

2nd Biennial Africa Climate-Smart Agriculture Stakeholder Conference

The contribution of agroecology to climate change adaptation and mitigation

15th September 2022 (8h30-11h00 GMT)

organised by FARA and [DeSIRA LIFT](#)

Alisa Hotel, 21 Dr. Issert Rd, North Ridge, Accra (Ghana)

Venue: Penthouse and online

Registration: <https://tinyurl.com/2p9btfra>

The 2022 edition of the Biennial Africa Climate Smart Agriculture Conference will be held from 14th to 16th September 2022 in Accra, Ghana and online. The Conference will provide opportunities to discuss Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) accountability, resource use and impact in Africa amongst a wide audience. The main themes of the conference include: (i) the role of digitalisation in advancing CSA in smallholder systems; (ii) the nexus of CSA and the mechanisation of smallholder systems in Africa; (iii) bottom-up and system-wide capacity development approaches to enhance CSA practices; (iv) strengthening the support of extension and advisory services to ensure CSA compliance amongst smallholder farmers in Africa; (v) the contribution of agroecology to CSA.

Context:

- Today's agriculture has succeeded in supplying large volumes of foods to global markets but is generating negative outcomes on multiple fronts: widespread degradation of land, water, and ecosystems; high greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions; biodiversity losses; persistent hunger and micro-nutrient deficiencies alongside the rapid rise of obesity and diet related diseases. The COVID-19 pandemic and current food crisis confirm the importance to foster transition to resilient and diversified sustainable agri-food systems.
- In this context, a growing number of voices are calling for a complete transformation of our agricultural and food systems and are pointing to a transition to agroecology as a key pathway to tackle the challenges we are currently facing.
- As a science, agroecology is multidisciplinary. It brings together agronomy, ecology, environmental science, sociology, economics, history and more, while prioritising participatory and holistic approaches. An agroecological approach¹ to sustainable food production is defined as one that favours the use of natural processes, limits the use of external inputs, and promotes closed cycles with minimal negative externalities.

¹ Agroecological practices involve processes such as: nutrient cycling; biological nitrogen fixation; improvement of soil structure and health; water conservation; biodiversity conservation and habitat management techniques for crop-associated biodiversity; carbon sequestration; biological pest control and natural regulation of diseases; diversification, mixed cultivation, intercropping, cultivar mixtures; and waste management, reuse and recycling as inputs to the production process, for example use of manure and compost.

- FAO has identified ten interlinked and interdependent elements of agroecology² that include diversification; co-creation and sharing of knowledge; building synergies supporting multiple ecosystem services; efficiency; recycling; resilience of communities and ecosystems; protecting human and social values; supporting culture and food traditions; responsible governance and circular and solidarity economy.
- The diversity in agroecological systems reduces vulnerabilities to climate variability. The reduction in the use of pesticides and synthetic fertilisers improve resilience to the climate change effects. Traditional knowledge of smallholders combined with scientific knowledge are effective in managing climate risks. Recycling, reduction of waste and use efficiency limits GHG and supports mitigation.
- Some challenges for the agroecological transition are holding back a wide-scale transition to agroecology (i.e. lack of enabling environment; insufficient incentives for producers; low support for innovative research and knowledge approaches, low promotion of local diversified agroecological markets; lack of coordinated action among sectors and actors).

Objectives of the sessions:

- **To discuss agroecological approaches and practices which contribute to climate resilience and concrete ways in which agroecology can support adaptation and mitigation strategies**
- To make recommendations to mainstream agroecological principles into the Climate Change and Climate-Smart Agriculture debate and call for investments.

DeSIRA-LIFT supports FARA and its members in two main areas:

1. **Organising two complementary sessions: (i) a Thematic Paper Presentation on “Compatibility assessment of agroecology and CSA practices”, and (ii) a Side event on “The contribution of agroecology to climate change adaptation and mitigation” showcasing successes from smallholders, private sector operators and CSOs in the field** to showcase some sustainable innovations and solutions adopted in Africa.
2. **Supporting: (i) a review of ten years of African involvement and action in COPs (between CoP 17 and CoP 27) detailing lessons learned and plausible future actions and efforts to achieve the foreseen actions in relation to African agriculture; (ii) the development of a Decadal Plan to implement the African Climate Change Strategy on agriculture.** Both reports will be presented at the Biennial CSA Conference. Main preliminary findings will be presented at the Conference.

More information on the content of both sessions: Isolina Boto, DeSIRA-LIFT (isolina.boto@coleacp.org)

² FAO. [The 10 elements of Agroecology guiding the transition to sustainable food and agricultural systems](#). 2018.

Side event

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Panel

The panel will provide different perspectives from policy to practice on how agroecology can contribute to climate change adaptation and mitigation. Drivers of agroecological transitions supporting economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainability will be discussed as well as incentives to MSMEs and smallholders to transition and accelerate the adoption and implementation of agroecological practices.

Moderation: Isolina Boto, Lead Support to CAADP-XP4, DeSIRA LIFT

Successes from the field supporting climate change adaptation and mitigation

- Karim Sawadogo, Coordinator, West Africa Alliance for Agroecology
- Yohann Zaba, Project GCCA+AO, ARAA, Togo
- Rosinah Mbenya, Country Coordinator, PELUM, Kenya

Smart solutions and local-led technologies from farmers and entrepreneurs - Promoting waste reduction and circular economy

- Noël N'Guessan, Co-founder and CTO, LONO, Côte d'Ivoire
- Sandra Snowden, CEO, Hendy Farms Ltd, Ghana

Moderation: Munoko Karen Musikoyo-Nguru, Agribusiness Expert, FARA

Public and private investments and policies needed to scale up successful agroecological practices

- Ibrahim Traoré, Head, Climate Finance Division, West Africa Development Bank (BOAD)
- Jacques Andre Ndione, Regional Coordinator, AIC-BOAD, ARAA/ECOWAS
- Ibrahima Coulibaly, President, ROPPA
- Etienne Coyette, Head of sector, Climate change, European Commission/INTPA

Discussion

Way forward: key messages summarizing discussions and pointers for action

For more information, please contact Isolina Boto, DeSIRA-LIFT (isolina.boto@coleacp.org)