



# Testing FAO's "TAPE" in Norway: a participatory tool for farmers, policymakers and other stakeholders

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# What is TAPE?

- **Tool for Agroecological Performance Evaluation (TAPE)** is a global multicriteria assessment tool.
- It assesses farming and food systems by using **agroecological principles and criteria** defined to be **relevant to the SDG's**.
- Recently developed by FAO (2019, Test version)
- Open access:  
[www.fao.org/agroecology/tools-tape](http://www.fao.org/agroecology/tools-tape)

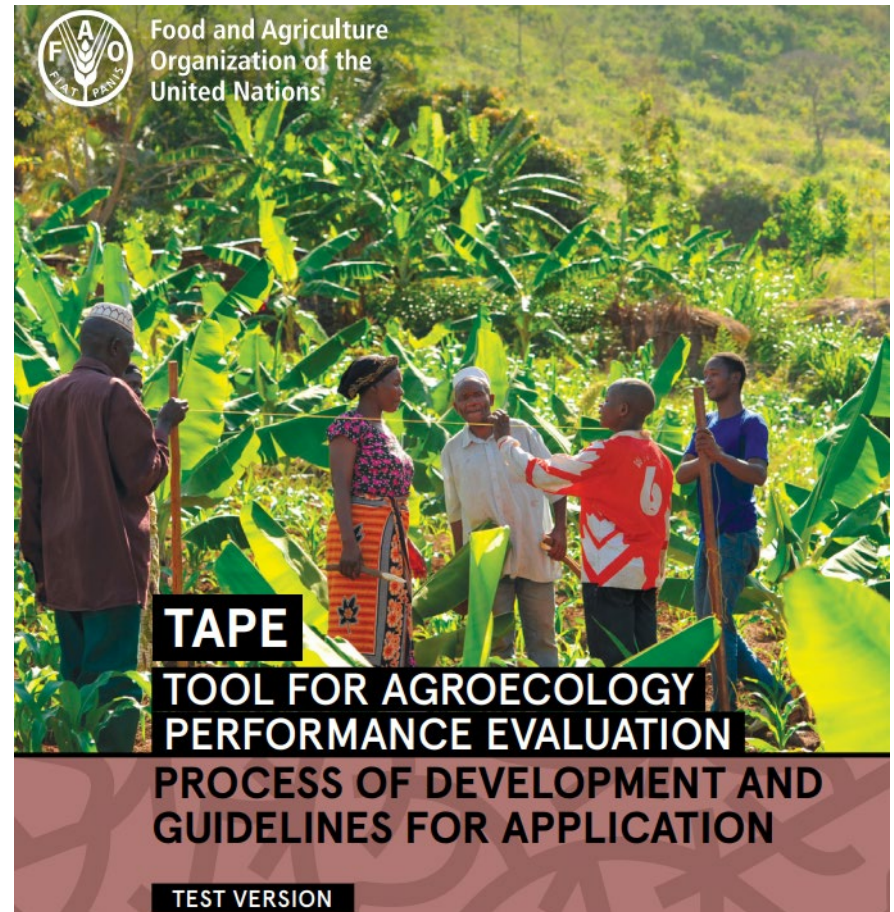
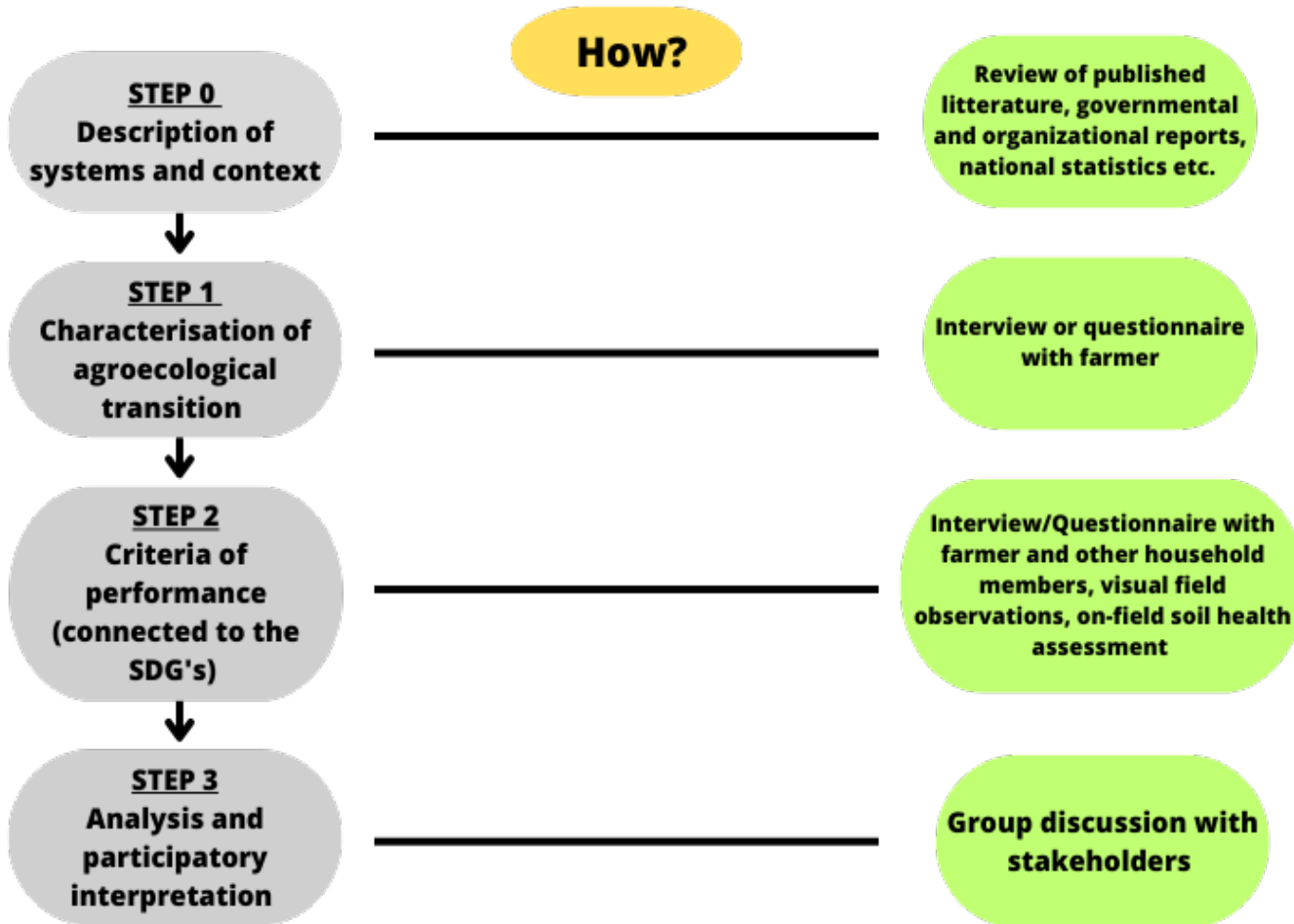


Table 4. Results from the TAPE-assessment step 2. Green = desirable, Yellow = Acceptable, Red = Unsustainable.

Step 2: Core criteria of performance linked to the SDG's		
Main dimension	Core criteria of performance	Results
Governance	Secure land tenure	Has a formal document with the name of the holder on it, a perception of secure access to land and has at least one right to sell/bequeath/inherit any of the parcel of the holding
Economy	Productivity	Gross productivity value/ha is higher than the national average (51 900 kr/ha to 41 800 kr/ha, calculated with data from FAOSTAT, 2020)
	Income	Farm net income is higher than the median income in similar agroecosystems (according to NIBIO- <u>Driftsgranskinger, 2020</u> )
	Added value	Gross added value/family worker > 1.2 x national agricultural GDP per agricultural worker calculated with data from FAOSTAT and <a href="https://tradingeconomics.com/norway/gdp-from-agriculture">https://tradingeconomics.com/norway/gdp-from-agriculture</a>
Health and nutrition	Exposure to pesticides	Pesticides are not used, only other integrated techniques for pest management
	Dietary Diversity	Minimum dietary diversity for women: Score 8/10.
Society and Culture	Womens Empowerment	Score 88,75 %.
	Youth Employment	Young people do not want to continue in the agricultural activity of their parents, but are currently enrolled in education and working in another system
Environment	Agricultural biodiversity	Gini-simpson diversity index + "natural vegetation, trees and pollinators index" score 42,3 %
	Soil Health	Average score of 4,4, All 10 indicators according to the guidelines assessed.

# A stepwise and participatory approach



Soil health assessment. Photo: Tatiana Rittl

# Relevant findings for the development of other DST's

- Participation and discussion lead to **increased learning** about agroecological principles and sustainability of agri-food systems
- Participation and discussion lead to **an increased awareness of the causes of the shortcomings** of the assessed production system.
- **Transparency** is essential. The indicators and their scoring must be displayed and explained during the discussion.
- The implementation **process** in itself can be **more important than the results** of the assessment.
- **Simplicity** – a **prerequisite** for using it as a discussion and learning tool



Photo: Tatiana Rittl



[www.norsok.no](http://www.norsok.no)

# Summary of all conclusions from project

## The farm:

- Low scores in the criterion concerned with “diversity” and high scores for the criterion “Efficiency” and “Economy”.
- These outcomes were identified to be a result of socioeconomic and political circumstances.

## The evaluation of TAPE:

- TAPES' stepwise approach was recognized as a strength of the tool since it was a prerequisite for attaining some of the main findings.
- It was recognized that TAPE could be an appropriate tool to foster fruitful discussions with farmers, policymakers, and other stakeholders, in Norway.
- Several challenges and shortcomings of using TAPE in a Norwegian context were identified. The majority of them were a consequence of poor adaptability of indicators to the context.
- Some of the challenges and shortcomings only were considered relevant if TAPE is used as a “hard” systems tool, aiming to collect data to quantify the degree of sustainability performance.
- TAPE was considered a **suitable tool in a Norwegian context, if used as a soft systems methodology**, e.g, aimed at participatory learning processes.