

EWA-BELT PROJECT Final Conference

*"Towards an Agroecological transition through Sustainable intensification in
Sub-Saharan Africa: Lessons learned and Research Evidence"*

15-16-17 July 2025 – African Union Headquarters, Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)

AGENDA

DAY 1

08.30- 09.00	Registration of participants	
09.15-10.00	Welcome and greetings	Safegrad representative
	Overview of EWA BELT Project	Giovanna Seddaiu, UNISS
Traditional and innovative agricultural practices for sustainable intensification		
Session IA The role of Neglected and Underutilized Species to enhance food security and food diversity		Moderator Francois Tapsoba (EWA BELT Scientific Advisory Board)
10.00-10.15	Key note speaker: Lessons learned on agrobiodiversity and Neglected and Underutilized species in Sub Saharan Africa	Carlo Fadda Director of Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture-Alliance of Biodiversity International and CIAT
10.15-10.30	<i>Promoting Sustainable Agriculture Through Neglected and Underutilized Species: A Multi-Case Study in Sub-Saharan Africa</i>	Adeline Barnauld, IRD
10.30-10.40	Success story from Ghana case study.	Joseph Adjebeng Danquah, CSIR-SARI EWA BELT
10.40-11.10	Questions and answers	
11.10-11.30	Coffee break	
Session IB: Sustainable Soil Management Practices		
11.30-11.45	Key note speaker: Status, challenges, and lessons learned in integrated soil health and fertility management in agroecosystems	Getachew Agegnehu, Research Coordinator on Soil Research Management-ICRISAT

11.45-12.05	<i>Sustainable soil management practices (land recovery practices ; crop rotation, intercropping and crop residue management)</i>	Mamadou Traorè , UNB EWA BELT
12.05-12.25	<i>Organic fertilization and Agri-livestock integration experiences</i>	Mohamed Joseph Sesay , UNIMAK EWA-BELT
12.25-12.40	<i>Water management practices: evidence from Burkina Faso and Ghana</i>	James Kombiok , KCD and Meron Tefera UNISS EWA BELT
12.40-13.10	Questions and Answers	
13.10-14.10	Lunch	
	Assessment of agricultural practices: S.I. indicators and value chain studies	
14.10-14.30	<i>EWA BELT videos on agricultural practices discussed during the morning session</i>	
14.30-14.50	<i>Pathway to economic sustainability of S.I. agricultural practices</i>	John Bidzakin , CRAN EWA BELT
14.50-15.10	<i>Indicator based S.I. assessment of soil and water management practices in EWA- BELT project</i>	Antonio Pulina , UNISS EWA BELT
15.10-15.45	Questions and Answers	

AGENDA

DAY 2

TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE, INNOVATIONS AND ICTs FOR CROP PROTECTION		
Session II A Crop protection and food safety: Valorising traditional knowledge and innovation		Moderator Youssef Brahimi (EWA BELT- Scientific Advisory Board)
09.30 - 09.45	<i>Greetings and opening</i>	
15 min 09.45 - 10.00	Keynote speaker: Ethnobotanical knowledge for crop protection in Africa: reflections and insights	Adeyemi O. Aremu , Professor, Indigenous Knowledge Systems Centre North-West University Mmabatho, South Africa
20 min 10.00-10.20	<i>Retrieving Traditional Knowledge for Plant Protection in East and West Africa – the role of biopesticides</i>	Elena Invernizzi , ACRA EWA BELT
15 min 10.20- 10.35	<i>Reducing Aflatoxin contamination in food crops: (Aflasafe, crop management practices)</i>	Francis Wayua , KALRO EWA BELT
10 min 10.35-10.45	<i>Post harvest methods to mitigate mycotoxin contamination in food crops</i>	Carla Cervini , CRAN EWA BELT
30 min 10.45-11.15	Questions and answers	
11.15-11.45	Coffee break	
11.45-13.00	Session II B AI and ICTs for crop protection and food safety	
15 min 11.45-12.00	Key note speaker: Harnessing Citizen Science to monitor Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health with Pl@ntNet	Pierre Bonnet - Researcher in Biodiversity Informatics at CIRAD
25 min 12.00-12.25	<i>PlantHEAD: a telediagnostic, participatory platform to remotely identify relevant crop diseases.</i> <i>Molecular detection of mycotoxigenic species in plant samples with a portable qPCR device</i>	Quirico Migheli (UNISS) and Giovanni Zandoni (OCCAM) Marco Cereda (ST Microelectronics) EWA BELT

15 min 12.30- 12.45	Questions and answers session IIB	
13.00-14.00	Lunch Break	
	<i>Assessment of crop protection practices: S.I. indicators and value chain studies</i>	
14.10-14.30	<i>EWA BELT videos on crop protection practices discussed during the morning session</i>	
14.30-14.50	<i>Pathway to economic sustainability of S.I. of crop protection practices</i>	John Bidzakin, CRAN EWA BELT
14.50-15.10	<i>Indicator based S.I. assessment of plant protection practices in EWA- BELT project</i>	Giovanna Seddaiu, UNISS
15.10-15.45	Questions and answers	
15.45-16.00	Conclusion of the works	UNISS

AGENDA

DAY 3

***Towards the Transition and Adoption of S.I.
in African farming systems***
(in collaboration with SAFGRAD)
July 17, 2025



Objective:

To engage in strategic reflection among policy makers, researchers, and development actors on the necessary conditions for scaling up Sustainable Intensification practices in Africa, identifying drivers, challenges, and opportunities for joint action between the EU, African Union and international organizations.

Towards the Transition and Adoption of S.I. in African farming systems		
09.00-09.15	Welcome and opening of the session	AU SAFGRAD and UNISS
09.15-09.30	EWA-BELT after five years of implementation: what insights can be gained?	Giovanna Seddaiu, UNISS
09.30-09.45	How to scale up/facilitate the use of research findings to meet CAADP's objectives (Key conclusion of the Cairo meeting)	Mr. Mamadou Koutou, AU-SAFGRAD
09.45-10.00	Keynote speaker	Luis Vivas Alegre, EU- DG Research and Innovation
10.00-10.15	Keynote speaker	Farayi Zimudzi FAO Representative for Ethiopia and Subregional Coordinator for Eastern Africa
10.15-10.30	General debate	
11.00-11.30	Coffee Break	

11.30-12.30	<p><i>Panelists session on emergent themes to be addressed by joint AU/EU interventions:</i></p>	<p>Dr. Giyose Boitshepo, FAO</p> <p>Prof. Nigusie Dechasa, Director General, Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research (EIAS)</p> <p>Dr. Lamourdia Thiombiano, Expert on soil management, Chief Executive Officer Royal Foods and Farms / Yardia Corporation</p> <p>Dr. Moussa Mamadou Boubacar, Rector of the University of Diffa (Niger)</p> <p>Dr. Kindu Mekonnen Tegegne, Senior Scientist, Crop-Livestock Systems Livestock, Climate and Environment Program, International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI)</p> <p>EWA BELT representatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof. Sheila Okoth, University of Nairobi-Kenya • Dr. Joseph Adjebeng Danquah, CSIR SARI-Ghana
12.30 -12.50	<i>General debate</i>	
12.50-13.30	<i>Lessons learned for future AU/EU interventions</i>	UNISS and Scientific Advisory Board Members

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