

Sustainable Agricultural Intensification Programme Session

Introduction

One of today's major global challenges is to attain and maintain global food security, and social and economic equity for a growing population under changing environmental conditions and within the planetary boundaries. This requires, among other things, increasing the agricultural productivity from the land available for farming. The increase in productivity needs to be achieved while minimizing negative impacts on the environment, human and animal health and welfare and managing the potential trade-offs between them seeking equality of outcomes between stakeholders. The combined effort leading to this is branded 'Sustainable Agricultural Intensification' (SAI).

Session outline

This session is associated with the [Sustainable Agricultural Intensification](#) development programme, led by [Jonne Rodenburg](#). The session will be moderated by [Adrienne Martin](#) and [Jeremy Hagger](#) and will be composed of two sub-sessions. In the first sub-session we solicit views of some of our close southern partners and the second session we share those of our own and have a moderated discussion about these views.



Sub-session 1. The future position and relevance of smallholder farmers in the south

Invited speakers, representatives of NRI's southern partners, will present their work with smallholders in their geographic regions and critically reflect on a range of questions related to the future of smallholders. Will there still be smallholders in 2050? What will be future challenges for smallholders and what solutions will be available? Should our focus be on smallholder farmers? How do we manage the potential conflict between the needs of smallholder farmers versus society in general in terms of need for food security, environmental sustainability, and livelihoods?

Moderator: [Adrienne Martin](#) (Natural Resources Institute, UK)

Speakers:

- [Rolando Cerda](#) (Centro Agronómico Tropical de Investigación y Enseñanza, Costa Rica)
- [Angela Mkindi](#) (Nelson Mandela African Institution of Science and Technology, Tanzania)
- [Blessings Chinsinga](#) (University of Malawi, Malawi)
- [Kolawole Adebayo](#) (Federal University of Agriculture Abeokuta, Nigeria)
- [Jibrin Jibrin](#) (Centre for Dryland Agriculture, Bayero University, Nigeria)



Sub-session 2. Towards a smallholder-centred and smallholder-driven strategy for future SAI

Two NRI researchers will present a draft position paper entitled "Sustainable agricultural intensification of smallholder family farms in the tropics: views and roles of the Natural Resources Institute" This will be followed by a moderated discussion, including all previous speakers and other participants around a range of questions, e.g.: How do researchers of NRI engage in processes of adaptive development and management of production systems in the south when these endeavours require considerable in-country presence? Are farmers reticent to change only making small, limited changes, or are they continually adapting multiple practices that just make it hard to interpret what effects result from what practice? What are our collective experiences of doing research with farmers?

Moderator: [Jeremy Hagger](#) (Natural Resources Institute, UK)

Speakers:

- [Jonne Rodenburg](#) (Natural Resources Institute, UK)
- [Laxmi Prasad Pant](#) (Natural Resources Institute, UK)