



**2nd Biennial Africa
Climate-Smart Agriculture Stakeholder Conference**

**Thematic Paper Presentation on
Compatibility assessment of
agroecology and CSA practices**

14th September 2022



**Funded by
the European Union**

Examining the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of agroecology in ensuring food security and environmental sustainability

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A paper presented at the Biennial Africa CSA Stakeholders Conference, 14th September 2022



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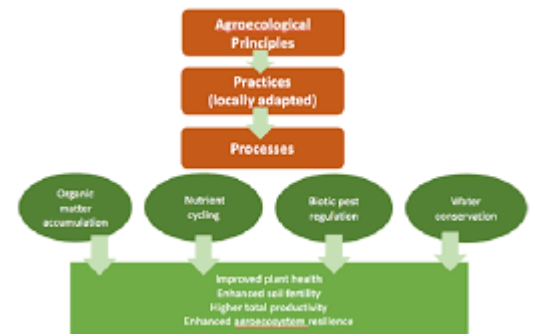
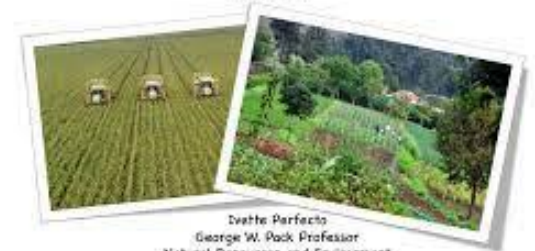


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Background

- Smallholder agriculture contributes 70% of national food production in sub-Saharan Africa
- Besides contributing to environmental change, this sector is adversely affected by vagaries of climate change
- To enhance sustainable food systems and environmental integrity under global change, the practice of agroecology (AE) is vital
- But information on objective assessments of AE is still lacking
- In this study, a SWOT analysis framework was used to evaluate AE

Industrial Agriculture versus Agroecology:
Which is Better for the People and the Planet?



Methodology

- a) An online questionnaire was distributed to AE dgroups in July 2022
- b) The tool sought data related to AE know how, its SWOT, how to enhance strengths and opportunities, and to address weaknesses and threats
- c) Data were analysed and presented in form of frequency tables and graphs
- d) 40 respondents: 53% males and 47 females



Key findings

- Study revealed 10 strengths, 6 weakness, 6 opportunities and 6 threats of AE
- AE is a springboard for socio-economic and environmental development
- Acts as a poverty and hunger proof

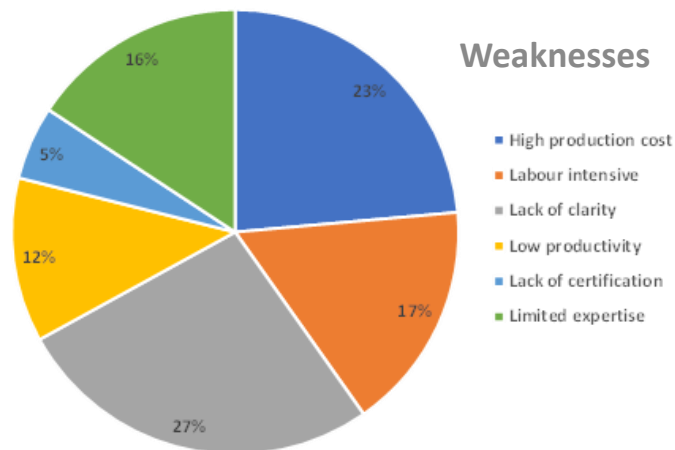
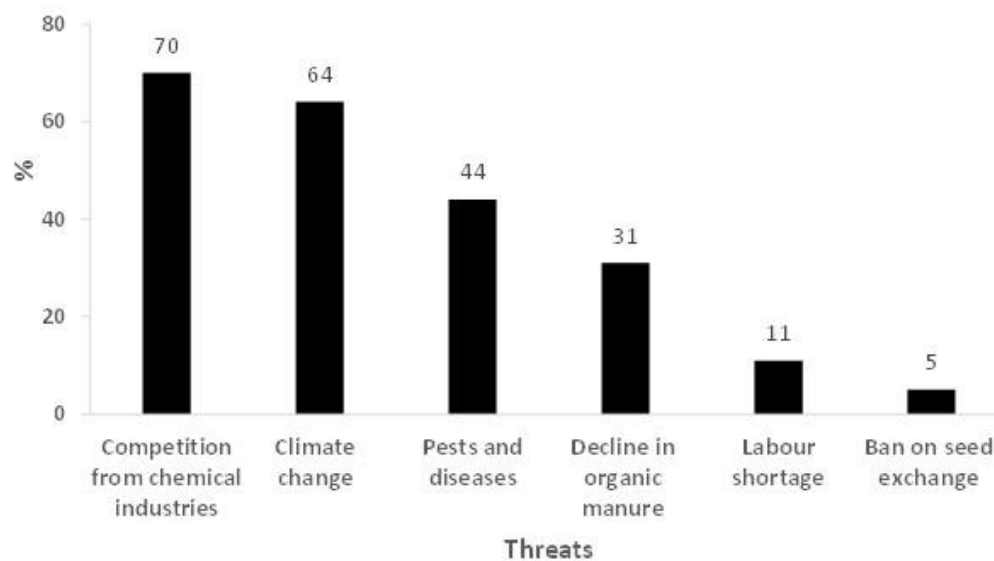
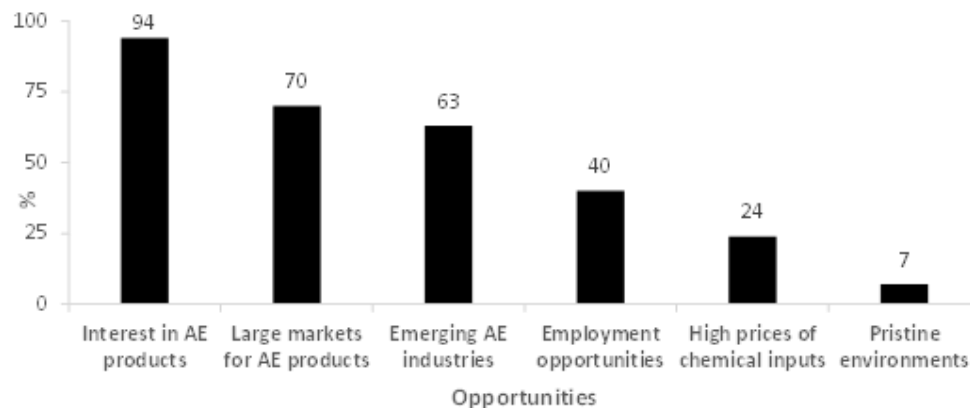


Soil and water conservation techniques to increase crop yield in drylands

Source: PELUM Zimbabwe (2022)

Results from the study

Strengths	%
Improves health, food and nutrition security	96
Integrates different types of knowledge	47
Compatible with traditional farming knowledge	93
Preserves natural resources and biodiversity	78
High profitability-produces more from less resources	66
Consistent crop yield	24
Enhances resilience of rural farmers to droughts, pests and diseases	19
Strong political and policy support	75
Promotes seed sovereignty and conserves indigenous crop varieties	19
Reduce or curb dependence on imports of food and inputs	35



Key Recommendations & Conclusion

- AE has lots of potential to improve environmental integrity, food and nutrition
- AE the way to go in this era characterised vagaries of climate change, conflicts and Covid-19
- Urgency to build capacities and empower grassroot communities in AE principles
- Agriculture policies and practice should incorporate and support AE
- Behavioural change among farmers from high input industrial agriculture towards AE
- The African green revolution agenda should speak to AE
- Political buy-in in critical

THE END

I thank you

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Thank you



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