



NATAE
North African Transition
to AgroEcology

International Call for Applications: Research School – Agroecology, Value Chains and Food Systems Transition. ENSA, October 25–29, 2026

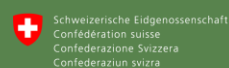
www.natae-agroecology.eu



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1. Context

This Research School is part of the NATAE research project (Network for Agroecology Transition in the Mediterranean), which aims to enhance the analytical and methodological capacities of researchers and doctoral candidates regarding agroecological transitions in the Mediterranean and North Africa.

In response to the multiple and interconnected challenges posed by climate change, natural resource degradation, territorial inequalities, and food dependencies, isolated sectoral and technical solutions prove inadequate. Agroecology provides a pertinent analytical framework to examine these challenges from a novel perspective, integrating ecological, economic, social, and institutional dimensions. It constitutes an approach that enables interrogation of the true complexity of food systems and consideration of innovative adaptation pathways, making sustainability a fundamental guiding principle.

However, the mere adoption of agroecological practices is insufficient to transform food systems. Agroecological innovation trajectories are complex and frequently impeded by sociotechnical lock-ins. Understanding and overcoming these lock-ins requires an integrated perspective that mobilises all links in the value chains (production, collection, processing, distribution, markets, consumption, and governance) and analyses how these links interact to facilitate or hinder innovation processes.

2. Objectives of the Research School

General Objective

To strengthen the capacities of doctoral candidates and early-career researchers to analyse agroecological transitions through the value chain perspective and the sociotechnical approach.

Specific Objectives

The Research School aims to:

1. Provide methodological tools to analyse agroecological value chains and associated sociotechnical systems;
2. Highlight levers for generating territorial added value and options for unlocking innovation;
3. Understand the social, economic, cognitive, and environmental issues related to the development of agroecological value chains;
4. Identify and analyse actor networks, their practices, the rules governing them, and the technologies they employ;
5. Foster interdisciplinary dialogue between researchers (in agronomy, economics, social sciences) and practitioners;
6. Stimulate the development of collaborative action research projects and scientific publications.

3. Eligible Profiles and Selection Criteria

This Call for Applications is primarily addressed to candidates whose research focuses on agroecological dynamics, with a particular (though not exclusive) emphasis on the North African context. The school will convene 20 to 25 participants.

Desired Profiles

- **Doctoral candidates (enrolled in a PhD programme) and early-career researchers (postdoctoral fellows or researchers who have defended their thesis within the past five years).**
- **Targeted disciplines: Agronomy, economics, sociology, geography, and related fields.**
- Candidates must demonstrate a direct and proven interest in agroecology themes, value chain analysis, or sociotechnical systems.

Evaluation Criteria

Participant selection will be conducted by a scientific committee according to the following criteria:

- **Academic excellence and relevance of background to the school's themes.**
- **Quality of research experience in studying agroecological dynamics and clarity of the theoretical frameworks employed.**
- **Motivation to integrate an interdisciplinary and systemic approach in their research.**
- **Potential contribution to exchanges during the school.**

4. Application Procedures

Documents to Submit

Interested candidates must submit a complete application file including the following documents:

- 1 **A detailed Curriculum Vitae (maximum 2 pages), highlighting academic background, research experience, publications, scientific communications, and any ongoing research projects.**
- 2 **A motivation letter (1 to 2 pages), clearly outlining:**
 - The candidate's interest in the Research School and its themes;
 - Their expectations regarding the training;
 - How this training fits into their professional or research project;
 - Their interest in an interdisciplinary and systemic approach.
- 3 **A summary note (maximum 3 pages) presenting the candidate's experience in studying agroecological dynamics. This note must explicitly highlight:**
 - The theoretical and conceptual frameworks employed;
 - The methodology used and study fields;
 - The main results, scientific contributions, or questions raised by the research;
 - Possible connections with the value chain and sociotechnical systems approach.

Submission Format

The complete file must be compiled into a single PDF, named as follows:
LastName_FirstName_Application_AgroecologySchool2026.pdf

5. Schedule and Submission

Schedule

Step	Date
Call opening	25 May 2026
Application Deadline	30 June 2026
Notification of Selection Results	15 July 2026
Research School Dates	24 to 29 October 2026

Submission Procedures

Application files must be sent by email to the following address: ali.daoudi@edu.ensa.dz

The subject line of the message must clearly state: "Application Research School Agroecology 2026 - [Last Name and First Name]"

Important: Only complete files received before the deadline will be considered. Candidates are requested to verify that all required documents are included before submission.

6. Pedagogical Approach

The Research School is based on an active and participatory pedagogy, structured around the sociotechnical diagnostic approach. It combines:

- **Lectures and seminars: Theoretical foundations of agroecology, sociotechnical systems, territorial circular economy, and governance of food systems;**
- **Practical workshops: System delimitation, stakeholder mapping, analysis of practice drivers, diagnosis of barriers and levers;**
- **Field visits: Meetings with actors in agroecological value chains to analyse their practices and relationships;**
- **Co-construction session: Collective feedback and formulation of a scientific roadmap.**

7. Supervision and Expertise

Pedagogical supervision will be provided by national and international experts specialising in:

- Agroecology and agrarian systems;
- Agricultural economics, agri-food, and value chains;
- Sociology of innovation and analysis of sociotechnical systems;



- Governance and policies of food systems.

8. Practical Information

Logistical arrangements (coverage of transportation, accommodation, and meal expenses) will be specified later to the selected candidates. Applicants requesting financial support from the organisers are kindly asked to explicitly state this in their application.

Contact

For further information, please contact the organising committee:

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Phone: 00213772383500

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