



CAT Tracker - Concept Note

About Consortium for Agroecological Transformations (CAT)

This initiative is being coordinated by the Consortium for Agroecological Transformations (CAT).

Mission

To enable a paradigm shift for agroecological transformations that promote a communitarian and autonomous approach to agriculture; integrated, sustainable and economically viable farming systems, which can support a holistic, environment-friendly and climate-resilient development of India's food/farming systems.

By 2030, the ambition is to enable the landscape-level transformation of 30% (~40 million) farmer households, covering ~40 million hectares, to agroecology-based farming, thus aligning with the target proposed by a member of NITI Aayog. This can be done by supporting 16,000 clusters to shift towards agroecology-based agriculture by 2030, a scale of transformation which will induce mainstream economic support systems to take root, accelerating the transformative process.

Objectives

Catalyse and coordinate agroecological transformative processes in India. Such processes include evidence building, policy discourse and implementation, knowledge management and dissemination, capacity building of all stakeholders, resource mobilisation and its efficient allocation, and the development and propagation of successful models and pathways.

Approach

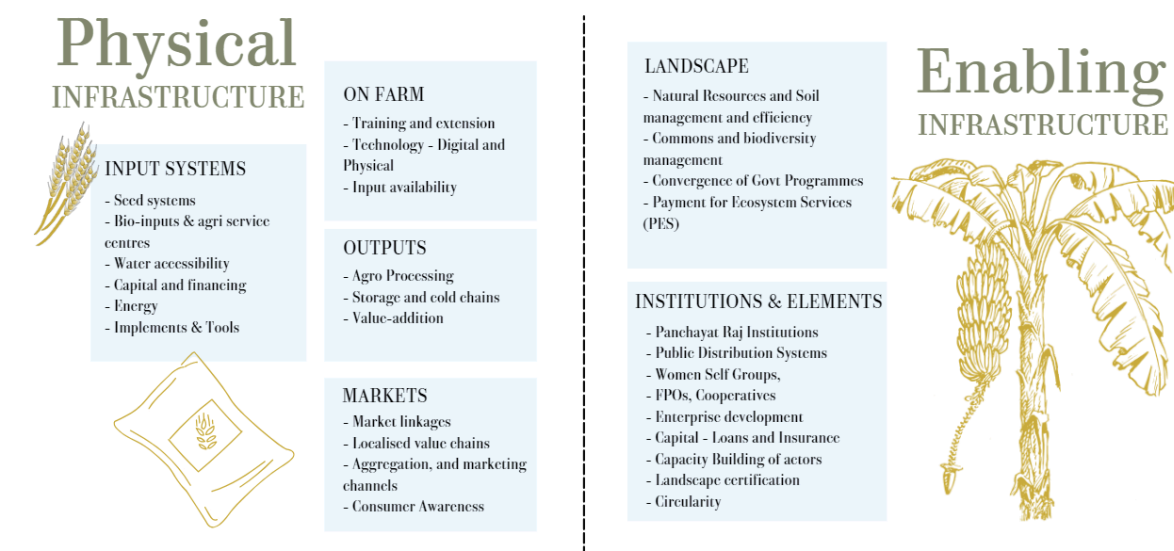
Strengthen landscape-based approaches where all ecosystem-level support services and agencies necessary for agroecological transformation are supported at scale for a sustained period of at least ten years. Such scale is to be achieved through collaborating with government programmes, such as the National Mission on Natural Farming and through coordinated efforts across multiple programmes of various agencies.

The Tracker

Various stakeholders, such as the government, CSOs, CSR initiatives, philanthropists and funders, are involved in promoting agroecology in different ways and parts of the country. However, there is a lack of availability of information about their initiatives and the onground progress on various aspects of agriculture and rural development, which

is collated and accessible easily in a one-stop manner. This makes it difficult to estimate the extent of the work done and to identify the missing elements in the

landscape/cluster regarding services, enterprise, ecosystem and social infrastructure, which prevent farmers from confidently adopting agroecology.



The CAT Tracker is envisioned as an openly accessible online platform that tracks and monitors initiatives related to Agroecology and Natural Farming at a cluster level. Clusters are defined as a group of 10 to 20 contiguous villages where stakeholders actively participate in the transformation over a sustained period of time.

The platform will enable the continuous collection of real-time data, offering valuable insights, identifying service gaps, and facilitating the planning and design of required interventions. The data collected on the platform will be accessible to implementers, funders, and policymakers. Platform users will also be able to categorise data as confidential or public, allowing for customisation based on their discretion.

Approach

The development of the tracker will be done in a collaborative way where representatives of key stakeholders, namely funders, CSRs, CSOs, market players, and enablers govt, will get involved at the outset to envision how the tracker will be developed and deployed.

Benefits to partners and the larger ecosystem

The implementation of the Consortium for Agroecological Transformations (CAT) and its associated Tracker holds significant advantages for our esteemed partners and the



broader ecosystem involved in agroecology initiatives. The multifaceted benefits encompass both strategic and operational realms, fostering a collaborative and impactful approach toward sustainable agricultural transformations.

Visibility and Recognition:

- **Showcasing Contributions:** Partners' contributions and investments are showcased on the platform, providing visibility to their commitment to agroecology and contributing to a collective narrative of sustainable agriculture.
- **Recognition of Efforts:** The Tracker serves as a recognition platform, acknowledging the vital role of partners in driving agroecological transformations and encouraging further engagement.

Strategic Decision-Making:

- **Informed Resource Allocation:** Partners gain access to real-time data on the geographical spread of agroecological initiatives, enabling strategic resource allocation based on identified clusters in need.
- **Identifying Investment Opportunities:** The Tracker facilitates a comprehensive view of current investments in agroecology, empowering partners to identify untapped opportunities and potential areas for enhanced collaboration.

Operational Excellence:

- **Targeted Interventions:** Through detailed insights into current practices and interventions, partners can precisely target their support and interventions in areas where they are most needed, optimising the impact of their efforts.
- **Policy Alignment:** The platform provides an overview of existing government schemes and policies, assisting partners in aligning their initiatives with broader policy frameworks for enhanced efficacy.

Knowledge Sharing and Collaboration:

- **Best Practices Replication:** Partners gain access to a repository of successful agroecological practices and case studies, fostering a culture of knowledge sharing and facilitating the replication of best practices across different clusters.
- **Networking Opportunities:** The platform serves as a hub for stakeholders to connect, fostering collaboration and synergies among various entities engaged in agroecological transformations.

Holistic Impact Assessment:

- **Measuring Impact:** The Tracker offers partners a means to assess the impact of their interventions and investments over time, enabling a holistic understanding of the transformative journey within specific clusters.
- **Continuous Improvement:** Through ongoing data collection and analysis, partners can continuously refine their strategies, ensuring adaptive approaches that align with the evolving needs of the agroecological landscape.

The benefits extend beyond individual partners, creating a dynamic and interconnected ecosystem that is needed for the transformation.

Timeline

The first pilot version will be tested in April 2024 with a select group of end users, and the beta version is planned to be launched by June 2024

Data Types and Data Aggregation

In order to comprehensively track and monitor agroecology initiatives at the cluster level, the Tracker will collect various types of data given below, with the first three categories being the primary focus during the initial phase of the beta launch. The data will be aggregated through use of current Artificial Intelligence technologies, which can sieve through blocks of incoherent data collected from partners to create usable datasets that can be presented on the platform.

1. Geographical Data:

- Identification of villages, blocks, and districts where agroecology initiatives are underway.
- The clusters will be identified based on areas requiring immediate attention and/or where partners and stakeholders are actively engaged.
- Geospatial mapping to visualise the distribution of agroecological activities.

2. Current Practices and Interventions:

- Collation of work conducted by Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and through Government programmes, assessing their extent and impact in the selected geographies.
- Identification of gaps and areas requiring additional support, facilitating a targeted approach to interventions.
- Real-time updates on the adoption of agroecological practices, providing insights into on-ground progress.

3. Current Investments:

- Mapping of current investments by Government bodies, Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives, philanthropic organisations, and corporates in terms of geographies and specific domains.
- Identification of opportunities and potential levers for additional investments to further catalyse agroecological transformations.



- Evaluation of the effectiveness of existing investments and their alignment with agroecology goals.

4. Policies:

- Collation of government schemes and policies related to agroecology at both state and national levels across ministries
- Compilation of case studies showcasing successful leveraging of policies.
- Analysis of opportunities and approaches for policy replication in other regions and avoidance of duplication

5. Research and Knowledge:

- Collation of success stories and effective agroecological practices suitable for replication.
- Building a repository of evidence to inform stakeholders about the positive outcomes and benefits of agroecology.
- Identification of gaps in knowledge dissemination and strategies for addressing them.

During the initial beta launch, the emphasis will be on collecting accurate and up-to-date information in these key categories.

Phases

1. Needs Assessment:

In this initial phase, comprehensive needs assessments will be conducted to understand the specific requirements and challenges within targeted clusters. This will involve engaging with local communities, stakeholders, and experts to identify the key parameters for tracking progress towards agroecology adoption. Comprehensive stakeholders sessions will be conducted to identify key user types, their needs and how the tracker could serve them.

2. Data Gathering:

Following the needs assessment, a robust data-gathering process will be initiated. This involves collecting both qualitative and quantitative data relevant to agroecology initiatives, including existing practices, challenges, and ongoing interventions. A thorough evaluation of the types and extent of data available will be carried out, which will inform the design and architecture of the platform.

3. First Prototype:

Building on the insights from the data-gathering phase, the development team will create the first prototype of the Tracker. This prototype will serve as a foundational model for the platform, incorporating essential features and

functionalities needed for effective tracking and monitoring of agroecological progress at the cluster level.

4. Beta Testing:

The beta testing phase involves deploying the prototype to a select group of stakeholders, including funders, CRSs, government representatives, and CSOs. Feedback collected during this stage will be invaluable for refining the platform, ensuring its user-friendliness, and addressing any unforeseen challenges before the official launch.

5. Launch:

Upon successful completion of beta testing and refinements, the Tracker will be officially launched. This marks a crucial milestone, making the platform accessible to a wider audience of implementers, funders, policymakers, and other stakeholders involved in agroecology initiatives. The launch will be accompanied by awareness campaigns to promote widespread adoption and use.

6. Continuous Development:

Post-launch, the platform will undergo continuous development and improvement based on user feedback, technological advancements, and evolving needs within the agroecological landscape. Regular updates, feature enhancements, and scalability improvements will be implemented to ensure the Tracker remains a dynamic and effective tool for tracking, monitoring, and catalysing agroecological transformations.

Next Steps

- Identify a technical partner who understands the context
- Compose a team of stakeholders who will get involved in the design and development