Input reduction refers to using agroecological practices to reduce or eliminate dependency on purchased inputs by carefully planning and managing rich and diverse ecosystems that create synergies between different components of the agricultural system.

This creates more efficient farms that use free natural resources such as solar radiation, atmospheric carbon, nitrogen, biological processes, and that recycle biomass, nutrients and water, which increases the autonomy of the farmer and increases resilience to natural or economic shocks.
PURCHASED INPUTS:

- Nitrogen Fertilizer

CAN BE REPLACED BY A SET OF AGROECOLOGICAL PRACTICES SUCH AS:

- **Manure**  
  Grazing animals through arable land, or importing their manure from one part of the farm (or a neighbouring farm) to the other

- **Compost**  
  Using plant and food waste to fertilise the soil

- **Silvopasture**  
  Grazing animals through productive (e.g. fruit or nut) trees in order to fertilise the soil

- **Direct drilling**  
  Sowing crops directly into the previous season’s crop stubble in order to engage in no-till practices and benefit from the nutrients found within the stubble
### Crop rotations
Rotating different varieties of crops on the same parcel of land in order to control weed growth and manage pests without chemicals.

### Intercropping
Growing different varieties of plants in the same plot, at the same time, in order for crops to benefit from one another by repelling pests, attracting beneficial insects and managing weeds.

### Pasture
Using grassland for feed to increase animal welfare, environmental benefits, biodiversity and economic stability.

### On farm feed production
Growing any livestock feed requirements within the farm.

### Agroforestry
Using branches, nuts, fruits and leaves from trees to supplement other feed requirements.

### Waste products
Using by-products from local industries that would otherwise go to waste for feed (e.g. spent grain from breweries fed to pigs).
Patented Seeds

Saving seeds
Instead of farming with seeds owned by corporations that need to be repurchased each season, saving seeds from the previous cycle in order to create autonomy and use seeds that are adapted to local conditions.

Seed banks
Utilising community-led seed saving which increases biodiversity, the regional adaptation of crops, and diverse and culturally appropriate diets.

Machinery and equipment

Communally owned machinery
Buying and creating equipment within community-led programs.

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