

DeSIRA-LIFT Terms of Reference

Communication Officer

(KE10, Cat III)

1. Context and 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 agri-food systems, by linking agricultural innovation with research and education for developmental impacts at scale. It supports actions in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) to strengthen agriculture and food systems resilience, the relevance of the national and regional innovation systems, and the coherence and efficiency of their agricultural public research and extension services related to climate change adaptation.

[DeSIRA-LIFT](#) is a service project (June 2021 – May 2025) 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 supports policy makers on themes related to agricultural research for development (AR4D) and innovation policies and programming. DeSIRA-LIFT is implemented by member organisations of Agrinatura (CIRAD, ISA, NRI, SLU, WUR) and EFARD (COLEAD).

2. Scope of the assignment

DeSIRA-LIFT is managed by a project management unit (PMU) under the guidance of the project director. The PMU includes the Work Package leaders, and it is supported by two project officers (responsible for the project administration and finance) and a Communication Officer. The Communication Officer is responsible for dissemination of the results and findings of DeSIRA-LIFT.

The Communication Officer is specifically responsible for the following (amongst others):

1. *Production of DeSIRA-LIFT outputs*, including: coordination of production of DeSIRA-LIFT outputs (e.g. reports, briefs, infographics), text editing, graphic design, etc.
2. *DeSIRA-LIFT website*, including: regularly updating the DeSIRA-LIFT website (www.desiralift.org) in WordPress, produce written and multimedia content for online dissemination of DeSIRA-LIFT activities and outputs.
3. *External communication*, including: disseminate news to a wider audience (ghost writing, guest blogging, etc), manage the social media account of DeSIRA-LIFT (LinkedIn), produce content for and design the quarterly DeSIRA newsletter (on MailChimp), communication activities related to DeSIRA conference in early 2025.
4. *Other tasks*, including: coordinate with the Service Area 1 Communication Officer on intersecting areas of work; coordinate with Service Area leaders and Project Director on news, upcoming outputs and events, and support outreach planning; support DeSIRA-LIFT events if needed; liaise with communication officers of consortium partners; produce 6-monthly communication monitoring reports. Update the communications strategy, publications guidelines and visual identity if needed.

3. Reporting

The Communication Officer reports directly to the Project Director of DeSIRA-LIFT on a regular basis. The Communication Officer is also expected to produce and, if needed, present six-monthly media monitoring reports.

4. Duration of the assignment

The assignment will be for the period 1 October 2023 till 3 June 2025, comprising approximately 140 working days. The communication officer is expected to work between 1 to 2 days per week, with some flexibility depending on the actual workload.

5. Location of the assignment

The assignment will be mostly home-based. However, attendance of occasional meetings in Wageningen and/or Brussels may be required.

6. Required qualifications

We are looking for a pro-active Communication Officer who has experience in communications for applied research and capacity building projects in the field of social and/or environmental sciences and international development.

More specifically, the communication officer should have the following qualifications:

Qualifications and skills

A relevant education in communication sciences or journalism.

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 similar.

Specific professional experience

- Proven work experience as a Communication Officer or in a similar role, preferably within the field of sustainable agri-food systems in the Global South.
- Experience of working in a research environment is desirable.
- Experience in communication for EU-funded projects is an advantage.

Soft skills

- Ability to write technical reports
- Well acquainted with WordPress and website management
- Ability to create professional social media content (LinkedIn)

Language skills

- Excellent proficiency in English
- Good working knowledge of French
- Working knowledge of Spanish and/or Portuguese is an advantage.