



The DeSIRA-LIFT facility and DG-INTPA present a webinar on:

Strengthening Agricultural Innovation Systems: learning from past and present research interventions

Date: Thursday 13 October, 11h00 – 13h00 CEST (Brussel time)

Registration link [here](#)

The meeting will be held in Zoom; with simultaneous interpretation (EN-FR, FR-EN)

Objectives

The aim of the webinar is to review the contributions and challenges of research partnerships to the strengthening of national agricultural innovation systems (AIS) with a view to discuss ways in which these partnerships can better prove and improve their impacts.

Background

The EU-funded DeSIRA initiative (Development Smart Innovation through Research in Agriculture, in short DeSIRA) was launched in 2018 with the aim of strengthening Research and Innovation, within an AIS perspective, in order to support sustainable transformation of agri-food systems.

Supporting systemic transformations at national level is very challenging, in particular in the domain of agricultural innovation where little is known on the 'best ways' to innovate for climate resilient agri-food systems and there is no 'one size fits all' strategy for AIS strengthening across countries. In that context, the Agrinatura-led DeSIRA-LIFT facility has been set up to propose on-demand support services to R&I DeSIRA projects, in order to increase their capacities to manage for impacts.

Running since a year, the DeSIRA-LIFT facility identified several challenges faced by research & innovation (R&I) projects that hamper their contributions to AIS strengthening, that range from specific managerial capacities to be upgraded to the design and embeddedness of R&I projects in their intervention contexts.

Based on challenges, experience and lessons learnt from these DeSIRA projects, and from past experience, the webinar will first shed light on promising new patterns of research partnerships to generate more long-term outcomes in countries. Specific challenges for making research work for system transformation will be discussed in a panel mode.



Programme

11h00 Opening

Introduction to the session

Helena Posthumus (DeSIRA-LIFT) – *moderator*

EU on-going initiatives related to AIS strengthening

Guy Faure (DG-INTPA)

11h15 Setting the scene

How research partnerships can contribute to AIS strengthening: lessons from CDAIS project

Aurélie Toillier (CIRAD)

11h30 New patterns of research partnerships

Farmers Organizations Leading Research & Innovation on agroecology for sustainable food systems

Aleksandra Parcinska (Agricord) / Felipe Johnatan Alessio (Cresol Instituto): FO-RI DeSIRA project

Living Labs: working with partners from outside the formal research community (including those from the private and voluntary sectors) [

Raphaël Duboz (CIRAD): Santé et territoires DeSIRA project

Research-policy partnerships: bringing science-based evidence into policy for broad scale systemic changes

Aristide Sempore (FAO): TAP-AIS DeSIRA project in Burkina Faso

12h10 Panel : Challenges and way forward to make research work for AIS strengthening

CIRAD / Sélim Louafi: Developing research partnerships with social impacts: an institutional perspective from CIRAD

FARA / Aggrey Agumya: Enhancing research infrastructure conducive to innovation in Africa: the leveraging role of FARA

DeSIRA-LIFT / Aurélie Toillier: Creating a global on-demand support service offering for enhancing R&I projects' capacities to manage for impact: the challenges of the DeSIRA-LIFT facility

DG INTPA / Guy Faure: Using evidence for programming and policy making at the EC

12h45 Closing