

Project Title: Potentials of Agro-Ecological Practices in East Africa with a Focus on Circular Water-Energy-Nutrient Systems (PrAEctiCe)

Project call ref: HORIZON-CL6-2022-FARM2FORK-01-12

Type of action: Research and Innovation

Project summary

PrAEctiCe intends to provide an agroecology indicator set for East Africa, aimed at helping smallholder farmers in their agro-ecological transition. The research and innovation project will provide a new decision support tool for agro-ecology advisors to select the best-suited combination of agro-ecological practices in a local context. For the first time, aquaculture will be integrated into agroecology with focus on the circular water-energy-nutrient systems and its potential for efficient farming with minimal climate impacts.

The project runs from 2022-2026 with the following partners;

HOCHSCHULE KARLSRUHE (HKA) -Germany, Coordinator of the project

MAKERERE UNIVERSITY (MAK) - Uganda

GOETEBORGS UNIVERSITET (UGOT)- Sweden

UNIVERZA V MARIBORU - Slovenia

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE LIVESTOCK AND FISHERIES (DALF)- Kenya

REGIONAL UNIVERSITIES FORUM FOR CAPACITY BUILDING IN AGRICULTURE (RUFORUM) - Uganda

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH ORGANISATION (NARO)

MASENO UNIVERSITY (MSU) - Kenya

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE TANZANIA

AQUAGRI IIM - INTERNATIONAL IRRIGATION MANAGEMENT (AQG), - Portugal

ALLIANCE FOR FOOD SOVEREIGNTY IN AFRICA (AFSA) - Uganda

AFRICA AGRIBUSINESS ACADEMY (KENYA)

STEINBEIS 2i GmbH (S2i) - Germany

AQUABIOTECH LIMITED (ABT) - Malta

Through a multi-stakeholder approach, new insight on agro-ecological practices in East Africa will be gathered to inform on existing successful practices as well as the barriers and drivers of East African smallholder farmers. This insight will help develop an indicator framework for agro-ecology, which, while building on existing frameworks, is adapted to the East African context and captures integrated

aqua-agriculture practices in detail. The PrAEctiCe decision support tool will then, at the farm level, help assess environmental and socio-economic impacts, with a particular focus on impacts on climate change mitigation and adaptation as well as financial viability. The tool will be validated in three living labs, situated in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania, covering different integrated aqua-agriculture farming set-ups. Knowledge sharing activities through trainings, student exchanges and events, ensure the dissemination of results across East Africa and between AU and EU.

UMU will lead work package 2: Mapping & analysis of existing agro-ecological practices. Dr Joseph Ssekandi is the lead Researcher on Tasks; Mapping of agro-ecological practices in East Africa and Task 2.3 Best practice examples of Agro-Ecology in East Africa.

The overall budget for the project is Euro 6,985,275, UMU is entitled to Euros 155,000

Project activities spearheaded by UMU

- Documenting the existence of AE practices
- Precision mapping of AE practices in East Africa
- Documenting the existence of Integrated Aquaculture into Agroecology
- Interactive map of Integrated Aquaculture into Agroecology farms
- Best practice examples of agroecology in East Africa

Project team at UMU

Project leader and lead Researcher – Joseph Ssekandi(PhD)

Researchers

Dr. Simon Peter Musinguzi

Ms. Hellen Naigaga