



Draft Program

Agroecology, Climate Resilience, and Indigenous and Underutilised Crops: Rethinking Value Chains for Sustainable Food Futures

University of Hohenheim

June 9-11, 2026

DAY 1

June 9th		Agroecology of underutilised and indigenous crops	
9:30 – 9:45	Welcome note by the Rector	Prof. Dr. Schneider, University of Hohenheim	
9:45 – 10:00	Welcome address	Prof. Dr. Christine Wieck, University of Hohenheim	
10:00 – 11:00	Keynote: Using underutilised crops for food system resilience: from agroecology to human nutrition	Prof. Ndiko Ludidi, University of Mpumalanga	
11:00 – 11.30	<i>Coffee break</i>		
Session 1: Underutilised Crops for the 21st century			
11:30 – 11:45	Contribution 1		
11:45 – 12:00	Contribution 2		
12:15 – 12:30	Contribution 3		
12:30 – 12:45	Contribution 4		
12:45 – 14:15	<i>Lunch (Mensa)</i>		
Session 2: Crop Diversity			
14:15 – 15:45	Keynotes: From underutilised crop to arising agronomic importance: the examples of hemp and chickpea Agronomy in indigenous crops: management and plant health	Prof. Dr. Simone Graeff-Hoenninger, University of Hohenheim Dr. Ethel Phiri, Stellenbosch University	
15:45 – 16:00	Contribution 5		
16:00 – 16:15	Contribution 6		
16:15 – 16:30	Contribution 7		
16:45 – 17:45	Tour of the Botanical Garden of the University of Hohenheim	Dr. Robert Gliniars	
18:00	<i>Dinner at Garbe Biergarten (self-paying)</i>		

DAY 2

June 10th		Underutilised crops potential for resilience and adaptation to climate change	
9:00 – 10:30	Keynotes: Improving the potential of underutilised crops by plant breeding using quinoa and amaranth as examples The double role of underutilised crops: important for climate resilient and protein supply		Prof. Dr. Karl Schmid, University of Hohenheim Dr. Lembe S. Magwaza, Cranfield University
10:30 – 10:45	Contribution 8		
10:45 – 11:00	Contribution 9		
11:00 – 11:30	<i>Coffee Break</i>		
11:30 – 12:00	Keynote: Global initiatives for crop diversity		Nico Wilms-Posen, Crop Trust
12:00 – 12:30	Keynote: Opportunity Crops for nutrition diversity		Simone Welte, WHH
12:30 – 14:00	<i>Lunch (Mensa)</i>		
14:00 – 15:30	Poster Session 1 with focus on climate change and discussion with authors at the posters		
15:30 – 16:00	<i>Coffee Break</i>		
16:00 – 17:30	Poster Session 2 with focus on agroecology of underutilised and indigenous crops change and discussion with authors at the posters		
17:30 – 19:00	Visit of field experiments on underutilised crops at University of Hohenheim		
19:00 – 22:00	Conference Dinner, Location: tbd		

DAY 3

June 11th		Creating value chains for underutilised crops	
9:00 – 10:30	Keynotes:		
	Market challenges for niche products		Prof. Dr. Sebastian Hess, University of Hohenheim
	Food innovations and consumer acceptance of underutilised crops		Prof. Unathi Kolanisi, University of Zululand
10:30 – 10:45	Contribution 12		
10:45 – 11:00	Contribution 13		
11:00 – 11:30	<i>Coffee Break</i>		
11:30 – 13:00	Poster Session 3 with focus on value chains and discussion with authors at the posters		
13:00 – 13:30	Closing Session		
13:30 – 14:00	<i>Lunch box to grab, departure excursion</i>		
14:00 – 19:00	Excursion to organic farms producing and marketing underutilised crops (e.g. organic farm of family Gansloser, Scharenstetten)		