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TRANSFORMATIVE NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS IN AGRI-FOOD SYSTEMS: A PARTICIPATORY WORKSHOP ON GOVERNANCE, BENCHMARKING, AND DECISION SUPPORT

HOST AND CO-HOST

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ABSTRACT

Nature-based Solutions (NbS) are increasingly recognised as key to sustainable agri-food systems. However, their transformative potential remains difficult to assess, compare, and operationalise in policy and practice. Existing approaches often focus on technical performance while underrepresenting governance, equity, and long-term system change.

This interactive workshop addresses this gap through an integrated and interdisciplinary approach combining three complementary entry points:

1. A principles-criteria-indicator (PCI) framework offering a structured lens to reflect on key dimensions of transformative NbS in agriculture;
2. A Decision Support System (DSS) that translates these dimensions into a practical tool for exploring co-benefits, trade-offs, and governance conditions; and
3. A bio-grass refinery value chain case study, providing a real-world application to test, challenge, and ground both the framework and the tool.

The 2-hour workshop session emphasises the interplay between conceptual framing, operational tools, and empirical insights. Across these components, key dimensions such as social-ecological integration, stakeholder co-production, equity, institutional alignment, adaptive learning, and stewardship are explored and critically assessed through qualitative indicators, quantitative analysis, and practical application. Participants will engage in interactive group work to:

- Reflect on and refine the relevance and clarity of assessment dimensions and indicators;
- Test the DSS as a decision-support tool for capturing agricultural NBS co-benefits and trade-offs;
- Analyse an established bio-grass value chain to identify governance challenges and scaling opportunities.

By linking conceptual reflection, practical tools, and real-world experience, the session fosters a science-policy dialogue on how to make NBS evaluation actionable, comparable, and context-sensitive. It contributes to advancing innovative and practice-oriented approaches for assessing and scaling transformative NbS in agri-food systems.

FORMAT

Workshop