

Call for Postgraduate Students' Applications for the SysCom Kenya-UPLIFT-Ag Learning Days

Transforming Food Systems Sustainably through Research

As part of its capacity-building agenda, the SysCom project (<https://systems-comparison.fibl.org/>), in collaboration with the UPLIFT-Ag project (<https://uplift-ag.org/>), will facilitate a workshop for postgraduate students from local universities on research methodologies in agriculture and environmental science. We invite motivated postgraduate students to apply for a three-day training under the “**SysCom Kenya-UPLIFT-Ag Learning Days, 2026**” programme, from 25th to 27th November 2026. The programme seeks to equip future researchers with epistemological knowledge and practical research skills, coupled with locally adapted research approaches. The programme brings together postgraduate students, researchers, and academic staff (from different agriculture and environmental studies teaching universities) in an immersive learning environment. Learning will combine lectures, discussions, case studies, peer group assignments, and visits to selected field sites.

Objectives of the programme

- Strengthen interdisciplinary research capacity among the participating postgraduate students
- Introduce participants to different epistemological approaches and research methods in agriculture and environmental science
- Foster collaboration between students, researchers, academic staff and decision makers in different institutions.
- Enhance teaching methods for agriculture and environmental sciences among participating university staff.
- Enhance sustainability practices for transforming food systems in agriculture and environmental research

What we are looking for

Applicants should be;

- Enrolled in and actively pursuing a postgraduate course in Agriculture, Environmental Sciences, or a related discipline in a Kenyan University.
- Be able to attend the in-person training and fully participate in the entire three-day training programme at Kenyatta University.
- Demonstrate strong interest in food systems and interdisciplinary research.

Application Requirements

Interested candidates should submit the following as a single PDF document:

- A motivation letter (Maximum 1 page), highlighting the current study course and status, previous or current interaction with topics related to the course, academic and research interests, motivation for participating in the learning days
- A 1-page curriculum vitae (CV)
- Proof of enrolment for a postgraduate course (eg admission letter).

- Evidence of being an active and continuing student at the time of application.

Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Applicants are expected to submit original write-ups that reflect their own experiences, interests and motivations. The use of generative AI tools (e.g. ChatGPT, Claude, Copilot) to substantially draft the application is highly discouraged. Where AI has been used for limited assistance, applicants should declare this at the end of the motivation letter.

Important information

- Participants must commit to attending the full three-day programme on-site
- Participants will be expected to make their own travel arrangements to access Kenyatta University (gate access will be provided)
- Accommodation and daily subsistence allowance (DSA) will not be provided. Subsidized travel costs will be reimbursed after successful completion of training.
- The organisers of the training (SysCom Kenya and UPLIFT-Ag project) are committed to providing an equitable and inclusive learning environment. Applications are encouraged from qualified candidates of all genders and persons living with disabilities. Selection will be based on merit and alignment with the objectives of the programme.

Applications (via email) will be accepted until 30th September 2026, 11:59 hrs East African Time.

Contact Information:

For submissions and inquiries, please contact:

Prof. Maina Mwangi (KU)

Email: maina.mwangi@ku.ac.ke

With a copy to:

Dr. Felix Matheri (ICIPE)

Email: fmatheri@icipe.org

Successful applicants will be notified by 9th October 2026.