

Enhancing sustainable and resilient agroecology: Joint Cluster Projects Conference



27 May 2025




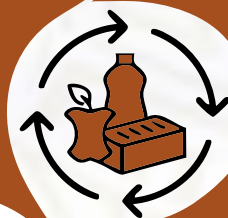
Online



8.00 to 13.00 GMT (10.00 to 15.00 CEST,
11.00 to 16.00 EAT)



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ENHANCING SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT AGROECOLOGY: JOINT CLUSTER PROJECTS CONFERENCE ON 27th MAY 2025 FROM 8.00 – 13.00 GMT (10.00 – 15.00 CEST; 11.00- 16.00 EAT) ON ZOOM

Introduction

The Joint Cluster Projects conference is based on themes that highlight the important areas that are shared by the three projects **INNOECOFOOD**, **Agroecology-TRANSECT** and **D4AgEcol** as well as the unique features of each project. Whilst we share a common goal for enhancing sustainable and resilient agroecology, we have different approaches and geographical locations. Therefore, discussions based on our complementary work and collaboration can offer novel solutions and spark new ideas that may lead to innovative and beneficial research as well as extension of networks and collaborations.

The conference is based on three common themes, with presentations (15-20 min each), followed by a roundtable discussion (30 min). Each thematic session, with selected speakers, permits us to focus on the subject and allows more time for a round-table discussion in which interested project partners can participate, if they wish. The virtual Zoom meeting rather than a physical meeting has enabled wider participation.

The three thematic sessions of the conference are as follows:

Session 1. Sustainable Approaches in Agroecology and Food Processing

This cross-cutting theme, relevant to Agroecology-TRANSECT, D4AgEcol, and INNOECOFOOD, is based on agroecological approaches for climate change and innovative food processing. The session will incorporate advances in sustainable practices including resilient farming systems, biodiversity, sustainable feed; methodologies to support transformative change, and waste reduction to promote the circular economy.

Session 2. Digitalization tools for Sustainable Agri-Food Systems

This theme explores how digital tools contribute to promote the principles of agroecology. We aim to show how the latest developments in terms of AI, data collection and handling, drones and digitalization software to analyze greenhouse gases and energy, allows food production and processing to become sustainable and efficient, with improvements in product quality.

Session 3. Strengthening Community and Stakeholder Engagement in Sustainable Agri-Food Development

The aim of this theme is to focus on the social dimension of sustainable agri-food systems, exploring ways in which to engage with local communities, farmers, policymakers, and researchers in sustainable collaborative practices.

Each session will showcase project plans and results, exchange best practices, and promote cross-project collaboration. The proposed schedule (GMT) is as follows:

Plenary Sessions Program



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Time in GMT	Session Activity
8.00 am	8.00 Welcome and aim of conference: CHAIR: Professor Nazlin Howell, NKSB, UK. INNOECOFOOD Research Coordinator.
8:10 am	Introduction to INNOECOFOOD: Project coordinator, Dr Antonio Marques, CIIMAR, Portugal.
8:20 am	Introduction to Agroecology-TRANSECT: Project coordinator, Dr Bertrand Dumont, INRAE, France.
8:30 am	Introduction to D4AgEcol: Project coordinator, Dr Andreas Meyer-Aurich, ATB Potsdam.

Session 1

Sustainable Approaches in Agroecology and Food Systems.

Session Chair: **Prof. Nazlin Howell**

8:40 am	Presentation INNOECOFOOD: Sustainable production of fish, spirulina and insects, including feed, in the ECOHUB: Dr Mary Opiyo and Dr Cyprian Odoli, KMFRI, Kenya.
8:55 am	Sustainable processing of fish, spirulina and insect products by drying and extrusion: Dr Benjamin Kumah Mintah, CSIR-FRI, Ghana/Dr Stephen Barrion, UNAM, Namibia.
9:10 am	Presentation Agroecology-TRANSECT: Innovation Hub practices and methodologies for transformative change: Dr Stephen Leitheiser, Wageningen University, The Netherlands.
9:20 am	Barriers and levers to the development of agroecological initiatives, a portray methodology: Adrien Swartebroekx, CRA-W, Belgium.
9:30 am	Round table discussion To include Spirulina trials in Africa by Dr Seyit Yuzuak, Turkey. IPRS versus RAS aquaculture systems in the ECOHUB. Dr Nabil Ibrahim, CLAR, Egypt.

Time in GMT	Session Activity
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Session 2

Digitalization tools for Sustainable Agri-Food Systems

Session Chair: **Dr Chrysantus Tanga, ICIPE, Kenya.**

10:00 am	Presentation INNOECOFOOD: Use of digitalization in the ECOHUB and living labs: Dr. Gareth Kituu, JKUAT, Kenya
10:15 am	AI and IoT in Processing of food and feed (all driers): Lawrence Okettayot, Sparky, Uganda.
10:25 am	Presentation D4AgEcol: The potential of digitalization to enable agroecology. Prof. Karl Behrendt, Harper Adams University, UK.
10:40 am	Smart Monitoring Tools for Sustainable Agriculture in Africa (SustInAfrica). Dr. Michael Schirrmann. ATB Potsdam, Germany.
10:55 am	10.55. Round table discussion Contributions from Dr Albert Esper/Dr Mathias Fischer, INNOTECH, Germany.

Session 3

Strengthening Community and Stakeholder Engagement in Sustainable Agri-Food Development

Session Chair: **Hamis Said Hinch, FSPN Africa, Kenya**

11:20 am	Presentation INNOECOFOOD: Community and stakeholder activities in the ECOHUB: Benadict Isiaho, FSPN Africa, Kenya.
11:30 am	Acceptability of novel nutritious and safe food products in selected African countries: Dr. Agnes Masawi /Dr. Margaret Massette, MAKERERE, Uganda.
11:40 am	Presentation Agroecology-TRANSECT: Inspira Territorio Innovation Hub in Andalucia: Dr. Elisa Oteros Rozas, CSIC, Spain.
11:55 am	Presentation D4AgEcol: Serious gaming environments to support the transition towards agroecology through knowledge transfer: Alma Moroder, ZALF, Germany.
12:10 am	12.10 Round table discussion Contribution by selected Trainers of Trainers (ToTs) from INNOECOFOOD ECOHUBS (invite at least 2 from each ECOHUB). JRC support to sustainable transition of food systems in Africa. Dr. Pascal Tillie, JRC – European Commission – Seville, Spain. Healthy Diets for Africa Project (mycotoxin awareness in the community).

Time in GMT	Session Activity
12:40 am	Summing up and Conclusions. CHAIR: Prof. Nazlin Howell
12:50 am	Meeting ends.

Contact Prof. Nazlin Howell: Nazlinhowell@gmail.com



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