

**Center Title and Acronym:** Africa Center of Excellence for Climate Smart Agriculture and Biodiversity Conservation (Climate SABC)

**Host University and Country:** Haramaya University, Ethiopia

**Center Website Address: Under construction; <http://www.haramaya.edu.et/>**

**Center Director and email address:** Nigussie Dechassa: nigussiedachassa@gmail.com

**Primary Thematic Discipline of Center:** Climate Smart Agriculture and Biodiversity Conservation

**Brief Description of Center:**

The Center aims at producing skilled human capital for Africa to tackle challenges posed by climate change through quality post-graduate training and research in partnership with universities across the Eastern and Southern Africa region as well as with other higher learning institutions in the world. The Master’s and PhD dissertation research will be guided to focus on generating climate smart agricultural technologies, intensifying agriculture, promoting and enhancing practices of climate smart agriculture, and exploring and enhancing biodiversity for sustainable conservation and utilization. Research topics will address regional priority areas (crop; livestock; soil and water; policy; institutions and innovation; agricultural information and communication; natural risk management; biodiversity and ecosystem management; agricultural and applied economics). In addition, short term training programs will be offered to various stakeholders and partners, including technical staff, students, and faculties from regional, international, and national partners aimed at enhancing the region’s capacity in climate smart agriculture and biodiversity conservation.

**Key Objectives and Expected Outcomes:**

Key objective: To improve the quality of postgraduate education and research in Eastern and Southern Africa to foster enhanced capacity to adapt and mitigate effects of climate change and weather variability, and ensure biodiversity management and conservation in the region more effectively. **Expected outcome:** Graduates with highly enhanced agricultural knowledge and research skills that could address current and emerging local and regional challenges in agricultural development in the face of climate change and food and nutrition insecurity.

**Major Accomplishments to Date:**

- National and international conferences conducted for development of new curricula
- Three new curricula developed: **PhD Climate Smart Agriculture and Biodiversity Conservation, MSc Climate Smart Agriculture, Msc Biodiversity and Ecosystem Management**
- 30 PhD students screened for admission: **22** national (10 females and 12 males); eight regional (three females and five males); First cohort admission (2017/18) 24 students; second cohort admission (2019/20): six students
- 15 students screened for admission into the program of MSc Biodiversity and Ecosystem Management: 11 nationals (**nine** females and **four** males); four regional (**two** females and **two** males): All first cohort admission
- 16 students screened for admission into the program of MSc Climate Smart Agriculture: 12 nationals (**six** females and **six** males); four regional (**one** female and **three** males): All first cohort admission
- Employment of ACE staff completed: Project Manager, Training and Research Head, Finance Officer, Procurement and Property Management Officer, and Communication Officer
- Student dormitory allocated and being furnished
- Office and teaching rooms and facilities being furnished
- Official Admission letter issued to the students

**Primary Regional and Global Partners:**

Senior Faculty	Email Address	Research Area
Dr. Himanshu Pathak	hpathak.iari@gmail.com	Climate change and agriculture, soil science and rice-wheat system.

Prof. Majaliwa Mwanjalolo	majaliwam@gmail.com	Environmental Sciences Soil and water conservation Hydrological Modelling Irrigation Modeling, GIS and RS
Gebisa Ejeta	gejeta@purdue.edu	Genetics and Plant Breeding
Tesfaye Mengiste	mengiste@purdue.edu	Botany and Plant Pathology
Prof. David Mkwambisi	david.mkwambisi@bunda.luanar.mw	Environment and Development
Dr Feyera Senbeta	eyeras@yahoo.com	Conservation Genetics
Dr. Getu Hailu	ghailu@uoguelph.ca	Food, Agricultural & Resource Economics (FARE)
Prof. Tesfaye Tesso	ttesso@ksu.edu	Sorghum Breeding & Genetics
Prof. Linda Stalker Prokopy	lprokopy@purdue.edu	Forestry and Natural Resources; watershed management; sustainable agriculture; climate change and public participation.
Prof. Sylvie Minturn Brouder		Crop Nutrition and Soil Fertility
Prof. Jeroen Casper Jan Groot	jeroen.groot@wur.nl	Agronomy: Farming systems analysis, model-based landscape planning and design, and participatory modelling and gaming.
Prof. Legesse Kassa	debuslk@unisa.ac.za	Statistician; Biometrics
Prof. Getu Haliu	ghailu@uoguelph.ca	Production Economics, Agribusiness Finance, Risk Management, Demand Analysis
Prof. Feyera Senbeta	feyearas@yahoo.com	Conservation genetics
Prof. Zemedede Asfaw	zemedede.asfaw@aau.edu.et zasfaw49@yahoo.com	Applied Systematics/Agrobiodiversity
Prof. Zewdu Eshetu	prof. zewdu.eshetu@gmail.com	Forestry
Dr. Kindie Tesfaye	k.tesfayefantaye@cgiar.org	Agro-meteorology; Climate change