

DAAD AGRI-ALUMNI NETWORK

Webinar Series 1: Introduction and overview of the program

31st August, 2022 (17:00 EAT)



Hohenheim Tropics 1

OUTLINE

- Introductions
- Overview of DAAD Agri-Alumni Net
- Background
- Activities so far
- Stuttgart – Prague program, 2022
- Overview
- Q&A
- Introduction to agroecology concept
- Presentations and contributions



Hohenheim Tropics 2

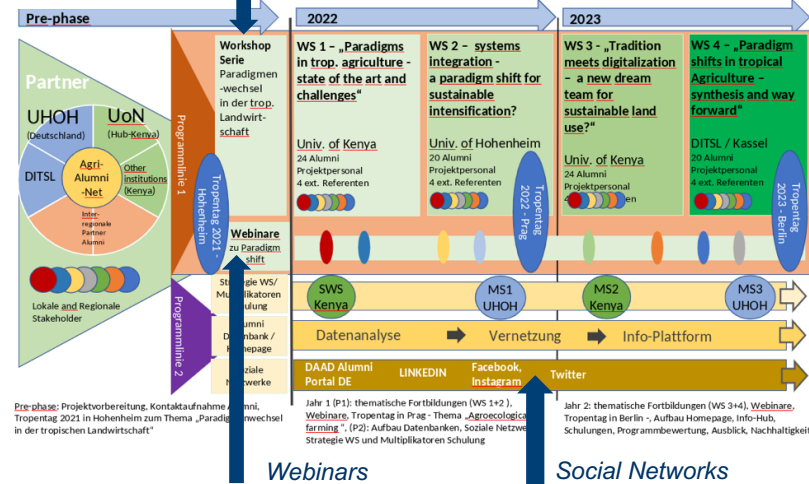
OBJECTIVES

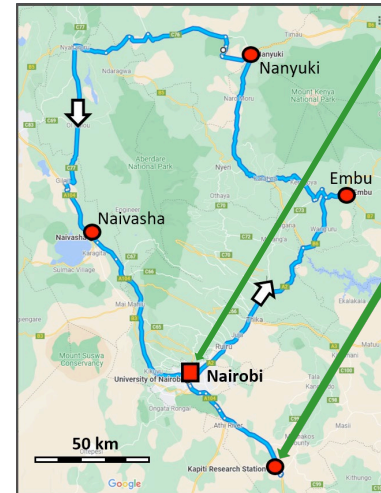


- Expand competencies of alumni from German universities in tropical agricultural sciences
 - Targeted contribution to professional development of alumni
 - Guided by thematically relevant topics for African agricultural development
- Improve network-supporting structures of the University of Hohenheim, German Institute of Tropical and Subtropical Agriculture (DITSL) and University of Nairobi
 - Support and promote commitment of alumni in the networks
- Increase visibility and competence of the participating institutions in development cooperation
 - Promote long-term commitment of alumni to the German partner institutions

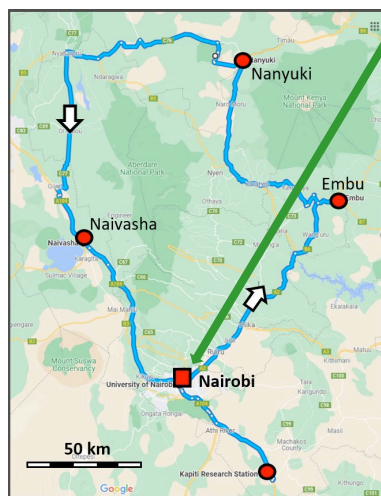
PROGRAM WORKPLAN

Travelling Workshop: Paradigm shifts in Agricultural Systems towards Sustainable Land-use in Africa (March – April, 2022, Kenya)

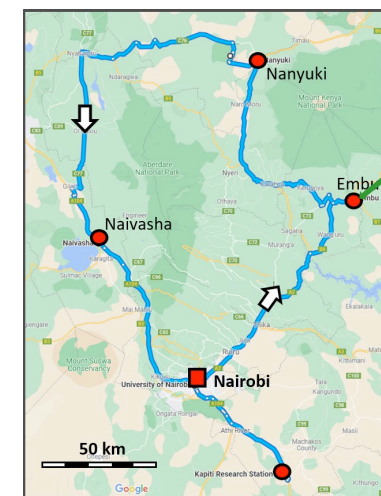




Source: Flora Giese, Katrin Wrinkler

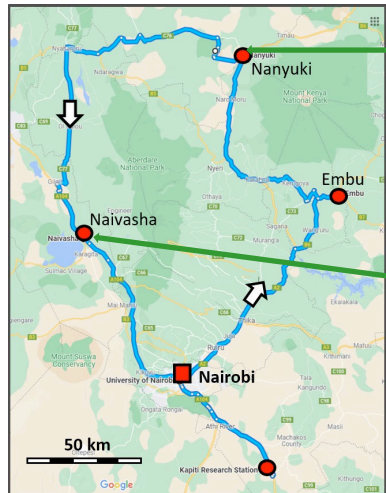


Source: Flora Giese, Habtamu Yismaw



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Source: Flora Giese, Habtamu Yismaw, Katrin Winkler



How do we strengthen the network between our alumni and with the universities and Germany as a whole?

- Webpage: <https://tropen.uni-hohenheim.de/en/alu>
- LinkedIn: [AgriAlumniNet](#) (~450 members until now and still growing)
- Facebook: [DAAD AgriAlumniNet workshop Hohenheim / Prague 2022 / DAAD AgriAlumniNet travelling workshop](#)
- Individual WhatsApp groups for each workshop only for participants
- University of Hohenheim mailing lists for Alumni of UHOH's M.Sc. programs
- Upcoming: Alumni Portal Deutschland, Instagram → stay tuned!

Remember: Networking is not a one-way street, it depends on your participation!



Our plans for 2022 including a strategy workshop and additional webinars...

- Program [outline](#)
- Announcements (Corona travel regulations, poster submission, cost incurred for reimbursement)
- Question and answer session



Strategy Workshop 17. September in Hohenheim

Part I:

- Report on the results of the 1st strategy workshop in Nairobi on 4 April 2022
- Report on the AgriAlumniNet social media activities and their output
- Feedback of participants and collection of ideas for the continuation and expansion of these activities

Part II:

- Evaluating the pro's and con's of national alumni associations, what are the challenges, how to overcome them?
- Selecting one country to elaborate an application to DAAD for financial support of a national alumni association (can be used as draft for other applications for the future)
- Goal: the application is ready for submission to DAAD at the end of the workshop

Decoding Agroecology



Marcus Giese

<https://www.resilience.org>

Decoding Agroecology



<https://www.resilience.org>

Decoding Agroecology



<https://cordis.europa.eu>

Decoding Agroecology

Agroecology....

... is a topical subject with rather unclear contours.

Agroecology is often presented as an integrated solution that reconciles two central challenges that agriculture faces today:

**feeding a growing population
while conserving natural resources.**

It is also related to changes sweeping the globe, such as:

- climate change
- biodiversity decline
- land use changes
- health and labour issues.

<https://www.agroecology-pool.org/agroecology/>

Agroecology - one of many....

List of other concepts



<https://www.iisd.org>

- One health
- Climate-smart agriculture
- Community supported agriculture
- Conservation agriculture
- Ecosystem approach
- Organic agriculture
- Permaculture
- Precision agriculture
- Sustainable Food Systems
- Sustainable intensification



Most common words used in definitions of Agroecology

Agroecology ...includes aspects of

- 1) science,
- 2) farming practice, and
- 3) social movement.

HAS VARIOUS OBJECTIVES

- Sustainability
- Food security at global level
- Addressing global changes
- Achieving sustainable development goals

Agroecology (science view)

....is an academic discipline that studies ecological processes applied to agricultural production systems.

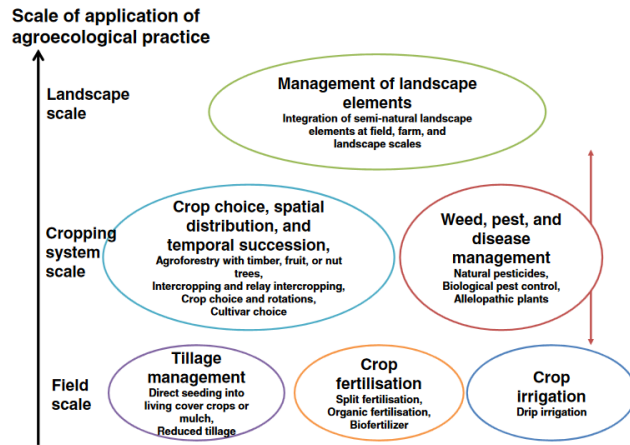
.... is defined by the OECD as "the study of the relation of agricultural crops and environment."

Agroecology is the application of ecological concepts and principals in farming.



Agroecology (practices)....

...seek to enhance agricultural systems by mimicking natural processes, thus creating beneficial biological interactions and synergies among the components of the ecosystem.



Agroecology (practices)....

Mitigate climate change - reducing emissions, recycling resources, promoting diversity and prioritising local supply chains.

...give power to approaches led by local people and adapt agricultural techniques to suit the local area - and its specific social, environmental and economic conditions.

IS A SET OF PRACTICES seeking

- Efficient and effective production
- Reduced ecological impacts
- Stabilization of yields
- Synergies and optimized beneficial interactions
- Resilience
- Environmentally and socially sensitive food production
- Locally adapted food systems
- Healthy agro-ecosystems and secure livelihoods

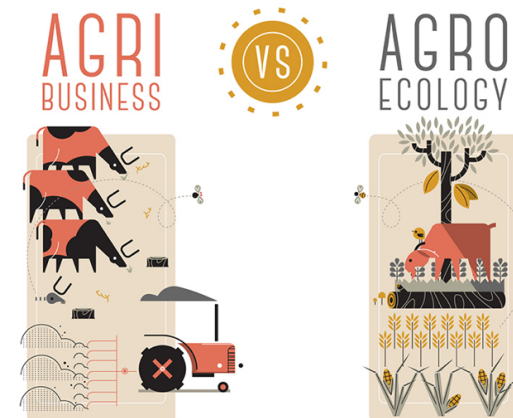
The movement....

In the 1970s, movements (especially in developing countries) which criticized the increasing use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides and the export-oriented plantation economy, began to promote alternative agricultural systems, family farms and independent production (mainly smallholder)



...to express a new image of agriculture and its relationship to society.

The movement....



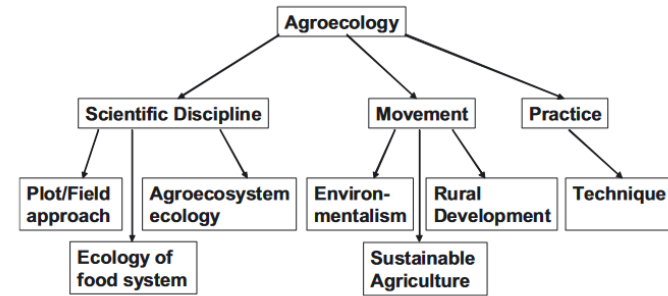
The movement....

IS VARIOUS SOCIAL MOVEMENTS pursuing

- Multifunctionality of agriculture**
 - Efficient and effective production
- Disruption of power relations**
 - Decentralization of the value chain
 - Viable alternative to dominant agro-food regime
- End of poverty**
 - Pro-poor approach
 - Improving livelihood
 - Rural development and combating rural poverty
- Rights and justice**
 - Food sovereignty
 - Social justice, fair food system, solidarity
 - Empowerment, participation
 - Democracy, better governance
- Farmer-centered model**
 - Bottom up approach
 - Fostering farmer's role
 - Revalorizing farmers experience and knowledge
- Territories - culture**
 - Preserving rural spaces and traditional ways of life




Diversity of current types of meanings of agroecology....



Wezel et al. 2009

Agroecology (holistic)....

Agroecology is a holistic approach that seeks to reconcile agriculture and local communities with natural processes for the common benefit of nature and livelihoods.

Agroecology is inherently multidisciplinary.

The field of agroecology is not associated with any one particular method of farming, whether it be organic, regenerative, integrated, or industrial, intensive or extensive.

Agroecology (holistic)....

Scales of agroecology



Decoding Agroecology



Agroecology is a holistic and integrated approach that simultaneously applies ecological and social concepts and principles to the design and management of sustainable agriculture and food systems. It seeks to optimize the interactions between plants, animals, humans and the environment while also addressing the need for socially equitable food systems within which people can exercise choice over what they eat and how and where it is produced. [...]



<https://www.fao.org/agroecology/home/en/>

Decoding Agroecology



A holistic approach that supports sustainable agricultural production while maintaining robust stewardship of the environment, agroecology works with nature and ecosystem services, increasing the resilience and diversity of farms, and that holds the potential to drive a full transformation of farming and food systems.



<https://cordis.europa.eu>

Decoding Agroecology



The 10 Elements of Agroecology



<https://www.fao.org/agroecology/home/en/>

Decoding Agroecology



The future....

FAO's claim of the urgent need to "scale up" agroecology as a means of achieving a more sustainable food systems.

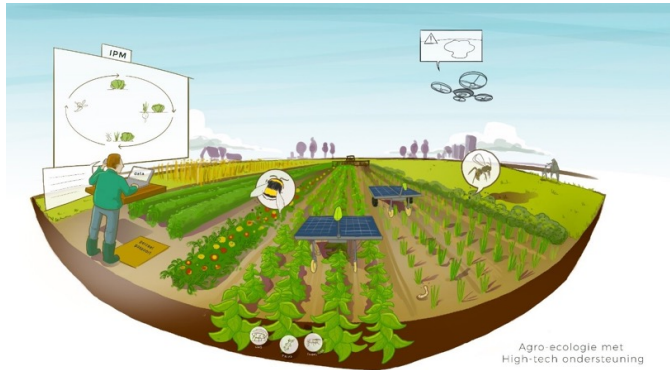
"Mainstreaming agroecology"



<https://youtu.be/OgJInRNyEDY>

The future....

From a science point of view.



Agro-ecologie met High-tech ondersteuning



<https://www.wur.nl/en>

Promoting traditional knowledge....

The use of agroecological practices such as nutrient cycling and intercropping occurs across hundreds of years and many different cultures.



many indigenous cultures around the world historically used and currently use practices we would now consider utilizing knowledge of agroecology.

<https://aipnet.org/indigenous-knowledge-and-peoples-of-asia-ikpa/>

CGIAR – research

CGIAR's Agroecology Initiative: Transforming Food, Land, and Water Systems Across the Global South

Agroecological Living Labs (ALLs) in seven countries: Burkina Faso, India, Kenya, Laos PDR, Peru, Tunisia and Zimbabwe.

Living Labs

User-centered multi-actor environments for codevelopment, participatory and evidence-based assessment, and co-adaptation of inclusive agroecological options in agro-landscapes (Work Package 1)



<https://www.wur.nl/en>



<https://www.resilience.org>

Agroecology - applicability in an African context

Task: Please prepare 5+1 slides about how you deal with the concept of agroecology in your professional environment.

Consider:

- where and under what **conditions** the agroecology concept could be successful?
- what are the **indicators for success**?
- Which **agricultural systems** are more suitable for agroecological approaches?
- What are the main **bottle-necks**?

- Give an **example** where this concept already is or could be practiced
- Please try also to capture **farmers perspective / point of view** to “agroecology”

- Please insert **one extra slide** about the role of “**diversity**”

References

- Wezel A, Bellon S, Doré T, Francis C, Vallod D, David C. Agroecology as a science, a movement and a practice. A review. *Agronomy for sustainable development*. 2009 Dec;29(4):503-15.