

DeSIRA-LIFT Terms of Reference

Sub-service area 3.3: on-demand requests

Policy and International Development Expert (NKE 3.2, Cat II)

Mapping of networks and actors for the Green Transition and STI components of the Regional Indicative Programme for Francophone Sub-Sahara Africa (including Madagascar)

Background

The [DeSIRA Initiative](#), funded by the European Commission (DG INTPA) seeks to enhance an inclusive, sustainable and climate-relevant transformation of rural areas and of agri-food systems, by linking better agricultural innovation with research for more developmental impact. It supports actions in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) to strengthen the resilience of their agri-food systems, the relevance of the national and regional research and innovation systems, and the coherence and efficiency of their agricultural public research and extension services related to climate change challenges.

DeSIRA-LIFT is a service project (June 2021 – May 2024) to the European Commission (EC), Directorate General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA) with the main objective to enhance the impact of the DeSIRA Initiative by providing (on-demand) services to DeSIRA project holders and partners. DeSIRA-LIFT includes three service areas aligned to the three DeSIRA Pillars: *Service Area 1* supports country-led DeSIRA projects to enhance their impacts on climate-oriented innovation systems in line with more sustainable food system transitions. *Service Area 2* supports the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) ex-pillar IV organizations in their Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems (AKIS) related roles. *Service Area 3* is providing support to policy makers on themes related to agricultural research for development (AR4D) and innovation policies and programming.

This assignment is part of *Service Area 3: Sub-service area 3.3 - On-demand requests*.

Rationale of the assignment

This assignment aims to support the EC programming efforts within the framework of the Regional Indicative Programme for Africa (specifically Priority Area 3 - Green Transition and Priority Area 4 - Digital and Science, Technology and Innovation) and the dialogue between DG INTPA / F3 and its partners.

The Green Transition component will focus on Innovation (supported by research) to support the agroecological transition of food systems with focus on specific topics (to be confirmed by a dialogue with partners including CAADP-XP4 organisations) such as seed systems for agrobiodiversity, 'neglected and underutilised' crops, plant proteins, bio-inputs for agroecology, labour productivity and mechanization, innovation services for agroecology including advisory services (e.g., farmers to farmers approaches or facilitation for innovation processes) and digital tools, etc.

The STI component will focus on research/education networks of 'excellence' and organisations, including universities, to support the agroecological transition in general, and regarding specific topics as mentioned above.

Scope of the assignment

The Expert will work closely with the DeSIRA-LIFT team and perform the following tasks under this assignment:

- For the Green Transition component, main operators involved in the agroecological transitions will be identified and basic information on their activities will be collected. The aim is to identify networks and *African 'champions'* (SMEs, NGOs, cooperatives, farmer organisations, etc.) that are

coming with new ideas that could demonstrate that agroecological transition is under way in Africa (e.g., R&D in bio-fertilisers, indigenous food crops, small-scale mechanisation, etc.).

- For the STI component, basic information will be collected of *African research and education organisations and networks* involved in (i) research and innovation related to agroecological approaches or similar approaches, (ii) innovation studies and innovation policies.

The identification will be based on intelligence within DeSIRA and analysis of documents (reports, websites, etc.) of organizations, but also based on interviews with key resource persons of identified organisations and networks. It includes the DeSIRA community (projects), Agrinatura, EFARD, the CAADP-XP4 organisations, networks of universities such as RUFORUM, key funders, key CGIAR actors.

In order to feed initial information rapidly to DG INTPA, a three-step approach is proposed:

1. Focus on *Francophone* Sub Sahara Africa, including Madagascar
2. Enrich the first overview of research networks and organisations based on intelligence within DeSIRA and based on internet searches (March - April 2022)
3. Gather further intelligence - in line with the priorities for the Africa Regional Indicative programming - to enrich the database by having one-on-one exchanges with representatives of CAADP-XP4 organizations (AFAAS, FARA, ASARECA, CCARDESA, CORAF/WECARD) and RUFORUM or with representatives or other relevant networks or organisations (April 2022)
4. Enrich the overview/database with further information based on key-informant interviews (April - May 2022)

Deliverables

- The actor mapping for the Green Transition component should deliver an overview/database of main actors/networks ('innovation champions') promoting agroecological transitions in Francophone Sub Sahara Africa (including Madagascar) in May 2022. The overview to be provided will only include a list of a few relevant actors per country (not a census!). This list is complemented by basic information (objectives, strategies followed, main results, interventions and activities, and cooperating partners).
- The mapping of research/education networks and organisations for the STI component will provide an *updated* overview/database (based on intelligence from within the DeSIRA-LIFT team) for Francophone Sub Sahara Africa (including Madagascar) in April - May 2022. Concretely, the overview includes a short list of the *more relevant* actors including basic information (objectives, strategies followed, main results, interventions and activities and main cooperation partners).

Reporting

The consultant will report to the SA3 leader and the program director of DeSIRA-LIFT on a regular basis during the assignment. Initial - as well as final - results will be presented to and discussed with DG INTPA directly.

Duration and size of the assignment

The assignment will include 10 working days in the period March - May 2022.

STI component mapping

Draft results for the STI component are to be presented on 22 April 2022 to the SA3 leaders and programme director and before 29 April to DG INTPA. The final overview/database is to be submitted 9 May.

Green Transition component mapping

Draft results for the Green Transition component are to be presented on 13 May 2022 to the SA3 leaders and programme director and on 20 May to DG INTPA. The final overview/database is to be submitted 30 May.

Location of the assignment

The assignment is desk-based.

Required qualifications and experience of the Expert

The Expert will have:

Education

- MA. / MSc. level or higher in a discipline related to Agricultural or Environmental Sciences or International Development.

General professional experience

- At least 6 years' professional experience in areas directly relevant to political science, international development, innovation with a social science perspective

Specific professional experience

- At least 3 years' professional experience in areas directly relevant to agriculture in an international setting:
 - e.g., experience working in LMICs in consultation with professional organizations (farmer organizations, NGOs, private companies, research centres, etc.); and/or international organizations in the field of agricultural innovation management and consultancy.
- Preferably experience in the field of agroecology
- Be familiar with agricultural research networks and organizations in sub-Saharan Africa

Specific skills

- Ability to work in a team and in a multicultural context
- Motivation, self-direction and proactiveness
- Excellent writing and oral presentation skills in English and French