



Dear Potential Participants,

The **AGRI-COOL project** (Advancing Sustainable Agriculture through Off-Grid Energy and Cooling Solutions in Africa), funded by the European Union under the Horizon Europe programme (GA no 101147102), is pleased to invite applications for participation in a **fully funded, in-person training workshop on sustainable farming and cold-chain solutions**.

### Workshop objectives

The workshop forms part of AGRI-COOL's capacity-building activities and aims to strengthen African expertise in:

- Sustainable and climate-resilient farming systems
- Off-grid renewable energy solutions for agriculture
- Cold-chain technologies to reduce post-harvest losses
- Integrated food–energy–water approaches for rural development

The training will combine technical, economic, and systems-level perspectives, with a strong focus on practical applicability in African contexts.

### General description of the training

The workshop will deliver an intensive, multidisciplinary training programme covering:

- Sustainable farming concepts and the food–energy–water nexus
- Agrivoltaics and renewable energy systems for agriculture
- Cold storage and cooling technologies for smallholder and emerging farmers
- Techno-economic and environmental considerations, business models, and social aspects of technology adoption
- Risk and sensitivity analysis of the system

The programme is designed for participants from diverse backgrounds and will include lectures, case studies, interactive sessions, and applied discussions.

### Time and location

**Dates:** 12–17 October 2026

**Location:** Santa Maria, Sal Island, Cape Verde

### Target participants

Applications are invited from candidates across Africa, with particular encouragement to applicants from North, Central and West Africa, who meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Hold a Master's degree in Agriculture, Horticulture, Cold-Chain Logistics, Sustainable Farming, Cooling Technologies, Renewable Energy Studies, or
- Hold a post graduate degree in any of the above mentioned fields combined with demonstrated professional expertise (e.g. farm management, agri-business, energy systems, cold-chain operations).



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## Application requirements

Applicants are requested to submit the following documents:

1. Certified copies of relevant **academic degree(s) / certificates**
2. **Proof of English language proficiency**
3. A **strong motivation letter** explaining why the applicant should be selected and how the workshop aligns with their academic or professional goals

## Costs

Participation in the workshop is **fully funded by the AGRI-COOL project**. This includes:

- Economy class flights from your country's international airport to Sal
- Accommodation and meals during the conference
- Local transport on Sal Island

**N.B.:** No cash per diem, stipend or personal allowance will be provided

## How to apply

We look forward to receiving applications from motivated candidates committed to advancing sustainable agriculture and cooling solutions across Africa

Applications (see application requirements) should be submitted by email to:

**Yolanda Lethatha** – [ylethatha@uwc.ac.za](mailto:ylethatha@uwc.ac.za); Subject line: “**AGRI-COOL Workshop, Sal, Cape Verde**”

Application Deadline: 13<sup>th</sup> March 2026

Selection criteria; Educational background and quality of the motivation letter, possibly an online interview

Kind regards,

**Prof Bernard Bladergroen**

On behalf of the AGRI-COOL Consortium

University of the Western Cape

