

Agroecology Europe's comments on the Roadmap on the Conversion of the FADN to a Farm Sustainability Data Network (FSDN)

Agroecology Europe, 2 July 2021

Agroecology Europe welcomes the Commission's initiative to set up a multidimensional, harmonized FSDN (Farm Sustainability Data Network) data collection system across the EU.

The establishment of a transparent, operational and coherent data collection system seems to us to be a prerequisite to accompany the transition of European agri-food systems towards more sustainability and social equity since it will allow a higher quality monitoring, impact assessment, research and policy analysis.

This is the reason why Agroecology Europe has developed a multidimensional evaluation system at farm and territorial levels, called OASIS (Original Agroecological Survey and Indicator System). The set of indicators chosen to evaluate the farming systems is classified in five dimensions: (i) production practices, (ii) economic viability, (iii) socio-political aspects (iv) environment and biodiversity impacts (v) climate and economic resilience. These five dimensions are divided into 15 themes:

1. ADOPTION OF AGROECOLOGICAL TECHNIQUES

- 1. CROPS**
- 2. ANIMALS AND GRASSLANDS**
- 3. NATURAL RESOURCES AND AGROFORESTRY**

2. ECONOMIC DIMENSION

- 4. PRODUCTION COSTS**
- 5. IMPORTANCE OF INCOME**
- 6. IMPORTANCE OF INCOME**

3. SOCIO-POLITICAL DIMENSION

- 7. WORKING CONDITIONS AND WORKERS' RIGHTS**
- 8. COOPERATION AND NETWORKS**
- 9. CULTURE AND LOCAL KNOWLEDGE**
- 10. QUALITY OF LIFE**
- 11. SUSTAINABILITY OF FARMS**

4. IMPACT OF AGRICULTURE ON CLIMATE AND BIODIVERSITY

- 12. IMPACT ON CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT**
- 13. IMPACT ON BIODIVERSITY**

5. RESILIENCE

- 14. CLIMATE RESILIENCE**
- 15. ECONOMIC RESILIENCE**

The dimensions are complementary, interconnected and are all at the same level of importance. They allow for a holistic understanding of the impacts of agri-food systems on natural resources, biodiversity and climate but also on socio-economical aspects. They highlight the multiple functions fulfilled by agriculture beyond the simple production of food. It is for this reason that we suggest that the FSDN system should be complemented by indicators that integrate the social and environmental dimensions on the basis of the OASIS framework.

Themes are divided in criteria that are the main output of the framework. A criterion is assessed by one or several indicators. There is a total of 57 criteria that are evaluated in a farm.

All the data necessary for evaluation are extracted from the interview of a trained evaluator with the farmer(s) and the farm workers. Depending on the size and complexity of the farm, the interviews can last from 1.5 hours to 3 hours.

The following 11 radar figures are generated from the scores of the criteria in an Excel table (figure 1):

1. Adoption of agroecological techniques
2. Production costs
3. Economic dimension
4. Working conditions and workers' rights
5. Cooperation, culture and local knowledge
6. Farmers' quality of life and farm sustainability
7. Impact on the environment and biodiversity
8. Climate resilience
9. Economic resilience
10. Self-sufficiency of farms
11. Level of agroecological transition of the farm (total score)

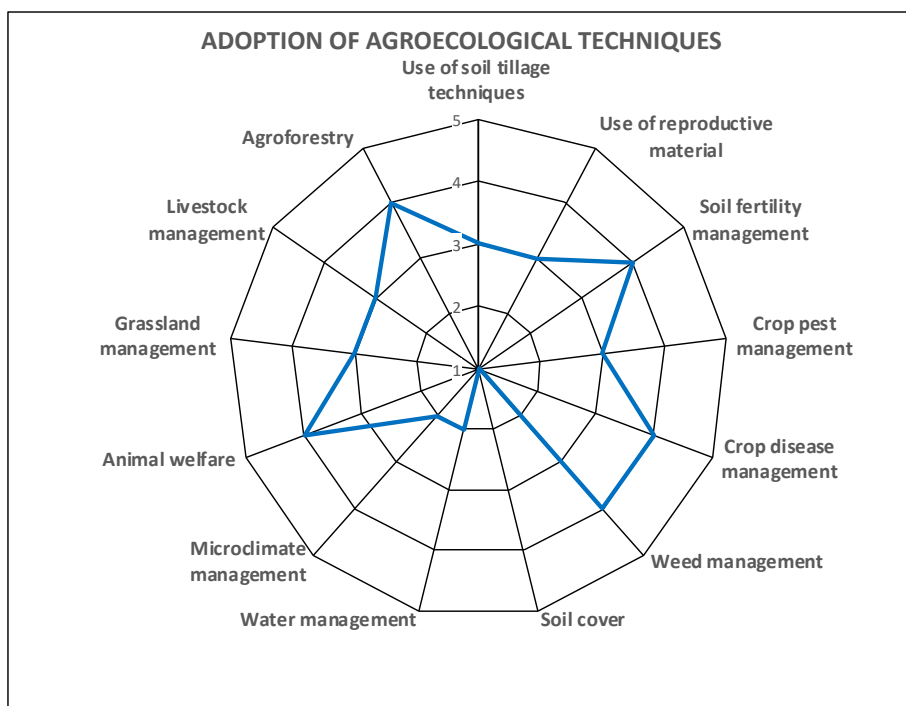


Figure 1: Example of a radar figure on the theme of adoption of agroecological techniques (farm data).

The FSDN is essential to adopt the shift to a performance-based CAP and to meet the objectives formulated in the Green Deal with the related 'Farm to Fork' and 'Biodiversity' strategies.

A more detailed brochure on the OASIS assessment system is currently being developed and will be published in September 2021. The OASIS framework could be a source of inspiration for the Farm Sustainability Data Network (FSDN).

We are available for any request from the Commission and offer our expertise in this process of Conversion to a Farm Sustainability Data Network.

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