

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

One of the key objectives of ADVALUE is to modernise doctoral programs by introducing innovative courses on transdisciplinary research methods and value chain approaches. In February 2025, the detailed module syllabi were finalised, and WP4 is now preparing pilot training sessions to test the module content.

Work Package 4 Development of advanced PhD Modules

Responsible ADVALUE partners:

Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU), Makerere University Kampala (MAK)

Within WP4, four Module Working Groups (MWGs) have been established. Each group is responsible for developing module content, which will be tested through online and on-site pilot trainings, and later be implemented in PhD programmes in Kenya and Uganda.

Purpose

The development of these modules responds to the need of strengthening doctoral education in East Africa (EA), particularly in the fields of agricultural and environmental sciences. By promoting modern and knowledge-based approaches, the project aims to equip PhD students with advanced skills that meet the growing demands of sustainable agricultural development—both within academia and across the broader industry landscape.

Module Working Groups

Each MWG includes representatives from all partner universities. Depending on the topic and interest, representatives from associated partners or other stakeholders with relevant expertise are also involved. Coordination of each MWG is jointly shared between one EU and one EA partner university.

Pilot Trainings

The pilot implementation of each module is organised by the respective MWG and takes place at the lead EA partner institution, involving all participating higher education institutions (HEIs). Associated partners are also invited to take part.

Offline:

The face-to-face pilot courses bring together PhD students from the EA partner universities, along with staff members from the relevant MWG. These on-site sessions focus on hands-on learning, active student engagement, and fostering collaboration among participants from all four EA partner institutions.

Online:

Online sessions are used to introduce key subtopics within each module and to assign student tasks. These tasks, completed individually or through group work, may include preparatory activities for the on-site pilot seminars.



WP4 belongs to the core of the project, that are the four Work Packages of the category "Development".



ADVALUE

Erasmus+ Capacity
Building in Higher
Education

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

NEWSLETTER

The 4 Modules and their Subtopics



Module 1: Essential skills in scientific research

*Lead: Makerere
University, Uganda &
Swedish University of
Agricultural Sciences*

Topics (exemplary)

- Research design and data management, literature research
- Ethics in Scientific research
- Case examples of scientific working methods in emerging areas

Pilot Trainings

Online part: 11.-15. August 2025
Workshop at Makerere University Kampala, Uganda:
18.-22. August 2025



Module 2: Transdisciplinary research

*Lead: Pwani University,
Kenya & German
Institute for Tropical and
Subtropical Agriculture*

Topics (exemplary)

- Introduction into transdisciplinary in the field of sustainability research
- Introduction into systems thinking and systems approaches
- Agricultural and food systems conceptualised as social ecological system

Pilot Trainings

Online part: August 2025 - January 2026 ~ weekly
Workshop at Pwani University Kilifi, Kenya: 08.-12. Dec. 2025



Module 3: Sustainable Rangeland Management

*Lead: University of
Nairobi, Kenya &
Nuerdingen-Geislingen
University, Germany*

Topics (exemplary)

- Climate change impacts on animal husbandry and rangeland management
- The value-chain approach in livestock-sector development
- Environmental assessment methods for rangeland resources

Pilot Trainings

Online part: 25-29. August 2025, monthly follow-up's
Workshop at University of Nairobi, Kenya: 12.-16. January 2026



Module 4: Sustainable Agriculture Value Chain Development

*Lead: Uganda
Christian University &
Czech University of
Life Sciences Prague*

Topics (exemplary)

- Agricultural market linkages analysis and development
- Agricultural Value Chain financing and governance
- Introduction to value-chain approaches for agricultural biologicals

Pilot Trainings

Online part: February - May 2026 ~ weekly sessions
Workshop at Uganda Christian University Mukono:
09.-13. February 2026

Pilot Training Kick-Off in August!

The pilot sessions for the modules are kicking off in August this year and will run through to February next year! We are in the midst of lecture organization, selection of students and travel planning. Stay tuned and follow our website and social media (Instagram, Facebook, X, LinkedIn) for updates and opportunities to get involved!

Interested in this newsletter? Write a short email

General Contact: advalue@pu.ac.ke

More information about ADVALUE
can be also found on the website

22.07.2025

page 2



Co-funded by
the European Union

www.erasmus-advalue.org