

THE SOCIOECONOMIC PERFORMANCE OF AGROECOLOGY

What does science tell us?

METHODOLOGY

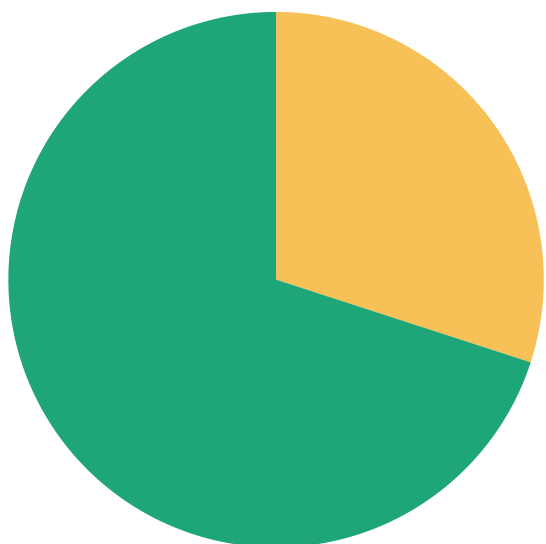


- Screening more than **13,000 publications** (between 2000 and 2022) to retrieve evidence on the socio-economic outcomes of the implementation of agroecological practices
- **80 publications** (79 peer-reviewed articles, 1 report)
- Vast majority of studies from Global South: 43% Asia, 41% Africa, 13% Central or South America, 3% Global North (2 in Europe, 1 in USA)
- Actual **on-farm implementations** (64%) and 36% on-farm intervention studies conducted together with farmers

KEY FIGURES

■ Less good than conventional

■ Better or equal than conventional

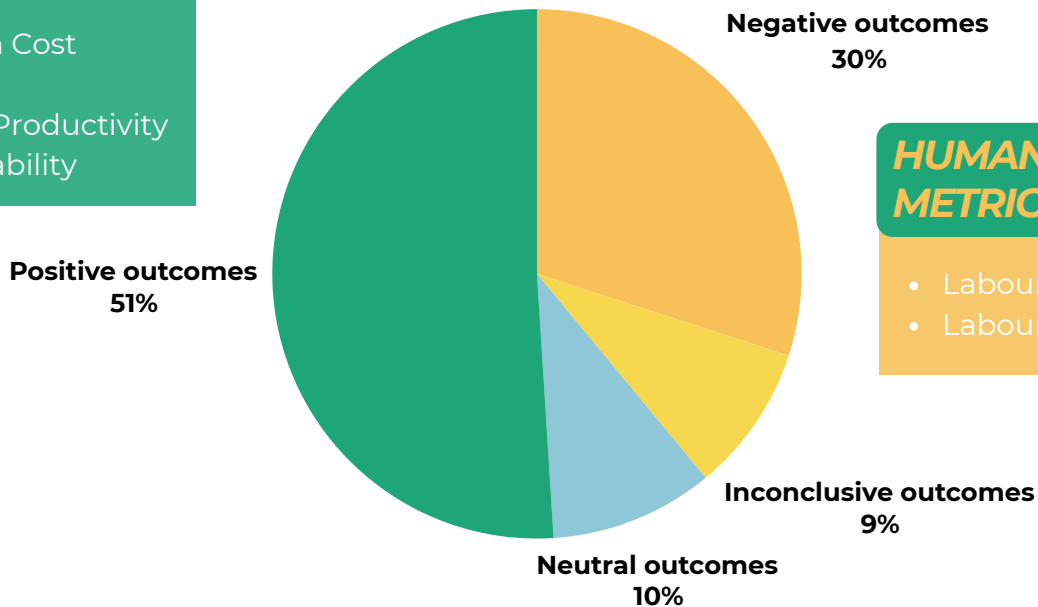


In general, the prevailing trend indicates that **socio-economic outcomes associated with agroecology surpass or match those of conventional practices** by 70%, while 30% exhibit a lower performance compared to conventional farming.

FINANCIAL, HUMAN AND SOCIAL CAPITAL METRICS

FINANCIAL CAPITAL METRICS

- Income
- Production Cost
- Revenue
- Efficiency/Productivity
- Income Stability



HUMAN CAPITAL METRICS

- Labour requirements
- Labour costs



Overall trends are positive, but there can be strong variation depending on the parameters analysed

- Socioeconomic metrics primarily linked to **financial capital** make up the majority (83%) of the total analysed metrics. Among these, **53% exhibit positive trends of agroecology, including improvements in income, revenues, productivity, and efficiency.**
- **Human capital** metrics account for 16% of the total analysed metrics, with a higher occurrence of negative outcomes (46%) compared to positive ones (38%).
- The negative trends in human capital metrics often stem from **increased labour requirements** and associated labour costs.
- However, there is a **higher prevalence of positive outcomes in labor productivity** (55%), partially offsetting the negative trends.

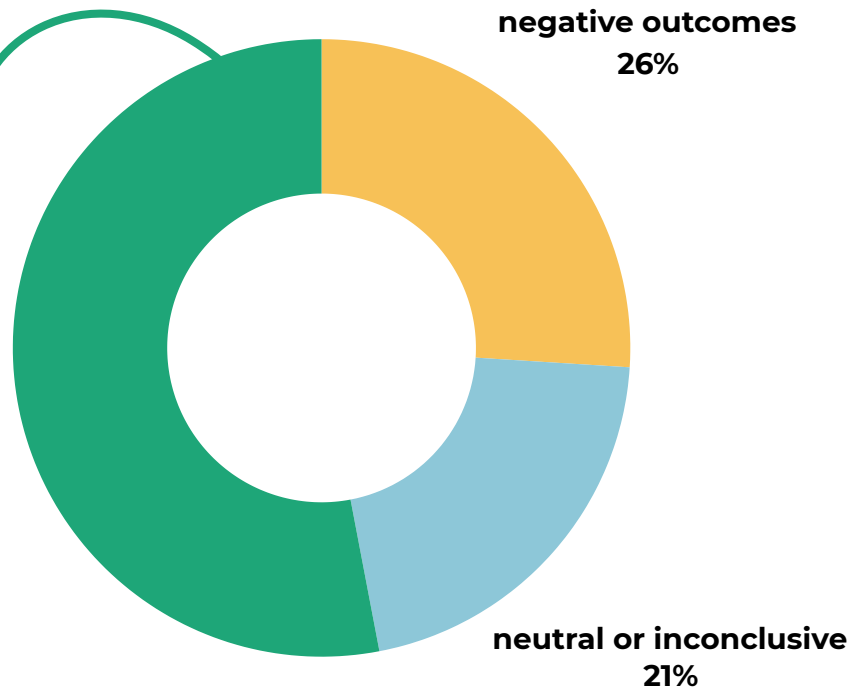
AGROFORESTRY

54 out of 125 cases (43%)

224 metrics analysed



positive outcomes
53%



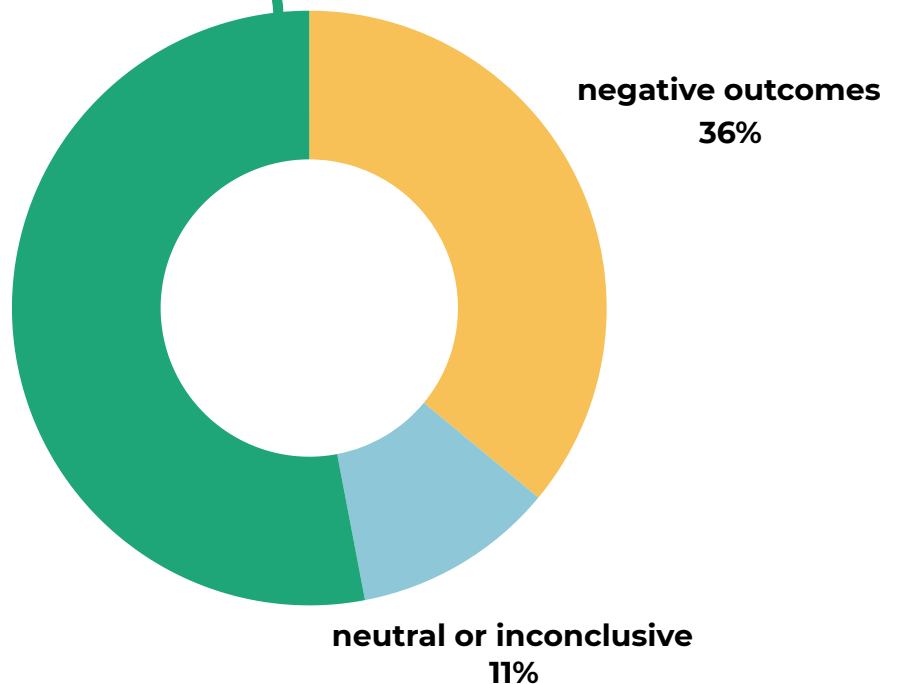
INTERCROPPING

23 out of 125 cases (18%)

126 metrics analysed



positive outcomes
53%



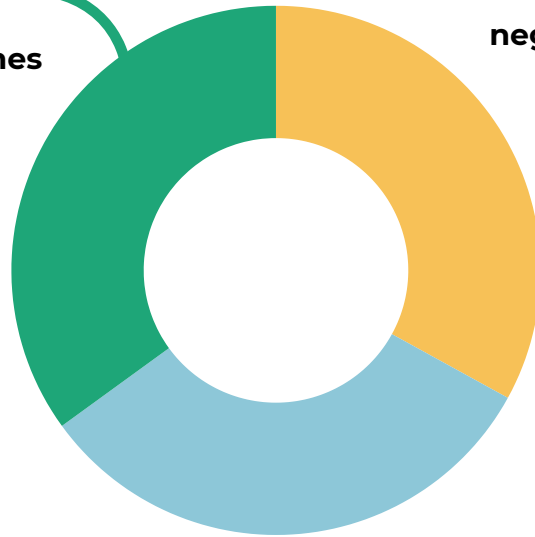
CROP DIVERSIFICATION

13 out of 125 cases (10%)

52 metrics analysed



positive outcomes
35%



negative outcomes
33%

neutral or inconclusive
32%

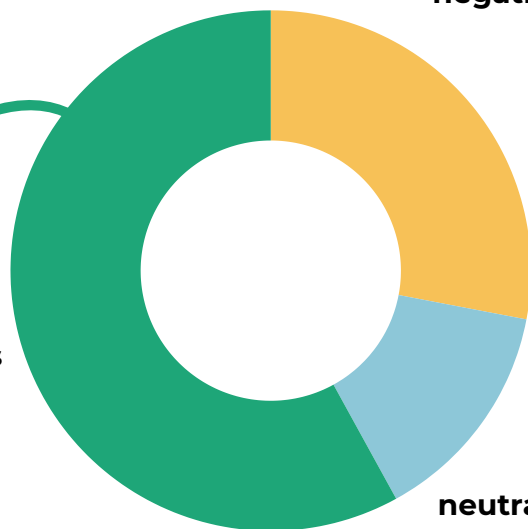
TILLAGE MANAGEMENT

9 out of 125 cases (7%)

60 metrics analysed



positive outcomes
58%



negative outcomes
28%

neutral or inconclusive
14%

CONCLUSIONS:

- The examples are predominantly from the **Global South** and focused on specific agroecological practices.
- Overall trends show a **positive performance of agroecology on socioeconomic indicators**, though variation exists depending on the analysed parameters.
- **Positive outcomes** are notably higher for parameters such as income, revenue, and efficiency or productivity, underlining the crucial importance of these parameters.
- **Negative outcomes** are more prevalent for parameters related to labour costs and labour requirements.

SOURCE:

- Mouratiadou, I., Wezel, A., Kamilia, K., Marchetti A., Paracchini M.L. & Bàrberi P. (2024) The socio-economic performance of agroecology. A review. Agron. Sustain. Dev. 44, 19 [Link here](#)

TO GO FURTHER:

- D'Annolfo R, Gemmill-Herren B, Graeub B, Garibaldi LA (2017) A review of social and economic performance of agroecology. Int J Agric Sustain 15:632–644 [Link here](#)
- van der Ploeg, J. D., Barjolle, D., Bruil, J., Brunori, G., Costa Madureira, L. M., Dessein, J., Drăg, Z., Fink-Kessler, A., Gasselin, P., Gonzalez de Molina, M., Gorchach, K., Jürgens, K., Kinsella, J., Kirwan, J., Knickel, K., Lucas, V., Marsden, T., Maye, D., Migliorini, P., Milone P., Noe E., Nowak P., Parrott N., Peeters, A., Rossi A., Schermer M., Ventura F., Visser M., Wezel, A.(2019) The economic potential of agroecology: empirical evidence from Europe. J Rural Stud 71:46–61. [Link here](#)



More information
www.agroecology-europe.org

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