



Understanding and designing theories of change in DeSIRA projects

Why choose this course?

Have you prepared a theory of change for your DeSIRA project because you had to, but you are not sure what to do with it? Are you struggling with identifying who to involve in the design process and/or keep these actors motivated after having formulated the theory of change? Do you simply want to increase your competencies, as a project team, in formulating well-articulated theories of change?

The e-learning provides background information, readings, and a step-by-step approach to the formulation of a project Theory of Change (ToC). In addition, four live sessions facilitated by DeSIRA-LIFT experts will address topics you mentioned as challenging during DeSIRA-LIFT inception workshops or in e-surveys. Have you already worked on your theory of change? Then this facilitated e-learning can be used to review it in a structured way.

Learning objectives

At the end of the facilitated e-learning, participants are more experienced with designing theories of change for research projects in the field of agriculture. This will serve as a basis to:

- Better understand its application to project management;
- Better understand ToC application to a Research-Innovation Project;
- Better understand ToC application to strengthening /transforming AIS.

Course delivery methods



E-learning 'Theory of change: from novice to master changemaker' composed of 17 e-modules. Estimated workload: about 10 hours.



Development or review of your own theory of change: Starting with e-module 6 of the e-learning, participants receive assignments to go through the development of their ToC, preferably to be done with partners and/or stakeholders.



4 live sessions of 2 hours each, facilitated by DeSIRA-LIFT experts. Live sessions are inserted between e-learning modules to boost direct application of knowledge and tools in DeSIRA projects, thanks to tailored feedbacks on their ToC and challenges.

Target audience

- Project managers, including work packages leaders and partners' main focal points;
- M&E officers;
- Main stakeholders involved in projects.

Overview of content

e-Module 1: Introduction and background	e-Module 10: Impact and outcomes
e-Module 2: What is a Theory of Change?	e-Module 11: Pathways
e-Module 3: ToC practice: application and critique	Live session 3: First peer review of DeSIRA projects' ToC developed and sharing of examples
Live session 1: Engagement of DeSIRA stakeholders and partners in the design of the ToC	e-Module 12: Theory of Action
e-Module 4: Assumptions	e-Module 13: Making your ToC context-specific
e-Module 5: Theory of Change thinking	e-Module 14: Strategy narratives
e-Module 6: The theory in Theory of Change	e-Module 15: Level of specification
Live session 2: Focus on assumptions	e-Module 16: Common ToC pitfalls
e-Module 7: The process of developing a ToC	e-Module 17: Learning & adaptive management
e-Module 8: General narrative	Live session 4 : Second peer review of ToC developed
e-Module 9: Causal chain	

Pre-requisite

Projects managers and staff that are willing to invest time, preferably with partners and stakeholders, in reviewing or (re)designing the theory of change of their DeSIRA project.

Planned dates of live sessions – book your calendars!

Dates	Location	Language	Application deadline	Application link*
Oct 13th – Nov 21st Live session 1: Oct 24th Live session 2: Oct 31st Live session 3: Nov 14th Live session 4: Nov 21st	Online 11:00-13:00 GMT/UTC	English	October 12th, 2022	https://forms.gle/qaDmgrXuncjDcMY79
Oct 31st – Dec 05th Live session 1: Oct 31st Live session 2: Nov 14th Live session 3: Nov 28th Live session 4: Dec 5th	En ligne	Français	27 octobre 2022	Coming soon
Coming soon	Online	Español	December 2022	Coming soon

*Note that the live sessions facilitated by DeSIRA-LIFT experts are made for a maximum of 25 participants. If the session is full you will receive a notification when you register.

Registration

- Click on the application link;
- Select an option: option 1: following the e-learning only (no facilitated sessions and no feed-back on ToC work); option 2: attending the e-learning and the 4 facilitated live sessions for group work and tailored feedbacks;
- Receive confirmation by email and information to access to the e-learning modules.

Related courses and service offering

- ‘Structuring your monitoring, evaluation and learning system’: if you want to build on your ToC, this course is made for you. To be provided in the first trimester of ’23 as a follow up of the ToC course.
- ‘Using your theory of change as a tool for adaptive management: if you want to know more about how to use your ToC for adaptive management, this course is made for you. To be provided from April ’23 onwards;
- ‘One-on-one MEL coaching’: if you need a tailored support for your project MEL team, you can request the help of a DeSIRA-LIFT MEL mentor;
- ‘Make research work for agricultural innovation system strengthening’: if you need more insights into the assumptions of your ToC, enroll in this course!

FAQ

- Who to contact about this course? Caroline Desalos at: service@desiralift.org
- Where can I find more information on the MEL support services?
https://padlet.com/Service_DeSIRA_LIFT/n2ld39kf0i7p1sjo
- Where can I find information on the overall DeSIRA-LIFT service offering to Pillar 1 projects? Here:
<https://www.desiralift.org/service-area-1/>
- Where can I send general questions, comments and suggestions about the DeSIRA-LIFT service offer?
service@desiralift.org