

## DeSIRA-LIFT Terms of Reference

### Expert in African regional agricultural policies

#### (NKE 3.17, Cat II)

#### *Rapid review of regional agricultural policies in Africa*

### 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 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 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. Rationale of the assignment

In Africa, the Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP) is one of the continental frameworks under Agenda 2063 and it aims to help African countries eliminate hunger and reduce poverty by raising economic growth through agriculture-led development as well as promoting increased national budget provision to the agriculture sector. CAADP also sets targets for reducing poverty and malnutrition, for increasing productivity and farm incomes, and for improvements in the sustainability of agricultural production and use of natural resources.<sup>1</sup> However, Africa's regional policies on agricultural development are less well known.

Africa recognizes eight Regional Economic Communities (RECs), regional groupings of African states. The main aim of the RECs is to achieve regional integration of policies and economies. The RECs form the building blocks of the African Union; they are increasingly involved in coordinating AU Member States' interests in wider areas such as peace and security, development and governance. The relationship between the AU and the RECs is mandated by the Abuja Treaty (1991) and the AU Constitutive Act.<sup>2</sup>

The AU recognises eight RECs namely:

- [Arab Maghreb Union](#) (UMA)
- [Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa](#) (COMESA)
- Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD)
- [East African Community](#) (EAC)
- Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS)
- [Economic Community of West African States](#) (ECOWAS)
- [Intergovernmental Authority on Development](#) (IGAD)
- [Southern African Development Community](#) (SADC)

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<sup>1</sup> [Agricultural Development | African Union \(au.int\)](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Regional Economic Communities \(RECs\) | African Union \(au.int\)](#)

In addition, there are several regional bodies (inter-governmental committees and economic and monetary unions) that influence regional agricultural policies, initiatives and programs:

- [Comité Inter-États de Lutte contre la Sécheresse au Sahel](#) (CILSS)
- [Indian Ocean Commission](#) (IOC)
- [Communauté Economique et Monétaire des Etats de l'Afrique Centrale](#) (CEMAC)
- [Union Economique et Monétaire Ouest-Africaine](#) (UEMOA)

Figure 1 shows the (overlapping) state memberships of the various RECs.

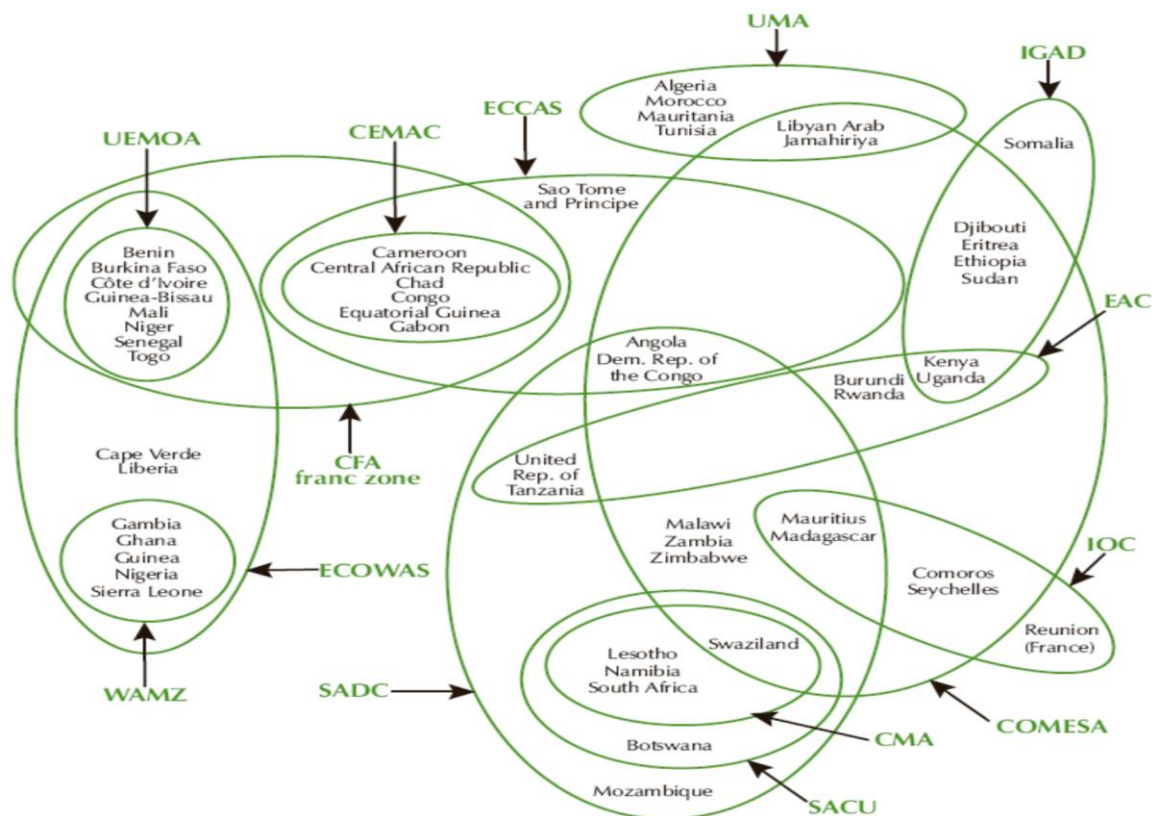


Figure 1. Overview of the RECs and their membership (UNECA, 2009)

The RECs – to various degrees – drive regional and national agricultural policies (see Annex 1 for further information). As such, DG INTPA (European Commission) wishes to gain more insight in the agricultural policies and regional priorities of the RECs in order to inform its future programming (in particular DeSIRA+) and international partnerships in Africa. Any policies or strategies conducive to agroecology<sup>3</sup> are of particular interest.

Some of the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in Africa are promoting or investing in agroecology as part of their agricultural policies and strategies. For example:

- The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) has developed an Agroecology Transition Support Program to promote the shift away from Green Revolution practices. The work is supported by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) as part of its 'Scaling Up Agroecology Initiative'. In Burkina Faso, Mali, and Senegal, farmers' organizations are working with their

<sup>3</sup> Agroecology is an approach to agriculture that applies ecological principles and practices to enhance productivity, resilience, diversity, and sustainability of food systems. Agroecology can also contribute to climate change adaptation and mitigation by reducing greenhouse gas emissions, increasing carbon sequestration, and enhancing adaptive capacity. The agroecological principles as defined by FAO are considered important guidelines to define agroecology.

governments to promote agroecology, including the subsidization of biofertilizers and other natural inputs as alternatives to synthetic fertilizers.<sup>4</sup>

- The Southern African Development Community (SADC) has adopted the Regional Agricultural Policy (RAP) which aims to promote agricultural productivity and competitiveness through sustainable use of natural resources. The RAP supports some strategies being conducive to the promotion of agroecology (e.g. conservation agriculture, organic agriculture, integrated pest management, agroforestry) while others are not.<sup>5</sup>

AFSA (2020, p.40) concludes that “while policies of the AU and RECs make positive statements about making use of indigenous knowledge and production systems, there is an inherent tension between this and the vision of modernization and commercialization of agriculture. The policies recognize that traditional systems of production and natural resource management are sustainable, but they also envision a highly modernized and industrialized future for African agriculture as the only way to meet the food security demands of a growing population and enhance economic development, and prioritize integration into global value chains and dependence on aid and foreign direct investment (FDI) to modernize agriculture. The combined effect of all this is to privilege approaches of industrial agriculture over traditional farming methods in the implementation of policies.”

In order to find the entry points for policy engagement on agroecology, this rapid review of regional agricultural policies, strategies and investment plans should provide entry points for further engagement between the European Commission and RECs on common agendas and objectives that can support agroecological transitions of agrifood systems transformation.

### 3. Scope and results of the assignment

The main objective of the review is to inform DG INTPA on the mandates, policies and priorities of the RECs regarding the agricultural sector in their constituencies. In particular, the review should answer the following questions:

1. What are the current policy frameworks and strategies of the RECs for or addressing the agricultural sector?
2. To which extent are the RECs investing or interested in agroecological approaches (or related themes such as regenerative agriculture, agroforestry, nature-based solutions, bio-inputs (organic and biofertilisers and biopesticides), agrobiodiversity, Neglected and Underutilized Species (NUS), etc.)?
3. What are the relationships with donors and especially the EU (if any)?
4. What services, departments *or* key contact persons could be an entry point to discuss DeSIRA+?

The review should cover at least the following six RECs: COMESA, EAC, ECCAS, ECOWAS, IGAD and SADC. In addition, the following regional bodies should be included: CILSS, UEMOA, CEMAC and IOC.

### 4. Approach and methodology

A rapid review of the main current policy documents is required to extract the main strategies of the RECs and any intentional effort to also support agroecological (or similar) approaches. It is not expected that a full systematic review is being done. Although some of the RECs publish their policy documents online, these documents may need to be retrieved from other RECs through key informants. Note that the documents available online may not be the latest policy documents that are relevant to this review.

In addition to a rapid review of the current policy documents, key informant interviews (with REC representatives and/or EU Delegations in charge of the EU relationships with the REC) can provide further information on key priorities of the RECs.

The review should also identify key contact persons, services or departments that DG INTPA can engage with.

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.fao.org/agroecology/database/detail/en/c/1472939/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://afsafrica.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/english-regional-climate-policy-study-report.pdf>

<b>Regional Economic Communities</b>	<b>Corresponding EUD</b>
COMESA - Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa	EUD Zambia
EAC - East African Community	EUD Tanzania
ECCAS - Economic Community of Central African States	EUD Gabon
ECOWAS - Economic Community of West African States	EUD Nigeria
IGAD - Intergovernmental Authority on Development	EUD Djibouti
SADC - Southern African Development Community	EUD Botswana
CILSS - Comité Inter-États de Lutte contre la Sécheresse au Sahel	EUD Burina Faso
IOC - Indian Ocean Commission	EUD Mauritius
CEMAC - Communauté Economique et Monétaire des Etats de l'Afrique Centrale	EUD Gabon
UEMOA - Union Economique et Monétaire Ouest-Africaine	EUD Burkina Faso

## 5. Organisation and duration

The total duration of the study includes a maximum of 25 expert days spread over 3 months, starting in September 2023.

## 6. Deliverables

Deliverables for the study include:

1. A short methodological concept note;
2. A final report (size and format will be discussed with the DeSIRA-LIFT team);
3. Presentation (PowerPoint) to be used to share results.

## 7. Reporting

The expert will report, during the assignment, to the Service Area 3 Leader and the DeSIRA-LIFT Project Director on progress and validation of timesheets.

## 8. Duration of the assignment

The assignment for the Non Key Expert (Cat II) includes 25 working days in the period September 2023 - November 2023.

The expert is expected to submit a draft report to DG INTPA by 30 October 2023, a final report to be submitted end of November 2023.

## 9. Location of the assignment

The assignment will be home-based.

## 10. Required qualifications and experience

The expert will have:

### Qualifications and skills

At least MSc/MA-level in a discipline related to Agriculture, Rural Development, International Development, or, in its absence, equivalent professional experience.

### General professional experience

At least 6 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

- Professional experience in areas directly relevant to agricultural policies in Africa

- Experience working in Africa
- A research track record in the following fields is appreciated: agricultural or social sciences, agricultural policy, development economics
- Understanding and/or experience with regional and continental policies and investment strategies related to agricultural development in Africa
- Knowledge of main discourses on agricultural transition pathways in Africa (e.g. sustainable intensification, agroecology, ecological organic agriculture, climate-smart agriculture)
- An existing network among regional bodies in Africa is an advantage

Soft skills

- Ability to work in a team and in a multicultural context
- Motivation, self-direction and proactiveness
- Methodological rigour, priority management and organisational skills

Language skills

- Excellent writing and oral presentation skills in English
- Working knowledge in French is an advantage