

## **Just Rural Transitions Support Programme:**

Rapid Evidence Review on approaches for agricultural  
subsidy repurposing and overall sustainable  
agricultural policy reform

Briefing

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This rapid evidence review briefing was prepared by Agulhas Applied Knowledge under the overall supervision of Liz Turner. The views expressed in this report are those of the authors only.

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## Transforming Farm Support for People, Planet, and Prosperity

**Global agriculture and food systems face cross-cutting challenges impacting people, climate and nature. Targeted reforms that prioritise social equity and inclusion alongside environmental protection and climate action can support a wider just rural transition” that delivers triple wins for people, climate and nature.**

This briefing paper summarises the findings of the Just Rural Transitions Support Programme (JRTSP) Rapid Evidence Review (RER). The RER examined published evidence on approaches to agricultural subsidy repurposing and sustainable agricultural policy reform to achieve triple wins and Just Rural Transitions.

The RER drew on 44 included studies spanning peer-reviewed articles, programme evaluations, systematic reviews and grey literature, published from 2019 onwards, alongside a focused review of non-state actor (NSA) and communities of practice (CoP) policy and advocacy work on agroecology and food sovereignty. It addresses the question:



*What does the evidence tell us about the effectiveness of different agricultural subsidy repurposing and policy reform options in supporting opportunities for and adoption of sustainable, resilient, and climate sensitive agricultural practices, contributing towards a just rural transition? By and for whom?*

**A just rural transition refers to inclusive and equitable efforts to transform food systems, resulting in a global food system that works better for people, nature and the climate.**

**Triple wins arise from agricultural policy reform interventions that simultaneously deliver benefits for people (livelihoods and nutrition), climate (mitigation and adaptation), and nature (ecosystem protection and restoration).**

The review had two stages:

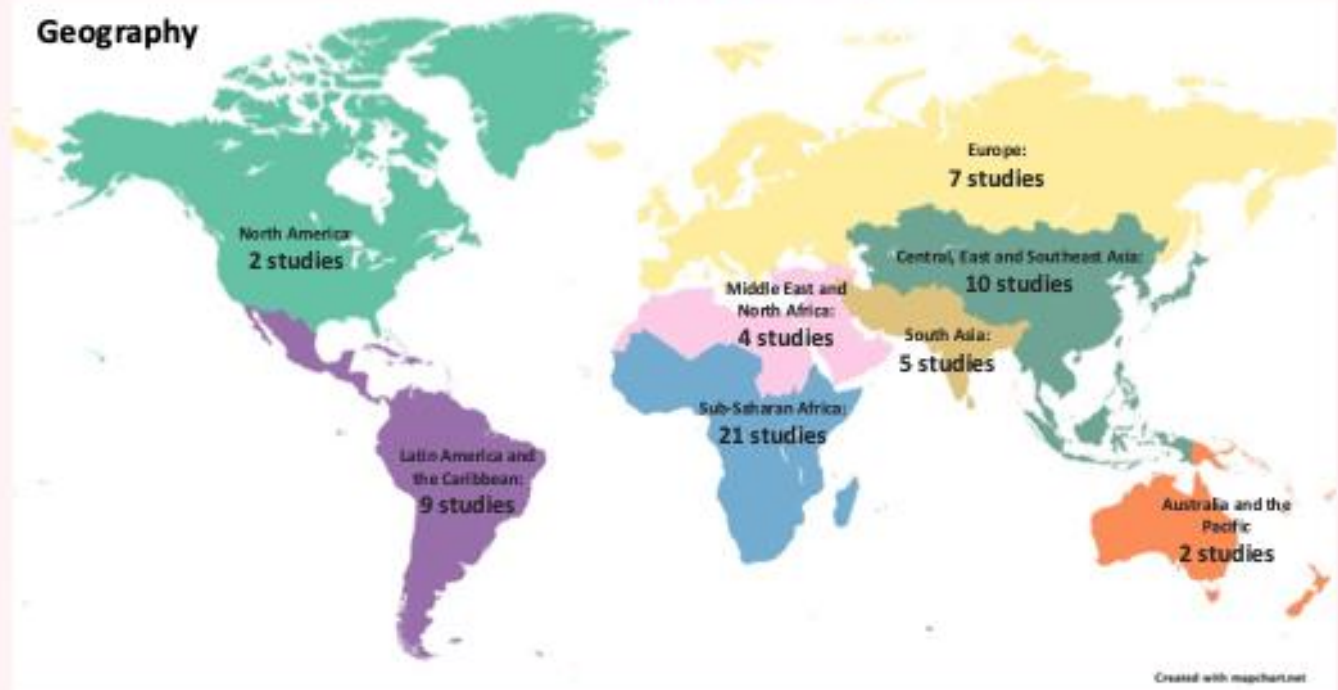
1. A **landscape mapping** of what evidence exists
2. A **full review** to show what the evidence says

A **research framework** was developed outlining the key themes and relevant search terms, after which an **evaluation matrix** was created to guide data collection and data synthesis. The team conducted a search of the literature, searching through three academic databases as well as organisational and government websites. After reading through their titles and abstracts, some studies were filtered out based on a set of **inclusion criteria**. A **landscape mapping** was completed (see charts below), which helped narrow down the themes for the full review, and revealed where there are gaps in the literature. After a **full-text screening** to filter on literature quality, data extraction was completed on the **44 included studies**, drawing out information on interventions, outcomes, barriers and enablers. The team **synthesised the evidence**, exploring the extent to which these policies, regulations, interventions and incentives/subsidies are supporting a transition towards more sustainable agriculture practices.

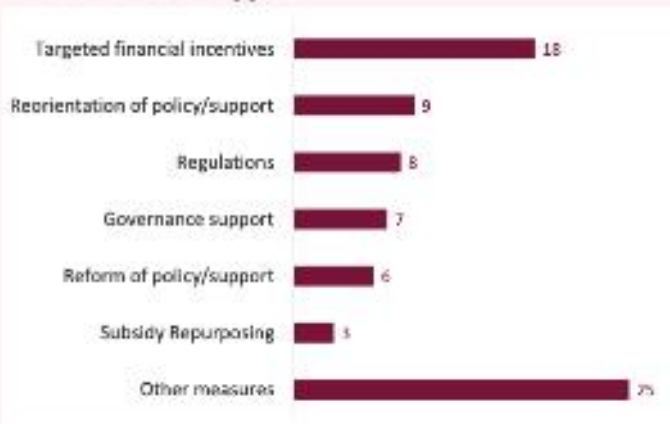
This was a systematic review, following specific protocols, meaning that the results provide a **comprehensive exploration** of the topic—so far as the literature allows. **Limitations** include the scope being restricted to literature from 2019 onwards; most of the included studies being from peer-reviewed journals due to the rigorous quality appraisal process, meaning that low-quality data that may have been useful was excluded during the screening process; and that many studies were limited

# The Evidence Landscape

## Geography



## Intervention types



**EVIDENCE GAPS WERE IDENTIFIED**

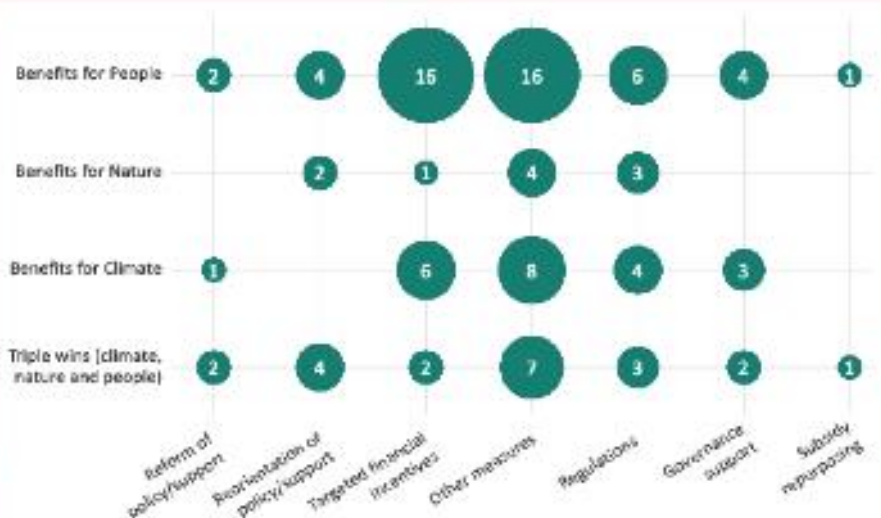
**Geography:** South Asia, MENA, North America, Australia and the Pacific

**Intervention type:** reorientation and reform of policy/support, regulations, governance support, and subsidy repurposing

**Outcome areas:** policy advocacy and communities of practice

## WE MAPPED INTERVENTION TYPE AGAINST IMPACTS

The largest correlations are for targeted financial incentives and benefits for people, and 'other measures' and benefits for people. Few interventions correlated with benefits for nature.



## Evidence for triple wins

Several studies across a range of policy interventions provide documented proof of success in at least two of the three wins.

The RER grouped policy interventions into seven main categories. The table summarises the types of reform, how common they are in the RER evidence base, and what the evidence shows about their contribution to triple wins where studies provide documented proof of success in at least two if not all three of the dimensions.

**Table 1. Intervention contributions to triple wins**

Intervention Type	What does it include?	Evidence for triple wins
<b>Governance Support</b> (7 studies)	Laws, regulations, institutional frameworks, national strategies for sustainable agriculture	Three studies show triple win potential, mainly in India (ZBNF) and Brazil (ABC Plan) – as well as the EU’s CAP. Outcomes linked to political will and strong institutions.
<b>Targeted Financial Incentives</b> (18 studies)	Input subsidies, vouchers, insurance subsidies, direct payments, conservation payments	One study (smart subsidy Payment for Economic Services pilot, Malawi) reports some evidence of progress towards triple wins. Many focus on productivity gains only, sometimes with negative environmental effects.
<b>Subsidy Repurposing</b> (2 studies)	Strategic shift of agricultural support away from inefficient measures toward sustainable ones	Limited evidence. Fiscal savings in Malawi redirected toward public goods. Moldova: small positive effects for people; minimal environmental outcomes.
<b>Reform of Policy/Support</b> (6 studies)	Changes to rules, regulations, institutions underpinning agricultural support, e.g. FISP reform (Malawi), school feeding procurement reform (Brazil), China's three subsidies reform	PNAE reform (Brazil) shows strong evidence for people and nature. China's reform had mixed outcomes with increased fertiliser use.
<b>Reorientation of Policy/Support</b> (9 studies)	Strategic repositioning of what policies aim to achieve, e.g. Senegal's diversification agenda (PRACAS), Malawi's move to Affordable Inputs Program (AIP)	Senegal: rapid horticultural sector growth. China's heavy metal-contaminated cultivated land (HMCLT) pilot: heavy metal reduction and improved resilience. Mixed people outcomes in Malawi.
<b>Regulations</b> (8 studies)	Environmental, land use, food safety regulations; agro-dealer certification (Uganda); EU CAP green conditionality	Framework land-use regulations in OECD countries average 47 tCO <sub>2</sub> eq mitigation per hectare annually. Pesticide regulation in Uganda improved knowledge. Partial decoupling of GHG from production under EU CAP.
<b>Other measures: Extension, Infrastructure, Certification, Land Tenure, Tax Reform</b> (25 studies)	Training, roads, irrigation, organic certification, land rights, tax incentives	Varied outcomes. Land tenure positively linked to Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) adoption. Extension services critical: farmers with access 2.8x more likely to adopt CSA (Sub-Saharan Africa). Infrastructure increases CSA adoption rates by 40%.

## Evidence for achieving all three of the triple wins is scarce.

While several other studies mentioned triple wins, most did not provide detailed evidence of outcomes in the three areas. Only four of the 44 included studies provided meaningful triple win evidence, three related to specific interventions and one suggesting that broader policy shifts seen in the new EU CAP show triple win potential. All four studies were largely high-level in their analysis. By not delving into the specific outcomes of each programme/policy, this makes it challenging to discern the actual impact of the interventions.

*Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF), India.*<sup>1</sup> This agroecological model in Andhra Pradesh promoted chemical-free, more sustainable and resilient farming based on traditional methods. It aimed to reduce fertiliser use and input costs, improve farmer incomes, and support biodiversity. Evidence from the study found that 90% of surveyed farmers reported increased yields and lower costs, improving livelihoods. Biodiversity improved significantly: around seven times more earthworms were found per square metre in ZBNF fields compared to control fields. Women's status in the community also improved. The study estimated that if 25% of the total crop area in the state adopted ZBNF, \$70 million would be saved annually in fertiliser subsidies.

*ABC Cerrado Project, Brazil.*<sup>2</sup> This project (2014–2019) promoted sustainable, low-carbon agricultural practices among small and medium farmers across eight Brazilian states. It offered pilot training and technical assistance in low-carbon agriculture practices, including recovery of degraded pastures, crop-livestock-forest integration, and no-tillage farming. Results included 7,800 rural producers trained, 93,800 hectares of pasture recovered, and 458,906 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent sequestered across 112,699 hectares. The project demonstrated that training and technical assistance (TA) can deliver triple wins: improved knowledge and increased production, better pasture quality, and carbon mitigation.

*New Common Agricultural Policy (CAP: 2023-2027), European Union.*<sup>3</sup> This is a foundational, unified policy established in 1962 that supports farmers, ensures food security, and protects the environment across the European Union (EU). Running from 2023–2027, the new CAP focuses on sustainable agriculture, income stability for farmers, and rural development, accounting for roughly 40% of the total EU budget. Specific interventions include direct payments to farmers, risk management, investment support, and young farmer support. The study found slight evidence of triple wins shortly after the policy came into effect.<sup>4</sup> Authors noted that there was evidence of a small effect on income in farming communities (although some studies found evidence to the contrary). Additionally, they noted a “partial decoupling” of direct greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from production levels and a stable use of pesticides with increased levels of production. The study found that research and innovation play an important role in the policy's implementation. The broader climate context was also seen as important (e.g. other climate commitments, the Paris Agreement). Barriers included a lack of incentives to address GHG emissions; economic barriers; and a lack of data, reporting and evaluation. The study noted that the “implementation gap” between ambition and action means slow progress.

The CAP is a relevant example of the challenge of designing policy for a just transition, highlighting that it requires balancing social, environmental, and economic needs—not just financial support. However, its direct applicability to the Global South is limited as a complex, high-subsidy, and unevenly distributed model.

*National School Feeding Programme (PNAE), Brazil.*<sup>5</sup> Programme reform required public schools to procure 30% of food from family farmers within the local municipality, with a 30% price premium for certified organic or agroecological products. This created a positive feedback loop: women were more empowered in PNAE households, and this empowerment was directly associated with more diversified farming and greater use of agroecological practices. Households with female farmers participating in NGO-led agricultural programmes were seven times more likely to be enrolled in PNAE.

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<sup>1</sup> FAO, UNDP, and UNEP (2021) *A Multi-Billion-Dollar Opportunity – Repurposing Agricultural Support to Transform Food Systems*, [link](#).

<sup>2</sup> Geraldo da Silva e Souza et al. (2021) ‘Assessing the Impact of the ABC Cerrado Project’, *Pesquisa Agropecuária Tropical* 51: e66399, [link](#).

Also known as the Sustainable Production in Areas Already Converted for Agricultural, it forms one component of the Sectorial Plan for Mitigation and Adaptation to Climate Change for the Consolidation of a Low Carbon Economy in Agriculture (the ABC Plan).

<sup>3</sup> OECD (2023) ‘Policies for the Future of Farming and Food in the European Union’, *OECD Agriculture and Food Policy Reviews*, ahead of print, [link](#); European Council (n.d.) The common agricultural policy explained, [link](#).

<sup>4</sup> OECD (2023) ‘Policies for the Future of Farming and Food in the European Union’, *OECD Agriculture and Food Policy Reviews*, ahead of print, [link](#); European Council (n.d.) The common agricultural policy explained, [link](#).

<sup>5</sup> Vivian Valencia et al. (2021) ‘Public Policies for Agricultural Diversification: Implications for Gender Equity’, *Frontiers in Sustainable Food Systems* 5), [link](#).



## Non-State actor and community of practice advocacy for policy reform for triple wins: the case of agroecology and food sovereignty

Non-state actors (NSAs) and social movements play a central, if under-documented, role in driving just transitions. Their work on agroecology and food sovereignty provides key evidence for shifting policy and agricultural systems towards, and achieving, triple wins in ways that are just.

Agroecology applies ecological principles to agriculture, “ensuring a regenerative use of natural resources and ecosystem services while also addressing the need for socially equitable food systems within which people can exercise choice over what they eat and how and where it is produced.”<sup>6</sup> It embraces multiple scientific disciplines, a set of practices and a social movement to address problems in agriculture and food systems, working in a reflective and iterative way in partnership with multiple stakeholders, crucially drawing on their local knowledge and cultural values.<sup>7</sup> A widespread body of evidence makes a compelling case for agroecology for sustainable agriculture and a just rural transition that delivers impact towards triple wins.<sup>8</sup> A recent review by Faure et al (2024), for example, provides evidence that agroecology delivers measurable socio-economic and productivity benefits while maintaining or enhancing environmental performance.<sup>9</sup>

- ⇒ **SENEGAL:** Civil society groups created DyTAES (Dynamique pour une Transition Agroécologique au Sénégal), a multi-stakeholder dialogue platform. Ongoing engagement with ministries led to changes in official discourse, a national food sovereignty strategy (2016), a land decree supporting collective land tenure, and dialogue on organic input subsidies.<sup>10</sup>
- ⇒ **KENYA:** Farmers, civil society, and government actors worked in coalition to develop the agroecology policy framework in Murang'a County, institutionalised through the Murang'a Agroecology Multi-Stakeholder Platform.<sup>11</sup>
- ⇒ **BRAZIL:** A 10-month decentralised advocacy campaign in 2021 produced ten municipal agroecology policies or legal instruments. This laid the groundwork for an electoral campaign in 2022 in which more than 10% of elected candidates had signed a commitment to agroecology.<sup>12</sup>
- ⇒ **ZIMBABWE:** Small-scale farmers practising agroecology actively participated in policy development processes, resulting in agroecology, sustainable livelihoods, and climate-smart agriculture becoming fundamental pillars within the government's National Agriculture Policy Framework, culminating in the Agroecology Promotion Policy and Strategy published in 2024.<sup>13</sup>
- ⇒ **COLOMBIA:** Years of mobilisation by a powerful alliance of peasant, Indigenous, Afro-descendent, youth, and women's organisations established a dialogue table between the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and agroecology and food sovereignty organisations.<sup>14</sup>

For policies to effectively drive food systems change, the evidence shows they must recognise indigenous wisdom and local knowledge and be based on solutions enacted by community members. At scale, this requires coherent enabling policies: strengthened advisory systems, improved access to bio-inputs and finance, differentiated markets, and a rebalancing of public support away from intensive monoculture toward diversified, ecologically grounded systems.<sup>15</sup>

Enablers of effective NSA engagement include multistakeholder partnerships, leveraging synergies with government priorities (health, climate, poverty reduction), a proactive policy environment, and good timing grounded in foundations laid over long

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<sup>6</sup> HLPE (2019) Agroecological and other innovative approaches for sustainable agriculture and food systems that enhance food security and nutrition. A report by the High-Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition of the Committee on World Food Security, Rome, [link](#).

<sup>7</sup> See also: FAO (n.d.) Second International Symposium on Agroecology, [link](#).

For a comprehensive set of principles see: Agroecology Europe (2021) The 13 principles of Agroecology, [link](#).

<sup>8</sup> For example, see the Agroecology Fund/ Stats4SD (n.d.) Catalogue of Evidence-Based Cases for Agroecology, [link](#); The Oakland Institute (n.d.) Agroecology Series, [link](#); SEI (n.d.) Amplifying Stories of Agroecology Practices and Principles, [link](#); Guy Faure et al. (2024) What agroecology brings to food security and ecosystem services: a review of scientific evidence, DeSIRA LIFT, [link](#).

<sup>9</sup> Guy Faure, Matthias Geck, Maria-Luisa Paracchini and Nadine Andrieu (2024) What agroecology brings to food security and ecosystem services: a review of scientific evidence, DeSIRA LIFT, [link](#).

<sup>10</sup> Rooted in Agroecology and Food Sovereignty (2024) Policies for Agroecology, [link](#).

<sup>11</sup> Rooted in Agroecology and Food Sovereignty (2024) Policies for Agroecology, [link](#).

<sup>12</sup> Rooted in Agroecology and Food Sovereignty (2024) Policies for Agroecology, [link](#).

<sup>13</sup> Rooted in Agroecology and Food Sovereignty (2024) Policies for Agroecology, [link](#).

<sup>14</sup> Rooted in Agroecology and Food Sovereignty (2024) Policies for Agroecology, [link](#).

<sup>15</sup> Guy Faure et al. (2024) What agroecology brings to food security and ecosystem services: a review of scientific evidence, DeSIRA LIFT, [link](#).

timeframes. Barriers include dependence on international partners with potential power imbalances, over-reliance on micro-projects to the detriment of system-wide change, lack of inter-ministerial coordination, limited capacity and budget, and difficulties extending advocacy reach across large territories.



### Approaches for achieving Triple Wins

**The evidence suggests several approaches to generate simultaneous benefits for people, climate and nature.**

- **Training and technical assistance paired with sustainable practice adoption:** The ABC Cerrado Project (Brazil) demonstrated that when farmers are trained in low-carbon techniques and supported through TA, production improves alongside environmental performance.<sup>16</sup>
- **Conservation payments with social network incentives:** The smart subsidy PES pilot in Malawi showed some evidence that agglomeration bonuses, rewarding neighbouring farmers who also adopt conservation practices, can accelerate uptake and spillover effects, and achieve climate and environmental goals simultaneously.<sup>17</sup>
- **Agroecological transitions supported by public procurement reform:** Brazil's PNAE redesign linked food security, biodiversity, and women's empowerment, demonstrating how public contracting can serve multiple goals at once.<sup>18</sup>
- **Decoupling subsidies from specific inputs or commodities:** In the EU, decoupled subsidies under CAP reforms now account for half of total budget support to farmers, allowing farmers more flexibility to adopt sustainable practices. Similar trends are emerging in China.<sup>19</sup>
- **Agroecology at scale:** Agroecological practices are more frequently associated with positive socio-economic outcomes than conventional management, including income gains from productivity and efficiency improvements.<sup>20</sup> Diversified production systems promoted under agroecology generate higher gross income than simplified monocrop systems when labour is accounted for, while achieving environmental and climate aims.<sup>21</sup>



### Enablers: What drives success?

**Achieving triple win outcomes is typically supported by a mix of political, institutional, and social factors.**

**NATIONAL LEADERSHIP AND ALIGNMENT WITH GOVERNMENT PRIORITIES:** Strong country-led commitment, as seen in China's subsidy reforms and Malawi's response to fiscal pressures, is essential for driving large-scale change.

**BOTTOM-UP SOCIAL MOVEMENTS:** Success in countries like Brazil, Senegal, and Colombia was driven by grassroots pressure from peasant and indigenous organisations that forced agroecology onto national agendas.

**MESO-LEVEL INSTITUTIONS:** Local actors, such as extension services, farmer organisations, and community-level committees, act as vital mediators that determine how well national policies translate to inclusivity on the ground.

**SECURE LAND TENURE:** Farmers with secure land rights are significantly more likely to invest in long-term conservation, such as agroforestry (45% more likely) and soil health (60% more likely).<sup>22</sup>

<sup>16</sup> Geraldo da Silva e Souza et al. (2021) 'Assessing the Impact of the ABC Cerrado Project', *Pesquisa Agropecuária Tropical* 51: e66399, [link](#).

<sup>17</sup> Patrick S. Ward et al. (2021) 'Smart Subsidies for Sustainable Soils: Evidence from a Randomized Controlled Trial in Southern Malawi', *Journal of Environmental Economics and Management* 110: 102556, [link](#).

<sup>18</sup> Vivian Valencia et al. (2021) 'Public Policies for Agricultural Diversification: Implications for Gender Equity', *Frontiers in Sustainable Food Systems* 5, [link](#).

<sup>19</sup> FAO, UNDP, and UNEP (2021) *A Multi-Billion-Dollar Opportunity – Repurposing Agricultural Support to Transform Food Systems*, [link](#).

<sup>20</sup> J Mouratiadou et al. (2024) The socio-economic performance of agroecology, A review. *Agronomy for Sustainable Development* Vol. 44:19, [link](#) (referenced in Faure et al 2024).

<sup>21</sup> Andrea C. Sánchez et al. (2022) Financial profitability of diversified farming systems: A global meta-analysis, *Ecological Economics*, Volume 201, [link](#) (referenced in Faure et al 2024).

<sup>22</sup> Minentle L. Mnuakwa et al. (2025) 'Assessing the Adoption and Impact of Climate-Smart Agricultural Practices on Smallholder Maize Farmers' Livelihoods in Sub-Saharan Africa: A Systematic Review', *Frontiers in Sustainable Food Systems* 9, [link](#).

**INFRASTRUCTURE AND TECHNOLOGY:** Proximity to paved roads can increase adoption of climate-smart practices by 40%. Similarly, digital tools and improved irrigation are key structural enablers.



*Barriers: What prevents full potential?*

**Despite the potential for triple wins, several systemic barriers often lead to implementation failure.**

**THE POLICY-PRACTICE GAP:** Centrally designed policies often fail because they ignore local contexts or the complexity of gender relations. This is compounded by a lack of trained extension staff and high staff turnover.

**ELITE CAPTURE AND PATRONAGE:** Agricultural subsidies are frequently used by governments to garner votes or are captured by wealthier, male-headed households through informal relationships with village leaders.

**ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL EXCLUSION:** Onerous application processes for grants or certifications often exclude smallholders. Further, often only farmers with existing credit or other financial resources can take advantage of investment subsidies.

**POWER ASYMMETRIES:** Over-reliance on international partners can lead to external visions and priorities being imposed on local communities, sometimes hampering joint advocacy for Just transitions.

**REACTIVE POLICY MAKING:** Programmes that are reactive (e.g. post-disaster) rather than proactive can lead to maladaptation and unsustainable long-term outcomes.



*Effective and just approaches benefiting climate, people and nature*

Evidence for interventions that are **just, equitable, and inclusive** explicitly target vulnerable groups, such as smallholder farmers, women, and the extreme poor, to make sure the transition to sustainable agriculture does not leave marginalised populations behind. Not surprisingly, ‘Just’ approaches tackle inclusivity head-on through socially-focused interventions, from design through to implementation, notably through:

### 1. EMPOWERING WOMEN AND MARGINALISED GROUPS

Interventions are most inclusive when they move beyond productivity to address social hierarchies. For example:

- **Targeted procurement:** In Brazil, the redesign of the PNAE created a “feedback loop” where women’s empowerment was directly associated with higher agrobiodiversity and the use of agroecological practices.
- **Financial inclusion:** In Malawi, the **Farm Input Subsidy Programme** specifically targeted women and people with disabilities, while public works programmes like the **Malawi Social Action Fund** helped the extreme poor by reducing budget constraints for adopting climate-smart practices.

### 2. JUST RURAL TRANSITIONS VIA LAND TENURE

**Secure land tenure** is a fundamental driver of equity. In Ethiopia, land redistribution programmes targeting young, landless farmers for communal hillside farming improved both incomes and conservation efficiency.

### 3. GRASSROOTS ADVOCACY AND AGROECOLOGY

Agroecology as a transdisciplinary approach addresses the need for socially equitable food systems:

- **Bottom-up pressure:** In countries like Zimbabwe, Senegal, and Colombia, sustained pressure from peasant and indigenous organisations led to the development of national policies that recognise local knowledge and rights.
- **Institutional alliances:** In Kenya, the creation of multi-stakeholder platforms has institutionalised the inclusion of various food system actors in policy frameworks.

### Enablers and barriers to equity

To ensure interventions remain just and inclusive, the sources identify critical factors that either support or hinder progress. Barriers echo those that hinder Triple Wins. Critical Enablers for ‘Just’ outcomes include:

- **Political support from national government:** for example, expressed through the enforcement of regulations that protect smallholders and promote gender equity.
- **Participatory methodologies:** engaging farmers directly in policymaking ensures solutions are locally adapted.
- **Synergy with Social Protection:** Linking agricultural subsidies with social cash transfers (as seen in Malawi) helps reach the most vulnerable people.

**Table 2. Summary of evidence for interventions delivering ‘Just’ outcomes**

Intervention Category	Examples and Evidence of Inclusivity/Equity
<b>Financial Incentives &amp; Repurposing</b>	<b>Zero Budget Natural Farming</b> in India improved livelihoods and elevated the status of women. <b>Subsidy repurposing</b> in Moldova specifically targeted young farmers, female farmers, and migrants.
<b>Governance &amp; Policy Reform</b>	<b>Brazil’s PNAE (School Feeding Programme)</b> redesigned procurement to purchase from family farmers, directly empowering women in decision-making roles.
<b>Extension Services</b>	Programmes in <b>Brazil (PNATER, PDHC II)</b> and <b>Ethiopia (FTCs)</b> used quotas or committees to ensure women and youth participation, leading to increased empowerment and income.
<b>Infrastructure Investment</b>	<b>Montenegro’s RCTP</b> used a ranking system for infrastructure projects that prioritised benefits for youth and women.
<b>Land Tenure &amp; Rights</b>	Secure land rights in <b>Ethiopia</b> and across <b>Sub-Saharan Africa</b> enabled smallholders to invest in long-term sustainability, such as fruit tree cultivation and agroforestry.

## Evidence gaps

The RER reveals several gaps in evidence for achieving triple wins – simultaneous benefits for people, climate, and nature – through agricultural policy reform. These gaps matter because without understanding the mechanisms, political economy conditions, and equity dimensions of successful reform, it is impossible to design interventions that reliably deliver triple wins at scale.

**Shallow outcome analysis.** Even where studies nominally address triple wins, the analysis is predominantly high-level.

**Limited subsidy repurposing evidence.** Just two studies explicitly covered subsidy repurposing, and neither analysed barriers to repurposing. Critically, no studies on subsidy repurposing in Africa or Latin America and the Caribbean made it through our inclusion criteria, leaving a major geographical blind spot.

**Integration and replication gaps.** Evidence on integration of repurposed subsidies into broader policy frameworks (three studies) and replication of successful policy action across countries (four studies) remains sparse, limiting understanding of how reforms scale.

**Weak coverage of process and mechanisms.** There are evidence gaps describing processes critical to understanding *how* just rural transitions happen, not merely *whether* outcomes occur. The processes that may lead to successful just rural transition interventions are not explored in detail in many studies. Evidence for policy advocacy by NSAs and CoPs, reform champions, leverage effects, timeframes for change, and changing norms (all key drivers of systemic change) was largely lacking from the peer-reviewed and grey literature.

**Gaps in equity and inclusion evidence.** Little evidence in the peer-reviewed literature exists on policy reform and subsidy repurposing outcomes for indigenous peoples or people with disabilities (two studies each), groups whose inclusion is fundamental to "just" transitions.

Evidence reviews therefore need to cast their net wider than published and peer reviewed literature, potentially trading academic rigour for relevance in the form of real-world experience, either through project reports or interviews with credible and appropriate stakeholders on the ground.

## Potential next steps

### *Evidence gaps for further investigation include:*

- The political economy of subsidy repurposing in Sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America, including winners, losers, and reform pathways.
- Long-term triple win outcomes from agroecological transitions, particularly in low-and middle-income country contexts where interventions are maturing.
- How NSA advocacy and social movements translate into durable policy change.
- Equity outcomes for women, indigenous peoples and people with disabilities under agricultural policy reform.
- Mechanisms and timeframes through which repurposed subsidies become integrated into mainstream policy and contribute towards triple-wins.

### *Strategies for uncovering further evidence and updating the evidence review:*

- **Ongoing political economy analysis** of specific subsidy repurposing (and/or other related policy reform) successes/experiences, including winners, losers, and reform pathways (contextual factors, barriers and enablers), building on the *Baseline Context and Preliminary Political Economy Analysis*.
- **Realist and process-tracing approaches in evaluation** could better capture the mechanisms and conditions under which reform succeeds, moving beyond outcome measurement to explain *why* change happens.
- **Targeted grey literature and organisational report reviews**, particularly from NSA networks, agroecology coalitions, and country-level programme documentation, which hold much of the NSA advocacy evidence that falls outside academic search frames.
- **Primary qualitative research (through monitoring and evaluation activities)** with reform champions, farmer organisations, and civil society actors in JRTSP priority countries to surface contextual knowledge unavailable in published literature.
- **Longitudinal and 'legacy'-style case studies** tracking policy reforms over sufficient timeframes to observe triple win outcomes unfold — a recognised limitation of the current evidence base.

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