



Tailoring Science, Technology, and Innovation to Local Contexts while Advancing Global Agendas: Lessons from Multi-Country, Cross-Sectoral Approaches to Agri-Food Systems Transformation

Sunday 27 July 2025, from 15:00 to 16:15, at CR-4

Organizers:

- Japan International Research Center for Agricultural Sciences (JIRCAS)
- Ethiopia Institute of Agricultural Research (EIAR)
- Japan's Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF)
- World Agriculture Forum
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
- Ajinomoto Co., Inc.
- Greenin Inc.
- The Vietnam Gardening Association (VGA)
- Uganda's Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE)

Background and objectives

Building on the 2021 UNFSS momentum, countries have committed to accelerating the transformation of agri-food systems to be more sustainable, inclusive, and resilient. Nations such as, Japan, Ethiopia, Uganda and Vietnam, have emphasized the critical role of Science, Technology, and Innovation, while acknowledging that there are “no-one-size-fits-all” approaches. Despite the significant differences in biophysical and socio-economic contexts, both Asia and Africa share a common characteristic: the predominance of small-scale producers.

This multi-stakeholder event will showcase experience of applying knowledge-based tools tailored to local contexts and designed to support decisions to achieve global climate, food security, and land degradation neutrality targets, with the following specific objectives:

Moderator

Dr. Miyuki Iiyama

Program Director, Information Program, JIRCAS

Speakers

Mr. Osamu Kubota

Deputy Assistant Minister, Export and International Affairs Bureau, MAFF

Professor Nigussie Dechassa

Director General, EIAR

Dr. Jacqueline Hughes

Secretary General, World Agriculture Forum; Advisory Board Member, the International Scientific Advisory Board for Strategy "MIDORI"

- Share experiences from multi-country initiatives that utilize Science, Technology and Innovation and knowledge-based tools to address both local needs and global challenges;

- Discuss the necessary conditions for fostering an enabling environment, political will, and inclusive governance;

- Explore opportunities for multi-country, cross-sectoral, and multi-stakeholder partnerships to co-generate and disseminate lessons critical to transforming agri-food systems.

Expected outcomes

This event will bring together a gender-balanced team of the speakers from Asia and Africa (including Japan, Ethiopia, Vietnam, Uganda), representing diverse sectors (agriculture, forestry, nutrition, and digital technologies, youth). The speakers will also reflect a wide range of institutional affiliations - national agricultural research institutions, government ministries, international organizations, private companies, and NGO. This diversity will create a valuable opportunity for the roundtable participants to share practical experiences in applying knowledge-based tools across various contexts. It will also provide lessons on how to apply systemic approaches effectively to the transformation of agri-food systems.

More specifically, this side-event is expected to

- Promote cross-sectoral and multi-stakeholder collaboration by engaging farmers, business, researchers, and governments to drive actions and maximize impacts;
- Identify and promote opportunities for partnerships that accelerate the transformation of agri-food systems

Panellists

Dr. Yasuro Funaki

Director of Social Sciences Division, Project Leader of Green Asia, JIRCAS

Ms. Gaia Stopponi/ Ms Serena Fortuna (tbc)

Environment and Climate Change Fellow, FAO Ethiopia, on behalf of Ms. Serena Fortuna, Team Leader and Senior Forestry Officer, Halting Deforestation, Degradation, and Emissions Team, FAO Forestry Division

Mr. Bob Kazungu

Assistant Commissioner for Forestry and Project Coordinator Uganda, MWE

Dr. Kaori Ono

Executive Officer in charge of Sustainability, Ajinomoto

Dr. Tadele Mamo

Director, Agricultural Economics Directorate, EIAR

Mr. Junichi Hanai

CPO, Greein Inc.

Dr. Nguyen Thi Thanh Thuy

Head of the International Cooperation Division, VGA

Programme

15:00 Opening remarks – Prof. Nigussie Dechassa, EIAR will welcome the participants and audience.

15:05 Opening keynote – Mr. Kubota, MAFF, will share Japan's vision and initiatives for sustainable food systems.

15:20 Roundtable discussion – Dr. Hughes of WAF will set the stage and get the panellists engaged in discussions to co-learn from on-ground experiences.

16:10 Closing remarks – JIRCAS

More Information:

<https://www.jircas.go.jp/en/event/2025/e20250727>