

# DENYSE SNELDER



<b>Telephone</b>	+31 20 59 89080
<b>Room nr</b>	2G-29
<b>E-mail</b>	<a href="mailto:d.j.r.m.snelder@vu.nl">d.j.r.m.snelder@vu.nl</a>
<b>Unit</b>	Student & Educational Affairs / International Office / CIS
<b>Position</b>	Acting Head / Senior Advisor Sustainable Land & Water Management/Project Manager International Cooperation Projects

## KEY QUALIFICATIONS/ FIELD OF EXPERTISE

- Sustainable land and water management
- Food security
- Biodiversity conservation
- Agroforestry
- Curriculum review and development
- Preparatory doctoral training including proposal writing

## SUMMARY OF WORK EXPERIENCE

Denyse J. Snelder has been acting head of the VU Centre for International Cooperation (CIS) since August 2023. She obtained her PhD in 1993 from the University of Toronto, Canada, for research on vegetative control of soil erosion in the semi-arid Baringo District, Kenya. Up to December 2012 she had a dual position, one as a senior advisor on Sustainable Land and Water Management at CIS and one as an associate professor at the Institute of Environmental Sciences Leiden (CML), Leiden University, Netherlands. Since January 2013, she has worked full-time at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam as partner or director of various research and capacity building projects, such as, Innovation for Sustainability and Societal relevance: Partnerships in evidence-based higher education on food systems and climate change (INSSPIRE; Erasmus + CBHE project, 2023-2025); autonomiser les pauvres en milieu urbain au Bénin: utiliser les jardins urbains pour entrer dans la chaîne de valeur alimentaire (Jardin Pro Pauvre; OKP-TMT, NUFFIC, 2021- 2023); Video gamEs foR Skills trAining (VERSA; EC - H2020-SwafS project, 2021-2023); EnGEndering Mentorship (e-GEM; OKP-TMT, NUFFIC, 2021-- 2022); spatial planning for agribusiness and public policy development in Greater Western Kenya (SPADE; NICHE, NUFFIC, 2017 - 2022); Natural resource management and conflict resolution for stability and inclusive growth in the Greater Virunga Landscape (3C project; NICHE, NUFFIC, 2017-2022); a sustainable approach to livelihood improvement in Kenya (ASALI funded through a legacy by VU Amsterdam, 2014 – present).

Since 2020, Dr Snelder has been conducting various program evaluation studies on behalf of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the Netherlands, in collaboration with the Amsterdam Centre of World Food Studies (VU Amsterdam) and PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC).

Given the broad CIS network of partners in Sub-Saharan Africa and with support of the FAO, she has been involved in the establishment of a University-to-University SSTC Networking mechanism between the VU and selected African universities and is currently coordinating the development of Real Life Learning Labs on Food System Transformation through the University-to-University SSTC network and INSSPIRE partner universities in Benin, Ghana, Kenya, Uganda and South Africa.

Dr Snelder further contributes to various courses and training in the field of food and water security, International Development (VU-UvA-UAC Honours programme), sustainable land and water management, research design and proposal writing, and curriculum review and development.

## **PROJECTS**

### **Benin**

- **Empowering the Urban Poor: Using Urban Gardens to Enter the Food Value Chain – Jardin Pro Pauvre**  
2021-2023

### **Rwanda, DR Congo and Uganda**

- **From Conflict to Collaboration to Conservation (3C project) in Rwanda, DR Congo and Uganda**  
2017-2022

### **Kenya**

- **Spatial Planning and Agribusiness and Public Policy Development in Greater Western Kenya (SPADE) in Kenya**  
2016-2022
- **A Sustainable Approach to Livelihood Improvement (ASALI) in Kenya**  
2014-present

### **Kenya, Uganda**

- **Innovation for Sustainability and Societal relevance: Partnerships in evidence-based higher education on food systems and climate change (INSSPIRE)**  
2023 - 2025

### **Sub-Saharan Africa**

- **Establishment of an University-to-University SSTC Networking Mechanism between VU and selected African Universities (FAO LoA 1) / Development of Real Life Learning Labs on Food Systems Transformation in the context of the University-to-University SSTC between VU and selected African Universities in Benin and Ghana (FAO LoA 2)**  
2021-2025

### **Global South**

- **Effect Evaluation of Geodata for Agriculture and Water (G4AW) Facility**  
2020 – 2022
- **Second Mid-Term Review of the PPP facility Sustainable Water Fund (FDW)**  
2022 – 2023
- **Final evaluation of the Ghana Netherlands WASH Program**  
2022 – 2023

## Europe

- **Video gamEs foR Skills trAining (VERSA)**  
2021 – 2023
- **Supervision of various PhD research projects**  
2023 - 2024

## TEACHING

- Honours course on International Development
- Amsterdam Summer School course on Feeding the Billions: Challenges and Innovation in Food and Water Security
- Preparatory doctoral training in bridging program and within the framework of projects

## PUBLICATIONS

View Denyse Snelder's publications at [VU Research Portal](#).