



Workshop and Webinar

Envisioning Pathways to Inclusive and Sustainable Food Systems for Vulnerable Populations

Date: 30 September 2026

Format: In-person and digital participation

Time: 8:30 – 16:15

Organised by: ECOFOOD Research Project - Creating Inclusive and Sustainable Food Systems in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA)

Hosted by: Ruralis- Institute for Rural and Regional Research, Norway

[Link for registration](#)

Webinar link:

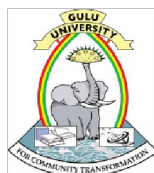
<https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/351949675433581?p=Aor4u6qg4j3z31EySI>

Møte-ID: 351 949 675 433 581

Passord: jE2Ms3oq



Western Norway
University of
Applied Sciences



Norwegian
University of
Life Sciences



BACKGROUND FOR THE WORKSHOP

Across the world, food systems are under severe strain. Climate change, conflict and economic instability are making it increasingly difficult for people to access sufficient, safe and nutritious food. Refugees and displaced people in resource-constrained settings are among the most affected. In refugee and displacement settings, households must produce or purchase food, yet they are often excluded from local food systems and have limited access to land and agricultural resources. Humanitarian assistance remains an essential buffer against hunger; however, donor funding is drastically declining.

Evidence from the ECOFOOD Project shows that precarious livelihoods and limited access to food can lead to harmful coping strategies and long-term social and economic consequences. Women, youth and children are particularly disadvantaged, with restricted rights and decision-making power. At the same time, small-scale farming and local collaborative initiatives between refugee and host communities demonstrate promising pathways to more sustainable, inclusive and resilient food systems.

ABOUT THE WORKSHOP

The workshop will bring together researchers, policymakers, donors, humanitarian and development practitioners, and civil society actors to explore how to improve food security and transform food systems for vulnerable populations. The workshop objectives include:

- Disseminate findings and evidence from the ECOFOOD Project and related Ruralis research;
- Receive feedback on the key research findings;
- Explore key challenges and opportunities shaping food systems in humanitarian and refugee-hosting contexts;
- Facilitate knowledge exchange and dialogue among stakeholders from policy, research and practice to promote interdisciplinary and cross-sectoral learning;
- Showcase best practices and lessons learned across diverse geographical and institutional contexts;
- Co-create actionable, evidence-based policy recommendations to inform and enhance food security and livelihoods programming in humanitarian and refugee-hosting contexts.

PROGRAMME

08:30-09:00 Registration and Virtual log-in

OPENING SESSION

09:00-09:30 **Welcome and opening remarks**

- Welcome remarks by Workshop Moderator - Isabelle Hugøy, *Ruralis - Institute of Rural and Regional Research, Norway*
- A brief about Ruralis - Svein Frisvoll, *Ruralis - Institute of Rural and Regional Research, Norway*
- Solar Food Project - Pia Piroshka Otte, *Ruralis - Institute of Rural and Regional Research, Norway*
- ECOFOOD Project - Sarah Khasalamwa-Mwandha, *Ruralis - Institute of Rural and Regional Research, Norway*

SESSION 1: SETTING THE EVIDENCE BASE

09:30 - 10:15 POLICY PERSPECTIVES

Transforming Food Systems in Refugee-Hosting Contexts: challenges and emerging opportunities - Titus Jogo, *Office of the Prime Minister, Department of Refugees, Uganda*

10:15- 10:30 Discussion

10:30 - 10:45 *Coffee Break*

10:45 – 11:15 PRACTITIONER PERSPECTIVES

Strengthening food security for vulnerable populations in humanitarian and refugee-hosting contexts - Eva Karin Holhjem, *Caritas Norway*

Food security as a pathway to better educational outcomes for children in humanitarian and refugee-hosting contexts - Anne-May Thompson, *Stromme Foundation, Norway*

11:15 – 12:00 RESEARCH PERSPECTIVES

"When food systems become battlefields: population vulnerability and the weaponization of hunger in contemporary wars – the case of Tigray, Ethiopia" - Teklehaymanot Weldmichel, *Global Development Institute, The University of Manchester*

Food security in contexts of protracted displacement; Insights from the ECOFOOD project - Sarah Khasalamwa-Mwandha, *Ruralis - Institute of Rural and Regional Research, Norway/Western Norway University of Applied Sciences*

12:00-13:00 *Lunch Break*

SESSION 2: FOOD SYSTEMS IN HUMANITARIAN AND REFUGEE - HOSTING CONTEXTS

13:00-14:30 **Insights from ECOFOOD - Challenges, opportunities and emerging trends**

- Not passive victims but active agents of change. Understanding food systems of internally displaced persons in Ukraine during the war - Natalia Mamonova, *Ruralis - Institute of Rural and Regional Research, Norway*
- Policy, practices and access to agricultural land in refugee-hosting contexts in Tanzania
Dismas L. Mwaseba & Akwilina W. Mwanri, *Sokoine University of Agriculture, Tanzania*
- The Trade-off between Agriculture, Energy and Environment in Refugee Settings; Evidence from Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda - Gemma Donald Mafwolo, PhD candidate, *Sokoine University of Agriculture, Tanzania*
- Comparing agricultural practices across refugee-hosting contexts in Tanzania and Uganda; agroecologies, and nutrition and food security outcomes - Solomon Olum, *Gulu University, Uganda*
- Gendered access and control over agricultural assets and resources: A comparative study of refugees and host communities in Adjumani district, Northern Uganda-
Stephen Wamala Kalule, *Gulu University, Uganda*
- Reflection on findings from existing collaborations (NORPART) - Darley Jose Kjosavik, *Norwegian University of Life Sciences (NMBU)*

14:30 -15:00 **Insights from Solar Food**

- Energy and food security in low-income countries – An engineering perspective -
Martin Andersson, *Lund University*
- Barriers and drivers for wider Adoption of solar dryers in Bhutan and Nepal -
Noah Andreasson, *Lund University*
- Inclusive business models for improved solar dryers - Dolendra Paudel, *Kathmandu University*

SESSION 3: BRIDGING POLICY, RESEARCH AND PRACTICE

15:15-16:00 Panel Discussion: Future outlook Research-Practice- Policy Dialogue

16:00-16:15 Closing remarks

REGISTRATION

To support planning and logistics, interested participants are requested to confirm their on-line participation and complete their registration by **18 September 2026**.

In-person participation is now closed. For any further inquiries please contact the Event coordinator, Rita Moseng Siverstvik, by email at rita.sivertsvik@ruralis.no

If you have any questions regarding online participation please contact the IT support leader by email at odd.roger.langorgen@ruralis.no

You are welcome to join this conversation, share your experience and expertise, and help shape future policies, programmes, and research that can strengthen food security, livelihoods, and dignity for refugees and the communities that host them.

CONTACT

Should you require any additional information or clarification about the workshop, please do not hesitate to contact the Project Leader, Dr. Sarah Khasalamwa-Mwandha, at Ruralis, by telephone: +47 968 12 768 or +47 411 92 699, or by email at skm@ruralis.no.