

March 31 - April 10, 2025

21st International Course on Dynamic Agroforestry Systems



Photo: Marco Piccuci



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Course Overview

Dynamic Agroforestry (DAF), also known as Successional Agroforestry, is a regenerative agricultural approach designed to create productive, diversified, and resilient ecosystems by mimicking natural forest systems. This course, conducted in Alto Beni, Bolivia, offers in-depth theoretical knowledge and immersive fieldwork experiences. Participants will gain insights into the SysCom Sara Ana International Research Centre led by FIBL (Research Institute of Organic Agriculture), the largest scientific comparison of cocoa systems worldwide, alongside practical experience with Bolivia's oldest DAF systems.

Objectives

- Learn the principles and practical applications of DAF.
- Engage in field visits to diverse agroforestry systems at various successional stages and exchange experiences with local producers.
- Discuss and interpret long-term research results from the SysCom project.
- Gain practical skills in agroforestry system design, implementation, and management.
- Implementation of DAF at project level and upscaling.
- Exchange with the EL CEIBO Cooperative on locally selected cocoa cultivars and organizational aspects.

Methodology

The program integrates participatory and hands-on methods. Participants will work on:

- Design of new agroforestry plots and transformation of monocultures into diverse systems.
- Practical management of young and established agroforestry systems.
- Analysis of biodiversity, soil fertility, and pest regulation within agroforestry contexts.
- Economical aspects
- Potentiality of Carbon sequestration applying DAF Systems

Who Should Attend?

This course is designed for facilitators, technical personnel from organizations promoting agroforestry systems, and professionals interested in sustainable agriculture and holistic production methods.

Course Details

- **Location:** Sapecho and Sara Ana in Alto Beni, Bolivia
- **Dates:** March 31 - April 10, 2025
- **Languages:** English
- **Cost:** EUR 2.400
(includes accommodation, meals, materials)

Transportation & Accommodation

Participants will be transported from La Paz to Alto Beni and back.

The Sara Ana Training Center provides shared accommodation and dining facilities.

Transportation within the region is also included in the course fee.

Register Now



Registration is open until February 28, 2025.
For inquiries or group registrations, contact:
Email: n.haller@ecotop-consult.de
Phone: +591 68154719 (Johannes Milz, ECOTOP)



Unique Learning Experiences

This course offers an unparalleled opportunity to engage with Bolivia's most significant agroforestry and cocoa production landmarks, including:

- **ECOTOP's Training Center:** Visit Bolivia's oldest DAF system, a living model of agroforestry with three decades of practice.
- **FiBL-SysCom Sara Ana Research Centre:** The Sara Ana Research Centre, a cornerstone of this course, houses long-term comparative studies of cocoa production systems. Since 2008, the centre has generated valuable agronomic, ecological, and economic data comparing agroforestry and conventional systems.
- **Field Visits:** Explore DAF with cocoa, oranges, coffee across multiple successional stages.
- **El Ceibo Cooperative:** Discover the world's first certified organic cocoa producer, its pioneering role in the global market, and its legacy, from farm to table.
- **UMSA Experimental Station:** Observe Bolivia's largest cocoa germplasm collection, a vital resource for biodiversity and adaptive agriculture.

Additional Highlights

The course includes practical demonstrations of advanced agroforestry methods and techniques, focusing on transitioning from monoculture to biodiverse systems. Participants will also engage with interactive and participatory teaching methodologies.

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About Sara Ana



Program Content

Participants will work with didactic materials developed by ECOTOP and FIBL, focusing on topics such as:

- Benefits and challenges of diverse agroforestry systems.
- Biodiversity and ecosystem services.
- Soil fertility management and pest/disease regulation.
- Planning, designing, and managing agroforestry plots.
- Importance of pruning and managing companion trees.