Working Document

Work Package 2

Report on the WP2 Burkina and Senegal workshop on the HOLPA tool

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The CGIAR Initiative Transformational Agroecology across Food, Land, and Water Systems develops and scales agroecological innovations with small-scale farmers and other food system actors in seven low- and middle-income countries. It is one of 32 initiatives of CGIAR, a global research partnership for a food-secure future, dedicated to transforming food, land, and water systems in a climate crisis.
www.cgiar.org/initiative/31-transformational-agroecology-across-food-land-and-water-systems/

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1 Introduction

On Wednesday April 26, 2023, a workshop on the Holistic Localized Performance Assessment (HOLPA) tool was held in the Saydil M. K. TOURE meeting room at the Centre International de Recherche-Développement sur l'Elevage en zone Subhumide (CIRDES), via videoconference. The workshop brought together researchers from the following institutions: CIRAD, CIRDES, INERA, IRSAT, ICRAF and ISRA (the list of participants is appended to these minutes).

This workshop was part of the initiative entitled "Transformational Agroecology through Food, Land and Water Systems", or more simply "Agroecology Initiative", which was launched in 2022 and led by the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR). The Initiative aims to help transform food systems and make them more equitable, sustainable and resilient. As a reminder, the HOLPA tool is designed to help determine which types of agricultural practices and approaches lead to sustainable outcomes, at different scales and in different contexts, along the entire food chain.

The workshop agenda included a presentation of the tool by Agroecology Initiative WP2 staff and discussions on the indicators.

This report summarizes the work carried out during the workshop.

2 Workshop agenda

The workshop took place in plenary sessions, with a presentation of the tool followed by discussions on the indicators, at the end of which recommendations were formulated.

2.1 Introducing the HOLPA tool

The purpose of the presentation was to:

- Understand the HOLPA tool and how it will be used to answer questions about the impact of agroecology.
- Examine the processes involved in implementing the HOLPA tool in agroecological Living Landscapes (ALLs).
- Identify the next steps in implementing the HOLPA tool.

Implementing the HOLPA tool will have the impact of generating evidence on agroecological approaches to provide sustainable, resilient and inclusive livelihoods and food systems in all contexts.

The questionnaire used to collect the data includes not only the general section, but also the section specific to agroecology. The general section covers the following points: general information, respondent characteristics, farm household characteristics, political context and motivation for transition. The specific agroecology section of the questionnaire covers the following points: (i) recycling, (ii) input reduction, (iii) soil health, (iv) animal health, (v) biodiversity, (vi) synergy, (vii) economic diversification, (viii) knowledge co-creation, (ix) social values and diets, (x) equity, (xi) connectivity, (xii) governance of land and natural resources, and (xiii) participation.

The HOLPA tool focuses on a set of 19 simple, robust and holistic indicators to be assessed on all project sites. It is estimated that data collection could take around 1.5 hours per household + 0.5 hours of fieldwork.

The implementation of the study must consider the following aspects:

- Farm sampling strategy:
    - Households with and without agroecological practices
    - How many farms to target and how to approach households (random or selected)?
- When and how best to carry out the local indicator selection process
    - Who can lead it, who can support it
    - How many workshops to organize and who to invite
- HOLPA tool training
    - In-person training probably in June, WP2 country focal point and another staff member
    - Virtual training on the local indicator selection process in May
- Resource requirements
    - Translation and adaptation of the HOLPA tool to the local context (units, cultures, practices, etc.).
    - Investigators, equipment, vehicles, etc.
    - Analytical support?

The table below gives an overview of the timetable for implementing the HOLPA tool in the various ALLs.

Activities	May	June	July	Aug	Seven	Oct	Nov	Dec
Scanning the HOLPA questionnaire into Kobo Collect (English version)								
Testing the local indicator selection process in at least one ALL								
Training on local indicator selection process for all teams (virtual)								
HOLPA data collection training (face-to-face, in Kenya or India?)								
HOLPA localization by ALL teams (translation, coding of local indicators, correct units, practices, etc.)								
Implementing HOLPA in ALLs								
Data analysis								

2.2 Discussion of indicators

Discussions focused on the 19 KPIs currently defined for all ALLs. Among these indicators, 5 belong to the Agriculture dimension, 4 relate to the Economic dimension, and the Environmental and Social dimensions each comprise 5 KPIs. In addition to these KPIs, local priority indicators can be assessed at each site. These indicators must be chosen in conjunction with local stakeholders.

Table 1: Details of key performance indicators

Dimensions	Indicators	Methods	Comments and/or questions	Feasibility	Observation
Agriculture	Plant health	Crop diseases, losses and disease prevention practices reported by growers (+ transect)	Measuring losses due to plant diseases. When will the transect be carried out? Is it possible to observe diseases on a farm in a single phase? Or do we rely on the grower's memory? We rely on the producer's memory and supplement it with observations.	Yes	-
	Animal health and welfare	Animal illnesses and deaths reported by producers and welfare practices	It's easier to know whether the animals have been sick or not, but almost impossible to know the type of disease.	Yes	-
	Fertilizer use/ Nutrient balance	Quantity applied per hectare	Ask specific questions to estimate nutrient balances. At plot or farm level?	Yes	-
	Use of energy	Energy source and end use declared by producer	Energy sources used and how they are used.	Yes	-
	Soil health	Soil organic carbon from soil samples (+ transect/SOCLA)	At what depth will the samples be taken?	Yes	-
Economical	Climate resilience	Adapted from FAO RIMA	Adaptability, access to basic services.	Yes	-
	Crop, animal and fish productivity	Per unit area or head	12-month assessment	Yes	-
	Labor productivity	Hours declared by the producer per year, separating adults/children, employees/non-employees	How is work measured?	Yes	Work is measured by crop operation.
	Income	Income bracket declared by the producer, income in relation to expenses	Is it: annual income? household income? producer income? or income from main crops?	Yes	It will be necessary to clarify the various issues raised

Environmental	Diversity of crop, animal and fish species	Farmer's declaration, supplemented by a farm transect	Diversity of crops and animals The caller can easily list the species of crops and animals on the farm, Diversity calculation	Yes	-
	Tree diversity (+ pollinator survey, optional)	Transect on the farm (+ observations)	Number of trees on plots. Inventory existing insects on the plots.	Yes	-
	Natural vegetation on the plot	Producer's declaration, completed by a farm transect	Measure natural and semi-natural vegetation cover. Ask producers for information and consult with researchers at a later date	Yes	-
	Water use and water stress	Irrigation use, sources and dependence, water shortages, rainwater harvesting	Irrigation use (quantity of water supplied), sources (dams, reservoirs, etc.) and dependencies.	Yes	-
	Climate mitigation	Qualitative assessment of the mitigation potential of agricultural practices	Qualitative assessment of the mitigation potential of agricultural practices. Identify potential mitigation practices	To be defined	We're waiting for the details in the final document before opining on feasibility. To clarify whether we are being qualitative or quantitative.
Social	Adaptability	State of support networks, access to credit, indebtedness	Strategies for attracting financing. Does the producer receive any funding or subsidies?	Yes	Draw the interviewer's attention to debts. Ask the right questions to avoid expecting the producer to help pay his debts.
	Land security	Producer-declared ownership and use, and risk of loss of ownership or use	Is he a landowner? Does he have usufruct rights over the plot(s) on which he produces?	Yes	-
	Food quality	Questionnaire adapted to the Global Food Quality Project	The quality of everything he ate in the 24 hours prior to data collection. The question should be put to the wife or, failing that, to the head of the household.	Yes	To be adapted to each context.

	Agricultural agencies	Scale of power and freedom	Decision-making power in relation to farm management Also assess whether the woman has decision-making power.	Yes	-
	General index of human well-being	OCED well-being index	OECD grid	Yes	-

2.3 Recommendations

The following recommendations were made during the workshop:

- Define the temporal scale of measurement (choose a reference period) for certain indicators, most of which are evaluated over 12 months. Consideration must also be given to the spatial scale (plot, farm, household, territory, etc.).
- Test the questionnaire on 3-5 farms to get a rough idea of how long data collection will take in the field.
- If possible, add quantitative aspects to certain indicators, including the climate mitigation indicator.
- Create thematic groups to examine each indicator in greater depth.
- Evaluate the need for transects for some of the measurements if the information is available from growers.

3 Conclusion

The results show that the indicators to be evaluated can be adapted to the context of Burkina Faso and Senegal. This will require a full-scale test to assess the full scope of the questionnaire, and to determine which questions should be raised by the alliance, so that the study can be adapted accordingly. Local testing of the tool in each country will also help determine the approximate duration of data collection per operation.