The Business Agroecology Tool (B-ACT)

The tool assesses to which degree the operations of an enterprise meet with each of the 13 agroecological principles.

“Before we invest, we ask questions about financial return, but which questions should we be asking that address returns of social and environmental capital?”[1]

Why the B-ACT?

Agroecological enterprises (AEEs) are key in supporting the agroecological transformation.

However, **AEEs are chronically underfunded**, as most financial vehicles, investors and donors, traditionally finance enterprises practicing conventional agriculture and focus almost exclusively on indicators of productivity and revenue growth.

The **B-ACT assists investors and donors when it comes to orienting their funding**. In addition, **enterprises can assess** their overall alignment with the agroecological principles and learn about areas for potential for agroecological improvement.

For Whom?

The B-ACT can be used as a self- or external assessment tool. It further can either assess existing enterprises or support the development of more agroecological business plans.

The main target groups are:

- **Donors**
- **Investors**
- **Entrepreneurs**
- **Civil Society Organizations**
- **Policy makers**

Outputs of the Tool

The tool generates concrete outputs such as:

- overall **Agroecology Score** (see example below)
- contribution to the **Sustainable Development Goals**
- overview of **environmental, economic and social impacts**
- determining whether an enterprise’s operations, activities or strategy may **conflict with agroecology**

Applications of the Tool

The tool was officially launched in July 2023 and is currently used in various projects and initiatives such as:

- Agroecology Accelerator “Neycha” by Shona and Biovision
- Bioversity/Ciat to assess enterprises in Colombia
- IFAD for business plans assessment and development
- Conversations about investing in food systems transformation by TIFS

Be part of the Initiative

The B-ACT is continuously being revised and updated to fit the need of practitioners. We welcome your feedback and project inputs.

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