



Nurturing regenerative food systems in a changing climate

Agri4D 2025 Conference

23-25 September 2025



Summary report

Themes

Main theme -

Nurturing regenerative food systems in a changing climate

Theme 1 - Empowering the next generation of food systems leaders

- Skills and leadership development
- Youth engagement and inclusion
- Traditional and local knowledge
- Policy and governance
- Digital transformation and innovation
- Entrepreneurship and finance
- Well-being and resilience
- Storytelling and narrative change

Theme 2 - Transforming food systems: Innovation and implementation

- Agroecology and regenerative practices
- Technology and innovation
- Policy and governance
- AI and digitalisation
- Sustainable finance and investment

Theme 3 - Equity, justice and resilience

- Labour and work conditions
- Standardisation, certification, and formalisation of global value chains
- Social and environmental justice
- Climate change adaptation and mitigation
- Building resilience in food systems

Committee

Horacio Gonda Elisabeth Rajala Thomas Daum Ronald Ndesanjo



Guénola Nonet Hanna Sinare Kedar Devkota Cecilia Sundberg

Moderator team



Heather Mackay

Heather Mackay is a geographer based at the Department of Human Geography, Lund University, Sweden, working at the intersection of agriculture, food, and urban life in the Global South.

Matthew Kessler

Matthew Kessler is a food systems podcaster, science communicator and project coordinator at SLU. Matthew has worked with farmers in North Carolina, New York, Hawai'i, Nepal, and Norway, with a BSc in Environmental Sciences and MSc in Agroecology.



Organising team

Sara Gräslund, Head of SLU Global

Madeleine Fogde, Head of SIANI

Maja Malmberg, project leader

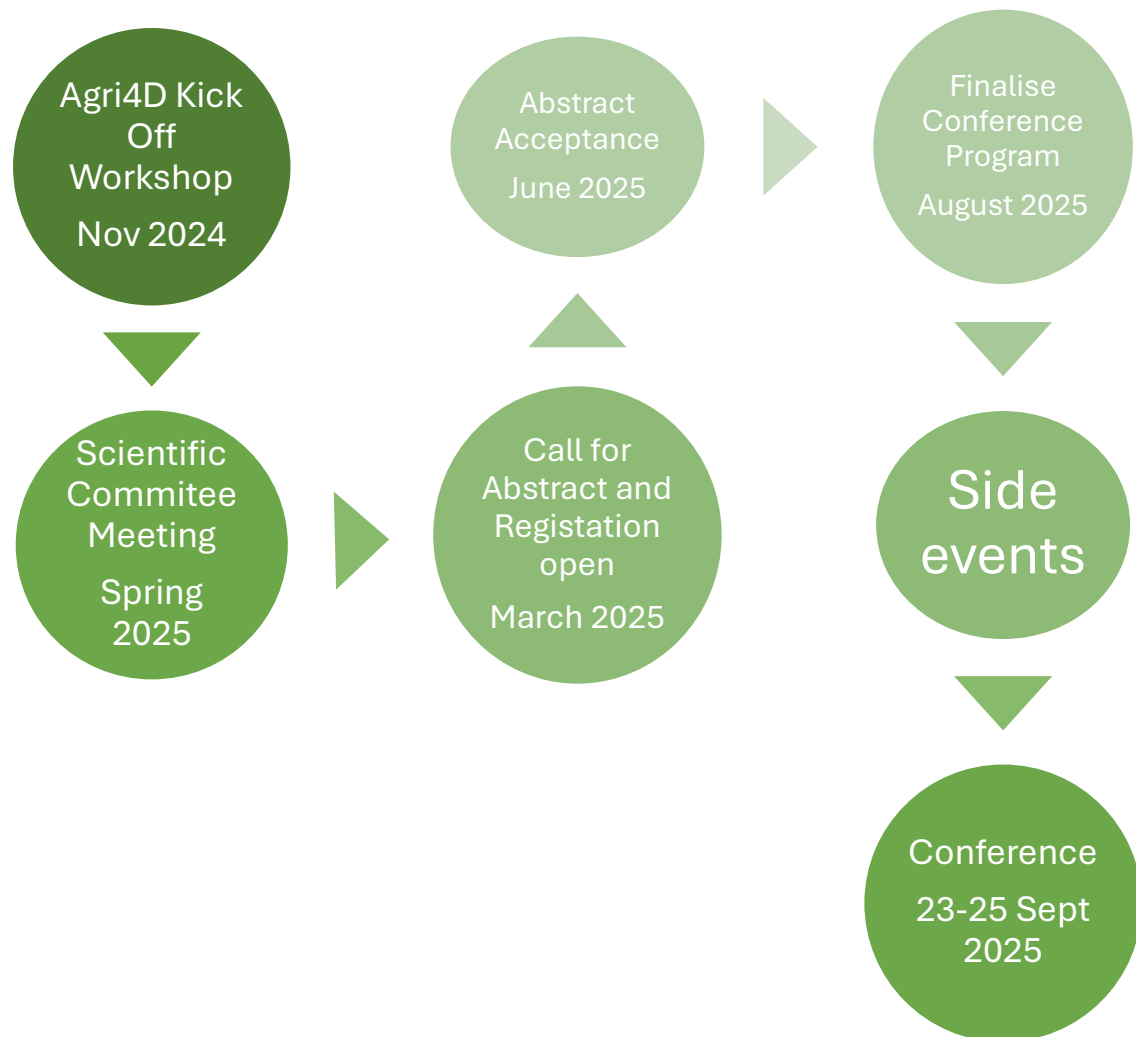
Alin Kadfak, ass. project leader

Katarina Börlling, student pool

Agnes Bondesson, communications

Alice Tunfjord, Invajo

Conference timeline:



Conference programme

Day 1:

Side event 1:

Symposium: A Decade of Swedish–African Collaboration in Agricultural Science for Development in Africa

Organisers: SLU and the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA)

With 100 registered participants (around 20 showed up).

Side event 2:

Seminar: Climate Change and Pathways for Resilience and Sustainability in Africa

Organiser: The Nordic Africa Institute

With 35 registered participants

Conference:

15:00	Registration - Welcome coffee (<i>Exhibition Hall</i>)
16:00	Welcome session and partner's pitch (<i>Main Hall</i>)
16:45	Mingle and Speed Networking (<i>Exhibition Hall</i>)
18:00	Conference Dinner (<i>Ulls restaurant</i>)

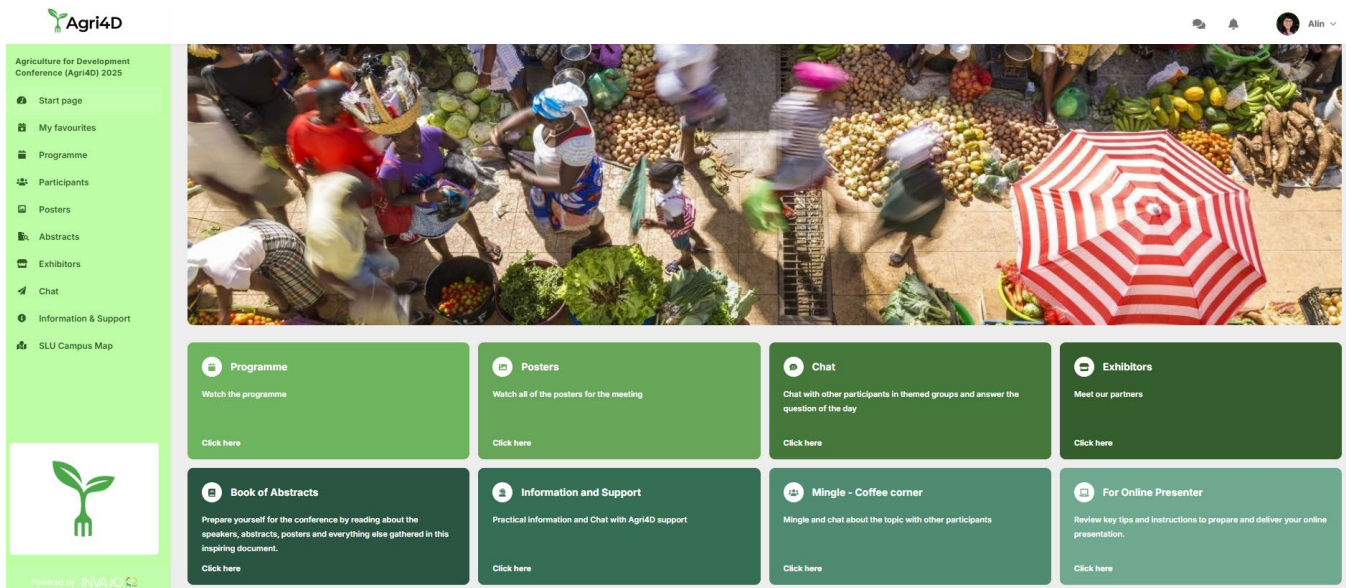
Day 2:

08:00	Registration					
08:30	Opening session (Main Hall and online) Maria Knutson Wedel, Vice chancellor at SLU Daniel Liljeberg, State Secretary to Minister of Rural Affairs Jakob Granit, Director-General at Sida					
09:15	Keynote speaker - Professor Miguel A Altieri, University of California Agroecology and resilience to climate change: will agriculture resist what is coming?					
10:00	Fika / Networking (Exhibition hall)					
10:30	S1 (Main hall) - Comparative agroecology: enhancing agroecological knowledge, research and practice across geographies and socio-economic contexts Chair: Cristian Alarcon & Miguel A Altieri	S2 (Exhibition Hall) - Science and policy and agrifood system transformation Chair: Konstantinos Karantininis	S3 (Room N) - From Tech to Policy: Enabling Climate-Smart Agriculture Chair: Thomas Daum	S4 (Room L) - Forging transformative pathways for food security. Challenges and opportunities in a changing development cooperation landscape Chair: AgriFoSe2030 programme	S5 (Room O1) - Cultivating agency – farmers' organizations and youth empowerment for sustainable and just food systems Chair: Hanna Sinare	S6 (Room O2) - An Art-Based Immersion into the Journey of Seed Chair: Kushal Poudel
12:00	Lunch (Ulls restaurant or Kårhuset)					
13:30	Keynote speaker - Nitya Rao, University of East Anglia (Main hall and online) Gender, climate and food justice: exploring the links					
14:15	Poster session (Poster venue)			Online Flash poster (Main hall and online)		
	Fika / Networking (Exhibition hall)					
15:00	S7 (Main hall) - Transforming Aquatic Food Production for Global Food Security Chair: Shakuntala Thilsted	S8 (Exhibition Hall) - Inclusivity, fairness and the transition to fossil-free energy in agri-food systems: The AgroDrive center in Sweden Chair: Johanna Bergman Lodin	S9 (Room L) - Farming forward: Crop science and climate-ready agriculture Chair: Kedar Devkota	S10 (Room N) - Transforming food systems: Smallholders, markets & sustainability Chair: Elisabeth Rajala	S11 (Room O1) - Animal-sourced food. Moving towards sustainable production Chair: Horacio L Gonda	
15:00	O1 (Room 1) - Beyond the Harvest: Nurturing the Next Generation of Food System Leaders Chair: Peter Lofane	O2 (Room 2) - Food fighters: Innovating nutrition and resilience on the frontlines Chair: Guénola Nonet	O3 (Room 3) - Soil health: Unlocking nature's potential for smallholder farmers Chair: Anamika Menon	O4 (Room 4) - Money, markets & power: Breaking barriers in rural food systems Chair: Dhvani Sunil Lalai	O5 (Room 5) - Facing the heat: Livelihood security and climate adaptation in vulnerable communities Chair: Anna-Klara Lindeborg	
16:45	Panel discussion with key take-aways					
17:15	Conference close for the day					
17:30	Campus activities - Campus walk or visit permaculture farm (for those who signed up for this at registration)					
19:00	Dinner in Uppsala town, Västgöta Nation					

Day 3:

08:45	Welcome and summary of Day 2 (Main hall and online)					
09:00	Keynote speakers - Shakuntala Thilsted, CGIAR <i>Shaping Nutrition-sensitive Food Systems for Nurturing People and Planet</i> Erik Alexandersson, NovoNordisk Foundation <i>A New Player Supporting Agri-Food Transformation and Development in the Global South: The Novo Nordisk Foundation</i>					
10:00	Fika / Networking (Exhibition hall)					
10:30	S12 (Main Hall) - Integrating social and technological innovations for sustainable rangeland restoration in East Africa Chair: Aida Bargués-Tobella	S13 (Exhibition Hall) - Energy, land and climate change: Conflicts and opportunities Chair: Hanna Sinare	S14 (Room L) - The International Research Consortium on Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture (IRC-FNSSA) Chair: Ioannis Dimitriou	S15 (Room N) - Seeds, seas, and sovereignty: Reimagining food systems for justice and resilience Chair: Nitya Rao	S16 (Room O1) - Who leads the table? Certificate, women, labour participation in food value chains Chair: Alin Kadfak	
12:00	Lunch (Ulls restaurant or Kårhuset)					
13:30	Keynote speaker - Patrick Okori, RUFORUM Transformative higher education for resilient and rewarding food system transitions (Main hall and online)					
14:15	Fika / Networking (Exhibition hall)			Online Flash poster (Main hall and online)		
14:45	S18 (Exhibition hall) - Implementing innovative technologies in sub-Saharan Africa: opportunity and challenges Chair: Adjani Isabelle	S19 (Main hall) - Agroecological Transitions: Lessons from Global Case Studies Chair: Miguel A Altieri, Cristian Alarcon	S20 (Room N) - When tradition meets innovation: Co-producing knowledge for food system resilience Chair: Shakuntala Thilsted	S21 (Room L) - Beyond the drought: Gendered adaptations, youth migration, and agro-ecological innovation Chair: Patrick Okori		
14:45	O6 (Room 1) - Young Voices of Regeneration for Regenerative Food Systems: Youth Debate on Inclusivity, Policy and Food Systems Chair: Miriam Akinyi	O7 (Room 2) - Green leaders rising: Women and youth in food system transformation Chair: Anna-Klara Lindeborg	O8 (Room 3) - Hack the food system: Local know-how, global impact Chair: Deeksha Sharma	O9 (Room 4) - Governance in action: Legal frameworks and local solutions for food security Chair: Selorm Kugbega	O10 (Room 5) - From code to crop: AI and digital tools in sustainable agriculture Chair: Vivek Soni	O11(S17) - (Room 6) Intersectoral cooperation in Sub-Saharan Africa's transition from agro-chemicals to agro-biologicals Chair: Paul Egan
16:30	Panel discussion with key take-aways					
17:15	Conference close - True Schedvin, Sida Sara Gräslund, Head of SLU Global					

Online platform Invajo



Keynote speakers



Miguel A Altieri, Professor
University of California, Berkely



Nitya Rao, Professor East Anglia
University



Patrick Okori,
Executive Director RUFORUM



Shakuntala Thilsted, Director for
Nutrition, Health and Food
Security Impact Area Platform,
CGIAR.



Erik Alexandersson, Scientific
research manager, Novo
Nordisk Foundation

Book of abstracts



**Nurturing regenerative food
systems in a changing climate**

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Book of abstracts

Version 1, 2025

Communications

Conference website

www.slu.se/agri4d

Conference platform

<https://virtual.invajo.com/agri4d2025/>

E-mail

- For questions regarding the content of the conference: agri4d@slu.se
- For questions regarding registration: agri4d@akademikonferens.se
- For questions regarding abstract withdrawal: abstracts+agri4d2025@invajo.com

Newsletters

SIANI, GCUA 2030, SLU Global, AgriFoSe2030, (Future Platforms)

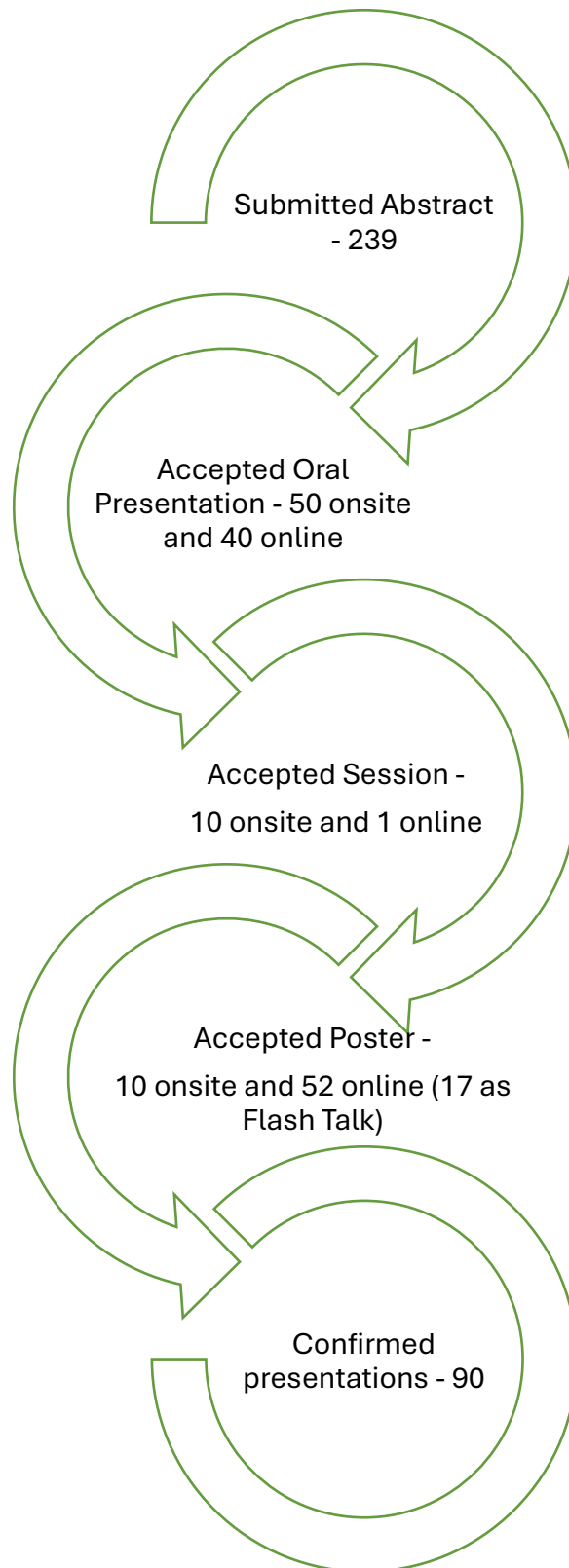
Social media

SIANI (twitter, linkedin, facebook, Instagram, bluesky)

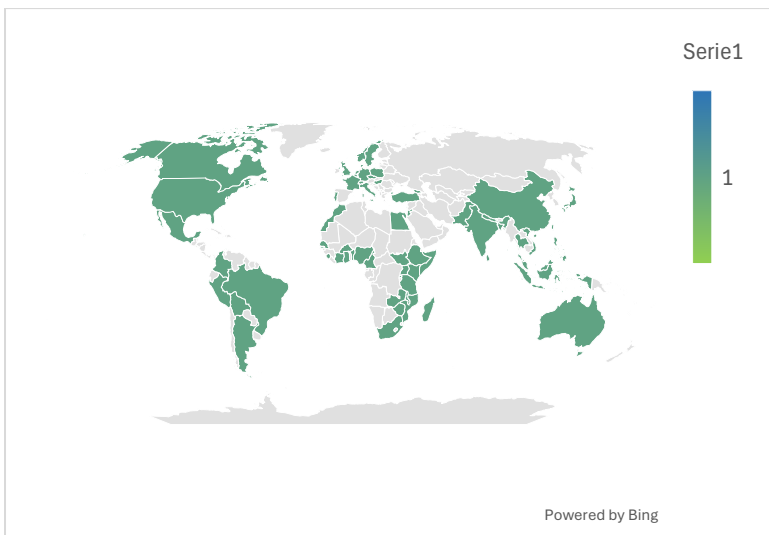
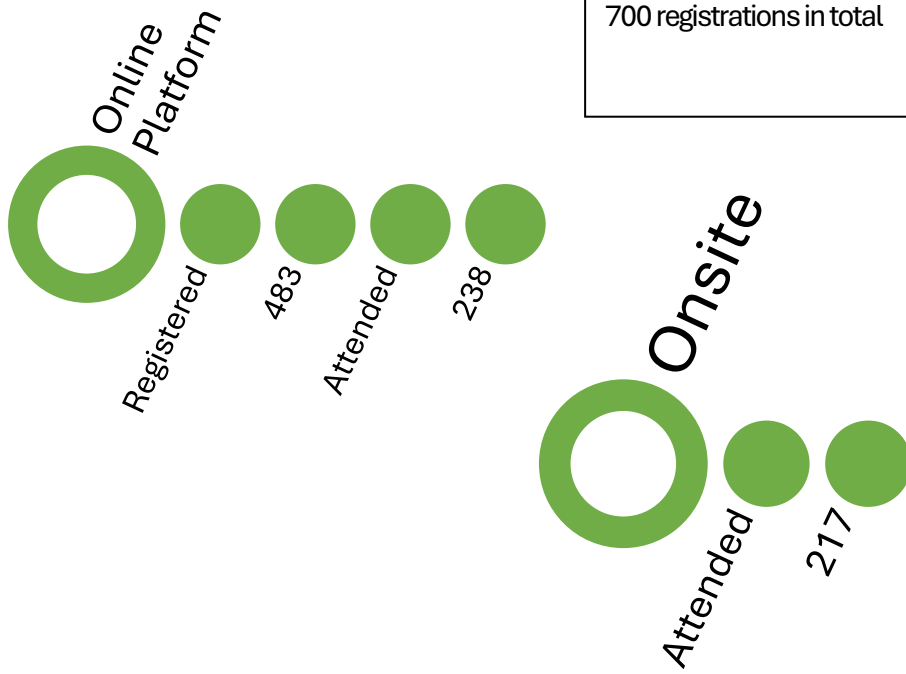
SLU Global (linkedin, facebook, Instagram, bluesky)

#Agri4D #Agri4D2025

Conference statistics



69 countries online
 29 countries onsite
 239 abstracts
 700 registrations in total



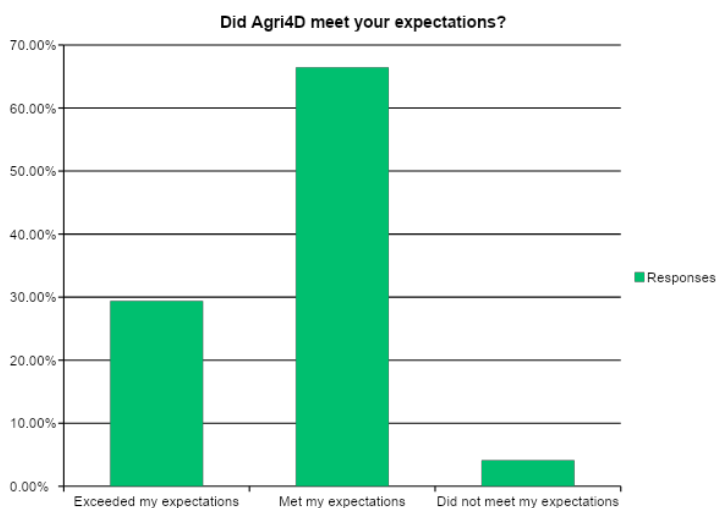
Countries registered

Number of unique visitors online in Invajo

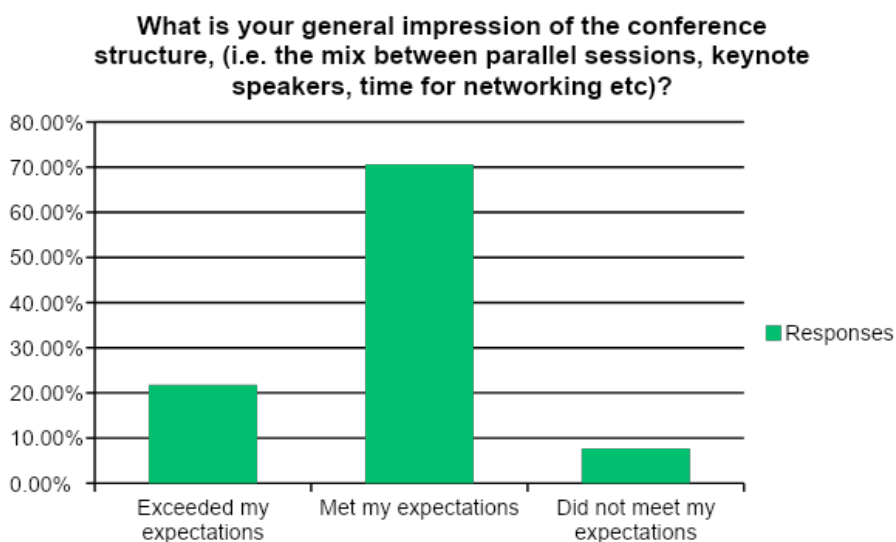
title	visits
Opening session and Keynote speaker - Agroecology and resilience to climate change: will agriculture resist what is coming?	132
Keynote speaker - Gender, climate and food justice: exploring the links	81
Online poster call be visited at the poster online room	79
Session 1 - Comparative agroecology: enhancing agroecological knowledge, research and practice across geographies and socio-economic contexts	69
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Online Flash poster (onsite at Main Hall and online)	64
Keynote speaker - Transformative higher education for resilient and rewarding food system transitions	62
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Online Flash poster (onsite at Main Hall and online)	59
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Registration - Welcome coffee	52
Welcome session	49
Online session 3 - Soil health: Unlocking nature's potential for smallholder farmers	48
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Online session 5 - Facing the heat: Livelihood security and climate adaptation in vulnerable communities	44
Session 3 - From Tech to Policy: Enabling Climate-Smart Agriculture	43
Online session 11 (former Session 17, moved online) Intersectoral cooperation in Sub-Saharan Africa's transition from agrochemicals to agrobiologicals	39
Partners' Pitch	39
Online Session 10 - From code to crop: AI and digital tools in sustainable agriculture	37
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Session 5 - Cultivating agency – Farmers' organizations and youth empowerment for sustainable and just food systems	37
Session 4 - Forging transformative pathways for food security. Challenges and opportunities in a changing development cooperation landscape	34
Online session 4 - Money, markets & power: Breaking barriers in rural food systems	33
Session 12 - Integrating social and technological innovations for sustainable rangeland restoration in East Africa	33
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Online Session 8 - Hack the food system: Local know-how, global impact	32
Panel discussion with key take-aways	31
Conference Dinner	31
Session 9 - Farming forward: Crop science and climate-ready agriculture	29
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Session 19 - Agroecological Transitions: Lessons from Global Case Studies	28
Session 7 - Transforming Aquatic Food Production for Global Food Security	27
Online session 7 - Green leaders rising: Women and youth in food system transformation	26
Session 15 - Seeds, seas, and sovereignty: Reimagining food systems for justice and resilience	25
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Registration	24
Session 21 - Beyond the drought: Gendered adaptations, youth migration, and agroecological innovation	23

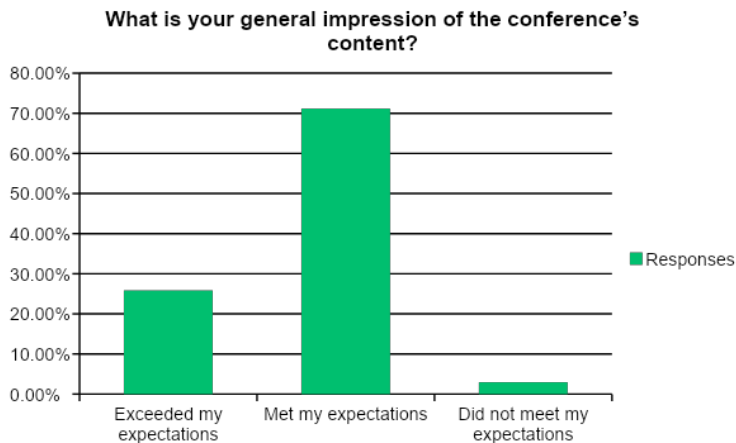
Online Session 9 - Governance in action: Legal frameworks and local solutions for food security	23
Session 16 - Who leads the table?: Certificate, women, labour participation in food value chains	23
Session 10 - Transforming food systems: Smallholders, markets & sustainability	23
Session 14 -The International Research Consortium on Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture (IRC-FNSSA): from consolidation to implementation	21
Meditation (optional)	20
Session 20 - When tradition meets innovation: Co-producing knowledge for food system resilience	19
Session 13 - Energy, land and climate change: Conflicts and opportunities	19
Lunch	18
Session 8 - Inclusivity, fairness and the transition to fossil-free energy in agri-food systems: The AgroDrive center in Sweden	18
Session 11 - Animal-sourced food: Moving towards sustainable production	17
Session 6 - An Art-Based Immersion into the Journey of Seed	16
Online session 1 - Beyond the Harvest: Nurturing the Next Generation of Food System Leaders	15
Session 18 - Implementing innovative technologies in sub-Saharan Africa: opportunity and challenges	12

Conference evaluations



170 survey responses



“The conference provided diverse perspectives, highly relevant sessions, and engaging discussions. I found the presentations insightful and well-structured, and it offered much more than I anticipated.”

“Communication between organisers and participant was very good. The talks and presentations were very diverse and of high quality. It was open to those who could not attend. It was free, cannot expect more”

“it was a bit messy, and online connection was not good. I was supposed to speak for 15 mins but spoke 8-10 mins due to delays/technical issues from previous speakers. It was not fair for me, as I was the last speaker.”

“Number of keynote speakers could have been reduced. A few of them talked A LOT and very fast but basically didn't say anything new. Please encourage future speakers to be more specific and focused instead of just covering very general issues. These are not so useful.”

“The structure provided excellent opportunities for all kinds of participation because of the optimal balancing of the interconnected schedules throughout the official programme”

“Overall, Agri4D has done an excellent job bringing various disciplinaries across geographies to the same table, it's therefore very interesting for audience to expose to this wide range of topics within one session. That said, the audience could have benefit from going deeper into a certain topic had more similar presentations been included in the same session. From my personal take, some sessions exhibited too remotely related presentations.”

“The content was highly relevant to development and practice. Unlike purely academic conferences, Agri4D successfully brought together themes of resource management, climate resilience, and technology adoption in emerging economies. Hearing about real-world projects and policy implications, rather than just theoretical research, was extremely valuable and aligned perfectly with the applied nature of my own work”.

“Met many people and connect. Develop new connections and ideas for working together”

“The audience for my talk was quite small, and I heard the same from others - maybe fewer parallel sessions would be a good idea next time? Also, I think this question is missing the option “Had thought-provoking conversations that may influence what/how I research”

Post-event outreach

Stories

Agri4D times ten: food systems, development, and research in an era of rapid change

<https://www.slu.se/en/collaboration/international-collaboration/slu-global/agri4d/qa/>

Day 1 - Buzz and idea sharing

<https://www.slu.se/en/collaboration/international-collaboration/slu-global/agri4d/summary-day-1/>

Day 2 - Agri4D - a place to meet and learn

<https://www.slu.se/en/collaboration/international-collaboration/slu-global/agri4d/summary-day-2/>

Day 3: Diversity - an important way forward

<https://www.slu.se/en/collaboration/international-collaboration/slu-global/agri4d/summary-day-3/>

From soil to solidarity: Lessons on agroecology and diversity from Agri4D 2025

<https://www.slu.se/en/collaboration/international-collaboration/slu-global/slu-global-blog/loukas-agri4d-blog/>

Reflect, connect, and express with seeds: How an art-based workshop brought a different flavour to Agri4D 2025

<https://www.slu.se/en/collaboration/international-collaboration/slu-global/slu-global-blog/kushal-poudel--agri4d-2025/>

Finding a common ground to empower young food systems leaders

<https://www.siani.se/news-story/finding-a-common-ground-to-empower-young-food-systems-leaders/>

Atmosphere





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