



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

FARA/RUFORUM COMPONENT ON AGROECOLOGY

REGIONAL WORKSHOP WEST AFRICA

22-24 June 2026

Lomé, TOGO

Presented by: Kwaku Antwi
(PhD)





Information about the Support to Regional Centers of Excellence on Agroecology

- **Consortium Partners – 2 (FARA and RUFORUM)**

Coordination and Technical Functions

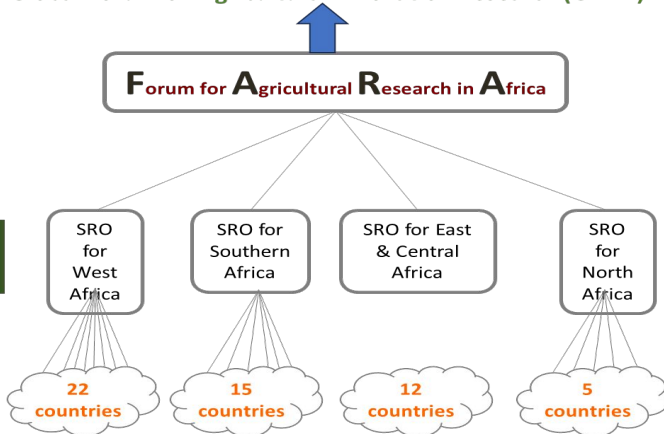
- **Associated Partners – EC-JRC (ISPRA)**
- Technical support**

- **Funded By – European Union through DG-INTPA.**

- **Project Duration – 36 Months (Jan 2024 – Dec. 2026).**

Overview of FARA

Global Forum on Agricultural Innovation Research (GFAiR)



175 Universities

40 Countries

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



Project objectives



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.



Project Implementation Procedure

Regional Organizations



CORAF



icipe



- **Regional Centers of Excellence (RCoEs) on agroecology to be established within the SROs.**
- The RCoE are multi-actor stakeholder partners to promote the principles and practices of agroecology on the African continent.
- RMRN to provide continental-level support to the Regional Centers of Excellence (RCoEs) on agroecology.

The Role of the Continental Project (Support and Facilitation Roles)



1. Strengthen capacities of Coordination Institutions to support the 3 RMRNs.
2. Support Exchanges between the three (3) RMRNs for research, learning and experience sharing (**Joint research and publication**).
3. **Support capacity building (training) needs of the 3 RMRNs (Earth Observation Tools/Technologies).**
4. Support the coordination functions of the of RMRNs coordinators (**member of governance of the 3 RMRNs**).
5. Support Policy engagement actions of 3 the RMRNs.



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 systems: support science-policy interface (Organize continental Policy Dialogues and engagements)
- Support identification and engagement of Agroecology Champions to advocate for AE.
- Support private sector engagement
- Awareness creation to support practitioners, scientists, policy .



Activities Carried Out

Politic Engagement Activities



Capacity Building & Exchange Programmes





Activities Carried Out



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?

¹Kwaku, A., ²Majaliwa, J.G.M., ³Callenius, C., ³Rembold, F., ²Nakayiwa, F.M., ³Paracchini, M.L., ¹Ama, P., ¹Vesta, N., ²Artur, F. & ²Yamungu, A. B.

¹Forum for Agriculture Research in Africa, Accra, Ghana

²Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture, Kampala, Uganda

³Joint Research Center, Brussels, Belgium

*Corresponding email: majaliwam@gmail.com




**ArcX FORUM PRE-EVENT
TRAINING WORKSHOP**
8th and 9th September 2025 | 16:00 EAT | 13:00 GMT

Training Overview
Strengthen the capacity of researchers to design, implement, and evaluate agroecological research and innovation that contributes to sustainable food system transformation in Africa.

 Fergus Sinclair Bangor University <i>Module A:</i> Understanding agroecological principles	 Mathias Geck CIRAD-CIRAF <i>Module B:</i> Assessing agroecological transitions, not Agroecology assessment framework	 Bernard Triomphe CIRAD <i>Module C:</i> Building skills in interdisciplinary and participatory research methodologies	 Alex Awiti CIRAD-CIRAF <i>Module D:</i> Exploring innovations in agroecological research and policy engagement
Hosts  Prof. Patrick Okori Executive Secretary RUFORUM  Dr. Aggrey Agumya Executive Director FARA			
Facilitator  Ed Rege ECI-Africa			

Register Here: https://faraafrica.zoom.us/join/register/HN8INSGvSECaWVvP_xSB8g/

Funded by the European Union | IFAD
Breeding in seed people

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 pour l'amélioration de la sécurité



Activities Carried Out

Selection of Agroecology Champions

No.	Champion	Country	Gender	Region
1	Dr. Martin Oulu	Kenya	Male	East Africa
2	Dr. Rosemary Nyoka	Zimbabwe	Female	Southern Africa
3	Dr. Franck Ogonnikan Adje	Benin	Male	West Africa
4	Ms. Gloria Nakiwala	Uganda	Female	East Africa
5	Dr. Eunice Golda Daniele NDO	Cameroon	Female	West Africa
6	Dr. Ssemakula Joseph	Uganda	Male	East Africa
7	Dr. Linda Kabaira	Zimbabwe	Female	Southern Africa
8	Mr. Selestine Focus Mushi	Tanzania	Male	Southern Africa
9	Dr. Kouadio Marie-France	Cote d'Ivoire	Female	West Africa



Activities Carried Out

Selection for Generation of Evidence (Knowledge)

No.	Applicant	Gender	Country	Region
1	Armél Landry Batchi-Bouyou	Male	Congo - Brazzaville	Central
2	Innocensia John	Female	Tanzania	Eastern
3	Nice Chukwuma Ume	Female	Nigeria	Western
4	Faki Chabi	Male	Benin	Western
5	Wilson Charles Wilson	Male	Tanzania	Eastern
6	Gerivasia Jeremias Mosse	Female	Mozambique	Southern
7	Israel Domingos	Male	Angola	Southern
8	FODAY DABOH	Male	Sierra Leone	Western
9	Cyrille Awuonda	Male	Kenya	Eastern
10	Jeancy Ntuka	Male	Congo - Kinshasa	Central Africa



Photo Credit: Rob Symons

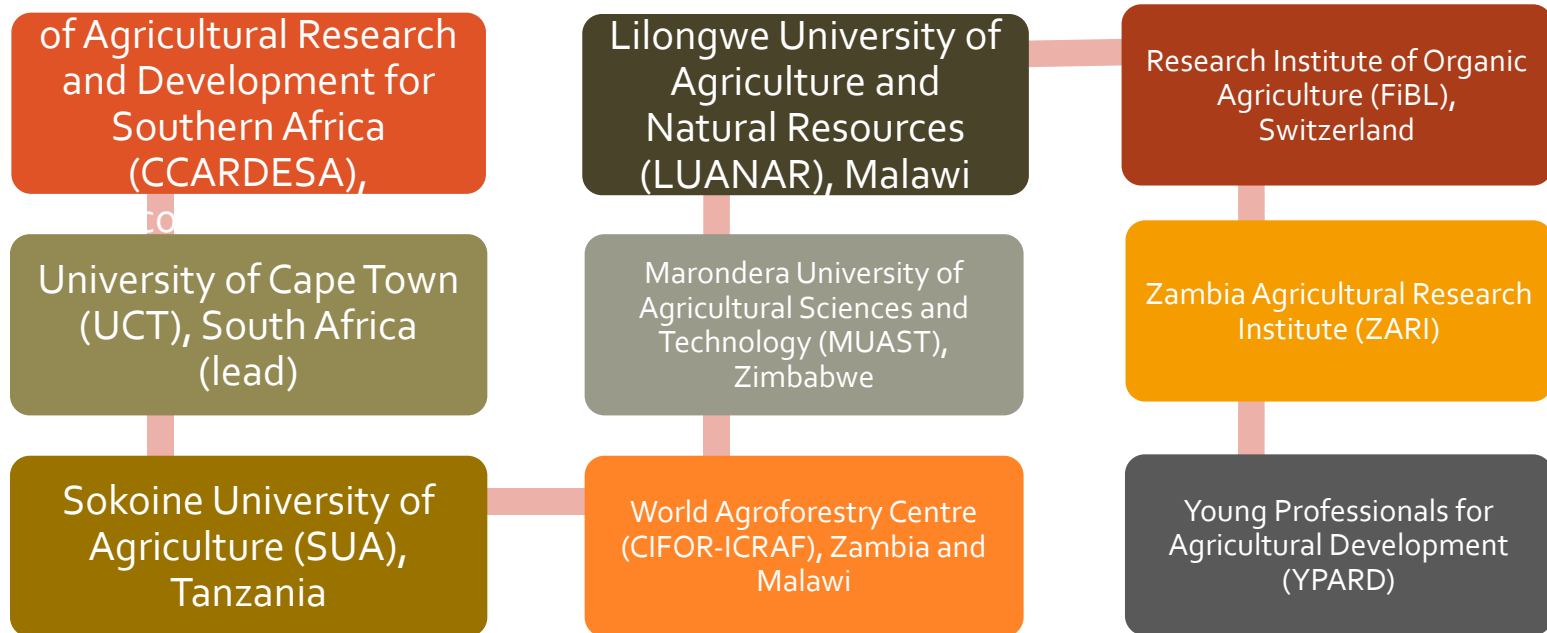
RESEARCH FOR AGROECOLOGY NETWORK SOUTHERN AFRICA **RAENS**

ArcX Forum, Nairobi
15 September 2025

Dr. Brittany Kesselman
University of Cape Town



RAENS partners



- Linked to the regional networks in **East** and **West/Central Africa**
- Continental coordination and support from the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (**FARA**) and the Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (**RUFORUM**)

10+ Elements



13 Principles





RAENS goal

To establish a robust, innovative, and sustainable multi-actor transdisciplinary **AE research and knowledge network** in Southern Africa to:

- strengthen existing AE initiatives
- showcase the potential and scalability of AE
- facilitate shifts in agricultural training and research towards AE and regenerative ways of producing food, fibre and fodder
- inform policy, thereby leading to an enabling landscape for AE uptake, research and training

RAENS components

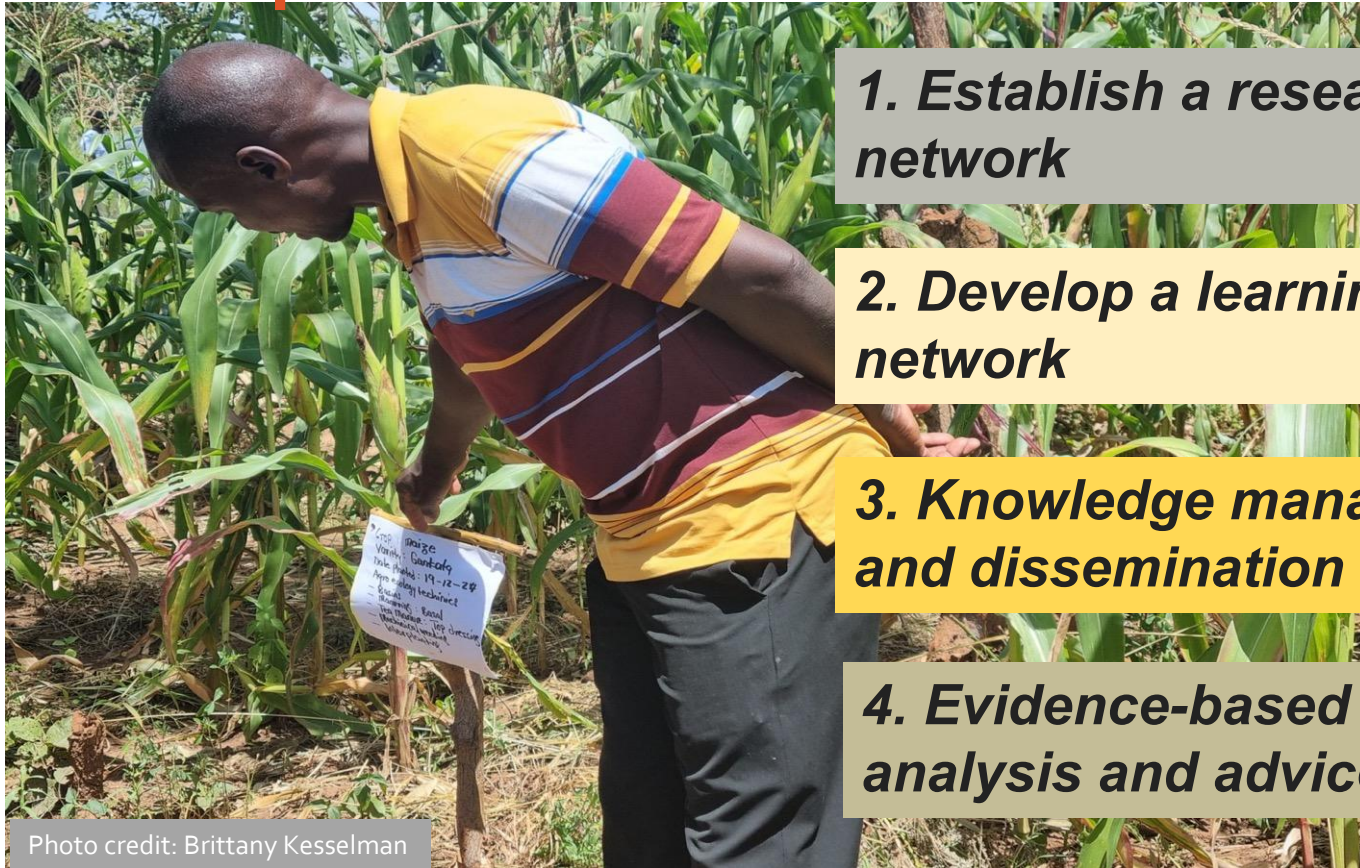


Photo credit: Brittany Kesselman

1. Establish a research network

2. Develop a learning network

3. Knowledge management and dissemination

4. Evidence-based policy analysis and advice

1. Improve the coordination of AE research and strengthen farmer-led research

Establishing a gender- and youth-sensitive transdisciplinary network of AE researchers for Southern Africa

- Establishing / strengthening national AE research networks
- Strong focus on farmer-led research
- Research on cross-cutting themes



Pilot sites



Cross-country pilot sites and research
(South Africa, Zimbabwe, Zambia,
Malawi and Tanzania)

- Standardised tools, data management protocol
- Opportunity to demonstrate evidence of AE across countries
- Evidence for farmers and policy makers
- Linking biophysical and social
- Including industrial model of agriculture as a comparison
- Diverse farming systems

Communities of Practice

- 1) Biodiversity and landscapes
- 2) Soil health
- 3) Nutrition-sensitive AE
- 4) Markets
- 5) Seed and participatory breeding
- 6) Integrated pest management
- 7) Indigenous crops
- 8) Water
- 9) Mixed livestock and crop systems

Cross-cutting themes

- Youth
- Gender
- Climate change
- Traditional/indigenous knowledge(s)

Terms of Reference for CoPs

- Network-based
- Academics and researchers
- Identifying and filling gaps
- Sharing knowledge and developing papers
- Linking to existing national/international networks
- Supporting practitioners

Photo Credit: Rob Symons

2. Equip scholars and practitioners with skills, knowledge and tools



- Developing new or enhancing existing AE modules and curricula for university students and extension agents
- Cross-learning between institutions through co-teaching/guest lecturing and co-supervision of postgraduate students
- New leadership on AE through postgraduate students and postdoctoral fellows in the 5 countries and beyond undertaking research on

3. Increase the availability and awareness of AE knowledge, methods and tools

- Platform to share research and knowledge products
- Platform to facilitate connections among agroecology researchers in the region
- Disseminate material in accessible and creative formats, various media
- Translate research into multiple languages

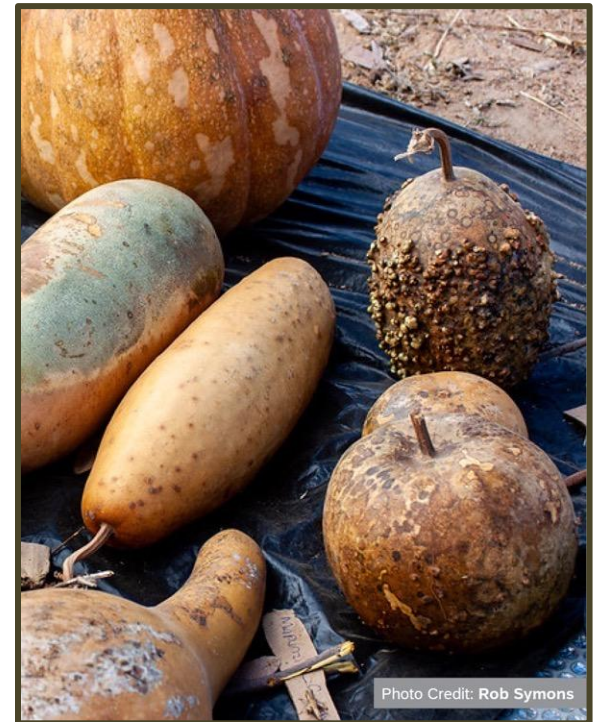


Photo Credit: Rob Symons

4. Improve the policy environment for agroecology transitions at various levels



- Policy scoping and analysis at national and regional levels
- Developing policy scenarios
- Evidence-based policy recommendations for AE transitions
- Linkages with other AE initiatives on the continent and beyond



Agroecology Network to promote the sustainability of food systems in West and Central Africa

RADiUS

ArcX Forum
Nairobi, 15 septembre 2025

PROJECT SYNOPSIS

Coordinator



Logo



Acronym

Agroecology Network to Promote
Sustainable Food Systems in
West and Central Africa

Funding

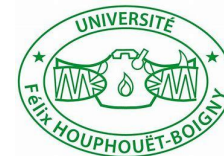


Duration

4 years (2025-2028)

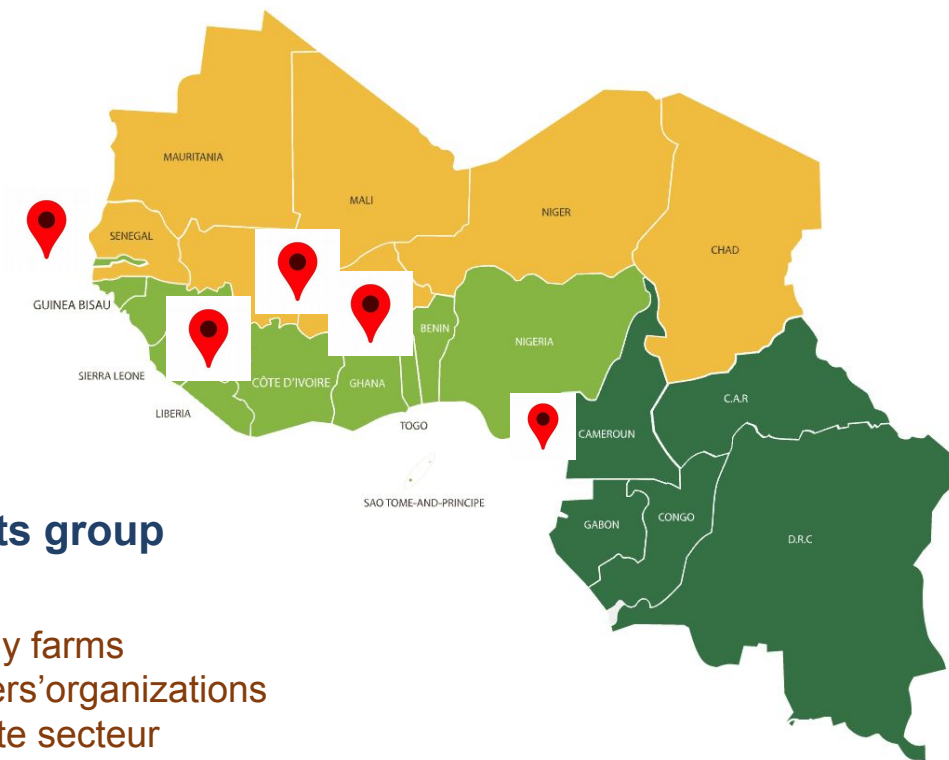
Budget: 5,280 M€

Members of Consortium



COUNTRY OF IMPLEMENTATION

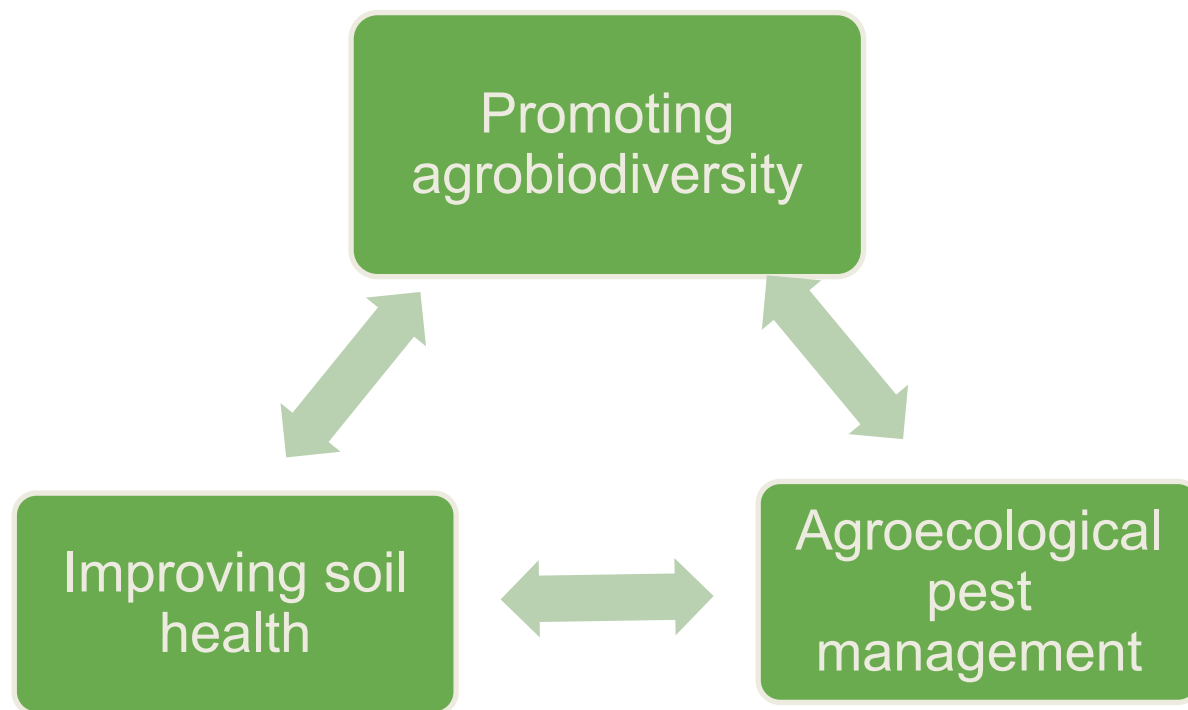
- ☐ Benin
- ☐ Burkina Faso
- ☐ Cameroon
- ☐ Ivory Coast
- ☐ Senegal



Targets group

- Family farms
- farmers' organizations
- Private secteur
- ONG and decision-makers

Main themes



Achievements



Project launch at regional and national levels in Senegal

Achievements



Setting up demonstration plots

Achievements



Creation of academic teaching units in agroecology and development of curricula in agroecology (Master's in Agroecology and Risk Management)

Achievements



Awareness local authorities

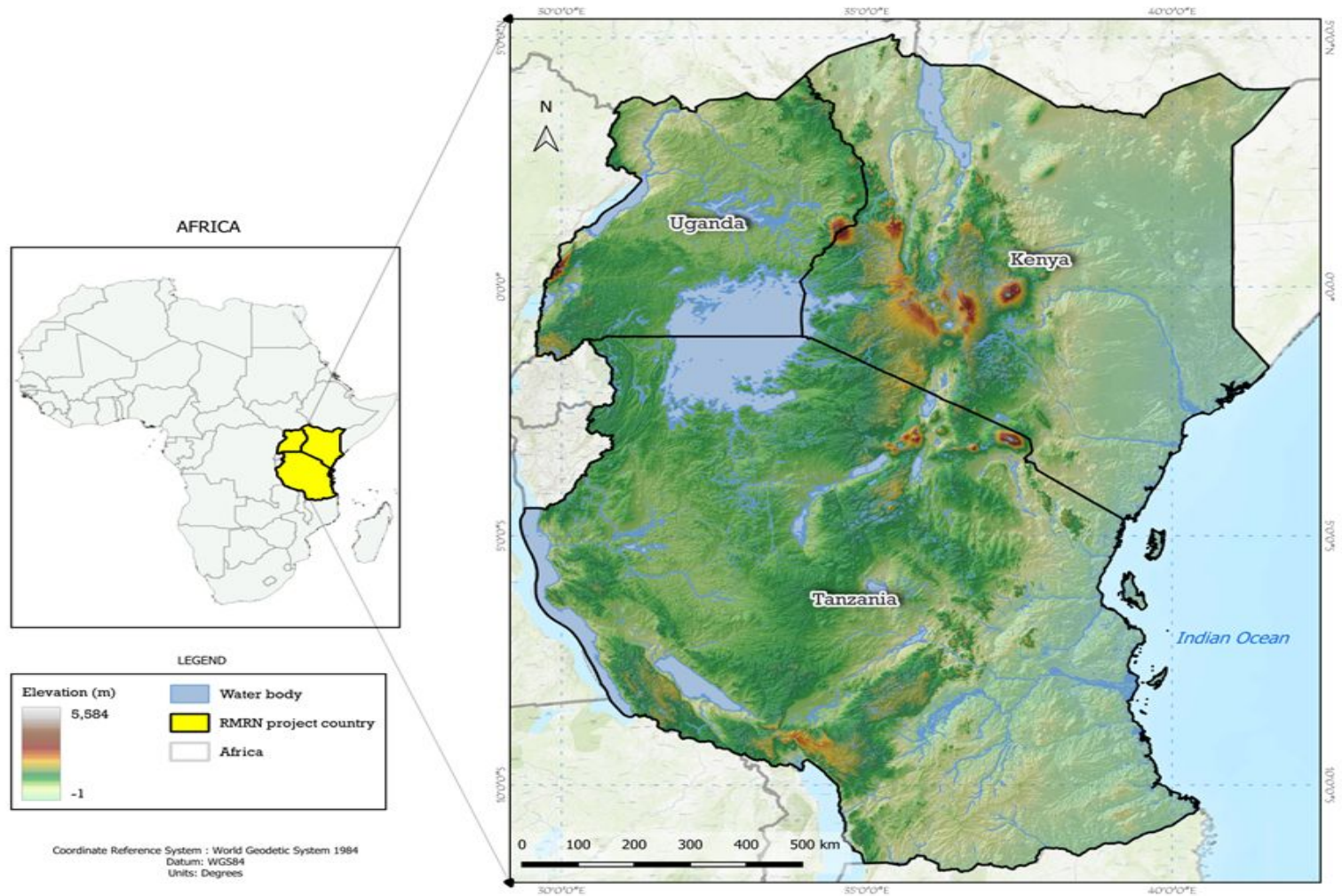
Overview of the RMRN-EA project

Frank Chidawanyika

International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (*icipe*) Nairobi, Kenya

fchidawanyika@icipe.org

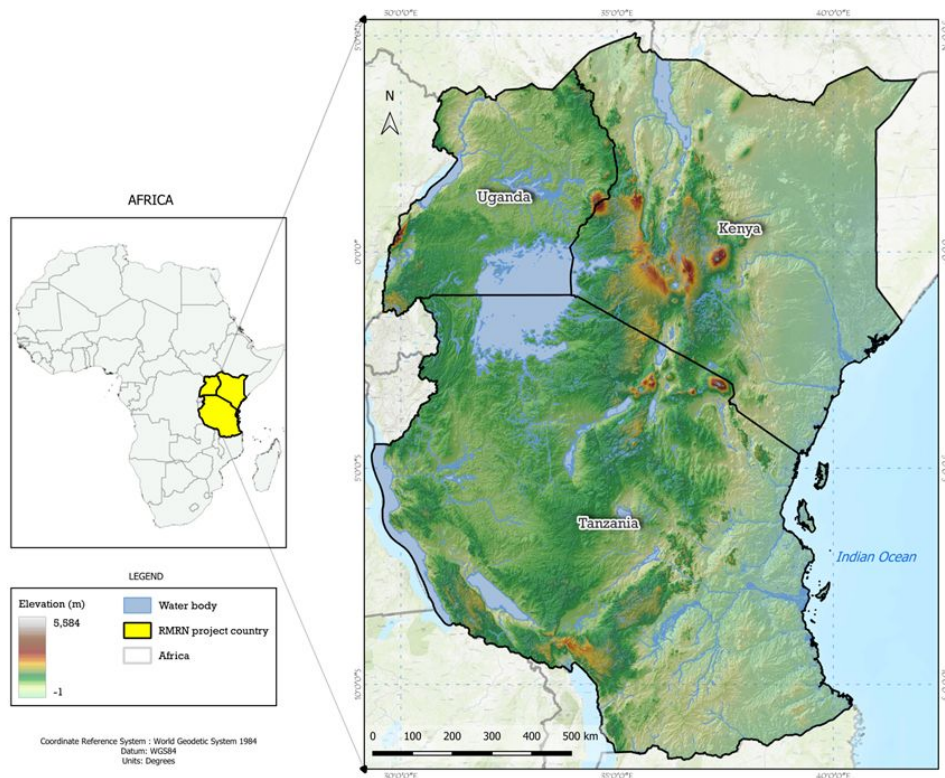




Duration: 1 Dec 2024 – 30 Nov 2028

Countries: Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda

RMRN-EA



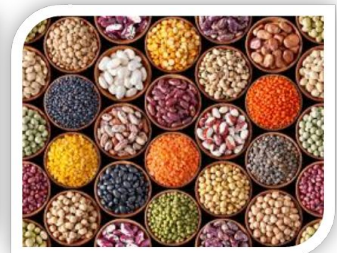
Duration: 1 Dec 2024 – 30 Nov 2028
Countries: Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda
Inception: 17- 19 February 2019



Overall goal of RMRN-EA



Building sustainable agri-food system transition based on agroecological principles and practices in sub-Saharan Africa



RMRN-EA beneficiaries and target groups



| Specific objective 1

Goa

To develop
curricula in
agroecology

Specific objective 1

Goal

To develop
curricula in
agroecology

Approach

- Assess the gaps and needs in existing agroecology courses/curricula
- Cater for the needs of the region and the entire innovation pathway
- Responsive to market needs and contemporary challenges in agroecology



MAKERERE UNIVERSITY



University of Nairobi

| Specific objective 2

Goal

To strengthen
the capacities
of NARS to
produce,
collect, access,
process and
share
data/information

Specific objective 2

Goal

To strengthen the capacities of NARS to produce, collect, access, process and share data/information

Approach

- Assessing capacity needs among national research partners (universities, NARS)
- Linking databases that support agroecology
- Scientific and technical training
- Knowledge management and exchange hubs



| Specific objective 3

Goal

Participatory
validation and
scaling of
agroecological
innovations at
different scales

Specific objective 3

Goa

Participatory
validation and
scaling of
agroecological
innovations at
different scales

Approach

- Contextualized agroecological innovation bundles
- Co-design principals through 'living labs'
- Assess socio-economic, cultural and gender-related benefits, drivers and bottlenecks
- Knowledge gaps and research-M.sc. & PhD involvement



| Specific objective 4

Goal

Support on
agroecology to
practitioners,
scientists and
policy makers

Specific objective 4

Goa

Support on agroecology to practitioners, scientists and policy makers

Approach

- Strengthening of linkages among curricula, research and policy
- Enhance co-creation & breaking silos
- Promote agroecology policies that are informed by scientific research and evidence
- Assessment of policy frame



| Outcomes and impact

1

- Agroecology curricula in target countries

2

- Capacity and knowledge to produce, collect, access, process data enhanced

3

- Evidenced based agroecological innovations used by farmers

4

- Functional & gender inclusive RMRN

| Outcomes and impact

1

- Agroecology curricula in target countries

2

- Capacity and knowledge to produce, collect, access, process data enhanced

3

- Evidenced based agroecological innovations used by farmers

4

- Functional gender inclusive RMRN-EA

sustainable agri-food
system transition
based on
agroecological
principals

2 policy recommendations



Possible Areas of Collaboration



- Capacity building/strengthening – training/learning sessions
- Generation and dissemination of knowledge (studies in agroecology).
- Stakeholder engagement actions – policy dialogues, donor roundtables etc.
- Exchanges – internship for early careers researchers, researchers etc.
- Curriculum – teaching and learning w.r.t. agroecology in higher institutions



Support to Regional Centres of Excellence
related to Green Transition - FARA/RUFORUM
component on agroecology





*Thank
you!*

