



# HAFL Hugo P. Cecchini Institute Annual Event 2023

Agroecology: Dreamy buzzword or practical solution for sustainable landscapes and food systems?

20 June 2023, 2pm – 5:30pm, followed by a networking apéro

► School of Agricultural, Forest and Food Sciences HAFL

# Welcome to the HAFL Hugo P. Cecchini Institute 4th Annual Event

The Institute contributes to the development of sustainable smallholder agricultural, forest and food systems in developing and transition countries.

## About the event

The event focuses on addressing the role of regenerative farming and agroecology in the transition to sustainable landscapes and food systems. Regenerative farming and agroecology have gained significant popularity in recent years and have become lead topics for a vast number of scientific conferences, thematic events, as well as dedicated media outlets.

## Keynote speakers

Madeleine Kaufmann, Policy Advisor at the Federal Office for Agriculture (FOAG) and a former student of BFH-HAFL, and Dr Urs Niggli, President of agroecology.science and the former director of the Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL), share their perspectives on the theme.

## Workshops

We aim to approach the two concepts from an interactive-games perspective, in a playful manner – to scrutinise their practicality and highlight possibilities and challenges for implementation. This interactive-games approach also aims to raise awareness about the relevance and implications of the modes of action in natural resource management and the food production chain, and eventually bring about positive behavioural change in support of sustainable development.

## Staff announcements

The 2023 Annual Event marks the retirement of two long-term BFH-HAFL staff members – Dr Christoph Studer, professor for natural resource management, and Dr Dominique Guenat, Head of the HAFL Hugo P. Cecchini Institute. Dominique Guenat's successor at the Institute, Dr Zenebe Uraguchi, will also be involved.

## Panel discussion

The panel discussion theme is “How can the HAFL Hugo P. Cecchini Institute support agroecology?” The discussion will be moderated by Zenebe Uraguchi and the panel members are Dominique Guenat, Christoph Studer, Stefanie Pondini (Biovision), and Marylaure Crettaz Corredor (SDC).

## Apéro

Network with guests and colleagues from 5.30pm.

## Programme

Time	Session	Presenters
2 – 2.10 pm	Opening remarks	Ute Seeling, Dominique Guenat
2.10 – 2.55 pm	Keynotes: “Setting the scene: How much agro-ecology is in your cappuccino?”  “The power of agroecology to transform agriculture and food consumption – regionally and globally”	Madeleine Kaufmann  Urs Niggli
2.55 – 3 pm	Break into groups	
3 – 4 pm	Interactive-games workshops	Gurbir S. Bhullar, Claude Garcia, Mélanie Feurer, Ingrid Fromm
4 – 4.15 pm	Coffee break	
4.15 – 4.35 pm	Workshop feedback – what were the outcomes, perceptions, potentials, challenges?	Gurbir S. Bhullar, Claude Garcia, Mélanie Feurer, Ingrid Fromm
4.35 – 5.20 pm	Panel discussion: “How can the HAFL Hugo P. Cecchini Institute support agroecology?”	Moderated by Zenebe Uraguchi. Panel participants: Dominique Guenat, Christoph Studer, Stefanie Pondini, Marylaure Crettaz Corredor
5.20 – 5.30 pm	Closing remarks and handover	Dominique Guenat, Christoph Studer, Zenebe Uraguchi
5.30 pm – open end	Farewell and thanks, followed by the apéro	Ute Seeling, Peter Spring

## Interactive-games workshops

Project cases / games workshops	Facilitator
Snakes and Ladders on the Way to Agroecology	Gurbir S. Bhullar
Planet C – a game about managing the commons: Providing links to (agro-) biodiversity, well-being and conservation vs. development conflicts	Claude Garcia
Playing Landusers in the AMAzon frontier (PLAMA): Decision-making and co-creating a vision for resilient agroecological landscapes in agriculture forest frontiers	Mélanie Feurer, José Undurraga
The Big Debate: Is agroecology the right approach for sustainable coffee in Burundi?	Ingrid Fromm, Célia Bühler

## Key participants



**Madeleine Kaufmann** has been Policy Advisor of the Federal Office for Agriculture (FOAG) since 2018. She represents Switzerland in the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), among others. She is the Swiss focal point of the Agroecology Coalition that emerged from the UN Food Systems Summit and represents the European regional group in the steering committee of the coalition. In addition to her employment at FOAG, Madeleine works part-time on a dairy farm. Before joining the FOAG, Madeleine worked for several international cooperation and development organisations, including the German Development Cooperation (GIZ),

the Centre for Agriculture and Bioscience International (CABI), Bioversity International, and Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation.



**Dr Urs Niggli** has been the president of agroecology.science since 2020. He is the former director of the Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL), where he worked for 30 years. Under his tenure, FiBL became internationally renowned and opened sites in Germany, Austria, France and Brussels. Urs has a strong commitment to international cooperation in organic farming research, and has co-founded many international organisations and networks. Known as a pioneer in organic agriculture research, he has published widely on soil fertility, biodiversity, sustainable agriculture, and nutrition. He is an honorary professor at both the

University of Kassel Witzenhausen and China Agricultural University, and holds an honorary doctorate from the Estonian University of Environmental Sciences.



**Dr Dominique Guenat** is the outgoing Head of the HAFL Hugo P. Cecchini Institute, which he has led since its inception in 2020. He is also the former co-leader of the BFH-HAFL group International Agriculture. During his 26 years in Zollikofen, he was BFH-HAFL's agricultural economics expert focusing on countries in the Global South. He worked on numerous applied research and consultancy mandates across Africa, Asia and Eastern Europe. Although he retired at the end of May, he remains engaged in several projects in the Global South and will continue to teach until the end of the year.



**Dr Christoph Studer** is the former professor of natural resources management and expert on the topic of water in agriculture. He retired from BFH-HAFL after 22 years in March 2023. Besides his activities in teaching and supervision of theses, he has carried out numerous research and consultancy mandates, mostly in tropical and sub-tropical countries and often with a particular focus on dry areas. Christoph continues to be engaged in several projects in the Global South and will continue teaching in the Fall semester.



**Dr Zenebe Uraguchi** joined the HAFL Hugo P. Cecchini Institute as its new leader in May 2023. He is a development economist with experience in Asia, North America, Eastern Europe and Africa, and holds MA degrees in International Relations and Political Economy, as well as a PhD in Development Economics. Zenebe joined us from Helvetas, where he was the programme manager for Eastern Europe, South Caucasus and the Western Balkans, and senior advisor on Sustainable and Inclusive Economies. His areas of expertise are in the design, management and evaluation of private, public and non-profit development initiatives.



**Stefanie Pondini** is the co-lead of the Policy and Advocacy department of the Biovision Foundation and is currently implementing the programme “Investing in the Agroecological Business Case” (iABC). The iABC goal is to catalyse the scaling of agroecology through increased availability of suitable capital and a more enabling environment for agroecological enterprises. Before joining Biovision, she worked for GIZ in India, with the aim of strengthening the participation and awareness of slum dwellers around water and sanitation. Stefanie studied human geography as well as political and environmental sciences at the University of Zurich.



**Marylaure Crettaz Corredor** has worked for more than 20 years in the international cooperation and development sector. In 2003, she joined the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), consolidating her experiences in natural resources management and governance, rural development, agriculture and food security, economic development, and climate change. Throughout her career she also supported project design and management, knowledge sharing and policy processes in these different fields in the Global South.