



## Land Soil Crop Hubs

### Concept Note

DeSIRA LSC-IS - Land, Soil, Crop Information Services for Climate-Resilient Food Systems in  
Africa:

Lessons from Ethiopia, Kenya and Rwanda

Thursday, 18 May 2023, 16:00-17:00 hours

[Speke Resort, Munyonyo, Uganda]

#### 1. Background

In East Africa, climate change leads to a drastic reduction in the quality and resilience of the land, increased greenhouse gas emissions and food and nutrition insecurity for the growing urban and rural population. Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) can mitigate these impacts by focusing on

- sustainable agriculture intensification;
- while increasing the resilience of food systems under a changing climate;
- by reducing carbon emissions from land use and carbon sequestration in soils.

Understanding the nature of land, soil and crop (LSC) relationships is essential for CSA. Land, soil and crop information in many East African countries has not been used effectively in CSA decision-making because the data are not available in an organised and accessible form, and are not seen as 'owned' by national organisations. Land, soil and crop information organised into an easy-to-access platform (hub) responds to the user's need for information and informs stakeholders in their decision-making in CSA.

The general objective of the [LSC hub project](#) is to develop sustainable land, soil, and crop information hubs managed by National Agricultural Research Organisations (NARs) that i) facilitate the exchange of knowledge and information between farmers, knowledge organisations, the private sector and policymakers, ii) enhance innovation and informed decision-making in the agricultural sector and iii) contribute to increased climate-resilient, sustainable transformation of agricultural productivity and food systems in Eastern Africa.

The LSC hub project is a 4-year project and is currently 1.5 years in development, including user needs assessment and the hub development. The LSC hub project is a pilot project in three (3) countries: Kenya, Ethiopia and Rwanda. The LSC hub project aims to upscale the LSC hubs to other African countries after the completion of the pilots and once the funds are available. The LSC hub project intends to work with similar projects and initiatives such as WATDEV, Soil Initiative for Africa, and other organisations to create synergies. The presentation, to be held at the ASARECA Agriculture Ministerial Conference, is a start for the regional upscaling which will be done in close cooperation with ASARECA.

## 2. Objectives session






The session will:

- Provide stakeholders involved in Climate Smart Agriculture with insights into the LSC information system project that they could consider for their specific region.
- Share lessons learned from LSC hubs in Kenya, Ethiopia and Rwanda.
- Discuss how LSC IS system contributes to building resilient food systems and opportunities to scale it up to other ASARECA member countries

## 3. Speakers

The Moderator will open the panel with brief remarks, introduce the speakers and invites them to make a 5-7 minute presentation. Following the presentations, the moderator will open the floor for an interactive dialogue with the audience.

The program is as follows:

Time	Item	Speaker
16:00-16:05	Brief remarks and the introduction of the speaker's	Moderator: Blaise Amony, Msc
16:05-16:10	Overview of the LSC hub project	 <b>Thaisa van der Woude MSc</b> , Project coordinator International Soil Reference and Information Centre (ISRIC)
16:10-16:15	Opportunity for LSC Information Services for scaling CSA in ASARECA region	 <b>Dr. John Recha</b> , Scientist, Climate-Smart Agriculture and Policy International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI)
16:15-16:22	Lessons from Kenya	 <b>Dr. Kennedy Were</b> , Research Geographer (spatial Scientist) Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO)
16:22-16:29	Lessons from Rwanda	 <b>Eric Nsabimana MSc</b> , Data-GIS specialist Rwanda Agriculture and Animal Resources Development Board (RAB)
16:29-16:36	Lessons from Ethiopia	 <b>Dr. Girma Mamo</b> , Director, Climate, Geospatial and Biometrics Research Directorate Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research (EIAR)
16:36-17:00	Recommendations + Q&A	Moderators

## Moderators



[Dr. Ermias Betemariam](#)

Land health scientist

Center for International Forestry  
Research – World Agroforestry  
(CIFOR-ICRAF)



**Blaise Amony MSc**

Program Officer Capacity Development

Association for Strengthening Agricultural  
Research in Eastern and Central Africa  
(ASARECA)



**Dr. Jules Rutebuka**

Regional Program Officer,  
Sustainable Agriculture

The International Union for  
Conservation of Nature  
(IUCN)