

Policies for agroforestry, a review of four ‘continental’ regions: EU, U.S.A., Brazil & India

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Transforming landscapes



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Can agroforestry (AF) transform food systems?

- AF is considered a regenerative, agroecological approach to land management – it can take many forms¹
- Depending on which objectives are prioritised, the transformative potential of AF is impacted



Can agroforestry (AF) transform food systems?

- Planetary health = human health
- Support for diverse farming systems is growing²
- Decades of policy to simplify production = AFS systems are **decreasing**³ and uptake remains **low**⁴
- Can AF meet objectives across multiple policy domains?

Aims

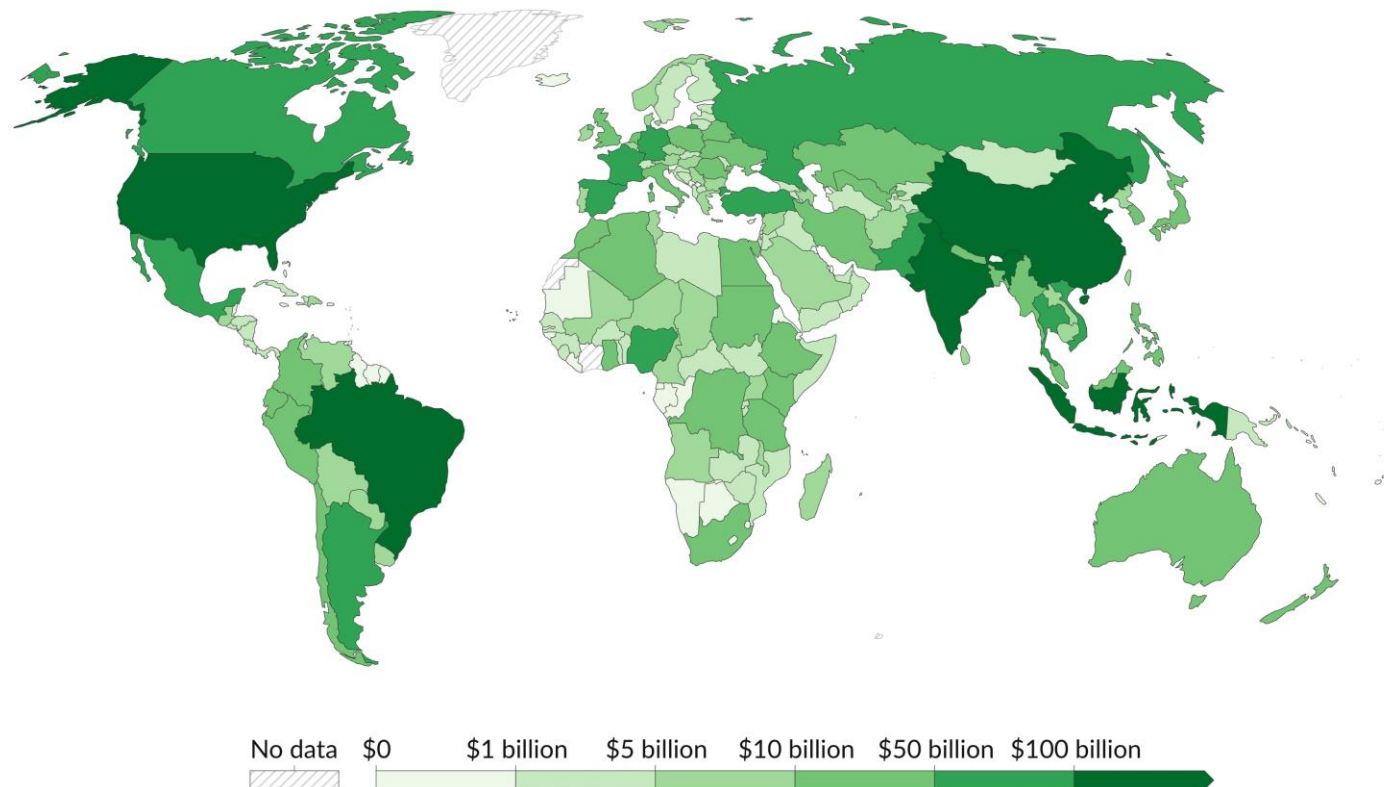
What objectives are prioritised in AF policies across **four major food producing regions** of the world?

What is the scope of AF to contribute to a **fairer and more sustainable food system**?

Agricultural output, 2019

Total agricultural output is the sum of crop and livestock products. It is measured in constant 2015 US\$, which means it adjusts for inflation.

Our World
in Data



Data source: United States Department for Agriculture (USDA) Economic Research Service
OurWorldInData.org/agricultural-production | CC BY

Policy framework analysis

- Informed by relevant policy literature on sustainable food systems⁵ and just transition pathways⁶.
- Attributes identified and grouped into four categories: *policy governance, subject, policy goals* and *policy coherence*
- Policies were reviewed using content and thematic analysis (ATLAS.ti 23)

Policy summary matrix showing the results of the policy framework analysis.

1 = included
0.5 = partially
0 = no
NI = not enough information
NA = not applicable

	EU	USA	India	Brazil
Policy governance				
	Policy is legally binding			
	Cross-ministerial collaboration			
	Farmers, practitioners and food system experts consulted			
	Development of targets based on holistic food systems approach			
	Specific objectives / key metrics included			
	Indigenous knowledge / ways of knowing included or referred to			
Subject included	Land tenure			
	Land access			
	Water access			
	Farm succession			
	Financing for agroforestry			
	Knowledge and training			
	Deforestation			
	GHGE reduction			
	Support for new entrants			
	Fair employment			
	Territorial or landscape approach encouraged			
	HLPE environmental			
Policy goals	HLPE social			
	HLPE economic			
	HLPE political			
	Agroecological transition			
	Carbon sequestration			
	Biodiversity preservation & conservation			
	Soil health			
	Improve air and water quality			
Policy coherence	Flood mitigation			
	On-farm resilience			
	Food security and nutrition			
	Inclusion of cultural ecosystem services			
	Links to climate goals / NDCs			
	Links to UN SDGs			
	Links to biodiversity priorities			
	Links to other agricultural and environmental state policies			
	Intersectionality considered			
	Diet related health included			
Key:				
N/A				
NI				
0				
0.5				
1				
Common Agricultural Policy (2014–2020)				
The European Green Deal (2019)				
EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 (2020)				
Farm to Fork Strategy (2020)				
New EU Forestry Strategy for 2030 (2021)				
National Environmental Policy Act 1969				
The National Forest Management Act of 1976				
Farm Bill 2018 Agricultural Improvement Act				
Agroforestry Strategic Framework 2019–2024				
Agriculture Resilience Act 2021				
Nationally Determined Contribution 2021				
USDA's Food System Transformation framework 2022				
National Forestry Policy 1988				
National Agricultural Policy 2000				
Biological Diversity Act 2002				
Forest Rights Act 2006				
National Environment Policy 2006				
National Policy for Farmers 2007				
National Biodiversity Action Plan 2008				
Green India/Mission 2010				
National Agroforestry Policy 2014				
Agricultural Export Policy 2017				
Nationally Determined Contribution (2022)				
National Family Farming Policy 2006				
National Forest Code 2012				
National Low Carbon Agricultural Plan "Plano ABC" 2012				
National Agroecology and Organic Agriculture Policy 2013				
National Integrated crop–livestock–forestry systems Policy 2013				
National Adaptation Plan to Climate Change 2016				
National Plan for Native Vegetation Recovery 2017				
National Food Acquisition Program 2021				
National Agribusiness Financing Plan "Plano Safra" 2022–2023				
Nationally Determined Contribution 2022				

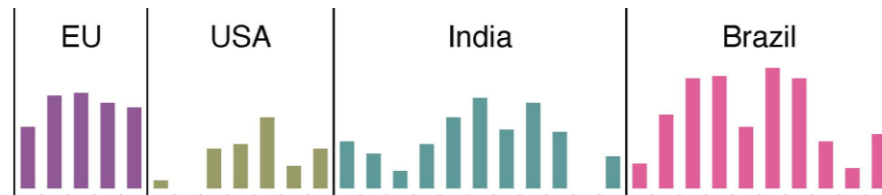


3 Highlights



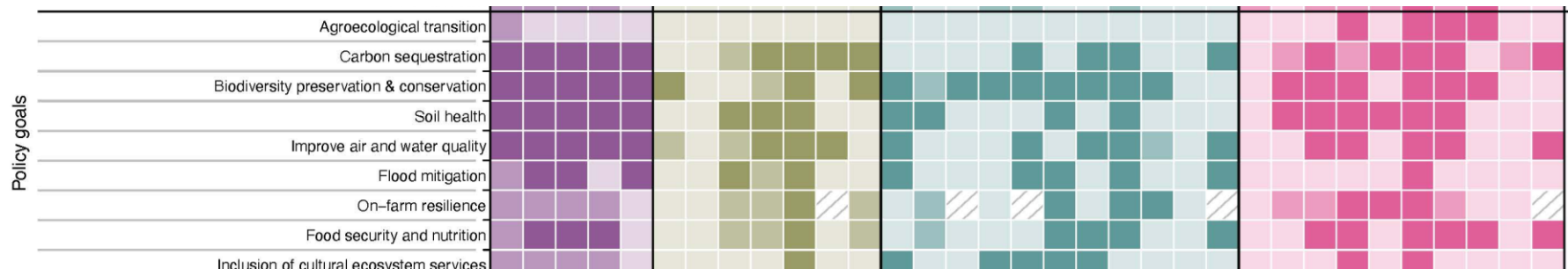
1 - Brazilian policies are most 'agroecology-friendly'

- Brazil scored the highest for *policy governance*, with strong cross-ministerial collaboration and stakeholder consultation. It is the only region that fulfils the **agroecological transition** attribute, and the only region with at least one policy addressing each *policy goals* attribute.
- **Intersectionality, diet-related health and food security and nutrition** are considered in Brazilian policies.
- Brazil is the **highest contributor across attributes**, followed by India and the EU with the U.S.A the lowest contributor across attributes.



2 - Recent policies include a greater diversity of goals

- Agronomic and **environmental attributes** such as carbon sequestration, biodiversity and air and water quality are more **frequently included**.
- Food security and nutrition scores higher than flood mitigation and on-farm resilience across the regions.



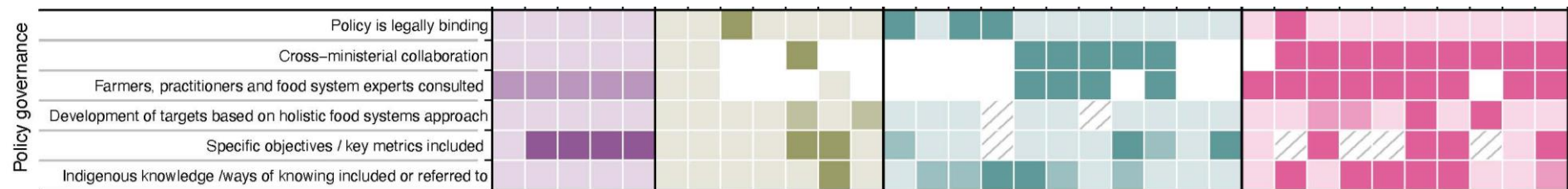
2 - Recent policies include a greater diversity of goals

- Socio-political attributes are not included to the same extent, with the majority of policies **omitting to address land tenure, employment, food security and nutrition or diet related health.**
- **Financing for agroforestry** was addressed in full in at least one policy for all regions.



3 - Low public consultation in policy development

- In the U.S.A, consultation with stakeholders is minimal.
- Policies in the EU appear to have specific objectives and key metrics included, but only partially consult with key actors.
- Collaboration with stakeholders appears to improve policy coherence, as seen in Brazil.



Key challenges

- Policies for AF lean towards agronomic reading - **limiting its transformative potential?**
- People and practitioners are largely **absent in policy development**
- Link between **agriculture and climate** is not sufficiently reflected in policies
- **Land tenure and access rights** remain unaddressed despite being a **well-known barrier** to scaling AF

Recommendations

- **Foster collaboration and consultation** with stakeholders to improve **policy coherence**
- Embed **broad range** of socio-ecological objectives in policies
- Land tenure and access rights must be considered
- AF should be **integrated into interconnected societal goals**, in particular NDCs and UN SDGs
- Foresters and farmers and supporting networks must find common ground



So?

- Policy analysis framework applicable to other agroecological approaches to land management & nature-based solutions
- Funding, training and knowledge exchange for AF is critical for rapid upscaling
- EU Agroforestry Strategy to incorporate learnings from i.e Brazil (AGROMIX white paper, Oct 2024)
- Link between agriculture and climate must be reflected in policies

Thank you for listening

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Carbon Dioxide Removal: Policy and Ethics



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