



SOR4D conference 2026

Advancing Transdisciplinary
Research for Global Development

Bern, Switzerland

Conference programme

31.08.2026 – 01.09.2026



**Solution-oriented
Research for Development
Programme**



**Swiss National
Science Foundation**



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

**Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC**

Overview

Day 1 – Monday, 31.08.2026

Time	Title/Content	Format	Room
11:00–13:00	<i>Registration and Welcome Coffee</i>		Plenar
13:00–13:15	<i>Debora Kern</i> , Head of Research and Policy Division, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and <i>Pierre Willa</i> , Head of Thematic Research Thematic Research Division, Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF)	Joint Opening Address	
13:15–14:25	<i>Dr. Joanna Kane-Potaka</i> , Executive Secretary of the Global Forum on Agricultural Innovation and Research (GFAiR) <i>Chandra Bhushan</i> , President & CEO, International Forum for Environment, Sustainability & Technology iFOREST	Keynote Speeches	
14:30–16:00	Slot A (see page 4)		
	Digital Services for Rural and Urban Development	Paper Session 1	Plenar
	Health and Well-Being: Designing Interventions, Bridging Knowledge, Scaling Systems	Paper Session 2	Alpha
	Embedding impact in the scale-up of education interventions: methodological, institutional, and operational challenges	Round Table 1	Beta
	Conducting Global Transdisciplinary Research Partnerships in Practice: From Principles and Tools to Practical Implementation	Workshop 1	Gamma
16:00–16:30	<i>Coffee break</i>		
16:30–18:00	Slot B (see page 5)		
	Bridging Knowledge Systems: From Indigenous and Local Knowledge to Policy and Practice	Paper Session 3	Plenar
	Collaboration for Climate Leadership: An Impact Development	Workshop 2	Alpha
	Beyond Short Project Cycles: Rethinking Transformative Research Partnerships with Africa from Switzerland	Round Table 2	Beta
	Experiencing Transdisciplinarity as a Game Changer for Innovation Scaling	Workshop 3	Gamma
18:00–18:15	<i>Prof. Stuart Lane</i> , Vice President of the SNSF Academic Board	Welcome remarks	Plenar
18:15–19:30	<i>Apéro / Reception</i>		

Day 2 – Tuesday, 01.09.2026

Time	Title/Content	Format	Room
08:45–09:00	<i>Welcome and introduction Day 2</i>		Plenar
09:00–09:15	<i>Markus Schrader</i> , Member of Senior Management of SDC, Head of the Foundations and Quality Division	Welcome Address	
09:15–10:45	Slot C (see page 6)		
	Territories, Local Knowledge and Agency in Agroecological Transitions	Paper Session 4	Plenar
	Informal Work, and Everyday Strategies for Change	Paper Session 5	Alpha
	Hiding in plain sight: meaningful participation of families in the search for forcibly disappeared persons	Round Table 3	Beta
	Scaling Digital Advisory Services in LMICs: Opportunities, Challenges, and the Emerging Role of AI	Round Table 4	Gamma
10:45–11:15	<i>Coffee break</i>		
11:15–12:45	Slot D (see page 7)		
	Making Nature-Based Interventions Work for People	Paper Session 6	Plenar
	Institutions and Innovation: Scaling Research, Absorbing Change	Paper Session 7	Alpha
	Debugging digital extension: managing knowledge, autonomy and data in transdisciplinary agroforestry scaling	Round Table 5	Beta
	The Real-world lab workshop: Challenges of scaling-up agroecology	Workshop 4	Gamma
12:45–13:45	<i>Lunch</i>		
13:45–15:15	Slot E (see page 8)		
	Building Climate Resilience: Bridging Local Knowledge and Science-Based Solutions	Paper Session 8	Plenar
	Creative & Participatory Methods for Knowledge Co-Production	Paper Session 9	Alpha
	Nutrition by Design: Making Health Outcomes Explicit in Agroecology	Round Table 6	Beta
	Living Labs and Data Ecosystems: Governance and Innovation in Artisanal Gold Mining in the Amazon Forest	Workshop 5	Gamma
15:15–15:45	<i>Coffee break</i>		
15:45–17:15	From Reflection to Direction: What we require from transdisciplinary research for development in and for the Global South Moderation: <i>Martina Schmidt</i>	Panel Discussion	Plenar
17:15–17:30	<i>Prof. Martin Lengwiler</i> , University of Basel, Switzerland, Research Council Member SNSF, SOR4D Review Panel Chair	Closing Remarks	
17:30	<i>Closing of the Conference</i>		

SLOT A – Day 1 | Monday 14:30–16:00 (90 min)

Room	Session/ID	Title/Content/Presenters
Plenar	PS 1	Digital Services for Rural and Urban Development Chair: <i>Christian Andres</i> (ETH, Switzerland)
	ID 75	What Works in Digital Agricultural Extension Services? Cross-Country Experimental Evidence on Delivery Models <i>Kibrom Sibhatu</i> , icipe, Kenya
	ID 85	Phygital Extension as Trust-Building Mechanism for Scaling Digital Advisory Services <i>Sarita Mishra</i> , Grameen Foundation India, India
	ID 87	Transdisciplinary solutions to close the gap between researcher- and farmer know-how <i>Mirja Michalscheck</i> , Agroscope, Switzerland
	ID 77	Understanding digital resilience: everyday challenges and adaptations for informal and platform workers in Kenya <i>Salome Bukachi</i> , University of Nairobi, Kenya
	ID 90	Lessons from Scaling Up Property Taxation Innovations <i>Camille Barras</i> , University of Toronto, Canada
Alpha	PS 2	Health and Well-Being: Designing Interventions, Bridging Knowledge, Scaling Systems Chair: <i>Mirko Winkler</i> (SwissTPH, Switzerland)
	ID 32	The Impact of Digital Mental Health Technology on Mental Health, Education, and Economic Outlook of Young Adults <i>Mauricio Avendano</i> , Unisanté, University of Lausanne, Switzerland
	ID 45	Turning Toilets into Systems: Lessons from Tamil Nadu on Shaping and Scaling Urban Sanitation Solutions <i>Santhosh Ragavan Kolar Venkateshan</i> , Indian Institute for Human Settlements
	ID 46	Development of PEGISUS: An intervention to address the intersecting problems of substance use, gender inequity, and unemployment in young people in southern Africa <i>Jennifer Belus</i> , University of Zurich, Switzerland
	ID 68	ComBaCaL: Transformative evidence for scalable hypertension and diabetes care through lay Community Health Workers <i>Felix Gerber</i> , University Hospital Basel, Switzerland
Beta	RT 1	Embedding impact in the scale-up of education interventions: methodological, institutional, and operational challenges Lead: <i>Luana Teychenne</i> , Fund for Innovation in Development, France
Gamma	WS 1	Conducting Global Transdisciplinary Research Partnerships in Practice: From Principles and Tools to Practical Implementation Lead: <i>Fabian Käser</i> , SCNAT, Switzerland

SLOT B – Day 1 | Monday 16:30–18:00 (90 min)

Room	Session/ID	Title/Content/Presenters
Plenar	PS 3	Bridging Knowledge Systems: From Indigenous and Local Knowledge to Policy and Practice Chair: <i>Estelle Raveloaritiana</i> (University of Zürich, Switzerland)
	ID 1	Integrating Indigenous Knowledge Systems into Sustainable Public Procurement: Challenges, Opportunities, and Policy Perspectives in Selected African Contexts <i>Carol Cravero</i> , Yale ASAP Fellow, Italy
	ID 31	Transforming Refugee Housing Research: Bridging Scales and Knowledge under Overlapping Crises <i>Z. Ezgi Halilioglu Kahraman</i> , Cankaya University & Geneva Graduate Institute
	ID 105	Bridging epistemologies in assessing the global environment and designing pathways towards sustainability: Lessons learnt from the inclusion of Indigenous and Local Knowledge in UNEP GEO-7 <i>Sarah-Lan Mathez-Stiefel</i> , University of Bern, Switzerland
	ID 110	Erosion, Adaptation, and Revitalization: Indigenous Knowledge Systems in Changing Forest Landscapes of India <i>Dhanya Vijayan</i> , Leibniz Center for Agricultural Landscape Research, Germany
	ID 101	Bridging Knowledge Systems: Integrating Traditional Medicine into Healthcare in Uganda <i>Yahaya Hills Kagali Sekagya</i> , Prometra, Uganda
Alpha	WS 2	Collaboration for Climate Leadership: An Impact Development Workshop Lead: <i>Mumbi Wachira</i> , Strathmore University Business School, Kenya
Beta	RT 2	Beyond Short Project Cycles: Rethinking Transformative Research Partnerships with Africa from Switzerland Lead: <i>Patrick Bottazzi</i> , University of Bern, Switzerland
Gamma	WS 3	Experiencing Transdisciplinarity as a Game Changer for Innovation Scaling Lead: <i>Mirja Michalscheck</i> , Agroscope, Switzerland

SLOT C – Day 2 | Tuesday 09:15–10:45

Room	Session/ID	Title/Content/Presenters
Plenar	PS 4	Territories, Local Knowledge and Agency in Agroecological Transitions Chair: <i>Emilie Cremin</i> (University of Lausanne, Switzerland)
	ID 81	Agroecology and Indigenous territories: lessons learned from bridging knowledge, actors and territories <i>Sébastien Boillat</i> , Bern University of Applied Sciences, Switzerland
	ID 97	Territorialising Agroecology in Senegal: Creative Methods and Reflexivity for Transformative Transdisciplinary Research <i>Patrick Bottazzi</i> , University of Bern, Switzerland
	ID 113	Co-producing Knowledge for Impact: A Participatory and Localised Research Process on Agroecological Pathways to Food Security and Nutrition <i>Thomas Gass and Melanie Brantschen</i> , Alliance Sufosec, Switzerland
	ID 4	Bamboo agroforestry as a land use option for household energy needs and food security in Ghana <i>Michael Yaw Kwaku</i> , International Bamboo and Rattan Organization, Ghana
	ID 26	Innovation delivery for agroecological transitions in the Sahel: Experimental evidence from Senegal and Mali <i>Christian Grovermann</i> , Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL), Switzerland
Alpha	PS 5	Informal Work, and Everyday Strategies for Change Chair: <i>Devi Bühler</i> , Zurich University of Applied Sciences, Switzerland
	ID 59	Women at the Frontlines of Climate Change: An Ethnography of Adaptation in Coastal Bangladesh <i>Md Nurul Islam</i> , Sajida Foundation, Bangladesh
	ID 76	Mapping the platform care labour in Kenya <i>Bonaventure Saturday</i> , Pollicy, Kenya
	ID 71	Flowers in wartime: a reflection on the use of the photovoice as a means of capturing the everyday violence(s) of war <i>Agnieszka Fal-Dutra Santos</i> , Graduate Institute, Switzerland
	ID 95	Transformative Leadership for Responsible Mining <i>Kattia Diaz-Ydones</i> , Wyss Academy for Nature, Switzerland
Beta	RT 3	Hiding in plain sight: meaningful participation of families in the search for forcibly disappeared persons Lead: <i>Haris Lokvancic</i> , swisspeace, Switzerland
Gamma	RT 4	Scaling Digital Advisory Services in LMICs: Opportunities, Challenges, and the Emerging Role of AI Lead: <i>Benjamin Gräub</i> , farmbetter, Kenya & Panama

SLOT D – Day 2 | Tuesday 11:15–12:45

Room	Session/ID	Title/Content/Presenters
Plenar	PS 6	Making Nature-Based Interventions Work for People Chair: <i>Fernando Fernandez</i> (Wyss Academy, Switzerland and Peru)
	ID 88	Conservation, development and markets: agricultural intensification and emerging land pressures in upland Laos <i>Aye-Chan Maung</i> , Wyss Academy for Nature, Switzerland
	ID 49	Beyond counting trees: considering actors' demands for more inclusive and effective restoration <i>Maria J. Santos</i> , University of Zurich, Switzerland
	ID 50	Co-producing restoration knowledge in practice: collaboration and capacity building lessons from Demand4Restoration project <i>Estelle Raveloaritiana</i> , University of Zurich, Switzerland
	ID 70	Fair Shares? Local Perceptions of Benefit Sharing in Nature-Based Carbon and PES Projects in Peru and Kenya <i>Dominique Schmid</i> , Wyss Academy for Nature at the University of Bern, Switzerland
Alpha	PS 7	Institutions and Innovation: Scaling Research, Absorbing Change Chair: <i>Fabian Käser</i> (SCNAT, Switzerland)
	ID 33	From Potential to Practice: Evaluating Engineering-Based Carbon Dioxide Removal Pathways for Sustainable Development in Sub-Saharan Africa <i>David Mugendi</i> , Nuvoni Centre for Research, Kenya
	ID 41	When technology transfer goes both ways: realities of piloting circular water systems in South Africa and Switzerland <i>Devi Bühler</i> , Zurich University of Applied Sciences, Switzerland
	ID 29	Mapping Global Value Capture in Carbon Crediting Projects <i>Niklas Stolz</i> , ETH Zurich, Switzerland
Beta	RT 5	Debugging digital extension: managing knowledge, autonomy and data in transdisciplinary agroforestry scaling Lead: <i>Christian Andres</i> , ETH Zurich, Switzerland
Gamma	WS 4	The Real-world lab workshop: Challenges of scaling-up agroecology Lead: <i>Emilie Cremin</i> , University of Lausanne, Switzerland

SLOT E – Day 2 | Tuesday 13:45–15:15 (90 min)

Room	Session/ID	Title/Content/Presenters
Plenar	PS 8	Building Climate Resilience: Bridging Local Knowledge and Science-Based Solutions Chair: <i>Mumbi Wachira</i> (Strathmore University Business School, Kenya)
	ID 16	Co-creating Climate Adaptation Strategies with Pastoralists in Northern Kenya: A Transdisciplinary Model <i>Babere Chacha</i> , Laikipia University, Kenya
	ID 20	Governing the commons: an ethnographic exploration of local adaptation response to complex global problems <i>Samiya Selim</i> , University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh
	ID 28	Rooted in Reality: Critical Contextualization of Nature-based Solutions in Coastal Areas of Bangladesh <i>Md Faisal Imran</i> , University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh
	ID 42	A Toolbox for climate-resilient development of Armenian communities: Initial results and lessons learned <i>Raphael Portmann</i> , Planval Partners AG, Switzerland
	ID 93	Bridging Science and Practice for Local Climate Resilient Development in Armenia <i>Marco Pütz</i> , Swiss Federal Research Institute WSL, Switzerland
Alpha	PS 9	Creative & Participatory Methods for Knowledge Co-Production Chair: <i>Salome Bukachi</i> (University of Nairobi, Kenya)
	ID 61	Beyond consultation: gaming approaches for knowledge co-production and power-sensitive stakeholder engagement <i>Matthew Weaver</i> , Rhodes University, South Africa
	ID 84	Navigating barriers: Visual dialects as transformative solutions in a climate-vulnerable delta <i>Jenia Mukherjee</i> , IIT Kharagpur, India
	ID 63	Local Innovations for Sustainable Farming – The SCALAGRO Project Experience in India <i>Shirisha Junuthula</i> , Centre for Sustainable Agriculture, India
	ID 106	Exploring new methods: Mobile museums as low-threshold spaces for knowledge transfer, exchange and participatory research <i>Amon Mugume</i> , Uganda National Museum, Uganda
Beta	RT 6	Nutrition by Design: Making Health Outcomes Explicit in Agroecology Lead: <i>Cornelia Speich</i> , SwissTPH, Switzerland
Gamma	WS 5	Living Labs and Data Ecosystems: Governance and Innovation in Artisanal Gold Mining in the Amazon Forest Lead: <i>Fernando Fernandez</i> , Wyss Academy, Switzerland and Peru

Reflection and Engagement – Day 1 and 2

Conference Photo Exhibition (Room Delta, top floor)

The Conference Photo Exhibition showcases photographs created by women and men from Lviv and Kharkiv as part of the SOR4D project «Caring to Survive, Surviving to Care». Through images of everyday life during war, the exhibition highlights experiences of care, loss, resilience, and hope, offering personal perspectives on recovery and the often-overlooked role of care in rebuilding communities. The exhibition is open throughout the conference.

Conference Reflection Walls (Plenary)

The Conference Reflection Walls are four interactive spaces where participants can share key insights, questions, and reflections emerging from conference sessions. Guided by thematic prompts and complemented by cartoons, they encourage collective learning and critical reflection on 1) research and knowledge production, 2) linking research to practice and achieving societal impact, 3) research collaboration and partnerships, and 4) challenges and uncomfortable insights of a interdisciplinary research approach. Contributions gathered throughout the conference will inform the final panel discussion of the conference.

Notes

Advancing Transdisciplinary Research for Global Development: Crisis, Collaboration, and Change