

# ADVALUE

Erasmus+ Capacity  
Building in Higher  
Education

NEWSLETTER

## 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. Online and offline pilot trainings introduce key subtopics within each module and focus on hands-on learning, active student engagement and fostering collaboration.

### Pilot Training of Module 1 - Essential Skills in Scientific Research

Online 11-15 Aug. 2025

Offline at Makerere University, Uganda 18-22 Aug. 2025

The Module 1 pilot training successfully brought together 20 students from the University of Nairobi, Pwani University, Makerere University, and Uganda Christian University, with an intensive week of on-campus learning, offering participants a unique opportunity for hands-on training, knowledge exchange, and lively discussions.

#### Online Pilot Training

The training began with a 12-hour online component, delivered mainly by the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU). These sessions, held the week before the in-person program, were open to a wider audience and attracted between 50–75 participants each. Topics ranged from research management and data preservation to ethics in research, entrepreneurship and innovation, and source evaluation. This virtual foundation prepared the 20 selected students for the focused, interactive sessions that followed in Kampala.

#### Offline at MAK

During the 25-hour physical training at Makerere University, participants were guided through key elements of scientific research. Sessions covered research paradigms, study design, data analysis, and data management, alongside practical exercises in scientific writing and publication strategies. Professors and lecturers from the partner universities worked closely with the students, helping them sharpen their skills.

#### Stakeholders' Discussion

The students participated in a round table with eight external stakeholders. The exercise concluded with an 'outcomes speed presentation,' where each group presented their results in three minutes. The discussions focused on the structure of Module 1.

**This first pilot training not only equipped participants with essential research skills but also fostered collaboration across institutions and countries, laying a strong foundation for future modules within the ADVALUE project.**



Photo: Anna Maňourová



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Photo: Zipporah Tabuti



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ADVALUE study trips aim on developing research output for PhD students, by getting additional input and feedback from EU partners and the group exchange and for academic staff on exchanging and learning about the didactics in scientific working, supervision of PhD students and the contents related to the modules.

### Study Trip to Germany and Tropentag Conference 1-12 Sept. 2025

Study Trips to:

Nuertingen-Geislingen University (NGU) and German Institute for Tropical and Subtropical Agriculture (DITSL)

The objective of these study trips was working on contents and objectives of module 3 - rangeland management at NGU and module 2 - transdisciplinary research at DITSL, combined with a joined programme at DITSL and the Tropentag conference in Bonn.

#### Study Trip to NGU

"The study trip was an eye opener in terms of:

- How to conduct an all-inclusive research.
- Platform for networking and creating linkages for collaborative research.
- Offered opportunities for exchanging ideas, views and experiences."

~ Eunice Monthe John, PhD student at PU, Kenya



Photo: Derrick Sentamu

#### Study Trip to DITSL

"I participated in the development of module 2 on Transdisciplinary research. This interesting research approach, that focuses on participatory community-based research, will make research more relevant in addressing real community challenges. We have been using Participatory Rural Appraisal tools and techniques in development work and it was very interesting seeing such approaches being embraced in academic research."

~ Henry Mukiibi, PhD student at UCU, Uganda



Photo: Angelika Thomas

#### Tropentag Conference

"I interacted with new colleagues where we shared experiences. Networks were established at Tropentag on top of the learning experiences."

~ Derrick Sentamu, PhD student at UoN, Kenya

The Tropentag conference is a must-attend event for any PhD student seeking to engage with peers and experts in their field."

~ Derick Kisegu, PhD student at MAK, Uganda



Photo: Ines Maurmann

