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PRESS RELEASE

From Dialogue to Action: CANALLS Advances Agroecological Transitions on the Ground

Over the past semester, the CANALLS project has taken important steps forward in translating strategy into concrete action, reinforcing its commitment to advancing sustainable agroecological transitions across Central and Eastern Africa. Through intensive partner collaboration, hands-on exchanges, and in-depth field discussions, the project continues to strengthen its Agroecology Living Labs and support locally driven innovation.

From January 20 to January 22, 2026, the CANALLS project held its 6th project meeting in Bujumbura, Burundi. Project partners gathered to review overall progress and define the next steps for CANALLS. Discussions focused on the outcomes and advancement of trials involving Agroecological Practices (AEPs), including their environmental and ecological impacts, as well as the economic performance and business viability of them. Partners also discussed plans for the project's final year and strategies to ensure the long-term sustainability of the CANALLS Living Labs beyond the project's conclusion.



A major highlight of this period was the organisation of two cross-visits before and after the project meeting. These cross-visit events aim to promote knowledge sharing and mutual

learning within and beyond the Agroecology Living Labs. Building on three previous cross-visits—Ntui, Cameroon (May 2025), Kamonyi, Rwanda (October 2025), and Biega, DRC (early December 2025)—ISABU, in partnership with the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) and Universität Hohenheim (UHOH), organised the fourth cross-visit to the Bujumbura and Giheta Living Labs.



The first cross-visit took place on January 19–20 at the Bujumbura Living Lab, located on the northeastern shore of Lake Tanganyika, followed by a second visit on January 23–24 at the Giheta Living Lab. Participants observed the impacts of agroecological innovation practices identified through the co-creation process and tested at both sites, with maize as the focal crop. These practices included the use of sanitized human urine as a biofertilizer and neem leaf extract as a biopesticide against pests, including the fall armyworm.



Following the cross-visits, participants reflected on the new experiences and data collected through structured debriefing sessions, using the Spiral of Innovation framework and the Pearls, Puzzles, and Proposals method.



CANALLS, a Horizon Europe project, is dedicated to advancing agroecological transitions in Central and Eastern Africa's humid tropics. This area holds immense potential for enhancing food and nutritional security within and beyond Africa. However, it faces intricate environmental, social, and economic challenges, often exacerbated by conflict and

vulnerability. CANALLS seeks to drive agroecological transitions in these areas through 8 multi-actor transdisciplinary Agroecology Living Labs (ALLs) spread in 4 countries (DRC, Rwanda, Cameroon & Burundi), offering holistic solutions tailored to local food systems.

Stay updated on CANALLS' progress by subscribing to our newsletter and visiting www.canalls-project.eu.

