

## Background

The Henry A. Wallace Scientific Conference Series is a periodic event organized by CATIE and its partners since 2002. The Wallace Scientific Conferences provide a forum for high-level discussions on science and technology strategies pertinent to tropical agriculture, natural resource management, and biodiversity conservation. The conference fosters collaboration between the CATIE community, its member countries, and multiple stakeholders.

The IX Wallace Conference will focus on the One Health approach, emphasizing the interconnections between human, animal, and environmental health. Addressing global challenges such as climate change, biodiversity loss, and food and water security, this conference will serve as a platform to explore solutions that integrate holistic and cross-sectoral perspectives.

Building on the momentum of the 2023 Wallace Conference, which focused on food systems transformation in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), the 2025 edition will further expand the discussion to highlight how ecosystem health, water security, and sustainable agricultural practices underpin human and animal well-being. The conference will bring together scientists, policymakers, private sector leaders, and community representatives to identify pathways for advancing the One Health approach in LAC.

## Objective

The IX Wallace Conference will serve as a space for interdisciplinary dialogue and evidence-based discussions on One Health, aiming to:

- Strengthening the integration of human, animal, and environmental health within sustainable development strategies.
- Address climate change impacts on biodiversity, water security, food systems, and disease emergence.
- Promote Nature-Based Solutions (NbS) and holistic governance approaches for environmental and human well-being.
- Provide recommendations to policymakers and stakeholders for advancing One Health approaches in Latin America and the Caribbean.

## Thematic Sessions

The 2025 Wallace Conference will be structured around six key thematic sessions:



- 1) **Soil Health:** Exploring the role of healthy soils in agricultural resilience, carbon sequestration, and ecosystem services. Discussions will focus on biofertilizers, regenerative practices, and sustainable land management.
- 2) **Plant Health:** Addressing the impacts of pesticide reduction, agroforestry, and biodiversity-friendly farming practices on plant resilience and agricultural sustainability.
- 3) **Animal Health:** Examining disease prevention, animal welfare, antimicrobial resistance (AMR), and sustainable livestock production in the context of One Health.
- 4) **Ecosystem Health:** Understanding biodiversity conservation, ecosystem services, and landscape management as key components of human and environmental well-being.
- 5) **One Water for One Health:** Analyzing water security, integrated water resource management (IWRM), and circular water economy strategies for sustainable water governance in LAC.
- 6) **Agri-Food Systems and Human Health:** Investigating the links between food security, sustainable diets, nutrition, and food safety, particularly in the context of climate change and emerging contaminants.

### *Transversal Themes*

The conference will integrate cross-cutting issues that are essential for a comprehensive One Health approach:

**Climate Change Adaptation & Mitigation:** Understanding how climate change exacerbates health risks and environmental degradation.

**Nature-Based Solutions (NbS):** Promoting ecosystem-based interventions to improve resilience.

**Gender, Rural, and Indigenous Perspectives:** Ensuring equitable participation and consideration of traditional ecological knowledge.

**Governance and Policy Integration:** Strengthening regulatory frameworks and policy coherence for One Health implementation.

### **Format**

The Wallace Conference 2025 will be held on CATIE's campus, providing attendees with opportunities to engage in scientific discussions, technical field visits, and networking sessions.



The conference format will include keynote presentations, panel discussions, interactive workshops, and field excursions showcasing One Health initiatives in practice.

### Target Audience

The event aims to convene 120+ professionals, including scientists, policymakers, private sector representatives, and students, who are working on climate change, sustainable agriculture, water security, biodiversity conservation, and health systems. Participants will gain insights into innovative research, policies, and investments supporting One Health in LAC.

### Expected Outcomes

- Evidence-based recommendations to integrate One Health into regional policies.
- Strengthened partnerships between researchers, policymakers, and practitioners.
- Policy briefs and technical reports highlighting the best practices and innovations.
- Identification of investment opportunities for One Health interventions.
- The IX Wallace Conference will provide a crucial platform to catalyze action for the sustainable integration of human, animal, and environmental health, advancing One Health as a fundamental approach for resilience in LAC.