



## Agrinatura Newsletter 10/02/2025



[Gembloux Agro-Bio Tech, University of Liège, Belgium.](#)

**Dear members, partners, and colleagues,**

We hope you're doing well and find the insights we have gathered at Agrinatura useful. Thank you for your contributions in enriching this publication, we truly appreciate your support.

We invite you to participate in our upcoming events and stay engaged with our network. As always, we'll be sharing photos from our member organisations and universities, and we'd love to feature your projects, latest research, and events. If you have something to share, don't hesitate to reach out.

Have a productive week ahead.

Kind regards,

Dr Mabel Hernandez-Altamirano

## Agrinatura

### Agrinatura Activity Overview



One year ago, **FARA, Agrinatura, and 19 other organisations** launched **CEA-FIRST**, a key initiative to strengthen **EU-AU cooperation on food systems transformation**. As a **Horizon Europe Coordination and Support Action**, it drives research collaboration through the **International Research Consortium (IRC) on FNSSA**, tackling fragmented efforts in innovation and policy.

On March 14, 2025, in Brussels, Agrinatura and FARA will lead the 2nd CEA-FIRST General Assembly, uniting key stakeholders to shape Year 2 priorities and drive impactful solutions for sustainable agriculture and food security.

For more information about the project please click [HERE](#)

## From our members

### **A roster of experts for SASi-SPi**

We are pleased to support the SASi-SPi project, which is working to develop a centralised database or "roster" of researchers and experts. To achieve this, the project team has created a survey to collect researcher profiles. This roster will play a key role in supporting rapid response requests and other project-related activities.

We kindly ask for your help in sharing this survey within your institutions and networks to encourage participation.

Please find attached the concept note [HERE](#), which provides more details, and the link to the survey [HERE](#)

Your collaboration in spreading the word about this initiative would be greatly appreciated. Thank you for your support!

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### **Agroecological Transition of Food Systems in Africa, 6 May 2025 Brussels**

**Date:** May 6, 2025

**Location:** Brussels

Join a day-long event featuring insights from nine EU-Africa projects on agroecological approaches to enhance the resilience of African smallholder farmers. Funded by Horizon 2020, DeSIRA, and SDC, this event will connect scientific evidence with policymakers and stakeholders.

Preliminary programme [HERE](#)

**Registration will open in February 2025**

Contact:

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The poster features a stylized map of Africa with horizontal stripes in brown, yellow, and green. To the right, the title 'Agroecological Transition of Food Systems in Africa' is written in bold, with 'Agroecological' and 'Transition of' in yellow and 'Food Systems in Africa' in green. Below the title, it says 'Evidence for research and development policies in Africa-EU collaboration'. A yellow circle on the left contains the text 'SAVE the DATE'. The date and location are listed as '6 May 2025 | Brussels, Belgium' and 'Museum of Natural Sciences'. On the right side of the poster is a photograph of three people in a field, one holding a plant. At the bottom, there is a row of logos for various organizations: EWA-BELT, Healthy FoodAfrica, SOILS 4 AFRICA, Sustain Sahel, SUSTIN AFRICA, UPSICRE, FAIR, SysCom, CROPS 4 HD, FiBL, and the European Union.

**Agroecological  
Transition of  
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Evidence for research and  
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Africa-EU collaboration

6 May 2025 | Brussels, Belgium  
Museum of Natural Sciences

SAVE  
the  
DATE

EWA-BELT Healthy FoodAfrica SOILS 4 AFRICA Sustain Sahel SUSTIN AFRICA UPSICRE FAIR SysCom CROPS 4 HD FiBL Funded by the European Union

## Science for Sustainability 2025: Finland's Leading Sustainability Research Event

Finland's largest sustainability research event, formerly known as *Sustainability Science Days*, is now *Science for Sustainability*. **From September 30 to October 2, 2025**, in Helsinki, this event will unite researchers, businesses, and changemakers to drive sustainability solutions.

With the theme "*Bursting the Sustainability Bubble*," the event challenges sustainability myths and fosters cross-disciplinary collaboration.

Organized by the **University of Helsinki** and **Aalto University**, it aims to bridge the gap between science and society, accelerating the transition to a more sustainable future.

One day will focus on research, while another will tackle real-world sustainability challenges through partnerships with businesses, cities, and communities.

The call for session proposals is now open until **February 20**. Read more about the scientific themes and selection criteria [HERE](#)

# Calls

## Tropentag 2025

**APPLY NOW for the DAAD SDG ALUMNI PROJECT: Knowledge and Practice for Development, held in conjunction with Tropentag 2025, the international conference on managing natural resources for sustainable development.**

### **CALL FOR APPLICATIONS – NOW OPEN!**

All application details and requirements are available on the SDG Alumni Projects website. Please submit your application directly to the contact person(s) listed in the respective call.

#### Participating Universities & Topics

- University of Kassel & DITSL Witzenhausen

Agro-ecological strategies for a sustainable and just transformation of agri-food systems in the Global South

- TH Köln – University of Applied Sciences

Transforming agricultural and food systems for food security and biodiversity conservation

- Leipzig University, SEPT Competence Center

Alumni 4 Regional Development through Agroecology (Alumni4RD)

### **Who Can Apply?**

Eligible participants include German alumni:

Alumni of German universities/research institutions who have spent at least three months in Germany for study, training, teaching, or research.

Those funded through DAAD programs such as In-Country/In-Region Scholarships, Centres of African Excellence, SDG Graduate Schools, or exceed Excellence Centres for Exchange and Development. For specific eligibility criteria, please refer to the individual university calls.

### **Project Timeline**

- ◆ Phase 1: 1 - 8 September 2025 – Training Seminars at the participating universities in Germany
- ◆ Phase 2: 8 - 13 September 2025 – Participation in Tropentag 2025 Conference, Bonn, Germany

### **Organized/Funded by:**

German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)

**Location:** Participating German Universities & Tropentag 2025, Bonn, Germany

**Dates:** 1 - 13 September 2025

**Application Deadline: 21 February 2025**

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**The call for abstracts for the 27th European Seminar on Extension Education (Vila Real, Portugal, July 1-4, 2025) is now open.**

Please go to the conference website <https://www.esee2025.utad.pt/>

ESEE is a biennial conference about agricultural advice and education. It has gathered scholars advisors and educators since 1973. It aims to support discussions between science and practice. Hence, it is open to a diversity of academic and practical contributions. ESEE gathers and contrasts experiences and findings from all European countries, but also between Europe and other contexts in the global North and global South. **The theme of the 2025 conference is “Inclusivity and transformations of agricultural extension and education”**

We welcome communications on 5 topics:

- TOPIC 1 – AKIS approaches and policies: from concepts to action and impact
- TOPIC 2 – Collective learning, innovation processes, and capacity building: new tools and methodologies
- TOPIC 3 – AI and digitalisation of advisory services and education
- TOPIC 4 – Education, advisory services, and the wider AKIS's contribution to social inclusion and the health and wellbeing of farmers and communities
- TOPIC 5 – How education and advice drive agrifood systems transformations

In addition to the regular sessions, special sessions are also welcome. Please note that special sessions will not be open for abstract submissions. Instead, organisers should submit a proposal outlining the session's objectives and including the expected contributing participants. Special sessions may adopt participatory formats and are encouraged to engage advisors and other non-academic stakeholders.

You will find all the relevant information on the dedicated website:

<https://www.esee2025.utad.pt/>

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**The Secretariat of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS)** announces a **call for submissions on "*Use and Application of the CFS Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises (CFS-FFA)*"**, open until **15 April 2025**.

This initiative, aligned with the **2024–2027 Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW)**, is facilitated by **Ms. Fatiha Terki, Senior Partnership Advisor**, and **Ms. Giorgia Paratore, Food Security and Nutrition Specialist**. It aims to gather experiences and best practices related to the CFS-FFA to enrich discussions at the **CFS 53 Plenary Session in October 2025 in Rome, Italy**.

Those interested in contributing can visit the webpage (available in [Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, and Spanish](#)) to download the submission template for both individual experiences and event organizers. For assistance, contact [fns-moderator@fao.org](mailto:fns-moderator@fao.org).

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## **Call for Paper in a Springer Nature book - Climate Change, Extreme Climate Events, Loss, and Damage in Africa**

This is a reminder about your invitation to contribute to the **Springer Nature book, Climate Change, Extreme Climate Events, Loss, and Damage in Africa**. The book explores how extreme climate events impact Africa and strategies for mitigating climate-induced loss and damage.

### **Key Details:**

**Submission Period:** Nov 1, 2024 – Mar 31, 2025

**Peer Review:** Concludes by May 31, 2025

**Publication:** July 30, 2025 (indexed in Scopus & major databases)

Please find the call for Chapter [HERE](#) and share it with interested colleagues.

Editorial Team

Prof. Ayansina Ayanlade, Dr. Mary Nyasimi, Prof. Emily Boyd.

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## **Webinars**

### **Digital Inclusion & Co-Creation in Agroecology**

**How can digital technologies support agroecology while ensuring inclusivity?**

Join this webinar to explore **practical tools, networking opportunities, and actionable insights** at the intersection of **digital agriculture and agroecology**.



**Date:** 19 February 2025

 **Time:** 14:00 - 15:30 Swiss Time (GMT+1)

 **Register here:** [Zoom Webinar](#)

**Key topics:**

Co-creation & inclusivity in digital agriculture

Digital tools for sustainable farming

Real-world challenges & solutions

**Speakers:**

*Dr. Carl Larsen* – Executive Secretary, GFRAS

*Dr. Mariette McCampbell* – Consultant, Alliance of Bioversity and CIAT

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**PAEPARD**

Webinars in February 2025

Information [HERE](#)

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## [Vacancies/fellowships/advertisements](#)

### **Internship Opportunity: Sustainable Agriculture – GIZ**

The GIZ Agriculture Sector Project supports the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) in promoting sustainable agriculture and shaping its core theme, “**A World Without Hunger – Transforming Agricultural and Food Systems.**” It provides technical expertise, develops innovative approaches, and strengthens strategic priorities in agricultural development.

**Key Areas:**

- Agribusiness
- Climate & Agrobiodiversity
- Agricultural Policy

**Intern Responsibilities:**

- Conduct research and summarize key findings
- Support BMZ advisory requests
- Contribute to thematic analyses
- Review and summarize relevant publications
- Take minutes at meetings and events

Candidate Profile:

- Enrolled in a relevant degree (from the 3rd semester)
- Strong interest in agricultural development
- Preferably, experience in a developing or emerging country
- Fluent in German (C1) and very good English skills; French is a plus
- Proficient in MS Office, organized, and team-oriented

Location: Bonn, Germany

**Deadline: 11 Feb 2025**

More information [HERE](#)

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## WMO: Internship Applied Climate Services (ACS) / The Integrated Drought Management Programme (IDMP)

### **DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

Provide technical support to the Integrated Drought Management Programme (IDMP) with a focus on establishing the Global Drought Mosaic (GDM); Extend and maintain database of national and regional drought monitors; Prepare a global map of national and regional drought monitors on a Geo Information System (GIS); Support the efforts to harmonize data to standardize the diverse methodologies, data formats, and indices used by different drought monitors; Develop and document a methodology for regularly updating the Global Drought Mosaic. Automate the process where possible by creating scripts to fetch and integrate data from various monitors into GIS platforms; Assist in preparing and implementing capacity-building and knowledge-sharing activities;

Contribute to IDMP communication efforts, including outreach materials and updates; Edit and draft technical reports and documents; Perform other relevant duties as required.

## QUALIFICATIONS

### Education:

Bachelor's degree or equivalent university degree from a recognized university or technical institute in geomatics, climatology, geography, agriculture, hydrology, meteorology, physics, or engineering.

### Experience:

No past work experience is required. Hands-on experience in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and related databases would be an advantage.

### Other requirements:

Sense of responsibility, detail-oriented, initiative, ability to work in a team.

### Languages:

Excellent oral and written communication skills in English. Knowledge of other WMO official language(s) would be an advantage

(Note: The official languages of the Organization are Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish.)

Organisation/Funding Institution: World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

**Location:** Geneva, Switzerland

**Deadlines:** 23 Feb 2025

More information [HERE](#)

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## PhD Positions – University of Bonn

The University of Bonn's DFG Emmy Noether Junior Research Group is seeking **three PhD candidates** (65% position) for a project on *Local Labor Struggles in Global Value Chains* from **July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2029**.

**Research Focus:**

- Labor and smallholder agency in agricultural **global value chains (GVCs)**
- Case studies: **Philippines (banana, palm oil), Colombia (coffee, palm oil), Malawi (tobacco, tea)**
- Mixed-methods approach: fieldwork (~7 months), agrarian political economy, labor regimes

### Your Role:

- Develop an article-based **PhD thesis (4 years)**
- Conduct field research and collaborate on a shared research framework
- Present at academic conferences and attend methodology workshops

### What's Offered:

- Funding for **fieldwork, conferences, workshops**
- **Flexible work options & pension scheme (VBL)**
- Support for candidates with **childcare/eldercare responsibilities**

### Requirements:

- MSc/MA in **development studies, economics, geography, anthropology, sociology, political science, or related fields**
- Experience in **quantitative & qualitative methods**
- Strong English skills & resilience for fieldwork challenges
- Preference for candidates from the **Global South & women applicants**

**Location:** Philippines, Colombia, Malawi, & Bonn, Germany

**Deadline:** March 2, 2025

**More details** [HERE](#)

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[Other interesting newsletters](#)

### **13th edition of the DeSIRA-LIFT News Brief**

This edition provides updates on the DeSIRA Connect Days, highlighting ongoing efforts in research and innovation for agrifood system transformation. They are also inviting DeSIRA project videos for the upcoming Brussels conference (March 11-13)—submissions are open until February 17.

To get access click [HERE](#)

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### **More information about articles, courses, awards**

**Article:**

**Indigenous food sovereignty: Pathways for Native scholars  
Revitalizing Indigenous food systems through research and  
knowledge-sharing.**

Antonio, M., Brewer, J., Elm-Hill, R., Johnson, M., Robin, T., Romero-Briones, A.-D., Stevens, L., & Williams, K. (2025). Indigenous food sovereignty: Pathways for Native scholars: Revitalizing Indigenous food systems through research and knowledge-sharing. *Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development*, 14(1), 5–10.

Full Access [HERE](#)

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**Secretary General of Agrinatura Association**



AGRINATURA is a grouping of European universities and research organizations with a common interest in sustainably supporting agricultural development to improve people's lives. AGRINATURA focuses on initiatives that open up new opportunities for farmers to enhance food security and improve the agro-food sector in general, while reducing the negative impact of agricultural activities on the environment. AGRINATURA members are involved in various issues related to agricultural research and education for development contributing through their expertise and experience. [www.agrinatura.eu](http://www.agrinatura.eu)