



## 2<sup>nd</sup> RUFORUM TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE

### SIDE EVENT CONCEPT NOTE

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

**Date:** 14<sup>th</sup> August 2024 (10:30-12:30 SAT)

**Venue:** Mercure Hotel, Room Omatako 3, Windhoek, Namibia

**Organizers:** FARA and RUFORUM

**Registration Link:** <https://bit.ly/3Ylagb3>

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#### Background:

The African continent faces a number of complex challenges related to climate change, and the degradation of natural resources. Additionally the population in Africa continues to grow at a rapid pace, which leads to increasing demand for food and changing consumption habits. Both trends place immense pressure on the agricultural sector. Agroecology, which focuses on the application of ecological principles to agricultural systems, has the potential to address these challenges and contribute to transform the continent's agricultural practices. Agroecology can significantly contribute to biodiversity conservation beyond the farm in a broad range of landscape.

The transition towards agroecological food systems and the development of both productive and resilient farming systems and value chains are complex processes. It requires new knowledge, competencies and policies to co-create solutions based on agroecological principles and the integration of scientific and local knowledge. Therefore the Regional Multi-Actors Research Network (RMRN) projects is being implemented on regional scale to strengthen the capacity of the Regional Centers of Excellence (RCoE) and other actors which are to be selected by the sub-regional organizations (SROs), namely CORAF, ASARECA, and CCARDESA, to conduct agroecology research within their respective sub-regions. These RCoEs rely on stakeholder engagement to bridge the gap between the research, policy, and practice and provide a better understanding of

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the duties and responsibilities of researchers and policy makers and practitioners in promoting the green transition through agroecology practices.

The building up and running of the RMRN project will be coordinated by Forum for Agriculture Research in Africa (FARA), and the Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) with technical backstopping from the Joint Research Centre (JRC). Before the RCoEs are operational, this side event on agroecology at the RUFORUM Triennial wants to bring stakeholders interested with agroecology research and capacity building together. It builds on previous webinars<sup>1</sup> engage with stakeholders and aims to stimulate dialogue on research and capacity building on agroecology and get inputs of the stakeholders to inform the RMRN processes. At this side event, a draft discussion paper will be presented and discussed, that will feed into the process of building up the RCoEs.

### Objectives:

The Agroecology Side Event **explores** potential fields for the RMRN to undertake agro-ecological research in the African context.

Specifically, this event is:

- To promote knowledge sharing, dialogue, and collaboration among stakeholders involved in promoting capacity building in agroecology research at different levels .
- To identify opportunities and challenges for agroecological research on the continent.

### APPROACH

The event will start with a keynote on the research and capacity on agroecology in Africa. This will be followed by presentation of a first draft discussion paper on the contribution of **agroecology to food security in Africa, which will be discussed by a stakeholder panel and the general discussion.**

### OUTPUTS

1. Increased awareness of the RMRN Project
2. Increased awareness on agroecological research and research gaps among the scientists, farmers and policy makers.
3. improved collaboration on agroecology research and training

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1. Webinar “Exploring Agroecology: Current Insights and Emerging Research Frontiers”, 5 June 2024, <https://www.youtube.com/live/rEqftSCPXjw>
  2. Webinar “From Degradation to Regeneration: Agroecology and Soil Health Research for Sustainable Agriculture in Africa”, 17 July 2024, recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=02Vyxp2bco>

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4. Inputs to the RMRN discussion through a revised discussion paper.

## PARTICIPANTS

The participants to this event will be drawn from the Forum for Agriculture Research in Africa (FARA) and RUFORUM network, Researchers, policy makers, SROs, Farmers' Organizations, and postgraduate students from the agroecology field.

## ORGANIZERS

The ide event is organized by the RMRN project team with the support of the Government of Namibia and RUFORUM member universities in Namibia.

## PROGRAMME

| THURSDAY 14 <sup>th</sup> August, 2024   |   |
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| SIDE EVENT (BLENDED)   |   |
| <b>Venue:</b> Mercure Hage Geingob Campus,<br><b>Registration Link:</b><br><b>Chair:</b> Dr. Aggrey Agumya<br><b>Rapporteur:</b> Eunice Amponsah-Dadzie, Edna Yeboah, Yamungu B. |   |
| Time   |   |
| 10.30-10:40  | Welcome Remarks from the Chair: Aggrey Agumya<br>Welcome by DG INTPA –  |
| 10:40-11.00  | Keynote speaker: Title: Focus on research and capacity on agroecology in Africa<br>Speaker: Prof. Alex Awiti (CIFOR-ICRAF)  |
| 11.00-11.20  | Presentation of Discussion Paper:<br>How can agroecology contribute to improving food security in Africa?<br>Prof. Majaliwa JG / Dr. Kwaku A./Dr. Felix Rembold   |
| 11:20-12:45  | Discussions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Caroline Callenius (JRC-ISPR),</li> <li>• Joseph Sekandi (UMU),</li> <li>• Baitsi Podisi (CCARDESA),</li> <li>• David Amudavi (Biovision)</li> </ul> |
| 11:45- 12:15   | Q&A   |
| 12:15-12:25  | Way – Forward (Recommendation for RMRN),<br>Dr. Kwaku Antwi/Dr. Florence Nakayiwa.  |
| 12:25-12:30  | Closing remarks; Dr. Aggrey Agumya<br>ED FARA   |

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