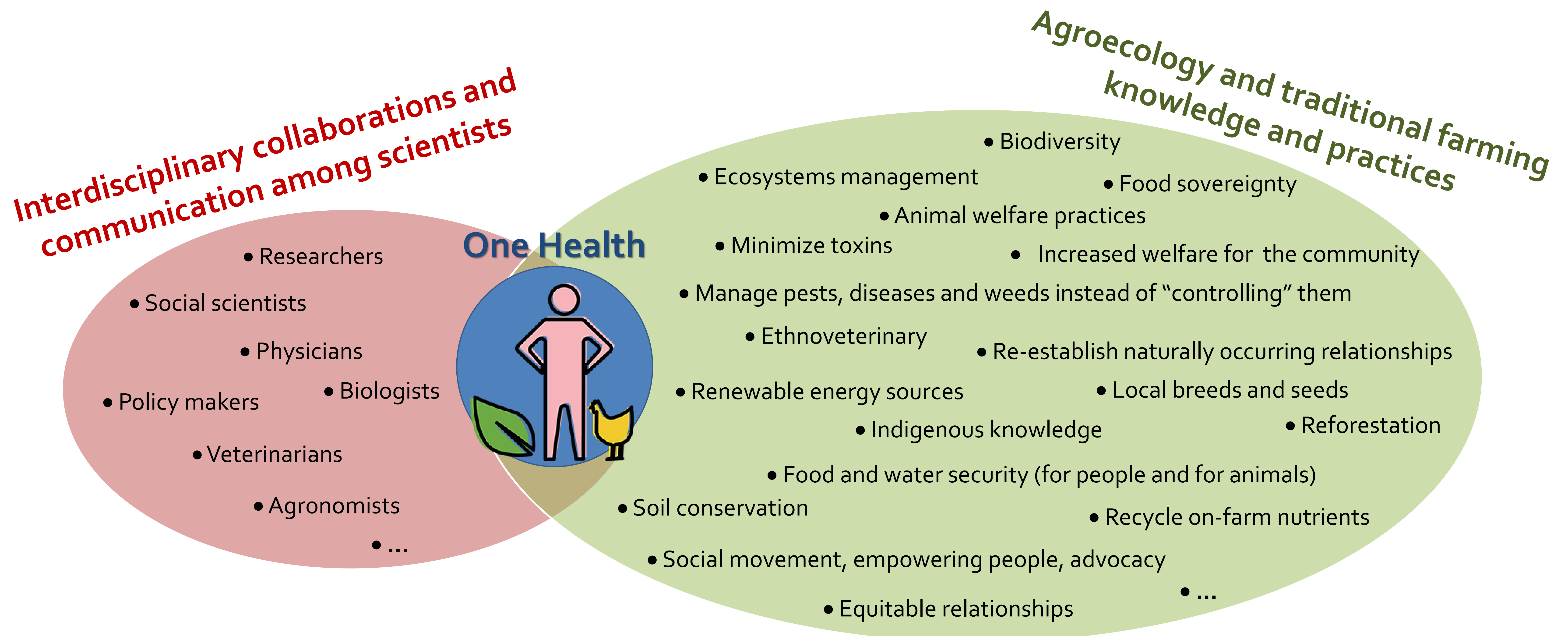


# Building a solid and lasting One Health through an agroecological perspective

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Vétérinaires Sans Frontières International (VSF International) is a network of 11 non-governmental associations. Its members are the individual national VSF associations of Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, The Netherlands, Spain, Portugal, Switzerland, Canada and Czech Republic. VSF International members implement altogether more than 200 projects in 40 countries in the field of livestock production, animal health and welfare and agriculture to support small-scale farmers.



➡ Combine the concept of **One Health** with **agroecology**, a methodology which integrates the management of ecosystems and productive systems with economic, social, cultural and political aspects.

VSF concept of One Health goes beyond the multi-disciplinary approach where collaboration occurs mostly between academic experts, but includes also **traditional farming knowledge and practices** developed by local farmers.



All around the world indigenous knowledge and traditional agroecological practices are the basis for family farmers to cope with adverse conditions and meet their basic needs. VSF uses participatory training techniques in order to **integrate academic knowledge with indigenous and traditional knowledge** into enhanced local farming practices and local innovation.



➡ **Applied agroecology** enables animal, human and ecosystems health in the broadest sense, promoting improvements in the physical and psycho-emotional states of animals through:

- food and water security;
- appropriate husbandry practices;
- appropriate breeds and species for the local environment and cultural settings.

In order to promote economic well-being for local communities, VSF advocates avoiding dependence on single crops or products; using short food chains; applying conventional and non-conventional medicine and using local ethnoveterinary practices; exploring alternative income generating activities for farms; avoiding dependence on external subsidies; keeping bank debt to a minimum and privilege ethical banks, all this resulting in **sustainable implementation of "One Health" concept**.

The development of agroecology depends on the reorganization of the supply chain and markets. Solely economic objectives rather than integrated social objectives have resulted in the failure of One Health, since they are enforced without collective participation.



➡ The "one-size-fits-all" principle should be replaced by **systemic approaches** based on local specificities and on mobilization and participation of local communities.

Applied agroecology enhances not only animal and human but also environmental health in the broadest sense, and ultimately results in **food security and food sovereignty** for humans and animals, the foundations for a stable One Health.



Watch our promo video:  
[vsf-international.org/vsf-promo](http://vsf-international.org/vsf-promo)

Healthy animals, healthy people, healthy environment

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