



Farming systems for the future

The contribution of agricultural research for development

Award ceremony and public discussion organized by
the Swiss Forum for International Agricultural Research (SFIAR)
and hosted by the World Food System Center – ETH Zurich

ETH Zurich (Main Building, Semper Aula G60)

4 December 2019, 16:15 – 18:40

Award

The Swiss Forum for International Agricultural Research (SFIAR) offers an annual Award for graduates and scientists working in agricultural research for development. This year's Team Award goes to the SysCom team of FiBL for their project "Long-term farming systems comparisons in the tropics – What is the contribution of organic agriculture to sustainable development?". This long-term program compares different agricultural production systems (mainly organic and conventional) in Kenya, India and Bolivia. The aim is to contribute to sustainable agriculture by enhancing the know-how on potentials and limitations of these systems.

The Award for the Best Master's Thesis goes to Janine Steinmann for her research "Effect of Natural and *Mucuna pruriens* fallow on soil properties and crop performance in *Dioscorea alata* (water yam) based systems in Liliyo and Tieningboué (Côte d'Ivoire) and Léo (Burkina Faso)" submitted at ETH Zürich. Janine analyzed the soil properties as well as crop performance for different cropping rotations and fallow types with a view to make cultivation of the important staple crop yam more sustainable.

Event

The two prize-winning researchers will present their work at the Award Ceremony. The event will also put the research into a broader context.

Both projects focus on farming systems and on the question of how to make them more sustainable. Global challenges such as climate change and population growth call for an adaptation of our food systems. Sound scientific data are a key element in this transformation process. However: What should sustainable future farming systems look like? What are the socio-economic implications? And: How should researchers reach and involve smallholders? Keynote speaker Christian Frutiger will approach the subject from a development cooperation perspective. Our concluding panel discussion provides the opportunity to debate these questions further.

Program

- 16:15** Welcome
(Angela Deppeler, SFIAR President)
- 16:20** Keynote speech
(Christian Frutiger, Ambassador, Assistant Director General, Head of Global Cooperation Department, SDC)
- 16:40** Questions
- 16:50** SFIAR Team Award Laudatio
(Angela Deppeler)
- 16:55** Long-term farming systems comparisons in the tropics. What is the contribution of organic agriculture to sustainable development?
(Dr. Gurbir Singh Bhullar and Beate Huber, Research Institute of Organic Agriculture)
- 17:15** Break
- 17:30** SFIAR Master Thesis Award Laudatio
(Angela Deppeler)
- 17:35** Effect of Natural and *Mucuna pruriens* fallow on soil properties and crop performance in water yam-based systems in Côte d'Ivoire and Burkina Faso
(Janine Steinmann, former student at ETH Zurich)
- 17:55** Panel Discussion: Farming systems for the future
(Christian Frutiger, Monika Schneider (FiBL), Janine Steinmann, Dr. Martijn Sonneveld (ETH World Food System Center); Moderation: Paul Castle, Syngenta Foundation)
- 18:35** Presentation of the Awards
- 18:40** Refreshments

Information

Registration

Please register by 27 November 2019
at www.sfiar.ch/award.htm

Fees and refreshments

The event is free of charge.
Refreshments will be served after the presentation
of awards.

Language

The event will be held in English,
no translation will be provided.

Directions

ETH Zurich
Rämistrasse 101
8092 Zürich
Main Building, 2nd floor, Semper Aula G60

Contact

Felix Hintermann (SFIAR Executive Secretary)
Tel. 031 910 21 91
E-mail: felix.hintermann@bfh.ch

Cover photo

The team of FiBL's SysCom project following
the explanations on the cotton trial at BioRe in India.

