



Agroecological Transition of Food Systems in Africa



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 861974 (SustainSAHEL)

Agenda of the event

Tuesday | 6 May | 2025
Museum of Natural Sciences
Rue Vautier 29, 1000 Brussels



FiBL

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| 08:00-09:00 | Registration |
| 09:00-09:15 | Opening & welcome: Harun Cicek (FiBL) |
| 09:15-09:30 | Scientific evidence for agroecological and organic transition in Africa
<i>Keynote speaker:</i> Beate Huber (FiBL) |
| 09:30-09:45 | Harnessing Agroecology Transitions in Africa to achieve Better Production, Better Nutrition, a Better Environment and a Better Life, leaving no one behind
<i>Keynote speaker:</i> Abebe Haile-Gabriel (FAO) |
| 09:45-10:00 | Policy perspectives on agroecological transition
<i>Keynote speaker:</i> Marion Michaud (European Commission, DG International Partnerships) |
| 10:15-11:15 | Climate resilient production systems: Agroecology for enhanced productivity, soil and livestock
<i>Keynote speakers:</i> Giovanna Seddaiu (UNISS) and Harun Cicek (FiBL)
<i>Panel discussion:</i> Olfa Boussadia, Institute De L'olivier, Sfax (Tunisia); Mamadou Traorè, UNB (Burkina Faso); Yelemou Barthelemy, INERA (Burkina Faso); Hadja Sanon, INERA (Burkina Faso) |
| 11:15-11:30 | Coffee break |
| 11:30-12:30 | Food security, Agrobiodiversity strategies and nutrition: Agrobiodiversity strategies for improved food diversity and nutrition
<i>Keynote speakers:</i> Christine Chege (CIAT) and Quirico Migheli (UNISS)
<i>Panel discussion:</i> Celine Termote, Bioversity-CIAT (Kenya); Amritbir Riari, (FiBL); Adam Standring, University of Lisbon |



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- 12:30-13:30 **Lunch break**
- 13:30-14:30 **Inclusive growth and sustainable job creation:
Comparative advantage of the economy of agroecology**
Keynote speaker: Jean Michel Sourisseau (CIRAD)
Panel discussion: Alice Turinawe, CAES, Makerere University (Uganda);
Evelyne Compaore, INERA (Burkina Faso); Paul Wagstaff, Self Help
Africa (Ireland); Anitra van der Kraan, Tradin Organic (Netherlands)
- 14:30-15:00 **Coffee break**
- 15:00-16:00 **Agroecology transition and adoption:
Transforming agri-food systems**
Keynote speakers: Emily Poppenborg (JLU) and Rik van den Bosch
(ISRIC)
Panel discussion: Assane Beye, UCAD (Senegal); Samuel Mesele, IITA
(Uganda); Shem Kuyah, Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and
Technology (Kenya)
- 16:00-17:00 **Synthesis Session:
EU-Africa agenda for agroecological R&I priorities: Research
and development agenda – Evidence for achieving sustainable
and resilient livelihoods**
Panel discussion: Beate Huber (FiBL); Guy Faure (European
Commission, DG International Partnerships); Luis Vivas-Alegre
(European Commission, DG Agriculture and Rural Development);
Hans-Jörg Lutzeyer (DG Research and Innovation); David Amudavi
(Biovision Africa Trust), Oluwole Fatunbi (FARA)
- 17:30 **Event closes**
- Event moderated by:** Mila Sell (LUKE) and Markus Arbenz (FiBL)





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Speakers

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Key note sessions



Beate **HUBER**
Speaker

Beate Huber is Vice-Chair of the Management Board and Head of International Cooperation at FiBL, Switzerland. She has extensive experience in organic certification, policy, and international projects promoting sustainable agriculture, especially in developing countries.



Abebe **HAILE-GABRIEL**
Speaker

Abebe Haile-Gabriel is FAO Assistant Director-General for Africa with a background in agriculture, rural development, and policy. He previously held senior roles at the African Union and began his career in academia. He joined FAO in 2015 and holds advanced degrees in Agricultural and Rural Development.



Marion **MICHAUD**
Speaker

Marion Michaud is a Policy Analyst at the European Commission's DG INTPA, working on agroecology, sustainable food systems, and natural resources. She previously spent 25 years in EU Delegations in Asia and Africa, focusing on rural development and land governance.

Session

Climate resilient production systems: Agroecology for enhanced productivity, soil and livestock



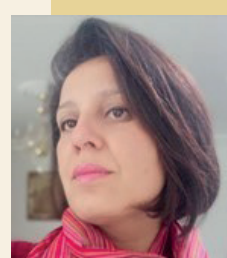
Giovanna **SEDDAIU**
Speaker

Associate Professor of Agronomy and Crop Science .Secretary-General of DeserNet International. EWA-BELT project coordinator, Research topics: interrelations between the Mediterranean and Sub-saharan cropping systems, the associated ecosystem services and their environmental impact, with a special focus on agro-silvopastoral systems.



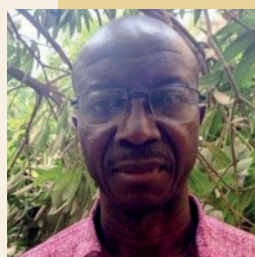
Harun **CICEK**
Speaker

Systems agronomist at FiBL with more than 15 years of R&D experience in cropping systems management in agroecology and agroforestry. His international experience spans from North/South America to Central/East Asia, Middle East, Africa and Europe. He has > 25 publications on the various topics of sustainable agriculture. He is the coordinator of SustainSahel (H2020) and ConServeTerra (PRIMA) and developed TransforMED (PRIMA) project.



Olfa **BOUSSADIA**
Panelist

Agronomist and senior researcher at the Olive Institute of Tunisia, specializing in abiotic stress management in olive trees and sustainable cultivation. She serves as National Coordinator for European research projects promoting resilient olive farming in the Mediterranean.



Yelemou **BARTHELEMY**
Panelist

Agroecologist and senior researcher at the National Center for Scientific Research and Technology. My expertise focuses primarily on natural resource management, ecological soil intensification and trees/shrubs-soil- crops interactions.



Mamadou **TRAORE**
Panelist

Professor of soil science with 19 years of experience in research, teaching, and collaboration with development projects in Burkina Faso. He is the Principal Investigator for the University of Nazi Boni within EWA BELT Project, coordinating the research activities on agrilivestock integration and soil fertility management.



Hadja **SANON**
Panelist

Senior research in animal productions at INERA, Dr Sanon researches' are focused on fodder resources characterization and improvement, and the valorisation of local resources in animal feeding. In addition to her research activities, Dr Sanon contributes to the training of the students from the Universities and professional Schools in Burkina Faso, through courses and thesis supervision. She is involved in the SustainSahel project where she co-lead WP6 on Benefits of shrub foliage for livestock husbandry.

Session

Food security, Agrobiodiversity strategies and nutrition:

Agrobiodiversity strategies for improved food diversity and nutrition



Christine CHEGE
Speaker

Dr. Christine Chege is a food system scientist with over 15 years of experience in African food systems. She holds a PhD in Agricultural Economics from the University of Goettingen. Her research covers market systems, agroecology, food and nutrition linkages, consumer behavior, and food system transformation, with a focus on sustainable, healthy diets in low-income settings.



Quirico MIGHELI
Speaker

Professor of Plant pathology. Editor-in-Chief, Biocontrol Science & Technology. Research: biocontrol of plant pathogenic and mycotoxigenic fungi; food safety and food security issues; molecular and physiological plant-pathogen interactions; risk assessment of biocontrol agents.



Celine TERMOTE
Panelist

Dr. Termote is the Africa Regional Team Leader for the Food Environment and Consumer Behavior Research Program in Nairobi. With a PhD from Ghent University, she leads a team of 25 experts focused on agroecology, market linkages, diet quality, and food systems



Amritbir RIAR
Panelist

Deputy Head of the Department of International Cooperation at the Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL). His work centers on exploring resilient farming systems, Seed systems, and participatory plant breeding, agrobiodiversity for Food and nutrition security through diversified diets. His work forges critical bridges between science, policy, and practical application, catalyzing tangible progress towards sustainable development.



Adam STANDRING
Panelist

Adam Standring is an Invited Researcher at ISEG Lisbon School of Economics and Management. He is an environmental social scientist with a background in political science, public policy and sociology. His research focuses on the politics of knowledge and expertise in climate and sustainability related issues, particularly focusing on disciplinary and gender diversity. Within the SustInAfrica project, he co-ordinates the 4th Work Package on training, education and capacity building.

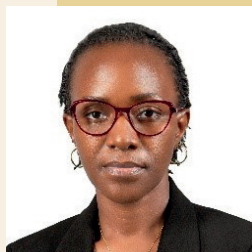
Session

Inclusive growth and sustainable job creation: Comparative advantage of the economy of agroecology



Jean Michel **SOURISSEAU**
Speaker

Jean-Michel Sourisseau is an economist at CIRAD, Deputy Director of ART-Dev joint research unit. Recently, his research focusses on ways of intensifying agriculture in the face of demographic challenges in sub-Saharan Africa. He articulates household-level approaches and territorial perspectives, mobilizing foresight studies to anticipate economic and social transformations.



Alice **TURINAWÉ**
Panelist

Dr. Alice Turinawe is a Lecturer at Makerere University, Uganda. She holds a PhD in Agricultural Economics, a master's degree in Agricultural and Applied Economics and a bachelor's degree in Agribusiness Management.



Evelynne **CAMPAORE**
Panelist

Dr Evelynne Sawadogo/Compaoré, Senior Scientist in charge of the socio-economic unit at the Institut for Environment and Agricultural Research (INERA). She holds a PhD in Science, Technology and Innovation Studies, School of Sociology and Social Policy, University of Nottingham in the UK.



Paul **WAGSTAFF**
Panelist

Head of the Global Technical Advisory and Research Team, a team of 10 technical advisors, covering nutrition, WASH, Gender, Enterprise, Agriculture, Dairy, Natural Resource Management and community engagement, who provide technical support to SHAs programs. Since starting his career as an Extension Officer with the Tanzanian Ministry of Agriculture in the 80's, Paul has worked in smallholder agricultural development for NGOs, the EU and government departments in over 30 countries in Africa and South Asia.



Anitra **van der KRAAN**
Panelist

Anitra van der Kraan is a Project Coordinator for Funded Programs at Tradin Organic, a Netherlands-based company specializing in organic ingredients. In her role, she oversees sustainability and development initiatives, particularly in Africa and Asia. Her work includes projects aiming to enhance food safety, promote regenerative agriculture, and improve farmer livelihoods through training and capacity building. Before joining Tradin Organic, Anitra held positions related to agribusiness and trade development in Africa, including work with the Netherlands-African Business Council (NABC).

Session

Agroecology transition and adoption: Transforming agri-food systems



Emily **POPENBORG**
Speaker

Professor of Animal Ecology. Research: arthropod biodiversity, community assembly and population dynamics in agricultural landscapes, biological pest control and pollination services in crops, landscape transformation, agroecology transitions.



Rik **VAN DEN BOSCH**
Speaker

Director of ISRIC, World Soil Information since September 2014. He has 25 years of experience in applied research on soil fertility, sustainable land management, and the role of soils in agriculture and environmental conservation. His work focuses on improving soil information systems to support better land use planning and agricultural productivity.



Assene **BEYE**
Panelist

Professor Assane BEYE is an economist, currently the Director of the Graduate Study Program on Climate Change Economics of WASCAL at Cheikh Anta Diop University of Dakar. His researches are focused on the analysis of agricultural value chains and adaptation strategies under climate change. Professor BEYE has a long experience in multidisciplinary and multi-country project management in Africa.



Samuel **MESELE**
Panelist

Soil Scientist at the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), specializing in soil inventory, land use interactions, and soil fertility management. His work focuses on improving soil health, water conservation, and sustainable fertilizer use to enhance agricultural productivity. He collaborates with stakeholders across Africa to promote sustainable agricultural practices and combat soil degradation.



Shem **KUYAH**
Panelist

Senior Lecturer and Director of Research and Innovations at JKUAT, specializing in ecophysiology, sustainable land management, agroforestry, biomass modeling, ecosystem services, climate change mitigation, and climate-resilience food systems.

Synthesis session

EU-Africa agenda for agroecological R&I priorities: Research and development agenda – Evidence for achieving sustainable and resilient livelihoods



Guy FAURE
Panelist

Dr Guy Faure is posted at the European Commission (DG INTPA) as expert supporting EU research and innovation programs such as the DeSIRA initiative and participating in policy dialogue (One CGIAR, FARA, etc.). Previously he worked at CIRAD as director of a research unit “innovation and development”.



Hans-Jörg Lutzeyer
Panelist

Senior policy officer at DG Research and Innovation. He is involved in food systems research programming, knowledge systems information, communication and precision technologies and global food security. In the EU-Africa research and innovation partnership on food and nutrition security and sustainable agriculture he is co-chair of the oversight working group.



Luis VIVAS-ALEGRE
Panelist

Luis Vivas Alegre is Head of Sector in the Research and Innovation Unit at DG AGRI, European Commission. He coordinates Horizon Europe programming for agriculture, forestry, and rural development, focusing on delivering impact for end-users like farmers and policymakers. A trained veterinarian, he previously worked at the European Food Safety Authority and the UK Food Standards Agency.



David AMUDAVI
Panelist

Executive Director of Biovision Africa Trust based in Nairobi, coordinates initiatives promoting agroecology and ecological organic agriculture in Africa, improving smallholder farmers' livelihoods through partnerships with national, regional, and continental organizations



Oluwole FATUNBI
Panelist

Ag Director of Research and Innovation at the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA). He holds a PhD in Agronomy, specializing in Farming Systems and Soil Fertility, from the University of Ibadan, Nigeria. His work focuses on strengthening agricultural innovation systems, soil fertility management, and sustainable farming practices across Africa. He plays a key role in developing the Innovation Systems approach to enhance research impact in smallholder farming under the Sub-Saharan Africa Challenge Program.

Moderators



Mila **SELL**
Moderator

Dr. Mila Sell is a Senior Scientist with a PhD in Agricultural Economics and a systems approach to food systems, climate change, and sustainability. She specializes in participatory methods, gender issues, and feminist economics, and currently coordinates the Horizon project HealthyFoodAfrica.



Markus **ARBENZ**
Moderator

Markus Arbenz is a senior scientist at FiBL, Switzerland. With over two decades of international experience, he works at the crossroads of Organic Agriculture/Agroecology and International Development Cooperation for FiBL and for his consultancy, Organics4Development.