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**RETHINKING AKIS FOR AGROECOLOGY: THE CASE FOR LOCAL
AGROECOLOGICAL DYNAMISATION**

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Agroecological transitions involve dynamic yet transformative processes that reshape how agri-food systems function, are governed and organised – through shifts in technologies, infrastructures, cultures, rules, values, institutions and practices – towards more sustainable, fair and resilient models. Within this context, Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems (AKIS), and particularly advisory services, have been highlighted as a crucial leverage point. However, existing studies underline the persistence of linear knowledge and innovation dynamics in many AKIS, constraining their potential to support agroecological transitions. The latter emphasise AKIS that foster plural knowledge systems and bottom-up innovation processes. Drawing on ongoing research involving interviews with approximately 80 agroecology-oriented farmers across four Spanish territories, this paper seeks to advance a renewed conceptualisation of

AKIS in practice and theory through the lens of agroecology. Preliminary findings challenge the dominant role of advisors as prescribers of technical solutions or experts who transfer standardised knowledge. Farmers transitioning to agroecology – or initiating small-scale agroecological projects – often demonstrate strong agronomic and ecological expertise and require more context-specific support related to organisational, marketing or social innovation. They particularly highlight the importance of territorial connections, problem-solving multi-actor networks, and access to collaborative spaces conducive to experimentation. These findings point to the need for advisory roles that move beyond technical prescription towards facilitating linkages between actors, mobilising territorial resources and enabling multi-actor processes open to disruptive forms of innovation. Building on this, and in dialogue with previous research, the paper further theorises the concept of Local Agroecological Dynamisation (LAeD) to unpack the role of intermediaries who broker relationships and connect fragmented – yet potentially reconcilable – worlds, supporting convergence between different knowledges, needs and aspirations for agroecological transitions. The tensions associated with this role are also examined, particularly regarding power relations, institutional constraints and the dynamics of subalternity within AKIS.

Palavras-chave: akis; agroecological transitions; knowledge; innovation; agroecology.