

The Agroecology Assessment Framework

A teal-colored arrow pointing to the right, with the text "Investments in agriculture" written inside it in white.

Investments in agriculture



Investments in agriculture

Investments in agroecology

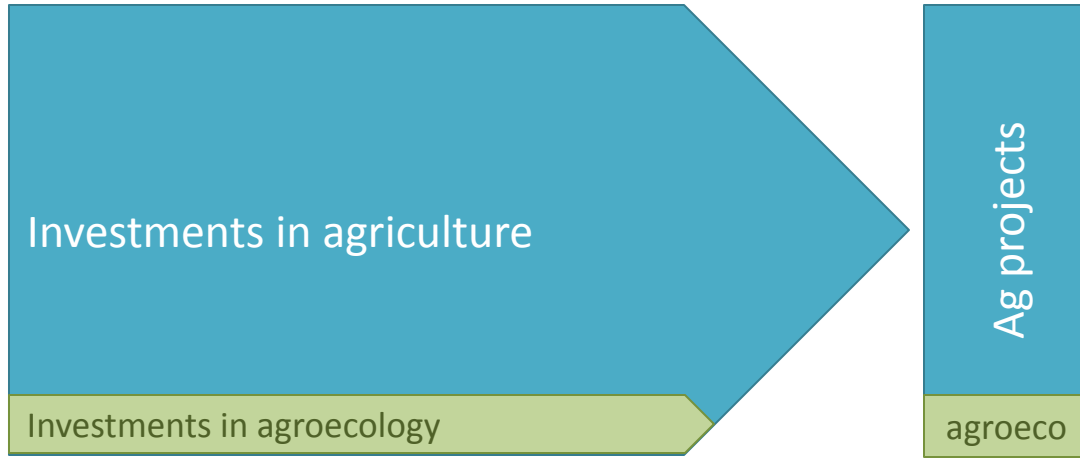
Investments in agriculture

The diagram consists of two main components. On the left, there is a large blue arrow pointing to the right, with a smaller green arrow pointing to the right at its base. On the right, there is a vertical blue bar with a smaller green bar at its base. The text 'Investments in agriculture' is inside the blue arrow, and 'Investments in agroecology' is inside the green arrow. The text 'Ag projects' is written vertically inside the blue bar, and 'agroeco' is written horizontally inside the green bar.

Investments in agroecology

Ag projects

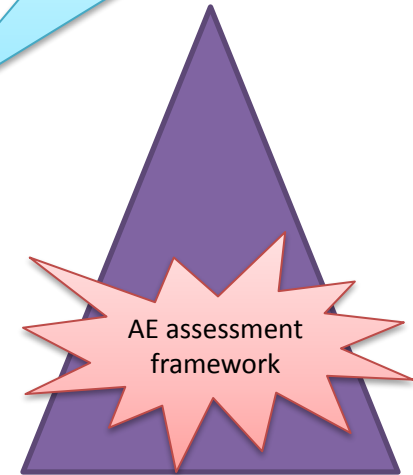
agroeco



How agroecological
(if at all) is this
project?

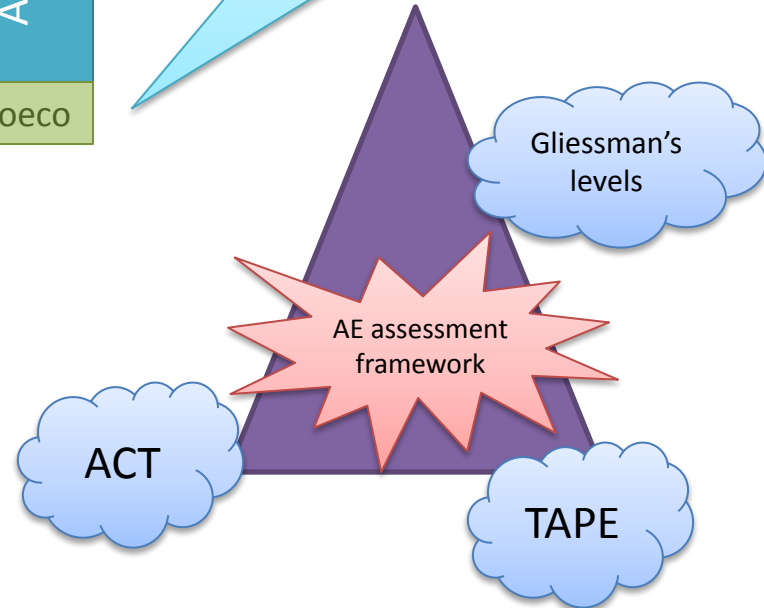


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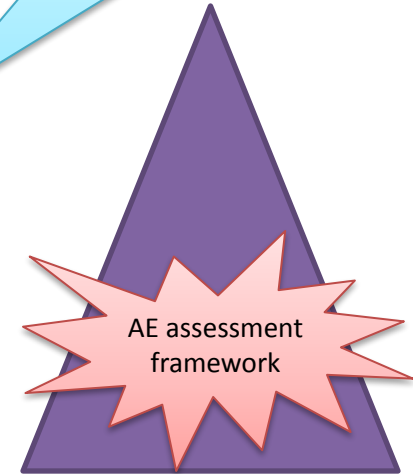


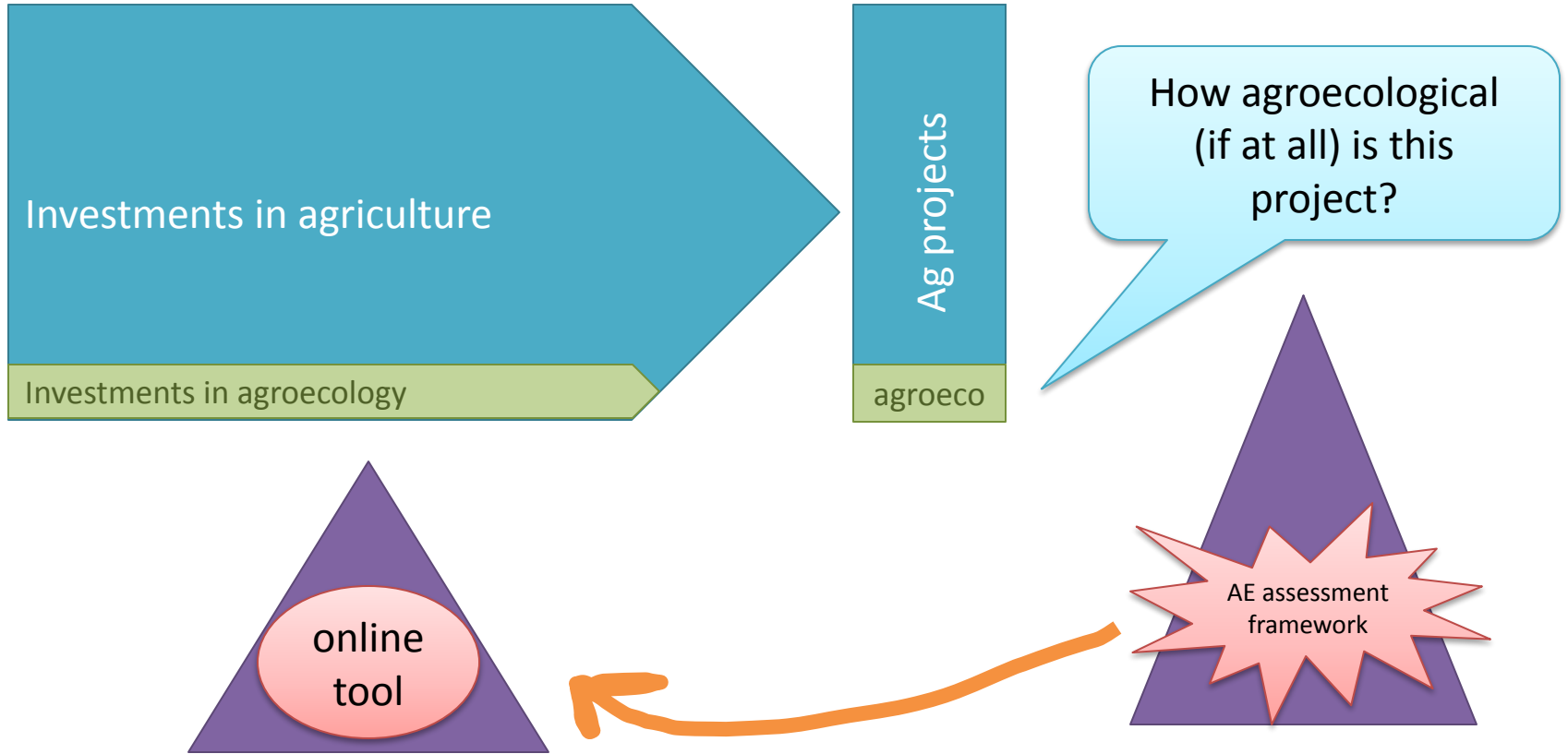
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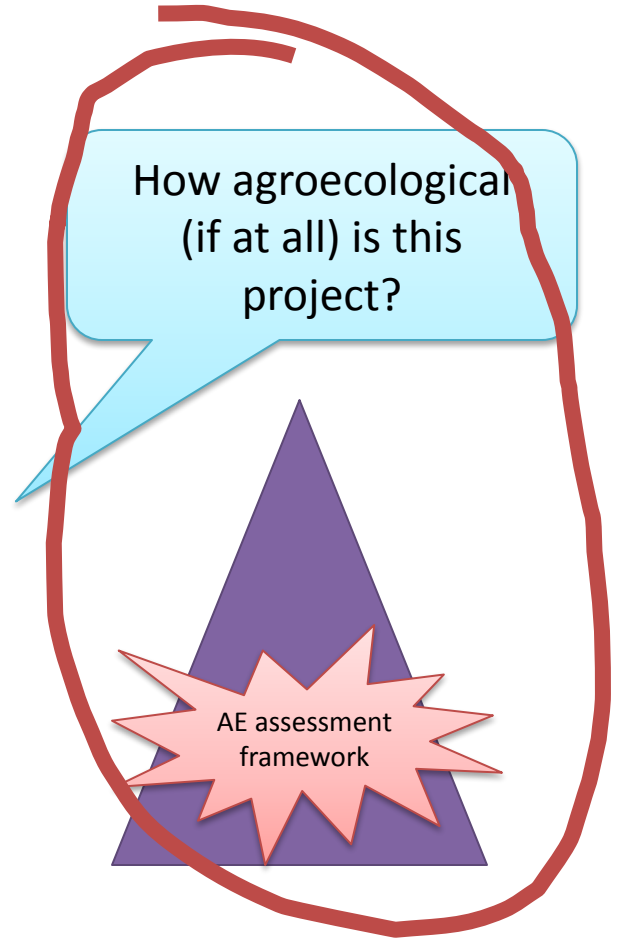
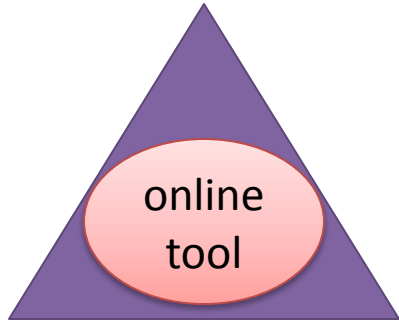


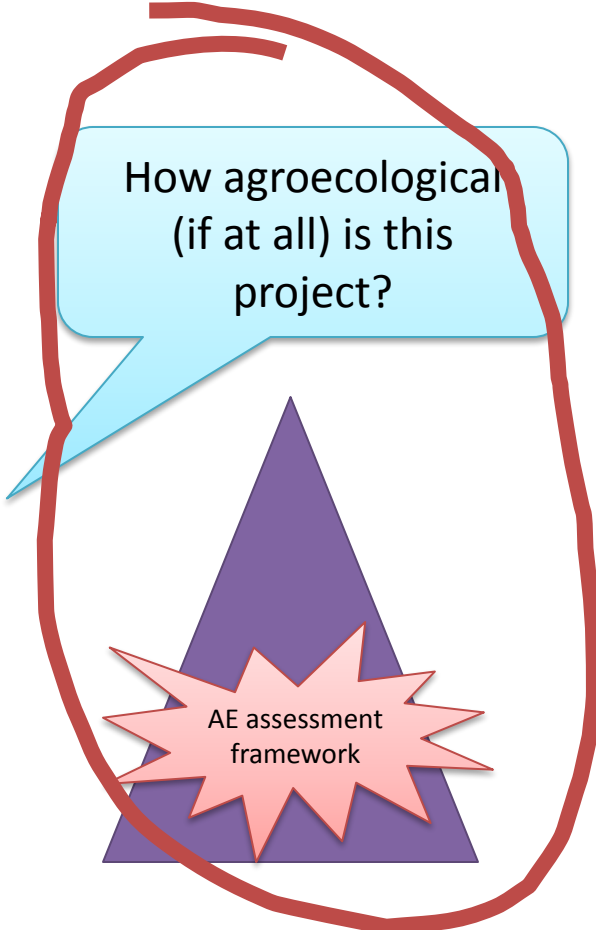


How agroecological
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How agroecological
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AE assessment
framework

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Evaluate projects

Design projects

Develop
initiatives

Design calls for
proposals

Spark reflections

Strengthen
existing initiatives

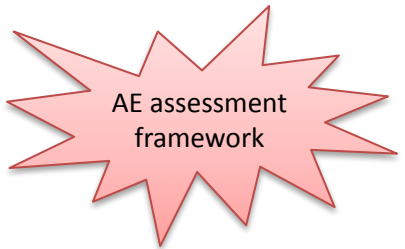
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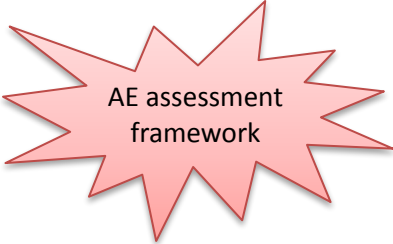
What is
agroecology?

How agroecological
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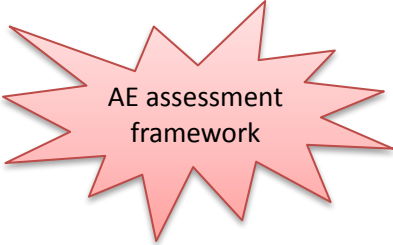
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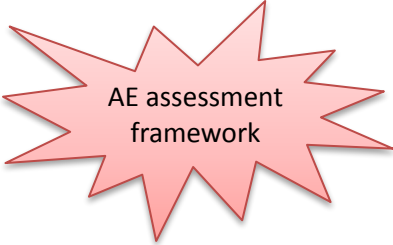


AE assessment
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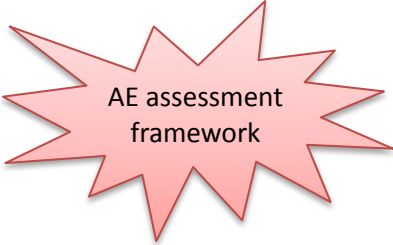
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- Based on the 13 principles of agroecology (that were consolidated by the HLPE in 2019) – thereby covering all dimensions of agroecology: environmental, social, economic, political



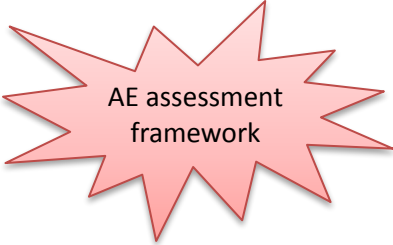
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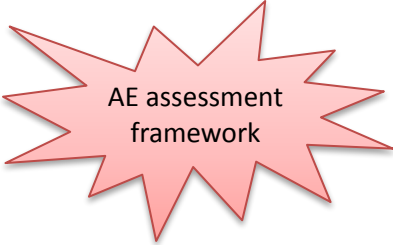
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- Introduces concept of “always applicable principles” – thereby ensuring that social justice dimension of agroecology cannot be ignored

Red Flags of the Agroecology Assessment Framework

GMOs	Project introduces GMOs and associated genome-editing technologies
Synthetics	Project focuses on the promotion of synthetic fertilizers and pesticides
Monoculture	Project focuses exclusively on promoting extensive single cash crop production at the expense of diversified strategies
Productivity	Project focuses exclusively on productivity resulting in avoidable destruction of vital ecosystems and their functions and services
Seed Systems	Project actively promotes regulations and/or actions that hamper and/or destroy local and farmer-managed seed systems
Factory Farming	Project focuses on large-scale intensification of animal production
Women & marginalised groups	Project excludes or actively discriminates against women and other marginalised groups
Processed food	Project focuses exclusively on promoting highly processed, industrially produced foods (with low nutrient value)
Extractivism	Project promotes extractive raw material production that depletes local resources over time
Human Rights	Project promotes approaches that violate rights, including customary rights, ignores prior informed consent or results in population displacement and/or land grabbing

Principle	AE Score	Spectrum of values	Tags / Criteria / Indicators / Examples for high score
Soil health	2	Deliberately and actively preserves and enhances soil health through explicit design for improving soil biological activity and structure and preserving soil erosion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor/assess soil health and biological activity to evaluate practices • Holistic approach using multiple practices to deliberately enhance soil health incl carbon sequestration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • e.g. vermicomposting, permaculture, natural farming, integrated diversified farming, organic agriculture • mulching, organic matter addition, cover crops • minimum tillage • deliberate fallow periods • animal integration for manure • land use management & prevention of soil erosion (terracing, zai pits,...)
	1	PARTIALLY	
	0	Does not focus on soil health and may use practices undermining soil health	
	n/a	Project does not address agricultural production system	

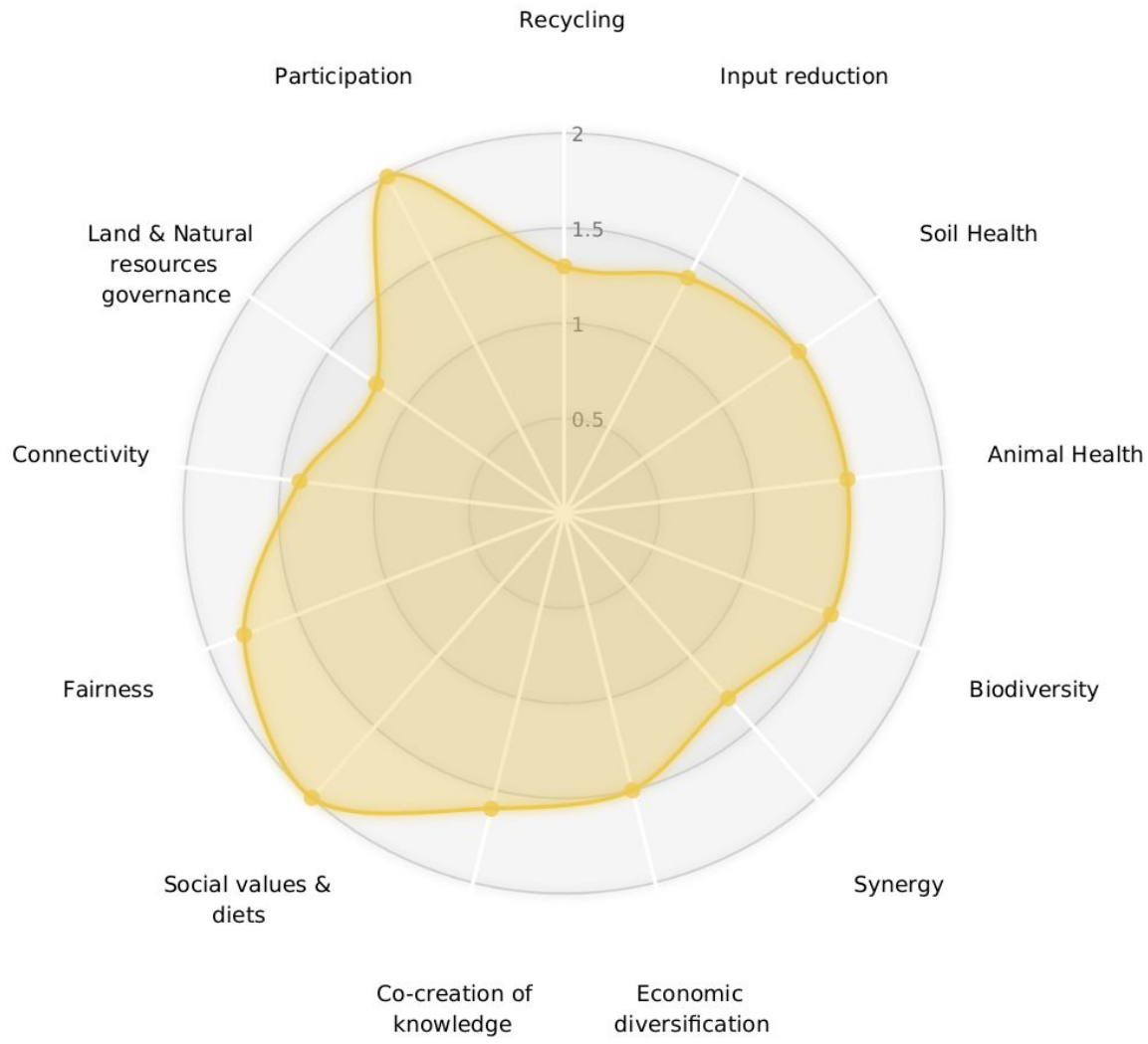
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	1	PARTIALLY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • social mechanisms to reduce vulnerability • Producers and consumers organisations • Dignified livelihoods especially for smallholders
	0	Neutral to or disregarding labour conditions as well as injustices in trade and legal arrangements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection of traditional knowledge and promotion of fair intellectual property rights, e.g. Open Source Seeds
	X	THIS PRINCIPLE IS ALWAYS APPLICABLE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equitable and collective ownership models

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Calculation of overall “agroecology score” (important for calculation finance flows/budgets!)

We use the following formula to calculate the overall “agroecology score”, which is also the percentage of the project budget which can be considered to be in support of agroecology:

$$\frac{\text{[sum of the individual ratings multiplied by 100]}}{\text{divided by}} \frac{\text{[number of applicable principles multiplied by 2]}}$$

This means that we firstly add up the ratings of each individual principle – for example:

$$1.3 + 1.5 + 1.5 + 1.5 + 2 + 1.4 + 2 + 1.4 + 1.5 + 1.3 + 1.6 + 1.8 + 1.2 = 20$$

We then multiply this by 100:

$$20 \times 100 = 2000$$

Following that, we take the number of applicable principles (which in this case is 13 as all principles were applicable to this project) and multiply this by 2:

$$13 \times 2 = 26$$

We then divide our first figure by our second figure:

$$2000 : 26 = 76.923076923$$

The overall score for this example project is hence 77%. We can therefore consider that 77% of the total project budget are used in support of agroecological development.