

DeSIRA-LIFT Service Area 1

Non-Key Expert

Terms of Reference

Expert in participatory videos and qualitative evaluation methods (NKE 1.19 Cat III)

Reference: SA1-5.1

1. 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.

2. Rationale of the assignment

The expert will join the team of **short-term experts** of DeSIRA-LIFT Service area 1 (SA1).

She/he will work closely with the **SA1 core team** of long-term experts who develop and implement the whole support service offer for Pillar 1 DeSIRA projects. The SA1 core team is responsible for designing and delivering on-demand and pre-defined support services to 69 country-led [DeSIRA projects](#) in four areas:

- Service 1.1: Support to the implementation of in-project MEL approaches and tools;
- Service 1.2: Support to strengthen participatory research, innovation and innovation services in country-based DeSIRA projects;
- Service 1.3: Facilitation of cross-project mutual learning and networking;
- Service 1.4: Elaboration of Knowledge and Communication Products.

The core team is composed of long-term thematic experts, project clusters facilitators and a Community of Practice (CoP) officer. The core team ensures the relevance, responsiveness and efficiency of services by using training & coaching approach of project clusters for developing a specific set of managerial capacities (<https://www.desiralift.org/service-area-1/>). The core team facilitates alternatively in-project learning cycles and inter-project joint learning events depending on the needs and levels of capacities in place. Most of the joint learning and sharing activities will be facilitated through virtual events and a Community of Practice. The core team is also in charge of tracking progress within Project clusters and

produce knowledge for a middle-range theory on how to develop capacities for transformative R&I projects in the global South.

Short-term non-key experts support **DeSIRA project clusters** by enhancing in-project learning depending on the needs and level of capacities in place:

- Delivering on-demand support services;
- Organizing and facilitating coaching sessions, workshops, learning and bridging events;

Short-term non-key experts support the **core team** in:

- Refining the service offer based on projects feedbacks;
- Developing the SA1 learning agenda.

3. Scope of the assignment

The Expert will perform the following tasks under this assignment:

- Develop and implement virtual training sessions for R&I project implementers on how to create and use participatory videos for MEL purposes;
- Propose "coaching sessions" for the projects who do create participatory videos (ie. tailored support sessions);
- Upload on line guidance material for free download by the projects (toolkits, examples of participatory videos, tips and tops fact sheets), in three languages SP, FR and EN;
- Collect and advertise on videos prepared by projects through the CoP website.

4. Deliverables

- Facilitation plan adapted to the context for each training / to be provided prior to the implementation of each training;
- Recorded on-line sessions;
- After each training, short report including at least the following:
 - o own assessment of effectiveness of the training for the DeSIRA projects' staff: what went well and why, what could have been better and why, potential next steps to improve effectiveness;
 - o short plan detailing coaching sessions;
 - o attendance list annotated with level, needs and expectations of participants;
 - o satisfactory survey/evaluation post training.
- After each coaching trajectory, short report including at the least the following:
 - o Coaching activities implemented: Project and staff being coached; topics and support provided;
 - o Comparison activities implemented vs plan, including reasons for changes;
 - o Assessment of coaching: what went well and why, what could have been better and why.
- All material used to collect and organize information on Projects and projects' support needs;
- Reports on data collected and data analysis;
- Assessment tools developed under this assignment;
- A final activity report including an overview of all activities implemented and tools/document developed, and suggestions on: the next steps to match projects' support needs, improvements of the training-coaching approach; improvements on the service delivery mechanism.

5. Duration of the assignment

The assignment will be a maximum 15 working days, starting no later than the 15th Of October to be completed before 31st March 2023.

In case of unsatisfactory performance, the assignment may be terminated under specific conditions (to be specified in the contract).

6. Required qualifications and experience

The Expert will have:

Qualifications and skills

Relevant education in a discipline related to agricultural development, international management, and/or communication

General professional experience

At least 3 years' professional experience in areas directly relevant to international development, innovation with a social science perspective, knowledge and innovation systems, or likewise.

Specific professional experience

At least 2 years' experience in using and physical and online training on participatory videos and evaluation in agricultural development projects in the global South:

- Practical experience in organizing trainings on the development of participatory videos in the context of agricultural development and innovation worldwide;
- Practical experience in carrying out evaluation using participatory videos with qualitative technic such the Most Significant Change technic;
- Practical experience in the facilitation of mutual learning workshops with development workers;
- Practical experience in video-based learning.

Soft skills

- Skills for facilitation and communication;
- Ability to work in a team and in a multicultural context;
- Motivation, self-direction and proactiveness;
- Methodological rigour, priority management and organizational skills;
- Proven aptitude for scientific publication;
- Good command of office automation tools (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Access) and comfortable using a variety of IT tools, software and the web – for both data analysis and publishing;
- Ability to write technical reports.

Language skills

- Good writing and oral presentation skills in English
- Working knowledge of French and/or Spanish and/or Portuguese considered an advantage.

7. Reporting

The expert will report to the Community of Practice Manager and SA1 co-leader on a regular basis for the design and implementation of all her/his activities.

The expert will report to the SA1 leader and the Project Director for the validation of his/her workplans, timesheet and activity reports.

8. Location of the assignment

The assignment will be primarily home-based for the foreseeable future. However, attendance of workshops in the geographical areas of the projects' implementation (Africa, Asia, Indian Ocean, Latin America) may be required.