

## Block 1

### AgroecoList: A Reporting Checklist for Agroecological Research

#### About the project

This ~5 minute survey is for **scientists/reviewers/editors working in agroecology**. It aims to:

1. get feedback on a reporting checklist that we have designed for agroecological research
2. understand your views on existing reporting standards and guidelines

Many publications lack sufficient information to be correctly interpreted, replicated, or for the data to be reused for synthesis or reanalysis. This reduces scientific rigor and impedes scientific progress. Reporting guidelines, such as checklists, are known to improve reporting standards, and are increasingly recommended in journal guidelines. This survey is about a reporting checklist (AgroecoList) that we (an international team of 23 experts) developed for agroecological research. AgroecoList can be used as a guide or a reporting template for authors, reviewers, and editors.

#### About the survey

The survey is being conducted by the University of Reading. Participation is voluntary. If at any stage you wish to have further information about the research project, please contact Dr Amelia Hood at: a.s.hood@reading.ac.uk.

#### How we handle and store your data

The survey is anonymous, but you can provide your email to get updates on the project. If you provide your email, your data will be held by the University of Reading for the duration of the project (until 2024). The data will be stored on a secure drive only accessible to the University of Reading (Dr Amelia Hood) and the University of Cambridge (Prof. William Sutherland). If you provide your email, you can withdraw it and associated data by contacting Amelia Hood (a.s.hood@reading.ac.uk). It will not be associated with any publicly available data and will not be passed on to any third parties. By participating you are consenting to these terms of data storage and use which have been approved by the University of Reading's Ethics Committee.

#### Your data protection rights

You have certain rights under data protection law which are:

- Withdraw your consent, for example if you opted in to be added to a participant register
- Access your personal data or ask for a copy
- Rectify inaccuracies in personal data that we hold about you
- Be forgotten, that is your details to be removed from systems that we use to process your personal data
- Restrict uses of your data
- Object to uses of your data, for example retention after you have withdrawn from a study

Some restrictions apply to the above rights where data is collected and used for research purposes. You can find out more about your rights on the website of the Information Commissioners Office (ICO) (<https://ico.org.uk>). You have a right to complain to the ICO if you are unhappy with how your data has been handled. Please contact the University Data Protection Officer in the first instance at [imps@reading.ac.uk](mailto:imps@reading.ac.uk), or in writing to: Information Management & Policy Services, University of Reading, Whiteknights, P O Box 217, Reading, RG6 6AH.

**Please check the box to indicate your acceptance of these conditions**

What is/are your current country/countries of affiliation?

(use cmd/ctrl to select multiple)

Afghanistan  
Albania  
Algeria  
Andorra  
Angola  
Antigua and Barbuda  
Argentina  
Armenia  
Australia  
Austria

### Which climatic zone(s) has your research been based in?

Select all that apply.

- Tropical
- Subtropical
- Temperate
- Polar and subpolar

### Which system(s) has your research been on?

Select all that apply.

- Arable
- Pastoral
- Agroforestry
- Mixed
- Other (please specify)

### Which scientific field(s) best describes your research (current and past)?

(use cmd/ctrl to select multiple)

- Agronomy
- Animal behaviour
- Biochemistry
- Botany
- Computational biology
- Conservation biology
- Ecology
- Entomology
- Evidence-synthesis
- Evolutionary biology
- Genetics

- Landscape ecology
- Microbiology
- Physiology
- Plant pathology
- Social science
- Soil science
- Taxonomy
- Zoology
- Other (list multiple if you want)

How many years have you worked in agriculture (including research, industry and practice)?

How many years have you worked in academia (including PhD)?

What is your experience with publishing agroecological research?

Select all that apply.

- Author
- Reviewer
- Editor

## Block 1

Had you heard of reporting guidelines prior to completing this survey?

E.g. PRISMA (Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses), ROSES (RepOrting standards for Systematic Evidence), TTEE (Tools for Transparency in Ecology and Evolution)

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

Do you think reporting guidelines improve reporting standards?

- Yes  
 No  
 Not sure

### Have you used reporting guidelines before?

Select all that apply.

- Yes: as an author, to help conduct a study  
 Yes: as an author, to help write a study  
 Yes: as a reviewer, to assess manuscripts  
 Yes: as an editor, to assess manuscripts  
 Yes: other (please specify)  
  
 No  
 Not sure

### Rate the current standard of reporting in agroecological studies

	1 - very poor	2 - poor	3 - ok	4 - good	5 - excellent	Don't know
Experimental/sampling set-up (e.g. number of replicates, size of plots)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Study site description (excluding soil) (e.g. elevation, site map)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Soil description (e.g. soil type)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Livestock management (e.g. livestock species)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Crop & grassland management (e.g. fertiliser type)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Outputs (e.g. crop yield)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

## Block 3

### AgroecoList

AgroecoList is a reporting checklist for agroecological studies. Reporting checklists are known to improve reporting standards, and are increasingly recommended in journal guidelines. AgroecoList was developed by a team of 23 researchers.

AgroecoList can be used in two ways:

1. As a memory aide to authors, reviewers, or editors
2. As a template to fill in and be included in a table format in publications, e.g. in supplementary information. This would facilitate automated data extraction via machine learning, which would promote data reuse, such as synthesis.

Collecting all of the variables in AgroecoList represents a significant body of work, and in many cases authors

will not have information for every variable. **Missing values ("Not recorded") are expected, and should be accepted by readers, reviewers and editors.** The list is to encourage the inclusion of variables that are easy to report and may have been otherwise excluded, it should not be used to overburden authors by requesting additional information that is not easy to add and critical for the original study.

Some of the variables are more ambiguous than others. We have loosely-defined the parameters of some variables as strictly defining them would be too restrictive; we recommend that authors define these variables within the context of their study while also considering the potential contexts within which their study may be reused.

For further explanations of these variables, [click here](#).

Variable Type	Variable Name
Experimental/ sampling set-up	Start & end date of study Start & end dates of any interventions/treatments Dates/frequency that measurements were taken Size & shape of experimental units (e.g. subplot/plot/field/farm) Experimental/sampling designs (e.g. blocked/randomised, distance between plots) Number of replicates
Study Site	Co-ordinates & co-ordinate system (e.g. WGS84) Country Site map Elevation Slope & aspect Weather during study period Extreme/atypical events (e.g. flooding, fire, pest outbreak) Farm/crop/livestock certification/scheme (e.g. Organic) Artificial structure (e.g. open vs polytunnel, barn vs field) Landscape context (e.g. field-edge management, proximity to forest) Previous land use type & timing of transition (e.g. if converted from forest)
Soil	Soil type & soil system (e.g. USDA) Soil texture (silt, sand, clay) Soil pH Soil organic matter
Livestock management	Livestock species & breed (including managed pollinators) Livestock density Livestock feeding regime (e.g. free grazing/supplemental) Livestock agrochemicals type, rate & timing (list all) (including medicines) Livestock demography (e.g. lifestage/sex) Livestock management timing (e.g. release/rotations)
Crop & grassland management	Crop species & variety (including main crops, secondary crops & non-cash-crops) Crop planting density & arrangement (e.g. broadcast/inter-row) Crop planting/harvesting timing (including rotations) Cultivation method, depth, & timing Mowing/topping method, height & timing Weeding method & timing Physical control of animal pests (e.g. trapping) method & timing Biological control agent species, release rate & timing Irrigation method, rate & timing Fertiliser type, rate & timing (list all) Crop protection chemicals type, rate & timing (list all) Other chemicals type, rate & timing (list all)
Outputs	Yield Quality and/or Commercial grade

Would you or your students use AgroecoList for your next agroecological study?

	Yes	Maybe	No	N/A
Author	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Reviewer	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

	Yes	Maybe	No	N/A
Editor	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Any other comments on reporting standards in agroecology or AgroecoList?

If you would like to be updated when AgroecoList is available for use, please leave your email below: