



EU-AU-IIASA Evidence and Policy Event ***(30 August to 2 September 2016, Ispra, Italy)***

Objective:

In a world of complexity, evidence informed policymaking is critical to enhance the effectiveness of public policies and thus ensure the well-being of citizens. To develop the necessary skills for improving practices in better integrating evidence into policy-making, the European and African Union Commission's, together with IIASA, will co-organise a capacity-building event. It builds on the success of last year's event.¹

This year the event will be held within the framework of the Joint Africa-EU Strategy and will take place at the European Commission's Joint Research Centre site in Ispra, Italy from 31st August to 2nd September 2016, with a preliminary inception day on 30th August 2016 for some participants. The purpose of the event is for African and European scientists and policymakers to better understand the constraints and demands from both the scientific and the policymaking perspective and to develop together new skills in using evidence to inform policy. Participants will come from those conducting research and developing policy in the Water-Energy-Food Security nexus. This is in line with the 2014 EU-Africa Summit conclusions to work towards an EU-Africa Research and Innovation Partnership on food and nutrition security and sustainable agriculture, the global Sustainable Development Goals framework adopted in 2015, and the Africa Union's 2063 Agenda.

Expected Outcomes:

- Participants have enhanced their skills in integrating evidence into policy-making.
- Participants have the opportunity to network with their peers and counterparts outside of their usual working environment.
- Strengthened EU-AU contacts in the field of Water-Energy-Food Security.
- Participants are able to apply their new skills and learning to their day-to-day work.
- Participants become part of a community of practice and continue to collaborate afterwards.
- Participants will share their new skills and learning with their colleagues.

Target Audience:

It is critical that the participants have a common basis of knowledge upon which to build science-policy competencies. The event will therefore bring together policymakers and scientists working in the same field of work. For 2016, this field has been defined as sustainable development and more particularly the Water-Energy-Food nexus.

Participants with expertise in water-energy-food nexus will include:

- **Policymakers** from African and European institutions, as well as national ministries (Environment, Energy, Agriculture, Water and Irrigation, Economy and Planning, etc.) and national parliaments, notably young parliamentarians.
 - 25 junior to middle level policy-makers from EU Institutions² and Member States;³
 - 25 junior to middle level policy-makers from African Institutions⁴ and AU Member States.⁵

¹ <https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/event/training-course/jrc-iiasa-summer-school-2015-evidence-and-policy>

² European Commission (JRC, DEVCO, RTD, REGIO, ENER, AGRI, GROW, ESTAT, etc.), European Parliament, Committee of the Regions, EEAS, etc.

³ Civil servants (e.g. Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Energy, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Development, Ministry of Science, Research and Innovation), Members of national parliaments, etc.

- **Scientists:**
 - 25 scientists from across the EU, including those involved in collaborative research projects funded by FP7, Horizon 2020, the African Union Research Grants, the ACP S&T Programme and the ERAfrica initiative;
 - 25 scientists from across Africa, including those involved in collaborative research projects funded by FP7, Horizon 2020, the African Union Research Grants, the ACP S&T Programme and the ERAfrica initiative.
- **Senior EU/Africa policymakers and renowned scientists**⁶ working in the areas of water-food-energy.
- **Keynote** speakers and masterclass facilitators.

Eligibility criteria:

- Proficiency in English.
- At least 2 years of work experience in the relevant policy or scientific field (see above).
- Commitment to participate in the event for the whole duration of the event.
- Strong motivation to use evidence in policy.
- Citizen of African or European Union Member State.
- Working in a scientific organisation or public institution with a national, regional or continental mandate.
- (For scientists) Participation in collaborative research projects funded by FP7, Horizon 2020, the African Union Research Grants, the ACP S&T Programme and the ERAfrica initiative will be considered an asset.

Outreach strategy:

To reach out to a maximum amount of qualified participants, an open call will be published in March 2016 on the corporate EU/AU and IIASA websites and will remain open until end of April 2016.

The call will be advertised through a number of channels, including:

- Relevant JAES bodies, notably the EU-Africa High Level Policy Dialogue on STI, and communication channels
- Associated partners such as UNESCO, AAAS and INGBA(tbc)
- Key African and European scientific associations
- EU funded (Commission and Member States) capacity building initiatives in Africa with a focus on improving evidence based policy in the area of W-E-F nexus
- EU Permanent representations and EU delegations in Africa
- African Embassies
- AU technical committee on Agriculture, rural development, water and environment
- EU Council working groups
- Relevant EU and AU institutions and organs (Commission services, EEAS, parliaments)

⁴ African Union Commission (AUC), Pan-African Parliament, NEPAD, African Regional and Economic Communities, etc.

⁵ Civil servants (i.e. Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Energy, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Development), Members of national parliaments, etc. Particular attention should be paid to the Sahel, Mekrou and Nile Basin countries.

⁶ This will include UNEP, CGIAR and African Scientist Award Laureates

Rationale:

The Water, Energy and Food Security (W-E-F) Nexus⁷ is a complex and multi-dimensional policy and scientific issue, covering both sustainability and resilience aspects,⁸ which calls for an integrated policy approach. Deepening the evidence base and improving its impact on policy decisions in the field of sustainable development is therefore particularly important. The event will support this challenging task by helping scientists and policymakers from Europe and Africa working on the nexus, to consider and understand better the constraints and demands from both the scientific and the policy-making perspective and develop together new skills in using evidence for policy. Expert practitioners in the use of evidence to inform policy will also participate to share their knowledge and experience with the participants.

Format:

The event will be highly participatory with some lectures to set the scene, but most of the time will be dedicated to working practices, skills, behaviours and methods in both the scientific and policymaking domains, in the form of masterclasses and group work. The interaction between policymakers and scientists should enable better understanding of the use of evidence, models and scenarios in the process of policy development.

On the 31st August 2016, participants will be joined by senior EU and AU policymakers and world-renowned scientists, including laureates of the African Scientists Award. This will provide an opportunity for participants to interact with them and to learn more about the high-level science-policy challenge in the water-energy-food nexus.

An online platform will be made accessible ahead of the event and participants will be asked to prepare their profiles and express their expectations/suggestions via the platform. At the end of the event, the online platform could be used to match problems identified by policymakers with solutions that can be designed by scientists. It could also be used to establish an alumni community, starting already with participants from last year's event.

The organisers could consider providing an award to the best poster(s) produced by the participants working in small groups to set the right incentives for the practical use of skills gained during the event. The award could be given by a high level official, which may also increase the visibility of the event.

Sustainability:

- **Multipliers:** To ensure a ripple effect, participants will be selected based on their capacity to share their learnings with their peers and use the skills they acquire in practice, strengthening the policy-evidence interphase in their own national/institutional context.
- **Partnerships:** A number of organisations and international actors will be associated to the event, who will ensure the sustainability of this initiative by organising similar events, acting as multipliers but also proposing complementary support that should enable the actors to put into practice their new skills.
- **Guidelines:** The event will prepare a lessons learned document to support the work of multipliers. It will also make the course material developed for the event available to the African Union for the organisation of similar capacity development events.

⁷ European Report on Development, *Confronting Scarcity: Managing Water, Energy and Land for Inclusive and Sustainable Growth*, Overseas Development Institute (ODI), European Centre for Development Policy Management (ECDPM), German Development Institute/Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (GDI/DIE), 2011/2012.

⁸ The resilience dimension would include disaster risk management.

Associated partners:

This may include a number of international organisations, including UNESCO⁹, AAAS,¹⁰ and INESA.¹¹ These associated partners could also be involved by providing facilitators for masterclasses. Already it is foreseen that UNESCO will run a Water-Energy-Food nexus scenario workshop. The strong links that IIASA has with the AAAS could be used to identify potential facilitators from the AAAS.



⁹ The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

¹⁰ American Association for the Advancement of Science

¹¹ International Network of Government Science Advisors

Draft Programme

EU-AU- IIASA Evidence and Policy Event:

Water-Energy-Food Nexus



Tuesday 30th August – Friday 2nd September 2016, Ispra, Italy

[Note: Speakers/facilitators marked with an "" are to be confirmed.]*

Tuesday 30th August 2016: Preliminary inception day primarily for participants from Africa

09h00 Registration

10h00 Welcoming remarks, introduction to the day and icebreaker

10h30 **Lecture:** *Challenges, pitfalls and practice of evidence-informed policymaking* by Isayvani Naicker, Chief Director of International Resources, Department of Science and Technology, Government of South Africa, followed by Q&A

[Auditorium, Building 58C]

11h30 *Pause café*

[Atrium, Building 100]

12h00 **World Café:** *What are the Do's and Don'ts for evidence-informed policymaking?* led by David Mair and Stephen Davies, DG JRC, European Commission

Working in groups of four (two policy officers and two scientists), each group is asked to identify up to three Do's and up to three Don'ts for the effective use of evidence to inform policy. Responses will then be consolidated in a plenary session leading to an open discussion on the main points raised.

[Atrium, Building 100]

13h00 *Lunch*

[Atrium, Building 100]

14h30 **Masterclasses:** *How to work at the science-policy interface*

[Meeting Rooms, Building 100]

Facilitators: Claire Craig, Royal Society, UK

[Room XX]

Isayvani Naicker, Chief Director of International Resources, Department of Science and Technology, Government of South Africa

[Room XX]

Nelson Torto, Botswana Institute for Technology Research and Innovation

[Room XX]

Ken Hughey, Chief Science Advisor for Department of Conservation, New Zealand

[Room XX]

16h00 *Pause café*

[Atrium, Building 100]

16h30 **Wrap-up** of preliminary inception day, take away messages

[Atrium, Building 100]

17h00 Visit to Chemical and Molecular Ecology Laboratory, Directorate for Sustainable Resources

IES-H01 laboratory carrying out research on early warning signals of water quality (e.g. water contamination by chemicals, pathogens or toxins) as a support to EU water-related policies.

18h30 Departure, buses to hotel(s)

19h30 *Evening meal* *[Hotel]*

Wednesday 31st August 2016: Formal opening

08h30 Registration

[Entry Foyer, Building 58A]

09h00 **Formal Opening** by Vladimír Šucha, Director-General, DG JRC, European Commission, H.E. Martial De-Paul Ikounga,* Commissioner for Human Resources, Science and Technology, African Union Commission and Prof. dr. Pavel Kabat, Director-General and CEO, IIASA

[Auditorium, Building 58C]

09h30 **High-Level Discussion Panel**

The panel will be invited to address specific questions on the science-policy interface in the Water-Energy-Food Security nexus, namely: *[Auditorium, Building 58C]*

- What are the challenges for policymaking in the water – energy – food security nexus?
- What evidence exists and what more is needed to address these challenges?
- How can policymakers and scientists work together to address these challenges?

Panel Members:

H.E. Martial De-Paul Ikounga,* Commissioner for Human Resources, Science and Technology, African Union Commission

Claire Craig, Director of Science Policy, Royal Society, UK

Paul RÜBIG MEP, Chair, Science and Technology Options Assessment, European Parliament

Naoko Ishii,* CEO and Chairperson, Global Environment Facility

Isayvani Naicker, Chief Director, International Resources, Department of Science and Technology, Government of South Africa

11h30 *Pause café*

12h00 **Keynote Lecture:** *What are the challenges faced in informing policy through evidence?* by Vladimír Šucha, Director-General, DG JRC, European Commission

[Auditorium, Building 58C]

13h00 *Lunch*, with **Poster Session** whereby participants present themselves and their work (on one A3-size pre-prepared poster). *[Atrium, Building 100]*

15h00 **Participants ice-breaker** led by David Mair, DG JRC, European Commission

[Atrium, Building 100]

15h30 **Water-Energy-Food nexus scenario workshop**

Joint workshop involving all participants together to undertake role-playing to address the water-energy-food nexus issues different stakeholders viewpoints. A plenary session will aim to form a consensus on the way forward.

[Atrium, Building 100]

18h00 **Evening Reception**, with buffet meal

[Visitor's Centre]

19h30 Departure, buses to hotel(s)

Thursday 1st September 2016: Masterclasses

- 09h00 **Masterclasses (1st Session)**
Parallel 90 minute sessions on the topics listed in Annex. The facilitators running each session will be required to first briefly introduce the topic, seek the views of the participants and have them undertake activities which were designed in advance, e.g. analysing, in small groups, case studies and preparing analyses.
[Meeting Rooms, Building 100]
- 10h30 *Pause café* [Atrium, Building 100]
- 11h00 **Masterclasses (2nd Session)** [Meeting Rooms, Building 100]
- 12h30 *Lunch* [Atrium, Building 100]
- 13h30 **Masterclasses (3rd Session)** [Meeting Rooms, Building 100]
- 15h00 *Pause café* [Atrium, Building 100]
- 15h30 **Marketplace of Ideas: Identifying evidence needs**
Participants are asked to self-organise into small groups of approximately four to identify a specific policy challenge and the evidence needed – e.g. data, analysis, assessments – to inform a policy decision addressing this challenge. Groups must comprise both scientists and policy officers, who will then work together on the idea and, for the session on Friday, present a poster.
[Atrium, Building 100]
- 17h30 **Joint activity** with Art-Science Summer School plus evening meal
[Club House]

Friday 2nd September 2016: Masterclasses

- 09h00 **Masterclasses (4th Session)** [Meeting Rooms, Building 100]
- 10h30 *Pause café* [Atrium, Building 100]
- 11h00 **Masterclasses (5th Session)** [Meeting Rooms, Building 100]
- 12h30 *Lunch* [Atrium, Building 100]
- 13h30 **Masterclasses (6th Session)** [Meeting Rooms, Building 100]
- 15h00 *Pause café* [Atrium, Building 100]
- 15h30 **Poster Presentation Session** [Atrium, Building 100]
Participants to review and discuss the proposals presented as posters. Each will be asked to indicate (vote for) their (up to 3) preferred ones. [Atrium, Building 100]
- 16h30 **Wrap-up Session**
To review outcomes of masterclasses, acknowledge the top three poster proposals identified, plus have the participants give their reflections on the event and take home messages.
[Auditorium, Building 58C]
- 17h00 **Closing** by Vladimír Šucha, Director-General DG JRC, European Commission
[Auditorium, Building 58C]
- 17h30 Departures

ANNEX: MASTERCLASSES

Masterclasses will be arranged around common themes, as given below. Within each theme, the masterclasses are listed. Each participant is requested to select in advance which six masterclasses they wish to attend, selecting at least one from each theme.

1) Operating at the science-policy interface

1.1. Informed decision-making in crisis and disaster risk management situations

Facilitators: Philippe Quevauviller, DG HOME, EC
Oladoyin Odubanjo, Nigerian Academy of Science
[Meeting Room XX, Building 100]

1.2. What counts as knowledge: using non-scientific (indigenous plus traditional and local) knowledge with scientific evidence

Facilitators: Ken Hughey, Chief Science Advisor for Department of Conservation, New Zealand
Simon Tamungang, Department of Basic Sciences, College of Technology, University of Bamenda, Cameroon
[Meeting Room XX, Building 100]

1.3. Wicked problems: dealing with scientific and political controversies

Facilitators: Rob Maas, National Institute for Public Health and the Environment, NL
[Meeting Room XX, Building 100]

1.4. Policymaking at international, continental, national, regional and city levels

Facilitators: Joanne Bayer, IIASA
Anna Scolobig, ETH Zurich
[Meeting Room XX, Building 100]

2) How to provide and use evidence

2.1. Using earth observation satellite images for sustainable development

Facilitators: Alan Belward, DG JRC, EC
[Meeting Room XX, Building 100]

2.2. Using and Challenging Modelling, Systems thinking and other Analysis – how to gain confidence in what they say and use them to test policy options

Facilitators: Steffen Fritz, IIASA
[Meeting Room XX, Building 100]

2.3. Consolidating evidence via systematic reviews for policymakers

Facilitators: Phil Davies, Oxford Evidentia
Alex Ademokun, Department for International Development, UK
[Meeting Room XX, Building 100]

3) Techniques for co-creating policy

3.1. Shaping what may come – using foresight and horizon scanning to anticipate policy challenges

Facilitators: Fabiana Scapolo, Johanna Trieb, DG JRC, EC
[Meeting Room XX, Building 100]

3.2. Design principles to integrate different expertise and experience when co-creating policy

Facilitators: Emanuele Cuccillato, DG JRC, EC
Nelson Torto, Botswana Institute for
Technology Research and Innovation
[Meeting Room XX, Building 100]

3.3. Using behavioural insights in policy formulation

Facilitators: Anna Fruttero, World Bank
Girum Abebe Tefera, Ethiopian Development
Research Institute
[Meeting Room XX, Building 100]

4) Stimulating effective dialogue

4.1. Effective written and oral communication is a two-way street

Facilitators: Nyasha Musandu, Clara Richards,
VakaYiko Consortium
[Meeting Room XX, Building 100]

4.2. Innovative ways to visualise data

Facilitators: Darren McGarry, DG JRC, EC
[tbd]
[Meeting Room XX, Building 100]

