

**Conference on**  
**ECOLOGICAL AGRICULTURE: MITIGATING CLIMATE CHANGE,**  
**PROVIDING FOOD SECURITY AND SELF-RELIANCE FOR RURAL**  
**LIVELIHOODS IN AFRICA**

*AU Headquarters, Addis Ababa, 26-28 November 2008*

*Organised by the African Union, UN Food and Agriculture Organization and Ethiopian  
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development*

*In collaboration with the Institute for Sustainable Development, Ethiopia  
and Third World Network*

*With support from UNEP-UNCTAD Capacity Building Task Force, SwedBio and  
Swedish Society for Nature Conservation*

PROGRAMME

**FIELD VISIT**

**23-25 November 2008 -- Field visit to the Tigray Project near Axum city in Tigray  
Region, northern Ethiopia to meet local policy makers, agricultural professionals,  
development agents and farmers.**

**CONFERENCE**

**26 Nov: Day One – Challenges for African agriculture**

9.00-10.30    Opening session

*Moderator: Mr. Mafa Chipeta, FAO Representative to the African Union,  
Economic Commission for Africa and Ethiopia*

*Welcome address – Dr. Aberra Deressa, Minister of State, Ministry of Agriculture  
and Rural Development, Ethiopia*

*Opening address: Overview of food and agriculture in Africa: Issues, opportunities  
and challenges – H.E. Tumusiime Rhoda Peace, Commissioner for Rural Economy  
and Agriculture, African Union*

*Keynote address: Ecological agriculture as a response to the global food and  
climate crisis – Mr. Alexander Mueller, Assistant Director-General, FAO*

10.30-11.00    Health break

11.00-13.00 Session 1: Overview and policy responses in Africa

*Moderator: Nadia Scialabba, Senior Officer, FAO*

- 1) The food crisis, climate change and the importance of ecological agriculture –  
*Martin Khor, Director, Third World Network*
- 2) Ensuring food security in Africa: Issues, challenges and current policy responses –  
*Dr. Tewolde Berhan Gebre Egziabher, Director-General, Environmental Protection Authority, Ethiopia*
- 3) International Assessment of Agricultural Knowledge, Science and Technology for Development (IAASTD): Key findings and policy options for ecological agriculture – *Dr. Hans Herren, Co-Chair, IAASTD/President, Millennium Institute*

12.30-13.00 Discussion

13.00-14.00 Lunch in the AU Dining Room

14.00-15.30 Session 1 cont.: Overview and policy responses in Africa

- 4) Trade policies and their implications for food security and rural development -  
*Martin Khor, Director, Third World Network*
- 5) Land policy and rural livelihoods in Africa – *DREA/AU*
- 6) The Green Revolution in Asia, lessons for the African Green Revolution –  
*Hira Jhamtani, Associate, Third World Network*

15.30-16.00 Discussion

16.00-16.30 Health break

16.30-17.30 Session 2: Climate change and implications for agriculture

*Moderator: Hira Jhamtani, Associate, Third World Network*

- 7) Agriculture and climate change: Impacts and challenges for Africa – *Dr. Mahmoud Moustafa, DREA/AU and Lim Li Ching, Researcher, Third World Network*
- 8) The agrofuels debate in Africa: Challenges and opportunities – *Nnimmo Bassey, Director, Environmental Rights Action, Nigeria*

17.30-18.00 Discussion

18.00-19.00 Visit to posters and other items being displayed by participants

19.00 Depart for Welcome Dinner and Cultural Evening

## **27 Nov: Day Two – Ecological agriculture: successes and lessons learnt**

9.00-11.00 Session 3: Ecological agriculture for food security

*Moderator: Mr. Edson Mpyisi, Head of Food Security and Agriculture, AU*

- 9) Organic agriculture and food security in Africa – *Nadia Scialabba, Senior Officer, FAO*
- 10) The Tigray project: A success story in ecological agriculture – *Sue Edwards, Director, Institute for Sustainable Development, Ethiopia*
- 11) The ‘push-pull’ technology: Improving livelihood opportunities for resource poor farmers – *Dr. Zeyaur Khan, International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology, Kenya*
- 12) System of rice intensification – *Dr. Niaba Teme, Mali*

11.00-11.30 Discussion and Health Break

11.30-12.30 Session 4: Ecological agriculture is climate friendly

*Moderator: Dr. Tewolde Berhan Gebre Egziabher, Director-General, Environmental Protection Authority, Ethiopia*

- 13) Zero-emissions farming: Integrated food and energy rich farm – *Dr. Mae-Wan Ho, Director, Institute of Science in Society, UK*
- 14) Sustainable agriculture practices of local communities and their climate change adaptation potential – *Lorenza M. Daguitan, Tebtebba Foundation, Philippines*

12.30-13.00 Discussion

13.00-14.00 Lunch in AU Dining Room

14.00-16.00 Session 5: Mainstreaming ecological agriculture in Africa

*Moderator: Dr. Aberra Deressa, Minister of State, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Ethiopia*

- 15) Report of the West African Summit on Organic Agriculture – *Dr. O. AdeOluwa, IFOAM Contact Point Coordinator, Nigeria / Secretary, Nigerian Organic Agriculture Network*
- 16) The Ethiopian experience in scaling-up ecological agriculture – *Ethiopian Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development*
- 17) Community-based seed conservation – *Dr. Melaku Worede, International Scientific Adviser, Seeds of Survival International*
- 18) Sanitary and Phytosanitary considerations in ecological agriculture in Africa – *Dr. Sarah Olembo, Senior Policy Officer, African Union*

16.00-16.30 Health Break

16.30-16.50 Session 5 cont. Mainstreaming Ecological Agriculture in Africa

19) Building sustainable organic movements in Africa - *Alastair Taylor, IFOAM / EPOPA / UNCTAD, AgroEco, Uganda*

16.50-17.15 Discussion

17.15-18.00 Breakout session: Discussion in groups on identifying challenges / barriers / gaps in a transition to ecological agriculture with suggestions on how to overcome these

18.00-18.30 Brief reports back to plenary

**28 Nov: Day Three – Environmentally, economically and socially sustainable policies for African agriculture**

9.00-11.00 Session 6: The way forward: Working group discussions

- Policy responses
- Action at national level
- Partnering with the FAO, African Union and other international agencies

11.00-11.30 Health break

11.30-12.30 Plenary presentations from working groups and Discussions

- *Chair: Sophia Twarog, Economic Affairs Officer, UNCTAD*

12.30-13.30 Summary Report and conclusions/recommendations  
*Participants with AU, FAO, ISD and TWN*

13.30-14.30 Lunch in AU Dining Room

14.30-16.30 *Meeting of CSO representatives to discuss initiatives for the Way Forward in 2009*