

Leveraging the DeSIRA initiative for agri-food systems transformation - LIFT

DeSIRA-LIFT supports the DeSIRA Initiative to transform agri-food systems in the global South in a sustainable, climate-relevant way, by assisting research and innovation projects in Africa, Asia and Latin America. The goal of DeSIRA is to make our food systems more sustainable, equitable and climate-smart, in connection with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). DeSIRA-LIFT is coordinated by Agrinatura.



PERIOD: From January 2021 to May 2025 (Lift+ being prepared as a follow up)

FUNDING: European Commission - EU - Development

Site web du projet

To know more:

<https://www.desiralift.org/>

<https://www.desiraliftcommunity.org/>

<https://capacity4dev.europa.eu/projects/desira>

Issues

Global food systems are facing major challenges, despite progress made in terms of agricultural productivity. Hunger and malnutrition persist, while productivity often entails negative social and environmental impacts, especially biodiversity loss and greenhouse gas emissions. Food and agriculture play a crucial role in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, but require more sustainable, equitable and climate-smart systems. In this context, DeSIRA-LIFT is a service facility to support the DeSIRA initiative funded by the European Commission. DeSIRA supports research and innovation projects in Africa, Asia and Latin America by strengthening research and governance capacities with the participation of key

actors at the national, regional, and global levels. DeSIRA is implemented through three pillars:

- **Pillar 1:** research and innovation (R&I) projects in agricultural and food systems;
- **Pillar 2:** projects to strengthen research infrastructure conducive to innovation;
- **Pillar 3:** the production of knowledge and evidence to feed public policy design.

Description

DeSIRA-LIFT provides services to actors involved in the DeSIRA initiative under three service areas, aligned with the three DeSIRA pillars:

- **Service area 1:** supporting national DeSIRA projects to enhance their impacts by promoting approaches to strengthen agricultural innovation systems (AIS), approaches to strengthen open innovation capacities, as well as the use of monitoring, evaluation and learning systems and developmental evaluation approaches.
- **Service area 2:** supporting African apex organisations for research on agricultural development (CORAF/WECARD, ASARECA, CCARDESA, FARA), extension (AFAAS), and higher education (RUFORUM), building on the global initiatives of the Tropical Agriculture Platform - TAP and the Global Forum on Agricultural Research - GFAR.
- **Service area 3:** supporting the co-creation of knowledge and evidence to feed policy dialogues and programming on agri-food systems in the global South, in collaboration with DG INTPA and the African Union Commission.

Expected results

DeSIRA Pillar 1: strengthened managerial capacities of R&I project implementers to prove and improve their impact; strengthened capacities for innovation facilitation; knowledge exchange of experiences and lessons learned across DeSIRA projects; recommendations for future R&I interventions.

DeSIRA Pillar 2: enhancing capacities of CAADP-XP4 organisations to support and manage strong Agricultural Innovation Systems (AIS) that create impact; strengthened connections with the AU-EU dialogues on FNSSA; development of effective, sustainable, and long-lasting multi-stakeholder partnerships between African and European organisations.

DeSIRA Pillar 3: knowledge and advice for African and European decision makers on issues related to FNSSA research, innovation and policies; support to the Secretariat of the EIARD platform of European Member States funding Agricultural Research for Development (AR4D) in the Global South.

Contract partners: Contractors on behalf of Agrinatura-EEIG and EFARD: Wageningen University (WUR); University of Lisbon School of Agriculture (ISA); Comité de Liaison Europe-Afrique-Caraïbes-Pacifique (COLEACP); University of Greenwich Natural Resources Institute (NRI); Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU); Centre de Coopération Internationale en Recherche Agronomique pour le Développement (Cirad).

The DeSIRA initiative: The objective of the DeSIRA initiative (*Development Smart Innovation through Research in Agriculture*), is to contribute to climate-relevant, productive and sustainable transformation of agriculture and food systems in low and middle-income countries. [Here](#)