



## Agrinatura Newsletter 20/01/2025



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

I hope you are well,

At Agrinatura, one of our primary goals is to strengthen networking and enhance communication within our organisation. To support this, we kindly invite you to share a brief description of your organisation or department. This could include:

- Your main goals and areas of focus
- Examples of your projects
- The designated focal point or key contact person

Feel free to include photos or any additional information you'd like to share.

Submissions will be featured in our newsletter in the order they are received.

We appreciate your participation in fostering collaboration and connectivity across our network

Please send your descriptions to **secretariat@agrinatura-eu.eu** at your earliest convenience.

Kind regards,

Dr Mabel Hernandez-Altamirano

## Agrinatura

### Agrinatura Activity Overview

We are proud to announce that Agrinatura's President, Stephen Onakuse, has been elected as one of the eleven members of the **new 2024-2026 Steering Committee of the Tropical Agriculture Platform (TAP)**.

The new Steering Committee will comprise Agrinatura, alongside eleven other members and five observers, working together to strengthen capacity development for agricultural innovation in tropical regions.

This important role offers a unique opportunity for Agrinatura to collaborate globally and contribute to impactful initiatives.

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### General Assembly and 4th Conference 2025

#### Kind reminder

Agrinatura is delighted to announce that the **Agrinatura General Assembly 2025 and 4th Conference will take place from May 21 to 22** at the University of Ghent, Belgium. The event will be hosted at the Faculty of Bioscience Engineering. **You can Register your attendance [HERE](#), now is open!**

For more information about the **4th Conference visit the link [HERE](#)**

Besides invited speakers and organized discussion sessions, the core of the conference will be the presentation of contributed papers that illustrate the contributions of member institutes, projects, and individual scientists to Sustainable Development in the Global South. The conference aims to provide **a forum for PhD students and post-doc researchers** to present either orally or in poster sessions their work in the Global South targeting sustainable value chains via collaborative solutions for responsible agri-food systems.

To be eligible for an **oral or poster presentation**, please send an abstract of max. 1 page with the name of presenter and other authors, affiliations, introduction, problem statement, research plan and methodology, and (provisional) results to Secretary General Dr Mabel Hernandez at [secretariat@agrinatura-eu.eu](mailto:secretariat@agrinatura-eu.eu) and Susanna Rokka (LUKE) ([susanna.rokka@luke.fi](mailto:susanna.rokka@luke.fi)) before **March 15th 2025**.

Please feel free to share **the poster** with students and the community.

## From our members

### Calls

**SAVE THE DATE**


March 11-13 2025  
Brussels


Credit: Monon Kobinger/Crop Trust

**Conference**  
***Boosting agrifood research and innovation cooperation for impact at scale***



## Reminder

 Save the date: March 11-13, 2025

 COMET venue, Brussels (with online participation available)

To see the program click [HERE](#)

Join a key conference organised by DG INTPA in collaboration with EU Directorates to explore how research and innovation (R&I) can drive the transformation of agrifood systems to be sustainable, productive, and climate-resilient—contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Registration [HERE](#)

## Webinars

### Nutrition Research Facility (NRF) Webinar - January 28

**Current knowledge on micronutrient supplementation: policies, practices, and impacts.**

Micronutrient deficiencies remain a persistent challenge, especially among pregnant women, posing risks to pregnancy outcomes and child development. This webinar will highlight the critical importance of micronutrient supplementation offering insights into global policies, evidence-based practices, and findings from recent research. Regarding the long-term effects of multiple micronutrient supplementation on child cognitive development, a recent systematic review by the NRF concludes that evidence is still lacking.

**Speakers:**

- Opening Remarks by Fadoi Chaouki (Programme Manager – Nutrition – European Commission, DG INTPA, Unit F3)
- Presentations by Filomena Gomes and Mihaela Ciulei Kissell (Micronutrient Forum) and Souheila Abbeddou (NRF, Ghent University)
- Facilitation by Carl Lachat (NRF, Ghent University)

#### **Webinar Details**

**Date:** Tuesday, January 28, 2025

**Time:** 12:00 CET

**Duration:** 1 hour

**Link:** <https://vimeo.com/event/4842006>

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## **Vacancies/fellowships/advertisements**

### **Call for Applications: Head of International Cooperation at FiBL**

**FiBL** (Research Institute of Organic Agriculture) seeks a dynamic leader to head its Department of International Cooperation. This role involves managing four groups and 30 staff, shaping FiBL's strategy, representing its international initiatives, and leading research and development projects, particularly in Africa.

#### **Requirements:**

- Advanced degree (PhD preferred) in agriculture or food systems.
- Leadership in international teams and project acquisition.
- Fluency in English; German and additional languages are an asset.

**Location:** Frick, Switzerland

**Deadline:** February 3, 2025

More information [HERE](#)

## **Call for Applications: ATSAF Career Exploration Scholarship – Junior Scientists Tandems (JST)**

The ATSAF Junior Scientists Tandems (JST) program supports young researchers in development-oriented agricultural research.

### **Benefits:**

- Scholarships for six months:
  - €5,000 for junior scientists from German universities at CGIAR centers.
  - €7,000 for junior scientists from OECD-DAC partner country universities at German research institutions.
- Opportunities to collect data for an MSc degree.
- Access to training, webinars, and networking platforms.
- Administrative support from ATSAF.

### **Eligibility:**

- Students or alumni of agricultural sciences or related fields.
- Advanced scientific experience (BSc or higher).
- Supervisors from a German university and a CGIAR++ center.
- Proficiency in English and cultural sensitivity.

Female researchers and those from OECD-DAC partner countries are strongly encouraged to apply.

**Apply Anytime:** No deadlines!

**Contact:** For queries, email Beatrice Breuer or Sabine Baumgartner at [jst@atsaf.de](mailto:jst@atsaf.de).

More information [HERE](#)

## **1. Experts for the Commonwealth Association for Agricultural Research and Development (CAARD).**

Experts are needed in the following fields:

- Climate Finance/Policy

- Digital Agriculture/Marketing
- Carbon Marketing

If you specialize in any of these areas and are interested in contributing to a collaborative environment in agricultural development, please reach out to **Info@caard.org**.

Deadline: As soon as possible

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

**Report Nutrition Research Facility (NRF):** Mapping the extent of the current implementation of comprehensive school food and nutrition programmes at the school level in Kenya.

FULL TEXT [HERE](#)

**Nutrition Research Facility (NRF):** Analysing pathways and potential of agri-food value chains to deliver nutrition impacts.

Full PDF [HERE](#)

**Article: Land-Based Learning as a student-led approach to farm-to-school education.**

Palmer, A. L., Warsaw, P., McKim, A. J., McKendree, R. B., Nettleton, M., Marzolino, T., & Brasier, H. (2024). Experiences from a land-based learning project focused on local food interventions. *Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community*

Development. <https://doi.org/10.5304/jafscd.2024.141.013>

Full text [HERE](#)

In this section, I want to share with you a set of publications that were sent by Prof Roger Leakey D.Sc., Ph.D., B.Sc., NDA to Agrinatura. He was born and brought up in Kenya and is an agricultural botanist by training, with over

400 publications. He was a former Director of Research at the International Centre for Research in Agroforestry (1993-1997); Head of Tropical Ecology at the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology in Edinburgh, UK (1997-2001), and Professor of Agroecology and Sustainable Development of James Cook University, in Cairns, Australia (2001-2006). In 2006-2008 he was a Coordinating Lead Author in the International Assessment of Agricultural Science and Technology for Development. He is a Vice President of the International Tree Foundation.

[African Lives Matter: Wild Food Plants Matter for Livelihoods, Justice, and the Environment—A Policy Brief for Agricultural Reform and New Crops. Sustainability 2021, 13, 7252](#)

[A multifunctional future for tropical agriculture: scoring multiple Sustainable Development Goals simultaneously? Roger Leahey](#)

[The Future of Food: Domestication and Commercialization of Indigenous Food Crops in Africa over the Third Decade \(2012–2021\). Sustainability 2022, 14, 2355.](#)

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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)