ECOTOP

REGISTRATION OPEN



Aerial view of a DAF system, Alto Beni, Bolivia. Photo: FiBL

REGISTRATION OPEN · 6–17 JUNE 2027 · ALTO BENI, BOLIVIA

23rd International Course
on Dynamic Agroforestry Systems

Organised by ECOTOP in cooperation with FiBL. Ten days in the field: the SysCom long-term trial at Sara Ana, Bolivia's oldest DAF systems at ECOTOP in Sapecho, and many farms that already work this way.

WHEN	DURATION	LANGUAGE	FEE
6–17 June 2027	**10 days**	**English**	**EUR 2,600**
Arrival in La Paz on 5 June	In Alto Beni, plus travel days		Board, lodging, transport from La Paz

INTERNATIONAL COURSE 2027

Learning DAF where it has been practised for decades

Dynamic Agroforestry (DAF), also called successional agroforestry, builds productive, diverse and resilient farming systems by following the way natural forests grow and regenerate.

The course combines theory with a lot of time in the field. It is designed for facilitators and technical staff of organisations that promote agroforestry, and for sourcing and sustainability teams of companies that want their supply chains to hold up as the climate changes and soils degrade.



PART 1

Sara Ana Research and Training Centre

The research centre hosts SysCom Bolivia, FiBL's long-term comparison of cocoa production systems. Since 2008, agroforestry and monoculture, organic and conventional cocoa have been compared side by side here. Participants discuss and interpret the trial's results.

Sara Ana Research and Training Centre, Alto Beni, Bolivia. Photo: FiBL



PART 2

ECOTOP headquarters, Sapecho

Work in Bolivia's oldest DAF systems, managed for more than three decades, and visit many farms that already practise DAF, from young plots to mature systems. Exchange with producers and the El Ceibo cooperative.

Field exercise in a cocoa agroforestry plot, 20th International Course, Alto Beni, Bolivia, 2023. Photo: ECOTOP

OBJECTIVES

01 Learn the principles of DAF and how they are applied in practice.

02 Visit many farms that already practise DAF and see every successional stage, from young plots to mature systems.

03 Discuss and interpret long-term results from the SysCom trial.

04 Gain practical skills in designing, establishing and managing agroforestry plots.

05 Look at how DAF is implemented at project level and scaled up.

METHODOLOGY

Participatory and hands-on. Participants work on:

- Designing new agroforestry plots and converting monocultures into diverse systems
- Managing young and established agroforestry systems
- Biodiversity, soil fertility and pest regulation in agroforestry
- Economics of DAF systems
- Carbon sequestration in DAF systems
- Exchange with the El Ceibo cooperative on locally selected cocoa cultivars and how it is organised



SysCom trial plots at Sara Ana, Alto Beni, Bolivia. Photo: FiBL



Participants of the 21st International Course, Alto Beni, Bolivia, 2025. Photo: ECOTOP

WHAT YOU WILL SEE

01 **Producers' farms.** Many farms that already practise DAF with cocoa, citrus and coffee, from young plots to mature systems.

02 **Sara Ana Research Centre.** Home of FiBL's SysCom trial, with data since 2008.

03 **ECOTOP, Sapecho.** Bolivia's oldest DAF system, managed for over three decades.

04 **El Ceibo cooperative.** One of the pioneers of organic cocoa, from farm to chocolate.

05 **UMSA experimental station.** Bolivia's largest cocoa germplasm collection.

COURSE CONTENT

Teaching materials developed by ECOTOP and FiBL on:

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

GETTING THERE



Map data: Natural Earth

5 June	Arrival in La Paz (El Alto airport)
6 June	Journey to Alto Beni, about 7 hours by road
7–16 June	Course: Sara Ana, then ECOTOP in Sapecho
17 June	Return to La Paz
18 June	Optional, at extra cost: visit to the El Ceibo chocolate factory, organised by ECOTOP

The fee covers 5 to 17 June: the arrival night in La Paz, accommodation and meals in Alto Beni, all transport from and back to La Paz, and producer visits. From 17 June, accommodation and the factory visit are extra. International travel and visas are paid by participants; the ECOTOP office in La Paz helps with entry requirements.

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Register now

Register online at **ecotop.org/international-courses-2027** or scan the code.
Questions and group registrations: **info@ecotop.org**
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