Aggregated Reference Indicators (ARIs)	
AFS_ARI_2 Agroecological farming practices ***Number of smallholder farmers applying more agroecological farming practices***	
Contribution to sub-objective of M21-24	*Sub-objective 4: Ensuring the sustainable management of natural resources*
Contribution to 2030 Agenda: SDG target	SDG target 2.4: By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality.
Definition (description, specification, qualification)	**Smallholder farmers:** Farm holders with a land area < 5ha in Asia and Africa and < 10 ha in Latin America applying agroecological farming practices in year n minus number of smallholder applying agroecological farming practices in year n-1 (previous year). **Agro-ecological farming practices:** Practices in agriculture and food systems development based on a wide variety of technologies, practices and innovations including local and traditional knowledge as well as modern science aiming, optimising ecological interactions within agricultural systems (e.g. relations between and among biotic and abiotic elements). Agro-ecological farming practices **lead to a more economical, ecological and social sustainability & to higher resilience to climate change because they contribute to below factors:** - **farmers and buyers** diversify and produce and distribute different agricultural plant, tree and animal based products in more biodiverse landscapes and reduce the economic, ecologic and social risk of weather induced failure. - **multifunctional agricultural landscapes and soils** will be more healthy and biodiverse since useful organisms in soils and environment are not extinct by fertilizer or pesticide overuse but will survive and contribute to better soil structure and chemistry and to better ecological balance of soils and the farming landscape. - **soils** will be less exposed to extreme weather conditions such as heat, direct sun, wind or hard rain through the coverage by a secondary crop, or by plants not competing the main crop which are using only different soil nutrients and surface water or by mulching (covering and protecting soils with harvest wastes). - **water resources** will at the same time be used more economically because living soils will absorb the precipitation water better for the crops and because agro-ecology in semi-arid areas implies the use of water conservation techniques. - **ground water resources** will be replenished better by annual precipitations through a reduced run-off of water and increased water absorption in the soils. - **people's (producers' and consumers' diet** is healthier and more sustainable in biodiverse farming landscapes and because biodiverse landscapes are more resilient to extreme weather conditions. - **vulnerable groups** have more opportunities to participate in more diversified markets. - **producers and consumers** become more loyal in jointly creating the manifold benefits of transformed food systems. ***Attention:*** *Agroecology and organic agriculture are often used interchangeably, although Agroecology does not necessarily have to adhere to the strict prohibition on the use of synthetic inputs.*
Measuring unit	Number of smallholder farmers applying more agroecological farming practices
Disaggregation dimension (sex, age group, ethnicity or other identity criteria of LNOB)	a. Females in LNOB target group b. Females in non-LNOB target group c. Males in LNOB target group d. Males in non-LNOB target group
Data source	At project level, implementing partners

Rationale	Theory of change **If** farmers apply agroecological farming practices, **then** food systems will become economically, ecologically and socially more sustainable and more resilient to climate change, **because** of a diversification of production and distribution, more biodiverse and multifunctional landscapes, healthier and conserved soils, sustainably used water resources, replenished ground water, healthier and more sustainable diets, better inclusion of vulnerable groups and more loyal producer-consumer relationships.
Possible messages of aggregation and synthesis	Thanks to the contribution of the SDC, xx men and yy women, out of which zz (youth or other disadvantaged group) practice agroecological farming, which will be more sustainable and more climate resilient in the long term.
Thematic responsibility	Agriculture and Food Security Network