



SUPPORT TO REGIONAL CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE (RCoE) RELATED TO GREEN TRANSITION

FARA/RUFORUM COMPONENT ON AGROECOLOGY

Working Session at Desira R&I Conference

Date: 13th March 2025

Brussels-Belgium

Presented by: Kwaku Antwi



Information about the Support to Regional Centers of Excellence on Agroecology



- **Consortium Partners – 2 (FARA and RUFORUM)**
Coordination and Technical Functions
- **Associated Partners – EC-JRC (ISPRA)**
Technical support
- **Funded By – European Union through DG-INTPA.**
- **Project Duration – 36 Months (Jan 2024 – Dec. 2026).**

Project Objectives



Overall Objective (Impact)

To contribute to Sub Saharan Africa green transition through enhanced Science Technology and Innovation (STI) capacities and policy support for agroecology.

RCoE Contribution to Continental and Global Goals





Specific Objectives (4 main Outcomes)



- To strengthen scientific and technological capacities of researchers/scientists to collect, process, share data/information and carry out research in agroecology.
- To support the generation and dissemination of transformative quality research and scientific knowledge in agroecology.
- To support the use of digital technologies and information systems (earth observation technologies) to support agroecology practices in Africa.
- To support the formulation and implementation of evidence-based inclusive agroecology policies in Africa.



Work Pages – 4 Work packages



1. Capacity building and skills development (RUFORUM/FARA)
2. Agroecology Scientific Knowledge/Information Generation and Dissemination (RUFORUM/FARA)
3. Agroecology Policy and Advocacy support (FARA/RUFORUM).
4. Project coordination, management, Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (FARA/RUFORUM)

Observations from Inception Meetings



- Desire for change towards regenerative approach to enhancing food systems.
- A lot of similarities exists in the actions of the 3 RMRNs – **opportunity to build synergies.**
- Similar stakeholders within consortium
- Similar actions
 - Capacity building (training for researchers and students).
 - Knowledge generation and dissemination
 - Platform for exchanges and experience sharing
 - Policy engagement and stakeholder engagements

Observations from Inception Meetings



- Some differences exist in activities.
- Curriculum development.
- Learning networks.



- Private Sector Engagement
- Champions for Advocacy
- Exchanges with other continental initiatives and Networks



Continental Project Focus

- Support RMRNs to research and generation of transformative knowledge products on Agroecology.
- Disseminate high impact knowledge products on agroecology.
- Organise continental short-term exchange visits for the 3 RMRNs.
- Organise continental Policy Dialogues
- Train Researchers and Scientists on economic models for policy analysis to support Agroecology.





Continental Project Focus

- develop decision-support information systems (serving science-policy interfaces at sector level.
- Support identification and engagement of Agroecology Champions to advocate for AE.
- Support private sector engagement
- Awareness creation to support practitioners, scientists, policy .
- Organise continental Policy Dialogues





Year 1 Activities

RMRN
From Degradation to Regeneration: Agroecology and Soil Health Research for Sustainable Agriculture in Africa
10th-11th August 2024
10th-11th August 2024 | 10:00-12:00, 14:00-16:00
Nairobi, Kenya

Speakers

Dr. Guy Faure
Regional Centre for Agriculture Research in Africa (FARA)

Dr. Olanrewaju A. Oluwalanle
Nigeria for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA)

Workshop Facilitators

Dr. David Amudavi
Regional Centre for Agriculture Research in Africa (FARA)

Dr. Bernhard Freyer
Institute of Agriculture Research in Africa (FARA)

Dr. Willem Marquardt
Institute of Agriculture Research in Africa (FARA)

Moderators

Dr. Raula Antwi
Regional Centre for Agriculture Research in Africa (FARA)

Prof. Mafalwa Mwangi
Regional Centre for Agriculture Research in Africa (FARA)

Mrs. Anna Adu Darley
Regional Centre for Agriculture Research in Africa (FARA)

Registration link: <https://bit.ly/3Ylagb3>

Virtual Registration (Zoom): <https://bit.ly/3Ylagb3>

20th RUFORUM Triennial Conference
10-18 August 2024
Nairobi, Kenya

EXPLORING THE POTENTIAL OF AGROECOLOGY RESEARCH AND CAPACITY TO CONTRIBUTE TO A GREEN TRANSITION IN SUB SAHARAN AFRICA

Thursday | 10:30 AM | 14th August, 2024 | Mercure Hage Geinob Campus, Namibia

Speakers

Dr. Aggrey Agumya
FARA
Chairperson

Prof. Alex Awiti
CORDICAF
Keynote Presenter

Dr. Florence Nakayira
RUFORUM
Presenter

Dr. Kwaku Antwi
FARA
Presenter

Prof. Mafalwa Mwangi
RUFORUM
Presenter

Mrs. Caroline Callenius
JRC-IGRA
Moderator

Dr. Joseph Sekandi
JRC-IGRA
Moderator

Dr. Baiti Poku
CORDICAF
Moderator

Dr. David Amudavi
FARA
Moderator

Mrs. Anna Adu Darley
FARA
Facilitator

visit bit.ly/3Ylagb3 to register for ZOOM participation

TROPICAL SUMMIT
Catalyzing Agro-Ecological Transitions in the Tropics in the Context of Climate Change
16:30 - 18:00 CET | 5th & 6th November, 2024 | Lisbon, Portugal

Speakers

Dr. Aggrey Agumya
FARA
Opening Speaker

Dr. Guy Faure
FARA
Opening Speaker

Prof. Marc Corbeels
FARA
Keynote Speaker

Prof. Rachel Wynberg
University of Cape Town
Keynote Speaker

Dr. David Amudavi
FARA
Moderator

Prof. Alex Awiti
CORDICAF
Moderator

Dr. Peter Mwangi
CORDICAF
Moderator

Dr. Fatima Khamsi
JRC
Moderator

Dr. Irene Kadzore
FARA
Moderator

Virtual Registration (Zoom): <https://bit.ly/3NsKeMq>



RUFORUM Working Document Series (ISSN 1607-9345), 2024 No. 23:165-195
Available from <http://repository.ruforum.org>

Research Application Summary

How can agroecology contribute to improving food security in Africa?

¹Kwakw, A., ²Majaliwa, J.G.M., ³Callenius, C., ⁴Rembold, F., ⁵Nakayira, F.M., ⁶Paracchini, M.L., ¹Ama, P., ¹Vesta, N., ²Arrur, F. & ²Yammgu, A. B.

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Abstract

This discussion paper aims at exploring the potential of agroecology to improve food security, nutrition and the overall wellbeing in Africa in the face of the challenges posed by the growing population, climate change, rising cost of living, sociocultural and environmental pressure on the continent. Based on the FAO High Level Panel of Experts (HLPE) definition and the principles of agroecology, by using desk reviews and webinar series as the main methodology, the paper summarizes evidence-based benefits and challenges for the adoption of agroecological practices and explores open research questions on agroecology. The paper contributes to the support of FARA and RUFORUM to the Regional Multi-actor Research Networks (RMRN) in agroecology that will promote food and nutrition security and sustainable agriculture across Africa.

Keywords: Agroecology, FARA, Food and nutrition security, JRC, RUFORUM

Résumé

Cet article de discussion vise à explorer le potentiel de l'agroécologie dans l'amélioration de la sécurité

[Link to the studies](#)



REVIEW ARTICLE

The socio-economic performance of agroecology. A review

Yanqin Dou^{1,2} • Alexander Wezel³ • Kintan Kamilla³ • Angelica Marchetti⁴ • Maria Luisa Paracchini⁵

Sidney Madsen (slm284@cornell.edu)¹, Rachel Bezner Kerr (rbeznerkerr@cornell.edu)¹, Kintan Kamilia (kintank13@gmail.com)², Maria Fernanda Cevallos (mfcevallos27@gmail.com)², Claire Ayumi Bazille (cbazille@etu.isara.fr)², Maria Luisa Paracchini (Maria-Luisa.PARACCHINI@ec.europa.eu)³, Alexander Wezel (awezel@isara.fr)²

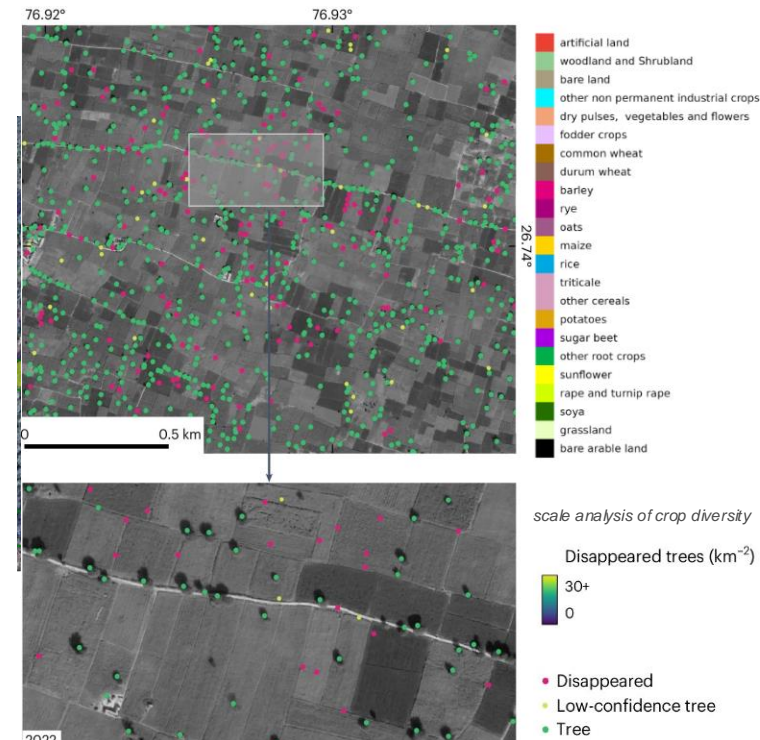
Use of Earth Observation related to agroecology

Testing of crop diversity indexes from EO crop type mapping (e.g. Copernicus4GEOGLAM)

- Automatic mapping of shade trees in cocoa plantations for the characterization of different agroforestry systems

Support to FAO TAPE (Tool for Agroecology Performance Evaluation)

- Tree counting in farmland areas as a proxy for agroecological practices (based on Brandt et al.)
- Environmental characterization of agricultural area (TAPE Step-0) with the JRC-ASAP system
- Guide for retrieving indicators for TAPE assessment using EO data and tools



From: Brandt et al., 2024. Severe decline in large farmland trees in India over the past decade. Nature sustainability



Outlook 2025

- Participation to Desira Lift conference in March and organization of a joint side event with FARA, RUFORUM and RMRNs
- Invitation of RMRN experts to COPENICUS global networking event in Krakow in May for introducing them to the data and services available under the COPENICUS programme
- New meta-analysis on the various impacts of Agroecology which includes extraction of quantitative information from literature studies (previous reviews were qualitative only)
- Capacity building Workshops (economy-wide and farm level) on JRC modelling tools in cooperation with FARA, RUFORUM and PANAP network.
- Launch of the project: “Modelling pathways for a sustainable transition of food systems in Africa”, with a focus on 3 African countries - 1st phase is the definition of scenarios and stakeholder workshops
- Literature review study on the environmental and economic impacts of agro-forestry (with focus on coffee and cocoa)



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www.ruforum.org

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[#RMRN_Agroecology](#)