

## **Building resilient food systems in uncertain times**

### ***- Call for abstract and concept note Agri4D 2023***

The Agri4D conference aims to bridge science, policy and practice to create a real-world impact on global food systems to help achieve the Sustainable Development Goal 2, Zero Hunger.

All stakeholders, including researchers, practitioners, civil society, private sectors, and policy makers, are invited to join the conference to co-create solutions to build resilient food systems. You can engage in different ways, for example oral presentation, workshop, roundtable discussion and storytelling.

This conference will take stock of the current knowledge frontier, connect science to policymaking and practice and spark new collaborations among researchers, policymakers and practitioners who are working on the urgent issues of stressors and vulnerabilities within food systems in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs).

There are significant stressors due to climate change as well as loss of biodiversity and inequalities that have a negative impact on global food systems. On top of the societal and environmental crises, the recent challenges of Covid-19 and the growing energy crisis due to Russia's invasion of Ukraine have added additional stress to many food systems, and have increased food insecurity among the poor, particularly in LMICs. Food system stressors are taking a toll on vulnerable groups who are often left out of decision-making, but are hit by the severe impacts of such crises.

The conference will be held online and address the current global situation in two different themes.

### **Theme 1: Securing food and nutrition within planetary boundaries**

This theme aims to bring forward discussions relating to all stages of food systems and their outcomes, from ecosystems supporting production, to the producers, consumers, including value chain and market actors, linking farmers to consumers.

Within this theme, we invite researchers, decision-makers and practitioners who are exploring challenges, and innovative solutions to increase the resilience of food systems in times of crises across the Global South.

This theme embraces related research topics, including:

- Resilient food production systems
- Sustainable food processing approaches and value chains
- Transparent and inclusive market systems
- Accessible food, nutrition and health
- Landscape approaches and climate change

### **Theme 2: Governance and rights in food systems: Leaving no one behind**

In order to create sustainable and resilient food systems it is important to identify vulnerabilities and opportunities to prevent future risks and promote sustainable solutions. This theme emphasises topics that aim to answer 'resilience for whom?' within food systems. Marginalised groups in society are often

impacted the most by food crises, but have unique opportunities for transforming those systems away from status quo. These groups vary across contexts but may include e.g. smallholder farmers, indigenous groups, marginalised genders, children and youth, etc.

We encourage stakeholders to bring forward context specific experiences and examples to discuss why and how vulnerabilities exist in food systems, who is affected and why, and potential ways to solve such challenges.

This theme invites presentations exploring examples in relation to:

- Food (in)justice, food sovereignty, gender
- Rights to food (i.e. food as a human right), food security, food and nutrition
- Understanding vulnerabilities in food systems (e.g. intersectional processes and power relations that make specific people vulnerable)
- Transformative or innovative practices promoted by marginalised peoples or groups
- Income security and wealth creation in agri-food systems
- Smallholder rights e.g. land tenure/ natural resources rights, to secure access to land
- The roles of private and public sectors in food systems (e.g. how the public sector can enable private sector investments, how private sector involve in community engagement and supply chains at local levels)

## **Guidance for Abstract and Concept note submissions:**

### **1) Abstracts for oral presentation**

- Author(s) name
- Author(s) affiliation
- Author e-mail address for correspondence
- The conference theme to which the paper relates

Abstracts should be less than 250 words in length (no abbreviations or cite references) and include up to 5 keywords representing the main content. There is a possibility to add one image to elaborate your work.

Presentation format: You will be grouped into a session discussion. Please note that the Programme Committee may suggest you to present as a poster presentation, if there is high competition for oral presentation.

### **2) Abstracts for poster presentation**

- Author(s) name
- Author(s) affiliation
- Author e-mail address for correspondence
- The conference theme to which the paper relates

Abstracts should be less than 250 words in length (no abbreviations or cite references) and include up to 5 keywords representing the main content. There is a possibility to add one image to elaborate your work.

Presentation format: We will organise a ‘poster walk’, where audiences can walk in group to listen to your poster presentation. The poster will be posted on the conference platform during the whole period of the conference.

### **3) Concept note for session proposal**

We encourage participants, academia and non-academia working jointly, to propose your own ideas about ways to present and/or discuss emerging questions related to theme 1 & theme 2. Please note that sessions are by default 75 minutes long. There is a possibility to take up to two sessions in the

same conference day for one concept note (if so, please write the request at the end of the concept note).

- Author(s) name
  - Author(s) affiliation
  - Author e-mail address for correspondence
  - The conference theme to which the paper relates
- Abstracts should be less than 350 words in length (please do not use abbreviations or cite references in the abstract) and include up to 5 keywords representing the main content. You are required to explain the formats of your session within 200 words.

Please see the list below for some ideas for alternative sessions. Please feel free to come up with your own innovative session types.

- Workshops: you can use the session to organise workshop or training on ideas, skill, or new innovation from your project
- Roundtable discussion: you may propose a group of panellists from multi-stakeholders to discuss a pressing question that requires multi-views brainstorming.
- Interviews: you may set up a panel with one interviewee to invoke reflexive discussions on specific project or topic
- Visual format: you may use visual tools, such as photo or film to bring up discussion (please note that you can post photos or video on the online platform for advanced viewing)
- Elevator pitch: you may give a short description on your ideas, and ask audience to pitch innovative solution
- Performance or storytelling
- Debate: you can set up a stage for debate on a controversial topic that brings up reflexive discussion

Submission Deadline: **8 May 2023**

### **Criteria for acceptance**

Programme Committee will evaluate your abstracts/ concept note base on:

- Connecting research to policies and practices?
- How relevant is it to the theme?
- How good is the scientific quality of the abstract?
- Addition for session concept note – inclusive (gender, geographical spread, sector, age etc.)?
- Addition for session concept note – innovative?

### **Abstract acceptance**

E-mail notification of acceptance/rejection will be sent to corresponding authors by **12 June 2023**.

### **Publication**

Accepted abstracts and session proposals will be incorporated into the conference programme and distributed to all registrants. They will also be available for download in a PDF document.