



LANDSCAPE 2024

**AGROECOSYSTEMS IN TRANSFORMATION:
VISIONS, TECHNOLOGIES AND ACTORS**

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS



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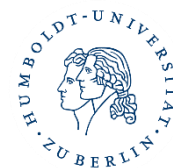
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The use of storytelling has two purposes, first, to be a self-reflection tool for the coordinators and actors within the ALL and second, to be a methodology adapted to the operational and structural conditions of living labs (such as dynamism, creativity and flexibility) for external facilitators and evaluators. It is expected to contribute to a better understanding of ALL through the use of non-traditional methods of data collection and analysis.

Living Lab Networks for the transformation of agroecosystems: Network characteristics and policy implications

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Keywords: Living lab networks, network governance, agroecology transition

The living labs approach to innovation management is now generally well established and is supported by a large body of literature and ample practical cases describing the implementation of individual living labs. However, new challenges are emerging through the recent trend towards large-scale networks of living labs. This is particularly evident in the agriculture sector. This paper focuses on broader networks that link together living labs and other organizations at regional, national, or international scales. Such networks may also function as „networks of networks“ that enable sharing not only between living labs and other organizations (e.g., research infrastructures) but also between networks and can therefore play a key role in system-wide agroecology transitions. Examples include the Canadian Agroecosystem Living Labs Network, the French network of living labs under the Territoires d'innovation scheme, the Long-Term Agroecosystem Research Network in the United States, the proposed set of soil health living labs under the Soil Mission and the European Network of Agroecology Living Labs and Research Infrastructures as part of the Horizon Europe Partnership on Agroecology. Such networks are becoming increasingly common, but they may not share common characteristics, largely owing to differences in how they are created. Accordingly, this paper synthesizes experiences from the Canadian Agroecosystem Living Lab Network and the assessment of key factors for the European Network of Agroecology Living Labs and Research Infrastructures, carried out in the Horizon Europe ALL-Ready project. Through policy development and program implementation since 2018, the network in Canada has been built up „from scratch“ in a series of phases.

Each living lab responds to place-based challenges and production systems, but across the nationwide network, all of the living labs share a common implementation model, funding source and timelines, and ultimate objectives. In contrast, the European Network of Agroecology Living Labs and Research Infrastructures follows an „assembled“ model of network creation, whereby existing or new components are gathered together into a unified but heterogeneous network. Based on these contrasting experiences the paper: i) discusses advantages and disadvantages of the homogeneity or heterogeneity (e.g. in terms of diversity of actor roles, comparability, coordination); ii) highlights implications for how a network of living labs and research infrastructures functions and how it may need to be supported by both policy and practice to effectively accelerate agroecology transition; and iii) recommends further research into defining network types and their characteristics.

Making sense of agroecological living labs emergence processes and their diversity across eight countries

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The CGIAR-led Agroecology Initiative (AEI) has put Agroecological Living Landscapes (ALLs) at the heart of its approach to agroecological transitions (AET). ALLs are multi-stakeholder spaces whose diverse members agree to engage in AET and codesign new production practices, value chain arrangements and business models, improve the enabling environment, and achieve behavior changes (Jeanneret et al. 2021).

This paper proposes to assess the factors underlying the diversity of the ALL emergence processes across the eight countries in which the AEI operates, despite common guidelines developed for ALL establishment and functioning.

Drawing on explicit engagement principles (Triomphe et al., 2022), country teams established their respective ALLs by mapping stakeholders and assessing the context. They also facilitated „vision-to-action“ processes (Bergamini et al. 2023) to identify a collective vision of what a desirable future would look like, define transition pathways and behavior changes required, and develop action plans for kickstarting the AET process.

The resulting ALLs vary widely in terms of stakeholder composition, physical extent, formalization of their governance and local processes, as a result of adaptation to the context, previous experience with AET and multistakeholder approaches, and country team skills.