) skills in pedagogy and adult learning (to make accessible the knowledge in adapted formats), (3) technical and economic capacities (to produce accurate references), (4) graphic design capacities, (5) skills in ICT and communication (social media, etc.). These competencies are hard to find in one person at once but can be shared among some of the partners' staff. They can progressively grow through the combination of specific training, learning by doing, with the support of external services and self-learning.

3.3 Consider piloting "horizontal digital communities" using ICT (Information and Communication Technologies) and especially the most accessible and robust ones (social networks like WhatsApp). It could be used to improve the spreading mechanisms of the knowledge products. Several experiences have seen the use of social media being very effective in horizontal /peer learning mechanisms, even in contexts of limited level of literacy and limited penetration of smartphones. This can be applied on topics such as production innovation, but also marketing, learning, etc. Piloting such communities requires to start with small communities, before growing them and includes (1) training on smartphone/tablets, community functioning, quality content production, (2) establishing objectives and functioning rules (1 community = 1 function), (3) identifying and training administrators and moderators, (4) conducting some physical monitoring and capacity building workshops.

4. Developing a more proactive approach towards women and youth empowerment

The project has ensured a balanced access to the women and youth to its activities, which is reflected through its participation statistics. However, no activity was implemented to address their specific needs. Some strategic questions can be proposed:

- **How can we ensure to get the specific views and activities to address specific needs of women and youth?**
- **What methodologies and approaches can enhance their participation?**

Practical propositions / options:

4.1 Conduct a specific assessment and prospective study in 2025 on the status, needs and potential activities for women and youth, based on the situation of KEA communities and stakeholders.

4.2 Consider piloting some "gender" tools and approaches to include them in RIPAT / KEA approach. Some decision making tools around budgeting and work in the household can be mobilized, such as the gender action learning (GAL) approach (https://gender.cgiar.org/tools-methods-manuals/gender-action-learning-system-gals). This type of approach can be useful and transformative but should be tested and adapted so that a good balance can be found with other activities. Women in communities are quite active and could thus be mobilized if they see it useful. A "GAL lead farmer" approach could be piloted.

4.3 Consider experiments and capital support to lower the load of watering/irrigation work, which often is the responsibility of women (transport and distribution of water). Examples of simple transport systems can be seen in other countries ("broucyclette" in Madagascar for instance)

4.4 Test options of engaging young farmers, lead farmers and champions ICT. They could be engaged into social-network extension approaches (using Whatsapp groups or Facebook) to further learn and engage with other farmers in other groups. They could progressively, through training and practice, provide quality content to share results and challenges and enhance the extension and learning experience.

4.5 Consider testing specific financial support for young and women entrepreneurs to enhance their enterprises in the food sector (vendors and restaurants), in the continuity of what has been started.

5. Adapting the Monitoring and Evaluation and governance to improve the decision-making process

The limits of the M&E system have been largely discussed. An internal evaluation of both the formal M&E framework of the project logical framework and process (largely adopted and adapted from the TAPE/FAO methodology) and internal monitoring documents of all partners would be useful to review it. Some strategic questions can be proposed:

- **Do the current logical framework and its indicators help us to monitor the planned activities and changes to allow timely operational and strategic decisions? Is the compiled information through the reporting system capturing the most important information and else would there be some additional information to capture?**
  This analysis can be conducted through the comparison between the indicators monitored in the logical framework and the other internal documents used by each partner on activities and effects.
- **Is TAPE methodology serving the purpose of project M&E framework or should it rather be use to monitor long term changes and generate evidence?**
- **Is the process of collecting, reporting and aggregating data contributing to improving the decision making and learning of all stakeholders, including farmers' groups, local authorities, food system actors and project partners?**
  Each level of "data provision" (farmers, groups, etc.) is a contributor, but could also make use of the data and analysis produced, beyond the objective of reporting to the donors.
- **Is the governance structure (different levels and composition of the different committees) involving actors who can have a great influence in the project steering? What would be the best mechanisms to involve them and at which level?**

Practical propositions / options:

5.1 Conduct an internal evaluation / workshop early 2025 based on the new set of data collected through the TAPE process and the other tools used by the partners and analyze their relevance based on the highlighted questions above and on the ambitions of the coming phases in terms of scope.

5.2 Review the M&E system of the project for implementation in the next phases so that it meets the expectations of reporting, decision making and long-term change monitoring and documentation. It should also meet the need of all partners to have formalize a process that improves the level of information. The indicators chosen should allow tracking evolutions on the full length of the cumulated phases of funding for AFD and DGD. The M&E system could be structured in different "layers":

- The formal logical framework, which is needed to meet the project ambitions and reporting requirements for the donors and help the steering committee in its strategic reflection.
- An internal monitoring and evaluation framework, shared among all partners, which helps to monitor more detailed activities and changes (such as rates of adoption, spreading effect, volumes produced by groups, volumes sold by vendors, etc.) in a more comprehensive manner. This M&E could feed the logical framework updates.
- Some quantitative/qualitative specific monitoring processes, which may help monitor longer term changes, such as TAPE indicators and other technical-economic data (production costs, gross-margins, labor, etc). This could also feed the formal reporting through extracts in the narrative reports and help draw evidence.

These indicators are mentioned as examples but should be reflected through a proper in-depth discussion of KEA partners. The criteria for selecting relevant indicators should be (1) their capacity to reflect changes in the farming systems and in the food chain and their extent (2) their accessibility (indicators should be easy to monitor) and useability by farmers or groups of farmers themselves to support their own monitoring, (3) be as much as possible "permanent" (same indicators should be assessed at the end of the program and in future programs, (4) some indicators should reflect the sustainability or structuration (such as number of active lead farmers, number of VICOBA, number of members of the regional FO, etc.).

5.3 Consider adopting cloud based shared folders and files to help in data management security and timing. This type of technology is not a light change in practices, but proper training and monitoring (dates, etc.) should help to have timely information.

5.4 Consider adapting the steering committee: from a "pilot" and "learning" project, it will most probably evolve to an upscaling project. Its governance structure should reflect the envisioned outreach and categories of actors from both government side (district or regional level) and private sector (market side especially). This could be translated in the composition of the steering committee or a consultation mechanism that involves them. It should not necessarily mean that financial management of the project should be discussed in such open organs.

5.5 Consider adjusting the quarterly meetings: the quarterly meetings are very informative to monitor progress and challenges as well as discuss issues related to the implementation of activities. It is a "project organ" which functions but might become heavy when upscaling to more villages. It should evolve to more local meetings and be embedded into existing structures so that they could take place without a too heavy external support. Embedding these into MVIWAARUSHA local networks seems a relevant option to reflect on.

5.3.2 Specific recommendations - agroecology and sustainable land management

The relevance and limits of this sub-strategy has been largely discussed. The key strategic questions can be highlighted as follows:

- **How to better consider labor and production costs in the decision-making process and production of technical-economic references?**
- **How to spread agroecology and land restoration practices to all categories of farmers despite the labor or capital investment some of the innovations require?**
- **How to intensify the land restoration practices spreading?**
- **How to strengthen the functions and institutions (groups), which contribute to providing services to the farmers in the long term?**

Practical propositions / options:

6.1 Explore ways of expending or diversifying the modalities of supporting the land restorations practices to increase its spreading. The establishment of bylaws at district level seems an option that is already worked on and should be continued. Other ways of incentivizing individual and collective approaches to tree planting and terracing might be reflected on with the communities and partners (district, village, technical partners). Expanding the number of local tree nurseries (collective or private) might be an option. Discussing with local communities and leaders on how to incentivize or help the most disadvantaged families to invest/access terracing might be a way to raise ideas to test.

6.2 **Consider developing more economic and labor analysis** to raise the capacity of the farmers to make informed decisions on production and marketing. This can take place through the recording of at least the lead farmers on the adopted techniques or recording on the demonstration plots. If recording remains a challenge, the "reconstruction" of the production figures can be done in group discussions at the end of a production season and bring useful debates about positive points and areas of improvements, while guide the next season's objectives. A lot of such experiences show that farmers progressively grow their business/management literacy when regularly exposed to and debating figures. It makes more sense when farmers have some areas of specialization (ex. Poultry farmers, vegetable farmers, etc.)

6.3 **Consider adopting a dedicated function** within the project teams for the technical innovation and technical/economic references development would be of great utility (general agronomic and agro-economics skills needed). This function could be pivotal into looking for relevant techniques and innovations, testing and producing references and dissemination material for training. An experiment and training center would be too heavy and risky to invest in, but through designated persons or working processes, the objectives could be met in collaboration with other actors which contribute through their own experience or network (such as ECHO East Africa for instance).

6.4 Explore the use of ICT to pilot and expand digital communities, associating lead farmers, extension staff, project staff etc. This may increase the presence and interaction through peer learning and could be a great channel to spread extension / pedagogic material developed by the project or other partners.

5.3.3 Specific recommendations- marketing and awareness raising

The relevance and limits of this sub-strategy has been largely discussed. Some key strategic questions can be highlighted as follows:

- **How to grow the production of agroecological products by farmers to improve the economies of scale for the sourcing?**
- **How to improve the visibility and availability of agroecological as a specific market segment?**

Practical propositions / options:

7.1 Continue efforts and investments in better understanding the market and consider exploring different marketing channels. The opportunity study proposed at a short-term will most probably identify different channels and opportunities to meet. The project will have to remain flexible to be able to accompany very different strategies and initiatives that may arise from farmers' groups or buyers, as well as diversify market segments. The volumes marketed currently seem limited by the relatively limited number of farmers producing surplus, but this amount will most probably grow with the number of groups progressively growing and surplus generated. The support to the downstream actors should continue so that buyers, markets and restaurants can grow their demand for quality products

7.2 Consider collaborations with or services from organizations having more experience in marketing and sustainable value-chains, as the project partners seem to have a still limited experience in that field.

7.3 **Intentionally monitor and assess the "Kilimo Hai" PGS standards** to confirm or adapt the standards to the local context (farmers' constraints, targeted market segments, …). This standard might be adapted to certain farmers who have been engaged in organic farming for a long time but might be more challenging for the ones who are transitioning, thus affecting the growth of the volumes sold under this standard. Some other Farmer's Organizations decide to go for slightly more flexible "agroecological" standards, that can be reviewed progressively, while still building trust in the consumers and farmers communities.

7.4 **Explore ways of recognizing and supporting local production specificalities** (such as "Carrots" recognized to be of good quality when from Oldonyowas) in order to allow more volumes from the same area and develop specific services (seeds, inputs, storage, etc.). This should not contradict the principles of diversification of productions on the farm, but come on top of that, as a more collective level.

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5.3.4 Specific recommendations - enabling environment for the transformation of food systems

The relevance and limits of this sub-strategy has been largely discussed. Some key strategic questions can be highlighted as follows:

- **How to improve the efficiency of the approaches regarding the territorial dimension and engagement with local/district government in order to upscale it?**
- **How to optimize the use of platforms to enhance the learning and engage more local and regional government?**
- **How to be more effective in generating evidence and decision making in policies and institutions towards the transformation of food systems?**

Practical propositions / options:

7.5 **Consider "cross-breeding" the territorial approach** with RIPAT and land restoration / MVIWAARUSHA methodologies. This could be done through the review of the processes of territorial approach, villages diagnostics and the partners approaches, through specific workshops with the project team, the consultation of villages and district authorities, to co-design a hybrid approach.

7.6 **Explore ways of improving knowledge management and dissemination** of the two platforms of Arusha actors. This could be done through establishing plans for knowledge production and sharing processes (dedicated web page or cloud-based storage for instance). A further engagement of government staff could be looked for, through dedicated trainings and strategic meetings.

7.7 **Consider advocating for some key topics** of lobbying for SHIWAKUTA, KEA partners and NEOAS stakeholders such as:

- **Training of national extension staff into approaches** such as "RIPAT/KEA". The project in a coming phase could contribute to generating evidence and methodology which could target national extension staff.
- **Exploring, piloting or lobbying for the access to new sources of funding** for agroecology and food systems transition, in addition to mobilizing the more "classic" donors: national budget, international instruments such as the Adaptation fund, Green climate fund or others (see additions following this box).
- KEA could have the ambition of demonstrating **how a food transition towards more resilience is possible at a regional level**.

7.8 **Continue the support to the development of SHIWAKUTA.** As the only national farmers' confederation of national level in Tanzania, seems to have the potential of becoming the "farmer body" of what seems to be a growing agroecological "movement". Some activities and knowledge developed under KEA could be disseminated to its member organizations, but it seems that its support and development will require much more funding and support to really strengthen its "feet". Some exchange could be organized with similar confederations, such as Fifata or SOA network to learn how they have grown, what services they deliver to their members and what economic models they have developed to sustain their activities.

Examples of funds which could be explored, though they are complex :

- Adaptation fund or the Green Climate Fund are complex to access but well aligned with the objectives of the food system transformation[15]. These instruments cannot be accessed for very local projects, but being "country driven", can help mobilize more resources in Tanzania to support its transition. The fact that an ecosystem of actors is already active on the agroecological or organic transition and that coordination mechanisms are under construction under the NEOAS, could help channel some potential resources to address national needs (research, education, etc.).
- The Carbon Credit market is also targeting land restoration and agroecological practices. It is complex and fluctuates in prices, but feasibility studies or expertise would worth being explored.
- To support land restoration and the implementation of climate adaptation at district and village level, the UNCDF LoCAL (Local Climate Adaptive Living) facility can be a financial option to be further assessed in Arusha region.

In that last field of exploration and lobbying, some assistance could be looked for through closer collaboration with organizations such as the Biovision Foundation, the GIZ and the Agroecology Coalition (https://agroecology-coalition.org/investments-working-group/).

[15] The access to these instruments can be facilitated with the support of the Secretariat of the Commonwealth, which Tanzania is a member of. The Secretariat can help governments, in consultation with UN agencies and the civil society, to design relevant proposal to those funds.

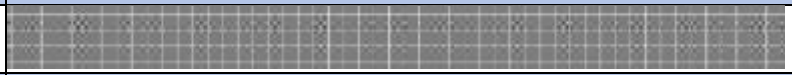
6 Appendices

6.1 Appendix 1 - Detailed list of activities AFD vs DGD

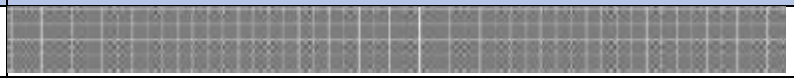
The following tab highlights the distribution of activities among the two projects and their implementing organizations:

	AFD	DGD	Comments
R1	**Family Farms have initiated the transformation of their production systems towards more performance and sustainability**	**Farmers and other SSE actors are engaged in a transition towards agroecological production methods and sustainable management of the environment**	
A111	**Production of shared knowledge on the state of land and forest cover, agricultural practices and local agroecological knowledge, and on the organization of stakeholders**	**Production of shared knowledge on the state of land and forest cover, agricultural practices and local agroecological knowledge, and on the organization of stakeholders**	
A1111	Training of the team in charge of the diagnosis on the methodology and tools (2 days' training)	Training of the team in charge of the diagnosis on the methodology and tools (2 days' training)	CARI/RECODA
A1112	Meeting with District Authorities to present the process, the approach and the timetabl	Meeting with District Authorities to present the process, the approach and the timetable	RECODA
A1113	Conduct of the survey / diagnosis	Conduct of the survey / diagnosis	RECODA
A1114	Printing of the report for each village	Printing of the report for each village	RECODA
A1115	Elaboration and printing of the maps (District allowances)	Elaboration and printing of the maps (District allowances)	RECODA
A1116	Presentation of the results (village and district)	Presentation of the results (village and district)	RECODA
A112		**Community information and mobilization (agroecology, the program and farmers' groups)**	
A1121		Community Mobilization	RECODA
A1122		Support groups formation	RECODA
A1123		Training of the farmers' groups on leadership, record keeping, etc…	RECODA
A113	**Support for the restoration of degraded land and forest cover, and the preservation of natural resources**	**Support for the restoration of degraded land and forest cover, and the preservation of natural resources**	
A1121	Identification and selection of areas to be restored	Identification and selection of areas to be restored	CARI / MVIWAARUSHA

A1122	Consultation meeting with the village natural resources committee & the village counci	Consultation meeting with the village natural resources committee & village council	MVIWAARUSHA
A1123	Purchase the inputs (trees, tools, equipment……)	Purchase the inputs (trees, tools, equipment……)	MVIWAARUSHA
A1124	Establishment of tree nurseries and training of communities on tree nurseries management (2 tree nurseries per village)	Establishment of tree nurseries and training of communities on tree nurseries management (2 tree nurseries per village)	MVIWAARUSHA
A1125	Training of communities, farmers, village council, etc on land restoration / conservatior techniques	Training of communities, farmers, village council, etc on land restoration / conservation techniques	MVIWAARUSHA
A1126	Training of natural resources committees and village council on land restoration, conservation and protection	Training of natural resources committees and village council on land restoration, conservation and protection	MVIWAARUSHA
A114	**Support for the development of agroecological practices by relying on leade farmers and individual support**	**Support for the development of agroecological practices by relying on leader farmers and individual support**	
A1141	Training of partners' staff on agroecological practices	Training of partners' staff on agroecological practices	IDP
A1142	Intensive capacity building process to lead farmers (3 farmers per group - 6 per village 10 villages)	Training lead (technical and spreading) farmers and extension officers including exchange visits	RECODA
A1143	Purchase of inputs (seeds, seedlings, small livestock)	Diversification of crops + Promotion of livestock in the farming system	RECODA
A1144	Quarterly coordination meeting with group members leaders	Quarterly coordination meeting with group members leaders	RECODA
A1145	Revitalization of farmers managed seed systems and Establishment of community seed banks	Revitalization of farmers managed seed systems and Establishment of community seed banks	IDP
A1146	Participatory Guarantee Systems	Participatory Guarantee Systems	IDP
A1147		Quality Declared Seeds	RECODA
A1149		Pest and Disease Management	RECODA
A1150		Training lead spreading farmers and extension officers on RIPAT (including facilitation for spreading activities)	RECODA
A115	**Consolidation of the knowledge and skills of farmers, producer organizations and local associations in agroecology and sustainable land management through the sharing of experiences**	**Consolidation of the knowledge and skills of farmers, producer organizations and local associations in agroecology and sustainable land management through the sharing of experiences**	
A1141	Organization of farmer field day (for the benefit of the whole village) - 3 event per village	Organization of farmer field day (for the benefit of the whole village) - 3 event per village	RECODA

A1142	Development / Adaptation and printing of training manuals on agroecological techniques and SLM	Development / Adaptation and printing of training manuals on agroecological techniques and SLM	RECODA
A1143	Preparation and diffusion of radio programs on agroecology and SLM	Preparation and diffusion of radio programs on agroecology and SLM	RECODA
R2	**The EAFs have improved and secured their integration into the agri-food sectors throughout the year**	**Farmers and other SSE actors supported by the program have set up and or consolidated fair and sustainable collection, storage, processing and marketing systems**	
A121	**Production of shared knowledge on post-harvest management and product marketing in the intervention area**	**Production of shared knowledge on post-harvest management and product marketing in the intervention area**	
A1211	Feasibility study - Development of service activities for farmers and small-businesses		MVIWAARUSHA
A122	**Support for improving individual post-harvest management at household level in the intervention area**	**Support for improving individual post-harvest management at household level in the intervention area**	
A1221	Purchase of equipment for demonstration / trials (Airtight bags, plastic drums, cereals for storage) - 3 demonstrations per group	Purchase of equipment for demonstration / trials (Airtight bags, plastic drums, cereals for storage) - 3 demonstrations per group	RECODA
A1222	Training of lead farmers & District Extension Officers on PHM (3 trainings of 2 days)		RECODA
A123	**Support for improving the marketing of agricultural products at the local level**	**Support for improving the marketing of agricultural products at the local level**	
A1231	Training of village marketing committee	Training of village marketing committee	MVIWAARUSHA
A1232	Facilitate participatory market research	Facilitate participatory market research	MVIWAARUSHA
A1233	Support establishment and functioning of farmers markets	Support establishment and functioning of farmers markets	MVIWAARUSHA
A1234	Linkage to markets in Arusha (like MESULA)	Linkage to markets in Arusha (like MESULA)	MVIWAARUSHA
A1235		Support establishment of selling points (Kiosks)	MVIWAARUSHA
A124	**Consolidation of the knowledge and skills of farmers, producer organization and local associations in post-harvest management and marketing - Capitalization and popularization of pilot experiences**	**Consolidation of the knowledge and skills of farmers, producer organizations and local associations in post-harvest management and marketing - Capitalization and popularization of pilot experiences**	
A1241	Preparation and production of training manuals on post-harvest management - 5 different topics	Preparation and production of training manuals on post-harvest management - 5 different topics	RECODA
A1242	Organization of farmer field day focused on storage (open bag ceremony)	Organization of farmer field day focused on storage (open bag ceremony)	RECODA

A1243	Preparation and diffusion of radio programs on PHM and marketing	Preparation and diffusion of radio programs on PHM and marketing	RECODA
R3	**A structured and active dynamic of multi-stakeholder dialogue on healthy food, sustainable environment and organized territory is established**	**At the local level, public actors and actors representing peasants and other SSE actors have established inclusive territorial development dynamics supporting the co- construction of sustainable food systems an sustainable management of the environment**	
A211	**Animation of local consultation and the development of a territorial vision o Agroecology and SLM at the level of the intervention villages**	**Animation of local consultation and the development of a territorial visio of Agroecology and SLM at the level of the intervention villages**	
A2111	Develop a clear approach to conduct the process (internal activity) - Workshop	Develop a clear approach to conduct the process (internal activity) - Workshop	MVIWAARUSHA / CARI
A2112	Train the team on the approach (2 days training)	Train the team on the approach (2 days training)	MVIWAARUSHA / CARI
A2113	Organize XXXX meetings with communities to conduct the process	Organize XXXX meetings with communities to conduct the process	MVIWAARUSHA
A2114	Develop communication / visibility tools (Poster, booklet, …)	Develop communication / visibility tools (Poster, booklet, …)	MVIWAARUSHA
A2115		Information, sensitization, and training of local authorities on territorial developmer approach	MVIWAARUSHA
A212	**Support for local district authorities in their role as pilot of the territory, in particular to promote EA and SLM**	**Support for local district authorities in their role as pilot of the territory, i particular to promote EA and SLM**	
A2121	Conduct of the study (will be done internally)		MVIWAARUSHA / CARI
A2122		Organize a meeting with District Authorities to present the territorial approach	MVIWAARUSHA
A2123	Facilitate dialogue with District Authorities around Sustainable Food Systems and support the development of a vision	Facilitate dialogue with District Authorities around Sustainable Food Systems and support the development of a vision	MVIWAARUSHA
A2124	Preparation, design and printing of document "What is my territory"	Preparation, design and printing of document "What is my territory"	MVIWAARUSHA
A213	**Contribution to the exchange platform and animation of dialogue around territorialized food systems**	**Contribution to the exchange platform and animation of dialogue around territorialized food systems**	
A2131	Organization of sessions/trainings/conference on agro ecology and SLM (2 sessions pe year - 6 in total)	Organization of sessions/trainings/conference on agro ecology and SLM (2 sessions per year - 6 in total)	IDP

A2132	Facilitate the organization of meetings for the platform	Facilitate the organization of meetings for the platform	IDP
A2133	Support MVIWAARUSHA to strengthen Local and District Networks' administration	Support MVIWATA-Arusha to strengthen Local and District Networks' administration	MVIWAARUSHA
A2134	Support the structuration of the national network (SHIWAKUTA)	Support the structuration of the national network (SHIWAKUTA)	MVIWAARUSHA
R4	**Citizens and organized civil society are mobilizing in favor of agroecology an healthy eating.**	**The citizens of the North and South affected by the program are sensitized, committed and mobilized for the development of Sustainable Food Systems and a global and united citizenship (R5 - DGD)**	
A221	**Actions to raise awareness of agroecology and healthy eating for citizens in urban and rural areas through various tools including radios and demonstration workshops**	**Actions to raise awareness of agroecology and healthy eating for citizens in urban and rural areas through various tools including radios and demonstration workshops**	
A2211	Cooking demonstration	Cooking demonstration	RECODA
A2212	Training of local restaurateurs on sustainable food systems and healthy and nutritious meal preparation (Differents meetings and training sessions with the restaurateurs)	Training of local restaurateurs on sustainable food systems and healthy and nutritious meal preparation (Differents meetings and training sessions with the restaurateurs)	MVIWAARUSHA
A2213	Training / support for journalists / influencers on sustainable food systems / agroecology / sustainable land management (3 sessions - 1 day per session + Field visits in intervention villages)	Training / support for journalists / influencers on sustainable food systems / agroecology / sustainable land management (3 sessions - 1 day per session + Field visits in intervention villages)	MVIWAARUSHA
A2214	Organization of campaigns - general public radios on sustainable food systems	Organization of campaigns - general public radios on sustainable food systems	MVIWAARUSHA
A2215	Organization of different types of events to raise awareness of the general public	Organization of different types of events to raise awareness of the general public	MVIWAARUSHA
A222	**Carrying out a comprehensive analysis of the political and legislative contex of agriculture, environment and land management in Tanzania**		
A2221	Service of a consultant		MVIWAARUSHA / CARI / IDP
A223	**Support for the development and implementation of the advocacy strategy for networks of farmer organizations on agroecology and SLM.**		
A2231	Training on advocacy techniques and tools (3 days' training)		MVIWAARUSHA / CARI

A2232	Development of an advocacy strategy	Development of an advocacy strategy	MVIWAARUSHA / CARI
A2233	Production and publication of policy brief, popularization document		MVIWAARUSH
R5		**National and international public policies guaranteeing the rights of peasants and other SSE actors have been promulgated and implemented (R4 - DGD)**	
A511		**Advocacy on Agro ecology**	
		Prepare policy brief on sustainable Food Systems / Agroecology	TOAM
		Printing and dissemination of the policy brief	TOAM
		Preparation of message / documentary for TV / Radio and participation	TOAM
		Dissemination of messages via radio	TOAM
A512		**Advocacy on FMSS**	
		Support to TABIO to implement a series of activities	IDP
		Organization of Seed and Food Fair	MVIWAARUSH
R6		**Women participate more at different levels of environmental managemer and SSF**	
			RECODA
			MVIWAARUSHA

6.2 Appendix 2: Program and map of the mission in Tanzania

Evaluation mission - Kilimo Endelevu Arusha - Tanzania				
Consultants :		Augustin Douillet (head of mission), Efraim Malissa (national consultant)		
		Content - location		
Date	**Day**	**Morning**	**Afternoon**	**Content to be seen Persons to meet**
12/09/2024	Thursday		Augustin Douillet - arrival KIA 19:25 - Flight KQ 761	
13/09/2024	Friday	9:00 am : Kick-off meeting with : Introduction of the mission, Updates from partners on the implementation status, Adjustments of the planning, appointments and logistics	Briefing meeting consultants	Projects teams from IDP/MMWAARUSHA/RECODA
14/09/2024	Saturday	Oldonyowas village field trip (full day)		PGS; 1. PMU / Nutrition lead farmer, Narrayani, 2. Vegetable production
15/09/2024	Sunday			
16/09/2024	Monday	RECODA bilateral meeting - project team		
17/09/2024	Tuesday	Ekenyawa village field trip (full day)	Mwiwaeke network (member of Mwiwaarusha)	Banana production, vegetable, goats and piglets - Dennis, Rose, Emanuel & Ephraim; Afya group demo plot
18/09/2024	Wednesday	Agriculture extension staff Arusha DC	Mesula Market Kilombero Market vendors 2 restaurants	
19/09/2024	Thursday	Oldonyosapuk village field trip	TAHA	Kilimosasa - Pig production and individual plot, biopesticides, Isack Vegetable production and PMU (Sion), Evarist - Amkeni group
20/09/2024	Friday	Echo & Farm Radio International Arusha Sustainable Food Platform (ASAP)	MMWAARUSHA Bilateral team meeting	
21/09/2024	Saturday	Marurani village field trip (full day)		Future group : spread lead farmer, Water reservoir, pig production - stela Umoja group : Emmanuel Maron vegetable, banana, fruit trees, pig and chicken and Upendo Moussa - OFSP, vegetable and cassava
22/09/2024	Sunday	Debriefing and preparation of the workshop (consultants)		
23/09/2024	Monday	Orkokola village field trip	IDP bilateral project team meeting	Post harvest and chicken production, agroecology charmpions (Jeremi Lota , Zakayo and Daniel sabaya)
24/09/2024	Tuesday	Bmawani village field trip	SHIWAKUTA meeting Ludovic Joly call	Amani group demo plot; Athumani Hamisi, Elia Ruben, Amina Rajabu
25/09/2024	Wednesday	Losikito village field trip	Preparation of workshop	Territorial approach
26/09/2024	Thursday	Workshop - Feedback and Q/A - Partnership evaluation - Discussion on recommandations - Discussion on planning ahead	Debriefing with CARI/IDP Debriefing of the consultants	Projects teams from IDP/MMWAARUSHA/RECODA and CARI (Manon)
27/09/2024	Friday	Departure Augustin Douillet KIA Airport 10:05		

Map of the villages visited during the evaluation

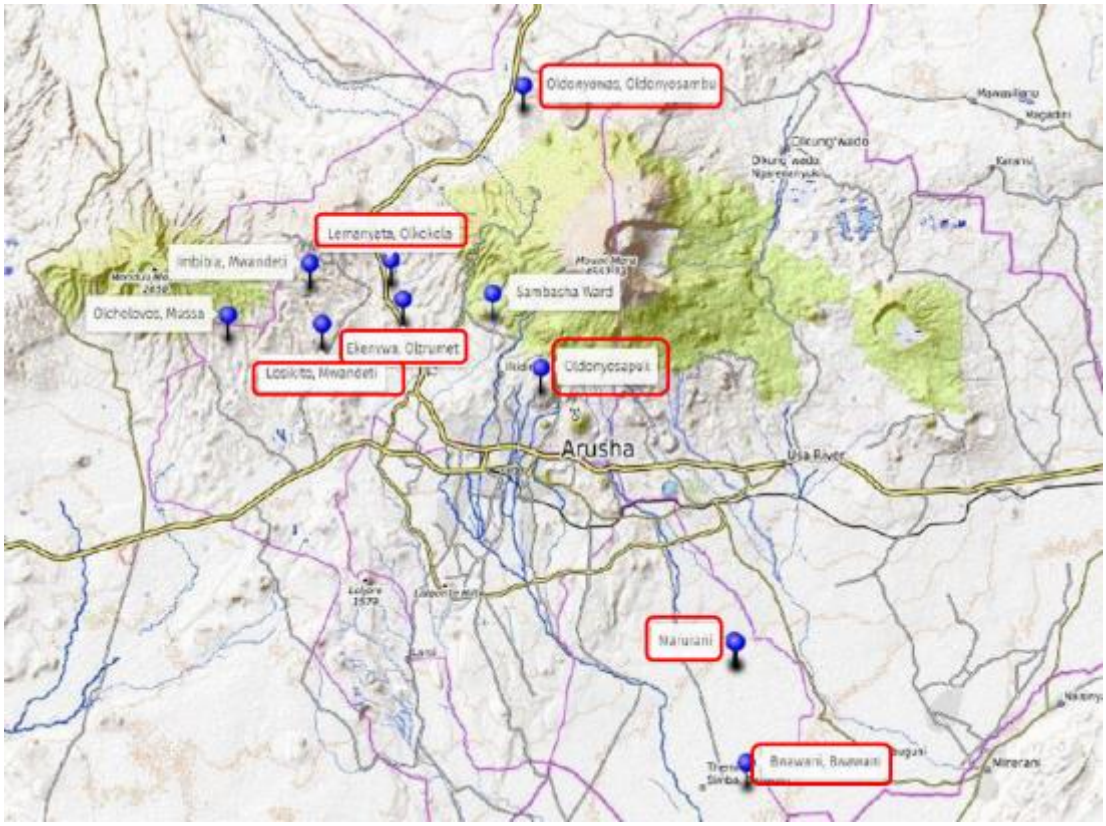


Figure 11 Seven villages visited during the evaluation mission

6.3 Appendix 3: List of persons/institutions met

Kilimo Endelevu Arusha - Evaluation
Macro-actors and partners

Organization / project	Name Surname	Function
CARI	Adeline DERKIMBA	Operations director
CARI	Manon ALBAGNAC	Project manager
CARI	Julie NINO	Admin and finance manager
Iles de Paix (Belgium)	Stéphanie LALOUX	Project manager (Bénin, Tanzanie)
Iles de Paix (ex-Tanzania)	Ludovic JOLY	Ex-country director Tanzania
Iles de Paix (Tanzania)	Ayesega BUBERWA	Country director Tanzania
Iles de Paix (Tanzania)	Linda TEMBA	Project manager
Iles de Paix (Tanzania)	Emmanuel KASEMBE	Project officer
AgroEcology Hub in Tanzania (AEHT) - Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA)	Jean-Luc PAUL	Expert / Expertise France
AFD - DPO-OSC	Mathilde BEAUDET	Project manager
Tanzania Organic Agriculture Movement (TOAM)	Bakari BONGO (and his team)	CEO
Sustainable Agriculture Tanzania (SAT)	Franck KIMARIO	Master Trainer
Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM)		
MVIWAARUSHA	Richard MASANDIKA	Director
MVIWAARUSHA	Damian SULUMO	Programs officer
MVIWAARUSHA	Juma Mchinja	Project officer
MVIWAARUSHA	Thomas Laiser (advocacy)	Project officer (land restoration, local consultation)
MVIWAARUSHA	Jimmy Mongi	Project officer (marketing, restaurants)
MVIWAARUSHA	Eliud Akyoo	Project officer
RECODA	Joséphine Ng'ang'a	Director
RECODA	Sylvestre Masanja	Project manager
RECODA	Monica Morrison	Project officer & nutrition
RECODA	Caleb Massam	Project officer
RECODA	Musa Chamwilambo	Project officer
Just Dig It	Mary SENGELELA	Land restauration manager
Farm Radio Interational (Arusha)	Susuma Susuma	Program Coordinator
ECHO East Africa	Erwin Kinsey	Country director
SHIWAKUTA	Thomas Leiser	Lobbying and advocacy officer
SHIWAKUTA	Farmer	Board member
SHIWAKUTA	Richard MASANDIKA	Interim director
SHIWAKUTA	Member	MVIWAKI
Tanzania Horticultural Association (TAHA)	Zacharia Kepusa	Marketing
Tanzania Horticultural Association (TAHA)	Simon May	Market and standards
FFD	Tiina Huvio	Director
Arusha Sustainable Food Systems Platform		
Arusha Collaborators' Forum for Agroecology (ACAF)		

6.4 Appendix 4: National Ecological Organic Agriculture Strategy (2023-2030)

The NEOAS was adopted in September 2023. It provides a framework for further recognition, research and support to organic farming and agroecology. It is considered by its contributors as a compromise between organic movements, under the umbrella of TOAM, and agroecology movements. The foreword captured here after highlights the role the Ministry of Agriculture sees for it:

"Ecological Organic Agriculture has emerged as a cross cutting, multifunctional tool advancing food security, farm incomes, soil restoration, climate resilience, biodiversity and participation in a growing global market for organic foods. As a result, the FAO, World Food Security Committee, IPCC, UN Food Systems Summit and many development partners are increasingly promoting and investing in agro-ecological farming and food production. Tanzania is embracing transformative approaches to agriculture which entail, among others, traditional ecological knowledge with modern scientific knowledge to create more sustainable and resilient food systems. In addition, it recognizes the important contribution of ecological actors and donors already engaged in successful upscalingof ecological organic farming and developing new practices and markets for our farmers. The National Ecological Organic Agriculture Strategy (NEOAS) is designed to accelerate impacts from ongoing initiatives for sustainability, income generation and food security by providing a framework for government and private sector initiatives and supporting new actions and partnerships in line with Tanzania"s priorities for agricultural transformation. The government is determined to fulfill the objectives of this strategy in collaboration with key actors in the value chain such as farmers, researchers, Development Partners, NGOs and donor agencies. With NEOAS, we have created a strong platform for collaborations and seeking partners who will support implementation of priority initiatives. The commitment of the government, strategic partnerships and available potential for agroecology will make Tanzania shine as a model for green growth surfaced by sustainable and resilient agri-food systems."

Its strategic objectives, to be reached by 2023, are as follows:

1. Enhance capacity of institutions for research, training and extension systems in developing and disseminating appropriate EOA technologies and practices
2. Promote availability and accessibility of EOA inputs and appropriate farm machineries (tools, equipment and implements)
3. Strengthen Information and Communication Technology (ICT) system to access and disseminate appropriate EOA information.
4. Strengthening networking, capacity in EOA sub-sector organizations and institutional coordination framework
5. Ensure compliance of standards and certification of EOA products at affordable cost
6. Facilitate development of EOA value chains
7. Strengthen environmental conservation using Ecosystem-based Adaptation and Nature-based Solution.
8. Mainstream cross-cutting issues in EOA sub-sector

9. Facilitate acquisition and accessibility of financial resources for EOA investment.
10. Facilitate development and use of irrigation infrastructure in EOA production systems
11. Enhance availability, accessibility and utilization of land for EOA
12. Increase the business and trade volumes of EOA products in the national, regional and international markets.

The following illustration summarizes its main areas of progress.

For more details on the strategy: https://www.fao.org/agroecology/database/detail/en/c/1680645/