

ADVALUE

Advancing Sustainable Agricultural Value Chains through
Strengthening Transdisciplinary Skills and Cooperation in
East African Doctoral Education

Final
Conference

Final conference: 2 September 2026

Competence-based doctoral training in agricultural
and rangeland management in East Africa -
Collaborative curricula and stakeholder engagement

Registration opened

- Final conference of project implemented from 2024 to 2026
- Presentation and reflection on key project achievements in strengthening doctoral training in East Africa
- Participation of invited guest speakers, panellists, project staff and nominated doctoral students
- Exchange of lessons learned, experiences and good practices
- Networking and joint discussion on future cooperation and the continuation of project achievements
- Open to self-funded participants from other institutions and initiatives



Please use the [link](#) resp. QR code to register by 15 August 2026.

Hosted by the **University of Nairobi**, the conference brings together academic leaders and students from ADVALUE partner institutions, as well as stakeholders from government ministries, national research organisations, NGOs and farming groups.

The planned programme for the public conference day is displayed on the following pages. ADVALUE members also stay for further working group meetings and internal conference parts.

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project # 101128508

more about ADVALUE project and modules

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www.erasmus-advalue.org



Final conference programme: Wednesday, 2 September

Venue: Nairobi Safari Club by Swiss-Belhotel

Registration: Please register in advance by using this link

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeJwEAYdmLMLabnx_0o1cANgT4zKqZjHSIkVxtiYZ31ID7axg/viewform

Reception: Registration desk opens at 8:00 a.m.

EAT	Programme
09:00	Conference opening – Welcome addresses - Opening by the conference facilitator. <i>Prof. Dr. Oliver Wasonga, University of Nairobi (UoN), Kenya.</i> - Aims of the ADVALUE conference. <i>Prof. Dr. Heinrich Schüle, Nuertingen-Geislingen University (NGU), Germany.</i> - Welcome remarks by representatives of the University of Nairobi - o <i>Prof. Richard Onwonga, Chairman, Department of Land Resource Management and Agricultural Technology, University of Nairobi</i> - o <i>Prof. Moses Nyangito, Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture</i> - Keynote Address: International co-operation in higher education training and research. <i>Prof. Dr. Margaret J. Hutchinson, DVC, Research Innovation & Enterprise, University of Nairobi, and a Professor of Horticulture, Faculty of Agriculture</i>
09:25	Key notes - Enhancing agricultural value chains in East Africa. What quality standards and requirements should a PhD programme meet? <i>Dr. Benjamin Kivuva, Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO)</i> - The international year of rangelands and pastoralists – why rangeland value chains and socio-ecological systems should not be overlooked. <i>Bishar Elmi, Director for livestock production, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development, Kenya (MoALD)</i> - ADVALUE project activities and analysis of the present challenges of doctoral education and future strategies. <i>Dr. Angelika Thomas, NGU and Dr. Jana Mazancová, Czech University of Life Sciences</i>
10:15	Tea and coffee break
10:45	Panel discussion: How can doctoral education in East Africa address research and development gaps for sustainable value chains in agriculture and rangelands? Facilitator: Dr. Rosemary Bulyaba, Uganda Christian University (UCU) Panel: - <i>Dr. Benjamin Kivuva, Director, Crop Production & Seed System, Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organisation (KALRO), Kenya</i> - <i>Dr. Tahira Mohamed, Regional Engagement and Partnership Lead, Jameel observatory, International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), Kenya</i> - <i>Mr. Bishar Elmi, Director of Livestock Production and Mr. John Maina, Chief Range Management Division, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development, Kenya</i> - <i>Dr. Rose Opiyo, Senior Lecturer, University of Nairobi and Focal Person, Consortium for Advanced Research Training in Africa (CARTA)</i>

	- <i>Dr. Joseph Owor, Head Postgraduate Studies, UCU</i> - <i>Prof. Majaliwa Mwanjalolo, Manager of Research, Innovation and Development at the Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM)</i>
12:00	Lunch break
13:00	Poster presentation & flash talks <i>Facilitation: Dr. Martin Mutambuka, UCU, Ines Maurmann, NGU</i> - Research and case examples from students and junior scientist at the ADVALUE partner universities - Part 1: Selected posters are presented by 3 min flash talks in a guided tour - Part 2: Individual discussions of the presented and additional posters
14:15	Tea and coffee break
14:45	Parallel workshops
	Workshop 1: Agricultural Value Chains – research questions for sustainable and inclusive value chains, consumer behaviour, and capacity building. <i>Facilitator: Ing. Petra Chaloupková, Ph.D., dr.h.c.</i> - Workshop and panel discussion based on ADVALUE Module 4: What makes an agricultural value chain inclusive? What is the role of institutions of higher learning or PhD programmes in ensuring future sustainable value chain inclusion? Which questions of consumer behavior exist?
	Workshop 2: University and community engagement – A transdisciplinary lens. <i>Facilitator: David Mfitumukiza, Makerere University (MAK) Uganda</i> - This workshop based on ADVALUE Module 2 explores how to harness transdisciplinary research and innovative collaboration to deliver meaningful, trust-building, and sustainable university community outreach.
	Workshop 3: Building a case for rangeland & pastoralists in East Africa– aligning with the IYRP, 2026 – Panel Discussion <i>Facilitator: Prof. Dr. Oliver Wasonga (UoN)</i> - Panel discussion: - o Why is it necessary to train a critical mass of experts in sustainable rangelands management? - o What do we need to know and understand better about pastoral production systems in Africa? - o How do we position rangelands as strategic assets for meeting SDGs? <i>Dr. Tahir Mohamed (Jameel Observatory, ILRI & a member of the steering committee IYRP, 2026); Dr. Christian Hülsebusch (DITSL) and other ADVALUE module working group members</i>
16:00	Return to plenary hall
16:15	Conference closure and conclusions. Project insights for future enhancement of PhD education. <i>Facilitator: Prof. Dr. Cecilia Onyango</i> • ADVALUE outputs and thoughts for the future to enhance the relevance and quality of scientific research. <i>Dr. Elisha Gogo, Pwani University Kilifi, Kenya</i> • Review and conclusions
17:00	Conference end