

Why trees matter on farms:

embracing agroforestry and
agrobiodiversity for resilient landscapes
and food systems

Free webinar

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25 NOVEMBER 2025

9.30-11.30 CET on zoom platform



Programme

- 9.30-9.35 **Introduction to IUFRO**
Antonio Santoro - University of Florence, Italy
- 9.35-9.40 **Opening and welcome**
Agnes W. Mwangombe - University of Nairobi, Kenya
Stephen Wyatt - Université de Moncton, Canada
- 9.40-10.00 **How do we expand agroforestry systems and sustain their benefits in the face of an accelerating global heating emergency?**
Dennis Garrity - Founding Board Chair, Global EverGreening Alliance
- 10.00-10.20 **Trees in the field: perspectives from the globally important agricultural heritage systems and the Italian register of historical rural landscapes.**
Mauro Agnoletti - UNESCO Chair Agricultural Heritage Landscapes, University of Florence, Italy
- 10.20-10.40 **Montado, the Southern European agro-silvo pastoral system, still resisting yet under pressure**
Teresa Pinto Correia - University of Evora, Portugal
- 10.40-11.00 **Biocultural Heritage Territories: A Sustainable Model for Agroforestry in Kenya's Biodiversity Hotspots**
Chemuku Wekesa - Kenya Forestry Research Institut KEFRI, Kenya
- 11.00-11.20 *Doris Mutta - African Forest Forum, Center for International Forestry Research and World Agroforestry (CIFOR-ICRAF)*
- 11.20-11.30 **Conclusions**
Stephen Wyatt - Université de Moncton, Canada

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What if the key to reversing land degradation and ensuring food security lies not in technology alone, but in our trees and in the wisdom of those who've long nurtured them?

Unsustainable land use practices such as deforestation, overgrazing, and poorly planned agriculture have severely degraded landscapes across the globe, leading to soil erosion, biodiversity loss, and collapsing ecosystem services, making food systems less productive or unusable for future generations. Promoting planting and conservation of trees in farmlands has the power to slow down and/or reverse degradation while improving communities' livelihoods and restoring the planet.

Trees play a great role in the lives of indigenous and local communities through provision of a myriad of goods and services. Recent estimates indicate that forests and other tree-based production systems contribute to the livelihoods of more than 1.6 billion people worldwide including over two thirds of the African population. In this context, traditional and indigenous knowledge of local communities contributed to the development of tree-based food production systems. Such knowledge has been used over decades to identify and prioritise plant and animal species for domestication and production in human-managed production systems, contributing to the conservation and valorization of agrobiodiversity and relevant Indigenous and Local Knowledge (ILK).

The webinar will address the importance of planting, managing, and preserving trees in farmland, taking into account the related ecosystem services, the benefits for the environment and for the people, with examples from different countries. This will contribute to improve understanding of traditional and indigenous knowledge on forest and tree-based food systems, providing critical information for the management of these systems for future sustainable rural development. This webinar is essential for practitioners, researchers, policymakers, and Indigenous leaders interested in sustainable agriculture, biodiversity conservation, and community-based climate solutions.

The webinar is organized by IUFRO Working Parties
9.03.03 Historical Ecology and 9.03.06 Biocultural Diversity.

Organizing Committee:

- Antonio Santoro - University of Florence, Italy
- Francesco Piras - University of Florence, Italy
- Agnes W. Mwangombe - University of Nairobi, Kenya
- Lorena Sabino - University of Los Banos, Philippines
- Stephen Wyatt - Université de Moncton, Canada
- Ryo Kohsaka - The University of Tokyo, Japan

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