



**Balancing specialization and diversification
to sustainably transform rural livelihoods**

What we want to achieve

Agricultural policies, flagship programs and large private investments balance specialization and diversification in production landscapes to contribute to multiple SDGs and Aichi biodiversity targets simultaneously.



Why we want to achieve this

Quick background on the diversification – specialization debate

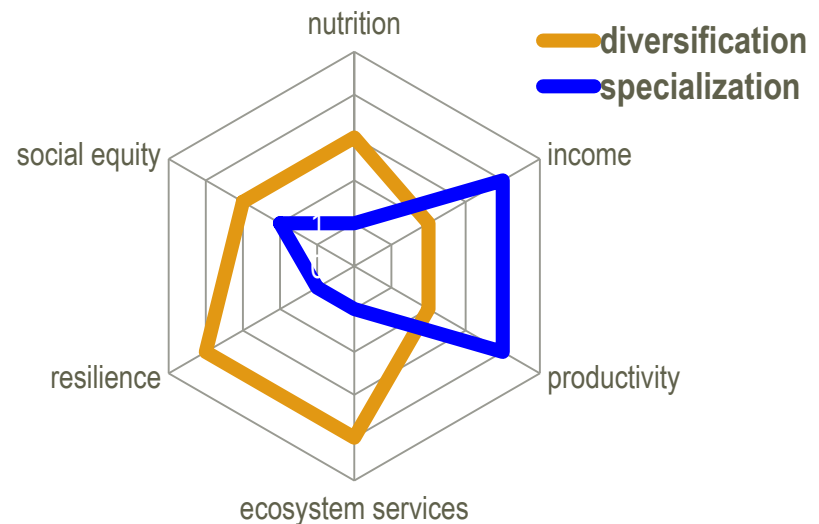


- Several continuums:
- Low to high economies of scale
 - Low to high market integration
 - Low to high external inputs
 - Low to high risk
 - High to low nutritional and ES diversity



Relevance for decision-makers
(farmers, public and private investors):

1. Need to consider tradeoffs
2. One-size-fits-all approaches do not work: need to consider diversity of landscapes and livelihoods
3. Scope/ need for combined specialization-diversification approaches, particularly in large-scale investments



What we have achieved so far

The knowledge base of how specialization x diversification strategies can contribute to multiple SDGs and Aichi targets is growing and can be applied to a diversity of settings



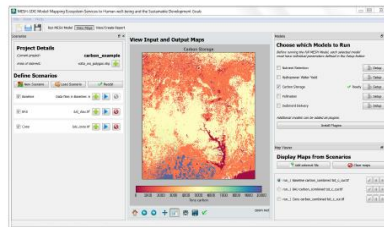
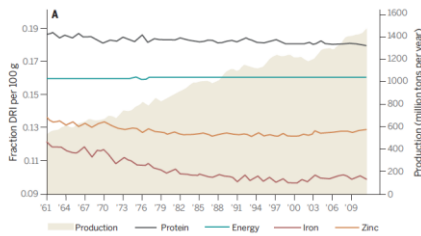
Our on-farm experiments have shown that common bean mixtures can reduce the severity of common bean rust by up to 50%, and improve yield by up to 32% due to improved drought tolerance.



Our socio-ecological landscape analyses indicate where specialization and diversification can be enhanced to increase income, diet diversity and markets while maintaining access to ecosystem services

What we have achieved so far

Capacity is being built to innovate, combine and adapt specialization and diversification practices to contribute to multiple goals (reduce poverty, improve nutrition, enhance resilience) simultaneously in a diversity of settings



New metrics, tools and databases like nutritional yield, MESH and ABD databases, provide practical means to monitor, plan and adapt for multiple outcomes, i.e. productivity, market value, nutritional function, and resilience.



Citizen science, on-farm experiments, innovation platforms and other research in development approaches engage a large variety and large number of stakeholders in joint learning and development

What we have achieved so far

Policy and partner dialogues e.g. in Ethiopia, Brazil, Nepal have been established to balance specialization and diversification at scale in flagship programs (e.g. Agricultural Growth Program, National School Feeding Program) to improve productivity, markets and income as well as nutrition, resilience and biodiversity



What we want to achieve through session collective action

Identify opportunities and threats to balance specialization and diversification at scale in # settings for improved productivity, nutrition, gender equity and resilience. Describe case studies.

Develop future scenarios and recommendations to balance specialization and diversification in agricultural policies, flagship programs and large private investments to contribute to multiple SDGs (1,2,3,5,12,13,15) and Aichi targets (2,7,13,14)

Design action framework to make markets (inputs and output markets) function better for diversification, alongside specialization

With whom?

Government actors,
ministries, regional bodies

Farmers, Agribusinesses,
Retailers, Consumer
organizations

Researchers from multiple
disciplines: economics,
agriculture, nutrition,
environment, social
scientists

Program managers and
implementers: NGOs,
extension workers,...