

# Session Brief

FARA Africa Agribusiness and Science Week <https://aasw.faraafrica.org/>

Durban, South Africa, 5-8 June 2023

## Parallel Session XX: Unpacking the potential of Agroecology in Africa

Date: 7<sup>th</sup> June, 2023.

Format: Hybrid

Venue: DURBAN

Meeting Room: CAPE TOWN A

Zoom Link: xxx

### Synopsis

This parallel session will discuss the potential of agroecology for Africa. As a transdisciplinary, participatory, and action-oriented approach, agroecology aims at enhancing food system resilience, equity, and sustainability. Conditions for success of agroecological innovations are context specific approaches and widening the scope for sustainable action by creating enabling policy environments, finding appropriate institutional mechanisms, and develop targeted business models together with alternative financial mechanisms.

This CGIAR-organized side event is based on several collaborative agroecological research activities in Africa and will address three critical conditions for success of agroecological transitions.

1. **Enabling environment:** What are suitable business opportunities and financial mechanisms for local enterprises to deal with agroecological innovations?
2. **Policies:** How to enact suitable policies and mechanisms of policy integration for promoting effective and sustainable agroecological transitions.
3. **Evidence and Metrics:** How can we assess and demonstrate which agroecological innovations work best, where, why, and for whom?










### Program

Time	Activity
20 min	<p><b>Introductory panel: The multiple dimensions of agroecological transitions</b></p> <p>What does agroecology means for you and how is that meaning reflected in the projects that you are involved in?</p> <p>Fergus Sinclair, Marcela Quintero, Matthias Geck</p> <p><b>Annotation:</b> Each speaker lays out the meaning of Agroecology beyond farming practices in 4 minutes. Fergus Sinclair from TPP perspective, Marcela on behalf of CGIAR, Matthias for Transitions.</p>
60 min	<p><b>Presentations (15 min each)</b></p> <p><b>Annotation: 4 presentations, when 2 speakers per topic make sure it is a joint presentation</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Inclusive business models and incentives with a focus on agroecological principles Christine Chege, CGIAR Initiative on Agroecology Jonathan Mockshell, TRANSITIONS) <b>Annotation:</b> Jonathan focus on Incentives</li><li>2. Coherent policies and institutional arrangements conducive to agroecological transitions Alex Awiti on behalf of TPP Matthias Geck, CGIAR Initiative on Agroecology</li><li>3. Agroecology Evidence-based assessments Sarah Jones , CGIAR Initiative on Agroecology, VIABILITY Christine Lamanna, TRANSITIONS</li><li>4. Making agroecological transitions happen, the case of Zimbabwe Vimbayi Chimonyo, CGIAR Initiative on Agroecology</li></ol>

30 min

**Discussion with EVENT participants:** *Speeding up agroecological transitions in Africa*

**Speakers:**

	<b>Fergus Sinclair</b> , Chief scientist, CIFOR-ICRAF		<b>Marcela Quintero</b> , Senior Director, Land and Environment, CGIAR
	<b>Matthias Geck</b> , Agroecological Systems Scientist, CIFOR-ICRAF		<b>Christine Lamanna</b> , Adaptive Systems Scientist, CIFOR-ICRAF
	<b>Christine Chege</b> , Scientist, Food Environment & Consumer Behavior, Alliance Bioversity-CIAT		<b>Jonathan Mockshell</b> , Performance, Innovation and Strategic Analysis for Impact, Alliance Bioversity-CIAT
	<b>Alex Awiti</b> , Senior Agroecology Policy and Advocacy Advisor, CIFOR-ICRAF		<b>Vimbayi Chimonyo</b> , Scientist Crop Modeler, CIMMYT
	Facilitator: <b>Tafadzwanashe Mabhaudhi</b> , Research Group Leader - Sustainable and Resilient Food Production Systems (IWMI)		